

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 20th November 2024

The House met at 10:20 a.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi) in the Chair]

PRAYER

SCHEDULE OF STATEMENTS

APPROVED BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY FROM THE WEEK COMMENCING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2024 TO WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2024

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honourable member you can resume your seat as she prepares herself.

Hon. Pauline Njeri: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to issue the following Statement. Pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (a), the House Business and Rules Committee, at its last meeting, approved Business that will come before the Assembly on Tuesday November 26, 2024 to Wednesday November 27, 2024 as per the attached program.

On Tuesday November 26, 2024, morning sitting, we will have a Paper; Report on consideration of the Murang'a County Annual Development Plan (ADP) FY 2025/2026. We will also have another Paper; report on the audited financial statements of Gatanga community water scheme for the year ended June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

In the same morning of Tuesday 26, 2024 we will have a notice of Motion; Report on consideration of the Murang'a County Annual Development Plan (ADP) FY 2025/2026. On the same morning, we will have adoption of report on the audited financial statements of Gatanga community water scheme for the year ended June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

On Tuesday November 26, 2024 afternoon sitting we will have a Paper; report on consideration of annual workplan for FY 2024/2025 from the department of water and irrigation. On the same afternoon of Tuesday November 26, 2024, we will have a notice of Motion; report on consideration of annual workplan for FY 2024/2025 from the department of water and

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irrigation. On the same Tuesday November 26, 2024 afternoon sitting, we will have a Motion on adoption of report on the audited financial statements of Gatanga community water scheme for the year ended June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

On Wednesday November 27, 2024, we will have schedule of statements, approved business of the assembly from the week commencing Tuesday December 03, 2024 to Wednesday December 4, 2024. On the same morning, we will have response to a Statement on poor tea bonus payment. That is under agriculture. We will also have a Motion on, adoption report on consideration of the Murang'a County Annual Development Plan (ADP) FY 2025/2026.

That's all, Hon. Speaker.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON KENNETH MATIBA HOSPITAL

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 46(2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Health Services Committee on the following;

1. Can the Chairperson submit a comprehensive report on the status of Kenneth Matiba hospital since its relocation to Makenji, Kabati.
2. What are the current medical services being offered at the hospital?
3. Can the Chairperson further inform this Assembly why the hospital only operates during the day despite it being a specialized health facility.
4. Finally, can the Chairperson, inform this Assembly when the hospital will start offering normal general outpatient services.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Chairperson Health can you respond to that Statement.

Hon. Boniface Mbau: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I kindly request for 14 days for the Committee to respond.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honorable member from Kahumbu are you satisfied?

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STAFFING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
SANITATION

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Health Services Committee on the following;

- 1) Is the Chairperson aware that the County has an overall deficit of 201 employees as at July 2024?
- 2) Is the Chairperson further aware that the County is in the process of replacing the above employees?
- 3) Can the Chairperson inform this Assembly the deficit of the following category of employees in the department of Health and Sanitation as at September 30 2024;
 - a) Doctors
 - b) Clinical Officers
 - c) Nurses
 - d) Lab technicians
 - e) Human resource officers
 - f) Administrators
 - g) Clerical officers
 - h) Subordinate staff
- 4) Can the Chairperson provide a list of how many of the above categories of staff will be employed in the department of Health and Sanitation in FY 2025/2026?
- 5) Finally, can the Chairperson furnish this Assembly with data on the number of health facilities in the County and the required number of staff in each health facility?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Boniface can you respond to that.

Hon. Boniface Mbau: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I request 14 days to respond.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): The 14 days should run concurrently or each should have 14 days?

Hon. Boniface Mbau: No, we can do the same.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Concurrently?

Hon. Boniface Mbau: Yeah

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Chefman

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Well informed Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Next order.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF WATER PANS IN MURANG'A
COUNTY.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on the following;

- 1) Is the Chairperson aware of the number of water pans constructed under Sustainable Land Management projects (SLM) in Kahumbu Ward?
- 2) If the answer to the above is affirmative, can the Chairperson explain to the Assembly the methodology/criteria used to identify the sustainable land management beneficiary wards in ... *(Power outage) (no recording).....*

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Member you can go ahead and sorry for the inconvenience.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Okay, thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Should I start again or perhaps I continue with where I had reached?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): You can start again.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Okay, thank you Mr. Speaker for guidance. Pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on the following;

- 1) Is the Chairperson aware of the number of water pans constructed under Sustainable Land Management projects (SLM) in Kahumbu Ward?
- 2) If the answer to the above is affirmative, can the Chairperson explain to the Assembly the methodology/criteria used to identify the sustainable land management beneficiary wards in Murang'a County?
- 3) Can the Chairperson inform this Assembly whether the budget for the said projects was approved by the County Assembly? If yes, how much was allocated per ward?
- 4) Is the Chairperson aware that some of the water pans were not fenced thus posing a great risk to the area residents?

- 5) If the answer to the above is affirmative, is the Chairperson aware that a child from Mbogo-ini village in Kahumbu Ward died from drowning in one of the unsecured water pans?
- 6) Can the Chairperson report to the Assembly on the status of all the sustainable land management projects in Murang'a County?
- 7) Can the Chairperson inform this Assembly on whether the construction of the incomplete water pans will continue by funding from the County Government and the expected completion date?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): What is the point of order Hon. Gichobe?

Hon. Gichobe Mbatia: Hon. Speaker I am looking at the numbers in the House and I am wondering whether there is quorum.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): I request the Clerk to -----What is the point of order Honourable from Muguru?

Hon. Moses Muchiri: Hon. Speaker, it is good to note that the Assembly is already in mode of procession so the issue of quorum could have been raised before the Assembly started. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): I will guide on that.

(Speaker consulted the Clerk at the Table)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Members, I stand to give guidance about the point of order that was raised by Hon. Gichobe.

According to Standing Order 37 if at any time after the Chair is taken, or when the Assembly is in the Committee, a member objects that there is not a quorum present, the Speaker or the Chairperson shall count the Assembly or the Committee as the case may be.

If on the count under paragraph one, a quorum does not appear to be present, the Speaker or the Chairperson shall cause the division bell to be rung as on a division, and if no quorum is present at the expiration of the ten minutes;

- a) If the Speaker is in the Chair, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting without question put.
- b) If the Assembly is in the Committee, the Chairperson shall leave the Chair and report the fact to the Speaker, who shall adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting without question put.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): I now want to call the Clerk to confirm the quorum. Madam Clerk?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): So, Hon. Chefman you can continue.

Hon. Chefman Njoroje: Thank you once again Mr. Speaker, I am the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Kahumbu Ward and represent those good people there. Pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for the following Statement from the Chairperson-- sorry, I have mixed myself---

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Hon. Chefman, if I can remember well, I think you were on your seventh point.

Hon. Chefman Njoroje: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Sorry. Thank you for your guidance. Number seven, can the Chairperson inform the Assembly on whether construction of the incomplete water pans will continue being funded by Murang'a County Government and the expected completion date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Hon. Pauline can respond.

Hon. Pauline Njeri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am the Chairperson for Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries. I have heard the request or queries from Hon. Chefman and I kindly request that my Committee be granted 14 days because these are very serious matters, especially where life was involved; there was life lost. I request for 14 days so that my Committee---

(Technical hitch)

Hon. Pauline Njeri: I can continue I was off air. I request Hon. Chefman that my Committee for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries be granted 14 days so that we can give a comprehensive Report on all the queries that have been raised.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Chefman Njoroge): Hon. Member from Kahumbu-ini, are you okay with 14 days?

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Mr. Speaker, I am not a Member from Kihumbu-ini but from Kahumbu Ward.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Noted. You seem to be big so the name should be as---

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: I think we need to call the Independent, Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) next time for change of the names. I am well informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Next Order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF GOVERNANCE, LABOUR, JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT ON ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR FY 2023/2024 FROM THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Hon. Jeremiah Gichobe: Mr. Speaker, I beg that this Assembly adopts a Report on the sectoral Committee on Governance, Labour, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee on its consideration of Annual Progress Report for the FY 2023/2024 from the County Public Service Board (CPSB), laid on the Table of this Assembly on Tuesday, 19th November 2024.

Hon. Speaker, we considered this Report in our sectoral Committee. However, that has not been availed to Members at the moment. I do not think there is any Member in this Assembly who has a print out of that Report because I was informed that there was a hitch in the printing. That is why probably Members do not have the Report. I beg your guidance. I have a copy of that Report here, with the privilege of being the Chairperson of the Committee. I do not think that privilege has been extended to the rest of the Members because the Report was not printed. I seek your guidance.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Hon. Member from Kariara, that has been communicated with the Clerk and Members has been supplied with soft copies. You already have soft copies.

Hon. Jeremiah Gichobe: Vey well Mr. Speaker, on that note then, I seek your permission to proceed. We have been considering this Report in our Sittings since we requested for it from the CPSB. Section 57 of the County Governments Act (CGA), 2012, provides that there is an established Public Service Board in each County, which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a seal and capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name. Article 235 of the Constitution, 2010, provides that a County Government is responsible within a framework of uniform norms and standards prescribed by an Act of Parliament for establishing and abolishing offices in its Public Service, appointing persons to hold or act in those offices and confirming appointments, and exercising disciplinary control over, and, removing persons holding or acting in those offices.

Hon. Speaker, the CPSB is expected to perform the following functions on behalf of the County Government. For instance, it is supposed to establish and abolish offices in the County public service, promote the County public service values and principles referred in Article 232 of the Constitution, make recommendations to the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) on behalf of the County Government on remuneration, pensions and gratuities for County Public Service employees, among others.

Hon. Speaker, we requested the annual progress Report for the FY 2023/2024 from the CPSB. On 8th July 2024, the Secretary to the CPSB responded through correspondence referenced and dated MCG/PSB/39/1 VOL.2/10 on 22nd July 2024. The following are the findings of the Committee. The Report had good preamble outlining establishment, composition and membership. Two, under the CPSB, it is evident that the Report was generated out of the CPSB work plan for FY 2023/2024. On recruitment, the CPSB undertook recruitment of 32 new officers, promoted 240 serving officers to various grades, redesigned 35 officers to their desired cadres, recruited 343 interns under the Murang'a County Government internship program which we passed in this Assembly and absolved 1,420 casuals into contract terms employees in line with the Employment Act. On the disciplinary control, the CPSB in that financial year processed 30 disciplinary cases received and decisions communicated through the respective heads of departments. On statutory reports, the CPSB submitted two

statutory reports to the Assembly namely the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023 and evaluation report on the status of public service compliance with values and principles of articles 10 and 232 of the constitution.

There were gaps that were noted honourable Speaker, one, the CPSB cited financial and budgetary constraints which were in the previous financial year. The matter seemed to have not been addressed and there was no indication that the CPSB reached out to the CEC Finance or the County Assembly for generating a solution. Two, the County Public Service Board indicated that one of its challenges was operating in a dynamic environment but they failed to indicate the efforts they made in regards to addressing the same.

Lastly, these are the recommendations that my Committee made, one that the CPSB should make an effort to address the financial and budgetary constraints/ challenges by reaching out to the CEC Finance or else reaching out to the County Assembly through the Committee to adjust their vote-heads. Number two, that the CPSB should undertake training and courses that will facilitate it to gather operational skills to thrive in a dynamic environment such as mentorship and professional development to acquire essential digital skills in addition to basic compute knowledge and skills and leadership training to enhance decision making capabilities. I urge all members to support the Motion and urge Hon. Pauline to second the Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Pauline Muchiri: I stand to second the Motion, however honourable Speaker, kindly ensure that next time the members get the soft copy of such Motions through our phones because for me I have not received and I had to listen keenly from chair. I second.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Before I put the Question, honourable members when I am seated here I am always a servant of our Standing Orders I am very sure that when we came to this Assembly we were all taken through our Standing Orders, I have sometimes sat here and seen members violating the Standing Orders, even senior members of this Assembly and sometimes we are encouraging our staff to do the same. I have seen several members cross between the Speaker's chair, I want it to be taken that this is wrong and the next time a member does this he will be penalized. That is according to our Standing Orders 113(b), An I want to quote for the members, because as from today from this Chair, that will be penalized. Standing Order 113(2) “No member shall pass between the Chair and any

member who is speaking or between the Chair and the Table unless it is so necessary for the purpose of administration of oath or affirmation of allegiance.”

(Question proposed)

Hon. John Ngugi: I rise to support the Motion and commend the Committee for doing a good job, but there are two things that I would want to cite about the public service board, we were invite by the controller of budget because ours.....(*inaudible*).....

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): We have been disrupted severally, Serjeant- At- Arms, can you make sure that we have a ready generator for a backup. Serjeant can we continue. can you confirm that we will not be disrupted again? I understand we have back up but members should bear that it takes two to three seconds before it resumes. Hon. Kibaiya continue.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was saying that we are not adhering to the ratios that are legally recognized we are at 49.6 per cent in the County while the recommended percentage is 35 per cent. I know that we have been hiring interns to bridge the gap between the need for employees and the variance in the budgetary allocations for the same purpose. We urge the Committee on governance to look at this matter seriously because last time they had a Report here, I raised my concerns in terms of placement of employees. I know we are very short in the health sector which is a very important sector in our COUNTY but I bet there are other employees elsewhere that can be rationalized and the executive do the right thing to hire where we need employee and where we have redundancy to ensure that is dealt with.

There is also the issue of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Database (IPPD) every now and then we get the promise that all employees should be or there is a quest to put them on IPPD yet every other time we get a Report we hear around Kshs 300 or 400 Million have been paid out of the systems. That is a very big risk to the County because we have been requesting for the list of these employees who are being paid out of the system and I do not think that has been done or if the Governance Committee has that list. I bet they should share it with the rest of the members here because we want to interrogate and see whether those employees really do work in this County. Paying Kshs300 or 400 million out of the system

it exposes us to ghost worker; whereas we know very well there are areas we need employment like in nursing, in clinical officers and even doctors. so, I will ask the Committee to look into that matter and to ensure that if they gather those Reports they share those Reports with other members of this Assembly so that those Reports can be interrogated.

Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honorable member from Kahumbu Ward. I think now I am correct?

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion however with a rider that you instruct that the Motion or the recommendation be shared in a soft copy because we will back here on Tuesday next week. For the members to continue reading and understanding the whole thing. I request the chairperson Governance Committee to make sure that the members who have not received the soft copy they are about to get the soft copy. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Noted honorable member and I want the honorable chairperson to commit himself that you will send that Report to members

Hon. Jeremiah Gichobe: Thank you Mr. Speaker, before I respond to the members, yes, I commit that I will make sure that the secretariat supplies every member with that Report so that members can see what we have adopted. But that said and done I will thank the members who have contributed—

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honorable member I have not given you a chance to respond it was on the issue of the Reports being sent to them.

Hon. Clement Mbatia: My apologies Mr. Speaker. Well guided. As far as that is concerned, I commit that the secretariat will send that soft copy before the end of today. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Any other member before I call the mover to respond? Mover you can now respond.

Hon. Clement Mbatia: Thank you Mr. Speaker, there is something that has been said by the honorable member for Gatanga Ward and it is important from the report that we requested from County Public Service Board (CPSB) they told us that they onboarded all the casual workers to contracts and I will follow up on that. That is a report I can bring to the House later. I will request the CPSB to service us with that list of all those names and the

contract terms so that we know who these workers are where they are working and what are their terms in the contracts because what we got was a general Report. That these number of employees have been onboarded on contract terms. We can go a step further and request for a deeper report to interrogate that Report further so I can promise the members that is something that the Committee will follow up on. After we adopt this report, I will be in communication with the chairperson of the CPSB so that we can get the report as soon as possible and as soon as it is available I will avail it to members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support the Motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

[SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER]

PAPERS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MURANG'A MASTER PLAN FOR LAND REF NO. 12157/8 BY THE CHAIRPERSON LAND, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I hereby stand in on behalf of the chairperson who is engaged in some other activities regarding the Assembly. I request that the County government of Murang'a Masterplan for land ref No. 12157/8 be laid on the Table of the Assembly.

(Hon. Chefman Njoroge laid the Paper on the Table)

REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MURANG'A MASTER PLAN FOR LAND REF NO. 12157/8

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, again standing in for the chairperson who is engaged in some other major issues pertaining the Assembly. I lay this Paper that; -

The Report of Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Settlement Committee on its consideration of the County Government of Murang'a master plan for land Ref No. 12157/8, be laid on the Table of the Assembly.

(Hon. Chefman Njoroge laid the Paper on the Table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MURANG'A MASTER PLAN FOR LAND REF NO. 12157/8

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, again standing in for my able chairperson who is out for other engagement. Mr. Speaker Sir, that this Assembly adopts a Report of the sectoral Committee on Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Settlement on its consideration of the County Government of Murang'a Masterplan for Land Reference No. 12157/8 on the Table of the Assembly on Wednesday November 20, 2024. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Next Order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON MURANGA COUNTY CHILDREN POLICY 2024.

Hon. Moses Muchiri: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion; -
That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services on consideration of Murang'a County Children Policy 2024 laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday November 19, 2024. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, Murang'a County Children Policy 2024 was laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday November 19, 2024 and thereafter stood committed to the sectoral Committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services. Before tabling of the Policy, the County Executive Department of Youth and Social Services and the County Assembly Members held several meetings to study the policy objectives of the department and the effectiveness of the implementation

The County Government of Murang'a, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Murang'a child protection desk and other key partners, has collaboratively developed a County Children Policy. This Policy has been shaped by extensive stakeholder engagement, including valuable input gathered from children through child participation forums, to ensure it reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders and addresses the diverse needs of our community. The Policy goals stated herein are based on the key pillars of Child Rights as articulated in the (UNCRC), 1989. These are Survival Rights, Development Rights, Protection Rights and Participation Rights.

Hon. Speaker, the roles of the County governments are well spelled out under section 61 and 62 of the Children Act, 2001. They include provision or facilitation of the provision of pre-primary education; provision or facilitation of the provision of childcare facilities; and establishing welfare schemes to provide or facilitate the provision of childcare facilities and programs for children including children with disabilities. This Policy therefore will provide a framework for to realization and safeguarding the rights and welfare of the child in Murang'a County.

The Committee in its sitting held at Nokras Hotel Murang'a on Thursday 14th November, 2024 considered the Policy and unanimously resolved that it be adopted.

Committee observations. Upon consideration of the Murang'a County Children Policy 2024, the Committee made the following observations:-

1. That the development of this Policy was spearheaded through an inclusive, participatory and widely consultative process with representation of key stakeholders.
2. That the Policy has been aligned to the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and has been designed to contribute to the realization of the goals of Kenya Vision 2030.
3. That the Policy will guarantee every child in the County the right to free and compulsory basic education, basic nutrition, shelter and health care; protection from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labor; parental care and protection.
4. That the Policy statements and strategies are well outlined with specific interventions for implementation.

5. That this Policy has adequate, accountable and progressive monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure effective implementation of the Policy.

Committee Recommendations; the Committee recommended as follows;

1. That, the House adopts this Report on Committee consideration of Murang`a County Children Policy, 2024.
2. That, following the adoption of this Policy, all proposed legislation on matters related to children should be guided by the provisions of the Murang`a Children Policy, 2024.
3. The County Assembly to provide for the establishment of legal framework for facilitating public participation in county government Policy processes and service delivery and for connected purposes.
4. The County Government should allocate adequate resources towards the implementation of this Policy. Lastly, recommendation number five that the County Government to continue developing policies and programs aimed at improving children's lives and providing support to the families. Hon. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Hanna to second this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the Motion and before I sit down, I just want to lay my input on this. This child Policy we all know it is the Policy that will protect our children from abuse, neglect, exploitation of labour and also all forms of violence. We are all aware what our children face and what are the challenges our children face in our community and also in our County Murang'a. This is also the child policy which will protect all the children who live with disability. They will be able to access education, the health facilities and all the facilitation that is given by our County Murang'a. So, I stand to second this Motion. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Wasary, Leader of Majority.

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. Hon. Speaker I am a father and I love children so much and God has blessed me with many children. I do not want to limit myself to number three.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. members are asking how many are many.

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Hon. Speaker I do not want to limit myself to number three for Genesis 28 verse 3 it says, this is Abraham who was told; Almighty bless you and give you many children. So, I still have the potential to go beyond number three by the grace of God and equally every member who is here.

Hon. Speaker, children are very innocent and the same time, they are very vulnerable to many challenges that are there and it is very good that we create a good environment within our county through this policy that has come at the right time. It is good that this Policy is anchored in our constitution and Children Acts cap 141. The many challenges that have been mentioned by the seconder of the Motion and the mover of the Motion which include children discrimination, child labour, lack of basic education, lack of basic nutrition, lack of shelter, healthcare, child abuse and neglect including harmful cultural practices that our children are prone to, will now be addressed by this Policy that we have. Honorable Speaker, I support.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Chefman

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to support the Motion regarding the Policy and I think it is high time it is implemented. For a long time we find that children not only in our home areas, but even in towns. You can see a majority of the children around the town... which is not fair. We know everybody has his father and has his mother. Once again, I am also a parent and also, I have so many children and I think it is high time we safe guard and we make sure that apart from generating good policies but also, they are implemented. We can be good in making policies and also, we should be good in implementing all these policies.

On the same case we can see majority of when we were reading this Policy and when we were going through it at the Committee level, I came to realise that the children have a right for a public participation. Majority of the time we think that it is only the parents or the adults who are supposed to have the public participation. It is incurred in this Policy that the children are invited in the public participation to talk about the children's issues. I think it is high time we implement and we make sure this Policy is implemented to the fullest.

Again Mr. Speaker Sir, Murang'a County Government has done a good job about the ECDEs, about the issue of our health centres we are trying to improve which is recommendable. I will urge the Murang'a County Government to make sure at least in every ward, because we are doing the community projects at least we have a special clinic especially for the children with disabilities. We are having a big problem with Murang'a County whereby a lot of the disability children are hidden in peoples homesteads; the parents are not bringing the children out. But if we can have a special..... currently I think we only have one special one for the disabilities just outside here opposite our Assembly. But if it is possible, if we care about the children and if the Policy should be implemented, I think in every ward we should have a therapy clinic special for these children. Because if we do not do that, I do not think we will be safeguarding our generation to come and we will be having a lot of problems.

The other issue is about the issue of nutrition. Yes again we should also think about nutrition way of our kids, our mothers. Remember we are also coming form the COVID era, we are also coming from the other challenges of the global warming and climatical change. We are in the era of land sub division. We have a lot of problems. So, when it comes to the issue of the nutrition of the food, it becomes a problem. I think also in this Policy it has captured the issue of how the children and the kids will be taken care of in terms of the nutrition. The only thing we need to have is a lot of public participation and also we go down as members of this Honourable House and even other members to go and explain to our people regarding this Policy. We just do not need to have a Policy and then it is put in the archives but we need to have direct to our people in the community places, either in the churches, to the ward level public participation to introduce and explain ...

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Hon. Gichobe what is the point of order

Hon. Jeremiah Gichobe:(*inaudible*).....

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Continue Hon. Member

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: I thought today Mr. Gichobe was on my neck. I was sayin Mr. Speaker sir, it is a good Policy, the issue is about implementation. The issue is about how it will go to our wards. The issue about how it can be a booklet even to our schools. We should have like a co curriculum activity in the schools either on Saturday's or Sunday's. They should

be explained to about their rights so that at least we can safeguard. We have a lot of problems as I said earlier with issue of the challenges from the COVID era to these now environmental challenges. There is a lot of frustration, stress, distress and a lot of unnecessary wrangles in their homes whereby the children find themselves they are not safeguarded in terms of care. So, I will request and my plea is that we make sure this Policy as we pass, it should not just be put in the archives but should go to the ground and implemented. Let our parents, I being one of them, let all the people, the elderly know that children have their rights and now there is a Policy to safe guard the interest of these children. I rise to support and thank you, Mr. Speaker sir.

Hon. Pauline Njeri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion on the adoption of a Report on the Murang'a County Children Policy. Mr. Speaker as you know, children are the closest to God and even as the Bible, as Jesus, said, let the children come to me. If we abandon children, as legislators or as leaders, we will actually inherit curses.

I remember the other day we had a seminar regarding children and we really motivated or insisted, if someone can even adopt a child, instead of these children staying in the children's home, it is very important for these children to be raised in a family setup. So, I support and insist, if there are people here who can adopt children so that we can have few in the children's home, the better for us. I also urge all fathers who are leaders here, to always support children, even those that they sire from outside marriage, it is very important because children are innocent and are a gift from God. I support the Motion.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): I now call the mover to respond.

Hon. Moses Muchiri: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to thank honourable members, who have contributed to this Motion. Hon. Speaker, I am a bit challenged because I have heard some members have many children but it is good to state I also love children and I am also on my way there. So, any time early next year, maybe, I will become a father, God willing.

Hon. Speaker, as Hon. members have said, children are prone to many bad things happening to them so it is upon the adults, we as leaders, be in front to protect our children. Hon. Speaker, it is good to note that Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya, tries to stipulate some rights of children; some of which are in line with this Policy; like education, nutrition, health; so, it is good for us to pass this Motion. It is also good to note that the County

Government of Murang'a will be the first or second County Assembly to adopt this kind of a Policy and it is good to note that we have the goodwill of the Governor, H.E. Dr. Irungu Kangata, in partnership with the Members of County Assembly who have been fighting for the development of the children. Starting from birth where, with Kangata care, if someone gives birth, currently they will receive some money as support for the child. The issue of the Early Childhood Development Education where they are properly built so that our children can access that basic education. They are also given the deworming medicine, something to do with vitamins which is in line with health but it is good to note that, Hon. Speaker, after we pass this policy, we need to develop what we call a lactation room, even in this county assembly. So that any member or staff who has a child can come with the baby to work and we can also have an area where they can leave the child or if someone wants to breastfeed the child where they can do so.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I urge all the members to support this Motion.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Honourable members, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

The Assembly rose at 11:30 a.m.

