

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 22nd November 2022

The House met at 2:35 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai) in the Chair]

PRAYER

MOTION

**ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON VETTING OF NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SELECTION
PANEL FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY SECRETARY.**

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, pursuant to section 44 and 58 A of the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev. 2020), and section 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, this Assembly adopts the Report of the select Committee on Appointments on the vetting of nominees for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary, laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Honourable Speaker, I want to inform the Hon. Members that copies of this Report are in their respective files for reference and I believe that they have also familiarized themselves with the Report.

Hon. Speaker, I now want to proceed to the procedure for appointment of the County Secretary; the procedure for appointing members of the selection panel for competitive recruitment of a County Secretary is provided for in section 44 and 58A of the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev. 2020), and further the process of vetting the selection panel nominees was guided by the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No. 5 of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I will proceed to notification by the appointing authority; pursuant to section 44 and 58 A) f the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev. 2020) and section 6 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No. 5 of 2017, H.E. the Governor Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, through a letter dated 6th September, 2022, forwarded to the Clerk of the County Assembly names of five nominees for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary.

Further, on a communication from the Chair, Honourable Speaker, during a special sitting held on Wednesday 12th October, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. you informed the House that you had received a notification from His Excellency the Governor on his nomination of five candidates for appointment to the selection panel for selection of suitable candidates for appointment as the County Secretary. The nominees were as follows;

- 1) Mr. Francis Manyeki of ID number 2036377 nominated for the position of Chairperson.
- 2) Mr. Paul Muturi Njuguna ID number 7167000 in a private sector position.
- 3) Ms. Ruth Waithira Muiruri ID number 22491263 an advocate of High Court of Kenya and a member of LSK.
- 4) Ms. Catherine Wangari Kamau ID number 21055667 an accountant and a member of ICPAK.

Mr. Dominic Gitau Ndung'u ID number 22861969 a trade unionist and KUPPET.

Honourable Speaker, in accordance with section 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017. Pursuant to section 7 (1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the notification was referred to the Committee on Appointments for vetting and reporting to the House within 21 days from the date on which the Committee first sits to consider the nomination. The Speaker further committed the curricula vitae and testimonials of the nominees to the Committee on Appointments.

We proceeded to pre-vetting, Honourable Speaker, the Committee on Appointment held several sittings prior to the actual vetting day for planning, scrutiny of nominees' curricula vitae and testimonials and to make preliminary observations on the nominees' general suitability as stipulated in the Employment Act, the County governments Act, 2012, the Leadership and Integrity Act and the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017.

Compliance of nomination with the law; Hon. Speaker, section 44 of the County Government Act, 2012. It states that:

“44 (2A) The Governor shall, for the purpose of competitive recruitment of a County Secretary under subsection (2), constitute a selection panel.

(2B) The selection panel shall consist of the following persons —

- a) A chairperson, not being a public officer;
- b) One person from the private sector;
- c) An Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, who is a member of the Law Society of Kenya;
- d) An accountant who is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya; and
- e) One person from an association representing workers.

In view of the nomination by H.E. the Governor of persons for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary, the Committee made the following findings;

- 1) That, H.E. the Governor complied with the legal provisions as contemplated under section 44 (2A); (2B) (a)(b)(c)(d) (e) and 2 (C) of the County Governments Act, 2012 on the composition of nominees to the selection panel for selecting of suitable candidates for appointment of the County Secretary and;
- 2) That, H.E. the Governor further complied with Article 27 (8) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, on “Equality and Freedom from Discrimination” which states that-

Article 27(8): “In addition to the measures contemplated in clause (6), the state shall take legislative and other measures to implement the principle that not more than two thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender.”

Honourable Speaker, section 7 (10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 on notification to the public provides that; “any person may, prior to the approval hearing and by a written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated”.

Having confirmed that the nominees were fit for vetting, the Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, specifically on page 8 of ‘The Standard’ and page 25 of the ‘Daily Nation’ Newspapers. Pursuant to section 7 (4) and (5) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, members of the public were notified and invited to attend the hearing and submit memoranda by way of sworn affidavits on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees. The nominees were also notified that they were scheduled to appear before the Committee on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the County Assembly. The Committee confirmed that by Wednesday, November 9, 2022, the Office of the Clerk had not received any memoranda.

Honourable Speaker, in the issues for consideration in vetting the nominees, the Committee considered the following issues provided for in section 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017.

- 1) The procedure used to arrive at the nominee;
- 2) The constitutional and statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and
- 3) The suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed, having regard to whether the nominee’s credentials, abilities, experience and qualities, meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is being made.

Further to this, the Committee required the nominees ----

(The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai) called for order)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. Member if you can be able to summarize on the observations and recommendations, because under the Standing Orders reading verbatim is not allowed so you can try to summarize so that we save time.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Okay, noted. Honourable Speaker, I will now proceed to members themselves. I will just read the names; Mr. Francis Benson Manyeki was vetted by us as Chairperson whereby the credentials are there on the members tables, just go through them. But Mr. Speaker allow me to read part of the recommendation concerning this nominee Francis Benson Manyeki.

The Committee noted that despite his assertive nature, the nominee demonstrated that he was capable of executing his leadership role in the selection panel. With his numerous leadership responsibilities in the community, he exhibited passion in working for his County and ensuring that the selection panel selects the most suitable candidate for the position of a County Secretary.

Therefore, the Committee found the nominee suitable for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary.

I will proceed to the second person Paul Muturi Njuguna, the same case applies, documents are on your table but I also read the recommendation because it forms basis of my presentation. The Committee however noted that the nominee was not give a clearance certificate by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), nonetheless, he gave a genuine explanation and undertook to pay the arrears once he is financially stable. Therefore, the Committee found the nominee suitable for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary.

I proceed to nominee number three, Ruth Waithera Muiruri who is and advocate of High Court and a member of LSK. The recommendation from the vetting committee was: we noted that even though the nominee is not actively involved in litigation, she has excelled in her other areas of expertise as a legal practitioner. She was also confident and articulate about her contribution to the selection panel as well as her experience in recruitment exercises. Therefore, the Committee found the nominee suitable for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary.

Catherine Wangari Kamau, an accountant and a member of ICPAK. The recommendation, the Committee noted that the nominee was knowledgeable on the roles and qualifications of the County Secretary. She expressed confidence in her training and analytical skills as an accountant and held high expectations of the selection panel in recruiting the best candidate. Therefore, the Committee found the nominee suitable for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary.

The last one but not least, Mr. Dominic Gitau Ndung'u we also vetted him and recommendation; we noted that despite the nominee being perceived as a politician, his leadership attributes far much outweighs the political aspects. The nominee also exhibited great enthusiasm in applying his competencies to the selection panel with the aim of recruiting the best candidate for the position of a County Secretary. Therefore, the Committee found the nominee suitable for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary.

Mr. Speaker I will now go to conclusions before I invite Hon. Naomi Maina to second this. The final recommendation by the Committee is that, the members that I have just mentioned have qualified and it is therefore our humble submissions to the members is that we qualify these members to take up their substantive positions so that the County can proceed with its mandate.

If you peruse the records within your hands, you will realize the vetting exercise was conducted professionally and we considered all the parameters which are suitable in the running of this Assembly. These are the people who we will entrust---We looked at so many things as members and we took these as the most qualified people because they exhibited without any reasonable doubt the things we looked at. Therefore, now, as I call Hon. Naomi Maina to second it, I will request members to pass this motion as it is so that we have a substantive group leading our County. It is my time now to invite Hon. Naomi Maina to second this Motion. Thank, you.

Hon. Naomi Maina: Thank you Mr. Speaker. In executing its mandate, the Committee on Appointments held several sittings r to the actual vetting day on planning the scrutiny of the

nominees, their curriculum vitae, their testimonials to make the observations of their general suitability.

I can confirm that the Committee conducted the vetting in accordance to the stipulated procedures and the County Governments Act of 2012 and the Leadership and Integrity Act, the Employment Act, Public Appointment Act and The County Assembly Approval Act. As presented by the mover, I can concur with the Committee observations that the nominees expressed vast experience and knowledge with regard to the position they were nominated and vetted for. I, therefore, urge all honourable members of this House, we approve the nominees so that the selection proceed with the mandate for recruiting the suitable County Secretary who will spear head the county public service as contemplated by the County Governments Act 2012.

Therefore, I stand to second. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): The Floor is open.

(No debate arose)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Silence means consent. I will put the question without necessary calling the mover to respond because there is no response.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON VETTING OF NOMINEES
FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SELECTION PANEL ON APPOINTMENT OF
MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion:-

That pursuant to 44 and 58A of the County Government Act 2012 and section 9 of the Public Appointment County Assembly Approval Act 2017, this Assembly adopts the Report of the Committee on Appointments, on vetting of nominees for appointment to the selection panel, on nomination of members of the County Public Service Board, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday, October 15, 2022.

Honourable Speaker, I want to inform the Hon. members that copies of this Report are in their respective files for reference and I believe that they have also familiarized themselves with the Report.

Honourable Speaker I beg to be told whether to itemize one by one or due on the interest of time or I proceed.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): The Floor is yours. You can use all the time you have provided we understand the Report.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will then proceed to procedure for appointment of a County Secretary. Honourable Speaker, the procedure for appointing members of the selection panel for competitive recruitment of members to the County Public Service Board is provided for in section 58A of the County Governments Act, 2012, and further the process of vetting the selection panel nominees was guided by the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No. 5 of 2017.

Honourable Speaker, Pursuant to section 58A of the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev. 2020) and Section 6 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No. 5 of 2017, H.E. the Governor Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, through a letter dated 6th September, 2022, forwarded to the Clerk of the County Assembly names of five nominees for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment Members to the County Public Service Board.

Honourable Speaker, during a special sitting held on Wednesday 12th October, 2022 at 9.30 a.m. you informed the House that you had received a notification from His Excellency the Governor on his nomination of five candidates for appointment to the selection panel for selection of suitable candidates for appointment as Members to the County Public Service Board. The nominees were as follows;

1. Mr. Francis Kibe Githuka - Chairperson
2. Mr. Chaxton Kamami - Private sector
3. Ms. Elizabeth Kimemia - Advocate of the High Court and LSK Member
4. Mr. Sammy Warui - Accountant and Member of ICPAK
5. Ms. Lucy Wambui Mburu - National Nurses Association of Kenya

Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Section 9 (1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017. Pursuant to Section 7 (1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the notification was referred to the Committee on Appointments for vetting and reporting to the House within 21 days from the date on which the Committee first sits to consider the nomination.

Hon. Speaker, section 58 of the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev. 2020) states that whenever a vacancy arises in a County Public Service Board, the Governor shall nominate and, with the approval of the County Assembly, appoint members to a selection panel for the purpose of selecting suitable candidates for appointment as members of the County Public Service Board. The selection panel under subsection (1) shall consist of the following persons—

- (a) a chairperson, not being a public officer;
- (b) one person from the private sector;
- (c) an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, who is a member of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK);
- (d) an accountant who is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK); and
- (e) one person from an association representing workers,

The Governor shall, in nominating members to the selection panel, ensure that not more than two-thirds of the nominees are of the same gender. In view of the nomination by H.E. the

Governor of persons for appointment to the selection panel for recruitment of a County Secretary, the Committee made the following findings;

That, H.E. the Governor complied with the legal provisions as contemplated under section 58A (1) ; (2) and (3) of the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev.2020) on the composition of nominees to the selection panel for selecting suitable candidates for appointment as members of the County Public Service Board and;

That, H.E the Governor further complied with Article 27 (8) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, on "Equality and Freedom from Discrimination" which states that- Article 27(8): "In addition to the measures contemplated in clause (6), the state shall take legislative and other measures to implement the principle that not more than two thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender."

Having confirmed that the nominees were fit for vetting, the Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on Wednesday November 2, 2022 specifically on page 8 of 'The Standard' and page 25 of the 'Daily Nation' Newspapers. Pursuant to section 7 (4) and (5) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, members of the public were notified and invited to attend the hearing and submit memoranda by way of sworn affidavits on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees. The Committee confirmed that by Wednesday, November 9, 2022, the office of the Clerk had not received any memoranda. Therefore Mr. Speaker we embarked on vetting of nominees and outcome.

I will only read the recommendation for the interest of time. What the Committee found because the Report is on our tables, you can go through them. For all these candidates, I will say that the Committee recommended that---Honourable Speaker, having conducted approval hearings of the nominees pursuant to section 58 of the County Governments Act, 2012 (Rev. 2020) and Section 7 and 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No. 5 of 2017, the Committee on Appointments found all the nominees suitable for appointment and hereby recommends.

That, all these persons namely,

1. Mr. Francis Kibe Githuka - Chairperson
2. Mr. Chaxton Kamami - Private Sector
3. Ms. Elizabeth Kimemia - Advocate of the High Court and LSK Member
4. Mr. Sammy Warui - Accountant and Member of ICPAK
5. Ms. Lucy Wambui Mburu - National Nurses Association of Kenya

All qualified for this appointment. I urge honourable members; they were mandated by the members to vet these people. I stand before you being a member of Appointments Committee, these people their qualifications were above board. They were all qualified and after we checked on their CVs and even their oral submissions. Whatever they submitted to us, nobody could question what they were saying. We tried to task them in so many areas but we were convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that these are the people we need in this County. Not only in this County, possibly even in the Republic of Kenya. These people are qualified and we know that at this particular time we need a substantive County. These people are beyond reproach in terms of

credentials, in terms of what we saw and in terms of what we interrogated and came up with. So we brought you the best breed, we brought you the best choice of people who can run our service board in Murang'a County. And I am telling you for the time we are going to be here with you members, these are the best people. We got the best for you and we cannot be disappointed. Without talking much about that, I will now call honourable Muigai to second this Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon member for Kakuzi.

Hon. Steven Muigai: Thank you, honourable Speaker, I am not sure whether the mover of the Motion really made a deliberate action to call me because he looked like he was not sure. But never the less, I would like to support the Motion, first of all by informing the members that I was one of the Committee members and all these nominees went through our hands and I would like to point put something that I learnt. In as much as we are talking about education qualifications, there are some of them who portrayed to us that leadership is not all about education. And I would point out that one of the members, we realized that he had performed dismally in his high school, never furthered his education, but he fitted so well in the area that we wanted someone from the private sector. This member had acquired a D- in his high school education, but he portrayed proper and exemplary leadership qualities. And in this case Mr. Speaker I would like to support the Motion and agree that clearly the Committee did a good job and as I finish, I would like to second the Motion. Thank you so much.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon member for Kinyona you seem to have something to say.

Hon. Liz. Mbugua: Thank you, Mr. speaker. Maybe the only thing we can add is what our MCA from Kakuzi ward has said that we realized that we have people who have potential and even if you look at their CVs or their certificates and by the way they were presenting themselves I can assure the House that they are going to perform. So, I support the Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes, Hon Member for Kariara, the biggest constituency.

Hon Gichobe Clement: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. Mr. Speaker my only concern is the membership of that Committee. I don't know why among those so many members, they decided to leave the chunk of reading of all those Reports on that one member. Cognizant of the fact that the member is a pastor. So I would want to imagine after waking up to morning devotion and all that talk he has given here will still have some time for prayers in the evening. That is too much for one person. So maybe next time they should consider splitting that because I can see the Hon Member for Gitugi is really sweating after talking for a very long time. But congratulations you did a good job and I support Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes, Hon member for Mugoiri.

Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi: Thank you Mr. speaker. I want to take this opportunity to say that this afternoon I am very happy because of what you members have done to us. And especially

let me take this opportunity to thank the honourable members for approving us to the Speaker's Panel this morning. I feel I have a lot of respect for this House and I want to assure you that whenever we will get a chance to moderate the powers of this House will always do that with a lot of respect and give all an equal chance----

(Hon. Gichobe Clement rose on a point of order)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Ok, point of order and you state the order that has been violated.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Mr. Speaker is in order for the Member for Mugoiri to thank the members for approving them whereas we are on a different order of business. Is it in order Mr. Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Honourable Member, the Member is very much in order because you interrupted a member before---that is an opening remark and it is provided for, and of course I think it is his maiden speech so it is allowed. Continue Honourable Member you are in order.

Hon Kamwaga Mwangi: Thank you Mr. speaker sir for protecting me from the Honorable Member for Kariara. He is in record; I know he is one of the active Member in this House and I congratulate him for that. Some of us will be looking for those chances like he does. So, thank you very much Mr. speaker. Having said that, I want to congratulate the team that was vetting those Members. According to what they have told us, they seem to have checked from all aspects of the nominees that they were approving. So, I want to support the Motion. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes, Hon members. Maybe before I put the question, I must make a concern. I hope the Members of that Committee have been able to keep the records on what you have presented for us here because as a Member for Kihumbu-ini that is something that I have noted. So, it is good to keep those records properly.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE ON CONSIDERATION OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY HEALTH POLICY 2022-2027

Hon John Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report on the Health Services Committee on consideration of Murang'a County Health Policy 2022 – 2027, laid on the Table of the Assembly today, Tuesday, 21st November 2022.

Mr. Speaker, Murang'a County Health Policy 2022 – 2027 was received by the Assembly from the office of the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health on October 18, 2022. The policy was Tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

In a committee meeting held on November 16, 2022, its consideration was highlighted as one of the Committee priorities. A Report was Tabled in the Assembly today November 22, 2022.

Consideration of Murang'a County Health Policy 2022-2027 was in line with Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya which provides that a County Assembly may receive and approve plans and policies for;

1. Management and exploitation of County resources.
2. Development and management of an infrastructure and institutions.

Mr. Speaker Murang'a county Health Policy was geared towards attaining the following objectives;

1. Enhancing social health protection.
2. Promoting maternal health protection with emphasis on pregnant woman and new born.
3. Increasing accessibility to maternity facility.

Mr. Speaker having considered Murang'a county Health Policy 2022-2027 at a Committee level with the CEC member for Health and Sanitation, the following were the findings made; one, the document meets all the components that qualifies it as a policy which includes a statement of what the policy seeks to achieve. Adopting principles, value and philosophy, broad objectives, strategies to achieve the objective, specific actions to be taken, desired outcomes of specific actions, performance indicators, management plans and day to day operational rules covering all aspects of service delivery. Review program.

Mr. Speaker, the policy has huge budgetary implications, through the following interventions;

1. Paying insurance cover indigents to National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)
2. Giving stipends to pregnant mothers for a maximum period of two months before delivering and one month after delivering.
3. Giving stipends to Community Health Volunteers (CHVs). The policy strategy entails creation of the Social Health Fund that shall cater for Murang'a county NHIF support indigents and pregnant mothers. The policy does not guide on how the Fund shall be established and how it would comply with the provisions of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

Pursuant to Section 116 of the PFM Act a County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance may establish other public funds with the approval of the CECM and the County Assembly.

Further the Act provides that;

- i. For every County Public Fund established, the County Executive Committee Member for Finance shall designate a person responsible for administering that Fund.
- ii. The administrator of a County Public Fund shall ensure that the earnings of, or accruals to a County Public Fund are retained in the Fund, unless the CECM for Finance directs otherwise.
- iii. The administrator of a County Public Fund shall ensure that money held in the Fund, including any earnings or accruals referred to in subsection (3) is spent only for the purposes for which the Fund is established.

- iv. The CECM for Finance may wind up a County Public Fund with the approval of the County Assembly.

On the winding up of a County Public Fund—

- i. the administrator of the Fund shall pay any amount remaining in the Fund into the County Exchequer Account; and
- ii. the County Executive Committee Member for Finance shall, with the approval of the County Assembly, pay any deficit in the Fund from the County Exchequer Account.

The administrator of a County Public Fund shall

- i. prepare accounts for the fund for each financial year; not later than three months after the end of each financial year, submit financial statements relating to those accounts to the Auditor-General; and the PFM Act, 2012
- ii. Present the financial statements to the County Assembly

The Committee made the following recommendations out of the findings; having observed that the policy is addressing some of the health challenges that are encountered by County residents, the Committee wishes to recommend for adoption of this policy but with the following requirements;

1. That the CEC Member for Finance and Economic Planning should send a memorandum during the review of the budget FY 2022/2023 and the ADP 2022-2023 on how the new programs which are Universal Health Coverage and maternal support shall be included in the current fiscal framework.
2. The CEC Member for Health and Sanitation in consultation with the CEC Member for Finance and Economic Planning should adopt the provisions of Section 116 of the PFM Act on establishment of Murang'a UHC PROGRAM Fund. Regulations to the Fund should be Tabled before the Assembly after approval of this policy.
3. The implementation of this policy should be done within the current fiscal framework where expenditure for programs not in the current budget require amendment of the development plan and supplementary budget.
4. The County Department of Health Services should conduct in-depth research to identify the causes of health challenges and possible solutions so as to formulate a more integrated Health Policy that covers all aspects of the sector including;
 - i. Lack of drugs in hospitals.
 - ii. Unmotivated personnel.
 - iii. Poor management of the ambulance services.
 - iv. Costly and or lack of laboratory services.
 - v. Lack of automation of health services.
5. Going forward the Health and Sanitation Department should consult international health agreements, blueprints, national policies and laws in order to develop sustainable programs that creates an equitable society.

6. During the formulation of the County Integrated Development Paper (CIDP) 2023-2027, the County Government should conduct robust public participation to ensure that principles of public finance are embraced in all County planning and policy formulation.
7. With reference to the policy priority strategies, the CEC Member for Health and Sanitation should provide the following as to how the strategies will be implemented;
 - i. A laid-out plan on strengthening the integrated surveillance and health services automation systems.
 - ii. A road map for increasing accessibility and availability of ambulance services
 - iii. A plan on ensuring there is basic laboratory services in all County health facilities up to the dispensaries.
 - iv. Additional of medical personnel in county health facilities
8. That the CEC Member for Health and Sanitation considers amending the policy title by expunging the year 2027; this would allow continuity on implementation of the policy contents.
9. The County Executive department for Health and Sanitation should through the leadership of the CEC Member for Health formulate a Bill on management of community health volunteers' welfare
10. The CEC Member for Health and Sanitation should undertake review on the policy in an integrated manner covering all aspects regarding County health challenges and mechanisms to address it.

I humbly request Honorable Members of this House to adopt this Motion even with the said gaps since the Committee has recommended remedial actions which their implementation levels can always be checked by the Committee on Implementation with the support from Health Services Committee. At this point, I wish to call upon Honorable Boniface Mbau the Vice Chairperson of this Committee to second this motion.

Hon. Boniface Mbau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to start by giving my maiden speech. I am delighted to be in the House representing the great people of Muthithi ward. I want to appreciate that the Report emphasizes on quality and affordable health care. Getting such services has been troublesome in this County of Murang'a. On the issue of maternal health care, I support the Motion because our young mothers, because at the last two months before the pregnancy and one month after delivery, it has been a challenge because they have experienced difficulties because most people get challenges when they fail to attend to ant-natal. I beg to support the Motion. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes, Honorable member for Kakuzi/Mitumbiri.

Hon. Steven Muigai: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this policy of health because as we commonly say health is wealth. I belong to the Health Committee and I must assure this House that we took our time to look at this document to look at this policy and we did not

expect a policy from heaven. We punched holes where we were supposed to, we made recommendations where they were needed and that is as read by our able chairman Member for Nginda Ward.

I would like to point just but a few elements of the policy and I will start with the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). Honorable Members, I know you understand that Murang'a County has a total of 385,000 households, in this case, the only households that the County Government is going to touch on are 20,000 homes. If you ask me, I would say that is a drop in the ocean. It means that we have a lot to do, it means now that we have this chance, should run to the ground and make sure first of all these 20,000 households are already NHIF covered. From the 20,000 households in Murang'a County, we only have 93,000 households who are able to pay NHIF for themselves. That means if we add the 20,000 households from the County Government, we are going to have around 113,000 there about. For that reason, I would like to say this policy is long overdue it is time as a House we adopt it and see that we have it rolling in our areas.

Mr. Speaker when I was growing up, I learnt that any time my father was asked to fill some of the forms and mainly that were brought to our homes by the chiefs, he would in most cases indicate that his work is a peasant farmer. And I grew up knowing that a peasant farmer is someone who does so well because I grew up knowing that my father was my role model. And in this case I would like to point out that in our County Murang'a, we all agree that most of our residents or constituents are peasant farmers. This peasant farmers, later when I grew up Mr. Speaker, I came to realise and learn that they are those farmers that who whatever they grow it ends up in their stomachs and not even going to the markets and may be giving them an extra coin. And so it is the highest time that we come to the rescue of the likes of my father, we come to the rescue of all these people that make the great County of Murang'a.

Mr. Speaker, this is the population, when I talk about this peasant farmers, this is the population of the elderly who at the moment make the biggest number of patients suffering from hypertension and diabetes. So, Mr. Speaker having this House adopt and approve this policy will help the great County of Murang'a and the numbers that we are talking about a big deal.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that the other aspect on maternal health programs will help our women a great deal. One, we know that we have a great or a big number of young people and Mr. Speaker if you allow me, I would like to point out, my brother who comes from the biggest constituency of Kariara, you will agree with me that he is a young Member of this Assembly, a young member of this County and a young member of this Murang'a. I had a secret or a private talk with him and I realised that he is one of the Members in this Assembly who wants to make sure that by the end of this five years he has added three more children in his household. And Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that he will be one of the beneficiaries of this policy and of course in his ward if he leads by example, it means it is going to be of great help.

Mr. Speaker one cannot doubt sustainability of the program. One, because we have said that any funds that is going to be committed to this policy or to this program will be a revolving fund. Being a revolving fund, it means that at no one time are we as a County going to budget again for the same.

Mr. Speaker, allow me also to point out that we have some programs from the national government or bodies from the national governments who are willing to help us and I would like to touch on a few of them. One of them being Linda Mama, second one being Danida. So Mr. Speaker I would like to say this, that this program will be sustainable and by no doubt we are going to roll it out and help our County.

I further support the findings made by the Committee since its role is oversight and more so to the County Health department and state out that the recommendations made were generated as a collection measure which will be a constant follow up, inform for further engagements with the CEC of Health.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to address the House and especially the Implementation Committee enjoined with the Health Committee, that as a House we are now rolling the ball or leaving the ball in your court. You have heard all the recommendations that have been done, we now ask you to roll up your sleeves, make sure that any recommendation that has been done on this policy is implemented and as we roll out the policy, as we pass the policy, we are looking forward to you people making sure that this happens. It is my humble submission and prayer to the Members that we adopt the policy. Thank you so much.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Member for Kariara you have something to say or member for Kinyona.

Hon. Liz Mbugua: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to add something small regarding the NHIF policy where I support but we have some few things that we really need to look at through the Chairman.

That last time the national government had enrolled NHIF cards to the needy people in the village, by the time the Governor was coming with the idea that means those people were already in the system but actually most of them are very needy but because they are already in the system it seems like they may not benefit direct from the County Government program. But I am kindly from this House, even if we have someone who has the NHIF card and it is not really being paid for from the national government or the person is not in the position to pay and they are from a really needy background I am requesting as we go on, as we adopt this Motion, that the people who are doing the recruitment that we will consider those people.

The Deputy Speaker (Gachui Mungai): Excuse, the Mover of the Motion needs to be taking notes.

Hon. Liz Mbugua: Number two—

The Report that we have gotten from the people who are doing the recruitment is that, most of the people who are going to request for the NHIF they seem to really not understand the program that they got from the ground and the way that were supposed to be recruited. As we said we are looking for the people who have-----what do we call it, they have been suffering from diseases for many years and actually we should consider them as number one. So as the Chair, as we come to look upon those documents as they come, please consider that.

The final one, is that through this program of NHIF we may recruit people, we may do all these things but my request through the chair is that, we really need to equalize our health centres and dispensaries. Where even today our suppliers they normally supply what they have in their stores. So we may pay so much through the NHIF but when our people are going through the health centres and dispensaries they are not getting the medicine that they require. So, through the Chair we adopt the Motion and we will support it but make sure that our health centres, our dispensaries, our hospitals are equipped with the medicine. We have this push and pull, we request the health and I am member of the Committee, that it is a requirement that the suppliers, they should get the request direct from our health centres, direct from our dispensaries and from the hospitals, because whatever they are getting from the main hospitals it is not that is required on the ground. I support the Motion but kindly make the recommendation of those few remarks.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes, Member for Kariara and maybe you may tell us whether that private meeting was consented by the other part.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. As a matter of advice to this House, never ever trust the Member for Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri in private or in public, because whatever you talk with him in private will still come out in public.

(Laughter)

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Just for the record, the conversation we had was about the family policy that we have, just as we are making the Health Policy and the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), I was trying to explain to him my CIDP in the family so that the Annual Development Plans (ADP) in my family every year can be expunged from the CIDP but he has decided to spill the beans on the Floor.

That said, I rise to support the policy but conditionally so because as I was listening to the Chair making the Report to us, I noted several things that I would like the Chairman to take note maybe with further recommendations we can make sure this policy works. One, my attention was drawn to Chapter two, subsection 7. and Mr. Speaker this is where we have the maternity support program and much has been said about this program, much controversy has even come in through the media but we still decided to stick with it because I believe in the end it is a supportive program and it is going to be beneficial to our mothers in this County. But number three says that, currently there exists no regulations on stipends to expectant mothers and I have tried to look at recommendations that the Committee made and I have not seen one that talks about what regulations should be set so that this Fund and these stipends do not become a cash cow or so that they are not misused.

So I think the Committee through the Chair, this is something that really needs to be looked at. I think you should make very strict recommendations so that this program does not fail due to misuse, because we expect that there are so many mothers and therefore, we are going to have a

lot of money. So the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Committee and the Members should take note of that so that we can have better recommendations in regards to that.

Mr. Speaker, my attention is also drawn to Chapter four, section nine and sub section 9.2. and this is about the human resource. Allow me to read that the policy provides that there is a need for adequate productive accessible and equitably distributed pool of health workers for effective delivery of healthcare. It has posted an increase in the number of healthcare personnel over the last year, aimed at improving personnel patient ratio. I think as a matter of policy, it is important as an Assembly, as we make a health policy, we first and foremost look at the available data so that we know currently, Chairman for Health, what is the current personnel patient ratio. What is the standard personnel patient ratio recommended even by international standards? Where are we as Murang'a County and where do we want to be between now and 2027? That is what should be entailed in a policy.

So, I would recommend as part of the recommendations, that this policy, because as you said, it recommends that there is going to be an adequate productive accessible and equitably distributed pool of health workers, let us go to the specifics so that we can push the Executive with consideration of the budget available, of how many health workers we should have, because trust me, even today as we talk about the maternal support program, and all a view, one of the biggest challenges that we have as a County is health workers' problem. Our dispensaries today in the Wards, when the health worker assigned for a certain dispensary is unavailable, those dispensaries remain closed. We all know that. The health centres, sometimes, they do not have enough health workers and therefore it is a big problem. As part of the recommendations, please, include the specific ratio that we want to achieve, where we are right now so that we can know how many health workers do we need to recruit over a time of five years, so that we can gradually improve so that by the time we get to 2027, we will be able to sit down, reflect and have a marking scheme of how well our policy has worked through various parameters. The human resource parameter is one of the parameters that we can use to measure the progress and the efficiency of this health policy.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, we have mentioned about that Fund and the administrator of the Fund is going to be the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance and just like my brother from Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri has said, we do not look to a situation whereby we will ever again budget for this Fund. Once we begin, we expect that it is going to roll over and it is going to be successful. There is a section I have read in that Report that says that Fund will be untouched unless the CECM, the administrator, directs otherwise. This is something that we need to protect. If we are not going to add more money to that Fund, then we should also limit the Executives access to that fund so that one day we do not have the Executive lacking money to go for international travel and the only money that is available is the money that is in the health Fund.

Mr. Speaker, we need to limit the kind of access. Maybe, the Committee should look at that, but it is my view that the access to this fund should be really limited. Now that we expect it to be self-sustaining, then, also access in terms of getting money and taking that money to other use should be, really, limited. Therefore, those are among the few recommendations that I have

picked. I am disappointed because this Report, together with the Supplementary Budget, I think this forms the most important business of this Assembly probably in this Financial Year (FY). I am just disappointed because when I look at the quorum we have in the Assembly and again the time that was given for us to scrutinize this Report, I think we ought to have received this Report much earlier so that we can read it in detail, we can understand it, we can discuss it even outside so that as we come to this Assembly for debate we could have been more prepared because trust me this is going to form part of our legacy as Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and even to the Executive.

Therefore, since it is water under the bridge, I have done what I could, I have perused the document much as I could and I think that is the contribution I could make and I have made. So Mr. Chairman for Health and your Vice Chairperson and your Committee please look into that but I think by and large you have done a good job. The recommendations are really good if we make more, I believe that the rest will be done as the implementation continues. I support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): I now call the Mover to respond on the comments that have been made.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, on the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), Hon. Member from Kinyona, you have stated there are those of you who benefit and there are those who have chronic diseases. My advice or what I have been advising the team which is on the ground now vetting for those who will benefit to the NHIF program, if someone has a chronic disease, despite she or he is getting another fund from somewhere else, it was my advice, it was necessary for him to be added to the program. As you know, most of those who have those chronic diseases are our elderly, our grandmothers and our grandfathers; they are the ones who are mostly affected by those chronic diseases. It is my advice, after vetting which will be done or which is going through on the ground we will receive those papers, will still scrutinize them properly with the help of those members in the committee for us to get the accurate people to benefit from the program.

Another thing is that for maternal healthcare. To add on that on NHIF, that Fund will be revolving and as you know when we go to ask NHIF for that Fund for revolving, it comes with a certain profit. So, in every year, there will be additional or we will be requesting Hon. Members to add at least 100 or a certain number for them to benefit with that profit which will be getting from that revolving Fund.

On maternal, as the Hon. Member from Kakuzi has said, the problem which there is, is just an ignition to start the program. Once we ignite the program, everything will be taken over by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) or Linda Mama. As you know, grant when you are applying you must put a hand for you to benefit to that grant. So, once we start the program, I assure you the program will run smoothly. Hon. Member from Kariara, you have stated about the personnel. Currently, Murang'a County---

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Address the Chair. If you address the Member for Kariara you are going to intimidate him. Address the Chair.

Hon. John Mwangi: Mr. Speaker, as you know, currently, Murang'a County one nurse is serving 118 patients and as the government policy, one nurse is supposed to attend 38 patients. With the assistance of the Hon. Members, I know we will work together and this within the period of five years we will have at least one nurse serving because we cannot be depending with where we found our health sector, I am sure with those five years we cannot attain the number. But at least if we minimize, we get one nurse attending 50 or 55 we will have an improvement. Another thing, as Murang'a level five hospital, currently, according to the research I have done, we have a shortage of 120 nurses. When you go to Maragua Hospital we have a shortage of about 78 nurses.

Mr. Speaker, I know with the government which we are having now after a period of five years, we will have a bit of a good improvement. As I conclude, I take this opportunity to congratulate or give thanks to the Member from Kariara, Kakuzi and the Member from Kinyona for supporting the Motion and I promise you Members that we will make Murang'a better than where we have found it. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. Members, the House now stands adjourned until such a time by gazette notice. Thank you.

The House rose at 4:00 p.m.