

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Third Assembly (Second Session)

Wednesday, 27th September 2023

Assembly Building

The House Met At 10: 25 AM

[The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): In the Chair].

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

NAKURU WEST SECONDARY SCHOOL.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): I wish to recognise visiting teachers and 120 students from Nakuru West Secondary School, Kaptembwo Ward. The team is led by 4 Teachers namely;

1. Mr. Edward Owiyo
2. Mrs. Shirley Ombati
3. Mrs. Silver Nyabayo

Karibuni sana. This is your House. We sit here to deliberate important issues that concern you as citizens of this great County.

MOTION

VISIT TO SHABAB DIGITAL CENTRE

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): There is a Motion by Hon. Hezzy Kariuki, the Chairperson Committee on ICT and E Government.

Hon. Eliud Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. On behalf of the Chairperson, Hon. Hezzy Kariuki and on behalf of the Committee on ICT, I beg to move a Motion that this House adapts a Report on the Committee ...

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Order Hon. Member! What is the reason that you are standing on his behalf?

Hon. Eliud Chege: Mr. Speaker sir, on behalf of our Chairperson, Hon. Hezzy Kariuki and that of the Committee, I beg to move the Motion on behalf of the Committee on ICT and E-government...

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): The Honorable Member for Mahi-Mahiu, the Chair is in the House so what makes you move the Motion on his behalf?

Hon. Eliud Chege: Mr. Speaker sir, the Chairperson has requested me because he is unwell.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Okay. Understood.

Hon. Eliud Chege: Now, I beg to move a Motion that this House adapts the Report on the Committee on ICT and E-government on Shabaab Digital Centre, laid before the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday, 26th September, 2023, during the Afternoon Plenary. This is Report on ICT visit to Shabaab Digital Centre which was held on 11th July, 2023.

The Sectoral Committee on ICT and E-government is established under the Second Schedule of the Nakuru County Standing Orders and is mandated to deal with all matters relating to Access, Development, Use and Skill in ICT and E-government. Access to information for PWDs.

Hon. Philip Wanjohi: Mr. Speaker sir, when we came back from recess, you did inform us that all Reports will be on our gadgets here but unfortunately, we are struggling to get it and therefore, unless the other Members are able to access it. I do not see the Report here.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Report is on your screens. What you use is the Password which is your ID number and then you click okay then there you go, you have your Reports.

Hon. Hassan Ali: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I can confirm the Report is there and as I said yesterday, we just need a little training to use these gadgets, through your Office. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. That is well noted. Proceed.

Hon. Eliud Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I beg now to proceed.

The objective of the visit was to:

1. Check on the status of the Digital Centre.
2. Check on the achievements of the Digital Centre, challenges and areas of improvement as far as service delivery is concerned.

Shabaab Digital Centre is located in Shabaab Ward at Nakuru West Sub County, Nakuru County. It is where Youths between the ages of 22-35 years are trained on the basic Computer Packages, Data Analysis, Essential Skills, Community Sessions and Comprehensive Curriculum. The Training takes a maximum of 8 Weeks and another 6 Weeks of a Mentorship Program. The Mentorship Program is done at Menengai Digital Centre. The Training is fully sponsored by the County Government of Nakuru in collaboration with Generation Program Kenya.

The Generation Program Kenya works in collaboration with the County Government of Nakuru in training the Youths on Online System in particular Digital Freelancing Program. The qualification requirements to the Digital Freelancing program are as follows:

- Between the ages of 22-35years.
- Minimum Form 4 education.
- Ability to read, comprehend and communicate in English.
- Computer literacy & Certification and Typing skills would be an added advantage.

There are three hubs where the Generation Program Kenya is working on in Kenya namely: Nakuru Hub at Shabaab Digital Centre, Nairobi and Mombasa. The objective of this partnership

is geared towards addressing unemployment challenges among the Youths through ICT in Nakuru County.

More than 260 youths in Nakuru County have benefited from digital literacy training through the collaboration between the County Government and Generation Program Kenya. Currently, the training is ongoing at Shabaab Digital Centre with 80 youths benefiting from the Digital Freelancing Program. The training seeks to equip the youths with digital skills to work Online and get a decent earning. Through the Program, our youths will be engaged in online work and it will reduce the rate of crime, substance abuse and idleness among the youths in the County.

Shabaab Digital Centre Program operates in two shifts, the Morning Shift is between 7.00am-12.30pm while the Evening Shift is between 1.00pm-6.00pm. There are 3 Instructors from Generation Program Kenya who train the students on Technical Skills, Behavioral and Mindset Skills. Currently this is the 7th Co-Host and there are 30 students in the Morning Session. However, Mr. Willis who is in charge of the Centre from the County Government stated that in some instances the capacity would go up to 40.

Nakuru County has 7 Digital Centres namely; Shabaab, Kuresoi South, Subukia, Rongai, Menengai East, Kabazi and Naivasha and they are spread across the County and run similar Programs. The objective of the Digital Centres is to provide a platform for youths to train, work Online and also provide space for Innovations and Research at no cost, thus a way of reducing youths unemployment.

Committee Findings and Observations

The following are the Findings and Observations that were highlighted by the Committee and Management of the Shabaab Digital Centre during the visit;

1. Shabaab Digital Centre has 30 Computers.
2. Out of the 30 Computers, 28 are fully functional and Online.
3. 2 Computers are not functional due to Hardware hitches.
4. The Digital Centre has 1 Internet service provider
5. The Digital Centre has 1 Server Room.
6. The Digital Centre has a good Software for transcription.
7. In case of power outage, the Server has a backup installed separately.
8. Shabaab Digital Centre is using N Computing Technology System
9. The Training Program is free to youths between 22-35 years courtesy of the County Government of Nakuru.
10. The facility has been able to mentor over 260 youths.
11. The Digital Centre is currently at the 7thCo-host.
12. Two Computers in the Digital Centres are not functional.
13. The Centre experiences frequent Internet instability.
14. The floor of the Digital Centre is not tiled thus prone to dust which affects the Computers.

Committee Recommendations

From the above Observations, the Committee made the following recommendations;

1. The In-charge Officer, Mr. Willis should work closely with the Director ICT to fast track on repair of the 2 non-functional Computers.
2. That, there is in need for the County Government of Nakuru to ensure contracting two Internet Service providers which to minimise frequent Internet instability.
3. The County Government of Nakuru should consider budgeting for floor tiles for the Shabaab Digital Centre to reduce dust which exposes the Computers.
4. That, the County Government of Nakuru should consider having a substantive Chief Officer in charge of ICT for effective execution of the Departmental activities.

Mr. Speaker, the ICT Department does not have a substantive Chief Officer and this is a Committee where we have one CECM but we have different Accounting Officers. As a Committee, if we do not have a substantive Chief Officer, even in terms of budgeting. Currently, the Department Director is acting as the Chief Officer.

Mr. Speaker in our recommendations, we urge this House and also you that you may help this Committee at least have a substantive Chief Officer that even in case of budgeting, this Committee will be facilitated and whatever we are requesting will have an office where our cries will be heard because we share the same CECM with the Committee on Education and it is not that we are lamenting, but it is somehow as if this Committee on ICT is neglected because when we do not have a Chief Officer and on the other end we see like all the resources are being directed to the Committee on Education.

Mr. Speaker, we are requesting that we have a substantive Chief Officer because we are running a digital world and all services in our County Government should be digitalised and thus, this Committee on ICT should not be looked down on. Therefore, we request that we are given at least a substantive Chief Officer.

Mr. Speaker, that was the Report, the findings and the Committee on ICT did recommendations. I would wish to thank you and the Members of the Committee for their commitment during the Committee visit to the Shabaab Digital Centre, held on 11th July, 2023. I also wish to thank the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for their facilitation during the visit. I now request Hon. Ann, who is the Vice Chair of our Committee to second.

Hon. Ann Njagwara: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I second.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Motion is properly seconded.

The Motion is that this House adopts the Report of the Committee on ICT and E-government on Shabaab Digital Centre that was laid before the table of the Assembly on Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 during the Afternoon Plenary. The Motion is open for Debate. The Honorable Member for Shabaab, Hon. Wathiai.

Hon. David Wathiai: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I stand to congratulate the Chairperson of ICT Committee. Despite him being an elder, he has been able to lead the ICT Committee well and indeed, he gave a very good Report. I would also like to welcome the Nakuru West Secondary students to this House. The MCA for Kaptembwo is out on official duties ...

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Honorable Member ...

Hon. David Wathiai: Sorry Mr. Speaker sir. I had not seen him come in.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): On that, the Honorable Member for Kaptembwo, are you in the House?

Hon. Peter Kajwang': Mr. Speaker sir, I am properly in the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. Honorable Member, proceed.

Hon. David Wathiai: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I would like to welcome the students of Nakuru West Secondary School. This is where we do our work and this is how we do things. When you get out of this place, make sure you learn something. In regards to the ICT Centre, I would like to confirm that indeed, the Committee on ICT visited Shabaab Ward and they came to check on the status and the achievement of the Digital Centre. The ICT Hub has really benefitted many youths from the area. About 260 have gone through the Centre, this being a joint venture between Generation Program Kenya and the County Government of Nakuru.

I would like to request that in future during the graduation of these students, maybe they organise a graduation ceremony so that they can highlight the good work that is being done in that Centre.

Mr. Speaker as I finish, we also do not have a Chief Officer in charge of ICT. I also second the Committee on this and pray that the County Government employs a Chief Officer for ICT so that we can get efficiency in service delivery to the people in regards to ICT.

Mr. Speaker, in regards to the tiling of the ICT hub, I would like to confirm that in the next Financial Year, we are going to factor in the issue of tiling the ICT hub so that we can reduce the dust that is affecting the Computers in the ICT Centre. I stand to second the Motion.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Honorable Member for Keringet Ward.

Hon. William Mutai: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I stand to appreciate what the Committee on ICT has done. The Report that has been presented is quite encouraging, bearing in mind that this is the direction to go now and in the future. I really want to appreciate the County Government and the Generation Program Kenya for these efforts and it is my prayer and I believe the prayer of my colleagues that if this can be extended to cover the wider area in our County, our youths will achieve quite a lot.

I want to appreciate the objective that has been drawn to our understanding that the youths will be

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The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): What is it Hon. Doreen?

Hon. Doreen Korir: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I want to seek your indulgence on whether Honorable Rottok is in decorum. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Honorable Rottok, be upstanding. Are you in decorum?

Hon. Isaac Rottok: Mr. Speaker sir, I think I am in decorum.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Honorable Rottok, yesterday, we had a back and forth discussion about what it means to be in decorum in this House and the way that you are dressed, you are totally out of decorum. Kindly ...

(Honourable Rottok leaves the House)

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): ... and that discussion is closed. Proceed the Honorable Member for Keringet.

(Laughter!)

Hon. William Mutai: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was talking about the objective to engage the young generation and keep them away from drugs and substance abuse. I want to echo this and congratulate the people who initiated the Program because sincerely speaking this one is a City and in the suburbs of the town we expect this kind of drugs and substance abuse. It is one way of addressing the youths challenges, so I want to appreciate that.

However Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the eligibility, this age is between 22 and 35 years and you will concur with me that there should not have been a maximum age limit of 35. It should have been open. You saw how our colleague Honorable Wanjohi was struggling to get into the system. This indicates that if he has time he can be updating himself in such kind of Centres and I am very sure that this one is also affecting quite a number of us in the House and same to the elderly in the community. Mr. Speaker if the age limit can be extended, it will benefit many.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, there is something that I want clarification on and this is with one objective that has been pointed out in the Report that the Program engages the youths so that it can promote their Technical Skills, Behavioral Skills, and their Mindset. If I can get some clarification from the Chairperson or a Committee Member, I think I will be very comfortable and I am going to support the Report 100%. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you the Honorable Member for Keringet. Hon. Hassan.

Hon. Ali Hassan: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity so I can debate on this matter. Allow me to welcome these young fellows from Nakuru West Secondary School. I want to encourage them and tell them that we were once in the same age like you and some of us went to public Secondary Schools. We never went to Academies or International Schools, but we went to schools similar to these and we are now here. I want to encourage you that your inspirations to be here will also come true in future.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Motion from the Committee on ICT, and congratulate them for the good work they have done. One thing that stands out in this Report is that employment has been created for almost 260 young people. When they are in these ICT hubs, as we have been told from the Report, they do a lot of research and a lot of innovations. This basically gives them time to engage in these activities and keep off from criminal activities like drugs and substance abuse.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good thing and we want to ask the County Government of Nakuru to make sure, of course the other day when we were going through this year's Budget we want to commend the Governor because she did place a lot of money in these ICT hubs. This is very good and commendable. Once we have these ICT hubs around the County I am sure many youths are going to get employment through ICT and they will stay away from crime and issues with drugs. If the ICT hub in Shabaab alone can create employment for around 260 people through Innovation and Research, what if we had around 50 ICT hubs in Nakuru? That tells you that we are going to have a lot of youths engage in these activities and they will stay away from drugs and crime.

So Mr. Speaker I support this Report, and I thank the Committee for doing a good job.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Honorable Member for Kiptagich and then the Honorable Member for Turi in that order.

Hon. Rose Chepkoech: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to concur with the Committee on ICT and E-government. First Mr. Speaker, I heard that the minimum qualification for joining the ICT hub is one has to have cleared Form 4. I am requesting they drop it to Class Eight. Some of them did not go to school because they lacked school fees and we need to reduce crime, substance abuse, and idleness.

Secondly Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that there is an ICT hub In Kuresoi South but for our students to have to travel from Kiptagich to Olenguruone which 21kms. This becomes very hard for some of the students to go study in Olenguruone and back. So I am requesting that, every Ward should have a Digital Centre. I have heard that one year down the line there is no ICT and E-government Chief Officer, I am requesting the County Government to engage a Chief Officer with immediate effect. Thank you.

Hon. John Macharia: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Report as well to commend the Committee for the job well done under the Leadership of my senior here Honorable Hezzy Kariuki. The Committee has done a very good job because they have been able to submit to the House their findings so that we as a House can get an opportunity to give our input and maybe rectify some of the areas where it can be a great help to the Shabaab Digital Hub Centre.

Mr. Speaker, in the findings, I can see that the Centre is experiencing a problem of dust and I am happy because the Honorable Member for that area is in the House and he has told the House that in the next Financial Year, he is going to put a Budget to ensure that the Centre will have Tiles so that the Computers and students who are there will have a good learning environment.

Secondly Mr. Speaker, there is the issue of computers, in the Report they have indicated that there are 30 Computers but only 28 are in good working condition. It is my prayer to the Committee that they make a follow-up and ensure that the other two computers are repaired so that they can offer training to a greater number of students who are there.

Thirdly Mr. Speaker, is the issue of instability of the Internet and when we have instability of the Internet that means they cannot train all through; therefore I also want to ask the Committee to make a follow-up on that so that the issue of Internet instability is brought to an end.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I have heard the head of State stating that he wants all the Wards in Kenya to have a Digital Hub Centre. I am putting a request together with the House that we as the elected and the Nominated Honorable Members who are here, we are going to join hands with the National Government to make sure that the plans of the Head of State are going to become a reality so that we become a Digital Centre in every Ward. That will help us do away with unemployment because it is going to be one way of creating job opportunities in our Republic and we are going to help our youths to a large extent. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I do support.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Honorable Member for Kapkures then Honorable Member Mercy Kilel from Kuresoi South then the Honorable Member for Kabazi, Honorable Talam in that order.

Hon. Robert Ruto: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first welcome students from Nakuru West Secondary School. Mr. Speaker, I am an alumnus of Nakuru West Secondary School and I am happy to see my students in this House. This is evidence that no man is limited and that if they give a chance to Education then one day one time they might be in this Honorable House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Report of the Committee on ICT and E-government. Having educated 260 youths in the society will help reduce the crime rate in our Community. As we all know an idle mind is a devil's workshop; once our youths are given these skills they will employ themselves. Giving employment to our youths and reducing idleness in our society will help reduce crime rates. I support the Report 100%. Thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Honorable Member of Kuresoi South, Mercy Kilel.

Hon. Mercy Kilel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am from Kuresoi North not Kuresoi South. I wish to thank you for this opportunity and to take this moment to welcome the students in the Gallery from Nakuru West. I wish to tell the students that apart from Education being the greatest equaliser, you can use the opportunity you have at this moment to open doors in your life and the future.

Mr. Speaker, concerning today's Motion, I wish to thank the Committee and the Chairman for taking their time to work on this Motion knowing very well that technology is the Fourth Revolution of this world and that we need to be able to continue taking up technology in our Country. It is one of the key items in the Manifesto of the Kenya Kwanza Government and we know that the Ministry through the Cabinet Secretary has said that we are going to have 1 450 Digital Hubs and 25 000 Wi-Fi Hotspots Nationwide. I do not know how far we are as a County in this implementation because Nakuru being a City, ought to be among the top in terms of technology uptake.

MR. Speaker, I noticed on page 5 that the Committee mentioned that we have ICT Hubs in Shabaab, Kuresoi South, Subukia, Rongai, and Menengai but they did not specifically mention where those Hubs are. Additionally Mr. Speaker, we need to be keen to implement these ICT Hubs going forward because we cannot be saying that we want to be a Leading ICT Hub in the East African region, yet we are not doing enough as a Country. Mr. Speaker, I also want to urge the County to be keen, to be intentional, and increase the Courses in terms of this technology because

they have just mentioned that students are taught the ability to read, comprehend, and communicate in English. Mr. Speaker, that is too little. We need to teach our students how to code, things like Artificial Intelligence (AI) because that is where the world is moving to.

So Mr. Speaker with those few remarks, I wish to support the Motion and ask this House to fully support the ICT Committee in implementing their future endeavors. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Honorable Member for Kabazi.

Hon. George Talam: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity so I can also commend the ICT Committee. First of all, I want to thank the ICT Committee for doing a very good job led by our elder here who is leading this ICT. We should also emulate them as young men.

Secondly Mr. Speaker, is just to welcome Nakuru West Secondary School to this House of order so that they can learn more. I know in future you will be the Leaders. I have seen in this Report that we have ICT Hubs in Subukia and Kabazi. I want to thank the ICT Committee for considering Subukia but I hope that next time you will also consider Waseges so that they can learn about ICT online because it is in the far end and I know those people normally suffer. When you come from those sides of Kanyutu which is about 30kms to Subukia.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to congratulate the Committee and ask them to consider those sides of Waseges. I also want them to visit Kabazi so that we can get to know what this ICT Hub in Kabazi is doing, how many Students they have, and if these old men can be incorporated as the Member from Keringet has said, there should be no age limit. It should be open because I know that old men also want to learn more. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you. The Honorable Member for London and then Honorable Member for Kaptembwo.

Hon. Bernard Gatuso: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give my input. Allow me to welcome students from Nakuru West Secondary School. I believe that with all the challenges we have as a Country, moving forward we have this generation that is coming up and who will help us address all the challenges and also the worries that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Committee on ICT for the good work they have done under the leadership of Chair Hezzy.

I would also like to commend you Mr. Speaker for the good job you have been able to do for this Assembly, ensuring that we are techno-compliant. We appreciate you for that. Also, I take this opportunity to say that we have to follow suit by ensuring that we have our students are taken to in ICT Hubs so that they can use the technology either in transacting or because the world is a Global Village where we can do business and other things. They can also learn sports like how Athletes from these other Countries have been able to learn from us and that has raised our flag high as a Country.

Mr. Speaker, I can attest that I had time to visit and benchmark from the ICT Hub in Shabaab and the setup is quite good. It is also upstanding in terms of giving our young generation what they deserve to have so that they can be independent in computer and self-employment. I was able to engage our young generation there and they took me through some various options that they have, like when the students are done with training, they are incorporated within their confines where they are employed for a year as a way of training them so that they can be independent after that.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, I want to commend Generation Kenya which is partnering with the County Government of Nakuru for the good job they are doing. To some extent, even in London Ward, we have been able to emulate that and we have allocated a Budget for an ICT Hub in my Ward that will equip our younger generation and prepare them for the job market. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I support.

Hon. Peter Kajwang: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am very proud today that students from my Ward have visited this honorable House and the Plenary, so that they may have a touch of what goes through in this House. Nakuru West Secondary School is one of the very good Schools we have in the Country not only in the County. It is a state of the art built High School that is actually within my Ward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to invite the ICT and Education Committee to come and benchmark at Nakuru West Secondary School. If we could have many such Secondary Schools, I am very sure that the standards that we would have as a County in regard to the infrastructure that we build for our schools would be quite high.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my neighbour *Mheshimiwa* for Shabaab for always standing in for me; yes, I am thankful because neighbours should be helping each other. Also, I want to thank him for this great initiative that is happening in his Ward in regard to the ICT Hub; I want to say this is the future and we have to move in the same direction.

Mr. Speaker, it is a big challenge to some of us who have not managed to get these ICT Hubs in their Wards but I am greatly challenged as a person and a Leader as well as a Representative of Kaptembwa Ward. I want to assure the House and even the Nakuru West fraternity that this must feature in our next Financial Budget. I think I have enough Infrastructure and I will consult widely on how they have done it in Shabaab. We would also want to do the same in Kaptembwa Ward so I am very pleased with what is happening there.

However Mr. Speaker, as much as we are dealing with Infrastructure except for the ICT Hubs, it is also important that we build the capacity; we need to challenge the County Executive to put in a Budget in order to build the capacity for the Trainers so that it is not only about teaching people on basics of Computers but we can go a little further and introduce some very Technical Skills at an early age in these ICT Hubs. Things like Coding at least we should nurture our youths early enough. So, this will require the Department for Education to look at it in a manner that as much as we are employing Teachers or Instructors in our Polytechnics, in our Nurseries, we also need to see how we should get proper Instructors to handle the ICT Hubs. So I stand to say that I support this Motion and I am greatly challenged; thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you, the Honorable Member for Kaptembwa, Members who had risen up to comment or be part of the discussion. In the interest of time we are going to allow Honorable Doreen Totona, then Honorable Wamaitha, then Honorable Hellen Megek and the last one is the Member for Flamingo in that order.

Hon. Doreen Korir: Thank you Mr. Speaker I also rise to support this Report by the Committee on ICT but I realise in the Committee recommendations, there is an observation that has been put under recommendations; on the issue of budgeting, I observed that they could have included the issue on increase on the budget for this ICT Department because you realise that ICT Department is one of the Departments that receive the lowest Budget Allocation.

MR. Speaker, I think we should consider increasing their Budget because the World is going Digital and we need to spread ICT Hubs in all the Wards to ensure that they receive as Honorable Rose had commented, Mr. Speaker we should ensure that we move this ICT Hubs to *Mwananchi* which will benefit not only the youths but also women and the men of this County. ICT I plays an important role in fighting poverty and combatting diseases which can be accomplished through ICT and also in creating awareness.

On economic growth Mr. Speaker, it is very important to note that widespread ICT opens employment opportunities. Most of the Members have even mentioned it here and it is very important. So Mr. Speaker sir, I think this Report is well done by the Committee and I commend the Committee led by the Chairperson of the Committee who is Honorable Hezzy. Thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Ann Wamaitha: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give my views on the Motion. I would like to start by commending the Committee on ICT and I stand to support the Motion.

Mr. Speaker, I have a few clarifications I would like from the Committee. First of all, from the Report, it has stated that it takes six to eight Weeks for the Training. I would like to understand what happens to the Trainees after they graduate. What is the transition rate? Are we able to absorb them in the different Job Groups in our County?

Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to know about the 260 youths; where are they right now, are they still in employment, have they gone to College, have they graduated, have they been absorbed in the different Institutions within our County?

Finally Mr. Speaker sir, I would also want to know once they are done with Digital Training, are we able to give them tablets so that they can continue to do the Online jobs and what kind of Online jobs are they getting? Are we having a Markup in terms of the wages that they are going to get?

Therefore Mr. Speaker, if we are able to get that; then we can get the investment and the rate of return for the County of Nakuru and the Budget that we have invested in the different ICT Hubs. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you; the Hon Member for Visoi, the Hon Hellen Chemutai.

Hon Hellen Mengek: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir for this opportunity. First I want to applaud the Committee of ICT and E-government for the commendable job that they did and I want to urge this House that in all 55 Wards, let us improve and allocate money so that we can build ICT Hubs in our Wards. Also, equip them so that we can get computers in all our Wards. It is very important for ICT in our communities because, one, it is going to improve learning efficiencies and also reduce the burden of teachers. It also creates employment for our young people in the society and reduces the influence of drug abuse and idleness in the community. I rise to support this Motion; thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you, the Honorable Member for Flamingo and then the Chairperson or the mover to respond.

Hon. David Muraya: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I would like to commend the Committee of ICT which is headed by Honorable Hezzy and the team for the good work that we have been doing. I also appreciate that our County Government of Nakuru is doing a very good job in partnering with Generation Kenya to make sure our Children who cannot access further education after they complete Form Four or Class Eight, can now have that opportunity to proceed with their learning.

Mr. Speaker, according to what I have heard when our honorable Chairperson was taking us through the Report, I heard him saying that in the ICT Hub which is in Shabaab Ward, I would request that as we move forward, we as an Assembly would want to add more money during the Budget making process so that we can put tiles on the floor in those classrooms because the gadgets themselves are not friendly being installed on a dusty area. Also, we do not have enough teachers and once we put a Budget in that area, we are going to make sure students get quality education which can take them to another level.

Mr. Speaker, as our able MCA Mercy Kilel has said, the Digital Revolution is taking over in future and I would like to invite the ICT Department to come to my Ward in Flamingo where we do not have an ICT Hub because there is no way, you can go to Biashara Ward where we have one in Bondeni and then we have another in Shabaab whereas we do not have any in Flamingo Ward. So, Mr. Chairperson for ICT, I invite you there we find a place where we can put one. Thank you Mr. Speaker I support you.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you; there was a Member from Nakuru West who had requested to be part of this discussion and then the Chair to respond to all the issues that have been raised by the Members. The Hon Member for Barut.

Hon. Bernard Kirui: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. First, I would like to welcome Students from Nakuru West and the Teachers to this honorable House. Mr. Speaker being a Member of this Committee I would like to congratulate my fellow colleagues for supporting this Motion because I have seen they have a goodwill to pass this Motion. I would like

the Chairperson for Implementation Committee to ensure that all recommendations in this Report are followed to the letter. Thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you, The Hon Member who is moving to respond.

Hon. Eliud Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker I would also like to thank the Honorable Members for their input. As you all know, these Committees are just a branch of the House and whatever we are doing is on behalf of this House. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to some issues or input that has been raised by a few Members. I will begin with an issue raised by Honorable Rose who was requesting that we do something concerning the age of admission where they are admitting students aged 22-35 years. Mr. Speaker, this is a Generation that is partnering with the County Government and is offering this service to the youths.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the House as they are recommending that we need to do something to adjust our Budget so that we can enhance it so that at least from the County level we can be in a position to accommodate everybody who feels that they need to equip themselves with ICT knowledge. Also, she requested for establishment of more Digital Centres; as you are aware, that is why I was requesting this House that we should have a substantive Chief Officer (CO) because currently, the National Government says they want to establish an ICT Hub in each Ward across the Country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to come together as ICT, as a mother Department to partner with the National Government so that we can work together as a team, to be in a position to understand their Program. As the Honorable Member is requesting, it is our wish that we would have a Digital Centre for each Ward. Also, I want to thank the Honorable Member for Shabaab, Hon. Wathiai, because he has committed that he is going to do a Budget from the Ward Kitty to do tiles and that allocation will help the Centre.

Mr. Speaker, there is an issue from Honorable Mercy Kilel who was requesting Honorable Doreen that we did not mention specifically where these Digital Centres are. Mr. Speaker, this House knows that last week we did a Report on Rongai Digital Centre and today we are doing Shabaab. As a Committee on ICT and E-government, we are going to visit each Digital Centre so that we table Reports before this House so even as a Committee we are learning as we go around.

So Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Member should expect that very soon, we are going to table another Report so that they can be made to understand all these Digital Centres, where they are and their status.

Also Mr. Speaker, there was an issue raised by Honorable Ann who was asking what usually happens to those students after completing their course, she also asked whether we give them a Tablet.

Mr. Speaker as we all know, we have limited resources in ICT Department and for sure what we are doing, assuming they are building youths so that at least we can be in a position to compete even with others. So, what there is in those Digital Centres, is that the candidates are only training and not in a formal setup that they are going to be absorbed but they are sharpening them to

compete in the Digital World and we are recommending even to our County Government, to consider the youths who have undergone training in our Resource Centres.

Mr. Speaker, there is another issue from Honorable Kihumba who requested the Committee to visit his Ward and that they do not have a Digital Centre at Flamingo. Maybe he welcomes us for a cup of tea as a Committee but in...

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): *Mheshimiwa* what would be the meaning or the input of tea?

Hon. Eliud Chege: Mr. Speaker it was on a light note because we are saying we are moving around to all our Resource Centres and table Reports. The Honorable Member from Flamingo knows very well that his Ward does not have a Digital Centre. Maybe in future, if he has a plan to do so; and that is why I am saying he can invite us and at least give us what is in their mind on what they want to do, and as a Committee, we are going to engage.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): And confirm that tea is not going to be part of that meeting.

Hon. Eliud Chege: Yeah!

(Laughter)

Hon. Eliud Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker, that was on a light note Mr. Speaker I meant that maybe he is generous in that he wants to invite the Committee when he said I would wish the Committee to visit my area. So, the intention I was thinking maybe he was calling us to commend us for the good work. So Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge this House to adopt this Report so that it gives us power and ability to move around all other Digital Centres, so that at least we can table those Reports here and be in a position to know the status of our Digital Centres.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this Motion so that it can become a Report of the House and not a Report of ICT. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri): Thank you, the Hon. Member. I want to put it into question

(Question proposed that this House adopts the Report of the Committee on ICT and-E-government on their visit to Shabaab Digital Centre that was laid before the table of the Assembly on Tuesday 26th September 2023 during the afternoon plenary.)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Honorable Members this House stands adjourned to today 2.30 pm

The House rose at 11.30AM

