

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**THE HANSARD**

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

*The House met at 9:40a.m.*

*[The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki) in the Chair]*

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Honorable members, some two complaints have been received by the Powers and Privileges Committee and because of that I would request the members of this committee to meet in the Board Room at 11:00 a.m. this morning.

Thank you.

**PAPER**

REPORT OF EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE, RESEARCH, INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON CONSULTATIVE MEETING  
WITH THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL  
TRAINING IN MOMBASA COUNTY

**Hon. Waithira Ndung'u:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to lay the following Paper; That, the report of the Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-Government Committee on a Consultative Meeting with the County Executive Department of Education and Technical Training in Mombasa County be laid on the Table of the Assembly.

Thank you Honorable Speaker Sir.

**MOTION**

FORMULATION OF A POLICY ON STREET LIGHTING IN  
URBAN CENTERS

*(Hon. Sarah Njoroge rose on a point of order)*

**Hon. Sarah Njoroge:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to request the Clerk to confirm whether there is quorum.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** I have been informed that there is no quorum, so the bell will be rang the normal way.

*(Quorum bell rang)*

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** The quorum has been attained so can we move on. Next.

**Hon. Sospeter Nyoko:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Aware, that County transport which includes street lighting is a devolved function as stipulated in part two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, further aware that most street and flood lights in urban centers of Murang'a County have malfunctioned leading to high cases of insecurity experienced at night through mugging of the residents and break-ins of the various premises, recognizing the fact that this has been caused by lack of maintenance of street and flood lighting system in these urban centers and lack of proper fitting of security lighting systems on various premises; this House urges the County Executive Member for transport and infrastructure to develop a policy providing that;

- (a) All business premises are installed with operational streetlights;
- (b) Street lighting be a condition precedent to issuance of trade licenses;
- (c) Street lighting unit be established to install and maintain street and flood lights in all parts of the County.

Mr. Speaker, we have all experienced in the past that businesses were not going well because we had a lot of dark trade centers and this one limited the time for our businessmen. We all know that in some of our urban centers and especially the local ones we had people closing business as early as 6 p.m. but with improvement of flood lights the businesses has been doing well only that you find that some are not opening and those people in business has now a tendency of closing of very early and the time of doing businesses has minimized again. And this one has resulted to other tendency like low earning, also the County government may not end up earning money. There is also lack of proper fitting of street lights and coverage is very small like a town which is very big has only one flood light and that one is not enough.

The traders in some of these centers have been forced to close very early because of fear of attack. It has contributed to poor thriving of business so in order to restore security, investors and traders confidence County Executive Committee Member (CECM) should provide a policy providing that all business premises are installed with functional security lights. Street lighting be a condition before issuance of trade license and also street lighting unit be established to install and maintain floodlights in the County. I now call upon Hon. David Ng'ang'a to second. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. David Ng'ang'a:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand here to second the Motion.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Murigi Amos:** Thank you very much Hon. Speaker as I stand to support this Motion and considering this Motion is very crucial and the mover of this Motion Hon. Nyoko is a very good friend of mine and he is the Chairman Implementation Committee. I hope this Motion will be the first to be ever implemented. Because I know he will do the follow up and make sure it will be one of the few Motions to be implemented emanating from this House.

Having said so I think this has been a really big problem concerning the issue of street lights. Those that were installed some few years back. Having enquired it is due to lack of maintenance and also it is due to non-payment of tariffs from KPLC (Kenya Power and Lighting Company). As much as the executive is to do this, it is prudent because I know they can incur high electricity bills. It is important as it is being done other by counties to be also use solar to evade the issue of payment of these bills. I know as a County, especially in major towns such as Kenol

and others, we are losing business because we are losing business if you go to the neighboring towns like Thika because people are moving there due to the 24 hour economy. The moment we are having streetlights all over, it will improve the economy of this County. We will have 24hour economy, which is very crucial when it comes to the issue of formal employment. Jobs are not available. When it comes to the issue of streetlights if we have them, it will enhance the business so that we can have 24hour business.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I know there is a program by the World Bank whereby they have started street lighting most of the urban centers and most definitely I think this will be done all over the County. But I hope it will be the responsibility of the County government to be paying the dues. As I support this, I would advocate as we pass this that once the County executive is unable to pay this bills, I think it is important that we recommend that instead of switching off these streetlights that we should start switch off the electricity at the County executive at the headquarters and the Assembly so that we can be compelled to make sure the executive pays for these bills. That is something that I recommend that no streetlight should be put off because of non-payment of bills. We start with the assembly because we shall have failed in our duties to compel the executive to pay their bills. We then start with the executive so that they pay the bill. With that I stand to support.

**Hon. Waweru Mwangi:** I stand to support the Motion. This Motion is in line with Vision 2020 in its enforcing because it has to do with job creation. Our people will be able to work late. Mr. Speaker where I come from people close their premises as early as eight because of insecurity. The lights that were installed have been switched of non-payment of bills by the County government. I also commend this Motion because we are going to create jobs for our people. You are aware that there is unemployment in this country. The street lighting will enhance people to work late and improve the lives of people through employment. With that I stand to support the Motion thank you.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Charles.

**Hon. Charles Mwangi:** Thank you, I stand to support the Motion. When we are talking about lighting we are trying to curb the mugging and making sure that development comes to the wards. Making sure we have everything in the right place. When we talk about light, we are talking about developing the society. Because it means also that even the students will go home in the evening and make their studies. On the other hand, switching off lights at the executive because of unpaid bills at KPLC; that should not be brought to the Assembly. It is the executive with the mandate to do that and our work is to pass policies and make sure the policies are implemented. Thank you.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Hon. Beth.

**Hon. Waithera Ndung'u:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion knowing that most of the women, like when I go through Kaharati they are selling sukuma wiki (kales) and a lot of groceries. Sometimes, they tend to close very early because of darkness. I request the Executive to be paying for the lights because when they are on, those women sell up to *saa nne* (10:00 p.m.). Also to the children, maybe these women do not leave their kids at home where there is darkness. You get that some kids even come and start doing their studies under those--- when their parents are selling, they are doing where there is light because most homes do not have lights. I support the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Member for Mugumo-ini.

**Hon. Peter Githuka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. Through the Finance Chairman, I would like to know whether Kenya Power pays anything to this County because they collect a lot of money and Kenya Power is a limited liability company so they should remit something like giving us this light for free because they also get something from our people. I therefore support but I would like to know through our Finance Chairman whether Kenya Power releases anything to us as a trade pair because they make a lot of profit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Hon. Morris.

**Hon. Morris Thuku:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion but I should start with the Hon. Member for Mugumo-ini. Indeed, he is confirming that even electricity is a natural resource, *ni kipeo kutoka kwa mungu* (it is a gift from God). To the point of street lighting, I would like the mover to clearly draw the line between the on-going World Bank projects of slum upgrading so that we do not have duplication of what the National Government is doing. I believe the project has kicked off in most of the Sub- Counties and the project is already ongoing. Maybe, we need to know and do a plan or mapping to know which areas have not been covered by the on-going slum upgrading project.

Also, it is equally important to note that most of the already installed *mulika mwizi* (security lights) are not working. Maybe, we need to know/establish where the rain started beating us because even most of the technicians who used to repair the masts, most of them have pending bills cumulating to almost four years. We need sustainability in everything that we are going to start. On top of that, I believe street lighting can be a source of revenue to this County. One of the ways is through outdoor marketing because when we have street lighting in our towns that is when advertisers can come on board to pay for the space and at the same time, increase the revenue for this County. I stand to support.

**Hon. Caroline Njoroge:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion and commend my dear Hon. Member for coming up with such a Motion. However, I would wish to urge the Hon. Members that whenever we think of a Motion, we also ensure that there is budget allocation for that kind of project so that we are not left to complain that it is not implemented. It is also good for the Chair for the Budget to ensure that if a project was not in the Budget, we allocate money to it when coming up with the Supplementary Budget so that we ensure that they are done.

However, we can also think of having solar lighting if we are having problems with payments of these bills because I do remember formerly when I was a Member of County Assembly (MCA) in my Ward, we had such a solar lighting and it never had a problem of not been paid. They are also good and it is good that we support this Motion. I rise to support.

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** The Mover will respond.

**Hon. Sospeter Nyoko:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, first of all, I congratulate all the Hon. Members who have supported the Motion and I better now put my remarks, a bit of them. About the implementation of the Motion by Hon. Murigi Amos, it is my duty as the Chair for Implementation to see to it that it is imple---

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Implemented.

**Hon. Sospeter Nyoko:** It is implemented. Thank you for the correction. Also, we need to look into the Budget, whether we have money for such that is a good observation, thank you Hon. Caroline Njoroge for mentioning about the Budget. Member for Mugumo-ini ward thank you for commenting about the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC.). In fact they are

making a lot of profit we need to know whether they remit some to County government and in return they can support us by giving us such but this is subject to discussion with other offices. Hon. Waithira Ndung'u has said something about women we need to extend their operational time in business because they might be at risk knowing for sure when it is dark some things might end up happening which is bad as Caroline Njoroge has said. Hon. Stanley Muhia talked about security and unpaid Bills we have this and that is why ----

*(Hon. Muirigi Amos rose on point of order)*

**Hon. Murigi Amos:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was here and I have not moved out I have heard Hon. Stanley Muhia and I have not heard him contribute to this Motion unless you had made these notes well before you moved the Motion.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Sospeter Nyoko:** I am sorry and thank you for correction it is not Hon. Stanley Muhia it is only that I found that he is looking at me in another style, it is Honorable member for Ithanga ward. Thank you Honorable member for Ithanga ward for your contributions you talked about unpaid bills and that is why there is need for the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) to establish a unit to cater for that. Like now if the lights are off in your shopping centre and it is because of unpaid bills you need to go there. We thus need to have such an office in place and have a responsible, and very committed person so that it can be of use to the citizens of Murang'a. With that I say thank you.

*(Hon. Morris Thuku Gathoni rose on a point of order)*

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Raise it although he has finished

**Hon. Morris Thuku Gathoni:** Thank you Mr. Speaker; with your permission I think Hon. Sospeter Nyoko needs orientation

*(Hon. Sospeter Nyoko still rose)*

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Can you sit down Hon. Sospeter Nyoko.

**Hon. Morris Thuku Gathoni:** I believe Hon. Sospeter Nyoko requires orientation of this House because despite correction he could not call the name of the Honorable Member for Ithanga Ward *Bwana* (Mr.) Waweru.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** He has taken that note.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Honorable members the House is adjourned until today 2:30p.m.

*The House rose at 10:10a.m.*