

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 2nd September, 2014

The House met at 10:50 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Welcome, Hon. Members. As you know, and as you read yesterday in the print media, the County Assembly Members were alleged to have been bribed, or, tried to be bribed by the Jubilee Government so as to support, or not to support the referendum.

I want to communicate to this House on the issue that has been alleged of the MCAs being bribed so that we can have a record in our HANSARD. Like now, on the issue of the Ward Offices in our Assembly, this is something that has been approved by the County Assembly Service Board of Murang'a County Assembly.

And, actually, we did not need any help from anybody as alleged by the print media on that issue because it was an issue passed by this House which is constitutionally in place and we do not wish to welcome any critic on that.

On the issue of the car grants for the Members of the County Assembly, we all know that there have been negotiations between the County Assemblies' Forum and the SRC on the modalities or viability of the car grants.

So, the allegation by the print media and the electronic media that the Members of the County Assemblies are to be bribed so that they may not support the referendum is not true because we all know that the negotiations about the same have been going on.

On that note, it is good for us, as Members of the County Assembly of Murang'a, to stand firm on those two grounds because we are aware that nobody is trying to bribe us. Actually, we are demanding or we are trying to negotiate our rights.

(Applause)

The other issue I wanted to communicate is that, as you know and as you have witnessed, we are about 25 minutes late for the Assembly. There is an order under the Order Paper, order number eight on Motions, by the Chairperson Delegated County Legislation Committee.

We had to consult with the Chair because we all noted that the said annual progress report is a very important document and due to some hitches, it was relayed yesterday via members' emails. So, after consultation with the Clerk and the Chairperson to that Committee, we have proposed that it will be delayed so that we can give time to the members to go through that report because the annual progress report is a very big document and we assumed that the members have not had enough time to peruse the same.

Next order!

NOTICE OF MOTION

COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE NOMINATION OF CHIEF OFFICERS

Hon. Samson Kago: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Pursuant to Standing Order number 47, I hereby, after being authorised by the Mover of the Motion, move on her behalf the Motion which is on the Order Paper. Therefore, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

Aware that the County Service Board is responsible for the recruitment and recommendation of suitable persons for nomination of Chief Officers, considering that the recommendations of the County public Service Board ought to comply with Articles 10, 27 (4), 56 (c) and 232 1 (i) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that provide for equal opportunities in the appointments of men, women, youth and persons with disabilities, regretting that all the nominees for the positions of Chief Officers presented to this Assembly so far are of the same gender; this Hon. House urges the County Public Service Board and the Governor to ensure that the nominees to the position of Chief Officers are compliant with the provisions of the Constitution with regards to gender balance, youth and persons with disabilities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

STATEMENTS

THE TENDER PROCESS FOR PRINTING EXAMINATION PAPERS IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mary?

Hon. Mary Waithira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I request for a Statement; pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 41 (2c), I hereby wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson Education, Information and Technology Committee on the following:-

- I. When and how the tender for printing the examination papers in Murang'a County Primary Schools was done.
- II. Provide the list of the tenderers who submitted bids for the printing of the exams.
- III. The minutes that awarded the tender to the company that printed the exams.
- IV. The names of the directors of the company that won the tender and the certificate of registration.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Chair for Education.

Hon. John Njoroge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask for 14 working days considering that we have a new CEC Member, Hon. Nyagia, who is in the process of taking over. So, I wish to ask for 14 working days and I will respond to the question.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mary, are you satisfied?

Hon. Mary Waithira: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am quite okay and I think we are going to wait for those 14 days, only that we request for 14 working days, please.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next order!

MOTIONS

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE DELEGATED COUNTY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Hon. Joseph Ndung'u: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I represent Ichagaki Ward. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you had directed; I would wish that the House waits until tomorrow in the afternoon so that members can peruse the document. We will then be in a position to discuss the report quite well tomorrow in the afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Correct. Hon. Members, as I had communicated earlier, it is good for us to peruse that report between today and tomorrow afternoon so that we may have materials for debate tomorrow.

Next order!

(Motion was deferred to the next sitting)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE ON THE
STATE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I represent Nginda Ward. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion; that this Assembly adopts the report on the state of the public service.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this document is in the files of Hon. Members and I hope that they have gone through it. It is a voluminous document, Mr. Speaker, Sir. On behalf of the Public Service Committee, and pursuant to Standing Order number 191(5) g, it is my pleasure and duty to present to the County Assembly the Report of the Committee on the State of Public Service in Murang'a County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will just highlight the sections of the report to which I feel I should express my concern. We went through all the Sub-Counties and the problems of the Sub-Counties are similar. The delivery of services is low and the morale of the employees is very low. They lack the gears to work and they are not certain of employment and this is the reason why the revenue collection has gone very low.

So, I am asking the Hon. Members to go through the report and adopt it. I will mention the areas that we have visited and give the projection of the population and density of the year 2017.

In Kiharu, we have 186,964 and the density is 456. In Kangema, we have 79,491 and the density is 458. In Mathioya; 91,088 and the density is 259. In Kandara, Mr. Speaker, 161,755 and the density is 686. In Kigumo, we have 127,791 and the density is 528. In

Gatanga we have 168,917 and the density is 282. In Maragwa, we have 157,224 and the density is 287. The total population is 973,231 and the density is 380.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one Sub-County (Gatanga) that I would like to mention. We have a big problem in Gatanga because of the boundary. Some of the employees are being paid by Kiambu, but they are working in Murang'a County. I would ask this Assembly to adopt this report so that the Executive will be able, or, will be pressed to solve disputes of that boundary.

Hon. Members, if you imagine, a place like Blue Post is in Murang'a but they pay their taxes in Kiambu, meaning that we are losing a lot of money. Sometimes back, we got information that the collection points were destroyed by Kiambu County and our County here did nothing about it.

So, this is the reason why I am asking that the House adopts this report so that the Executive will be able to act and solve that problem. It is a big problem because we are losing a lot of money.

The other thing I would like to highlight is the lack of parking equipment, and office accommodation. Some of the offices do not even have computers. So, the collection of the revenue goes down in every Sub-County.

The problems are similar. The enforcement officers did not have uniforms. They have no vehicles and where they have them, they are too old. They need new vehicles so that they will manage to up the collection of the revenue because the end point of these workers is to collect revenue for the County.

So, I will ask the House to consider and adopt this report so that the Executive will feel forced to look into the welfare of these people and the employees should also be confirmed so that they will be in a position to collect the revenue for the County.

With that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I ask one of the able members of this committee, Hon. Dishon, to second the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I represent Muthithi. I stand to second this Motion. We went round the entire County and we noted, as my able Chairman has said, that workers are not confident with their employer because apparently, Mr. Speaker, many of those working don't have any confirmation letters for their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me that, once somebody has not been confirmed for a job, the production is usually very low because such a person has no hope. And if the members adopt this Motion, the Executive will definitely see that the Assembly is pressing on them to confirm the employees on the jobs so that they can really have hope of their positions. Once they have hope, Mr. Speaker, the production will also increase.

Mr. Speaker, we also noted that many of those working in the field have no protective clothing, especially in the junior levels. They are supposed to be given protective clothing. It was only at Kiria-ini where we found them provided with gumboots and the gumboots were even torn. So, I won't say that they had the gumboots.

Mr. Speaker, we also noted that there is a problem with the imprest. The imprest facility, Mr. Speaker, should be raised, and once it is raised, they will be able to manage themselves at the Sub-County level.

The other one, Mr. Speaker, is the presence of staff gaps. Mr. Speaker, we were told that they were understaffed, especially in the enforcement fields. They were therefore not able to collect revenue at 100% because of the staff gaps.

Mr. Speaker, if members agree to support this Motion and we pass it over to the Executive, they will do something to ensure that the staff gaps are filled and the revenue collection in this County will definitely improve.

Mr. Speaker, we also noted that it is a very serious issue in Ithanga. In fact, those people from Ithanga are going as far as Gatanga for services. Mr. Speaker we noted that the County should establish an office at Kaguku.

And once they establish an office at Kaguku, those people from the lower side of Gatanga will get services closer to them. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the objective of any government is to bring services closer to the people. The people from the lower side of Gatanga are not getting services closer to them. They are travelling to as far as Gatanga to get services.

Mr. Speaker, something should be done to streamline the revenue collections at Sub-County borders. We noted that someone who is on the other side of Kandara has to go to Kandara and another one who is from Maragwa goes to Maragwa for services.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should streamline that. We are in one County. It doesn't matter whether the revenue is collected at Maragua or at Kenol or if somebody belongs to Gatanga Sub-County. Mr. Speaker, the bag is one and that bag belongs to Murang'a County. Those fellows should not be forced to go to as far as Kandara to pay their revenues and to pay

for their licences and taxes. They should pay at Kenol; they should not travel to all those places. So, we are calling on the County Government to streamline that.

The other one is the recognition of Kahuro Sub-County. Mr. Speaker, we noted that Kahuro brings sizeable revenue to this Sub-County, more than other Sub-Counties. Mr. Speaker, it is our considered opinion that Kahuro should be promoted and given the status of a Sub-County so that it can collect more and even go beyond.

Mr. Speaker, it was surprising to note that when you go to Kahuro, we have two places called Mugoiri. There is a Mugoiri and a Mugoiri Wa Tiri. Mr. Speaker, somebody has to travel from Kahuro to Mugoiri Wa Tiri to collect revenue. And if that person doesn't go to Mugoiri Wa Tiri, I am sorry no revenue is collected.

What am I saying?

I am saying that Mugoiri should be recognised and promoted to a Sub-County and be given enough staff to go and collect revenue from all those places, including Mugoiri Wa Tiri.

The other one is to resolve the dispute between Kiambu and Murang'a Counties. It is the high time, Mr. Speaker, that this problem is resolved. It is taking too long. Some of these people are collecting revenue there and I understand their payroll is in Kiambu yet Murang'a is paying them. So, Mr. Speaker, the records should be transferred to this end. Once the personnel record is transferred to this end, this problem will be solved and those staff will have confidence.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I end my submission. Thank you very much.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Leader of Majority.

Hon. Peter Kihungi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to support the Motion. Being a member of the committee, I want to say that the committee has taken the right direction.

Most of the people who are in the Sub-Counties are the ones who are going to save this County. The committee on Finance has a big job to make sure that this County is able to sustain itself, especially on salaries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last financial year, we only managed 439 million yet the salaries for the whole County go to around 1.5 billion. Therefore, if the National Government withdraws its support the County is done.

But this has happened first of all, because of the issue of the staff, the morale of the staff and the organisation of the staff. The staffs who are in the Sub-Counties don't feel as if they are part of the County Government. They feel as if they are a subsidiary team working for the County Government.

But the County Government Executive must learn that they can never lead or manage this County without those staff. Their working environment is very deplorable. We found somebody in Kiria-ini with no office yet that is where we are getting a lot of money. That person doesn't have an office of operation. They are sharing vehicles with Kangema whereby each has specific days to use the vehicles. Those challenges have driven the morale of the staff very low.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion and I request the members to adopt it. I think after the adoption, the committee should now seek a sitting with the person who is in charge of revenue collection because in our budget we set apart 70 million for revenue collection.

We first of all need to understand the status of the people who are collecting revenue. You find it is raining and you are expecting a person to collect revenue yet he doesn't have a shade. You then wonder where this person will be when the vehicles will be passing and it will be raining. Therefore, we can never get any revenue.

As the Committee on Finance pursues the issues of revenue, the Public Service Committee should now go critically to find out the share for making the personnel in our Sub-Counties comfortable so that they can feel that they are working for the County and that they are part of us.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not talk a lot but I request the members to adopt the report so that the committee can go ahead to look into how the status of the staff at the Sub-Counties can be improved and then the Committee of Finance can enhance and force them to deliver on revenue collection.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Rebecca.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the Motion. I come from Gatanga where the boundary dispute for the whole County is. It is the high time that we establish the boundaries without talking. It is our own right to establish the boundary and make sure that all the revenues are coming to us.

It is a common practice that an old habit is very difficult to leave because these people were used to taking money; the big firms and rest were used to taking their taxes to Kiambu. They are still doing it and they said---unless they receive a letter saying otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the era of IT. There is no way we can continue with the workers collecting the money with a receipt. All the other Counties have adopted the IT method in the collection of revenues. It is the high time for our County to take over a consultant to help in revenue collection. And this consultant should be forced to employ the people who are already collecting the revenue.

While we are looking at their welfare, it is also important to make sure that all the money collected is coming to the County Government. We have noticed that in other areas such as Nairobi, when you park they ask if you are you going to stay and if you are not going to stay they tell you that you can you pay half. It only needs someone of integrity to refuse paying half.

Mr. Speaker, most of the surrounding Counties are adopting the machine way of collecting revenue. Where there is a machine and a chip is put, that money is collected from somebody through *Mpesa*, and it goes directly to the County kitty.

By that, the County will be able to improve its welfare; by that the County will be able to collect all the money it had budgeted for and collect the money everywhere. And the County will be forced by the consultants to build good collecting houses because, surely, collecting revenues when you are on the road while being rained on means that you will get sick the following day. While traveling to Nairobi, I have noticed that vehicles pass when there is rain.

I propose that we even go further and employ a consultant who will train these people on IT about revenue collection. When they are trained, they are assured of their job because they will not be sacked tomorrow since training is an expensive element.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Beth.

Hon. Beth Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion on adoption of the report by the Public Service Committee on the status of the public service in Murang'a County.

As members of this committee, we were out there collecting data and seeing what is happening. I would like to say that the running of this County is hinged on revenue.

As you know, in any establishment you need money to work. So, if we don't collect revenues we shall not manage to meet our targets or surpass them or even finance our budget. We shall not be in a position to do that for the coming years.

When we went to the Sub-Counties within the County Government of Murang'a, we found that, across the board, there are similarities in the challenges facing these personnel who are working there. They are understaffed; they lack vehicles; they face poor infrastructure; they lack getting the imprest on time; they lack enforcement personnel; and access roads.

And these challenges make it very hard for them to carry out their businesses of serving the citizens of Murang'a County diligently, as they are supposed to.

Mr. Speaker, I must emphasize that it is these officers service to the people of Murang'a that portrays the image of the County Government to the citizens out there. And these citizens are the ones we expect to pay taxes. So, if we do not treat these officers the way we are supposed to, and make their work comfortable and easy, we are not really portraying the good image that Murang'a County seeks to have.

So, we need to strengthen these officers in all the areas highlighted in this report. We must do this with outmost speed as said earlier by my fellow Hon. Members so that the Executive can carry out this business with speed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Rosemary.

Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I represent Gaturi Ward. I rise to support the Motion because we have already gone to the field and we have observed the following.

That, in some areas there is inadequate means of transport which is likely to affect the revenues because you cannot move around to source revenues without means of transport.

Secondly, there is that fear of unknown. Some employees feel that they are not in the right position because they don't know their future. They may go for somebody's vehicle which has not paid for the revenue only for somebody else to intervene and say that the vehicle should be released without even paying for the revenue.

So, I would propose that--- We in the Committee of Finance have observed that the vehicles of senior people in this County don't pay taxes. Personally, I don't encourage that. I

also have a transport vehicle and I do encourage my people to pay because if I fail to pay even the rest will not pay.

So, if the senior officers are not paying for the revenues, it means that we are going to lose a lot of revenues. And if we are doing businesses within our County, we must pay for the revenues because the same money is the one going to give the services to our people.

I would urge the Hon. Members of this House to walk an extra mile and support these employees who are now not in a position to know exactly where they are. Because of that fear of unknown on whether tomorrow they will be in their work positions, they are fearing to quarrel with those people as they don't know whether a vehicle belongs to a senior person or not.

So, we have to confirm these people so that they know that they are not going anywhere. Although we have been talking to them telling them that they have been locked in the IPPD and there is nowhere they are going, they still have that fear. They need to be enlightened and also supported by this House so that they may deliver.

If we lose the County revenues, it means that we have totally failed as a House. I would not like to be part and parcel of this House if we let the County fail to deliver because of failing to defend our employees.

Again, the issue of transport has been a challenge because in every Sub-County we went, we found that sometimes, the vehicles they use are recalled to the headquarters and they are left without a vehicle. So, they cannot even be able to arrest anybody who has failed to pay for the revenue.

We also wish that every Sub-County can have a revenue collection car. If we set a huge amount of money and facilitate them to buy cars, I know that the revenues will increase.

I also want to enlighten members that these employees have realized that there is that loophole of having inadequate revenue collectors; thus they have gone ahead to recruit their children who are not even learned. If a class eight pupil is being allocated a revenue duty, it is very dangerous to us because if at all she doesn't have O level qualifications, how can she administer revenue collection of maybe over 100, 000 per day.

I have seen there is a danger in that because in my place, I realized there were two pupils and when I asked who they were, I was told that they were the casuals working in the places of former employees.

So, we have to take another initiative; we have to know the qualifications of those being employed in this County so that we may not lose a lot of revenue. This is true because I have the facts of what I am talking about.

I also wish if the House can sit with the Public Service Board even if informally so that we may exactly know the kind of employees we are having.

We also have those old people who are here. We have been told that when they are allocated that revenue work, they are failing to do so because of laziness. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to rest there because I can see that you are in a hurry.

(Laughter)

So, I want to support this Motion fully but we have to observe that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Member for Gaturi, the Chair is not in a hurry. The Chair wanted to advise the Chairperson to be taking notes on the critical issues being raised so that he can respond and advise his committee on the same.

(Most of the members were on their feet)

Hon. Muhoro Njeri.

Hon. David Muhoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the Member for Kariara.

(Hon. Bernard Kariuki rose on a point of order)

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Kariara was standing while you were speaking. Should he first apologise?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: That is a very good observation. Many members were standing while the Chair was addressing and he is actually doing that.

(Laughter)

So, actually, according to that point of order, all those members who were standing while the Chair was addressing were out of order. Can you please apologise!

Hon. David Muhoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of myself and those members, I do apologise. Mr. Speaker, this Motion is very passionate to the people we represent and we feel that we need to contribute and actually support it.

First, I thank the Committee of Public Service. What they have outlined in this Motion is actually very dear. Mr. Speaker, we are really happy with the report. Actually, Mr.

Speaker, we come from these Sub-Counties and these are the problems we are able to identify.

Mr. Speaker, in Gatanga Sub-County, which was inherited from Kiambu, it is quite unfortunate that we have some people there who are, in fact, under the pay roll of Kiambu. And that is why Kiambu County is treating this County as if we are a Sub-County of Kiambu.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen incidences of revenue collectors whereby some of their equipment which they use, like the shades, are being taken away by the Kiambu Government because of the issue of the boundaries.

Some of the workers, who were working in the dissolved Thika County Council and were seconded to Gatanga Sub-County, are still casual workers and they had worked for more than five years in that defunct County Council.

Mr. Speaker, these workers have families; these workers have a life; and they have a future they need to plan for. It is unfortunate that some of the members of those defunct councils are still in this House and actually we don't want to make the same mistakes that those defunct councils made; holding casuals for five years, and still, they are being treated by this County Government as casual workers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very desperate situation for these people. People with families and people with a future need to be considered.

And because, Mr. Speaker, we are running a government and in this government there is a Public Service Board which is taking a lot of money from Murang'a citizens, there should be a formula of identifying those people and giving them a surety of their work. Mr. Speaker, let them have the proper employment they deserve.

It is very fortunate because this comes at a time when the National Government is conducting an audit of all its workers. And this report comes at a time when we, as the Government of Murang'a, need to do the same. We need to know who is working where, Mr. Speaker.

So, I want to congratulate this committee and let them know that this is just the beginning and this is your mandate. We want you to go further and see to it that the Public Service Board of this County has really done its homework well.

We need everybody who is working for this County to work with passion and to work with happiness, because, Mr. Speaker, it is only through resolution which we can make as a House, that, we can force the County Government to ensure that everybody who is working works in a better way.

Mr. Speaker, I support. I congratulate even the Chairman because he is doing this with a lot of passion. I have seen him even go to Gatanga Sub-County himself. He is not even delegating. In fact, Mr. Speaker, he wanted to have a head count of these employees.

He even went to my Ward- Kariara- to see the conditions under which these people are working. I actually congratulate the member for noting that they are working in dirty places with no protective gears. I support the Motion and tell the committee to go further and make sure that the County employees work with happiness and have a future.

I support this Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jane.

Hon. Jane Ndegwa: Mr. Speaker, I belong to this committee. As the others have said, we went around all the Sub-Counties and found that they have similar challenges. Among them, include the shortage of vehicles for revenue collection and employees' shortages in revenue collection and enforcement.

In Gatanga, as my fellow members have said, we noted that there is the boundary challenge. There are workers who work for Murang'a County but earn their salaries from Kiambu County. This makes some members reluctant in their work due to lack of supervision. They know that even if they don't work properly, they will still earn their salary since it comes from another County.

In Mathioya, there are no offices. In fact, we found some members working from the police canteen, counting the money they had collected. This shows lack of security, even though they were in a police canteen.

In Kahuro, we noticed that they do not have proper offices. This is a challenge that needs to be addressed. As I conclude, if we adopt this report, our County will increase its revenue collection, especially if the workers get the required resources, such as vehicles.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support.

Hon. James Kagoni: Mr. Speaker, I want to support this report. I am extremely happy by the work done by the committee regarding research and status of the public service. The County Public Service Board that is mandated to manage HR issues in the County had their annual conference in Mombasa last week. I happened to follow some of the discussions they had.

All the County Public Service Boards in the Country unanimously complained that the County Assemblies are interfering with their work. Relating this with the Public Service Board that we have here, I was wondering how we are really interfering with their work. Either, they do not understand their work properly, or, they are skewed to do some work.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that the work done by the Public Service Board in this Country is filling in the few slots that have come up here and there. I have been waiting to hear when the Public Service Boards, whether regionally, or all of them, will attend a capacity building workshop where they will share their expectations as they listen to them. The drafters of the Constitution had this in mind; simply because not everybody would be able to do this in the Executive, it could be better off if there was an organization, an institution or a department like the Public Service Board that would be looking at the HR issues.

Some of the issues raised by the committee clearly show that our Public Service Board has a problem; it does not understand its work. When they went to Mombasa, none of them raised these issues. If you look at their reports, they all pointed at the members of the County Assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, it has become easy to blame the MCAs whenever we have an issue in this Country. Few years ago, we were all pointing at Nyayo saying that all problems were brought by Moi. When you listen to the Public Service Board, they are blaming the MCAs. When you listen to the Governors, they blame the MCAs. The MPs still blame the MCAs. Everyone is blaming the MCAs. We are now waiting for our wives to also say that the MCAs are the problem.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are serious matters. They have raised issues but they do not tell us what to do. When you talk to them informally, you will realize that they are out of touch with the issues we are raising here. I think if there is one thing that we should discuss seriously, is this report and to have a resolution that is going to make them work.

Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Majority was talking, he mentioned something very important; that if the National Government was to withdraw its money from the Counties, one of the Counties that would be closed is Murang'a because we cannot sustain ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at Kangema which is 173 square km, and compare it with Maragwa which is 446 square km, and you then compare the revenue that is collected between Kangema and Maragua, and factor in the number of staff whereby Kangema has 176 while casuals are 37, you will realize that Maragwa does not even have half of this.

Mr. Speaker, someone is not telling us something here. Is it that Kangema has some ghost workers or what could be happening? In a place like Maragwa, we are collecting more money. I would wish to invite the Finance and Planning Chairman to maybe give this more attention and check why we have places like Maragwa where we are collecting a lot of money, while a place like Kangema has double or thrice the same number of staff, yet we are getting approximately three million.

You compare that with Kiharu which has two Sub-Counties and very few workers and you will note that the money they are collecting is double of what Kangema collects.

Someone should tell us something here so that we do not keep some ghost workers or open channels where money is lost, Mr. Speaker.

This year, our budget proposed that we need to raise 1.5 billion, but we cannot raise this money while we still have these public service challenges. Where are we going to get money for some of the projects allocated in the budget? Mr. Speaker, I belong to the Public Investment Committee and one of the things that we noted from the previous budget we have had is that sand cess is among the major revenue sources for this Country. This is an area that we really need to invest in with human and infrastructural resources. This is the mind of a business person and as a County; we must look at it that way.

If that is where we are getting a lot of income, then we also need to invest resources there. Sand cess being the largest source of revenue for this County, the people who are there should not be complaining that they do not have vehicles and enough staff. These are the things that we need to look at keenly. What is the Public Service Board doing? Are they aware of this, or, are they just employing Chief Officers one after every 10 months and they then bring another name?

Mr. Speaker, we need to be keen on these things and check what they are doing. Otherwise, I foresee a scenario where we will not be able to do some of the projects we have planned, because we will not be able to collect 1.5 billion.

One, we have been failed by the Public Service Board. Two, Mr. Speaker, you remember the County Public Service Board did not submit its annual report as required by the County Governments Act 58. They are supposed to bring an annual report of exactly what they have been able to do.

We really need to scrutinize the board and see whether they are really capable of doing their job; otherwise they are going to fail us as a County. We need to look and make resolutions. They need to meet urgently and address this concern. I do not have a problem with Kiambu paying our staff and, if possible, we can pass others to them to be paying for us, which is better as far as revenue comes to our side.

Thank you, I support.

Hon. Mary Waithera: I want to support the Motion and commend the Chair and members of the committee for coming up with this good report. They have gone to the areas and actualized what is really happening.

I also want to support Hon. Kagoni who said that we really need to build the capacity personnel we have in the County Public Service Board. Maybe we have people from outside who do not know what is expected of them. The moment we embark on capacity building, we will strengthen their skills and eventually, get good results on service delivery.

It is like a farmer taking an unsharpened *panga* and going to the *shamba*, and then he is expected to have visible output. We are really cheating ourselves and that is why, Mr. Speaker, we are saying that we need a lot of capacity building from the County Public Service Board so that we can achieve some of the recommendations that have come up with the committee.

The work of the Public Service Board is more on human resource; we need a lot from it so that we perform. Not forgetting the budget allocation because whatever we are going to raise will be accountable to our people. The people out there who are working need a lot of care from us. When you look at the sweepers and imagine about their health, then there is a

lot to be desired. You can imagine whoever is working on the drainages and all the wastes which the drainages carry. Such a person should be well clothed with jackets, gumboots and masks so that tomorrow we will not be required to meet his or her medical expenses.

The way the casual laborers are handled is also an issue. Looking at this report; there is no Sub-County where we do not have casuals. I wonder how they are treated. I have a case in a certain town in Maragwa Sub-County whereby their welfare is left at the hands of the supervisors.

According to the labor laws, there are ways that we are supposed to handle the casuals. But it happened that a casual who has been working for 14 years was told one morning that there was no work for him/her. Another one of eight years of service was told that there was no work. Three of them were fired the same morning. The other one was one year old in the service.

I wonder which laws are those that we are following. Even if a person is just a casual worker, there are ways we should treat him/her. This is an issue that needs to be looked at. We need a policy on our casuals rather than a supervisor waking up one morning and firing. We are treating our workers without considering that they have families to take care for.

There is the issue of imprest which is a challenge in all the Sub-Counties. Some of the workers spend days outside their headquarters. They try chasing their imprest with the administrators to the extent of coming here to do so. They waste a lot of time rather than having something laid properly on how they can get their imprest. By the time he/she is here, there is no service delivery.

The salary issue is a thorn in our flesh. Some of the arrears we inherited as the County Government have taken too long before they are addressed. Some of them have taken more than five years and that is an issue which, we as the County Government should solve so that our people get money to clear in the schools. This needs to be addressed and I thank the committee for they have really captured this.

Regarding the vehicles, you find that the vehicles used by revenue collectors are the same vehicles that the work officers wait to use. I want to thank our Governor for going ahead to buy vehicles for security, but, can't we also look at how we can get three or so vehicles that will help us realize the budget we are talking about. This will also solve the operational and administrative challenges that we are facing.

In conclusion, the vehicles that collect garbage are a big challenge. When we were looking at the Finance Bill, you could hear our people saying that they do not have any problem and they really want to pay taxes. Why are we not getting services?

If you look at where I'm doing my business, I am paying tax but the area is dirty. First, address the issue of cleanliness then add the taxes; but not telling us to add taxes but you are not addressing the cleanliness issue. That is an area we need to look at so that we don't kill the morale of our people because we are not only looking upon our people to just pay taxes.

We need to actualize what is expected of us. We need to have a policy on waste recycling which will be of benefit to us. We should not forget to come up with a policy that will assist us in revenue collection. We also need a monitoring unit to enable us follow and achieve as per our budget, otherwise we will be collecting this by the time we are making our

budget. The reason why we will not be able to realize is because we have not put proper mechanism. As a County Government, let's put up systems then talk of what we need to achieve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Benard Kariuki: Asante sana Bwana Spika kwa kunipa fursa hii ndio nichangie mswada huu. Kabla sijaendelea, ningetaka kumpongeza na kumshukuru aliyekua Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kenya, Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, ambaye kwa siku ya leo amefikisha miaka tisini. Ningetaka kuwasilisha siku ya furaha ya kuzaliwa kwake.

Bwana Spika, ningetaka kuunga mkono mswada huu kwa sababu ni mswada muhimu kwa utumishi wa umma. Ripoti hii ina matokeo pana na ni ripoti nzuri sana. Yangu ni matatu; kwanza, ningetaka kupendekeza Serikali ya Jimbo ihusishe utumishi wa teknolojia ya habari katika utumishi wa umma ili kuweza kuleta utenda kazi mwafaka na ili wananchi wa Murang'a wafaidike na Serikali ya Jimbo.

Ya pili Mheshimiwa Spika, ningependekeza kuwe na mshauri wa kibinafsi kwa hii sekta. Kwa serikali kuu, siku iliyopita, Rais alipindua ukaguzi wa wafanya kazi wa serikali. Kwa hivyo, ni muhimu kuhusisha mshauri wa kibinafsi afanye kazi hii kwa niaba ya serikali ya kaunti ili tuweze kujua wafanyi kazi hakika. Hilo ni jambo muhimu na napendekeza kamati husika ichukue jambo hilo.

La tatu Mheshimiwa Spika, ningesema kuwa, katika Jimbo letu, hatuna ugawi sawa wa kazi. Haifai wafanyikazi watoke sehemu moja la Jimbo hili. Hili ni Jimbo moja. Tungetaka kulingana na ile usaidizi wa kuinua walio chini utumike, tupate wafanyikazi kutoka Ithanga, Kariara, Gaichanjiru na kila mahali.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono. Asante.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: It is good for us to know that the digital head count that was initiated by the president yesterday is rolling out everywhere in the Country.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the report. I would like to add that if you read the mood of the House, the report is through. I would like to touch on a few things.

One, Mr Speaker, when we were compiling the 2013/2014 budget, there was a deficit of about 400 million whereby we had anticipated collecting 800 million. This year, I questioned the officers who were presenting the estimate because they intend to collect 1.5 billion.

As Hon. Muhoro is putting it, I fail to understand what they have done to correct the balance from 500 million to 1.5 billion. I do not see anything they have done. I do not know whether they have bought the vehicles. I questioned but they kept quiet when we were at La Mada Hotel. They never stated what they have done to ensure that they will get the anticipated 1.5 billion.

Mr Speaker, in Murang'a County, there is a lot of expenditure than income. Looking at the money they are using and the income we are generating, at the end of the year, we shall not achieve the intended development in our respective Wards. The mode of revenue collection in our Sub-County is wanting.

These people are using a mortuary vehicle to collect revenue. They are using a dead body's vehicle to collect revenue whereby the staffs sit in the vehicle like they are dead

people, only the coffin is not there. People tend to wonder how a County Government that attains 13 ambulances can't afford to buy seven new revenue collection vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, in Mathioya, we have one dilapidated office and the man inside that office is a PHD holder. You can imagine a PHD holder sitting in such an office and sharing it with other revenue officers. There are even security risks since they count the money they collect in-front of passersby. There are people passing outside the office.

Today in the morning, I was called by the OCPD Kiria-ini, where for the last two weeks; there was no garbage collection in the town. The town has about 10,000 people. The staffs we have in revenue collection are not paid duty allowances and do not have insurances. We need a structured way so that these people can be certain of what they are doing. They don't know about tomorrow. They live under fear and despondency. They have uncertainties because they are not sure about tomorrow. It is prudent that---

There is also disconnect of who is in charge of the workers. The other day, I raised an issue regarding Chief of Staff and the disconnect that exists between the Chief of Staff and the County Secretary in charge of all the staff.

The County Government staffs do not know who to report to, or what they will do in case of anything. There is confusion in supervision. The committee has done a commendable job. I would also urge them to come up with recommendations about the issue of confirmation of the staff.

Hon. Charles Karina: Asante kwa nafasi hii ili nichangie kuhusu huu mjadala wa kamati hii. Ningetaka kushukuru kamati hii kwa vile wamezunguka katika hii eneo yote na wakaja na mapendekezo.

Bunge hili likipitisha haya mapendekezo tutaona kutakua na mabadiliko. Ni vizuri, Mheshimiwa Spika, kujua kuwa wananchi wana matarajio makubwa sana kwetu haswa tulipoanza serikali ya mfumo wa majimbo. Namshukuru mwenyekiti na kamati kwa maana yale mapendekezo waliotuletea hapa na tunajadiliana inaonyesha ni lazima tuwashughulikie wafanyi kazi wetu vilivyo ili wafanye kazi na bidii.

Hatuwezi kupata mazao yoyote kama hatujawashughulikia wafanyi kazi wetu vilivyo ili waweze kukusanya kondi. Ni vyema tuwashughulikie kwa mavazi yanayofaa, mashine za kufanya kazi, ofisi, na yale yote yenye imeorodheshwa katika ripoti hii.

Tunaunga mkono. Bwana Spika, hatuwezi kuchukua kondi kwa wananchi na hatupeani huduma inayostahili. Tukiangalia makao makuu ya kaunti, kama tunavyosema ati mtu akianza kuoga huanza na uso, nafurahi kwa sababu Mwenyekiti na kamati yake walitembea kwa ofisi ya Jiji. Haya mapendekezo yote yakitekelezwa na Waziri, tutaona Jiji letu likiokota kondi za kutosha.

Kulingana na vile tunavyoona kwa bajeti yetu, tulikuwa na matarajio ya kuokota kondi ya milioni mia nane. Kusema kweli, Bwana Spika, temeona hatukufikisha nusu ya huu ushuru na sababu ni kuwa wanaopeana kondi, kukinyesha kidogo, mwenye kuokota ile kondi anaondoka. Kama waheshimiwa wenzangu walivyosema, ile kondi nyingi tunayokusanya inatoka kwa mchanga. Tukiyashughulikia mambo haya, tutaweza kuziba mianya iliyoko sasa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa mambo ya mipaka, katika Jimbo hili, hatuna mahala pengi tunapokusanya ushuru. Majirani wetu, kwa mfano, wana mahala pengi pa kukusanya ushuru lakini sisi ni lazima tufikiri namna ya kuongeza mahali tunapokusanya ushuru. Katika Jimbo

letu, ni miji nne ama tano ambayo yanatozwa ushuru. Lakini katika Jimbo kama Kiambu, wako na Thika, Juja Kikuyu, Limuru, Kiambu na pia wana mahali pa kuchimba mawe wanapookota ushuru. Sisi ni lazima tufikiri mambo ya kuvutia wageni.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, you are out of order for many times but I have pardoned you. Try to properly stick to your language.

Hon. Charles Karina: Nashukuru sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Nitajaribu kushughulikia hayo. Nawaomba waheshimiwa wenzangu tupitische ripoti hii ili kamati hii iweze kufanya kazi zaidi. Tukikataa ripoti hii, tutawavunja mikono. Naomba tupitische ripoti hii na mapendekezo yake ili Waziri wa Huduma ya Umma atekeleze yaliyomo.

Naunga mkono. Asante.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I will now call the Mover to respond because I can read the mood of the House. However, I had promised to give members time to contribute so that the Chair and the committee can get the points very clearly on the concern of the members.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you. I want first of all to thank the Office of the Speaker, the office of the Clerk, and the personnel who were attached to this committee when we were doing this difficult task.

I also want to thank the members of this House for understanding the report we have presented in this House and you have accepted to adopt it. Thank you. What you have done today is to give us a new lease of life so that we can be able to contact the Executive to sit together and see how we can up the collection of the fees.

One of the members mentioned that if the National Government eliminates contributions they are giving to the Counties, then we will remain with very little money; just a skeleton and we could not even be able to pay the salaries of the workers.

I also want to remind the Chairman of Finance to sit down with his committee and think why the collection of revenue in this County is not well managed.

As we were going around, we found out that the bosses of the Sub-Counties are able and they promised that they would up their collection of revenue because that is the backbone of everything, if they got assistance that they needed.

Mr. Speaker, as I had said previously, the problems of the Sub-Counties are similar and all we need to do is to push the County Service Board and the Minister concerned to see that the welfare of the staff is looked after and improved so that the collection will go up.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the members to go through the recommendations of the committee on page 13 and find that what we have discussed here were recommendations of the committee. We have also recommended that the collection of the revenue should be automated as soon as possible so that we are not losing a lot of money.

The confirmation of the casual labourers or the people who are working in different offices should be looked into immediately so that their morale will go a notch higher in collecting the revenues.

Remember, Hon. Members, we are not endowed with the natural resources like oil or minerals so that our County could be saying that we have the collections. Our main collection is from agriculture and the taxes that we are levying to the traders and the farmers.

So, Hon. Members, I am happy that you have seen the need of adopting this Motion and we shall go a little bit further to make sure that the people we are going to talk to on the other side of Executive see what we can do.

Unfortunately, members, I have to report to you that there have been a lot infighting in the Public Service Board, but that will come later. This is one of the reasons why we are failing in the collection of revenue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes! Before I put the question on the work of that committee, the Chair has said that there has been infighting among the County Public Service Board and that might be the problem that is facing the County. It is now upon your committee to advise this House on that matter when that time comes.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The House stands adjourned until today at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 12:16 p.m.