

COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

The House Met at 2:30 P.M

{Mr. Speaker in the Chair}

Hon. Mathew Loltome

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

STATEMENT ON COUNTY ENTERPRISE FUND

Hon. Hassan Wako Jarso: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have this statement to push for. Life for the youths and women of Marsabit is getting difficult and most of them are unable to access proper and well paying jobs. The only option is for them to seek an entrepreneur opportunity.

I would like the Chair to furnish us with the following information:

- i. How much is the latest interest charged on the loan?
- ii. Grace period for the loans given
- iii. Number of women and youth groups that has benefited so far.

Just as the statement reads, all the youths and women are tasked with a lot of challenges in as far as the difficulties of life is concerned. Most of our youths use drugs due to lack of jobs. So, this statement will see what options ought to be delivered for our youths and women just to reduce the risks of frustrations and risks.

Thank you.

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Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable member for that statement which is directed to the Chair Trade.

Yes, Honourable Hussein...

Hon. Hussein Wako Abdi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the statement and also add on top of what Honourable Hassan Wako suggested, I also want the Chair to include the conditions required for the youths and women to benefit from this fund.

I am saying so because I hear there are conditions that must be fulfilled by youths in order to get funds...like licensing which is must as a prerequisite.

There is also no good information on the ground to inform youths that these funds are there and we also require the department to furnish this House with the procedures or the way forward and how they will benefit.

Thank you.

Hon. Beranado Bata Leakono: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

It's true that trade loans are given every year at a set amount of money to benefit people of Marsabit. From the statement of the Honourable Member, I also want this included to the information to be furnished...*(inaudible)* amount of money given to youths, women and persons with disability.

Two, I also want the chair to furnish the House with the amount of money which has been repaid because this is a loan. It is not a grant. If for the last four or five years this loan was given to people, then there must be a repayment period and now a lot of money must have been paid back.

Let us know the amount of money which has been paid. My fear is how this loan is being disbursed. I know the loan limit is 900,000 and people are given 30,000 while some 50,000. It is only the person that the Ward Administrator accepts who will get this loan. So there is a lot of problem concerning this loan.

It is high time the officer in charge furnishes this House with the criteria used to determine who qualifies for this loan. I got complaints that the Ward Administrator gives out the forms and approves people they have interests in.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Konchora Abduba Huka: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I also support the statement actually when it includes people with disability. I really appreciate the statement brought by the Honourable Member.

This fund is there to develop the vulnerable people in Marsabit County so that we can uplift the living standards of these groups. This fund has been there previously. I think we also need to be told the achievements and challenges of the previous distribution of the fund and its current status.

[Hon. Konchora Abduba Huka]

People living with disability as well as youth and women actually need care to develop. This fund was allocated in order to promote these people and support them.

I support this statement and I ask the Honourable Member to include people living with disability so that they benefit from the fund.

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Thank you.

Hon. Stephen Sora Katelo: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I want to believe it is called County Enterprise Fund but not Trade Fund so that when we seek for the statement the right account presentation is given.

I stand to support Hon. Hassan's call for statement. First, this is a loan that we expect money to be returned every month and it is supposed to be revolving. That is not the case as at now. We expect that the money is returned and a fresh group gets it every month so that it circulates and gets to many people.

We would like to know how the fund has been operating from its inception to the end of this financial year. We need to be told on this month, this number benefitted. If there are months where we have zero returns, then we have something to query.

Its operation because it is a revolving fund, how it has been doing every month..... also alongside what has been asked, we also wish to know how they have been receiving funds from what is usually allocated to them every financial year.

Until a month ago there were complaints that they have not received any money. Whether they have received their share or what was allocated to them in the budget, then we shall make an informed decision about that.

Thank you.

Hon. Abdirahman Sheikh Bashir: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think I would not add much. I support the statement but with an amendment on number 4 whereby we say add the number of youth, women and persons with disability who have benefitted so far from every Ward.

I think that is what I wanted to be included.

(The Speaker interjects)

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Hon. Speaker: The disabled from every Ward?

Hon. Abdirahman Sheikh Bashir: The youth groups, women and persons with disability who have benefitted so far from every Ward. Then someone added that this money is supposed to be returned. The accumulated sum which is available so far is also very important.

Thank you.

Hon. Stephen Sora Katelo: Honourable Speaker just an addition, I also wanted the Chair to furnish us with how frequent the Committee sits to disburse the funds. It must be periodic and something that is known so that people can tell at what time they can apply.

Hon. Hassan Wako Jarso: Mr. Speaker, I also want to add a point on the same. Just as we have been told by Hon. Sora that there are certain rules which have been set for the youth and women to continue enjoying this loan, I was for the idea that since we have to include the disabled because they are members of our society, the already existing rules should not apply to this class.

We need to consider them as being special. We need to capture them in a special way. So when the chair gives direction on when the Committee will furnish the House with this information, we would like the Committee to capture that. That the disabled have been exempted so that they benefit...

Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Members. I think you have exhausted your concerns. I am sure the Clerk has noted the concerns. There are quite a number of them. The sensitization done to make sure that the public is well informed, the criteria

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used, the amount disbursed and paid back, the approval procedures, the operation of this fund from its inception to date because it is a revolving fund and whether the fund has been received as allocate every year, the rules which the disables are exempted from...

(Hon. Hussein interjects)

Hon. Hussein Abdi Wako: Point of information Mr. Speaker. On the Committee concerned, I would also like to be included because this fund is meant for the youth, women and persons living with disability. I also ask whether they have been included in the Committee and if yes, the regions they come from.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Members, it is likely that the statement shall come when we come back from the recess on 6th August. Let us fix its response on 6th August. We have ten responses and I don't know how the Chairs will deal with it. Liaison committees please make sure that you have some time to sit even during the recess to address some of the responses received from the executive. They are more than ten.

Next order?

MOTION(S)

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Stephen Sora Katelo: Mr. Speaker, I need to be protected from the likes of Hon. Leakono who have given me several posts which I am not interested in.

(Laughter)

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I want to move a motion that this County Assembly adjourns up to 6th of August 2018 to allow us to attend to very important issues in our Wards and also have time to consult and dialogue with our electorates.

(Hon. Hussein seconded)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, you can say something.

Hon. Hussein Abdi Wako: I second the motion but let Members while going for recess remember that there is God. Let us be objective and while you are away, do not forget to do your oversight role.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Members, you do not need to debate much on this because after all you were to go on a recess and I think your interest here is just for tomorrow and Thursday because the rest of the days are on the calendar. Please let us meet at Jirime until mid-day and then travel to Meru for a training by the water department.

I think they are facilitating us with transport. It is three days and then we add two other days for strategic plan.

The House stands adjourned until 6th August.