

# MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The Assembly met at 2:42 p.m.

*[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta) in the Chair]*

### PRAYER

### PAPER

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPEMNET PROJECT (NAVCDP) IN MURANG'A COUNTY.

**Hon. Pauline Njeri:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following Paper; -

The Report of the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on status of the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) in Murang'a County as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be laid on the Table of the Assembly.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Next Order.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPEMNET PROJECT (NAVCDP) IN MURANG'A COUNTY.

**Hon. Pauline Njeri:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to give a notice of a Motion on the following;-

That, this Assembly adopts a Report of the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the status of the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) in Murang'a County as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Next Order.

## MOTION

### ADOPTION OF REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, URBAN AND PHYSICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY HOUSING POLICY

**Hon. Chefman Njoroge:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. On behalf of my Chair who has just stepped outside, I take the opportunity of adoption of Report on the review of Murang'a County Housing Policy. Madam Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion; -

That this Assembly adopts the Report of the Committee on Land, Housing, Urban and Physical Planning on a review of the Murang'a County Housing Policy laid on the Table of the Assembly on October 9, 2024.

It is my privilege to present to this House, Land, Housing, Urban and Physical Planning Report on the deliberation on the Murang'a County Housing Policy. In its weekly deliberations the Committee reviewed the Murang'a County Housing Policy and came up with a Report that requires the County Executive Committee Member for Housing (CECM) to review the 2022 Housing Policy and Table the same for adoption before this Honourable House.

The policy is critical and of much importance since the County department of Housing, intends to facilitate the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for the County staff, and the residents of Murang'a County as provided for under Article 43(1) (b) of the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, the provision of decent accessible, and adequate housing, including reasonable standards of sanitation has been a challenge for the County and the country at large. Counties such as Murang'a with a large proportion of their population living in the urban and peri-urban areas are in dire need of addressing this situation. Cognizant that over sixty percent of the county's population live in urban areas compounded by the County being one of the fastest urbanizing counties owing to its proximity to the capital city the County executive should be determined to put in place elaborate measures to tackle the housing needs.

Madam Speaker, the Committee notes that undertaking the construction of houses for residents is an intensive resource mobilization, thus the executive must reach out to strategic partners in the private sector under the Public Private Partnership (PPP's) for innovative solutions. To achieve this the CEC must align the policy with the National Government Housing agenda, forge partnerships with private investors, and employ affordable and innovative building technologies.

Madam Speaker the Committee on Lands, Housing Urban, and Physical Planning in its weekly deliberations noted with great concern about the deteriorating housing conditions in the County houses, and the shortage of houses arising from the demand that far surpasses the supply for low-income housing in urban areas such as Murang'a, Maragua and Kenol towns. As a result of high population growth rate Madam Speaker, rapid urbanization, escalating costs of construction and approval processes which have led to a shortage in affordable housing characterized by overcrowding and proliferation of informal settlements and overstretched physical infrastructure and social amenities.

Madam Speaker, the policy that the Committee requests from the County Executive Member for Housing should aim to;

- a) provide deliberate measures to address the current and future housing needs,
- b) remedy the current housing shortage including poor housing, basic services, and infrastructure necessary for a healthy living environment,
- c) facilitate low-income households to access housing basic services and infrastructure

Madam Speaker, allow me to briefly highlight key areas of the report

- a) the salient features of the housing policy are found on page seven
- b) formulation of the housing policy is on page eight in our files
- c) the objectives of the policy page are on page nine highlighting this page

Members I will just request you to check your files as I have just read. The information is well articulated there and a very keen follow up and

- d) the legal framework comprises three main laws and various regulations
  - i. Constitution of Kenya through Article 2, 6, 43, 189
  - ii. Urban Areas and Cities Act
  - iii. The Housing Act

Hon. Speaker the goals of the Housing policy are on page 14 and the Committee observations are as follows; that is members I would like you to follow page 16 where you see the Committee observations. And also, members I would like you also to go to page 17 of your files whereby there is a lot of recommendations which we have made and I think the Committees' recommendations are well articulated there. As you read Members, I will request the Honourable House to pass the motion so that at least we can be able to adopt the report for the review of the Murang'a County Housing policy. It is my pleasure Madam Speaker to call Hon. Gerald my Chair to second the Motion.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Gerald Wambugu:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to second. Thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Hon. Members, I think silence means consent. There is no need for calling the mover to respond.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

### **MOTION**

#### **ADOPTION OF REPORT OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTY**

**Hon. Moses Musa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts a Report of the sectoral Committee on Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and e-Government on E-Waste management in Murang'a County, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday October 8, 2024.

Hon. Speaker, electric waste or e-waste, describes electric or electronic device which are destined for life, re-use, resale, salvage, recycling or disposal. E-waste has been an emerging environmental challenge worldwide as certain components there in contain hazardous materials that have implications on environmental and public health. Hon. Speaker, e-waste management is intended to reduce the adverse effects of waste on human health environment, planetary resources and aesthetics. The aim of waste management is to reduce the dangerous effects of such waste on the environment and human health. The disposal of garbage is still a big issue in Kenya.

Hon. Speaker, I want to just highlight on some sources of e-waste, so that Members may know what we call electronic waste. Hon. Speaker, e-waste is generated from the following; waste created from the products used for data processing such as computer devices like monitors, speakers, keyboards, printers etc., and electronic devices used for entertainment like televisions, DVDs, and CD players. Hon. Speaker, we learn from history and there were, conventional methods of waste disposal, that informed our recommendations later at the end of this Report. The conventional methods that were used previously include landfill disposal allows heavy metals to reach into the groundwater hence endangering our water sources and eventually finding their way to our lives and that of animals.

Hon. Speaker, there is another method that was used of incineration and it offered a lot of risks. The third one, Hon. Speaker, is acid bags which are dangerous and cause water and soil contamination. This adverse effect on e-waste led us to make this Report, Hon. Speaker. There are adverse effects of waste on humans as follows; ...

1. Lead metal can lead to damage of central and peripheral nervous systems, blood systems and kidney. It also affects brain development of children.
2. Mercury can lead to chronic damage to brain and respiratory system.

Because the members have this document, I would wish them to read through and see the hazardous effects of management of e-waste.

I wish we move to the regulatory framework; there are legal and regulatory frameworks on governing e-waste management. In the international front, we have Basel Convention on transboundary movement of hazardous waste and disposal. We have the Bamako Convention of 1991 and Africa Agenda 2063.

At the national level in Kenya, we have the legal and regulatory frameworks, as The Constitution of Kenya. Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act (Revised 2015). We have National Environmental Policy 2014, Environmental Management and Coordination (Waste Management) Regulations, 2006, The Public Procurement and Disposal Act, The National ICT Policy 2019.

E-Waste sector provides the following economic opportunities:

1. Job creation; the e-Waste industry has the potential to create jobs for skilled technicians, recyclers and entrepreneurs.
2. Urban mining; e-Waste contains precious metals like gold and silver presenting profitable recovery opportunities.
3. Circular economy development; investments in recycling facilities and resource recovery contribute to sustainable economic growth.

There is a National Refurbishment and e-Waste Management Program which is anchored on six strategic pillars shown by the chart below. The members are able to read through the chart.

In developing this Report, we arrived at some observations and recommendations. I wish to read through some observations that we observed. Eventually read through the Committee recommendations. The Committee made the following observations:

1. That there is no adequate public awareness on the danger of poor disposal of e-Waste.

2. That the County Government lacks required facilities to dispose e-Waste.
3. The County Government has not introduced e-waste management process.
4. That E-Waste disposal is legislated upon by ICT Authority of Kenya and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Recycling Centre is obligated to handle the e-Waste.
5. That the County Government should engage ICT Authority of Kenya to work on an e-Waste management plan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read the Committee recommendations and Hon. Speaker, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of ICT and e-Government creates public awareness by educating residents about proper disposal methods and the risks associated with e-waste. This should be initiated within ninety days after adoption of this Report.

That within 90 days after the adoption of this Report, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of ICT and e-Government provides infrastructure framework including collection centres and safe disposal systems across the county.

Hon. Speaker, within 90 days after adoption of this Report, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of ICT and e-Government engages ICT Authority and enters into a partnership with them to establish proper handling mechanisms of e-Waste across all the sub counties.

And, finally Mr. Speaker, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of ICT to initiate policy formulation that will enhance compliance with laid down regulations on handling of E-Waste disposal.

I want to say that this is a very good Report if it is read by members and I want to thank members and urge them to support this Report. Hon. Speaker I want to call upon Hon. Chefman from Kahumbu as a member of this committee to second the Motion. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Chefman Njoroge:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I rose to second the Motion but I will request the members, since waste management we have been dealing with other kind of waste, this time we are dealing with e- waste management. I have come to realize together with my Chair there is a time we went to various sites in this County of ours and our hospitals. And I came to realize majority of the diseases chronic and those we call difficult diseases are as a result of how we are able to take care of e-waste disposal that is from phones, computes, CDs and any other digital devices of modern world of today. I have come to realize it is necessary members to understand whenever they are going to visit their voters to explain it to them. The main thing whenever this gadgets are thrown outside and it is raining or are thrown in the rivers that is why there is a mixture of diseases, heavy diseases the chronic one like cancer and others. Because with our medics currently they have not understood medication.

I think it is a process whereby if members can read about the recommendations is a matter of informing and educating our schools. We have partnership with our schools the primary school kids, the secondary school kids and even the younger ones in ECDEs to tell them the effect and advantages of safeguarding our environment through e-waste management.

I think we have given good recommendations, we have provided the way forward. It is my plea that whatever we present in this Honourable House that it is implemented by executive and followed up by the Committee on Implementation. It should not be business as usual.

The other thing as we talk about e-waste we need to take the advantage. What is the advantage of e-waste? It creates job opportunities like e-waste and mining. There is a possibility youth takes it first.

And since we have a problem with our youth in terms of employment, in terms of business opportunities, if we can have that, and then also we have where the disposal will be done, then to create a good environment. We are discussing about even the plastic materials which are coming from the computer. If we are taking care of well-managed collection of those, then we can change from the poly-poles which we normally use at our homes, and they can be melted in a good and proper way when we have the PPE, that is a private partnership with the County, and we are able to get those plastics, they are and they make the poles for our, you know, the normal way we do the shamba and fencing it. And then we save our trees for the greener environment.

So, it's a good thing if we follow the Members, if we educate our people outside there, we take it as a responsibility to each and every member in this House, and even outside. And I think we can be able to save a good, clean environment in Murang'a County, and we shall create a good job, and we shall be leading the global. We must ride with the other areas of our country.

And as I sit my remarks down, I request also my Chairperson of ICT, if possible, because it is something which is new, he can talk with the Executive, and we are taking it even if it is to Brazil, to see how they do the waste management, and we are able to do it. Here is our opinions, because it is something new for the Members, and if we go up practically, we will be able to achieve. I rise to second.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

*(Question Proposed)*

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Members, the House is open for debate.

**Hon. Pauline Njeri:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and even for referring me to that name, which is mostly used in my village, in my Ward Nginda. I rise to second the Motion, and to support the Motion, sorry, the Chair had informed me that I am going to be seconding, so I am still confused. So, I rise to support the Motion, and especially now that this is actually a wake-up call, because of whatever is facing our country, which is cancer.

Most of the diseases, the biggest or the worst disease that is our illnesses that are facing this country is cancer, and if we go back to the research, we find out that such things like the e-waste management could be contributing or a major contributing factor, because if we look at our homes, even me now, actually it has made me think twice, because I do not think I will fail to have an old Television (TV) or an old phone in my house.

Madam Speaker, they are still somewhere in the house, not well disposed, as we have been told, they can produce some chemicals through even radiation and all that, and all these things will end up causing cancer, and what we do as a Member of this Committee, I think it was very wise for us to now provide a clear solution, because we will be telling our mothers, our grandmothers in the villages that it is not very good to stay with that *kabambe* in the house or that very old TV in the house. You need to dispose well, but then where are we disposing?

I think that is a question that we need to answer, especially as members of the ICT Committee, and I think if we get a very clear solution, and even going to Brazil, as Hon. Chefman has suggested, I think we will be able to get to know what other countries are doing, because it is one thing telling the Members of the community to dispose of the E-waste, but then it is another by giving them a solution. We need to provide them a solution that you do not need to put your old TV, your old phones, but then you need to dispose them in this and this manner. However, I stand to support. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Thank you, Hon Njeri. I think the chairperson can respond to that overview.

**Hon. Moses Mirara:** Thank you, Hon. Madam Speaker. I think I share the same sentiments with the Hon. Member nominated, that this is a very big menace, and we have to agree Hon. Speaker that some of the gadgets that we have in our home have a life span even your phone has a span of two years,.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Honourable member you cannot discuss the Speaker's phone, it is a gadget, continue without mentioning the Speaker's phone it is a gadget not a phone

**Hon. Moses Musa:** I just wanted to take it as an example because I know within two years we will have some advancement in technology and your phone will be redundant



**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Hon. member you cannot continue using the speaker's phone as an example, any other example is allowed but not the speaker's phone.

*(Hon Chef man Njoroge rose on a point of order)*

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** What do you have to say Hon. for Kahumbu, which order are you standing on?

**Hon. Chefman Njoroge:** I am standing on the point of information, my brother is not informed that there is a difference between a phone and a gadget, I will request him to be informed that there is a difference or use another word to avoid irritating Madam Speaker

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** for Kangari ward, please continue and be informed.

**Hon Moses Musa:** I do not want to respond to hon Chefman, but I just want to say that electronic waste is a menace in our County. When I was getting in I ask the honourable Ruiru, representing the people of Mbiri where he put his walkman and he told me that he does not know where it is, I explained to him that he may find the walkman in the shamba when he is doing his usual farming and this constitutes the dangers we have on e-waste management. We have these gadgets allover and there is no one here who does not have a phone, a gadget that is a radio or a TV and when these people are left when they are absolute, you remember we did not have smart TVs and as technology advanced the others were phased off, some are just there at the shelves gathering dust and polluting the environment since they are made from different metals and after exposure to oxygen even this paper will turn to another color.

They need some eradivative elements into the environment they pose a real danger on our health that is why we had to constitute this Report to make sure that the County government embarks on awareness to the people in the ground because they do not know how hazardous these gadgets are if left unattended in the environment. I want to believe that the Reports we make in this Assembly are all actionable. I want to call upon honorable members for Implementation Committee to make sure these Reports do not gather dust in the shelves. They act on the recommendations that we have. Honorable Speaker the power that you have regarding implementation of this thing although we have a Committee on Implementation, we have a lot of Reports, my Committee have made a lot of Reports, the Committee on Agriculture has made a lot of Reports but no action has been going on. I want to believe as the chairperson of ICT that this Report we have on e-government, the implementation chairperson will make

sure it is implemented in full so that we may reduce leave for our people around these health issues on these gadgets. I want to urge honorable members to support this Motion as a sit.

Thank you.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Thank you chairperson, that is well noted.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta):** Honorable members there being no other Business the House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 9:30 am.

*The House rose at 3:30 p.m.*