

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 13th October 2015

The House met at 2.43 p.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

REPORT OF TRADE, INDUSTRIALISATION, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE
COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED MURANG'A TOWN SHUTTLE SERVICES

Hon. Kago Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the chairman for Trade committee I wish to lay on the table the report on the proposed Murang'a Town shuttle services.

(Hon. Kago Njoroge laid the document)

NOTICE OF MOTION

REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON RE-PLANNING OF KIRATHANI
MARKET AREA

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

That, the Assembly adopts the report for the Land, Housing and Physical Planning committee on public forum on the re - planning of Kirathani market area, held on October 13th in Ithanga ward.

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna laid the document)

STATEMENTS

TRANSFER OF MR. PAUL KAMAU, THE FORMER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICER FROM MURANG'A TO KIGUMO AS THE SUB- COUNTY PUBLIC
HEALTH OFFICER.

The Speaker: Not in so next.

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER

PAPERS

REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE ON THE VETTING OF MR. JOHNSON M. MAINA AS A MEMBER OF
THE COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker sir, we have just finished vetting of Mr. Johnson M. Maina and I will request the committee to be re-allocated time tomorrow so that we can table the report since the committee clerk is working on the report right now.

The Speaker: Granted, next.

NOTICE OF MOTION

REMOVAL OF HON. MWANGI WA IRIA FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY GOVERNOR OF MURANG'A

Hon. Mary Waithira: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

Aware, that Article 73(2)(d) and (e) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, provides for accountability of a state officer to the public, for decisions and actions as a key guiding principle of leadership and integrity, further aware that Section 30(2) of the County Governments Act 2012, provides for the functions and responsibilities of a County Governor, cognizant of the fact that Section 30(3) provides the way in which the County Governor should perform those functions, this House resolves to remove Hon. Mwangi Wa Iria from the office of the County Governor of Murang'a, pursuant to Article 181 (1) (a), (b), (c) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Section 33 of the County Governments Act 2012 and the County Assembly of Murang'a standing order number 64 on the following grounds;

1. Gross violation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Governments Act 2012, the Public Finance Management Act; 2012 and the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005;
 - i. Lack of accountability for the management and use of the county resources by incurring unsustainable debts to the tune of Kshs. 2.5 Billion which were not disclosed in the Debt Management Paper 2015 and the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2015 thus violating Articles 201(e), of the Constitution 2010, Section 123 and Section 107 (2) (e) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Further scrutiny of the debt owing report submitted by the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, I.T and Planning as at 14th August, 2015 indicated violation of Article 226 (5) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, since some programs in the debt report already had an appropriation in the budget for the FY 2014/2015 only to re-appear in the said debts, a clear indication of misappropriation of funds for the projects, for instance, Gakoigo stadium under the department of Youth and Sports, was allocated Kshs.30 Million in the FY 2014/2015, yet , it had incurred a total debt of Kshs.59 Million and no monies had been paid. This positions the county at a very precarious situation which may lead to auctioning of county assets.
 - ii. Violation of Article 201 (a) and (d) of the Constitution 2010, that stipulates principles of public finance and Section 5 and 130 (1) (b) (i) of the Public Finance Management Act 2012:
The County Governor allowed misappropriation of county funds by spending public funds in private commercial entities. The report of the Auditor General on the financial operations of Murang'a county executive for the period 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014 (page 5), shows that the County Executive contributed a total of Kshs.28,489,800.00 to Murang'a Investment Co-operative Society (*shilingi-kwa-shilingi*). The expenditure was incurred in respect of advertisements to promote the co-operative society and invite the general public to purchase shares in the co-operative. Further details of the same are contained in the report of the County Assembly on the Murang'a Investment Co-operative Society (*shilingi-kwa-shilingi*).
The society is registered under the Co-operative Societies Act [Cap 490 Section 6(3)] of the Laws of Kenya. The society is an autonomous body independent of the County Executive and according to the Auditor General's report; it was not clear therefore the circumstances under which the county

executive was funding it. This was in contravention of Section 5 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 as the society was not a declared county corporation;

- iii. Violation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 Articles 201(a), (d), (e) on principles of public finance and Article 226 (5) on audit of public entities, Article 227(1) on procurement of goods and services, and the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2005, by failing to adhere to the principles of public finance management and procurement of public goods and services; In the FY 2014/2015, as stated in the County Governments Budget Implementation Review Report of the Controller of Budget, the County Executive under the stewardship of the County Governor incurred advertisement expenditure amounting to Kshs. 247 Million against an approved budget of Kshs. 7 Million as at 31st March 2015 (third quarter report page 191) i.e. Kshs.114 Million and 133 Million in the half year (page 171) and third quarter report (page 191) respectively; thus further undermining the principles of fiscal prudence as stipulated in Article 201 (d) of the Constitution Of Kenya 2010 and section 107 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act of 2012.
- iv. Violation of Article 183 (2), (3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and Section 30 (3) (b) of the County Governments Act 2012, through failure to provide leadership to the County Executive Committee on the generation of county policies, plans, legislations and full and regular reports, regarding key programs such as the, the nappier grass, Artificial Insemination (A.I) crushes, among others.
- v. Failure to establish the County Budget and Economic Forum as stipulated under Section 137 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012; as a result the County Governor has failed to consult with the public over the preparation of county plans, budgets, economy and financial management at the county level thereby violating the provisions of Sections 87, 91 and 115 of the County Governments Act, 2012, and more importantly, Article 10 and 201 (a) of the Constitution that require public participation in decision making.
- vi. Violation of Articles 176 (1) and 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, by disregarding the County Assembly as an arm of the County Government and undermining its legislative authority, through requisition of monies and not remitting the same, hence crippling the operations of the Assembly and undermining the independence of the latter. This by extension violates Article 6 and Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that underpins the spirit of mutual respect, co-operation and consultation on all governance structures. This is evident from requisitions made in the following periods and were never remitted:-
 - a) Kshs 44,347,764 in FY 2013/2014 (annexed);
 - b) Kshs 28,779,000 in FY 2014/2015 (annexed); and,
 - c) Kshs. 51,843,000 in FY 2015/2016 (annexed).

This misappropriation and misdirecting of funds indicates lack of good intentions towards the Assembly and creating a monarchy system, an endeavor to curtail the oversight role of the Assembly violating Article 73 (b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, which requires a state officer to serve the people and not power to rule over them. This further, violates

Article 174 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, which requires County Governments to promote democratic and accountable exercise of power.

- vii. Violation of Section 4 of the County Governments Act, 2012, that requires the County Executive Committee to develop legislation on county symbols, for example, the Murang'a County Symbols Act; after the Murang'a County Symbols Bill was passed in the Assembly and consequently gazetted into an Act, the County Executive has, so far, failed to implement the approved symbols in all their communication artefacts.
- viii. Violation of Article 227 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, on procurement of goods and services by state organs and public entities and Section 135 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, by disregarding cost effectiveness and overspending in the departments of Finance, IT and Economic Planning, Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, Public Service and Administration among others as indicated in the Third Quarter Budget Review Implementation Report for the FY 2014/15 from the office of the Controller of Budget. Such expenditure should have been ratified through a Supplementary Budget or justified by the respective departments (Page 190 of the County Budget Implementation Review Report, 3rd Quarter FY 2014/2015, highlighted in red).
- ix. Violation of Article 186 (1), Article 189 (2) and 226 (5) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, by approving/directing /diverting public funds to non-devolved functions contrary to Schedule Four Part Two of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 e.g. construction works at Kahuhia girls that were split nine times amounting to Kshs. 31 million, conversion of public primary schools into boarding schools among others.
- x. Violation of Article 227 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and Section 30 of the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2005, through splitting of tenders with different LPO numbers for the same contractor, for instance, proposed opening of Kahuruko –Ngatho junction, under the department of Transport and Infrastructure, was split 11 times with different LPO numbers according to the debt owing report from the CEC Finance, IT and Planning as at 14th August, 2015.
- xi. Violation of Articles 10, 183 and 201 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, on priorities through public participation, legislative framework and fiscal prudence and accountability respectively and Section 29 of the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005, through evading of open tender method by purchasing of land along Kenol-Kabati Road, worth Kshs. 340 million through request for quotations, without stipulated reasons for using alternative procurement procedure in writing by the tender committee. Fraudulent procurement procedures of the A.I crushes under the livestock development program amounting to Kshs. 61.69 million, among other goods and services.
- xii. Contravention of Article 201 (a) (e), of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, on principles of public finance in regard to accountability, responsible finance management and clear fiscal reporting and Section 155 (5) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2013, by failing to ensure that an internal audit committee is established. This has exposed the County Executive operations to lack of checks and balances in financial controls especially in the County Treasury, and lack of decentralized payment system particularly at the departmental level. This is evidenced by irregular practices such as opening of un authorized bank accounts contrary to the guidelines of the Transition

Authority, lack of maintaining of cash books for some accounts, unsurrendered imprests, lack of adherence to the budget implementation, among other irregularities also highlighted in the report of the Auditor General 2013/2014 and the Controller of Budget Third Quarter Report 2013/2014. This heightened impunity on the part of the County Governor has resulted to continued loss of Public Funds.

2. Crimes under National Law

The County Governor committed serious crimes under National Law in the following ways;

- i. Violation of Article 212 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and section 58 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 by borrowing a loan of Kshs. 200 Million from Kenya Commercial Bank without guarantee by the National Treasury; the said loan was not factored in the Debt Strategy Paper of the County Government of Murang'a over the medium term expenditure framework, contrary to section 140 (1) (d) of the PFM Act. (Page 169 of the County Governments Budgets Implementation Review Report, Half Year FY 2014/2015, and page 192 and 193 of the Third Quarter).
- ii. Contrary to Article 201(d) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that requires public money to be used in a prudent and responsible way, the County Executive irregularly purchased hay for cows at the controversial Mariira farm, further investigations reveals that there was no documented evidence for release and delivery of the 20,000 bales of hay, resulting to loss public funds amounting Kshs.4 million. This criminal undertaking is clearly substantiated in the Auditor General report for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. (Page 4 and 15).
- iii. Contravention of Articles 201 (d), 227 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, that requires a state organ or any other public entity to contract goods or services in accordance with a system that is fair, equitable and cost effective and violation of Section 29 of the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005 by incurring exorbitant costs of advertisement amounting to Kshs. 247 Million, glaringly inclined to one Company in the name of 'Top Image Media' according to the Controller of Budget report for FY 2014/2015.
This spells gross irregularity in operations of the County Executive, in procurement of media services, intentionally skewed towards one particular company. Further scrutiny by the County Assembly reveals that the County Executive has continuously evaded the use of open tendering in procurement of goods and services.
- iv. Violation of Article 41 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that stipulates the rights of every person to fair labour practises and Section 19 of the Employment Act, 2012, through failure to remit statutory deductions of the defunct local authorities, which have continued to attract interest and penalties to a tune of Kshs. 131,615,210.00.

3. Abuse of Office/Gross Misconduct

The County Governor of Murang'a exhibited gross misconduct/abused his office in the following ways:-

- i. Violation of Article 75 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 on conduct of state officers and Section 13 of the Leadership and Integrity Act using public funds to brand his name that is evident in the enormous advertisements in a vernacular radio station and bill boards erected along the roads and at Ihura stadium gate; the Governor has continued to misappropriate public funds for personal branding in

- every advertisement made by the county. For instance, the front page of the printed examinations cited 'Murang'a County Post Mock Examinations' for the year 2014 and 2015 bearing the name of the Governor insinuating that, he is the sole sponsor of the program and not the County Government.
- ii. Pretentious realignment of departments and programs within departments, that had not exhausted their budgets hence disregarding avenues that have been provided for by law, as manifested during supplementary budget for FY 2014/15 , thus causing confusion and hindering effective budget implementation of programs particularly in the departments of Trade, Industry, Commerce, Agro Marketing, Cooperatives, Agriculture and Livestock.
 - iii. Appointment of Mr. Christopher Ngera, as the Chief Officer for Education and Technical Training department, who had been rejected by the County Assembly contrary to Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Section 45 (1) (b) of County Governments Act 2012; thus defrauding public funds through payment of allowances/salaries to the said Chief Officer, for the period he was illegally in office.
 - iv. Use of personal portraits in County funded projects contrary to Article 73 (1) (a) (i) (iv) on public trust, Article 75 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and section 13 of the Leadership and Integrity Act.
 - v. Loss of public funds, through payment of 80 ghost workers, and lack of a precise inventory of the staff establishment, as indicated in the Report of the Auditor General 2013-2014 contrary to Article 226 (5) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 .
 - vi. Failure to appoint a substantive chairperson of the County Public Service Board and allowing the vice- chairperson to occupy the said office for an undefined period contrary to Section 64 (2) of the County Governments Act 2012.
 - vii. The Governor failed in his duty to gazette all the County Executive Members whom he appointed on different dates in accordance with Section 30 (2) (i) of the County Governments Act, 2012.
 - viii. Contrary to the provisions of section 30 (2) (j) of the County Governments Act 2012, the County Governor, since inception of the County Government has never submitted to the Murang'a County Assembly any implementation status report of county policies and plans;
 - ix. The County Governor has continuously displayed negligence on his duties, by failing to issue gazette notices of all important formal decisions made by him and/or the County Executive Committee, pursuant to section 30 (1) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

(Hon. Mary Waithira laid the document on the table)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Thank you very much hon. members the House is now adjourned until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.08 p.m.