

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

### Third Assembly

*(Special sitting of the County Assembly Convened Vide Kenya Gazette Notice No. 749 of 2024 by the Hon. Speaker)*

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

*The County Assembly met at the  
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 9.30 a.m.  
[The Speaker (Hon. John Mbabu) in the Chair]*

### PRAYERS

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, please be seated. Let us proceed to the next order.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

### CONVOCATION

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, it is my pleasure to welcome you back from the long recess.

Honourable Members, the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly and the Tharaka Nithi County Executive Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024 were received in the County Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

In line with the House resolution of 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 I committed the Supplementary Budgets to the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations for consideration vide letter TN/CA/ADM/3/VOL.III/612 dated 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

Consequently, pursuant to the provisions of Standing order 40 (1-3) I received a request by the leader of Majority party for a special sitting today Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 with the business to be transacted being approval of the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly Supplementary Budget (I) for the FY 2023/2024 and the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024.

Subsequently, I gave notice of this special sitting vide Gazette notice number 749 in the Kenya Gazette of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

This is to notify you that the House is properly convened. The House is accordingly guided. I thank you. Next order.

## PAPERS LAID

### THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ON THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET(I) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I lay on the Table of the House the report of the select committee on Finance Budget and Appropriations on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly Service Supplementary Budget(I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

Thank you, honourable Speaker.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### NOTICE OF MOTION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ON THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET (I) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I rise to give the Notice of Motion on the adoption of the report of the select committee on Finance Budget and Appropriations on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly Service Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

That; this County Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 adopts the Report of the Select Committee on Finance Budget and Appropriations on the County Executive and County Assembly Service Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024. Thank you.

## MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET  
AND APPROPRIATIONS ON THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND  
COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET (I)  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I rise to move the Motion on the adoption of the report of the select committee on Finance Budget and Appropriations on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly Service Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

That; this County Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 adopts the Report of the Select Committee on Finance Budget and Appropriations on the County Executive and County Assembly Service Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

Honourable Speaker, with you permission I will go through the report of the committee.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations and pursuant to the provisions of section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, and section 39 of the Public Finance Management Act regulations 2015 it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's Report on the County Executive and County Assembly Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

Honourable Speaker, with your permission, I will not go through the mandate of the committee since the members are very much aware of it and allow me to go through the background. Section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, provides that the County Government is to submit to the County Assembly Supplementary Budget in certain circumstances. It stipulates that a County Government may spend money that has not been appropriated if the amount appropriated for any purpose under the County Appropriation Act is insufficient or a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act.

The Tharaka Nithi County Assembly and the Tharaka Nithi County Executive Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024 were received on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 and in line with the House resolution of 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 the Supplementary Budgets were committed to the

Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations for consideration vide letter TN/CA/ADM/3/VOL.III/612.

The Committee held a consultative meeting, on the Supplementary Budgets, with all the Members of the County Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. Additionally, the Committee met with the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the County Assembly for their input and valuable contributions and participation during the consideration and deliberations on the Supplementary Budget. Moreso, I thank the members of the committee for the support that gave to me as the chair when we were coming up with this report. I also thank your office honourable Speaker and the office of the Clerk for the support that you gave to the committee.

On behalf of the Committee, I have the honour and pleasure to present to the Assembly the Committee's Report on the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly and County Executive Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to say that when any document has been forwarded to the committee, what guides us is the on the legal basis is the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and the Public Finance Management Act Regulations, 2015. We are also guided by our Standing Orders, i.e. Standing Order 253 of the Standing orders of this Assembly alongside Standing Order 259. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, not to dwell on the issues of the Standing Orders and what they say and the Act because we are conversant.

Honourable Speaker, the committee observations are as follows:

The County Government is proposing an upward revision of its budget expenditure estimates for the fiscal year 2023/24, increasing from Kshs. 6.3 billion to Kshs. 6.5 billion. The adjusted allocation designates Kshs. 2.46 billion for development expenditure and Kshs. 4.04 billion for recurrent expenditure. Specifically, the revision involves a reduction in development expenditure by Kshs. 60 million, bringing the new allocation to Kshs. 2.46 billion from the initial figure of Kshs. 2.52 billion. Conversely, recurrent expenditure has been revised upward by Kshs. 235.3 million, increasing the allocation from Kshs. 3.80 billion to Kshs. 4.04 billion.

On the issue of the Financing Plan, and this is one of the areas that on the supplementary budget we looked at:

To fund this revised budget, the County anticipates generating Kshs. 6.5 billion, comprising Ksh. 4.37 billion from Equitable Share, Kshs. 450 million from Own Source Revenue, Kshs. 1.42 billion from conditional grants and donations, and a carryover of Kshs. 253.64 million from the previous financial year (2022/23).

On the Own Source Revenue:

In the revised budget estimates, the County aims to generate Kshs. 450 million from its own sources of revenue, marking a significant increase from the initial projection of Kshs. 400 million in the original budget. However, the County Treasury encountered a substantial challenge in the previous financial year, collecting only Kshs. 286.73 million, falling short of the projected revenue of Kshs. 380 million by 25%.

This observed 25% shortfall in revenue collection in the previous financial year highlights a significant hurdle faced by the County Treasury in meeting its initial revenue targets. The committee was concerned that the upward adjustment in own source revenue in the revised budget may potentially widen the fiscal gap, posing a risk of increased pending bills.

The committee felt that there was need for the County Treasury to provide a detailed explanation of its strategy to meet the heightened revenue expectations and avoid further exacerbation of pending bills.

Conditional Grants and Donations:

In the revised Budget Estimates, the Treasury anticipates receiving Kshs1.42 billion in Conditional Grants and Donations. However, according to the proposed County additional allocations bills for FY 2023/24, the projection is reduced to Kshs989.77 million. This substantial variance, particularly in projections from the Aggregated Industrial Parks Programme and FLoCCA revenue streams, raises concerns and necessitates clarification on the underlying reasons for the differences.

Adherence to Financial Responsibility Principles by County Treasury:

#### Development Expenditure;

According to Section 107 (b) of the PFM Act 2012, the County Government is mandated to allocate a minimum of thirty percent of its budget to development expenditure over the medium term. In the proposed revised budget estimates, the total allocation for development expenditure is Kshs2.46 billion, representing 38% of the total budget. This demonstrates the County Treasury's commitment to surpassing the mandated minimum for development initiatives.

#### Recurrent Expenditure;

Section 107 (a) of the PFM Act 2012 stipulates that the County Government's recurrent expenditure should not exceed its total revenue. In the proposed revised budget, the total allocation for recurrent expenditure is Kshs4.04 billion, contrasted with a total projected revenue of Kshs6.5 billion. This aligns with the financial responsibility principle, ensuring that recurrent expenditure remains within the confines of available revenue.

#### Wages and Benefits Expenditure;

Section 107 (c) of the PFM Act 2012 requires that the county government's expenditure on wages and benefits for public officers adheres to prescribed limits. The Public Finance Management Act Regulation of 2015 sets this limit at 35% of the total budget. In the proposed budget, the County plans to allocate Kshs. 2.19 billion for wages and benefits, accounting for 34% of the total budget. This indicates a prudent approach to personnel expenses, staying below the regulatory cap.

#### Debt Management;

Section 107 (e) of the PFM Act 2012 emphasizes the need to maintain county debt at a sustainable level, as approved by the County Assembly. The County Government aims to uphold a balanced budget where expenditure equals revenue. However, it is essential to note that any deviation from revenue projections could exacerbate existing pending bills. As of the end of FY 2022/23, the County Government reported a pending bill of Kshs. 810 million, highlighting the importance of meeting revenue targets to avoid escalating financial challenges.

#### Deviations from the initial Financial Objectives:

Health sector;

In the recurrent budget, specifically within the medical services sub-sector, the Treasury is proposing an additional Kshs52.8 billion, primarily allocated for medical supplies and general supplies. However, there are notable adjustments in the FIF (Funded Initiatives and Facilities) Appropriation-in-Aid program, where the budget is decreased by Kshs.11.2 million, moving from the initial allocation of Kshs122.8 million to Kshs111.6 million. Simultaneously, there is an anticipated increase in own source revenue projection by Kshs.27 million for Appropriation-in-Aid receipts, raising the projection from Kshs122.8 million to Kshs149.8 million.

The discrepancy between the decreased budget allocation for the FIF Appropriation-In-Aid program and the anticipated increase in own source revenue raises questions about the rationale behind these adjustments. It is not clear why the budget for this program is decreasing while the Treasury expects to collect more revenue from it.

In the health sector's development budget, priorities include allocating Kshs40 million for equipping the County referral hospital with an ICU unit and Kshs35 million for upgrading the health management system. However, there's a noteworthy reduction of Kshs25 million in the allocation for pending bills.

Finance and Economic Planning;

Within the Finance and Economic Planning sector, the Treasury is proposing additional allocations totalling Kshs42.1 million, primarily directed towards the uses of goods and services and housing loans for public servants. However, in a contrasting move, the Treasury is also suggesting a reduction in the allocation to Emergency by Kshs10 million, decreasing the initial budget from Kshs15 million to Kshs5 million.

Roads, infrastructure, public works and urban development;

The Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works, and Urban Development sector's recurrent budget is set to increase by Kshs77.5 million, encompassing various allocations such as Kshs15 million for casual workers' salaries (road marshals), Kshs17 million for motor vehicle insurance, Kshs20 million for fuel expenses, Kshs13 million for motor vehicle maintenance, Kshs7 million for

maintenance of other assets, and other minor adjustments. The committee however felt that some of these items would have been anticipated in the initial Budget Estimates. Additionally, the development expenditure budget for the sector is expected to receive an additional Kshs69.5 million, with a focus on road maintenance and the construction of footbridges and bridges.

#### Youths and Sports;

In the Youth and Sports sector's development budget, there is a significant change as the proposed supplementary budget eliminates the initial allocation of Kshs20 million for the empowerment of youth, women, and persons living with disabilities (PLWD). The sector, which initially had earmarked funds for empowering these groups, now faces a zero-funding situation in the proposed supplementary budget.

#### Conclusion and Recommendations:

The proposed supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2023/24 reflects significant adjustments across various sectors, aiming to address emerging needs and priorities. The increased allocation in the Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works, and Urban Development sector demonstrates a commitment to critical infrastructure.

Allow me, honourable Speaker, to say that we also received the supplementary budget for the County Assembly Service from the Service Board. With that, honourable Speaker, allow me to also say that we had the following submissions from the committee member in charge of Finance so that he could shed light on the areas that I have already mentioned. Because we already have the report, I will skip the first part because already I have already highlighted what we are targeting to supplement. I will therefore go straight to the expenditure estimates.

#### Expenditure Estimates:

The general provisions include the provision of various items to harness the impact of El Niño considering the following:

- a) Provisions of KES 85million in development and 60 million in recurrent for rural access roads maintenance targeting over 3,500km of roads within 100 days Rapid Results Initiative

- (RRI) program. The allocation includes KES 20 million for Maintenance of motor vehicles. plant and machinery and KES 20 million for purchase of fuel for the plant and machinery.
- b) Provisions of KES 80 million for the crop subsidy program targeting distribution of climate resilience seeds.
  - c) Allocation of KES 10Million for purchase of drugs, KES 4 million for non-pharms, KES 12 million for purchase of food stuffs, KES 8 million for laboratory materials and KES 8 million for X-ray supplies. This will strengthen our stock positions to ensure service delivery in our health facilities isn't interrupted with anticipated upsurge in incidences for malaria, cholera and pneumonic diseases.
  - d) Allocation of KES 40 million for equipping of the Chuka Level 5 critical care unit including a 10 bed Intensive Care Unit and 20 bed high dependency unit.
  - e) Allocation of KES 14 million to purchase motor vehicles for the revenue department to enhance enforcement.
  - f) Allocation of KES 20 million for payment of electricity costs.
  - g) Allocation of KES 8.5 million for staff medical insurance and 17 million for motor insurance
  - h) Allocation of KES 12 million for purchase of furniture program for ECDE completed classes.
  - i) Allocation of KES 22.4 million for payment of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) stipend, counter funding to the grant from the national government.
  - j) Allocation of KES 15 million for payment of Road marshals' wages.
  - k) Provision of KES 7,695,750 for the DANIDA conditional grant allocation.
  - l) Provisions of KES 69,050,000 for the financing locally led Climate actions CCRI Grant additional allocation.
  - m) Reduction of the allocation for the CAIP (industrial park) from KES 500 million to KES 250 million to align the allocation to County Allocation of Revenue Act 2023(CARA).

The County Executive Committee Member responded as follows to the issues raised by the committee:

#### Own Source of Revenue:

The CECM noted that the County had already collected KSHS. 156 million in own source revenue in the first half of the current financial year whereas in the previous financial year the

department had collected KSHS. 70 million during the same period. He added that the County collects the highest revenue during the third quarter due to payment of business permits and thus the County Treasury projected that it would meet the KES450 million target.

#### Water projects:

The committee raised concerns on the reallocations done in the water department with respect to the water projects. It was noted with a lot of concern that a project such as Kimwe water projects that the contractor was on site had been reduced to zero funding. In response the CECM noted that the refinancing had been done within the department reconsidering the projects for implementation. He further noted that there was need for facilitating NIWASCO for expansion in order to meet the conditions for funding in the World bank K-WASH programme in the next financial year.

#### Youth empowerment programme;

The CECM informed the committee that upon review of the legislation on youth empowerment by the controller of budget it had been proposed that the legislation be reviewed and thus the programme could not be implemented. He added that the funds had mainly been reallocated within the same department.

#### Roads:

The CECM informed the committee that the County Government was implementing the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) program to counter the effects of the El Niño rains and thus the increase of funding in the department. The County Government is implementing the program by hiring of the road equipment and the county employees are to supervise the works.

#### Hospital Fencing:

The CECM noted that there was need to fence the hospital and the land surrounding it with a view of protecting public land after there were cases of encroachment. The committee recommended to the CECM that the County Government should involve all the stakeholders in execution of the project for ease of implementation.

Upon deliberations between the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and the committee the following further amendments to the supplementary budget were proposed:

With that, honourable Speaker, allow me to skip to the proposed amendments by the committee because it is the same thing. I will therefore go to the committee's recommendations to the County Assembly on the County Executive and County Assembly Supplementary Budget (I) For the Financial Year 2023/2024.

The Committee was tasked with consideration of the submitted Supplementary Budget 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 Programme Based Budget and it has observed the principles of equality and equity. Before making any recommendations on Supplementary estimates the Committee is required to take into account the views of the County Executive Committee Member for Finance of which the Committee heard the CECMs views on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

Upon consideration of the above submissions and the supplementary budgets the committee was satisfied with the County Assembly Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024 as submitted.

Upon consideration of the above submissions and the supplementary budgets the committee recommends as follows with respect to the County Executive Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024:

- a) That; a sum of Kshs. 27 million be increased as county funding for crop subsidy under the county climate changes funding and crop subsidy program in the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives be reduced by the same amount.
- b) That; Kimwe water project in Karingani and Kamagajiu borehole in Gatunga Ward be refinanced for KES 3 million and KES 1,750,000 respectively and the program pending bills in the same department be reduced by KES 4,750,000.

- c) That; FIF programme under Department of Medical Services be increased by a sum of KES 27 million and the Creative and Rehabilitative Services program and General Administration, Planning and Support Services be reduced by KES.15 million and KES. 12 million respectively.
- d) That; the program rehabilitation of sports grounds / public fields be allocated KES 2 million to be utilized for levelling and erection/installation of goal-posts across all the wards without stadia and Kajiuduthi and Kibugua stadia be reduced KES 1 million each.

Now therefore, the Committee on Finance Budget and appropriations recommends that:

- i. The County Assembly approves the County Assembly Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024 without amendments and
- ii. The County Assembly approves the County Executive Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024 with amendments.

It's the Committee's humble submission that the County Assembly adopts its report on the County Assembly and County Executive Supplementary Budget (I) for the financial year 2023/2024.

Honourable Speaker, that is the committees report and the recommendations having considered many factors such as FIF, our roads infrastructure. More particularly we felt that all wards that do not have a stadium be considered for having some of their public fields be levelled for the benefit of our youths.

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

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Nancy.

*(Hon. Nancy stood in her place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, with the Motion having been seconded, I will now propose the question for debate.

That; this County Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 adopts the Report of the Select Committee on Finance Budget and

Appropriations on the County Executive and County Assembly Service Supplementary Budget (I) for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

Honourable Njeru.

*(Loud Consultations)*

Just proceed. there seems to be a problem with the Hansard system.

**Hon. Njeru Joseph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your eye catching up on me so that I can give my contribution on this supplementary budget. It is worth to note that the source of this supplementary budget is the executive arm. This being their responsibility to spend money, I have my reservations on two areas which I think should be given priority every other time when we have a supplementary budget for the Executive arm to spend money.

One area is education whereby I think we have not given it the real attention. The reason I am saying that, ten years down the line, we have ECDE centres which are not built. It is very unfortunate now that we are talking about furnishing the classes which we have already constructed, whereas we have schools with ECDE pupils and we do not have classes in those schools. I feel that we should give priority to them so that we can do away with construction of classes once and for all. We can allocate money to education to complete the work of constructing ECDE classes so that we get over it.

Number two, in the ECDE department, we have teachers and of course, like any other service delivery department, these teachers do not have the same qualifications. I wish we can allocate more money so that we can be able to pay them as per their grades so that education can have a meaning even to those who went to school. I have seen cases... and I do not know whether it is true or not. We have seen other counties allocating a huge amount of money on bursaries. I have an issue with how we allocate our bursary funds which is very little money especially to students in the vocational centres. This is where our youth can get knowledge that can enable them earn direct money. This is where they can get courses that can enable them earn money on daily basis. We need to encourage those who wish to join these vocational training centres by allocating bursary funds in order to motivate them. We cannot assume that the residents of Tharaka Nithi county are not needy. We therefore need to allocate money to those centres, first, to buy equipment and employ tutors and then, let us give bursaries to our students attending those

vocational training centres. You can see the direction the National Government is taking. They have actually allocated money to every student joining TVETs so that there is money paid for every student. They give HELB funding and still give bursaries to these students. I feel that this is an area we need to give priority so that we now also focus on our youth who are now just roaming around doing nothing.

Still on the issue of bursaries, last year when we were issuing bursaries, I had an issue with IgambaNg'ombe where two thousand, six hundred students applied for bursary but we were able to give only three hundred students. You can imagine the criteria that was used to identify the three hundred from the two thousand, six hundred applicants. We left two thousand and three hundred students who never got the bursary. It is just a matter of allocating more money so that we can actually give enough bursary. The reasoning that bursary is a National Government docket, is not true because the National Government through the office of members of parliament gives bursaries but it is not enough. We should not assume that when they are given the three thousand or so by the MPs that it is enough for them. Let us allocate money in Education so that we can give enough bursary so that our people can also realise the reason why they voted for this Government.

The other area where I have reservations, is the water docket. You have heard the Chairman and his committee who have done a very good job by bringing this document. They invited us to Nairobi and we discussed it. On water, it is ironical that in Tharaka Nithi county where we have thirteen permanent rivers passing through Tharaka Nithi county and there are places especially the lower part of this county especially Tharaka constituency where people are in dire need of water. I am happy that the Chairman has adduced that they recommended that the money that had been removed from a project in Gatunga ward be returned so that the work can continue. There is a loophole where like he has said, the world bank will allocate money alongside the money we have allocated in the budget. If we allocate more money in the department of water, we are likely to benefit from donor funds against the money that we have allocated. It is as simple as that. I think the Executive should take advantage of this arrangement whereby they can allocate more money to the department of water and by so doing, we can get more money to fund water projects in this county. Ten years down the line, it is a long time and still we have issues. Like today, we have been invited to witness commissioning of a water project done by e-water

which is a private company. I am requesting our county to put more money to the department of water to serve our people. As donors and other private companies are coming to help us, let us also see that our people are not suffering simply because we have other priorities. Priorities are priorities. We would be giving priority to other areas, but there are some areas which are more important and requires more priority than others.

When we talk about recurrent expenditure, we have allocated a lot of money. Over Ksh 4 billion is in the recurrent expenditure and part of it, is in hospitality and subsistence which is *Chai na Mandazi*. Let us get money from those dockets and allocate it to other important dockets. I am sure that we can do without tea in our offices so that the Ciambai, and that *Mwananchi* who voted for us can feel the reason why they voted for us. Those people in the offices have salaries. Let us try so that our people can get the reason they voted for us.

The last but not the least, the slogan of leaving no one behind should actually be followed by the work. We should walk the talk. Let us not say it for the sake of saying it. We have seen things in the budget and even in previous budgets where money was allocated to areas an example of floodlights which were not done and they were identified by names. We are now in another budget. When we talk about leaving no one behind, let us do it practically. When we are buying furniture to classes that we have built, whereas we have other schools without classes, I think it is ironical. Mr Speaker, let the Government of Tharaka Nithi county work for everyone disregarding affiliations, tribe, where we come from, how we voted, whom you are affiliated to etc.

I support the chairman. He has done a good job. At times, you hear what we say, and I am grateful but I hope that the next supplementary budget, let us advise the Executive accordingly. Secondly and lastly, I hope as we say leaving no one behind, the honourable members of this Assembly are going to have a Chamber where they will be comfortable like other members of other County Assemblies in this country. Therefore, we should not be left behind as the slogan says. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, honourable Njeru. The only problem is that you did not tell the House whether you support or oppose the document but nevertheless, the mover of the Motion will be able to address the pertinent issues that you have raised later may be in terms of your resource envelope, what is the capacity and the rest. He has also raised the issue about the county

Assembly chambers. It is not appropriate to say so but we will be having an advertisement in the newspapers latest in the next two weeks for the construction of the Assembly chambers.

*(Applause)*

We can proceed with the Motion. Honourable member for Mugwe.

**Hon. Kiriko Jacob:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is always said that if you want to hang them, you have to be smart. At times, it is very moving and exciting, when you speak so much on things that touches our day to day lives but it is always very important that much as we represent our people, we also look at what is available in terms of the resource envelope that we have in every department. And also as we speak of priorities, it is important to analyse these priorities, not based on where we come from, where we are affiliated politically but on need basis.

Having said that, first I wish to congratulate the committee on budget led by the Chair for inviting us to have a dialogue and look at the supplementary budget. The committee has done its part, they have really worked on this document, I have heard their recommendations that they have and more importantly, the executive can request for supplementary budget I, supplementary budget II and even up to ten or hundred based on what they think is important but I wish to thank the Executive because in the last financial year, we had supplementary budgets one, two and three and now, we are mid-year that we are having the first supplementary budget one. Meaning, for the last half year, the Executive has tried to implement the budget as we passed it but, in any department, or in any organization, there are matters arising.

For instance, we are just from the El Niño rains which has affected most of our roads which are currently impassable. When we talk of need basis analysis, we are talking about the unforeseen circumstances when the budget was being formulated. The executive did not know that we are going to have the El Niño rains. As a result, because it has affected us, there is need for Rapid Road Response programme as indicated in the budget. As a representative of the people, I have walked around. I respect the distinguished member for IgambaNg'ombe. He has spoken so much about bursaries but much as we are talking about bursaries, much as we are talking about health, much as we are talking about other sectors, it is important to know that even if you want to go to a health institution, or even visit any school, you will need accessible roads. Most of our roads were damaged during the El Niño rains. As a result, it has made it necessary for this

supplementary budget to be done so that we can have re-allocation of funds to ensure that these roads are passable. Much as we may want to play politics, I know that the El Niño rains did not affect Mugwe ward only, it affected the whole county. I have walked around and I know what I am talking about in terms of roads.

We know the budget that we had for seeds distribution. Looking at the backbone of our economy, and what seeds distribution programme has done to this county, it was very necessary and appropriate to have re-allocation of funds to the same programme to make sure that our farmers receive seeds before the onset of march rains. I may not want to say that sometimes, we come here in this House for you to preside over politics. It is good to always speak facts and not just speaking so that we can be heard outside for people to say that we are representing them well but let us also be telling our people about the allocations that we have. Let us also know our budget. For instance, we cannot compare our county with Nakuru county. We cannot compare ourselves with Narok county based on what they raise as own source revenue and even what they get from the National Government. Therefore, as much as we may want to do comparisons, we are in our own house, we know our own problems and it is important that when we speak, we speak based on the budget allocations that we have and the resources that we have, and from there, we will have represented our people well.

Therefore, I support this document and I request this House to adopt the report. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Kithinji.

**Hon. Kithinji Justin:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am rising to support the Motion and I am very happy because I can see for sure, when I form the next Government, I will have a very good Executive member. I have just identified one.

*(Laughter)*

When you look at the supplementary budget, I of course agree that there was need to have it considering that the activity that will be undertaken which has scooped a lot of money, is roads. It may look quite pleasant that there is a lot of money that has been allocated to roads and I want to call upon the committee on roads to be so vigilant because again, it is in the roads department where it is very easy to siphon this cash again. Today we are celebrating but let the committee on

roads do their work when it comes to supervision. I will particularly do it in my ward so that at least, when this money comes, it goes to the right work that is intended to.

I would like to emphasise on the need of having goalposts because there are so many leagues going around. I happen to be a fan of the same and I also do sponsor some. It's quite embarrassing to realise that our youth plays in fields with wooden goal posts in those primary school fields. There is a provision for that and so, I will request the chairman for youth and sports, now that a lot of money has been scooped to that department, to make sure that at least that work is done. It may look so simple to city people but I want to assure you that it will have a lot of impact to our youths.

Of course, much has not been captured. I happen to be a member of that particular committee and we questioned the CEC over a number of things and particularly on why there was reduction of money going towards the youth because all along, our youths normally feel like they are always taken for a ride and they gave a good explanation and of course, it was touching on some roles which have not been made and which were questioned by the controller of budget and we are really waiting for those particular roles before we get to the next budget so that at least, we make sure that there is money for our youths.

We live on hope and I want to agree with honourable Njeru, when he really talks and emphasizes on the need to increase the bursary funds, he is perfectly in order. We can forego *mandazi* like he perfectly said and you realize that there is a lot of money that has been allocated for hospitality. Hospitality is only a word that has been used. It refers to food and as we know, it is *mandazi*. Therefore, if we reduced these *mandazi*, we can definitely have more allocation going to the bursaries.

I take a different direction towards our polytechnics because I really feel that this is the high time that this county got into a serious debate on these polytechnics because every village has got a polytechnic that has been constructed and of course the contractors had their day but these polytechnics are not functional. They are just buildings in the bushes. We have three TVETs and very soon, one of them is going to be upgraded to a national polytechnic status and I really feel that it is the high time we had a serious debate about these village polytechnics so that we see whether we can have a few that are functional and funded. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, honourable member for Magumoni even for reassuring these members that you will be forming the new Government and of course being the deputy Governor,

*(Applause)*

You will consider members of this House as Executive members but then remember, you will do that with consultation with the Governor because he is the appointing authority but I can assure you that it is a good direction that you are taking. Honourable Zachary.

**Hon. Zachari Njagi:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support this document and I also want to thank the honourable member for Gatunga, honourable Salvestas who when we were in Nairobi really educated me on this document. I came to realise that he goes through every page and he reads very carefully because he was the one who was directing me. He was telling me this is what has been deducted in this department, this is what has been added and therefore, I really want to thank honourable Salvestas because he really educated me. Again, today when he has arrived, he has asked me why I am seated where he sits but I want to tell him that at times, you sit with other people, you might think that honourable Njeru whom you sit with is a very good friend of you but at times, friends kill. It's better to sit with other people and hear what they talk.

Mr Speaker, I really want to support this document and I also wish to inform the House that it's good that there is part of the ear that is called auricle or the other word is pinna that directs the waves or the sound inside the ears. It's good for people to open that part and make it useful. I also want to thank honourable Njeru because he has now known the best place to put some of these issues. In the past we could hear him talking in different forums in this county but today, I really want to thank him because this is the...

*(Interjection)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Njeru. You have a point of order?

**Hon. Njeru Joseph:** Yes Mr Speaker. There is a point of order because...

*(Laughter)*

I think the honourable member is not in order to insinuate that I only talk in the villages because here in this Assembly there is no day when I am around that I do not talk. I do not think he is in order Mr Speaker.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Zachary, you heard what honourable Njeru said?

**Hon. Zachary Njagi:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes

**Hon. Speaker:** He has just confirmed that he always talks both in the House and outside. Kindly be guided.

**Hon. Zachary Njagi:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand guided. Mr Speaker, I support the document and wish to say that since the day we discussed this document, I have heard some people commenting about this supplementary budget and I really want to thank the Chairman and the entire finance committee for the good work they are doing. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Mwaura.

**Hon. Mwaura John:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the Motion but I have some points on roads because due to the recent El Niño rains, the county roads are not in a very good state. I therefore think that the money that has been allocated to roads will be put into proper use because I know that having a good experience on roads, I know that hiring machines is relatively expensive. I think that it's good that in the next budget, they should consider buying machines because hiring machines and especially the grader, it's not a very good idea. They should think of something else including buying machines in the next budget. On the issue of hospitality, when I was going through the document, I saw something to do with hiring hospitality and catering services. I think some of these things needs to be put clearly on what is this catering and hospitality services as honourable Njeru was trying to put it, it sounds as one and the same. I think some clarification is needed. I could also see something like other operating expenses of Ksh4.2 million. I think some of these things needs to be put clearly. What are these other supplies. Everything should be itemised as this is item A, item B etc. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Salvestas.

**Hon. Salvestas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is little that can push me to oppose this document.

*(Laughter)*

And for that reason, I support.

*(Applause)*

Because of the ward that I represent in this House, there are a few departments a rush to look at when I receive either the budget or a supplementary budget or any document that involves financing. The following are the departments: medical services, water, education, road and agriculture. When I look at this supplementary budget, I can see that the committee did a good job concerning these departments. Medical services department is gaining and so I am sure that the dispensaries and other health facilities in Gatunga are going to get more medicine and even more personnel.

There are issues with water but I thank God that the honourable chair did a good job to return the borehole in my ward at Kamagajiu.

*(Laughter)*

Another thing that makes me happy is that there will even be new extensions and connections by NIWASCO in my ward. Water is one of the issues that torment the residents of Gatunga. With the new development I am sure some of the burdens are going to be removed from their backs.

I have a few issues concerning the department of education. I have seen that there are some extra allocations of around Ksh12 million for furniture in the ECDE classes. While I acknowledge that that is a milestone, we have as a House and as a government of Tharaka Nithi to do something about education because I have the contributions by honourable Njeru and honourable Kithinji. It is true that most of the areas in Tharaka Nithi had El Niño rains but some areas have not received good harvest for one reason or the other. So, I know and I am aware that even from my wards that there are several kids who are out of school or who are yet to join form one because of a lack of school fees. So, if we could have done a little better by adding something small to the bursaries, we could have done something good for these people. But, as we all know as

honourable members, we still have room to have another supplementary budget so that we can add more money for bursaries to help these kids go to school and get their right to education.

On the same, I am aware that we got two ECDE classes per ward. That does not mean that we are performing well when it comes to construction of the ECDE classes. Well, we might have problems with the finances because we know that money is a scarce commodity, but my plea to the committee and the executive is that if we can a little more to get more funds towards the construction of these classes it would be good. This is because if you walk around the county, and I am sure some of us here are doing it because we have heard of honourable Kithinji talking of forming the next government, you will find that some of the children are learning under trees. If it is possible, we can at least squeeze our budget so that we can accommodate more classes we could be doing more justice to our students and to their parents.

On the same department, just the other day, I was going round my ward and I found that some of the schools do not have ECDE teachers. In this budget, I have not seen anywhere that we have added something to employ more teachers. I urge the committee and the chairman, who I know is also eyeing another bigger position in this county, to make sure that in the next allocation that we at least have something to add more ECDE teachers because it is also very important to make sure that our kids get the best in these schools.

Mr. Speaker, the department of roads, and that is why I do not have a reason to oppose this budget. Before we went to Nairobi, I thought that we are going to have a supplementary budget to buy more machinery for the roads. I am sorry that if that was the case, I would have been the first person to oppose the supplementary budget. This is because in one way or the other, I do not know whether by omission or by commission, these machineries have caused some kind of marginalization of some areas of this county. When I saw that more money has been allocated for maintenance of roads, I was very happy and I said this time round I am coming here with good messages and good hope that honourable Muchiri did something nice to have more money for the maintenance of roads.

The only issue that I have with the allocation that we have is that it is a blanket allocation of around Ksh68 million for the maintenance of roads. It would have been better if we had itemized the allocation so that we know which roads are being done and in which ward so that we don't

have a case whereby you go in IgambaNg'ombe, for instance, and find that the ward has received 5 roads while Gatunga has received one. My hope is that the allocation that has been put of the maintenance of roads will be fairly distributed across all wards so that each ward gets its rightful share.

Finally, on agriculture, I have seen some allocations made to the department of agriculture. I have been talking about these things since I came to this House about promoting *ndengu* farmers in Tharaka constituency. The only cash crop that we have in Tharaka constituency is *ndengu*. Fortunately, our brothers from the upper side have coffee, tea, bananas, milk. But down there we only rely on *ndengu*. I hope that the allocation that has been done here, because it is also a blanket allocation and I can see cooperatives are there, livestock is there, that there is something in that allocation to promote *ndengu* farmers so that they can have value from there cereals.

Mr. Speaker, with those few observations and the few items that I have mentioned I fully support this supplementary budget and again urge these honourable members to approve it the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members that is amazing today...

*(Laughter)*

... and to the chair of the budget committee I think you have received some overwhelming support from the members because if you can receive support from the member from Gatunga then it is common knowledge that this document will pass. I really do not know what you did when you went to Nairobi but you should thank me for creating the opportunity for you to meet with the members in Nairobi and for yours it was a very positive aspect but unfortunately for me it was a very negative aspect. But I will equally represent myself in Mombasa.

Let us proceed honourable members. Majority leader.

**Hon. Marengo Luke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support the Motion on the supplementary budget financial year 2023/2024. I have a few issues I want to go through on this supplementary budget but most of them have been said therefore I will touch on those issues that haven't been touched. I have like two issues that have not been mentioned and I want to talk

about them and that they get what they deserve. Let me first thank the committee on budget led by the chair because of working tirelessly to make sure that the people of Tharaka Nithi are well represented. Thank you chair and your committee.

I want to say something on health. On this one I want to request the honourable members to take note of this because there is increased allocation on health and therefore the government of the county of Tharaka Nithi is trying their best to make sure that our health facilities have medicines supplied. However, there are some small weaknesses that I have seen when I walk around some of our wards, and I want to request members to have some time when you are at your wards to go round and visit these health centres. Most of our health personnel, and I understand our health centres do not operate on weekends, on Mondays most of them report in the afternoon hours and on Friday when they are supposed to go home, they close in the afternoon hours. I have noticed this in more than five health centres, some in my ward and others in other wards. I am kindly requesting members that when you are at your wards find time to visit your health centres especially on Monday morning hours and Friday in the evening hours because you will never find these people there and our people are struggling. When our people are struggling, all the cries and the quarrels will be focussed on the government. This is not fair to our people. We need to be very keen. We need to legislate against this and do proper oversight.

On the same sector of health, there is one thing that has surprised me so much. I had taken it in another dimension but I discussed it with the sub-county administrator and we solved the issue. Most of our people, honourable members, are not aware of the laws that are governing them or what they are supposed to do so that their businesses can be effective. I visited one of our abattoirs within my ward and I realized that the veterinary officers who were there are charging more money than what our county law demands. I am requesting the members that we be taking notes on this as we around because our Governor and his team are trying the best to make sure that Mwananchi in Tharaka Nithi is getting the best services but in return the people who are given this responsibility to execute the services are going in the opposite direction. I visited a certain abattoir somewhere and there was a complaint that the people who were slaughtering the animals there were required to pay 500 shillings when they slaughter a pig, Ksh100 for a goat, and Ksh1000 for a cow. However, from our veterinary services and meat inspection law one is supposed to pay Ksh100 for a cow, Ksh50 for a goat and Ksh100 for a pig. When I realized this,

I called the veterinary supervisor for the sub-county together with the person in charge for a meeting and we discussed that issue and he was apologetic. I asked him whether he is aware of the laws in our county on meat inspection. He was there saying *Mheshimiwa* we are sorry and what not. I am saying to the members that we are very busy making sure that the supplementary budget is okay and that it is favourable to every member but the people who are working and giving services to the Mwananchi at the ground are not doing it diligently. I am therefore requesting our members that when we are on the ground doing the oversight work let us oversight on everything because we are making the lives of our people, the residents of Tharaka Nithi, to be hard and it is not because it is the law but because it is the choice of some of the workers that we have employed in our county.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support this Motion. I happy that today almost every member is happy with the supplementary budget that we have and all the issues that I had about education have been mentioned.

My last point is about revenue. I have also seen that there has been some addition of money in revenue mobilisation. Yes, in our county we need our own source revenue but when we are looking for more money, we need to give better services to our young men and women who are doing this job. Most of our cess points, if you visit them at night, because I happen to go through them when I am using our roads, don't have a shelter at the cess point. In fact, I was frustrated when I went to a certain cess point at around midnight and the guys there were sleeping on the roadside on the seats and they heard closed the road thus when a lorry comes close, they would wake up. I was then thinking, what happens if it starts raining? There was no building around that cess point. So, I think through the chair budget we can think about what we can do about that one so that we can take care of these boys and girls who re working there. At the same time, the more money we are giving for revenue mobilisations... we also have goons there. Instead of collecting money and remitting to the county they are putting it in their pockets. Let us be serious as members so that we can save and rescue our people. Our people are being misused and misled at the ground and we are here doing the best to ensure that they can survive but in return they are given something different.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I support. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** The deputy Speaker.

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join my colleagues in supporting this document. First of all, I thank the committee on budget led by their chair the honourable Godfrey for doing a good job; for scrutinizing the supplementary budget. It is true that a lot of work has been done by the executive because they are the drafters of this supplementary budget and by the committee too.

We have seen an increase in funding in various departments that we believe, as a house, was necessary. E.g., as many members have pointed out, the department of roads that has gotten an increase in funding due to the effect of what we went through during the El Niño rains. That increase is well deserved and will go a long way in ensuring that our roads are passable. However, we note that most of this increase in funding is tailor made for maintenance of roads and that is mostly grading of the roads. From where we sit as honourable members, we are aware that due to the heavy rains in the months of November and December most of these roads are completely cut off. They will call for more than just grading. They will need structures. Some of those roads will require culverts. Others will require drifts. Others will require gabion boxes so that we reinforce them for better standards and to ensure that they last longer. Others, more importantly, we know that during this time of grading what we do is you grade the road and ensure that there is a coat of murrum that is spread on the road. Once there are rains that murrum is mostly washed away. When we put more funds in grading, which we agree is necessary, we leave out the murrum component. These roads will be good for now but once it starts raining the road will be worse off because there will be more potholes. We will grade these roads and cover up the holes that formed during the heavy rains but once it rains the drainage system which is not there and is very important will form itself on the road and cut off the road.

This is a challenge to the department of roads in the executive and our committee on roads that they must work hand in hand together and make sure that we have safety nets to ensure that these roads that require structures are also factored in to have the structures so that we maintain our roads to last for a better period of time in the course of the year other than just grading and leaving it at that for the amusement of the residents for a few months before the rains. It is a

challenge to our department, and it is good that our able chair is around, that they must work very hard to ensure that these structures are factored in in the subsequent budgets.

We have also seen an increase in crop subsidy which is important to our farmers. We know that these are hard economic times but a question that we should all be asking our selves is once we supply these certified seeds and the farmers plant them and till their land and take care of these crops, what happens next? This is a question that we must ensure we ask our selves so that we can get a remedy to ensure that the much-intended revenue that the county government through the provision of these certified seeds intends is achieved by the farmers. This is the only way to ensure that we reduce the post-harvest losses which includes the pricing component. This much spoken about value addition is what we need to work on since we have supplied these seeds for a long time and we need to see the results; money getting to the pockets of these farmers so that they can enjoy. Other than waiting for the certified since, they plant, and the cycle continues. Like now, I am sure that for most of these crops that we are harvesting the prices are coming down due to the forces of demand and supply. But it is upon us as an Assembly and a county government to see that we mitigate this and see what to do with these farmers so that once they produce so much food that food that is produced through their hand work, we ensure that there is storage to make sure that once the prices increase these crops can be sold for the benefit of the farmers rather than leaving the farmers to the mercy of brokers who purchase these crops. If we do not do that even the subsidy will not be that effective. They will not get the desired benefit.

Another area that as an Assembly we should be concerned about is bursaries. I am sure that most of these members know one or two children who sat for their class eight exam, KCPE, and they have not reported to school. I am sure of several. It has been reported and it is across the country. Why have these children not reported to school? It is because of the hard economic times that we are facing. These hard economic times are not affecting Tharaka Nithi alone but it is upon us the leaders of Tharaka Nithi to ensure that all our children get back to school and go to form one so that they get the required education to be able to assist their families and the people of Kenya in general.

What I am talking about is that in this county I have not heard anything about the issuance of bursaries. We can only speculate that it will be done in the second school-term. But what is more

important? It is true that the second term is important to ensure that the children who are already in school get the much-needed bursaries. What about this child who has not gone to school currently? What happens to that child? The parent is not able. Because there is no parent who will be having a child at home and not taking the child to school while able to. It means that every ward is so pressed and these children are there.

So, I urge the department of education and even the chair of the budget committee that we should look into these issues and see that these children are mopped up and something is done about them because I know that they are there and most of the members can attest to that. You can see even for the national government the chiefs were very active in the last few years concerning these children to school. This time round they are not as much active because the moment they went to that parent and asked them to take the child to school what would that parent do when he has nothing or has sold everything and can't take the children to school? Let us rethink our strategies and as much as possible have the issuance of the bursaries undertaken as soon as possible so that we ensure that our children get back to class and learn like the other children who have able parents.

Generally, the supplementary budget is good, it is balanced and we hope for its full implementation to ensure that the people of Tharaka Nithi benefit from what we pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** The mover to reply.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. First of all, let me thank the honourable members. It is not normal to move a Motion and receive a support of almost 100% of debaters especially when it comes to the allocation of resources such as money. I want to thank the members before I comment on some of the areas that they have highlighted. What I believe in is consultations. That is why we consulted with the members. That is why we involved them as a committee so that we can come up with a supplementary budget that is favouring almost every sector. Resources are never enough and that is why we need to squeeze the little that we have and have something done for our county.

One of the issues that have been raised is the issue of education. We have not touched on the issue of the classes. The classes will still be there as they were in the original budget; the two of them, I think because I am not certain because we allocated money for that and we have not touched anything on the classes. There was, however, a feeling that these classes that we are building we are not providing the small kids with somewhere to sit and they cannot sit on the floor and that is why there was an initiative of coming up with chairs and tables so that these children can have some place to sit. That is why there was that allocation.

The issue of grading of teachers that has been raised by honourable Njeru is an issue that I think is beyond this budget because this is something that is supposed to maybe come from the departmental committee or an honourable member, that we can come up with regulations that can work on that.

On the issue of bursaries, this is a thorn in the flesh. As much as not all education is devolved, I feel that when it comes to most of our MPs they are very much involved in education and I know that we might even end up duplicating bursary issuance. But as the honourable member for Nkondi has said it is for us to make sure that all the children within Tharaka Nithi are in school. The little that we have can be added for the benefit of our kids but I feel that the reason we have a shortage due to the few resources that we have.

On the issue of Polytechnics, I am also for what has been said. I think that the education committee needs to come up with something that can regulate them. Instead of having so many youth Polytechnics we can have a few of them with enough facilities and that our children are facilitated to be there. I think that in our next budget we are going to look at this on a serious note. I think that this is something that needs to be touched.

On the issue of water, it is true that water is a problem in our county. I felt that when we talk about Gatunga, which is one of the biggest wards in Tharaka Nithi and some even say that it is bigger than Maara constituency... I believe that right now as we talk... I engaged the area MCA honourable Salvestas and we came up with the agreement that if this borehole won't be done on that particular area it can be relocated within the same ward and that the funds should remain there. This is because I understand that in some of those areas, the E-Water that is being

launched today will touch them. That is, Nkondi, Mukothima and even Gatunga ward. I therefore believe that this will be dealt with.

On the issue of the world bank funding and anything on this county that has a counter-funding condition, we are laying emphasis on it. So, if any member hears that there is a project that the World Bank is giving us a condition that if you allocate this amount of money, we are going to fund you that is what we are looking for. That is why we have allocated money in areas where the government has said that it will finance projects by matching what we have allocated the projects.

Honourable Speaker, we are guided by the law. When it comes to Section 107 of the PFM Act it is very specific on the wages. This will in fact be the first budget, if implemented to have a wage bill of less than 35% because it is at 34%. As much as we are talking about hospitality, these are the things that are there but cannot be implemented sometimes. Most of the times when we are doing the supplementary budget, we just remove them and move them to areas that we feel needs to be addressed.

On the issue of roads and why there is this Rapid Roads Initiative (RRI). The RRI will cater for all wards. I assure all the members that the issue of grading in all the wards is supposed to take place within the next one hundred days. The issue of itemising it could have been very difficult because some of the roads that we might itemize might not be all that bad but a member, in consultations with the relevant department, can propose the roads that are badly off. That is why we felt that we should move all the money from the equipment and go back to hiring so that all the wards can be taken care off almost at the same time. That is why that had to be done. On the same note, it is true that hiring can be expensive. But we need to open some roads and so in the next budget we might factor coming up with some few graders and dozers so that we can open up these roads with our equipment but let us first of all do the first aid.

I think I have tried my best to reply to some of the issues that have been raised but allow me to add something on the issue of ECDE teachers. I think we include them the other day; sixty of them, and they were posted in our schools and the county has around a total of 453 ECDE teachers. With that addition you can see where we are and I think that every school should have a

teacher. If there is a school without a county teacher it is good to have the issue addressed so that they can get that advantage also.

The majority leader has raised some of the issues of workers but let me not touch on this but I will give him a very good example. There is a theory that says that human beings do not like working but when they are coerced to work, they can work. I think it is the high time now we think of the reason why our people are not working. I believe that the people are supposed to work without being coerced because they are getting salaries and allowances and that is where we are as a county.

Let me end there by saying to the honourable members that I am sincerely thankful for your support. This is something that should be recorded in history where the budget has been supported by all the members. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

## **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

### **REDUCTION OF PUBLICATION PERIOD OF THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024**

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you. Honourable Speaker, allow me to move a procedural Motion on the reduction of publication period of The Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024.

That; pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 149(5) this County Assembly resolves to reduce the publication period of the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 from 7days to 1 day.

Allow me to say that having approved the report of the budget committee on the supplementary budget in this House there is a need to approve the Appropriations Bills for the budget to be in

use and waiting for seven days to lapse will not only affect the timeframes but also the programmes of this House remembering that we are in recess and will be back in the next 14 days and the seven days will have lapsed. I request this House to allow us reduce the days from seven days to one day so that we can continue with the other processes. I request honourable Kithinji to second. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Mr. Speaker I am rising to second the Motion. If we waited for the seven days it would mean coming back here again with the fuel prices being very high and there is no reason to come back soon I second.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I will propose the question that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 149(5) this County Assembly resolves to reduce the publication period of the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 from 7days to 1 day.

The floor is open for debate.

Reading from the mood of the House, I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Let us proceed to the next order.

## **BILLS**

### **FIRST READING**

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2024

*(Orders for the first reading read for the first time)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, the Tharaka Nithi Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 stands committed to the committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations.

Let us proceed to the next order.

### **SECOND READING**

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2024

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I move the Motion that Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 153 the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill of 2024 be now read as second time. Having been referred to the committee on budget, it is important for the Bill to continue to the next stage, the second reading. I request honourable Gitonga from Nkondi to second the Motion. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I propose that Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 153 the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill of 2024 be now read as second time. Honourable members the floor is open for debate.

You want me to read the mood of the House? I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(Orders for the second reading read for the second time)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 154, the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill of 2024 having been read a second time stands committed to the Committee of the Whole Assembly.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

*(Order for Committee read)*

*(The Speaker (Hon. John. Mbabu) left the Chair)*

IN THE COMMITTEE

*(The Chairperson (Hon. Gitonga Kithuka) took the Chair)*

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2024

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** Order honourable members. Allow us to proceed in the interest of time.

CLAUSE 2:

1.(1) The County Treasury may issue out of the County Revenue Fund and apply towards the supply granted for the service of the year ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, the sum of Six Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty Million, Six Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-

Seven Shillings and that sum shall be deemed to have been appropriated as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 for the services and purposes specified in the schedule.

(2) In addition to the sum granted by section 2(1), the sum specified in the fifth column of the First and Second Schedule shall be applied for the several services and purposes specified in the second column of those Schedules, out of revenue directed to be applied outside the County Revenue Fund as per Article 207 (1) of the Constitution.

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** I propose the question that Clause 2 be part of the Bill. I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

SCHEDULES:

FIRST SCHEDULE

Recurrent Expenditure

CODE	VOTE AND PRAGRAMME OR SERVICE	GROSS ESTIMATES	NET ESTIMATES	AIA
3611	Office of Governor and Deputy Governor	157,640,823	157,640,823	-
	P: County Government Advisory Services	29,000,000	29,000,000	-
	P: County Leadership and Coordination of MDAs	7,180,000	7,180,000	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services	121,460,823	121,460,823	-
3612	Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Urban Development	253,716,272	253,716,272	-
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	66,722,060	66,722,060	-
	P: Kathwana Municipality Development Programme	6,920,210	6,920,210	-
	P: Public Works and Housing Services	4,649,002	4,649,002	-
	P: Roads Transport	125,730,000	125,730,000	-
3613	Medical Services	1,495,785,513	1,384,185,513	149,800,000
	P: Curative and Rehabilitative Services	203,539,134	188,539,134	-
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	1,140,045,879	1,128,045,879	-
	P: ICT Infrastructure Development	40,600,500	40,600,500	-
	P: FIF Appropriation In Aid	149,800,000	-	149,800,000
3615	Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services, and Cooperative Development	185,876,221	185,876,221	-
	P: Cooperative Development and Management	3,493,683	3,493,683	-
	P: Crop Development and Management	10,237,062	10,237,062	-

CODE	VOTE AND PRAGRAMME OR SERVICE	GROSS ESTIMATES	NET ESTIMATES	AIA
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	103,519,212	103,519,212	-
	P: Livestock and Fisheries Resource Management and Development	68,626,264	68,626,264	-
3616	Public Administration, Intergovernmental Coordination and Devolution Affairs	140,424,299	140,424,299	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services	140,424,299	140,424,299	-
3617	Education and Vocational Training	211,646,500	211,646,500	-
	P: Education and Youth Training	58,701,700	58,701,700	-
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	152,944,800	152,944,800	-
3619	Finance and Economic Planning	248,514,400	248,514,400	-
	P: Economic Policy and County Planning	14,495,000	14,495,000	-
	P: Financial Management Services	23,717,000	23,717,000	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services	210,302,400	210,302,400	-
3620	Environment, Mining and Natural Resources	42,850,000	42,850,000	-
	P: Environment and Natural Resources Management	26,800,000	26,800,000	-
	P: Environment Management and Natural Resources Conservation	16,050,000	16,050,000	-
3621	County Assembly	544,516,596	544,516,596	-
	P: County Legislation Services	544,516,596	544,516,596	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services			-
3622	Water Services and Irrigation	53,593,750	53,593,750	-
	P: Water Supply Services	53,593,750	53,593,750	-
3623	County Public Service Board	37,620,400	37,620,400	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services	37,620,400	37,620,400	-
3625	Public Health and Sanitation	316,552,400	316,552,400	-
	P: Preventive and Promotive Health Services	316,552,400	316,552,400	-
3628	Youth and Sports	37,768,800	37,768,800	-
	P: Sports Development and Promotion	37,768,800	37,768,800	-
3629	Culture and Tourism	30,513,250	30,513,250	-
	P: Culture, Arts and Social Services	26,975,200	26,975,200	-
	P: Tourism Development and Promotion	3,538,050	3,538,050	-
3630	Revenue and Resource Mobilization	120,039,000	120,039,000	-
	P: Financial Management Services	20,759,500	20,759,500	-
	P: Resource Mobilization	99,279,500	99,279,500	-
3631	Lands, Physical Planning and Housing	57,246,700	57,246,700	-
	P: Land Policy and Planning	57,246,700	57,246,700	-
3632	Fisheries And Ecosystem Development	17,005,304	17,005,304	-
	P: Livestock and Fisheries Resource Management and Development	17,005,304	17,005,304	-
3633	Gender, Children and Social Services	26,150,000	26,150,000	-
	P: Gender and Youth Empowerment	26,150,000	26,150,000	-

CODE	VOTE AND PRAGRAMME OR SERVICE	GROSS ESTIMATES	NET ESTIMATES	AIA
3634	Trade, Investment Promotion, Energy, and Industry	63,381,880	63,381,880	-
	P: Energy Resource Development & Management	2,900,400	2,900,400	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services	49,101,480	49,101,480	-
	P: Industrial Development and Investment	11,380,000	11,380,000	-
	Total of Recurrent Expenditure	4,040,317,108	3,890,517,108	149,800,000

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### Development Expenditure

CODE	VOTE AND PRAGRAMME OR SERVICE	GROSS ESTIMATES	NET ESTIMATES	AIA
3612	Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Urban Development	616,545,700	616,545,700	-
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	15,000,000	15,000,000	-
	P: Roads Transport	425,000,000	425,000,000	-
	P: Urban Development and Administration	176,545,700	176,545,700	-
3613	Medical Services	150,000,000	150,000,000	-
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	150,000,000	150,000,000	-
3615	Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services, and Cooperative Development	706,939,531	706,939,531	-
	P: Crop Development and Management	131,000,000	131,000,000	-
	P: General Administration Planning and Support Services	465,090,831	465,090,831	-
	P: Livestock and Fisheries Resource Management and Development	110,848,700	110,848,700	-
3616	Public Administration, Intergovernmental Coordination and Devolution Affairs	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
	P: General Administration, Planning and Support Services	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
3617	Education and Vocational Training	55,000,000	55,000,000	-
	P: Education and Youth Training	55,000,000	55,000,000	-
3620	Environment, Mining and Natural Resources	216,000,000	216,000,000	-
	P: Environment Management and Natural Resources Conservation	216,000,000	216,000,000	-
3621	County Assembly	60,000,000	60,000,000	-
	P: County Assembly Services	60,000,000	60,000,000	-
3622	Water Services and Irrigation	86,000,000	86,000,000	-
	P: Water Supply Services	86,000,000	86,000,000	-
3625	Public Health and Sanitation	124,723,404	124,723,404	-
	P: Preventive and Promotive Health Services	124,723,404	124,723,404	-
3628	Youth and Sports	21,000,000	21,000,000	-
	P: Sports Development and Promotion	21,000,000	21,000,000	-
3629	Culture and Tourism	3,000,000	3,000,000	-
	P: Culture, Arts and Social Services	3,000,000	3,000,000	-

CODE	VOTE AND PRAGRAMME OR SERVICE	GROSS ESTIMATES	NET ESTIMATES	AIA
3630	Revenue and Resource Mobilization	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
	P: Resource Mobilization	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
3631	Lands, Physical Planning and Housing	123,160,000	123,160,000	-
	P: Land Policy and Planning	123,160,000	123,160,000	-
3632	Fisheries And Ecosystem Development	19,810,384	19,810,384	-
	P: Livestock and Fisheries Resource Management and Development	19,810,384	19,810,384	-
3634	Trade, Investment Promotion, Energy, and Industry	258,000,000	258,000,000	-
	P: Energy Resource Development & Management	13,000,000	13,000,000	-
	P: Industrial Development and Investment	245,000,000	245,000,000	-
	Total of Development Expenditure	2,460,179,019	2,460,179,019	-
	Grand Total	6,500,496,127	6,350,696,127	149,800,000

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** I propose the question that the schedules be part of the Bill. I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

TITLE:

THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL,  
2024

A Bill for

An Act of County Assembly to authorise the issue of sum of money out of the consolidated fund and its application towards the service of the year ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 and to appropriate the sum and the sum voted on account by the County Assembly for certain public services and for connected purposes.

Enacted by the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi as follows:

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** I propose the question that the Title be the title of the Bill. I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## CLAUSE 1

## Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Supplementary Tharaka Nithi Appropriation Act No. 02 for the FY 2023/24.

Issue of KES 6,350,696,127 out of the County Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 and appropriation of the money granted.

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** I propose the question that Clause 1 be part of the Bill. I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

The Mover.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Chair. I beg to move that the committee do report to the County Assembly its considerations of the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2024 and its approval thereof without amendments. Thank you, honourable chair.

I call upon honourable Nancy to second. Thank you, honourable Chair.

*(Hon. Nancy stood in her place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** Thank you, mover. I propose the question, that the committee do report to the County Assembly its considerations of the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2024 and its approval thereof without amendments.

I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Thank you, honourable members for the participation.

*[The Chair (Hon. Gitonga Kithuka) left the Chair]*

*[The Speaker (Hon. John Mbabu) took the Chair]*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PROGRESS REPORT ON THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE  
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2024

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, let us proceed. The chairperson please do report on the progress.

**Hon. Gitonga Kithuka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole has considered the Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2024 and its approval thereof without amendments. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** The mover.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I beg to move that the House do agree with the committee on the said report. I request honourable Marengo to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Fatuma.

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

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I will propose the question that the House do agree with the committee on the said report. That is purposes of debate.

I read the mood again? I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

## BILLS

### THIRD READING

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2024

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker I beg to move that The Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2024 be now read a third time. Thank you, and I request honourable Mwaura to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Mwaura.

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

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, honourable members, the Motion having been seconded, I will now propose the question that The Tharaka Nithi County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2023 be now read a third time. The floor is open for debate.

I will read the mood of the house and put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(Orders for the third reading read for the third time)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, having no other business in our today's Order Paper, the House will remain adjourned until the next sitting.

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