

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 3rd November 2015

The House met at 2:36 p.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Kariuki Nduati in the Chair)

PRAYERS

MOTION

FORMULATION OF A COUNTY DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Hon. Joseph Ndung'u: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;-

Aware, that ambulance services, fire fighting and disaster management are devolved functions under Part II of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, cognizant of the fact that this Assembly allocated funds for these functions in the Appropriations Act 2015, further aware that the Assembly had resolved on the establishment of an emergency fund and disaster preparedness training, recognizing that policy documents offer direction in government operations to promote accountability and service delivery; this House urges the County Executive Committee Member for Youth, Culture, Sports and Social Services to engage all stakeholders and formulate a county disaster management policy to provide for disaster mitigation, response structures, habitats and education structures during emergencies and on the restoration of livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, the motion is self-explanatory and I have nothing to add. However, it is important to formulate policies.....(*technical hitch*).....

With those few remarks, I call upon Hon. Peter Kariuki to second the motion.

Hon. Peter Kariuki: Thank you Mr. Speaker, as I second the motion, I wish to submit that the county might go astray without structures; hence very important to have the policies in place..... (*technical hitch*).....

(Question proposed)

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: I support the motion and call upon the members to support this motion aware that what we have been lacking in this county is the formulation of various policies and the disaster management policy is one of them. This is important at this time.

We have always had a budget but most of it is utilized without a policy paper that guides the budget. We always sit here and state that monies are being used but we are not able to oversee its usage since we lack any guideline through a policy or even an Act, such that from the policy we can be able to develop a disaster management Act and see how the funds are being used.

Mr Speaker, we know disasters can occur any time, we are expecting El-nino and we have heard the national government talk about this fund but up to now, my committee that deals with special programmes has not been informed on how the money will be utilized. As the members of this county, we are stakeholders since we are among the first people that are told in case of a disaster. They expect us to respond.

If we do not have an office to get help for our people, we will not be able to respond to these disasters. We are therefore calling upon the CEC to come up with a policy so that even the money that will be budgeted. We will be able to know what the money will do and how to educate our people on the disasters that may occur.

The most important thing about awareness creation from such a policy is to ensure people stay away from disaster zones like the case of El-nino and the county government can offer support. I hope the members will support this motion.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: I support this motion; without policy papers, we cannot be able to account for the monies used by the county governments. We understand that there are

emergency kits for the Governor and nobody can really tell how the money is used since we do not have policies.

The national government has given out money for disaster response especially through the El-nino period and there are some sub-committees that have been formed at the sub-county and county levels, there should be a policy paper that will guide them on how they will do so.

You will understand that we are not only preparing for El-nino, there are fires in business and at times you hear that a home has been given Kshs. 50,000 but you will not know where the money has come from.

When we have a policy, the CEC will give a policy on the kind of support the county government will support the business with. That is why the monies used are in excess, if we adopt a policy we will ensure accountability and eliminate blame game. A policy will also ensure equalization.

I support this motion and urge the Assembly to support this and encourage the other CECs to draft policy papers on all development programmes.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: If this policy paper is brought, I say if because I do not know what happens at the executive and the County Government Act is clear that they should bring policy papers to the house for approval before spending the money. If this paper is brought, it will be the first of its kind since we joined the assembly. If the policy paper comes, it will be a guide on money usage.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: Apparently, we talk of a fund but we are not given a guideline on how the money will be disbursed. You may find that when the El-nino rains come, they may start calling upon people to help them get funds to relocate people. It may be in vain if they are asked to produce a policy paper.

I therefore support this motion. This should not be the only department that should do this; I urge all the chairpersons of the various committees to always endeavour to ask their respective County Executive Committee (CECs) members to bring policy papers in this House on how the funds for each and every area that affects our people will be spent. I support the submission of the policy papers and urge all the members to support so that we may have long-lasting change.

Hon. Erick Kimani: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the Member for Kahumbu ward and I rise to support this motion. The era of spending county monies or public finances without using the right policies is gone.

I am sure that this Assembly passed a disaster fund but the policy paper has never been presented to this House and that is very illegal. As other members who are supporting this are stating, all the CECs must provide the policy documents immediately after we pass budgets and before any money from the county is utilised on the ground.

The Speaker: The mover to respond.

Hon. Joseph Ndung'u: I thank the House at large for supporting the motion and also for the request that they have put forward; that not only the Youth, Culture and Social Services CEC member should come up with policy papers but all the departments. The policies will ensure that works are done with order. Thank you for supporting.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. members, the House adjourns until tomorrow 2:30 p.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 2:58 p.m.