

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY, 2022

Afternoon Sitting

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY, 2022

The House met at 2:30 p.m.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker [Hon. Stephen Wamalwa] in the Chair)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honorable members, we are having power failure and since we have to proceed with the business of this House, I would ask that those Honorable Members who wish to make their contribution or participate to stand up then they will come forward and use the dispatch where we will have our HANSARD recording. Thank you so much.

There is a point on information from the Majority Leader.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority) (*On a point of Information*): Mr. Speaker, basing on your communication, actually there is black out in our town but as an institution, we have a generator and we have a person in charge; so it's like there is somebody who is sabotaging our institution. Kindly give direction!

Hon. Luke Opwora (*On a point of information*): Thank you Honorable Speaker. Just to second what the Majority Leader has said, it's very unfortunate that in such an institution, we can have such kind of sabotage. We would like the Chairman of the Board and the two Commissioners that we sent to the board to represent us to come and explain to us why we do not have power to transact business.

This is a very senior institution in this County and we do not want to behave like the Executive who went without power for six months. We are an oversight entity and we want to ensure that business is transacted here and we want the two commissioners to come here and explain to us why we do not have power.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well Honorable Members because we have to proceed with the business, we are summoning the concerned officers who will appear in the respective administrative office so that this issue can be handled in a very serious administrative manner. Thank you so much. We proceed!

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Meshack Simiyu: Mheshimiwa Spika ninakuomba ya kwamba tukisema ya kwamba kitu tutafanya na hii mambo vile unaonelea inatakikana tuwe na *power* (umeme). Mimi nilikuwa nimesimama na Mheshimiwa Nyongesa pia akasimama akasema juu ya mambo ya *generator* (jenereta). *Generator* (jenereta) haijaanza leo, imekaa muda murefu; ni kwa nini na pesa kwa hii Kaunti iko. Utaona mwisho ya kwamba pesa imerudi kwa *controller* (mtawala).

Nakuomba ya kwamba hii kitu ifanyike by next week tuwe na....

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order members! Order please! We have one member at a time.

Hon. Jack Kawa: First, thank you so much Mr. Speaker for granting me this opportunity. I want to agree with what Honorable leader of majority has said. This is a very big institution and as the Speaker of the day just telling the Honorable House that we are going to summon the said members, we are not satisfied with that. We want a comprehensive reply!

The whole County Assembly Service Board must come before this Honorable House and answer some few things. Apart from the generator, we have other issues that we Honorable members are facing and we have the member... and that is what I am saying. We have the two members that represent us on the Service Board. Yes, it is not and I want to say it is not the only generator that we want to talk about today. We have other issues that we want to get from the Service Board.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is well. It is noted. Honorable members we have to ...

(Loud Consultation)

Order Honorable members!

(Loud Consultation)

Kindly resume your seats Honorable members! Order members! We are not here on a shouting match. We are not happy with the members who are shouting. I will call out your names and I am not even picking on anyone who is shouting because I have the discretion and the eyes to see. We are Honorable members and we have to carry ourselves with the dignity that we deserve as a House.

(Applause)

We are not here to sit and shout Honorable members. We proceed!

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Meshack, kindly order! I will throw a Member out. Let's move on!

I am not allowing any information!

STATEMENTS

A STATEMENT SOUGHT BY HON. HENRY MAJIMBO FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUNGOMA EDUCATION SCHEME REGULATION REVISED 2018 AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY EDUCATION SUPPORT SCHEME

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order members!

Hon. Henry Majimbo: Mr. Speaker I rise to seek a statement under Standing Order number 41 (2) (c) to seek a response from the Chairperson, sectorial Committee on Education and Vocational Training on the implementation status of the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme Regulations, revised 2018 and the management of the Bungoma County Education Support scheme. In the response, I wish to be informed of the following;

1. Has the County Executive Committee Member for Education complied with the provisions of Regulations Eight (8)?
2. If so avail the breakdown of the allocation as a stated in regulation 8(1) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) for financial years 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022.
3. State the total number of bursary beneficiaries for Financial Years 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 per each Ward.
4. State the bursary allocation for the new form one students and ongoing students
5. Confirm compliance with the provision of regulation 18(ii) and (iii) in the ongoing scholarship award exercise
6. Submit the scholarship fee payment status report and list of ongoing students per each Ward.
7. Submit the list of new scholarship beneficiaries per each Ward.
8. State the Budgetary allocations for new and ongoing students in the current budget
9. Submit a copy of the IFMIS vote book in regard to the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme as at 30th April 2022.

I move this statement for further action by this House. Thank you

(Applause)

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): I stand under Standing Order 49 (8) (g) that because of the weight of the statement...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Juma can you move so that you can be captured by the HANSARD.

Hon. Joseph Juma (Leader of Majority): Thank you Mr. Speaker, because of the weight of the statement, I seek your indulgence so that I move a Motion of County importance so that it may be considered with this House if you allow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You are allowed!

Hon. Joseph Juma (Leader of Majority): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is a motion under Standing Order 49 (h) that notwithstanding order 41(2) (c) and 196 (5) (e) I move a privileged motion under Standing Order 49(h) that since the statement issued by the Honorable Member concerns a matter of great importance and urgency of the County and its citizens.

The response to the question raised in the statement be done directly to this House by the Executive Department of Education and Vocational training through issuance of summons for the CECM and Chief Officers to appear before this House on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 9:30 p.m. to lay before the House and respond to the questions raised in this statement.

Allow me call on Hon. Jack Wambulwa to second.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you Honorable Speaker. I rise to second the motion but at the same time remind my colleagues that on matters public funding, we need to be transparent and accountable to the public. Why do I say so? This issue of scholarship has been politicized by the current Executive for one by what I am calling it Wangamati scholarship that can only be if it's funding from his own pocket or his own source. What I mean is that if he sold his cows and paid for Bungoma students, then it will be Wangamati scholarship.

Two, the way the selection has been done, there has been no transparency to an extent that those families that are well off... I have a case in particular in Kimaeti where there is a businessman in Kimaeti market whose wife is a teacher in a Primary School in Kimaeti. Their daughter benefited from this scholarship just because he is well connected to Wangamati campaign team. That tells you how many of them have benefitted from this scholarship. Can they provide us with the list like Hon. Majimbo put it so that we know exactly in Kimaeti ward who are these beneficiaries? Let us work out the total.

Finally, so that I can allow my colleagues, I am the Chairperson to the Budget Committee; we allocated 60 million towards this scholarship which was to go towards 3,000 students. From nowhere, the Governor wakes up in the morning and says we are going to issue to 7,000 students. Aren't we playing tricks? Aren't we trying to mislead? Where has he gotten the extra budget that he is telling us he is going to fund the remaining 4,000 students?

That aside, we have the ongoing students in form two, form three and form four. As I am talking to you, majority of them are still at home. They were chased since the previous scholarship has not been paid to their schools and even now as I am talking to you, I have a student from Kimaeti in Chwele girls who was taken on scholarship and has been told not to enter until when they make payments. Surely, these are parents who cannot even raise transport to school.

That child is being send back home. The same mother or maybe those who are trying to assist would have raised that transport maybe by selling a hen or the small cock that was there. What would happen now that they are going back home? I would therefore want us to make sure that we summon the CEC and Chief Officer to appear before this House so that they can explain to us how they are playing around with the scholarship and bursary affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you seconding?

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: I do second.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sorry Honorable members for that hitch. Honorable members, a motion having been proposed and duly seconded, I now propose a question that a motion of privilege under Standing Order 49(h) that the response to the questions raised in the statement be directly done in this House by the Executive Department of Education and Vocational Training through issuance of summons to CECM and Chief Officer of Education and Vocational Training to appear before this House on Wednesday 11th of May 2022 at 9:30 a.m. and further lay all the required documents as stated in the statement. I propose the question...

Hon. Henry Majimbo: I'm the originator of this statement. You know this is a Motion now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Motion is now originated by the Leader of Majority.

Hon. Henry Majimbo: I'm the originator of this statement and the gist of the matter is the implementation status of the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme Regulations, revised 2018 and the Management of Bungoma County Education Support Scheme. I want to say the following; that the County Executive owes this House an explanation and that is why in my second issue that I have raised in this statement, I want them to avail the allocation as stated in regulation 8 (i) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e).

If you read regulation one, it talks of the percentage of funds that go towards the administrative costs in disbursing this money. Regulation 8 (i) (b) talks of monies that are supposed to be disbursed to ECDE which is one of our core functions.

Sub regulation 1(c), states that a certain percentage will go towards the Vocational Training Centers. 1(d), states that a certain percentage will go towards the bursary and then 1(e), states that a certain percentage, and I want to be very specific with this, that not less than 8% and not

more than 16% of the amount appropriated towards the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme.

This is the issue that informed me to come up with this statement. I was wondering if we are going to have 7,000 students what is this percentage and that is why I want the CECM to come and inform this House on the formula they used to arrive at 7,000 beneficiaries and which regulations they used to calculate the amount to go towards the 7,000 beneficiaries. That is one reason that informed me to come up with this statement.

You take the amount that was appropriated in the first Supplementary Budget; I am alive to the fact that they had appropriated Kshs.60 Million towards the scholarship scheme. The County Executive is only talking of scholarships forgetting that in the regulations, there are some monies that are supposed to go towards bursaries, Vocational Training Centres, and some to ECDEs.

So my question is, and I want the CECM to tell me in this Honourable House why they have abdicated their responsibility to ensure that they fund the VTCs and the ECDEs and the bursary. Why do they think that children of over 350 marks are more special than children below 100 marks?

We have mothers here that their wombs carry different children. We cannot stand up and start discriminating that we just narrow down to students who are getting over 400 Marks. I have information which I will lay on this table when the CECM is here that not only the poor, bright needy children have been considered. Even the children of very senior civil servants in this County have been considered and that is why I want that list and that is why I want this House to be given an opportunity to interrogate that list.

Why should we have students from very expensive academies awarded bursaries? If their parents are able to take them to very expensive academies, why should we give them scholarships? I mean it beats the logic! What I am trying to say is that under my 5th item that I have raised here confirm compliance with provision of regulation 18(ii) and (iii) in the ongoing scholarship award exercise.

These regulations talk of the role of the Ward Bursary Committee. Now, I feel like the Executive have demeaned the dignity of the poor families by walking out of their offices going to parade poor families and taking photographs and flushing them on social media when the committees are supposed to receive and go and visit these homes.

By the Executive, the CECM going out to do what is not their statutory duties as stated in the Regulations, they are out of order and that is why I'm saying, can they come and tell us the role of the Committees in this exercise because the regulations we passed here are clearly stating that the Committees will vet and forward the names to the Sub County Education Support Scheme Committee for onward transmission to the County Committee for awarding.

This list I'm demanding here, the new scholarship beneficiaries per ward is very critical. We also want the CECM to tell us whether there is an allocation for bursaries because we have been giving out bursaries even to college students but we are now unable. We also want to ask the CECM why is she issuing promissory letters to schools and I'm also shocked that a precedence is being set in Bungoma County where Form One Students are being admitted on promissory letters.

I have never seen it in my life. This is news! In the letters they are also saying that receive this student, he will be in school from 2nd of May and fee payment will reach the school by 22nd of May. Where will they get the money?

When I heard the CEO of this County on one of the radio stations alluding to the fact that they had proposed Kshs. 400 Million towards the Scholarship and bursaries, I was asking myself, this budget that we are going to approve before we go for *sinedie* is going to be uploaded in September.

Which school is going to allow students to be in school for two terms because by September, we shall be in second term of this academic year? Don't you think we are being unfair to our schools? Thirdly, these bursaries that we have been disbursing have been benefitting our local schools. Schools like Namachanja, Wamalwa Kijana, Bukokholo, Busakala and Namilama. Now if the bursaries are not being disbursed to these schools, then how are those schools going to benefit as County Schools?

Let us be fair to teachers. I want to rest by saying the following; that the submission of this IFMIS vote book is going to enable us know what is the balance on that vote head. We are now going to separate wheat from the chaff. We must be told and we must go and tell the public the truth that this is the balance. I don't know where others will hide in this County. I fear for them. I don't know where they are going to hide because I already have the information on IFMIS Vote book.

The launching that has taken place, they have been spending between one Million and two Million Shillings daily and they have been using the same 60 Million Shillings that was appropriated in this House. That is the information I have and that is what has informed me to come up with this and it is my obligation as a member of this House, as a member of the oversight entity in this County Government to know the truth.

Even the Constitution of Kenya dictates that there is right to information. That is Article 35. The members of the Public have a right to know how this scheme is being managed and that is why I said that the management of the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme. They have a right! This is not somebody's money! Article 202 of the Constitution states that Public Funds will be used in a fair, transparent and accountable manner... Prudent management of Public funds! That is what I was asking in this statement.

Let us not hoodwink the residents of Bungoma County into believing that this is Manna from Heaven.

I rest my case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well Hon. Henry Majimbo.

Hon. Sospeter Nyongesa: Thank you for giving me this chance to ride on what Hon. Majimbo has just stated or seeking from the Executive. I think it is unfortunate that if we knew this in advance, the CECM and the CEO of the Education Ministry could have appeared here before the schools opened. The schools have opened today, students are supposed to report to their respective schools with promissory letters.

We have students who are going to report far away from this County. In my Ward I have an example of a young girl who is supposed to report to a school in Kirinyaga and whose father is a Person Living with Disability and he is totally unable to raise even fare for the child. Now all we know is that if there is a school that will accept this promissory letter then the longest they could allow that student is school could be two weeks.

In two weeks' time we expect all these students to be back here because all we know is that there is no money. I'm trying to imagine how it will cost a student travelling from Bungoma to Kirinyaga and this is a child whose parents are unable to raise even the fare. After two weeks, the child is send out of class and is supposed to come back to Bungoma.

That is one case among many. You can imagine how much we are going to lose. I think it is highest time that the executive should come and tell us how prepared they are on the issue of scholarship. We all support the scholarship program, that our student should get quality education. We are up for it but then, we should not cheat ourselves moving around.

If the project has been launched, I feel one launch should be enough. Why should we launch it every day spending the very money that could be used to support other students? I know my colleague who is laughing is one of them going round with Executive in the launches.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order Members. Order!

Hon. Ali Machani: This is a House of Honourable Members where they are supposed to debate and in a manner in which a Member is allowed to consult in either a higher or lower tone and I'm happy that you are very keen on moderating us. I want to thank the owner of the procedural motion brought before this House and as the first speakers have mentioned, it is not an offence for the Legislative House to request for the information from the executive but it also depends on how it is being raised.

I am elected from an area known as Maraka, and I am a beneficiary, not directly but indirectly through my voters. My Ward is among the best performing Wards in this County and I know my colleagues' areas have also performed. There are areas that are disadvantaged in this County. I don't want to mention but from the upper side of this County where it is like today you go to town and land on ten thousand shillings and you don't know the owner. Today our families in home set ups differ. There are members here who can pay school fees without problems, there are members here who I don't want to say that they are not facing school fees but they, like me I have a grandson and that may be I don't have a child that I can strain much paying...

(Loud Consultations)

Let me contribute Honourable Members, your time will come. Let me have time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Machani let us allow Hon. Mukhongo...

Hon. Mukhongo, what is your point of information?

Hon. James Mukhongo *(On a point of Information)*: Thank you. My ears are very normal. I have not and I have never sought for any medical attention to ascertain whether I get things right or not. When you look at the statement we are debating in the House, it is not mentioning how and when some of us are in terms of paying school fees for our kids.

It is only raising issue on the manner in which the Executive is implementing this scheme. That is what I wanted to inform my brother. He should not bring issues here that some members are well off or whatever. We are not complaining and it is not part of Executive to give us a response here. That is my concern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is well Hon. Mukhongo. Hon. Mutoka, constrain yourself within the parameters of the Motion that is before the House.

Hon. Ali Machani: I was contributing on how I want to drive my point. More so, I congratulated the owner of the Motion and said that the House has got powers to request for information but I was building a case that in such scenario, that now children have started going to school, this statement is touching on two Committees, the Education Committee and the Implementation Committee. Good enough, the owner of the statement brought it in a way that is a procedural Motion when it has developed another proposal within the proposal.

Now that we have this in our minds that now we want the CEO and the Ministers to come before us and this is the week that they are now implementing. Are we saying that now they stop what they are doing, we solve this challenge with the explanation as we go back there to set them going because I know this week from today even my students and parents are hanging in this town.

How I wish that it depends on timing. You might be having a nice agenda but it depends on how you want to relay it to the people. I rest my case by saying that let us allow other members to debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Majimbo, what is the point of information?

Hon. Henry Majimbo (*On a point of Information*): My statement was on the management of the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme. Maybe my colleague the former Mayor is talking about the Governor's scholarship which is not true because the letters which are being issued here are talking of Governors scholarship. I have a letter here.

It is saying I'm pleased to convey the decision of the County Government of Bungoma to award you the Governor's scholarship for 2022. I'm talking about the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme. If there is any scholarship, then I don't know. I'm talking about the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme. That is my statement; the Implementation of the Regulations and the management of the Scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So Hon. Majimbo, are you talking about the Scheme?

Hon. Henry Majimbo: Yes I'm talking about the Scheme and this Scheme takes care of about four components. I am not addressing the scholarship alone as Hon. Machani is putting it. I'm addressing the management of the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme. It incorporates the funding towards ECDE, and that is why I have asked whether they have complied with regulation 8(1) (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e).

I want to know what has gone to the ECDE, how much has gone to the VTC, bursary and scholarship. I did not narrow down to the scholarship alone. I thought I should...

Hon. Tony Barasa: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me first to thank the initiator of the statement Hon. Majimbo Okumu and also thank the Majority Leader for bringing up this motion. It is with due respect if it was on my own opinion the architect and CEO who is moving around with the movement of scholarship award, non-other than Wycliffe Wafula Wangamati. In my view, we could invite in a polite way Governor Wangamati to appear in this House with the CECM Education and the Chief Officer. Why am I saying that? You remember we are discussing this as a matter of County Importance.

We are not in a love affair with the Executive and it should not be such. We want to tell him to his face the truth that from where you sit, if you talk about scholarship, it means we are going to cater for the student needs just from buying uniforms and payment of school fees. Today, if you read a letter that has been presented by the Chief Officer and the CECM Education, they are telling our kids to report and that the County is just going to pay the fees and these other things will be catered for by their parents.

If you do the calculation, the parent is going to cough not less than Kshs. 20 thousand. Now the question arises. When Hon. Majimbo said that governor is alluding to budget over 400 Million in this financial year, some fundamental questions come in. When are we going to implement this budget where the Governor is saying that he is going to chip in over 400 Million? The simple question is that we are going to implement it after election and that is the second term. How will our kids and parents survive between now and September?

Another fundamental question arises. Was it necessary for County executive to launch and re launch? That the first launch of scholarship consumed not less than ten million. We are also aware that the re launching that has been happening in twin wards has been consuming over two Million shillings. In simple mathematics, if we have 45 Wards and each time two Wards are combined, we are getting around 20. 20 multiplied by two is around 40 Million. 40 Million plus 10 Million gets to 50 Million.

We are remaining with a balance of 10 Million. If indeed we care about the issues of our children, we could spare the money that has been used in re launching to give to our students for school fees. This is political conmanship! We are using the plight of our kids for us to get political mileage which is not necessary. If it could be my wish, let the CEO of this County come before this House next week so that he can hear from the oversight body which is the Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Tony for your contribution.

Order Members!

For the Whip, you should be in order because you are a senior officer here. You will come after him because you are senior.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Thank you for this chance. I also want to support the Motion by saying the following:

When this Government that is in place took over, majority of us were here and this is a House of rules and procedures. I remember very well the CEC was invited in this very House when she started distributing bursaries anyhow. I want the speaker to get this.

I remember when we invited the CECM to appear in this House and I think she sat there. If you remember well, you know what happened that day.

By then, I was working very well with the Government of the day... My brother do not disturb me for I am the one contributing. You know, it is not my government now. It is Nganga's government as at now. I have never participated in this ongoing launch of the scholarship. I have never but I have been seeing it everywhere around the County and do not dilute what I wanted to say my brother.

I want to testify before this Honourable House. I'm the one who even assisted the CECM in terms of mathematics, and putting things in order. When she came here, she gave us a very comprehensive response and I think you can remember then the matter was put to rest.

Today I stood up under statements, and I requested you to give me a chance to say something and I want to thank you Mr. Speaker for you used your wisdom and you gave me the chance to say something which I did.

Little did I know that Hon. Majimbo was coming up with a statement and my leader of Majority with a Motion! Time has now come, and we should not be seen as if we are against. We are not for what I have seen in the minds of some members seated here who are collaborating with the same Government. After this session, I know they will report that we are against.

Yes. They are here and I want to be on record. What Hon. Majimbo has raised is the implementation of this programme. We want to put things in order that when the new government will come in, things will be smooth.

We do not want him to miss issues then leave them in a very awkward position so that the coming Government experiences problems while implementing. That is what we are saying because I'm aware and I know we are going to have a new Government and I will be there at the centre because I'm praying so hard for my people to reelect me. Hon. Balala, look at this. The Governor is going around...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mukhongo, you know you mention a Honorable Member who I don't think exists here.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Okay, Hon. Machani. When the Governor was going round, we have Wards and we always share things equally. You will find a ward being given a higher number and another gets a lesser number. Hon. Majimbo you are assisting us!

When they will be providing that list, we will know the Ward that has the highest and the one that has the least. I know Chwele/ Kabuchai will have the least. You can now see what they are saying. The Bumula guys will have the highest.

The CECM comes from my neighboring Ward, the one for my father in- law Hon. Meshack, so whatever we are debating here we are not out of order. This is a House of rules and procedures. Some of the laws have been cited by my elder brothers and I don't want to repeat .We only want to be aware of what the County Government of Bungoma is doing.

Honorable Speaker it is unfortunate, in the last year's scholarship there were five or six boys and girls who benefitted from the scheme and when they went to school, they were only paid for first term fees. During the second and third term they were send away. If we will be given the list of beneficiaries, we shall ensure that they budgeted for both the ongoing and the ones that will be brought on board. Honourable members as we leave this place let us not rush there and say that I

have defended you in the House... that Hon. Mukhongo and Hon. Majimbo are against the Scheme...they don't want to release funds to the poor students; this is what they have been saying when they go around the County. For this reason I have said that from that day if you come to my ward and talk against me I think it won't be as usual. Hon. Speaker, let the Chief Officer and the CECM appear here and I know the lady will cry because we have a lot of information and we will spill it for the public to be aware. Otherwise, my brothers and sisters *kutoka hapa mwende huku mkunywe na mkule na mrudi kutudanganya hapa.* (Go feast then come back and deceive us)

(Laughter)

Hon. Sudi Busolo: I also want to add my voice on the motion that is before us. Mr. Speaker, the Members concern is valid. What I want to say is that if you look at the letters that students have been given, they indicate Governor's Scholarship; hence I don't know why we should be worried because the owner of the scholarship is existing. Why can't we allow him and see whether he will manage or not. It is not reading South Bukusu scholarship where Sudi is a member of South Bukusu. I get worried because it will be too much for me. The situation is straight that the initiator of the scholarship is alive and if he has given letters to schools and teachers are going to reject, how am I affected as an MCA of South Bukusu? I'm the representative of the people of South Bukusu and therefore I will have a meeting with them and direct them... allow me to finish, you spoke and I never interrupted you... I direct them to get assistance from the author of the letters.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Sudi let us hear Hon. Jack your neighbor. Which information do you have?

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: *(On a point of information):* I want to inform my colleague Hon. Sudi that we are not targeting an individual; we only need information on the scholarship. That is your oversight role. When we talk of oversight, you must be alert...

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jack, I did not get you well. Are we getting information on the scholarship or on the scheme?

Hon. Jack Wambulwa *(On a point of information):* On the scholarship and scheme Hon. Speaker. That is why the Hon. Sudi is questioning why we should be worried. We are not worried at because none of our students is benefiting. But let us not behave as if we do not know our roles. Hon. Sudi my *kuka* be yourself, come back to senses so that you can speak out on behalf of the people of South Bukusu.

Deputy Speaker: His information is too much. Kindly let us allow the member on the floor to at least finish his contribution. You have to be informed but you can proceed Hon. Busolo.

Hon. Sudi Busolo: My contribution is that the statement is good because we also have VTC's ECDE's which also need our support. For this particular case, what is happening is the scholarships; when we have the CECM's and Chief Officers, another person has said even the Governor himself whom we shall ask. My concern is that we should not be worried as the whole issue will be sorted out. Even last year, the students who are joining Form two now went with letters and if I'm wrong, I should be corrected. I rest my case Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Luke Opwora: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I support the motion. I think there is a conspiracy to finish the youths especially those who are average students. We live in a society where not everyone is bright; we have bright students, average and poor students. Article 55 states clearly that it is the work of the state to ensure all these students are taken care of. I stand here to raise an issue on Regulation 8 (1) (c) which speaks on the Vocational Training Centers. How I wish this statement would have gone further to inquire on the status of VTC's. It is unfortunate that this County Government does not budget for any equipment for our VTC's. We have many students who have cleared Form Four and they could not get grade A, B, C or D but they got an E. They would wish to join VTC's where we can have mechanics, tailors plumbers but are not given an opportunity.

We are not against this scholarship scheme that the County Government is implementing now but let it be cross-cutting on all aspects where everyone will be involved. But as it stands now, they want to tell us that it is only the bright students in this county who matter. Even those that dropped out of school, those girls who were impregnated and could not pursue their education further, they need to be given an opportunity which is the responsibility of this County Government. I feel that this scholarship thing is going too far and we need to go back to the drawing board as a county and put our priorities right. We are not saying that the scheme is bad but we want fairness. We want equity; we want to see everyone being involved in this process. My plea is that we want our VTC centers to be empowered so that our youths can get skills that can help them be self-reliant and not to move around seeking for handouts from politicians. I rest my case as I support the motion.

Hon. Violet Makhanu: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to air my views on this issue. First I want to thank Hon. Majimbo for coming up with this motion. Around two years now; more so last year I had about seven students who were picked to be among those to benefit from this scholarship and when they went to school they were denied a chance to enter the compound and up to now the County Government has never paid any fees for those students. The only person these parents went for is me as their area MCA. A few minutes ago, when I was doing my lunch I had a call from a parent who had taken his son to Iten Boys and they declined the letter from the County. The parent is supposed to come back home with the child; he called me to assist him secure transport to enable him travel back home with the student because he only had enough transport only to get him to school and maybe to come back with the student. That is why any time these parents go to school they come back to us and we are forced to go to the Department of Education to speak on their behalf and sometimes we are not listened to. It

becomes heavy on some of us because we are the ones who are staying closer to the pupils than even the CEO of this county including the CECM Education. Where we are, I'm worried that in last year's scholarship, I had seven whose fees have not been paid up to now. I am worried that now that they taking to a tune of 7,000 students. How many will miss out from my Ward and who will they go to? They will eventually come to me requesting for help because I am their representative in Mihuu Ward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to concur with my colleagues and I want you to listen to my last submission; I want to agree with my colleagues that we are even taking too long contributing on this, you need to make a ruling that by tomorrow, these officers should be on the floor of the House to give us direction. We don't have to receive calls from parents where we have not been involved even in vetting and identification of the beneficiaries of the scholarships.

Let them come here and give us the way forward so that as MCAs we go forward and know what to tell them after we have listened to respective ladies and gentlemen from the Executive. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Evertone Nganga: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me a chance to contribute to this wonderful issue. First I want to thank the Honourable Member who came with this statement which culminated into a motion. We need to be smart when handling this issue on scholarship. This program was initiated when the first County Government was in force from 2013 and up to now it is only the issue of scholarship that was initiated by the new government. Last year, cheques for bursaries were drawn from the month of November to January and issued. I know the scholarship is catering for students who are bright; it is right from what the Honourable Members are saying. Remember Honourable Members, the County Government under Hon. Wycliffe Wangamati has not rubbished bursaries; they are still there which can cater for students from other categories. Protect me Mr. Speaker because it is my time to contribute...

Deputy Speaker: Order Honorable members. Let us allow him make his contribution.

Hon. Evertone Nganga: Let us be strategic and reason well for us to help students in this County. We should not be biased and affect our needy students who have acquired chances in good schools to learn. We have the Implementation Committee in this County Assembly; we have the Finance Committee which should oversight the treasury to understand where they will get the funding for the programme. If other vote heads in the County Government have not been affected, then why are you worried? If you are worried, can you tell us the vote heads that have been affected in the County Government? Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be informed. Where you feel that development will not continue...

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Majimbo, what is it? Hon. Nganga you can resume your seat first. Order honourable members, we have to be orderly and I don't want to invoke provisions of Standing Order...

(Loud consultations)

Honourable members, we are not in a contest of pointing fingers here. Hon. Nganga you have to be orderly.

Hon. Henry Majimbo *(On a point of information)*: Honourable Speaker, allow me not to exchange with this political novice because I'm not in the mood to exchange with him. Allow me to give a point of information that I want to do. Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the member for East Sang'alo that my statement is on the implementation of the regulations and management of the Bungoma County Education Scheme, we are not biased. So, you are out of order to say that we are biased. I don't think if you understand the word biased. I rest my case.

Deputy Speaker: Let us allow Hon. Nganga to finish his submission but restrict yourself within the context of that motion.

Hon. Evertone Nganga: I think my contributions were genuine. It is my view that we have the Implementation committee in this County Assembly, let them do their work; they should not sleep on the job! Let them make sure that they look into this matter and give the County Assembly the correct the required information. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Hilary Kiptalam: I want to first salute the originator of the statement and subsequently the mover of the motion. Am privileged to have worked in the education committee since 2019 and this is the first year we are celebrating the results of the first cohort of the scholarship.

However, the statement that has been raised in this House has narrowed down to bursaries and the scholarship. I belong to the minority party in this House and the majority party since the inception of this County Assembly has set the precedence that we are seeing in this House.

As we were trying to put things in order, the majority side had their way and we had our say, but history will judge us from where we sit and from where we stand.

Let the executive bring the comprehensive statement because that is the role and the duty of this House. As we support...

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Fred, then Hon. Chemion

Hon. Fredrick Musebe: I am the chairman of the Assembly Committee that provides oversight to the department in question. Having looked at the statement raised by Hon. Henry Majimbo and also listened to members, I want to assure this House that the Committee of Education has been up to the task to provide necessary oversight to the department. I would like to further confirm that indeed we have an education support programme which we as a committee fully support, but we have almost the same concerns and that is why I support the motion and even further support what Hon. Tony of Lwandanyi said because we might summon the CECM and the team and end up not getting a conclusive answer.

If we have to put partisan issues aside; all the budgets of this County Government come through this House and we have a point by having a problem of the sustainability of a programme like the scholarship. What is our role in this county government? We are a regulation to the government. As a Chairman, I am not against it. We are not against it but when you look at the trend of the scholarship since it started for purposes of planning and the future, it is a concern.

When you look at the running of the department, it is like we only have scholarship, but we have other more meaningful programmes like the bursary which has been affecting more people than the scholarship. I would like to confirm that indeed we need to do something radical for purposes of the future. I can see members contributing with feelings because of what is happening now, I think it is because of politics; we are not sober, we are partisan and want to argue in defense of somebody. Let us come to our minds and look at this County Government and see the history we are writing as leaders of this time because there is tomorrow.

We have a concern on the sustainability of this programme and the effects it's causing to other programmes because as leaders, we should be concerned of the well-being of this government. I want to support the motion that we issue summonses but we might not get satisfactory response from the department.

The people walking around and talking about the scholarship and promising what was not even in the budget we passed here are different from the people we are talking about summoning. That is my position and our position as the committee. I rest my case.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Fredrick Musebe that was pragmatic pudding young tuck you are.

Hon. Francis Chemion: I want to take this opportunity to laud the statement seeker Hon. Majimbo and also the majority leader for coming up with the motion. It is only that we have put a lot of flesh yet we could have just rested our issues as per that statement that was brought because we will get all that we have asked for from the response, from there, we will now put our efforts down. The statement is very clear, it is asking how the management of this scheme is happening and has gone into details to ask even the budgetary allocation. It has enumerated all the regulation that we passed in this honourable House, it is only that we have had this motion that is why we are ventilating. Some members are going this way others are going that way but the statement is very clear.

I would wish that we get the correct response which will now guide this House to determine whether this programme is being done as per the regulations that we passed. That is what we want and it is in order for all of us. Any member can raise a statement at any time inquiring because that is why we were elected to come to this Honourable House. What comes from the response is what we will interrogate more.

Deputy Speaker: We now call upon the mover of the motion to make a response, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa Juma.

Hon. Joseph Juma (Leader of Majority): First allow me to appreciate the originator of the statement Hon. Senior Majimbo because it has actually been an eye opener to us. Secondly, let me appreciate members for contributing on the motion. For the purpose of clarity, I wish Hon. Sudi Busolo could be around because he alluded to the fact that even last year the same letters were issued.

What we are saying here is that we aren't against the programme but we are worried on the budgetary allocation for the programme because in the last financial year, we had a budget over the same. In the current window we are only having 60 Million and the way the PAC Chairperson was putting it, because he normally handles the Auditor General's report, then he may be clear that it is like we will be having only 10 or 20 Million to handle 10 thousand students.

As we speak, some students have already been returned back to their parents because of the letters and Members should be aware that this is an electioneering year and even the government may not release the funds as we say. I will urge and request the members to be patient so that when we get the response then we may know the way forward but we are just here to give a message to the public so that they are not misled with the issue of seeking votes.

The only worry is that when I listened from the Chairperson to the Education Committee, it is like even the CEC in charge of that Department could not be having the capacity but let us assume that we will get the right message, otherwise I am grateful.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Joseph Juma for your response, now Honourable Members, a motion having been moved and duly seconded, debate having ensued, I now put a question that the motion of privilege under Standing Order number 49(h) that the response to the questions raised in the statement be directly done to this House by the Executive Department of Education and Vocational Training through issuance of sermons to CECM and Chief Officer Education and Vocational Training to appear before this House on Wednesday 11th May, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. and further lay all the required documents as stated in the statement;

(Question put and agreed to)

Deputy Speaker: I therefore direct and further say that the Office of the Clerk to issue sermons to the concerned officers immediately.

There being no other business on the Order Paper of the day, the House adjourns to tomorrow Thursday 25th April at 2:30 p.m.

(House adjourns)