

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 4th November 2015

The House met at 2:33 p.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZATION, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE ON MARAGUA SHELTERED MARKET

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion on behalf of my committee;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of Trade, Industrialization, Tourism and Wildlife committee on Maragua sheltered market, laid on the table of the Assembly on Wednesday October 28, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, this is a report on a visit to Maragua market by my committee. We managed to visit the old sheltered market that is on the way to Gakoigo grounds. As I move the motion, there is no trader inside that market; all of them relocated to the central business area of Maragua.

The county government is constructing some shelters around the bus stop that is located at the middle of the town. When we inquired why the traders do not want to use the market, they claimed that there are no customers around that area.

Therefore, my committee observed that there is need to urgently think outside the box on what we can do about that market because it has used a lot of tax payer's money. I understand that it was done by the national government and as such, that is a resource that we, as leaders should not sit back and watch as it goes down.

We also observed that we need to compel the County Executive Committee (CEC) member to construct some stalls. We recommended that there is need to construct a parking area outside the market so that we can have ample parking for customers who will be visiting the stalls.

We also agreed that we may need to do some serious civic education on the locals so that they can realise the importance of that market; hence embrace it. In addition, we recommend that the roads leading to that market need to be redone so that we can attract some investors.

Lastly, we observed that there is need to have some street lighting or flood lights around that area so that the stalls that we are going to construct can operate past 8:00 p.m. I do not know whether you have seen the containerised stalls constructed by our neighbouring county? That is what we are recommending. We have the shelter and the land and therefore, my committee is convinced that it can work wonders for the people of Murang'a.

It is sad for Maragua residents to note that there is another market that is coming up past the Murang'a county creameries resource that our government is putting up. If they feel that the sheltered market is far, what about the one that is behind the creameries?

Therefore, members felt that we may need to conduct proper feasibility studies to establish if we, indeed need that second market near Murang'a county creameries. We learnt that it is being constructed by the national government under the Vision 2030. As a county government, we need to guide the national government so that we do not put in a lot of tax payers' money to a project that is going to let us down.

I also understand that the committee was informed by the sub-county administrator that there are people who were allocated the stalls inside the market and they are currently not willing to be there.

After discussions, the committee agreed that all those allocations should be recalled because they are letting us down in terms of revenue and we allocate the new stalls to new people who are going to embrace the market. I call upon Hon. Esther to second this motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am a nominated Member of County Assembly (MCA) and I stand to second the motion. I do not have much to add because most of our recommendations have been pin-pointed by the chairman.

If this market is re-organised instead of constructing another market, a lot of tax payers' money will be saved. By re-organising, I mean the allocations, parking, floodlights and re-tarmacking the roads leading to this market. That is going to attract more businessmen who have opted to going to the town centre instead of this market. I second the motion, thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker: Contributions? Kamote--

Hon. Isaac Kamote: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I represent Wangu ward and I am a member of the Trade, Industrialization, Tourism and Wildlife committee.

As the chairman has put it, we visited the said market and found it to have been really neglected. We have used a lot of money on the market but it remains unutilised. As the committee has recommended, the roads in Maragua town need to be repaired. There are a lot of potholes such that vehicles avoid passing through the town.

The CEC in charge of Infrastructure should see to it that it is done because all the traders in Maragua town also pay taxes. Secondly, there is a route that passes through Gakoigo to Kiria and to the famous Mugoiri wa Tiiri. That road might be tarmacked because the Deputy President could be visiting the area. Therefore, that road might be busy in future.

I request that the stage to that route is re-located from where they operate to that area. There is also another route that passes through Nginda girls secondary school that has a lot of traffic. If the vehicles passing through the route are relocated near the market, the traders will have customers. I rest my case.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: I represent Nginda ward where this market is located. I feel it is my duty to commend to the chairman and the trade committee who visited the market and came up with suggestions on how we can revive the market.

People like to see new and clean places. Considering the money that was spent to erect the market was colossal, we should not let it go to waste. If the market is renovated and painted, people would be attracted to the market.

Thirdly, the chairman has mentioned about the road and I am happy about that, which is another problem that keeps traders away. We have a busy stop near that place, if we establish a bus stop for vehicles coming from the upper side that would attract traders. I would be happy when the road is done since it will be to the interest of Maragua people. I support the motion.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: I stand to support this motion. It is a well thought of motion, it was overdue. I recall very well that the intent of coming up with the market was thought of by the former county council. The intent was to enhance business in that town.

I support the conviction of the chair and the committee the market needs a face lift to endear visitors. The town has been neglected for a long time. When you consider entering Maragua with that dilapidated road, you think otherwise. The town has no water and street lights, it is a place where you cannot even consider having lunch.

The issue is if we scrap the stage near the police station and enforce the law that every vehicle that is picking passengers should enter Maragua town, we can enhance business.

A mistake is only a mistake when repeated, there is no need of coming up with another market when this one is not properly utilised. To bring business in Maragua we need to use the existing market.

If the roads are well made and the potholes filled, street lights erected, the town can be busier, it is a good town with the connection from Gakoigo, Nairobi and Murang'a. It is good we compel the CEC to do what the committee has recommended. I support.

Hon. Peter Kariuki: Nataka kuunga mkono hii ripoti ya kamati ya biashara na viwanda. Maragua ni mji unajulikana kwa muda mrefu sana kwa sababu ya ndizi za thamani. Wageni walipokuwa wanaelekea Nyeri, ama Nairobi na Kirinyaga, walikuwa wanapitia Maragua kabla njia mpya ya Nyeri ijengwe.

Soko hili lina uwezo wa kuleta faida kwa mji huo. Nilishangaa kuona mji huo uliachiliwa. Kama vile kamati inavyopendekeza, ni bora kuweka taa ili wafanyi biashara wafungue biashara zao mpaka saa mbili za usiku.

Hilo soko limetengenezwa kwa pesa nyingi sana na halifai kuachiliwa. Niliingia siku nyingine nikapata wadudu wengine ndio wamejenga huko. Nyumba kama hii ikiachiliwa, na inawezafanyiwa kazi kubwa ni jambo lisilofaa.

Nikilinganisha soko la Muthurwa katika jiji la Nairobi, watu wengi walikuwa wanakataa kufanyia biashara huko hata ilibidi askari wa manispaa walazimishe wafanyi biashara kwenda pale, lakini sasa huwezi pata hata nafasi ya kuweka biashara. Naunga mjadala huu mkono.

The Speaker: Hon. Kariuki that was a good contribution but you note I almost missed you. In future I would prefer that you sit near here, so that you can be within the Speaker's view. I will ask the mover to respond

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: Before I respond, I will need you guidance; since reports such as this will be communicated to the CEC are amendments allowed on the floor?

The Speaker: Not at this juncture, you would have proposed the amendments earlier.

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: I thank all those who have supported the motion. Now that there is a proposal to have Kenol- Sagana road as a dual carriage, there is need for the CEC to sit down strategically and plan for the town such that it is not left out by the developments. If that one can be sneaked in, I would be happy since this belongs to the infrastructure department. I hope the members will support the motion, thank you.

(Question Put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned until tomorrow 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 2:55 p.m.