

THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

16th February 2022

The County Assembly met at the

County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 11.30am

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

PRAYERS

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

MOTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Godfrey Murithi.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise to move a motion on the approval of the County fiscal strategy paper for the financial year 2022/2023. 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 2022/2023 without amendments. With your permission, allow me to go through the select committee report, so that the Honourable members can understand why we are moving the motion on the approval.

Hon. Speaker: Permission granted.

Hon. Muchiri: 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 2022/2023. Honourable Speaker, allow me to skip the membership since we are very much aware of the membership of the committee and also the committee's mandate but with your permission, allow me to go through the background so that we can understand why we are here today.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed.

Hon. Muchiri: Mr Speaker, Section 117(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides that 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 28th February of each year. Mr Speaker, it is even before 28th and that is why we are here so that we can prepare it on time.

The Tharaka Nithi County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the financial year 2022/2023 was submitted to the County Assembly on 31st January, 2022 and was committed to the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations for consideration. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 242(3) the County Fiscal Strategy paper upon being laid was also deemed to have been committed to each Sectoral Committee without question put, for each such committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandates and make recommendations to the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper is the guide to the county budget process as it looks at how the past and the present setting of the budget process can inform the future.

The County fiscal strategy paper indicates how much revenue the county government expects to raise from the central government and from its own local revenue sources. It also indicates the expected revenue from donor funding, grants, and internal or external borrowing in the next budget year.

It sets out 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.

Finally, it sets out the sector ceilings that represent the budget limits. The ceilings determine the amount of money allocated to each sector and how the money is distributed across these sectors. This essentially entails the decision about how much of the budget to allocate to each sector of the County's economy. It thus follows that the approved County Fiscal Strategy Paper will guide the overall distribution of funds to sectors and Departments in the preparation of the annual budget estimates for the coming year.

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.

Honourable Speaker, when you go through any document that is brought in this House, we look mostly on its legal basis. On the same, the public finance management Act 2012, explains very well the stages the CFSP is supposed to through. For the interest of time, allow me not to go through it again. We are also guided by Tharaka Nithi County Assembly standing orders No 242 and as Honourable members, we have the standing orders with us so I do not think there is need of going through it again. With your permission, allow me to say that when we were considering the same, we had public participation of which, pursuant to Article 118 of the constitution of Kenya 2010, the committee facilitated public hearings as follows;

- Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe at Chuka Trans Nation hall on 10th February 2022
- Tharaka, at Marimanti Tharaka CDF hall on 11th February 2022
- Maara, at Chogoria sub-County hall on 12th February 2022

Members of the public that is the civil society, non-governmental organizations, professional groups, youth, women groups, persons living with disabilities, traders and faith based

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organizations were encouraged to participate. Copies of the County Fiscal strategy paper 2022/2023 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 2022/2023 were to be hand delivered or emailed to Tharaka Nithi county assembly on or before 14th February, 2022. i.e. the Valentine's day.

The Committee received a memoranda on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the financial year 2022/2023 from Chogoria Community Forest Association.

submissions by the county assembly sectoral committees,

The Committee met with the County Assembly sectoral committees on 9th February, 2022 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.

committee on finance, budget and appropriations observations and findings on the county fiscal strategy paper for the financial year 2022/2023

Compliance with the Provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Honourable Speaker, allow me to say that having gone through the document and considered the public finance management Act 2012, the document was compliant. There is no need for going through it again since it complied 100%. Compliance with the legal deadlines, for the submissions of the County fiscal strategy paper. The same applies to Section 117 of the Pubic Finance Management Act, 2012 provides the basis for the preparation, consideration and adoption of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. It provides that:

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 28th February of each year. The

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committee observed that the CFSP financial year 2022/2023 was approved by the cabinet on 31st January 2022 and submitted to the County Assembly on the same day.

(8) The County Treasury shall publish and publicise the County Fiscal Strategy

Paper within seven days after it has been submitted to the County Assembly.

2.3.2 Compliance with the Legal Deadline for Submission of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper

Section 117(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 obligates the County Treasury to prepare and submit to the County Assembly the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for approval by the 28th February of each year. The Committee observed that the CFSP FY 2022/2023 was approved by the cabinet on 31st January, 2022 and submitted to the County Assembly office on the same day.

The submission of the CFSP FY 2022/2023 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) & (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;

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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. Alignment with the Budget Policy Statement Paper, 2021

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 CFSP covers the following broad priorities;

- a) Transform agriculture for improved production and productivity
- b) Ensure access to quality and affordable health care services
- c) Provide efficient, affordable and reliable infrastructure and services for sustainable economic growth
- d) Promote quality, inclusive, diverse, accessible education and promote cohesion
- e) Conducive Environment and sustainable exploration and exploitation of natural resources
- f) Create conducive business and tourism environment
- g) Attain efficient, equitable and sustainable use of land resource, spatial planning and development of urban areas

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- h) Ensure provision of efficient and effective public service delivery
- i) Strengthen the democratic arena and fostering good governance.

Compliance with the Requirement for Public Participation, Consultations with the Commission on Revenue Allocation and Stakeholders in the Preparation of the CFSP of which I went through the public participation program and I do not need to go back to it again since it has been stipulated very well in section 117 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Committee general observations

Content of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper

The CFSP (FY 2022/2023) contains at least;

- Update information on performance of expenditure and revenue collection
- Information on projections of overall revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2022/23
- Information on Sector ceilings and priorities needs across sectors
- Report on public participation

Compliance with the enabling legislation (PFM Act, 2012 section 117, 107)

The County Treasury as by far complied with the section 117 of the PFM Act in regard with preparation and submission of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2020.

The County Treasury is also required to manage its public finances in accordance with the principles of fiscal responsibility as set out in section 107 (2) of the PFM Act. The County Treasury however did not enforce fiscal responsibility in regard to wages and benefits. The County wages and benefits expenditure has exceeded 35 percent threshold as provided in the PFM regulations. The projected wages and benefits stand at 42 percent of the entire expenditure projections for FY 2022/23.

Linkage of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper with Other Development Plans

In order to achieve well-coordinated County development, the CFSP (2022/2023) is linked to policy documents, such as the CIDP, ADP of 2022/23, SWG reports, Kenya Vision 2030, Big Four Agenda, Governors Manifesto, Medium Term Plan III and Sustainable Development Goals.

Fiscal Performance for FY 2021/22. In the first quarter of the financial year 2021/22, the County realized total revenue of Kshs 752,921,134 to implement its budget against a revenue target of Kshs 1,450,475,823. This translated to a 48% shortfall in projected revenue.

Local revenue collection in the first three months of FY 2021/22 stood at Kshs. 57,578,567 against a target of Kshs. 87,500,000, representing a short fall of Kshs. 29,741,433 (34%). Zero revenue was realized from grants during the first quarter of FY 2021/22

Expenditure Performance

Total expenditure in the first quarter of the FY 2021/22 amounted to Kshs. 979,225,544 against a target of the Kshs. 1,450,475,823 for the first quarter, representing an under-budget absorption of Kshs. 471,250,279 (32.5%) for the period.

Recurrent expenditure in the first quarter of FY 2021/22 amounted to Kshs. 798,914,764 against a target of Kshs. 835,790,321. This represented a Kshs. 70,991,407 a shortfall compared to the projections for the period.

Development expenditure in the same period was only Kshs. 122,104,219 compared to a target of Kshs. 502,685,502 for the same period. This represented an under-budget absorption of Kshs. 380,581,283.

Fiscal Projections for FY 2022/23

a) Expenditure projection

During the financial year 2022/23 the County projects to incur an expenditure of Kshs. 5,474,191,765. The expenditure comprises of Kshs. 3,655,081,364 for recurrent budget activities and Kshs. 1,819,110,400 for development projects.

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Recurrent expenditure Kshs. 3,655,081,364 (67% of the total budget) comprises of Kshs. 2,300,851,835 (42% of total revenues) towards wages and benefits and Kshs. 1,354,229,529 towards Operations and Maintenance.

Development expenditure is projected at Kshs. 1,819,110,400 amounting to 33% percent of the total budget. Honourable Speaker allow me to say that we have the document with us as Honourable members and it is well stipulated in the table that we can go through at our own time.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed.

Hon. Muchiri: With the same, the Revenue Projections,

To finance the budget for financial year 2022/23 the County Treasury project to raise Kshs.5,474,191,765. This amount comprises of Kshs. 4,214,198,393 as Equitable Share and Kshs. 909 million as conditional grants and loans allocations based on the draft Budget Policy Statement of 2022. The County Treasury also projects to rise Kshs. 350 million from own source revenue streams. We have a table on the same and with your permission, I will skip it and go to sectors spending priorities.

Sectors Spending Priorities and Sector Ceilings for The Financial Year 2022/23

a) Health Sector

This sector comprises of Medical Services department and Public Health and Sanitation department. Under this sector the County Government will prioritize in supporting health care in terms of adequate human resource, health care financing, provision of commodities and developing required infrastructure.

The County will invest Kshs. 1,637,296,528 on medical services programs which comprises of Kshs. 1,536,348,700 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 100,947,828 for development expenditure.

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On Public Health and Sanitation, the County Government will invest Kshs. 459,708,272 which will comprise of Kshs. 306,410,400 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 404,028,400 for development expenditure.

b) Agriculture Sector

The sector comprises of Agriculture, Cooperatives, and Industry department and Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries development department. Under this sector the County Government will prioritize in developing capacity for farmers, promoting modern methods of farming, offering high quality seeds; seedlings and fertilizers, revitalizing the coffee sector, improving tea buying centres as well as ensuring extension services are easily accessible.

Agriculture, Cooperatives, and Industry department has been allocated Kshs. 590,321,600 which comprises of Kshs. 126,142,340 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 464,179,260 for development expenditure.

c) Water, Environment and Natural Resources Sector

The sector comprises of Environment and Natural Resources department and Water Services and Irrigation department.

Environment and natural resources department has been allocated Kshs. 23,439,600. This comprises Kshs. 18,439,600 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 5,000,000 for development expenditure.

Water Services and Irrigation department has been allocated Kshs. 151,199,750. This comprises Kshs. 51,199,750 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 100,000,000 for development expenditure.

d) Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and ICT Sector

Under this sector the County Government will focus on completing all ongoing project, road tarmacking, opening of new roads, expansion and maintenance of feeder roads as well as construction of bridges and footbridges for easy linkages.

The total resource allocated to this sector in FY 2022/23 is Kshs. 404,028,400 of which Kshs. 300,605,500 is for development expenditure and Kshs. 103,423,400 for the recurrent expenditure.

e) Education Sector

This sector comprises of Education and Vocational training department and Youth, Sports, Culture and Tourism department. Under this sector the County Government will prioritize in human capital development by investing in quality and relevant education including revamping the Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sub sector.

Education and Vocation Training department has been allocated Kshs. 248,257,400. This comprises Kshs. 203,146,500 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 45,110,900 for development expenditure.

Youth, Sports, Culture and Tourism department has been allocated Kshs. 71,026,800. This comprises Kshs. 45,826,800 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 25,200,000 for development expenditure.

f) Public Administration Sector

In the FY 2022/23 the sector has been allocated of Kshs. 1,363.9 million comprising Kshs 142,275,700 allocated to the Office of the Governor, Kshs. 122,954,300 for Public Administration and Devolution Affairs, Kshs 483,289,440 allocated to the Finance and Economic Planning, Kshs. 107,611,500 for Trade and Revenue, Kshs 590,000,000 million for the County Assembly and Kshs 25,333,400 for the County Public Service Board.

g) Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development Sector

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The County Government will prioritize in completion of Kathwana modern market, completion of carbon paving at Chogoria town, tarmacking of Marimanti town, waste management skips among others.

The sector has been allocated Kshs 191,246,700 in the FY 2022/23. This comprises of Kshs. 81,246,700 for recurrent expenditure and Kshs 110,000,000 for development. Honourable Speaker, we have

Submissions by the county executive committee member in charge of finance

The County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning submitted as follows with respect to the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial year 2022/2023:

The 2022 County Fiscal Strategy Paper is prepared against a background of expected global recovery after a slump in 2020 occasioned by the negative effects of the COVID 19 experience. The Kenyan economy rebounded strongly in the second quarter of 2021 with Real GDP growing 10.1% supported by easing of COVID 19 containment measures. The economy is expected to grow at 6% in 2021 from the contraction of 0.3 % in 2020. In the FY 2021/22 the economy is projected to recover 5.9% as compared to 2.9% in the last FY. This will be supported by the prevailing stable macroeconomic environment, ongoing implementation of the strategic priorities of the government, the third economic stimulus program and the national development agenda.

The 2022 CFSP is anchored on the second CIDP (2018-2022) whose final year of implementation will be 2022/23. This County Fiscal Strategy Paper, CFSP 2022 outlines the broad strategic priorities and policy goals of County Government for implementation in financial year 2022/23 and the Medium Term. With regard to fiscal policy, performance in the FY 2020/21 was satisfactory despite the slight underperformance in revenue and elevated expenditures associated with the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing containment measures adopted in March 2020.

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In the first quarter of FY 2021/22, revenues were below the target due to the delayed release of equitable share and conditional grants. Furthermore, there are unfavourable economic conditions, which might adversely affect revenue performance and will be considered during finalization to the FY 2022/23 budget. In light of this, the Government fiscal policy continues to focus on enhanced revenue mobilization, expenditure prioritization and ensuring fiscal balance.

The Government will continue implementation of cost-cutting measures including operational reforms and alignment of resources to programmes in the CIDP. In this regard, detailed budgets of all units have been scrutinized to reduce nonessential expenditures, and ensure completion of ongoing projects with particular emphasis placed on projects nearing completion to ensure that citizens benefit from such public investments. The FY 2022/23 budget is being prepared under a revised budget calendar that considers the preparations for the 2022 General Elections. Therefore, Departments are expected to adhere to the strict deadlines in the revised budget calendar to enable finalization of the FY 2022/23 by March 2022. Policy Recommendations

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

1. 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;
2. That the County Government to come up with proper legislation that will enhance the collection of its own source revenue to meet its targets and enhance its revenue streams;

Committee Recommendation

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

- i. The County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2022/2023 without any amendments.

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It's the committee's humble submission that the House adopts its report on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2022/2023. Honourable Speaker, I move the motion and I request Honourable Kinyua to second.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Godfrey Murithi, honourable Member for Karingani Ward. Yes, honourable Erastus Kinyua, honourable member for Mariani.

(Honourable Erastus Kinyua stood at his place and bowed to second)

Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Order number 73 (1), allow me now to propose the question that pursuant to the provisions of Public Finance Management Act 2012, section 117, the county assembly adopts the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the financial year 2022/2023, without amendments.

Honourable Members the floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Member for Mariani, Honourable Kinyua.

Hon. Kinyua: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Being a Member of the Budget committee I stand to support this report by saying when County Fiscal Strategic Paper for financial year 2022/2023 was commissioned to the Budget Committee; the first step the committee took was to scrutinize the CFSP. After scrutiny, all the departments' heads brought their CFSP and the committee went for the public participation which is mandatory for any Bill. This CFSP of 2022, being an extract of CIDP which was passed in 2018/2019 so in that regard I support the adoption of this report without amendment.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Member for Mariani, Honourable Erastus Kinyua. Honourable Members the floor is still open for debate. Yes, Honourable Member for Magumoni, Honourable Justin Kithinji.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before I declare my stand on this particular document, it is a document that is setting the stage for the next budgeting provisions. A while ago in this particular house, we had the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) and one of the clause therein was that there shall be a ward fund. It was the spirit all over the country and everybody was advocating for that. So, this document of the start of this budgeting provisions coming shortly after the passing of BBI in this house, I was expecting to see a provisions for creation of a ward fund which will go ahead to strengthen the spirit of devolution. I have not seen that, what I have seen is the continuity of the status quo, which has not been very comfortable to the honourable Members.

When the mover of the motion was moving the motion, he mentioned issues to do with public participation. As it is called public participation, there is importance of capturing what has been said by the participant is in the field. At the same time, this document was subjected to other committees, and particularly in the committee where I chair, that is the Lands and Housing, we had our recommendations which actually were coming as a result of mixture in the departments. As the departments have been captured in this particular report, there is a lot of mixture because you will realize that our current situation is now Lands and Environment Urban is in roads. When you look at this document it is lumping a lump sum in one department which forms lands housing urban and physical planning. We highlighted those issues with the committee and I was expecting at least in the recommendations to find them.

When a document comes in this house it is subjected to public participation, it is subjected to committees, people talk and we are busy doing other things then when the document finds its way in this particular house we have only recommendations and there are no provisions for amendments in the report.

Am not intending to move any amendment but I highly recommend that it's important that we put into considerations what people said during public participation. When we move around collecting views, involve committee to collect their views we don't even document them or say something about them I think we are killing the spirit of public participation.

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Now that we're setting the stage for the budget I want to support this document but believing that a few of those issues that I have highlighted much as they have not been documented they will be taken into account when we get into the real business of the budget. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Justin Kithinji Honourable member for Magumoni. Honourable members the floor is still open for debate. Yes, Honourable Margret Gitari.

Hon. Margret: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. First I want to thank this committee for having sat down and come up with a report to table to this house because these are the ceilings that are going to be used in the next financial year.

I would say that in most cases the report is quite elaborative and if put into practice the operationalisation of these departments I think This County is going to move from one level to the other. I only want to echo the sentiments of one Honourable member for Magumoni because I remember when this document came and it was tabled here it was subjected to different departments and that's why we took all the initiative to invite the CECM and their Chief officers and other relevant officers from different departments to be able to bring in their weight in the same document.

The way I see it for example in the environment and water resources which I chair in the assembly the CECM brought it very well that the water department the ceilings have been reduced comparing from the other financial years Whereas we need water more than ever before in this county.

It was also pointed out that environment is key if we have to move on well. In the speech yesterday I really pointed out the weight that should be put when it comes to environment and having been allocated only five million for development. The department felt that this was a bit on the lower side; now that there is a motion that we passed in this house of removal of eucalyptus trees from water catchment areas and as I said yesterday I was invited for their technical working group and they want to come up with a Bill to do the same.

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They also talked about employment of officers to be able to guard the water catchment areas and that report is not captured in this report. Honestly submissions from committee should be put here so that the whole house can see what was deliberated in the sectoral committee.

Am not saying that I want to shoot it down but there is a lot that should be included here. These being the ceilings and what the executive will do immediately after this is to start now making the actual budget. It is our prayer the submissions from the sectoral committee that met sometimes a week ago are going to be factored, so that when we receive documents and go to sectoral committees honestly the recommendations should be factored,

(Applause)

Should be taken care of and should be respected because this is an Honourable house.

Mr. Speaker the document is as it was from the executive and this is what has been tabled on the house. I rest my case Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Margret Gitari. Honourable members the floor is still open for debate. Yes, Honourable minority leader Honourable Wilson Nyaga Honourable member for Muthambi.

Hon. Derebia: Thank you Mr. Speaker because of this time you have given to me to contribute about the fiscal strategy paper. I want to thank the chair and his team for the work well done. We are discussing this budget of 2022/2023 and also to me when I have heard about revitalization of coffee, tea and even the agriculture sector knowing that agriculture is the backbone of the economy of our county, I support it.

Also as one member has said that anything we pass in this house requires to be honored. This budget is not for us, it is for the next government and the people who will be elected. If God will help me to be re-elected, we will be able to sit down and come up with the annual development plan for this year 2022/2023. That is why I am not so worried when I go through these papers but what I can say to the chair, there is somewhere he has read Chogoria sub-county and I don't think there is Chogoria sub-county under the universe it is Mwimbi sub-

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county. It needs to be rectified because now we have Mwimbi and the newly Muthambi. So there is no where Chogoria is a sub-county unless God will bless them in future times.

Hon. Speaker: Congratulations Honourable Nyaga you really fought for it.

Hon. Derebia: Remember we were with you Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Derebia: Thank you.

I am supporting this fiscal strategy paper and to bring to the attention of the Honourable members, by September maybe when we will be swearing in that is the moment when we will sit down and map the way forward on what we like our county to be. For now, it is in the papers but it will become practical the moment we come to implement that strategy paper or when we do this fiscal strategy paper. So I am supporting it the way it is. I know if there are changes we will do it when we are reelected and God helps us all including Honourable Muthini to be nominated once again.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable member for Muthambi, honorable Wilson Nyaga the minority leader. Yes, Honourable member for Mugwe, Honourable Dennis.

Hon. Dennis: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I support the motion, however I would say when there is an opportunity to do things right there is no problem when we can concentrate on that. It is a fact that we really gave a lot of recommendations and one thing I could suggest is that in the future there is no problem with this report if it's being written by the whole house. Being the budget, there is no problem of the last days of the report writing incorporating all the members because we all own it.

It is true we had proposed some few amendments which we feel they are justified. There was no point of getting some feedback to what our recommendation might not fit, because some things also require some goodwill and negotiation. We are not opposing the report we support it and we own it but where adjustments or negotiations are required the goodwill can work, thank you Mr. Speaker.

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Hon. Speaker: Thank you the Honourable member for Mugwe Honourable Dennis. Honorable members regard being taken to the mood in the house and the times we are living in allow me now pursuant to order 6(4) to call upon the mover to respond.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you Honourable speaker. I think once again I want to say that I thank the Honourable members, when I say I thanked them for the participation. The document that I read in this house it has all the submissions, all the recommendations by the committees because we do respect them.

Two, even the memoranda that I said it was brought by a group from Chogoria it is still in the report because it needs to be looked at especially in the future. Allow me to say that some of the issues that were raised by the committees we considered them mostly when it came to the departments.

Mr. Speaker the committee on lands they had very good recommendations but when we went through we saw intermarriage in most of the departments so I believe in the next government we are going to have departments that are not intermarrying so that we can have ceilings that do not bring any issue so that is one of the issues that we considered.

Secondly the issue of public participation, we realized as a committee we need a lot of civic education. People cannot differentiate between CFSP, ADP and even the budget itself, those who were coming were even coming to discuss the licenses. So we need as this house to come up with a legislation of how we can do the civic education so that our people can be enlightened, that is something that I saw so when they don't come for civic education we don't blame them because some of the things that we discuss are different from what we are taking to the people.

Lastly allow me to say the issue of environment and natural resources, with 5 million is not that little because we have budget itself that according to the needs the money can be reallocate because resources will never be enough. They were given those ceilings so that they can work on them. Honourable speaker they are some areas that need to be looked at in the budget as those of CFSP also. I want to echo the words that were said by Honourable Kithinji on the ward development fund, this could not have happened in the CFSP since it is not anchored in any law

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so I think in this house we had a fund equalization fund that has never seen its way to the second reading and I believe the house itself had adopted it and it was passed and it became a law, we could have factored it in our CFSP but with time we are going to have it and we have that and we can also consider the ward development fund. So we could not have factored ward development fund from the BBI that has never seen its way out of court. If it comes out of court and Kenyans approve it in a referendum, we can consider it at any stage. And I also want to tell my fellow members this being the CFSP for 2022/2023 with the election period the government will not be asleep although we are going to be in politics that's why I want to inform the members that we are going to bring the budget before we go for campaigns so that our members and the community itself can be enjoying the services. Since I know that I will be back and others who will join me we are going to have a government that will have been reformed, that will be considering all these.

Honourable speaker thank you and once again I not only thank the honourable members of this house but also the office of the speaker and that of the clerk especially my able clerk Mary Kendi and Paul for having worked with us 24 hours so that we can bring this report in this house. Thank you, Honourable speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Godfrey Murithi Chairperson committee on finance budget and appropriations. Honourable members pursuant to the provisions of standing order No. 73(2) allow me to put the question that pursuant to the provisions of public finance management act 2012 section 117 the county assembly adopts the county physical strategy paper for financial year 2022/2023 without amendment.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

*****The House Rose at 12:25Pm*****

