

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA**THE SENATE****THE HANSARD****Thursday, 16th May, 2019**

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka) in the Chair]

PRAYER**PETITION****IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TJRC REPORT**

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the minute to contribute on this matter. Sometimes, I feel sad and sorry for the young Kenyans who were born in rural areas, and deserve, as Article 43---

An hon. Senator: On a point of order.

(Sen. Kang'ata approached the Dispatch Box)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe): Order, Sen. Kang'ata. On the screen here, I do not see your intervention.

(Sen. Kang'ata spoke off record)

Order, Sen. Kang'ata, you are already standing, yet I have not given you any chance to state your point of order.

Proceed, Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Statement by Sen. Pareno. As a country, it is time for us to come back to our senses. If you want to destroy the future of a young person, just mess with their teachers. The teachers of this country teach in deplorable conditions. Interdicting teachers because they are not comfortable or because one thinks that they oppose the Competency Based Curriculum is not right.

In doing so, they are denying the children of this country their right to education, yet the Constitution states that they have a right to education. That is totally misguided.

As we talk about referendum, we should think of how to devolve education. It is sad that some people in Nairobi can sit and decide to deny a child in Mashuru, Eselenkei, Kajiado County an opportunity to go to school.

Prof. Magoha and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) do not realise that young girls will end up getting pregnant and the young boys will go out there because they do not have people to teach them.

There are schools in Kajiado with no single teacher.

Proceed Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you Temporary Speaker, Sir. I expected the hon. Member to support my people. In this case he appears to be with some people who think that the only way to bring sanity is through dictatorship.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, insubordination is being defined in different manners. The reason why those teachers were interdicted was only because they said that they did not agree with that, and they did not understand it. Does it mean that when you do not agree with something, it has to be pushed down through your throat for you to be able to understand it? We have to be serious in this country.

This is why I am saying that when it comes to the issue of us going through a referendum, it is about time that we seriously thought about the aspects of devolution that we want to promote.

When it comes to education, the only thing which is fully devolved is Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE). However, the children of Mashuru---. If you go to Eselenkei---. Yesterday, I saw a teacher who decided: "Okay, let me now go take care of my cows." The children are so poor such that even the conditions they are learning in are so deplorable. This teacher who earns peanuts, had gone there just to change a life so that he could be remembered for the time he is alive.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this House must defend the children and teachers of this nation. If we force those teachers to go there and learn---. The argument being made is that in Kajiado, it is only 55 per cent of the teachers who have adopted this Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). If the rest do not understand, take the time to teach them so that they can understand and buy in. If there is no buy in, it will end up being like those big white elephant projects which were started in this country many years ago that no one supported.

Therefore, I hope that the Senate Committee on Education, Information, Communication and Technology, will take this matter seriously so that we can protect the future of this nation.

Thank you.