

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 17th March 2015
The House met at 9:37 a.m.
(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

FORMULATION OF A POLICY ON PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF RIVER BANKS
AND RIPARIAN LAND IN MURANG'A COUNTY.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: Mr. Speaker sir, I take the honour to give notice of the following motion;-

Aware, that Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, states that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment which includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures, particularly those contemplated in Article 69 and Article 43 (d) which states that every person has a right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities, further aware that Part 2 (10) of the Forth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, recognizes that implementation of specific National Government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation, including soil and water conservation and forestry, are a function of the County Governments, cognisant of the fact that many rivers and tributaries within the County have dried up due to excessive encroachment and clearance of vegetation along the river banks and riparian land, and many households in Murang'a County who live down stream go without water; this Assembly urges the CEC in-charge of Environment and Natural Resources to formulate a policy on protection and conservation of the river banks and riparian land in the County.

I thank you Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS

KANGEMA HEALTH CENTRE AMBULANCE

Hon. Lucy Njoroge: Mr. Speaker sir, I wish to seek for a statement pursuant to standing order 45 (2) (c), from the chairperson Health Services committee as follows;-

- i. Is the Chairperson aware that there is an ambulance at Kangema Health centre bought through Constituency Development Fund kitty?
- ii. If the answer to the above is affirmative, is he aware that there is no driver currently assigned to the ambulance?
- iii. What are the plans towards mitigating the situation?

I thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. James Kagoni: We have just seen the question and we want to request that within the seven days we will be able to respond to that, thank you.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC WORKSHOP AT MURIRANJAS REHABILITATION
CENTRE

Hon. Florence Nyambura: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I wish to move the following motion;-

Aware, that Article 54 (1) (e) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that a person with any disability is entitled to access materials and devices to overcome

constraints arising from the person's disability, further aware that most of the persons living with disability need assistive devices to enable them attend to their day to day activities, cognizant that most of them are incapable of repairing the broken devices; this House urges the County Government to partner with Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya to establish orthopaedic workshop in Muriranjas Rehabilitation centre

First of all is to thank the executive and County Assembly for how far they have assisted the disabled with their mobility because from the time we came into the Assembly our hon. Senator has given each and every elected member of the County Assembly wheel chairs to give to the community. Late last year we witnessed the Governor giving out assistive devices at Kenol and others were given here on disability day that is 3rd December.

According to the observations that I have made, I came to learn that those who require wheelchairs are so many, those who require crutches, those who require artificial hands and legs the number is rising, and the ones who had been assisted the crutches have already broken and when they need to repair them or get new ones they have to go to Nairobi.

Some of them live in areas associated with poverty and those people are not able to go and replace the broken ones. That is why I came up with this idea that if we have an orthopaedic workshop where the broken ones will be repaired at Muriranjas.

One, Muriranjas has acreage of about 20 acres of land and the people that are there are persons with disability and others who are not disabled as person with disability cannot be able to run day to day live on their own.

They have enough room whereby those devices can be repaired from and the association for people with disability is a non-governmental organisation which moves all-round the country.

When we talk about the county they have a station in Muriranjas hospital, Maragua, Rwathia and almost all over. On Wednesday they will go to Kinyona, so, if that organization is approached by the county government they will be able to partner and set up a big workshop.

If you go to the national council for people with disabilities because that is where they have their workshop you will see there is a lot of demand for those assistive devices day in day out. If we have one in Murang'a we will have created employment for both persons with disability and those who are not disabled because if you need a wheel chair and a disabled person cannot be trained how to make that wheel chair a youth will be taken through the course.

I have gone further before I joined the County Assembly we were talking with the APDK (Association of People with Disabilities Kenya) which comes to Muriranjas and they said that they can be able to offer the training and the willing people will be helped. I am saying in Muriranjas because we have a facility in place, we will not start from the scratch but in future, I recall in the CIDP (County Integrated Development Plan) we had placed one orthopaedic workshop per sub-county.

Right now let us work with what we have but in future may be in the 2015/2016 budget we put money for building another structure for the southern side of the county. If we do that, God's blessings will fall on the county because the outcry of the people and every member is a witness because they receive calls from those people, Mr. Speaker sir, if we do that we are going to uplift the living standards of our people because the people with disabilities do not need to be given something to take at only

that time but they need to be motivated, uplifted a bit and they will be able to survive in life. With that we will reduce the cry out there.

As I conclude I wish to urge this House to support the motion and life will change because when that wheelchair breaks it will not be taken to Nairobi but it will be taken to Muriranjas for repairs. In future we are going to have workshops in other sub-counties.

Just the other day we were with two other members at the executive requesting for tricycles and it is unfortunate we never got the number that we required. If we have our own workshop even the billions that are going to Nairobi will circulate in this county. To buy one wheel chair costs between Kshs. 50,000 to Kshs. 100,000 depending on the nature of the disability the user has, and if that kind of money is circulating within our county I hope we will be able to fight poverty and assist in job creation. I wish to stop there and call the chair for the youth committee Hon. Caroline to second the motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I urge the members to support the motion.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the MCA representing Kigumo ward. I do wish to second the motion that we have a workshop and I do hope that this Hon. House will agree with the mover of the motion that, this facility that we are having at Muriranjas can do best in terms of having such a workshop and working together with the Association for the Physically Disabled People in Kenya (APDK) so that we can have such a workshop there.

Mr. Speaker, you know that in the past, since the time we were elected, this committee, together with the Executive, has been able to facilitate the people with disabilities with a lot of these devices. We have, at least been able to give more than 3000 devices to the disabled persons. You realise that these devices come from Nairobi and they are done there. We do not have a facility that is doing the repairs for these devices and you realise that when they come in bulk, some of them get broken even before they reach here. In fact, it was just two weeks ago when I was called to confirm that some of them are lying there at the Executive just been broken and they cannot be used by the people with disabilities because they need some repairs and, therefore, they need to be transported to Nairobi for those repairs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to second by saying that this is a workshop that is going to offer some employment to our people in the County, people will earn from that. This House knows that the Kikuyu hospital has been doing these kind of repairs. They have such a workshop and they earn a lot of money. I know that, if we would have such a facility in Murang'a and, therefore, at Muriranjas to start with as a phase one, because I believe we would need this in other places as we recommended that the sub-counties to have such a workshop, but due to the finances, we would wish to start with Muriranjas.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I know that we would attract other counties to come and also bring theirs to our county at a cost. So, you realise that we shall be able to earn from this. I do support and urge these Hon. MCAs to support this motion because it is quite important to our needy people in the society. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am a nominated MCA from Kandara. I stand to support this motion but with amendments.

Pursuant to standing order number 55 (1) and (4), I propose amendments to this motion, that the words Kirwara hospital or health centre in Gatanga, Kigumo sub-county

hospital, Kandara sub-county hospital in Kandara, Maragua sub-county hospital in Maragua and Nyakianga health centre in Mathioya, to be inserted at the end of this motion.

Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to thank the mover of this motion, the chairperson of the youth, culture and social services, and also the House Business Committee for letting this motion see the floor of this House because we have brought these kinds of motions before and they have been termed as money Bills or motions. Mr. Speaker, we have to take advantage of this one.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a brief background about persons with disabilities. These are people with special needs who require special attention and special services; not just general medical attention. I will give a brief background of some of these special services, for example, we have like the assessment, maybe, most of the people without disability do not understand these issues fully. An assessment exercise is an exercise, whereby, persons with disabilities face a panel of doctors and their disabilities are assessed and they are classified. These panels of doctors are many because we have many different categories of disabilities. After their disabilities are classified, they are then issued with disability identity cards. These identity cards help them get employment, licences and tax exemptions.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening now is that these assessment services are only available at Murang'a hospital, Muriranjias and Kangema, we have persons with disabilities who are, for example, in Gatanga, Kandara, and Kigumo, who do not have these special services for people with disabilities, meaning that they have been denied these services.

Mr. Speaker, as much as we want to appreciate what the County Government is doing to upgrade Muriranjias and provide these special services, we also urge them to devolve some of them. Persons with disabilities from Gatanga, Kigumo, and Kandara, go to seek for these services in Kiambu County, that is Thika, it is very expensive and we know that disability and poverty are related; which means that they do not get these services because they cannot even afford the aid, transport and the charges to take them to there.

The sad news, Mr. Speaker, is that, they have now been prohibited, they are persona non grata. The County Government of Kiambu has said that they should not be going there. They have been going there and they have not been going to Murang'a hospital, Muriranjias or Kangema because of distance. These are people with mobility challenges, they do not go to access these services which are available in hospitals which are near each other whereas the hospitals which are in Kandara, Gatanga, and Kigumo, do not have these services. The issue here is distance.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the County Government because of the attention it is giving to persons with disabilities. They issue them with wheelchairs and even give them free transport when there are disability functions and events, however, this is an event after a while. But when we come to an Orthopaedic workshop, almost everyone was issued with a wheelchair, even those with disabilities from Kandara, Gatanga, and Kigumo, also break down and they will need new ones.

Mr. Speaker, if the budget that is there is for Muriranjias, what will the people from Gatanga and Kigumo be doing before we go to the next budget? Assistive devices are there for mobility. We are going to deny these people access to other advantages, like employment. One, they do not even have ID cards for disability, their wheelchairs cannot

now be repaired or new ones will not be made. Where will they go to? They cannot go to Thika now because it is quite expensive.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge these members to support this motion with amendments so that we have orthopaedic workshops and, to some extent, assessment centres in each sub-county. Even if the budget is not enough for each sub-county, we at least have one in Kandara, Kigumo, or Gatanga, so that the people from there will be able to go to be employed. I am not advocating that these wheelchairs should be free, there should, at least, be minimal charges so that they will sustain themselves financially.

Mr. Speaker, by denying them this workshop, it means that we are going to deny them employment opportunities, we are going to deny them information because they are not going to be able to go to meetings when the MCAs call them to attend their meetings, we are also going to deny them other medical services, and, we are also going to deny them economic empowerment because they cannot even start a business since they cannot move.

Mr. Speaker, I rest my case there and I leave the members to be judged by their conscience, knowing that the issue here is about distance because the services that are available are in hospitals that are close to each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now call upon Hon. Kagoni to second the amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Order! You have not moved a motion. You have moved a motion of amendments.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: But I was guided that it is already there in the file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for that. I will read the motion the way it should read with amendments:-

Aware that Article 54 (1) (e) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, stipulates that, a person with any disability is entitled to access materials and devices to overcome constraints arising from the person's disability, further aware that most the persons living with disability need assistive devices to enable them attend to their day to day activities, cognizant that most of them are incapable of repairing the broken devices; this Assembly urges the County Government to partner with the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya to establish an Orthopaedic Workshop in Muriranjas rehabilitation centre, Kirwara hospital or health centre in Gatanga, Kigumo sub-county hospital, Kandara sub-county hospital in Kandara, Maragua sub-county hospital in Maragua and Nyakianga health centre in Mathioya. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I call upon Hon. Kagoni to second.

The Speaker: Order! Order! Before you call Hon. Kagoni, the mover of the motion has to accept or reject the amendments.

Hon Florence Nyambura: Mr Speaker sir, I wish to reject the amendments. Early last year, April we passed a motion on medical assessment where we have included all the hospitals in the sub-counties, on Thursday I came to seek advice from you because the motion has not yet been implemented. I wish to inform the Hon. Member that mine is not assessment, because we have already passed a motion, mine is to have a workshop, in case I need crutches I will just go to the rehabilitation centre instead of going all the way to Nairobi. Mr. Speaker sir in Muriranjas.

The Speaker: Order! Order! You are not supposed to start another debate, you have already moved the motion, and you just need to state whether you accept or reject the amendment.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: I reject the amendment,.

The Speaker: In that case the motion goes in as read and will be debated as so

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: Mr. Speaker, members were consulting because they were ready for the amendment, it seems the mover of the motion has rejected the proposed amendments. I stand to oppose the motion because it is not balanced and state that if we were to do a workshop at Muriranjas, it is very far from the people of Gatanga, Kandara and very inconveniencing to the people of Kigumo and Kanyenya-ini.

I will request the mover of the motion to reconsider her decision and consider taking on board other hospitals in the County so that this workshops can be in various sub-counties, otherwise it is a good motion but we can lose the spirit because the spirit is to assist the people with disabilities. On that basis I oppose the motion

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: I stand to oppose the motion. Mr Speaker, it is sad that we would think of Muriranjas hospital having an orthopaedic repair centre whereas I read in the newspaper last week that the two machines for cancer brought here by the national government, one is going to Murang'a and the other one is going to Muriranjas, which is just like a ten minute drive from Murang'a. When devolution came, it says that services to the people. Mr Speaker, I come from Gatanga, the farthest end of this sub-county, if this workshop is brought to Muriranjas in addition to the cancer screening machine, then someone from Kariara will spend three days, one day to come to Muriranjas, another one to wait for the repair and another one to go home, I do not think Muriranjas has accommodation for people who will be bringing the machines for repair. There should be equity in distribution of Murang'a resources and we feel that the southern side should also benefit from whatever the county government is doing

(Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii rose on a point of order)

Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii: I have a point of information. I heard Hon. Florence stating that she had moved the motion of having devolved units for disabled people in each and every sub-county, so this is the disagreement in the House. Mr Speaker, we need to go back to past agendas as she is stating, we have someone going through the files so that ...

The Speaker: It is not clear, what is your point of information?

Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii: The information is that Hon. Wangechi has already stated issues regarding the disabled in the county and we have already made resolutions, we should not rely on the past, we should move ahead.

The Speaker: That is an argument not a point of information,

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Thank you Mr. Speaker that is an argument, as you said, I am only bringing this to the attention of the House so that the mover of the motion can reconsider having these amendments.

Mr. Speaker, we have even seen bicycles and motorcycles being repaired under an umbrella, if it is an issue of repairing the equipment, I do not think any other hospitals mentioned would miss a place to repair. Let us be national in our thinking so that whatever is to be done should be done for the good of all the Murang'a county residents. If this motion goes through, it means our people on the other side will be suffering when they bring their machines here and they will remain unrepaired until the sub-county structures are done.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: I stand to oppose the motion, the motion means well because our brothers and sisters are asking something that is supposed to be here without asking. It is true that anything made with men's hands is bound to break, but again, if I were to advice the mover to withdraw and redraft the motion, so that it can accommodate the centres, one in Murang'a North and the other one in Maragua town, then we will

reconsider that because it's not that the machines break every day. If we put them in the sub- counties, it means we will use a lot of money in equipping the workshops and some of them will lie idle. I suggest the motion be withdrawn and include only two centres, one in South and another one in the North. I would also like to comment on the cancer machinery, on the papers, it reads Murang'a and Muriranjias but then it is going to be..

(Hon Joseph Njoroge rose on a point of information)

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Mr. Speaker we need your guidance to inform this House whether there is Murang'a North or Murang'a South

The Speaker: There is a geographical North and a geographical South
(Applause)

Hon Jesse Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker for protecting me, I just wanted to comment that one machine will be in Murang'a district hospital and the other one will be in Maragua. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: I rise to support the spirit of the motion, together with the proposed amendments; however I will urge Hon. Esther and Hon Florence, knowing very well that they represent a unique constituency to withdraw from their hard-line positions because disability in Kandara and disability in the North are similar. We have to take care of this unique constituency.

I am disturbed by the fact that if it is the Hon. Esther who had moved the motion in the first place, she would have suggested that the workshop be in Kandara, what would have happened to the constituency in Kiharu and Mathioya? I would urge that the mover consider withdrawing, knowing that if the Assembly makes a decision today, another decision on the issue can only be done after six months. We do not need to throw this idea away because it will help our constituents. I would encourage Florence to be courageous and withdraw this motion so that they can sit together with her colleagues and mend their differences so that we can move forward as a county without having the geo- politics that are being manifested now so that this county can move forward as one county.

The Speaker: In order to have a profitable debate on this matter, because I can hear the sentiments of the members, I will give this chance to the mover to consider whether she can take the advice then go consider it and rephrase it because I can see it might be headed to what she might not have wanted, but if you feel that you want us to continue, we shall still continue.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: I need your guidance on whether I can inform the House and differentiate and elaborate further about the idea

The Speaker: Order! The opportunity I have given you is to either withdraw and go rephrase or liaise with other members or to just continue the way it is. The choice is yours.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: Thank you Mr Speaker sir, I wish to withdraw the motion
(Applause)

The Speaker: This means you can bring it back any time now after consultations, you do not have to wait for six months. Next order

ADJOURNMENT

Before we adjourn, I would like to invite the members of the House Business Committee for a brief meeting immediately after this; otherwise the House is now adjourned until 2:30, this afternoon

The House rose at 10:19 a.m.