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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**THE HANSARD**

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The House met at 10:40 a.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha) in the Chair]*

**PRAYER**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Your Excellency the Governor, Hon. Senator, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and all invited guests present this morning, I take this opportunity to welcome you to the official opening of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly.

Hon. Members I wish to make the following communication; the County Assembly of Murang'a Standing Orders provide that each day after prayers have been said and the County Assembly has been called to order, the business of the Assembly shall be proceeded with in the sequence provided in Standing Order 42 (1). This notwithstanding Hon. Members, Standing Order 42 (2) provides that the business shall be disposed of in the sequence in which it appears in the Order Paper or in such other sequence that the Speaker may for the convenience of the Assembly direct. In view of this Hon. Members, I wish to direct that the order of business today shall be disposed of as it appears in the Order Paper, the address on the opening of a new County Assembly shall be issued by H.E the Governor Dr. Irungu Kangata after dispensation of all the business in the order of business today.

Secondly Hon. Members, pursuant to the provisions of Article 179 (2) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Section 35 of the County Governments Act (CGA) of 2012 and Section 6 (1) and 7 (1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act of 2017, the County Assembly received notification that the Governor of Murang'a County H. E. Dr. Irungu Kangata has nominated the following as County Executive Committee Members.

	NAME	DEPARTMENT
1.	Faith Wanjiru Njoroge	Education & Technical training
2.	Prof. Joseph Kiarie Mwaura	Finance and economic Planning
3.	Pius Njuguna Macharia	Roads, Housing & Infrastructure
4.	Noah Gachucha Gachanja	Youth Affairs, Culture & social Services
5.	Kiringai Kamau	Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperative
6.	Mary Muthoni Magochi	Water, Irrigation, environment & Natural Resources
7.	Dr. Fredrick Kamondia Mbugua	Health
8.	Dr. Winfred Njeri Mwangi	Lands, Physical Planning & Urban Development
9.	Paul Kimani Mugo	Trade, Industrialization & Tourism
10.	James Gatuna	ICT and Public Administration

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 47, the above names are hereby committed to the Committee on Appointments, which shall hold an approval hearing on the suitability of the nominees to hold office, and shall Table its report in the Assembly within 14 days from today.

His Excellency the Governor and all Hon. Members present, I wish to recognize the presence of the Deputy Governor Murang'a County and the following Members of Parliament seated at the Speakers gallery who have joined us during this auspicious occasion. I request that they stand as I mention their names: Hon. Stephen Mburu Munania Deputy Governor Murang'a County, Hon. Betty Main Murang'a County Women Representative, Hon. Peter Kihungi Member of Parliament Kangema constituency.

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## ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon. Members, Section 9A (2) of the County Governments Act provide that;

‘There shall be a Deputy Speaker for each County Assembly who shall be elected by the County Assembly in accordance with Standing Orders of the respective County Assemblies, from among the members of that County Assembly’

Standing Order 16, of the County Assembly Standing Orders further provides that;

‘Within 30 days after the swearing in of the Speaker under Part II of the Standing Orders, the Assembly shall elect a Deputy Speaker from amongst its members who shall preside over any sitting of the Assembly in the absence of the Speaker as contemplated under Article 178 (2) (b) of the Constitution, and in matters that directly affect the Speaker’

Standing Order (3) further provides that provides; “The procedure for electing the Deputy Speaker shall, with necessary modifications be the same as that prescribed for the election of the Speaker under Part II of the County Assembly Standing Orders”

Hon. Members in exercise of the powers conferred under Standing Order No. 8, a number of activities were required to be undertaken on the election of the Deputy Speaker before this sitting. I will proceed to detail each such activity and the manner in which we have complied with the Standing Orders. Firstly Standing Order No.7 (1) requires that: “The Clerk shall by notice notify and invite interested persons to submit their nomination papers for election to the office of the Deputy Speaker”

Hon. Members, I wish to confirm that the Clerk of the County Assembly circulated a notice inviting interested persons to submit their nomination papers for election to the office of the Deputy Speaker.

Secondly, Standing Order 7 (2) and (3) provide that, “The names of candidates for election to the office of the Deputy Speaker shall be entered upon nomination papers obtained from the Clerk and handed back to the Clerk, at least 48 hours before the time appointed at which the Assembly is to meet to elect the Deputy Speaker”

“The nomination papers of a candidate shall be accompanied by the names and signatures of two members who support the candidate and a declaration by them that the candidate is qualified to be elected as a member of the Assembly under Article 193 of the Constitution and is willing to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly’

I confirm that the nomination papers were issued and only one candidate collected them from the office of the Clerk and, further, that he was the only person that returned the nomination papers by close of the nomination period on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Upon scrutiny of the nomination forms received, it was confirmed that the forms were dully filled and, therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the Elections Act, the candidate qualified for election to the Office of the Deputy Speaker. Thirdly, Hon. Members, Standing Order 7 (5) provides that, "The Clerk shall maintain a register in which shall be shown the date and time when each candidate's nomination papers were received and shall ascertain that every such candidate for election of the Speaker is qualified to be elected as such under Article 193 of the Constitution". I wish to confirm that a register was maintained in accordance with the requirements of this Standing Order.

Standing Order No.7 (6) requires that, "Immediately upon the close of the nomination period provided for in paragraph (2), the Clerk shall:

- a. publicize and make available to all Members, a list showing all qualified candidates; and
- b. make available to all Members, copies of the curriculum vitae of the qualified candidates.

Accordingly, Hon. Members, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 2:22 p.m., the Clerk circulated to all Members of the Assembly, a list showing the qualified candidate and also made available to all Members a copy of his curriculum vitae. Pursuant to Standing Order 7 (3) and (6), as at the close of the nomination period, the following candidate qualified for election to the position of Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly of Murang'a. Name: Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai who was proposed by Hon. Charles Machigo Karina and seconded by Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau.

Standing Order 10 provides that a candidate may by written notice to the Clerk withdraw his or her candidature after the close of the nomination period and before a ballot is started. I wish to confirm that the candidate I have mentioned above has not withdrawn his candidature. Standing Order 13 on single duly nominated candidate provides that, "Despite the provisions on election of the Deputy Speaker, if there is only one candidate who has been duly nominated for election as Deputy Speaker at the expiry of the nomination period, that candidate shall be declared forthwith to have been elected Deputy Speaker without any ballot or vote being required.

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In view of the above provisions of Standing Order 13, I now declare Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai as the Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly of Murang'a.

*(Applause)*

I direct the Serjeant-at-Arms to search for the said Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai and bring him to the podium for Administration of Oath. I will further ask his nominees to wait for him at the Bar and escort him for administration of Oath when he arrives.

*(Hon. Moses Gachui was escorted into the Chamber)*

### **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH**

*(The Oath of Office of Deputy Speaker was administered to Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai)*

#### **ACCEPTANCE REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai):** Your Excellency Governor Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, the Clerk to the County Assembly, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Hon. Members here assembled for the honour you have bestowed me by electing me to the Office of the Deputy Speaker. I accept and submit to serve you as the third Deputy Speaker since the inception of this Assembly after promulgation of the Constitution 2010, which established the 47 County Assemblies, Murang'a being one of them. I commend the Members who expressed their interest in serving in this position and participated in the mock elections that was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Hon. Members, as the principal assistant to the Speaker, I commit to be focused in making sure the welfare of the Members is guaranteed. This is aimed at equipping the Assembly Committees with the requisite knowledge as they embark on performing their duties, that is representation, legislation, oversight, budget making etcetera. This will go hand in hand in supporting our County Government programs and service delivery roadmap led by His Excellency Dr. Irungu Kang'ata.

Hon. Members, I wish to officially congratulate you for making it to this Assembly. Despite the challenges we encountered, God has always been faithful. I salute you. Having been elected or nominated, it reflects the confidence the electorate and the political parties have in you, respectively. Therefore, in line with the aforementioned, it is our collective and cardinal responsibility as a House to reciprocate by acting responsively to the needs and aspirations of our citizenry. In this regard, I urge all of us to seriously take advantage of the in-depth trainings ahead of us as well as interacting with the laws relating to devolution such as the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Governments Act, the Intergovernmental Relations Act, Transition to Devolved Government's Act, Urban Areas and Cities Act, and more so, the most important part, is the Murang'a County Assembly Standing Orders.

Hon. Members, during the few days we have interacted, I have keenly observed the beginning of a united family as the Bible says in the Book of Psalms 133 verses one, "Behold, how good and pleasant is it for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Hon. Members, we have very serious debaters in this House and it is my conviction that this House will manufacture significant leaders going forward. It is worth noting that national leaders such as Hon. Mary Waithira Wamaua M.P. for Maragua constituency, who is serving her 2<sup>nd</sup> term and Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi M.P. for Kangema constituency were incubated here. We are very proud of them.

Together with others who have been able to climb the political ladder to various positions, they are a true reflection of how a County Assembly can nurture leadership if taken seriously. Top of the list is the current Isiolo County Governor H.E. Abdi Ibrahim Hassan Guyo, who was Nairobi County Assembly Majority Leader and not forgetting back at home Murang'a Governor H.E Dr. Irungu Kang'ata has come all the way from the bottom of the political pyramid. In fact, he is the true definition of "bottom up" if looked from a political angle.

Hon. Members, this journey can only be smooth when we all work as a team. In this regard I urge you and the County Assembly Service led by the Assembly Clerk to embrace one another to realize a harmonious working relationship.

Hon. Members, as I conclude, I urge all of us to be embracing consensus building whenever we get at crossroads. I am persuaded by one of Martin Luther King Jr's quotes on leadership

“A true leader is not a searcher for consensus but a moulder of consensus”. God bless you, God bless Kenya.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### ADOPTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE HOUSE BUSINESS AND RULES COMMITTEE

**Hon. Kibe Wasary:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to give the following Notice of the Motion;

That pursuant to Standing Order 165, this Assembly adopts the following Members of the County Assembly to be the members of the Assembly's House Business and Rules Committee;

Hon. Johnson Walter Mukuha Mwangi	Chairperson
The Deputy Speaker	Member
Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau	Leader of Majority
Four Members of the Speaker's Panel	Pursuant to Standing Order 18

where four other Members will be placed and also considering the aspect of nominated MCAs.

Hon. Morris Thuku	Majority Whip
Hon. John Ngugi Kibaiya	Member
Hon. James Karanja Kabera	Member
Hon. John Kamau Munyua	Member
Hon. Moses Muchiri Maina	Member
Hon. Bernard Ruiru Njeri	Member
Hon. Elizabeth Wambui Warisper	Member
Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge	Member
Hon. Laban Chomba Njaramba	Member
Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri	Member

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

#### ADOPTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

**Hon. Kibe Wasary:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to give the following Notice of the Motion;-

That pursuant to Standing Order 198, this Assembly adopts the following Members of the County Assembly to be the members of the Assembly's Committee on Appointment;

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Hon. Johnson Walter Mukuha Mwangi	Chairperson
Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau	Leader of Majority
Hon. Peter Murigi Ngugi	Member
Hon. Liz Muthoni Mbugua	Member
Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina	Member
Hon. Steven Mugai Kimani	Member
Hon. Moses Macharia Mirara	Member
Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu	Member
Thank you, Honourable Speaker.	

#### ADOPTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COMMITTEE ON SELECTION

**Hon. Kibe Wasary:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to give the following Notice of the Motion;

That pursuant to Standing Order 166, this Assembly adopts the following Members of the County Assembly to be the members of the Assembly's Committee on Selection;

Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau	Leader of Majority
Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau	Majority Whip
Hon. Gerald Wambugu Mwangi	Member
Hon. Charles Machigo Karina	Member
Hon. Simon Mwaura Wamwea	Member
Hon. Grace Nduta Wairimu	Member
Hon. John Mwangi Kamau	Member
Hon. Njoroge Chefman Isaac	Member
Hon. Morris Thuku Muthoni	Member
Hon. Dinah Damaris Muthoni Kagiri	Member
Hon. John Kamwaga Mwangi	Member
I thank you Honourable Speaker.	



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## MOTIONS

### ADOPTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE HOUSE BUSINESS AND RULES COMMITTEE

**Hon. Kibe Wasary:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion;-

That pursuant to Standing Order 165, this Assembly adopts the following Members of the County Assembly to be the members of the Assembly's House Business and Rules Committee;

Hon. Johnson Walter Mukuha Mwangi	Chairperson
The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Moses Gachui	Member
Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau	Leader of Majority
Four Members of the Speaker's Panel	
Hon. Morris Thuku	Majority Whip
Hon. John Ngugi Kibaiya	Member
Hon. James Karanja Kabera	Member
Hon. John Kamau Munyua	Member
Hon. Moses Muchiri Maina	Member
Hon. Bernard Ruiru Njeri	Member
Hon. Elizabeth Wambui Warisper	Member
Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge	Member
Hon. Laban Chomba Njaramba	Member
Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri	Member

Thank you Honourable Speaker I call Hon. Thomas Muteti Mwaura, Member of County Assembly for Makuyu to second this Motion.

**Hon. Thomas Muteti:** Honourable Speaker, I second the Motion.

*(Question proposed)*

*(No debate arose)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

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ADOPTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS.

**Hon Francis Kibe:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion; -

That, the pursuant to Standing Order No.198, this Assembly adopts the following members of the County Assembly to be members of the Assembly's Committee on Appointments.

1. Hon. Johnson Walter Mukuha Mwangi - Chairperson
2. Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau - Leader of majority
3. Hon. Peter Murigi Ngugi - Member
4. Hon. Liz Muthoni Mbugua - Member
5. Hon. Naomi Nyambura - Member
6. Hon. Stephen Muigai - Member
7. Hon. Moses Macharia Mirara - Member
8. Hon. Henry Mwangi Wairagu - Member.

I call Hon. Thomas Muteti to second this Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

**Hon. Thomas Muteti:** Hon Speaker I second the Motion.

*(Question proposed)*

*(Question Put and agreed to)*

ADOPTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COMMITTEE ON SELECTION.

**Hon Francis Kibe:** Hon Speaker I beg to move the following Motion; -

That, pursuant to Standing Order.166, this Assembly adopts the following Members of the County Assembly to be members of the Assembly's Committee on Selection.

1. Hon Francis Kibe Kamau- Leader of Majority
2. Hon Alex Ndunda Makau – Member
3. Hon Gerald Wambugu Mwangi - Member
4. Hon Charles Machigo Karina - Member
5. Hon Simon Mwaura Wamwea - Member
6. Hon Grace Nduta Wairimu - Member

7. Hon John Mwangi Kamau - Member
8. Hon Njoroge Chefman Isaac - Member
9. Hon Morris Thuku Gathoni - Member
10. Hon Diana Damaris Muthoni Kagiri - Member
11. Hon John Kamwaga Mwangi - Member

I call Hon. Sharleen Wambui to second Hon. Speaker

**Hon Sharleen Grace Wambui:** Hon. Speaker my name is Sharlene Grace Wambui, I am a nominated MCA and I move to second the Motion and appreciate the regional balance and the gender balance and I wish to thank the members that did that work. Thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

*(Question Put and agreed to)*

## MESSAGES

ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. IRUNGU KANGATA THE GOVERNOR MURANG'A COUNTY  
PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO.2022.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Your excellency the Governor it is my humble pleasure and duty to invite you to address this congregation.

**Hon. Irungu Kangata:** The Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly of Murang'a, the Hon. Senator Joe Nyutu of the great county of Murang'a, Members of the County Assembly, also on the gallery I can see area women representative Hon Betty Maina also Hon. MP for Kangema Hon. Kihungi and members of the public and also staff may I wish now to make my first speech before this Assembly.

Hon. Members, I take this opportunity to congratulate members on the election and nomination to this Assembly. This Assembly has very competent members as illustrated by the depth of the intellectual discourse which I have observed my several occasions when we have engaged. It has a very good diversity of skills and I have no doubt this will be the best County Assembly since the commencement of devolution in Murang'a. Hon members allow me to

expound on the vision of the executive for Murang'a county people. I hereby plead you members achieve that mission through your very important role of oversight, representation and legislation.

Hon. members, healthcare remains a very important agenda for this administration. Out of the 4000 employees of the county about 2800 are in healthcare sector. The sector takes the largest share of the county budget. Further, the demographic characteristics of the county justifies giving priority to this sector. For instance, analysis of census data for Murang'a county in year 1999,2009 and 2019 reveal our population has not been growing. It has remained around one million residents. Our registered voters are about 650,000, that means that there are more adults than minors in Murang'a. That then means Murang'a has what we call an aging population. An aging society always gives priority to healthcare. That explains the upsurge of non-communicable diseases for example cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure in Murang'a county.

Focusing on healthcare is also the moral thing to do. Jesus Christ our moral standard bearer used to feed the hungry and the sick. As the current generation of leaders, we have a moral duty to continue caring for the most vulnerable members of the society and the sick. We therefore propose to intervene in the health sector using several approaches. First, we shall propose to establish a fund that will enrol poor Murang'a residents into national Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) at the cost of the county. That entails setting aside some of the budget and paying the funds into NHIF. The beneficiaries will then access medical services for free and the NHIF cover will cover a full range of health services except optical, dental and morgue charges.

We have engaged NHIF to cover these extra services. This is in what we call last expense insurance whereby the family members of a member beneficiary who passes on will get Kshs100,000 within three days of his or her demise. The current budget passed by the previous Assembly had set aside Kshs170 million that we think we can safely use for this purpose without an audit query. We can commence the program with that amount but if this Assembly finds it wise, we can always increase that allocation.

The Kshs170 million can cover about 20000 families because of the extra advantages. This being a government-to-government engagement, the intended relationship between NHIF and Murang'a County may commence soon without being encumbered by procurement procedures. We recently had a meeting with the NHIF officials in Nairobi and we later wrote a letter to initiate the relationship. We are waiting for a response from them.

This Assembly need to pass a policy and a regulation to legitimize that fund. In particular we need in that policy and regulation know how to identify how beneficiaries will be identified. We shall propose that beneficiaries be identified at polling station level. We shall be Tabling this tool soon for your consideration. The scheme is very sustainable, honourable members because we shall recover some stay from NHIF and probably get a markup.

Persons from this scheme will seek services from public health care facilities. The county will then claim from NHIF. Currently, this scheme does not exist in Murang'a but the county already claims about Kshs150million from NHIF annually. There is a possibility that once we invest 170 million to NHIF and issue cards to residents, we shall claim in excess Kshs400 million from NHIF. We need to improve services in our public facilities so that we can incentivise patients so that they can seek services there.

Secondly Honourable members, we seek to establish a fund that gives Kshs2000 for three months for any pregnant mother seeking pre and postnatal services in the public health facilities. The idea is intended to boost maternal health care by incentivising pregnant mothers to attend our health facilities. Murang'a county goal is to achieve zero maternal death, this can only be achieved if we incentivise mothers to seek pre and postnatal care. This scheme will also be sustainable because the county is entitled to refund from the national government for every child delivered in our health care services under what we call *Linda mama* programme.

Honourable members, we intend to complete stalled facilities and renovate existing several existing institutions. Examples, and I know the list is not exhaustive, forgive me if I don't mention a health facility near you. But allow me to mention Kirwara and Kandara health facilities that stalled. Kigetuni dispensary in Gaturi, Kiharu. Gacaraigu dispensary in Kangema. Kigumo hospital in Kigumo. I also know Mathioya and Maragua deserve additional health facilities. We shall consider upgrading Nyakianga hospital in Mathioya and also build a new hospital in Kenol. The reason why the county proposes to build a new hospital in Kenol is because currently we are paying 14Million every per annum to rent the Kenol hospital premises. The county can save money if it builds a new hospital in its land near Makenji area. That area happens to be the fastest growing region of the county, located along a busy highway and therefore it can serve as an accident and trauma centre.

The second most important pillar of our vision is agriculture. Murang'a County Integrated Plan (CIDP) of 2018-2022 represents that 60% of our county economic activities remain in that sector. More than 70% of our residents are employed in this sector, directly or indirectly. However, we have three ecological zones in Murang'a. The upper zone that has about 10 wards, where tea and milk does well. We also have the middle, coffee and milk belt and we have the lower zone where fruit farming can do well.

Our intervention will focus on pilot basis of mangos and milk to ensure we cover all the ecological zones of our county. These two products can be added value easily hence create employment and a local market. If the pilot works, we can always extend to other crops like avocado, coffee and tea. We intend to create an input subsidy for mangoes and milk. As recently argued by president Ruto during his inauguration. Consumers should not be subsidized. The reason is once you subsidize the consumption, you are basically creating distortions in the market. But the government can always subsidize the producer to boost production and create employment. We shall therefore be tabling policies and regulations soon before this assembly to create a legal framework to undertake this agenda. The framework will indicate how much will be given to each farmer and the method of identification of beneficiaries.

Milk sector is more organized since there many strong co-operatives. The county might need to organize mango farmers and probably negotiate out growers' contracts with good fruit juice manufacturers. This creates necessary market linkages to sustain the program.

The third pillar of our vision is the community projects programme. We intend to establish a distinct vote in the budget under the department of roads and infrastructure to handle ward projects. Article 174 (f), of the Constitution provides one object of the devolution as being "To promote social and economic development and provision of proximate and easily accessible services throughout Kenya". Sub-article h provides, "to facilitate decentralization of state organs, their functions and services from the capital of Kenya." This can only be realized by projects at the ward level. We intend to involve your good offices, of cause without offending the resent supreme court decision on the need to separate powers between the executive and legislature. Projects relating to water, lighting, roads murraming, dispensaries renovating Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) will fall under this vision.

Renovation of ECDE is very important, this is an exclusive function of the devolved units. Further, this agenda will give an opportunity to support local contractors at the grass root level. We also intend to re-establish porridge for ECDE learners to boost class attendance and participation. However, our programme will not entail central planning which is prone to abuse and corruption. We shall establish an IT system whereby ECDE teachers and parents will access e-money and buy porridge at the local level. County officials will establish right standards for porridge provided.

On education, despite the huge budgetary constraint of about 230 million, it is our humble opinion it is immoral to discontinue children benefiting currently from what we call *nyota yetu* program that was started by my predecessor. We intend to make that program better by pivoting towards day schools. The children attending day school represent UDA bottom-up philosophy. We shall propose to set aside funds to benefit day schools. This pivoting will help more students and will promote equity in society. In any event, these schools are in our communities and they employ our local people. Any support rendered to them will make Murang'a economy to thrive more.

To start off this pivot, we have issued instructions that every day school student in Murang'a County who passed KCSE this year and is set to join university be issued with a cheque of Kshs10000. From next week Tuesday, we shall go to the best day school in each sub-county to issue these cheques to help these young students. The greatest financial burden for parents with children in the university is always in first year. Murang'a county will be helping in this regard. We ask honourable members to join us next week when we shall be going round during those occasions.

It has been projected that human in future will live mainly in urban areas. In the west, 85% of citizens on average live in urban areas. Africa has the fastest urbanization rate. To plan for that future, we need to invest resources in Murang'a urban areas. Towards this, we intend to hasten the process of establishing Kangari and Kenol municipalities. Next budget there will be an allocation of smart city program; it is intended to allocate funds for urban renewal in terms of paving more roads, street lighting, sewerage systems and public housing in our urban areas.

Land remains an important factor of production it is our vision to create land policies that spur economic development in Murang'a county. As a county we need to consider establishing economic zones that give tax breaks for investors. As I said during my swearing in ceremony, the

previous government of Murang'a entered into a deal with Delmonte and 1400 acres was ceded in the county. This Assembly and executive must think creatively on how to utilize that land in ways that can create employment. Agro- processors would greatly create market for our agro-products in other areas if we were to consider it as part of planning for that land.

It is our vision that Murang'a needs to boasts its image as a bastion of free enterprise. Murang'a has produced some of the best business minds, therefore, ours is a pro-business government. Our Financial Bill will be so conservative and it will avoid raising fees and charges. We believe the county can survive without increasing fees and charges, if it can create effective revenue collection systems. That way, we will attract investors and boost revenue without punishing the mama mboga and common business person in Murang'a County. Therefore, our administration will be built on matters Information Technology (IT), we have already engaged a good software developer we shall soon be rolling our software programs to boast efficiency in revenue collection.

We inherited a county with huge pending bills. The assumption committee was informed by county staff that Murang'a has Kshs1.7 billion pending bills. Later on, this figure shot up to Kshs2.7 billion. This compelled us to form a taskforce to investigate this matter. We invited Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC) to observe the committee and we are happy to report that EACC has lauded our efforts and urged other counties to adopt our style. We closed receiving claims last week on Thursday. We are happy to report to the Assembly that only claims worth Kshs900 million were lodged. That means even without further verification we have already saved the county in excess 800 million. This figure of Kshs900 million will definitely come down once we do physical verification.

On matters staff, it is irrational to expect good performance of a county where staff are demoralized. We inherited a county that delays salaries for three months. Many reasons have been given for this, including exchequer delays. However, exchequer delays is a universal problem and there are some counties that pay workers on time. We have engaged various stakeholders on ways of addressing this issue. We shall be Tabling instruments before this Assembly that would help us address this issue to finality. Further, we have created a taskforce to investigate gaps in our human resource. Today and tomorrow there will be a headcount that will be mounted in the entire Murang'a County to weed out ghost workers. This taskforce will make recommendations that will



ultimately benefit employees; it is constituted by staff of national government. We wrote to the ministry of Public Service and they were good on the extent they agreed to send us staff to help us in this exercise.

Let me now turn to the role of the County Assembly in actualizing this vision. The law clearly gives this Assembly power that can support or torpedo this vision. We ask you Honorable members to enrich our vision. Ours will be a collaborative and an open engagement; we prefer consensus building and mediation. We shall be Tabling before this House tools needed to actualize this vision, they include; third generation County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), amended Annual Development Plan (ADP), regulations and Bills and policies all requiring your inputs.

We shall be Tabling names of persons you whom you will vet and if they pass your test, they will help us in the executive. We promise to nominate men and women of great honour and competence to move Murang'a forward.

Despite the fact that we are yet to fully constitute government we have had some achievements so far. On health matters we found a county that buys 100 percent from the private sector. The government drug supply entity called Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) had closed Murang'a accounts for non-payment of supplies. This means Murang'a procured drugs expensively and possibly of poor quality. We settled the entire KEMSA debt and we reactivated more supplies.

We have issued policy directives that Murang'a will get its medical supplies exclusively from KEMSA unless they are stock out.

To boost local hospitals and dispensaries we have issued executive order number one. Its effects is to abolish central planning and procurement which was centralized here at Murang'a county offices. The order now allows local hospitals at your respective wards to retain from 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022, 30% of National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) fund as imprest for running local expenses like purchase of fuel, engaging casuals and other forms of local needs. Further, we have facilitated the release of donor funds that is Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) by releasing what we call matching funds. As we speak now, all health facilities in Murang'a have some funds for use at the local level. Those funds were released on Saturday.

On Information Technology (IT) we have created IT programs to manage pending bills data collection. At the click of a button, I am able to trace activities of that committee. The same

applies to with Human Resource (HR) committee. We shall launch next week a pilot for cess at Kandundu quarry, parking fees in Murang'a town and market cess fees collection in Maragua town. Once we are done with the pilot, we shall then extend it to the entire county. These systems were generated for free unlike in other counties where they expend billions to buy these systems.

On education we shall be releasing nyota yetu cheque in Kimorori grounds, we hereby invite everyone to join us there. Next week we shall release money as I had said for day scholars joining university. We shall go to various schools in every sub- county we shall go to the best day school. For example, in Ithanga sub-county the best day school for the last exam was Ithanga secondary, in Gatanga sub-county it was Ndakaini secondary, Karega secondary school in Kigumo, Mioro secondary in Mathioya, in Kangema the best day school was Iyego secondary, in Maragua the best was Maragua Ridge, Mukangu secondary was the best in Kahuro and in lower Kiharu it was Maragi secondary. I am yet to be given the data for Kandara I will be giving the actual school to honorable members from that area so that you join us.

On garbage collection, we have undertaken a campaign to collect garbage that has piled up for 10 months. We have also engaged various stakeholders on ways of reviving various sectors. Yesterday, I had a meeting with dairy sector stakeholders that basically involves two sets of group; a group that calls itself the big five co-operatives that is Kigoro, Kiarutara, Kangari, Kahuro and Nginda Milk co-operatives and on the other hand we have Murang'a County Creameries (MCCU) that is comprised of 26 co-operatives. We had a discussion and soon we shall unveil our policy intention for the sector. In conclusion honourable members, we want to thank you for the support you have rendered to us so far, we remain engaged for the betterment of the county.

Thank you.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnston Mukuha):** Honourable members there being no other Business today this House now stands adjourned until such a time that shall be notified. Let us stand up for the national anthem.

*The Assembly rose at 11:45 a.m.*