

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 4th March 2025.

The Assembly met at 2:50 p.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta) in the Chair]

PRAYER

PAPER

REPORT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE MURANG'A COUNTY FOOD
SECURITY AND NUTRITION BILL NO. 2 OF 2024

Hon. Pauline Njeri: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper; -

That a Report on the consideration of Murang'a County Food Security and Nutrition Bill No.2 of 2024, be laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Next order.

SCHEDULE OF STATEMENTS

RESPONSE ON STATUS OF KENNETH MATIBA HOSPITAL

Hon. Morris Thuku: Madam Speaker, I am the MCA representing Kiru Ward and also a member of Health Committee. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Chair I beg to respond as follows; in an Assembly sitting held on Tuesday 19, 2024 and pursuant to Standing Order 46 2(c) Hon Isaac Chefman Isaac Njoroge MCA Kahumbu Ward, requested for a statement from the chairperson Health Services Committee, on status of Kenneth Matiba hospital at Makenji, Kabati. The problem statement was as follows; can the Chairperson submit a comprehensive report on the status of Kenneth Matiba hospital since its relocation to Makenji, Kabati. Two, what is the current medical services being offered in the hospital? Three, can the chairperson further inform this Assembly why the hospital only operates during the day, despite it being a specialist health facility. Madam Speaker finally, can the chairperson inform this Assembly when the hospital will start offering normal general outpatient services.

Madam Speaker, this is the response; request one; status of the hospital since its relocation to Makenji. One, workload and operational performance. That since its relocation, up to 400 patients are served in a day with an average of 250 patients per day. That the

hospital has a bed occupancy rate of 43 percent in the financial year 2023/2024. That in terms of surgical utilization of the hospital, 542 patients were operated in financial year 2023/2024. Madam Speaker, I can see Hon Chefman is following up with the document and the table below tabulates of how workloads and missions, clinics patients have visited.

Request two, services provided; currently the following services are offered at the facility. One is outpatient services, two is immunization services, three is ophthalmology services, four is theatre, dental services and finally the pharmacy. Number seven is laboratory services and Madam Speaker the hospital is able to test up to 28 different tests or diseases as listed in the in the list in our documents.

Madam Speaker, allow me to go to request three on operational hours of the hospital. The hospital operates twenty- four seven during weekdays in the eye ward but closed during the weekend since it does not meet the human resource requirement. I believe as a Committee we shall address the issue of human resource. Possibly on behalf of the chair, is to request this Assembly to allocate more funds for the department of Health be able to absorb more staff. Such facilities that are located in such a strategic area, can be able to optimize its operations.

Madam Speaker, the current human resource of the hospital since its establishment, is they have a medical doctor; zero but they need two. They have three clinical officers but they need seven. They have nine nurses but they need 14. They have two pharmacists, those are enough. They have one pharmaceutical technologist, they need four.

They need a laboratory technologist; a deficit of two and all that. Expected date of offering outpatients; the objective of the hospital is to offer specialized health care services that is dental and eye, however being located on the highway it gives limited outpatients services in case of emergencies. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Chefman you have any comment on the response given? Go ahead.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Madam Speaker, the Committee has done a commendable job although with a clarification that I would like the Committee especially on the side of the services of the laboratory in that hospital and now that we are able to save the rent that we were doing in terms of either with the partners because majority of the people are either coming to Murang'a town in the level four in the side of cancer screening.

Honorable members should know patients who have cancer find it very hard to find road transportation especially from that side. I would request the Committee to ensure that we have that machine there so that we can be able to take care of that. I am still not satisfied with

the operational hours of the hospital. I did not understand and I would like a clarification about the same that the hospital operates twenty-four seven during week days in the eye wards but closed during the weekends since it does not meet the human resource requirement. During the working days do we have the human resource or is it only on the weekends we do not have the human resource? I did not understand there because if it is closed because of that, the weekend is only two days, that is Saturday and Sunday but from Monday to Friday those are working days and if it is working twenty- four seven is it the side of the eye clinic?

The reason I was requesting for that statement is for clarification is because most of our dispensaries are consuming a lot of free medicine, I was trying to get that Kenneth Matiba being near to our neighboring we can also tap good services there so that we can get more revenue to assist our dispensaries that are in our homes.

I am content with that but those were the two issues and I also would like the chairman to make sure that that kind of a big hospital requires a doctor. I have seen they are saying that the medical doctor is zero while they are required two. We are dealing with three clinical officers whereas they need seven. There is unnecessary pressure and since we had the issue of the shortage of employment in the County, I will request the shortage of County employees who are supposed to be employed if the Health Committee can push, I understand there was shortage of 201 staff, if we could be able to get at least half of what is needed in the Kenneth Matiba then we shall be doing justice to our health facilities to our people. I am satisfied but with those amendments. Thank you

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Thank you Hon. Chefman. Next order

RESPONSE ON THE STATUS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Hon. Morris Ngunu: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am a member of the Health Committee on behalf of the chairperson I beg to respond as follows; - in an Assembly plenary sitting health on 19th Tuesday 2024 and pursuant to Standing Order 42 (c) honorable Chefman Isaac Njoroge requested for a Statement from the chairperson Health services Committee on the status of establishment of staff in the department of health in the County. Problem statement, the required statement stated as follows: -

1. Is the chairperson aware that the County has an overall deficit of 201 employees as at July 2024

2. Further, is the chairperson also aware that the County is in the process of replacing the above employees.
3. Can the chairperson inform this Assembly the deficit of the following category employees in the department of health and sanitation as at September 30, 2024; doctors, clinical officers, nurses, laboratory technicians, human resource officers, administrators, clerical officers, subordinate staff
4. Can the chairperson provide a list of how many of the above categories of staff will be employed in the department of health and sanitation in the financial year 2025//2026
5. Can the chairperson furnish this Assembly with the data on the number of health facilities in the County and the required number of staff in each health facility?

This is the response, on deficit of employees; the department is aware of the huge deficit of employee in the County which is a major challenge in the County after the increase of the dispensaries and health facilities. This has been influenced by lack of enough funds to engage all the required staffs.

According to the wage bill, the County has already surpassed 35 percent mark to the current 46 percent. This is further made worse after the withdrawal of donor support through United State Agency for International Development (USAID) which was directly benefitting 196 health personnel, including nurses, clinical and clinical officers.

Number two, Madam Speaker is the process of replacing the new employees. Despite surpassing the wage bill mark, His Excellency the Governor has made the liberty; a move to engage workers in the essential services department such as health. As a December 2024, the following cadres of staff were employed. Number one, they employed 125 nurses, eight medical officers, 39 clinical officers, 14 lab technologists, 10 pharmaceutical technologists and two pharmacists.

Madam Speaker, I believe that is a great effort that deserves a pat on the back. The request number three is on the current establishment and deficit of staff in the department of health. Madam Speaker there is a table and I believe Hon. Chefman is following up, on the currently employed staffs versus the deficit. They are already 2,086 health employees and we have a deficit of 886.

Madam Speaker, on request number four, what are the staff to be employed under each category in the financial year 2025/2026. We believe more staff will be engaged; however, this will depend on the number of staff exiting due to various reasons such as retirement, natural causes and also resignation among other factors. Of course, Madam Speaker this is informed

by the response number three on the on the required threshold of 35% which we have already surpassed by 11%. So, any increment is also dependent. We can only peg them on the factors that have mentioned.

Request number five is number of facilities in the County and the required number of staff. Currently there are 162 health facilities in the County with a total deficit of 886 as per the table; as indicated at a table above.

In conclusion let me inform members that the Committee will ensure that more funds are allocated for recruitment and employment of health personnel in the next budget estimate of financial year 2025/2026 and of course Madam Speaker for us to increase the budget, I want to repeat that such factors of the threshold of the percentage of the wage bill versus the development is very important so that we can also observe that good balance between the two.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Thank you, Hon. Morris. Hon. Chefman you can comment on the response given.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I may say the Committee has done also another good job for the response. However, with also a recommendation or an input and especially where my request was the current assumption of deficit of health serving the department. That one should be taken in a very serious manner, serious concern especially when it comes to the designation. That is number 22, whereby current employees are zero and they require 20.

As you know Madam Speaker this County of ours and as the way the geographical and how the world is and especially our country is, majority of our people are very depressed, they are frustrated. They have the stress and that means they will require that service of counselling and psychology in terms of either in our Murang'a County and we need a lot of this staff. When the employment was being done, I think it's good the Committee should know and should know that we need to increase this category.

As you move around, even us who are working, we are also depressed, we are frustrated, we are stressed. Go to the religious churches, the same thing, the pastors, the fathers, the bishops, everybody is frustrated and stressed. We need counselling, somebody where you can go and pour own things. Our parents, our students, I think everybody is either, if you're not frustrated, you have stress, if you're not stressed, you are depressed, if you're not depressed, you're always going wherever it's needed your people are talking alone---

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Chefman you don't look stressed in any way. You look healthy.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: I am saying the workers. I did not say the MCAs.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): But you are not stressed. *Naona* (I see) you are so healthy and charming.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: I am frustrated in my pocket.

[Laughter]

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: I stand guided. I was just putting an input that the Health Committee should try to push the side of executive to make sure that, because it's a problem, because of the finance, the climate change, the families because of having the financials. This is a department which we need to do. However, also not forgetting, noting that, even we don't have a habitation home. Whereby even most of our people depend on the issue of the Nairobi. Being a challenge, I think also is a good time as we establish the issue of the counselling and psychology, we also make sure that the Health Committee also in our major hospitals either in Kenneth Matiba or even here we have a rehabilitation centre, so that we can be able to take care of psychology issues which people have.

Even in our areas, we have a lot of people hanging themselves and especially in my ward. So far, since last year they are almost 18, again it changes the frustration and stress to the parents. Why did my child or my husband do whatever he did for hanging himself? We need this kind of stuff to be added in future, as much we are aware about our threshold as gone but I think as we establish the issue of getting more resources, in the future let us add the institution. So let me congratulate the Committee for well-done good job and I hope with the recommendation I have put is added on that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Thank you, Hon. Chefman. Those are very important insights.

BILLS

THE MURANG'A COUNTY FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

BILL (NO.2) OF 2024- SECOND READING

Hon. Pauline Muchiri: I beg to move that the Murang'a County Food and Nutrition Bill 2024 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker we have the Bill on our tables, it will be going through the third reading tomorrow but for today on the table we have a Report on the Bill; it is just like a compressed report about the Bill, what the Bill is all about. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary services through the office of the Clerk forwarded to the Assembly the Murang'a County Food Security and Nutrition Bill, 2024 on Wednesday, 21st February 2024 for consideration by the County Assembly.

The Bill pursuant to Standing Order 133 was read a first time on Tuesday, 11th February 2025, and thereafter stood committed to the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to conduct public participation and report on its recommendations to the House.

Subsequently, the Committee subjected the Bill to public hearings pursuant to Article 118 (1) (b) of the Constitution and Standing Order 134 (3). The Committee invited submissions from members of the public on the Bill via advertisement on the Star newspaper on Monday, February 17, 2025 and in the local radio stations.

The Committee received written submissions on the Bill and held a public hearing on Monday, February 24, 2025 at the ACK Mothers Union Hall at 10:00 a.m. where oral submissions were received. The Committee thereafter considered all the proposed amendments and came up with its recommendations for amendments to the Bill as documented in this Report. Like I said this is a summary of what the Bill, the yellow paper that we have on our table consists of. As a Committee, we have compressed a simplified Report that will bring us up to speed on what the Bill is all about.

As a whole house we have held two workshops where members of this House have gone through the Bill; and its contents and have been explained to on the contents of the Bill. Mine is to bring the members to speed so that we can be on the same page.

The Food Security and Nutrition Bill, 2024 directly addresses a right conferred on all Murang'a County residents under Article 43(1) (c) of the Constitution which provides that "every person has the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality." The Bill is therefore purposed towards ensuring compliance with the constitutional provisions regarding the right of Kenyans to food.

This legislative framework is based on the need by the national and county government to put in place measures and mechanisms to address food insecurity and therefore ensure that the right to food for all is realized. The Bill provides a framework and mechanisms through which the County government shall fulfill their obligations in relation to food security Madam Speaker.

Under the Bill we have committee known as Murang'a County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM). The Bill establishes the Murang'a County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) comprises of a membership of nine led by the chairperson with a director nominated by the County Executive Committee who shall be secretary to the steering committee.

Madam Speaker, the mandate of Murang'a CASSCOM is one; to establish multidisciplinary structures for co-ordination of the agricultural sector in the County, two, develop instruments for operation and accountability of the co-ordination structures. Three, foster collaborations and linkages with development, public and private institutions in the management and delivery of agricultural programs and services and four to support implementation or development of policies, strategies, regulations, plans and legislations relevant to the sector.

Madam Speaker, in the Bill you realize that there is a green price stabilization fund. In this Bill, it further establishes a fund to be known as the Murang'a County Government Grain Price Stabilization fund. The purpose of the fund shall be used to for any of the following purposes one is price stabilization, value addition, agro-processing, any other lawful purposes approved by the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance.

The fund shall be administered by the Fund Manager who shall be appointed by the CECM in charge of Finance. All monies of the fund shall be paid into an account operated by the officer administering the Fund. The fund may be expended to support logistical expenses of the farmers' co-operative in the initial stages.

Sources of funds. The fund shall consist of: -

1. monies appropriated by the County Assembly for purposes of this Fund;
2. grants, loans, donations, or gifts to the Fund;
3. monies generated for food and nutrition security and related value chain support work received from engagements of the County Government with sustainable development partners.

The County Executive Committee Member shall make provisions within the agriculture department's annual budget, to support the activities of the Murang'a County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM). The Bill further establishes in each ward, a Ward based farmers co-operatives to promote investment vehicles and affordable credit for farmers and negotiate on behalf of the farmers various memoranda of understanding and or contracts with various produce off-takers.

Madam Speaker, I am not reading anything new, these are things that all Hon. Members had been taken through at the workshop. Madam Speaker, Murang'a County Food Security and Nutrition Bill was published on 18th November 2024 and read a first time in the County Assembly on 11th February, 2025. The Bill was thereafter committed to the sectoral Committee on agriculture, livestock and fisheries for consideration. Pursuant to Article 118 (1) (B) of the Constitution and Standing Order 134 (3), the Committee invited views of the Bill from the public by placing an advertisement in the Star newspaper on Monday 17, 2025 and the local radio station, just as I had said before. The Committee received oral submissions at the public hearing held on Monday 24th February 2025 in the ACK Mother's Union Hall of Murang'a County headquarters. The Committee also received a number of written submissions delivered through the email to the office of the Clerk of the County Assembly.

Madam Speaker, the Committee received submissions from the following persons: Nancy Mwangi, Collins Nisham, Evelyne Kamau who is a nutritionist in Murang'a County. Madam Speaker, the submissions they made through the email were as follows: Ms. Nancy Mwangi of Nutritional Kenya, sent an email to the Clerk, Murang'a County Assembly on Tuesday 25th February 2025. She informed the Committee that nutrition is a large and multisectoral issue and therefore different sectors should have played their role in the Bill in order to address the determinants of malnutrition. In this regard, a proposal was made that the title of the Bill be changed by deleting the word 'nutrition' entirely, that was just a proposal, Madam Speaker, which did not go through.

From the submission of one Mr. Collins Nisham, who also sent an email to the Clerk Murang'a County Assembly on Tuesday 25th February 2025, and made a proposal that the title be amended by deleting the word 'nutrition' to read as "Food and Agriculture Production, Processing and Marketing Bill, which was a very lengthy title.

For the third person who sent an email through the office of the Clerk, her name is Ms. Evelyne Kamau, a nutritionist in Murang'a County, sent the email on Tuesday 25th February 2025, informing the Committee that the Bill highlights food issues in Murang'a County, however, it does not address the issue on nutrition and in this regard, she made a proposal that the name 'nutrition' should be omitted from the Bill, maintaining that the nutrition department is expected to draft its own Bill from the recently launched multisectoral food and nutritional security policy.

Madam Speaker, it was because as per the law, it is their right to make submissions and what they felt about the Bill and it was very important to air that.

Madam Speaker, the Committee made the observation and recommendations and the committee observations are as follows: -

1. That food security is not a stand- alone concept and should be considered together with outcome of nutrition, hence, Kenya has adopted the term 'food security and nutrition'. There is need to harmonise the titling of the Bill with the existing key documents that relate to Food Security and Nutrition Bill 2024, will affect the way food security is implemented in the County by coordinating and providing grassroots institutions, regulation development, management, financing and support.
2. That the Committee noted that, the Bill will go a long way in providing the necessary legal framework for the realisation of Article 43, rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya. It is also timely even as Kenya implements sustainable development goals. More specifically, goal number two, which is geared towards ending hunger, achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture.
3. That the Bill provides for the involvement of both levels of government in ensuring food security is achieved in Murang'a County.
4. That there is need to address the possibility of an overlap of mandate and functions of other departments under the Bill. e.g. nutrition

Finally, the Committee made the following recommendations: -

1. That, there is need for the County Government to invest in research and adequate funding to get the relevant information and support to the farmers for improved and increased agricultural productivity.
2. That the County Government should employ technical officers to increase capacity for inspection of food produced to assure safety for nutritional improvement
3. Finally, Madam Speaker, that the County should assist farmers and other primary producers to follow good agricultural practices, food processors to follow good manufacturing practices and food handlers to follow good hygiene practices.

Madam Speaker, we now take the opportunity to express our gratitude as a Committee for their resilience and devotion duty which made consideration of the Bill successful. May I also appreciate the Kenya Parliamentarian Human Rights Association for their input and support in formulation of this Bill and they also attended our public participation. On behalf of the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Committee on Murang'a County Food Security and Nutrition Bill, 2024. I now call upon Hon. Hillary, who is a very active Member of the Committee to second.

Thank you.

Hon. Hillary Muigai: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I am the Member for Agriculture Committee and I second.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Question Proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Members, the Floor is now open for your contributions.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

[SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER]

PAPERS

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER, 2025

Hon. Charles Machigo: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I am the Chairperson for the Budget and Appropriation Committee and I beg to lay the following Paper; -

That, the Murang'a County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) for the year 2025 be laid on the Table of the Assembly today 4th March 2025.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Hon. Charles Machigo laid the Paper on the Table)

THE MURANG'A COUNTY DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER, 2025

Hon. Loise Mbogo: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am a Member of the Finance Committee standing in for the Chairperson and I beg to lay the following Paper; -

That, the Murang'a County Debt Management Strategy Paper, 2025, be laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Hon. Loise Mbogo laid the Paper on the Table)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SELECTION ON N REVIEW OF NOMINATION OF
MEMBERS TO COUNTY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper; -

That, the Report of the Committee on Selection on review of nomination of Members to County Assembly Committees be laid on the Table of the Assembly, today 4th March 2025.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Hon. Kibe Wasary laid the Paper on the Table)

NOTICES OF MOTION

APPROVAL OF REVIEW OF PLACEMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES OF THE
ASSEMBLY

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Hon. Speaker, I beg to issue the following notice of Motion;-

That, pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 165 (1) (f), 166 (1) and 198 (2), this Assembly approves review of placement of Members of the Assembly to the House Business and Rules Committee (HBRC), Selection Committee, and the Committee on Appointments.

The Committee on HBRC on the current membership we added Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri and Hon. John Kamau Mwangi. Committee on Selection, we added Hon. Caroline Wairimu. Committee on Appointments, we added Hon. John Munyua.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SELECTION ON REVIEW OF
NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COUNTY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Madam Speaker, the notice I had given was for select Committee this one is on Sectoral Committee. Notice of Motion Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice to the following Motion; -

That this Assembly adopts the Report on the Committee on Selection on review of nomination of members to County Assembly Committees laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday March 4, 2025.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Members, there being no other Business, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday March 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

The Assembly rose at 3:35 p.m.