

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 15th October, 2024.

The Assembly met at 10:05 a.m.

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

PRAYER

PAPERS

REPORT ON COMMITTEES SECOND HALF YEAR PROGRESS FOR FY 2023/2024
(JANUARY TO JUNE 2024) AND WORKPLANS FOR FY 2024/2025 AND LOCAL
TRAVEL FOR FY 2024/2025

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes Hon. Member for Ithanga on behalf of the Chair.

Hon. Ndunda Makau: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am a member of the Liaison Committee and on behalf of the Chair, Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper;-
The Report of the Liaison Committee on Committees second half year progress for FY 2023/2024 (January to June 2024) and workplans for FY 2024/2025 and local travel for FY 2024/2025.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

REPORT OF TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZATION, CO-OPERATIVES
MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF CO-
OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN MURANG'A COUNTY AS AT JULY 2024

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes Hon. Member for Kamahuha. Okay, go ahead.

Hon. Loise Mary: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly; -

That the Report of the sectoral Committee on Trade, Industrialization, Co-operatives Management, Tourism and Wildlife Committee on the status of Co-operative societies in Murang'a County as at July, 2024, be laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Thank you, Hon. Loise. Next order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZATION, CO-OPERATIVES MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN MURANG'A COUNTY AS AT JULY 2024

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes Chair. Go ahead. You can give the notice from your desk.

Hon. Loise Mary: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I beg to issue the following notice of Motion;-

That this Assembly adopts a Report of the sectoral Committee on Trade, Industrialization, Co-operatives Management, Tourism and Wildlife on the Status of Cooperative Societies in Murang'a County as at July, 2024, laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Thank you. Next order.

ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON COMMITTEES SECOND HALF YEAR PROGRESS FOR FY 2023/2024 (JANUARY TO JUNE 2024) AND WORKPLANS FOR FY 2024/2025 AND LOCAL TRAVEL FOR FY 2024/2025

Hon. Ndunda Makau: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of the Chair Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Motion;-

That this Assembly adopts the Report of the Liaison Committee on Committees second half year progress for FY 2023/2024 (January to June 2024) and workplans for FY 2024/2025 and local travel for FY 2024/2025, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday October 15, 2024.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Thank you. Next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZATION, CO-OPERATIVES MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE ON REVIVAL AND UPGRADE OF TOURIST ATTRACTION SITES AND CULTURAL CENTERS IN MURANG'A COUNTY

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Chair you can move the Motion while there. Feel comfortable. Whether here or there. You have been granted permission, that is a Table for laying Papers but permission granted, go ahead.

(Hon. Kabera James moved to the Table)

Hon. Kabera James: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to lay the following notice of Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts a Report of the sectoral Committee on Trade, Industrialization, Co-operatives Management, Tourism and Wildlife on the revival and upgrade of tourism attraction and culture centre in Murang'a County, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday October 8, 2024.

Hon. Speaker, Murang'a originally known as Mbiri and later as Fort Hall is the most centrally set area in Kikuyu land and was the epicentre of reforms in the colonial era. Kikuyu land is bound by the four mountains of Mt. Kenya (Kirinyaga), Ngong Hills (Kiri Mbiruiru), The Aberdares (Nyandarua) and Ol Donyo Sabuk Hill (Kia Njahi).

Hon. Speaker, Murang'a County has so much to offer for excursion activities and general sustainability tourism. Her close proximity to the Kenya capital, Nairobi, and road network makes her a potential premier destination. Hon. Speaker, tourism attractions are places that attract visitors and inspire them, playing a big role in making tourism a success. These spots can be natural, like beautiful landscapes or cultural like land marks. They are created or set up specifically for tourists beside helping the economical growth, they also affect the environment and culture.

Hon. Speaker, cultural attractions include theatres, museums, art galleries, and heritage places that highlight the history, art and cultural legacy of a place. The sites are labelled to contain cultural and natural heritage around the host community and the world and considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Hon. Speaker, the Report findings covered a broad spectrum of issues touching on tourism and cultural attractions. Hon. Speaker, among the recommendations generated by the Committee, include, prioritisation of gazettelement of all

cultural and tourism attraction sites as it forms the baseline from resource mobilisation and ensures protection from encroachment and equally strengthening of department of tourism development.

In conclusion, Hon. Speaker, the Committee urges this House to adopt this Report in order to boost the economic development of the country. Thank you. I now call upon Hon. Moses Muchiri to second the Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. Muchiri.

Hon. Moses Muchiri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to second the Motion. I also want to thank the Committee for coming up with this Report which is a milestone in identifying and reviving the cultural and tourist sites that we have in Murang'a County. I also need to urge for more research so that we can identify all the cultural sites as well as tourist centres which we have in Murang'a County, because what is mentioned in the Report are maybe the major cultural and tourist sites which we have in Murang'a County.

We also have others which need to be mapped, as well as there is need to do more mapping on those areas where they are located as well as a gazettelement, so that we can be able to market them as well, so that maybe the tourists can be able to know those are places which exist. Maybe they can be able to visit those areas which will be an economic boost to the economy of Murang'a County.

There is need for the executive to organize more festivals in Murang'a County and especially the Gikuyu and Mumbi cultural festivals which can be organized by our County so that we can be able to market our culture to other tribes which we have in Kenya. There is need to refurbish or upgrade those tourist sites as well as cultural centres because we know like the Mukurwe Wa Nyathaganga current it is not in good conditions. There is need to refurbish that area, as well as improve the infrastructure. The roads which are leading to those areas. It is good for our investors who invest in hotels to come up with a good hotel so that those tourists when they visit our county, they can get maybe a place where they can rest as we get accommodation.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Next time Honourable member, the dictates of the Speaker's rules dictates and its well stipulated how smartly dressed means. So next time come with a long sleeve, Honourable member for Muguru.

(Question Proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): The Floor is open for debate. Yes, honourable of a member for Kahumbu.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you very much Mr speaker sir. May I arise to support this Motion with a few riders. That one is to congratulate the Committee which have done this job and it was not easy to deal with the tourism being one of a new product to our County and especially in our ministry. Mr Speaker you allow me, that I have just read the Committee findings and the Committee recommendations. However, I will request through the chair, the chair to note the following; that for us to improve and make sure that tourism as current it is, it's also a business like any other. We need to make sure that we improve and make sure that we as Murang'a County are going to get the extra revenue sharing, that is the dollar account. Or we have visitors from outside this County of ours to visit our various sites, so that also Murang'a County can start getting the revenue.

I am pleading that the ministry itself should emphasize and make sure that this already identified sites are running and kicking well. So that also we can see people from Mombasa coming to Murang'a County to come and visit and see they will also go to Mombasa, we want to see Kakamega people coming also to Murang'a County, the way we also go to the Kakamega forest. We want to see people from Nakuru County coming to Murang'a County the way we go and see the flamingos and the rest. They should also come here and see the origin of the Kikuyu, the struggle and the tales of our people; our grandfathers who fought for the independence. We want to see people from outside our country, that is from America, Great Britain, China where we have a lot of billions of people there, we have the other source as German and other stuff. As I go with the policy of the national government His Excellency The President, how has been fighting about the issue of the tourism.

We want to see more tourists coming to our County so that we can also get and break the revenue collection. Currently we are at 1.2 I am expecting if we can improve that tourism sector, we can be able to get more than 1.2 billion. And that will help us to get more value in our traditional tourism sites to be able to get more money and do what we call community projects and even make sure that the poverty levels in our county is below or is above what is required.

Number two, I will encourage the recommendation that in this modern world social media is very powerful. It is high time we need to also have a Facebook account for this kind of tourism action. We want the person outside Murang'a to know what Murang'a is holding. We require social media in terms of Facebook account opening, we need also Tik Tok account, we need also website to identify us and market our county whatever issues we have in various

tourism sectors here.

I can see we have new phases to be opened especially in our place Kigumo constituency, which is Kigumo sub-County in terms of Aberdare hills. That is another site we need to think about. How fast can we do? I would also like the Chair we should have timelines for implementation of all these things. Giving recommendations and findings which we have identified without timelines. I think it is not fair and just for us to have vibrant identification and implementation. So, we need to have timelines for executive, when we give recommendations what will it take is it one year, two years, is it one month? So that we do not just give timelines and observations which are not time lined. With time lines means that what is happening with Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga 60 years. Not even 60 years, the existence of Gikuyu. Still, we are struggling to have a Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga there, the land has been grabbed. So, we need to have a timeline for that. And the moment we do that it will be on its own revenue collection it will take care of it. Like museum there Upper hill in Nairobi, it generates its own resources and take care of itself. So, it is not necessary that if the County Government invests it should not get value addition in terms of collection of the money or revenue(*inaudible*)..... the way we have Municipality Board. We need to have a Board which runs that facility so that we can be bale to know that we will get the revenue for the same.

Since we have Sub Counties in this County of ours, I think it is high time we establish a rotational kind of cultural event. We make sure that every time in every year during the celebration of culture we go to this Sub County and identify a tourism site in Sub County. And recommending to the outside world and new world, the new world means republic of Kenya people to be visiting..... (*inaudible*.....) the moment we have those rotational it will make sure that Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri member can be able to visit Kigumo Constituency. Not only when I am launching community projects but he might take his family, he might take his school kids to see what is new in Kigumo sub- County.

We must learn also we emphasize and sell our tourism sites to our school kids. We start moving from one school to the other. Before we start moving our children to Mombasa and other places, have they moved within our county to know Murang'a County. It is very unfortunate Mr. Speaker, if you ask some of our students if they have ever visited Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga which is origin of the Kikuyu. Even some of the members here, they have never visited that area. We should make it a cultural thing so that most of us go there. If I am a Catholic, I need to go to Vatican, if I am a Muslim I need to go to Mecca, if I am a Kikuyu have, I gone to my origin? Has it been beautified so that we can be able to know?

So, I am talking about requesting the Committee to make sure that it is identified in the Sub-Counties, the sites which are there, and so that we can move. Again, we are in the times of generation of our youth, and I hope also my chairperson of youth is around. It is good also, we identify what kind of the projects of this tourism, and the tourist attractions, whereby we can also get jobs and employment with that.

What are the creativity in terms of social? What are the creativity in terms of movement? What are other creativity in terms of job employment in those areas so that our youth should not be idle? Our youth can generate money. I would think that we need to have programs, at least we have the.....(*inaudible*)..... yes, but in terms of these sites, do we have our youth? Our institution which are learning, that is either Marira farm, we have the Murang'a technical, are they taking, having the subject, or are they having the subject for tourism? So that they can understand, so that they can be able to be prepared to engage with the visitors who are coming.

Yes, we have the facilities, as per the recommendation I have seen. We have a classification of our hotels, that is fine enough, but the question is, are we trying to prepare also our people, where these sites are, that look, this is a gold gem which is coming. Look, you people, the youth, please make sure that security is taken care of, are we also putting about electricity, water, sanitation, in all these sites, so that at least when the *mzungu* (European) comes, he should not be told to use the..... (*inaudible*)..... so to do other things. Do you have the sanitation, which are there.

Mr. Speaker, sir, with those few remarks, I commend the good job that has been done, but also that is a part of some of my recommendations I would like them to be taken care of. That if we do not take care of that, then we lose the revenue. Thank you very much, and I really appreciate the work done by the Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): I hope the Chairperson is taking notes on that. The Members are trying to enrich the Report. Hon. Member for Gitugi.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will start first of all to second, to back it up and say it is a good Report. It has really opened up so many things, and which of course you are supposed to embrace them. So, a good thought Report, and well done. However, there are some areas I really want us to capture on. I have looked at this Report, and what has caught my eyes is about Wangu wa Makeri, and Karuri Wa Gakure museum. What I have come, and my history teacher could tell me that Murang'a used to be called Fort Hall; not Murang'a as it is. So, Murang'a itself qualifies to be a tourist site, for the fact that even the name changed to the current Murang'a.

By saying so, you realize that we have heard, or have been taken through by the Chairperson of the Committee, that Karuri Wa Gakure was one of the--- in 1902, if I read it clearly, or you got from you clearly, that he was like a current Governor. He was a Governor by then, in Court, by 1902. So, the first Governor we had here, or the first maybe a mayor we had here, was Karuri Wa Gakure.

My point of concern is this, supposing we have a notice board here, whereby that we have like a site within Murang'a, you know, within the precincts of Murang'a County Assembly, or the Executive, such that you will be having a report, that you will be able to have history, well documented history, that this is what, these are the pioneers, these are the founding fathers of the Murang'a County. We normally talk about freedom fighters. We all talk about that, who fought, who went to Kapenguria Seven, or what have you. But we need to have a lineage of who are these pioneers of Murang'a itself at large. We have Karuri Wa Gakure, who was the first mayor, I would say, or the first leader. Then again, he was deputized by Wangu wa Makeri. We have to have the chronological of events. This is what happened in 1902. I remember by then, if I can teach you, there is what you call the Imperial Breeze Staffing Company.

If you can remember that in our history lessons, the Imperial British East African Company, during that time, before the downfall of the Imperial British East African Company, it was around 1892/93 when that company fell, by that time people started pacifying themselves and decided they have to manage themselves, and that is how the likes of Karuri wa Gakure came in.

(Hon Steven Muigai rose on a point of order)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon member for Kakuzi, what is it

Hon. Steven Muigai: I rise on a point of order Mr. Speaker, without citing any order allow me to address the seconder

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): You cannot address the seconder, you address the Chair

Hon. Steven Muigai: Is it in order for *mheshimiwa* (honourable)Wairagu to be addressing the mover of the Motion, I thought he should be addressing the Speaker, but all along his body language has been addressed to the mover.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Thank you. That is in order honourable member for Gitugi you should be addressing the chair not the mover of the Motion.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: He also forgot; he was addressing me rather than the chair.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. member, go ahead with your contribution.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Members like my friend here should come to my history class and I tell them about the Imperial British East African Company because that is where he got the point of order from. As I proceed

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. member go ahead, do not attack your colleague, make your point.

Hon Edwin Wairagu: My point is, with these interruptions, some of us are very old and we forget what we wanted to say, I am almost forgetting the point I was making, God has helped me again, let me proceed.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Re-ignite your energy

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: The energy has come, I was saying that we need to have these kinds of sites in our Assembly, sometimes, we can have time to study the origin of species, how did they originate and that is why I was talking about Wangu wa Makeri and such. Let us not limit ourselves to only these few sites mentioned here. If you go to Mathioya river, I am addressing the Speaker, but my eyes can go 360 degrees. Hon. Speaker, I am saying if you go to Mathioya river intersection, the Mathioya from Kiru and Mathioya from Muguru, this can be another site that can be documented in geography for our pupils. Lastly, all of us must know, as much as we have mentioned the catholic church, the Tuthu catholic church in page 11 as a tourist site, I want to say categorically that before the advent of the catholic faith there existed independent churches, way back in 1901/1902 even before the completion of the Kenya Uganda Railway and these independent churches were in existence.

I would draw the attention of the Committee to go to an area called Gakurwe that is Hon. Gathe'e's area. There is a church there that was started long time ago an independent church as much as we mention this; it is good to go here and find out how it came into being and how it was able to fight the European invasion in terms of embracing their Africa culture by itself. Therefore, as it is now as we continue this way, I can see what Hon. Chefman said that these are the areas we can get a lot of money, we can get a lot of resources even our areas can grow because if people can come to Mathioya the *wazungus* (Europeans) coming to visit Mathioya definitely there will be some revenue left there including our County. As it is now, I believe they can go further with their investigation, they do in-depth investigation and find some more sites which can be documented and after that they can be gazetted to be tourist sites.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Thank you honourable member for Gitugi ward. Honorable member for Kakuzi Ward.

Hon. Steven Muigai: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion, before I highlight on some issues, allow me to acknowledge that honourable Wairagu with the combination of the bishop that he is plus the politician that he is and even the old man that he is as he perceives. One of the disadvantages is that you will give him time and speak for the longest because in the midst he would want to quote some bible verses at times he will forget and we give him time to remember but we appreciate his contributions...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Honorable member address the chair

Hon. Steven Muigai: As I support the Motion allow me to congratulate the Committee for the good work that they have done. You will agree with me that the Agikuyu community forms the biggest ethnic group in our country Kenya forming a percentage of 17 or rather 17 per cent of the population in Kenya followed by other small tribes.

There is a lot we can talk about Agikuyu especially when we talk about what Kenya is today. One, we know that Mau Mau who were the freedom fighters, we have members who fought fearlessly who were talked about and the formation of government of the republic Kenya through the independence struggle and all these people have come from Mt. Kenya and this area which is from the Agikuyu people.

The reason why I think Agikuyu should form part of the history of Kenya and should attract tourism is because you understand even when we talk about the oldest man who went to school and he was called Kiman Maruge who went to school at the age of 84 he comes from the Agikuyu community. If you ask me that would form one of the biggest tourist attraction if we knew where he lived or even if we can form a tourist attraction and have Kimani Maruge as one of the people that we would be reminding our people and those who come from outside that he came from Agikuyu, he was the oldest student at 84 and he joined primary school in 2004.

As I finish Mr. Speaker, you know the word tourist and travel corporation or rather Committee says that by the year 2034 Mr. Speaker they are foreseeing the two domestic tourism in Kenya will be contributing an amount of Kshs.1.7 trillion which is 7.4% of the GDP, the world tourism and travel Committee. So, if by 2034 this is the amount of money we think should be contributed from the domestic tourism Mr. Speaker I would like to urge the Committee to make sure and see that part of what will be happening then will be will be coming from Murang'a County. And I think as I sit down, I would like to support the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Yes, if there is no more contribution.

Hon. Kabera James: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I am very grateful for those Members who have contributed about this Motion. Hon. Chefman, we are ready to implement at the time frame that is the whole problem. We pass some Motions but it is good to have the time frame of implementing each and every item we implement.

About Hon. Edwin thank you, the history to be documented everything about tourism we are going to be implemented and one of these days I am going to invite you in the Trade Committee to be one of our friends and you give us more because you have the history and we are going to implement.

Hon. Steve Muigai, thank you as we try to get these revenues as Chefman has said. We had a lot of this things, this tourism sites, they are in Murang'a we also need to have some of these things coming back to our County Murang'a and we shall be very grateful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for those contributions even supporting our work. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. Members, that being the case, now this House stands adjourned until today Tuesday 15th at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11:45a.m.