
REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 14th June 2023.

The Assembly met at 3:08 p.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu) in the Chair]

PRAYER

PETITION

**REPORT ON PUBLIC PETITION ON MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY ROADS IN THE TEA
ZONE AREAS**

Hon. Gachui Mungai: Thank you Madam Speaker on behalf of the Chairperson, I am a member of that Committee; I wish to continue.

The Petition Report I am about to Table entails the plight of small holder tea farmers with regards to poor roads. Despite the significant contribution by the tea sector in the economy, tea farmers have continued to experience the challenge of poor transport infrastructure. This problem has forced them to contribute their own resources directly through their tea factories for maintenance of roads. This has immensely impacted on the total earnings of the small holder farmers with one single factory having to contribute about Kshs11 million annually for road maintenance.

This Petition by residents of Kangari Ward was in relation to a proposal for exemption of fees and charges imposed by the County Government on road maintenance materials.

The petitioners who are small holder farmers from Makomboki and Ikumbi factories, are pleading with County Assembly to recommend tax exemptions on transportation fees for road materials or compel the County Government to undertake its mandate and maintain roads in the tea zones. Petitioners appeared before the Committee on Wednesday 19th April 2023, and made their submissions. The Committee also engaged the County Executive Committee (CEC) Roads on the matter whose response is contained in the Report.

Hon. Speaker, after careful consideration of the Petition, the Committee recommended as follows:-

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- 1) Changing of tax measures require the County Government to revise its fiscal policy. Therefore, if the factories are to get any fees exemptions it would be through a revenue legislation approved by the County Assembly. The petitioners are advised to submit their views during consideration of the Murang'a County Finance Bill, 2023.
- 2) Through the community- based projects, the petitioners are advised to liaise with their area Members of County Assembly (MCAs) for identification and prioritization of the roads in the tea zones that require maintenance. The area MCAs should further ensure the identified roads are allocated budget especially during this period of consideration of the budget estimates for the financial year 2023/2024.
- 3) As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) should continue maintaining the roads in the tea zone areas. Besides the County Government, they seek partnerships with other development partners.
- 4) A round collaboration on road maintenance should continue and may be considered in future, once the County Government is able to attain and/or even supersede its own source revenue targets.

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 216, I now beg to lay on the Table of the Assembly the Report of the sectoral Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport Report on a public Petition by residents of Kangari Ward, Kigumo sub-County on exemption of fees and charges on road construction and maintenance materials in the tea zone areas. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Order 215, I will allow one comment. Yes, Honourable from Kariara.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to firmly oppose that Report. I come from a tea zone area and I must say that Report does not represent the interest of the people that brought me to this Assembly.

Madam Speaker, let me let the House know that tea factories, and I have two in my ward, they are charged a cess when they are maintaining the roads. Let me make it clear that when a lorry carrying marram from Kakuzi or wherever they get, when that lorry comes to a cess paying point, they have to pay cess. That is revenue collected but the County Government of Murang'a from the tea farmers and it is the responsibility of the County Government of Murang'a to maintain roads. You cannot therefore come again in the Assembly and tell me to support a Report that says

that these farmers who in the first place have paid tax, have paid cess to maintain roads that were supposed to be maintained by the County in the first place do not deserve a share of that cess.

Madam Speaker, I want to oppose that Report and say that I think the Committee did not do a good work to research the genesis of this issue. I think tea farmers, and I want to urge all these MCAs that are here that come from tea growing areas; Gatanga, Ruchu, Kiru, Kanyenya-ini, and all other wards, this is an eye opener; this Report is an eye opener and it will be a stab at the back of the back of the people that brought us here, if we let that Report pass because it is a bad resolution. Madam Speaker, that is my comment.

Let me say that tea farmers deserve better, they deserve to be treated better. We need to have a discussion, a more inclusive discussion. I want to urge the Chair of that Committee, when you are making such Reports, when you are making such resolutions, please consider the views of the MCAs that come from tea growing areas because we are the ones wearing the shoe. We are the ones that know where it pinches. Thank you.

(Hon. Gachui Mungai rose on a point of order)

Hon. Gachui Mungai: Madam Speaker, I am rising on a point of order because I am confused because that was a Report on a Petition and the Honourable Member should be waiting for the Motion to come. That is when we are shall to be able to debate. I am confused.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Yes Hon. Kibaiya.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I just want to make an observation to the side of those that understand the tea business. This Report is egregious, the tea sector has 42 taxes. Now we have added a cess and the cess is not helping our farmers, the roads are in dilapidated conditions. I will be waiting eagerly for that Motion to the Floor of this House so that I can oppose it vehemently. Thank you.

REPORT ON PUBLIC PETITION ON LACK OF AN ECDE CENTRE AT KIRITU AREA,
KANGARI WARD.

Hon. Naomi Maina: I beg lay the following Paper on Petition regarding Kiritu Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE);-

Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 216 the Report of the sectoral Committee on Education and Child Welfare on a public Petition by residents of Kangari Ward regarding lack of an ECDE Centre at Kiritu Area in Kangari Ward, to be laid on the Table of the Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I seek your leave as contemplated in Standing Order 216 to highlight some issues regarding the Petition.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, on March 2, 2023, the County Assembly of Murang'a through the Clerk received a public Petition from two petitioners from Kiritu area in Kangari Ward, Kigumo constituency regarding the lack of an ECDE centre in the area.

The Petition was subsequently Tabled in the Assembly and committed to the Education Committee. The petitioners' prayers were that the County Government to procure public land within Kiritu area and construct an ECDE centre to rescue Kiritu children from long walks in search of basic education.

Madam Speaker, in the course of compiling this Report, the Committee met with the Member of the County Assembly of Kangari and also received a response from the County Executive Committee Member i.e. the CECM for Education on May 4, 2023 and also on May 4th the Committee undertook a site visit where it met with the petitioners and also the members of the public in the Kiritu area.

Facts on Kiritu area; the only public ECDE schools are located far in Mariira and Ikumbi. The learners attend private ECDE centres constructed with iron sheets. The parents of that area pay Kshs2, 500 for learners to attend classes at the ECDE..... (*inaudible*)..... that the private ECDE schools has only one class where learners learn in PP1 and PP2 together.

The Committee found the following regarding the Petition; -

Pursuant to Article 185 and 187 of the Constitution of Kenya, construction and management of free nursery education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and child facilities is a devolved function. That there is no public land where county ECDE can be constructed.

That children in Kiritu area do not benefit from the County benefits where we have the *uji* (porridge)programme, the digital learning programmes.

Number two, there is no land available in the area which is County government land where an ECDE can be constructed, that the CEC Member for Education and Training confirmed that there is no public land where an ECDE can be constructed.

Now the Committee recommendations are as follows; -

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- 1) That the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) to liaise with the CECM Lands and Physical Planning and allocate funds so that they can buy land to construct Kiritu ECDE centre.
- 2) The process of identification, negotiation and buying of the land for construction of an ECDE at Kiritu area be undertaken.
- 3) That the Member of the County Assembly Kangari, to allocate funds under the Kangari Ward community projects in the budget estimates 2023 for construction of Kiritu ECDE to enable learners to benefit.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Order 215, I will allow comments of observation or clarification in relation to the report presented on this petition. Which will not exceed 2 or 3.... (*technical hitch*)(*no recording*).....

PAPERS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MURANG'A QUARTERLY REPORT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 3RD QUARTER FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2023 FY 2022/2023.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I beg to lay a Paper: -

That the County Government of Murang'a quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st March, 2023-----

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Order! Mr. Kibaiya. What is making you Mr. Munga to laugh? Can you tell us also we can laugh?

Hon. Peter Munga: Thank you Madam Speaker, I have not laughed.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): What were you doing? Crying? Or what?

Hon. Peter Munga: I was just smiling, for the word paper.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Okay take your seat. Continue Mr Kibaiya.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Madam Speaker. That the County Government of Murang'a quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st March, 2023 for financial year 2022/2023 be laid on the Table of the Assembly today, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Thank you.

(Hon. John Ngugi laid the Paper on the Table)

FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY-MARCH 2023 MURANG'A COUNTY FARM
INPUTS SUBSIDY AND INCENTIVES FUND.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Madam Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. I am wondering whether the Honourable Member for Gaichanjiru is properly dressed, Madam Speaker. I seek your guidance.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Quote the Standing Order number. Continue Mr. Kibaiya.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I beg to lay a Paper;-

That the first quarterly report January to March 2023 of Murang'a County Farm Inputs Subsidy and Incentives Fund be laid at the Table of the Assembly today Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Thank you.

(Hon. John Ngugi laid the Paper on the Table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE ON A VISIT TO
WANJENGI HEALTH CENTRE, WANGU WARD TO INSPECT ON CONSTRUCTION OF
A HOSPITAL BLOCK.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the sectoral Committee on Health Services on a visit undertaken at Wanjengi health centre in Wangu Ward due to poor workmanship during construction of a new hospital block, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Thank you.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE ON A VISIT TO MURARANDIA HEALTH CENTRE, MURARANDIA WARD FOLLOWING CLOSURE OF ITS MATERNITY WING.

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

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Health Services on a visit undertaken at Murarandia health centre in Murarandia Ward following closure of its maternity wing, laid on the Table of the Assembly on June 13, 2023.

The Member of County Assembly for Murarandia Ward raised concerns in one of Health Services Committee meetings that the facility's maternity wing was not operational due to the major cracks that the building had developed that had weakened over time. This had resulted to the Public Health Assistant, Murarandia Ward recommending its condemnation and immediate closure through a communication made to the sub-County health nurse, Kahuro sub-County.

The said communication was generated following findings of an inspection report of the maternity wing. It is against this backdrop that the Committee organized for a visit to the facility to ascertain on claims made by the area Member of County Assembly and verify on the said communication by the Public Health Assistant, Murarandia Ward.

The Committee made the following findings; -

- 1) Murarandia health centre maternity wing was not operational due to the major cracks that the building had developed that had widened over time. The Public Health Assistant, Murarandia Ward recommended its condemnation and immediate closure through a communication made to the sub- County Health nurse, Kahuro sub- County.
- 2) The Nurse-in-Charge was not sure on whether the facility was gazetted as a dispensary or a health centre.

Murarandia health centre had the following challenges in regards to equipment at the maternity; -

- 1) It has no resuscitative machine.
- 2) Examination lamp was not functional.
- 3) It had only one delivery bed.
- 4) There were two cases reported on home deliveries after closure of the maternity wing.

- 5) The facility had a deficit of five nurses as it was supposed to have eight based on its activities.
- 6) The facility was entitled to Kshs225, 000 in a quarter since it was a health centre but was currently receiving Kshs55,000.
- 7) Shortage of personnel.

The CECM for Health should ensure the following is undertaken at Murarandia health centre; -

- 1) Equipping Murarandia health centre.
- 2) Establish a chest clinic with a specialist at Murarandia health centre as chest ailments were dominant in the area.
- 3) Establish a paediatric clinic at Murarandia health centre so as to establish adult and children clinic at the facility.
- 4) Ensure that Murarandia health centre was fitted with proper gate and perimeter fence.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health should spearhead undertaking of the following to address the operational challenges; construction of proper ablution block, levelling compound and walk-way, construction of an emergency room, cutting overgrown trees, both at the facility's land and the neighbouring school which were littering the roof of the facility's buildings, separation of both ANC and family planning clinics, construction of rooms to undertake dispensing, dressing and injections, installation of an incinerator so as to facilitate proper disposal of wastes from the hospital. I humbly request Hon. Members of this House to adopt this Motion. At this point, I call Hon. Kamau from Rwathia Ward to second this Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Kenneth Kamau: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Thank you.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hannah Kamau): Hon. Members, the Floor is open for the debate. Hon. Munga?

Hon. Peter Munga: Thank you Madam Speaker, I hail from Murarandia Ward, representing the good people there. The mentioned facility, that is Murarandia centre, was the only maternity in the whole Ward. Its closure, means that the people from the whole of Murarandia Ward have to travel to other Wards, most likely, level four Muriranjas to seek for maternity

services. Its closure means that our boys and ladies there to come to a stop and that is dangerous to our population. I urge the House to support this Motion so that, at least, maternity services resume in my Ward. Also, its closure means that people from my Ward would benefit from the Kshs2000 that we give to our potential. So, I urge the Members to support this Motion that we resume services in my Ward. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hannah Kamau): Hon. Liz.

Hon. Liz Muthoni: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Motion and as I support this Motion is that we really want to encourage and to support our executive so that we can offload the huge numbers that we are receiving to the County hospital and that stand that even we are off loading our people from rural areas even from our ward who are even paying too much transport coming all the way to may be Murang'a, we have Maragua, the central sub-County and district hospital that even people from Murarandia can access not only there even from our village and our wards. So, I raise to support this Motion not only to put the facilities but we also urge and request the Governor and the executive to facilitate as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hannah Wairimu): I call the mover to respond.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Hon Speaker, first I congratulate the fellow Members in my Committee for the good work they have done, then I congratulate or give thanks to those who have contributed.

Secondly, Hon. Speaker the maternity or antenatal on Kang'ata care, it does not contribute Kshs2,000 it gives Kshs1,000 to the client from seven month then after delivery is when you are given Kshs2,000. As a Committee Hon. Speaker, we have allocated Kshs5,000,000 for the renovation of the same maternity wing in the coming budget. So, Hon speaker I assure Hon. Member from Murarandia in the next financial year the same maternity will be renovated and the community around will continue getting services in the same facility.

Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hannah Wairimu): Hon. Members there being no other business the House stands adjourned until tomorrow Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

The Assembly rose at 3:38 p.m.