

MURANGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

The House met at 4.34 p.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Members, I have been alerted by the secretariat that we are short of business for the next few days. This is an appeal to all the members, particularly the committees to hasten whatever is on their desks so that we will have business in the next few weeks.

PAPER LAID

MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2015/2016

Hon. Joseph Kimani: I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly today February 9, 2016;-

The Murang'a County Government Second Quarter Financial Report for FY 2015/2016 from the County Executive Committee Member, Finance IT and Planning.

(Hon. Joseph Kimani laid the paper on the Table)

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE, RESEARCH, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON THE MURANG'A COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT POLICY

Hon. Danson Mburu: I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Education and Child welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-government committee on the Murang'a County Early Childhood Development Employment Policy laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday, February 9, 2016

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT OF COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HOSPITALITY RELATED PURCHASES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH AUGUST 2013 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2014

Hon. Mary Waithira: I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Public Investment and Accounts committee on procurement of County Public Service Board hospitality related purchases for the period 16th August 2013 to 31st December 2014, laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Thank you

STATEMENTS

RESPONSE ON THE NUMBER OF ECDE CENTRES AND POLYTECHNICS IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Hon. Danson Mburu: This is the response to the statement. Mr Speaker sir, in an Assembly plenary sitting held on September 9, 2015, Hon. Njoroge Mwangi requested for a statement from the chairperson of education and child welfare, research, information technology and e-government committee which stated as follows;-

1. Can the chairperson table a list in this House of all the ECDE centres in Murang'a county, the wards they are located and the population of children attending these centres?
2. Can the chairperson provide information on the number of teachers employed by the county government in each ECDE and polytechnic?
3. Is he aware that unlike primary schools where education is free, nursery school children pay school fees and some children from poor families miss this basic education?
4. Aware that there is a vote in the 2015/2016 budget to employ caregivers, has the County Executive Member formulated a policy to employ the teachers, if not, when is the policy expected in the Assembly for approval?
5. In order to ensure that no child, either orphaned or whose parents are unable to pay fees, miss school, can the chairperson of the committee inform this House when the county government will start paying the existing caregivers awaiting their employment?

Mr. Speaker; I will start with the methodology. On September 12, 2015 as required by the standing orders, the committee, through a letter, Ref. MCA/ C/3/163 wrote to the CEC member for education and technical training requesting for a response to the above statement.

On October 2, 2015, the CEC for education wrote a response to the County Assembly which was then forwarded to the committee by the Clerk.

However in a committee meeting held on October 8, 2015, members discussed the response but felt unsatisfied by the contents of the said response. It was resolved that more details be sought on the response from the CEC member for Education and technical training for tabling in this Hon. Assembly.

Consequently, the committee wrote a second letter on October 12, 2015, requesting for a detailed response. Eventually the response was received on October 19, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, in a committee meeting held on January 13, 2016, members discussed the submitted response and thereafter adopted it for tabling in this Assembly. It is my pleasure to present the said response to Hon. Joseph Njoroge Mwangi and the Assembly

1. Can the chairperson table the list in this House of all the ECDE centres in Murang'a county, the wards they are located in and the population of children attending these centres?

Response; in summary the county has 639 ECDE centres with a population of 23,483. The public vocational training centres are 58 with a population of 3,999. The specific lists are attached to the report

2. Can the chairperson provide information on the number of teachers employed by the county government in each ECDE and polytechnic?

Response; the county has employed eight ECDE teachers on permanent basis and seven casuals. The county is in the process of employing 316 caregivers on contract for three years. We have 109 instructors in youth polytechnics employed by the county government on permanent basis. The county is in the process of absorbing the 21 instructors on a three year contract.

3. Is he aware that, unlike primary schools where education is free, nursery school children pay school fees and some children from poor families miss this basic education?

Response; the education department is in the process of addressing this issue despite the challenges facing our ECDE centres. Nursery school children, unlike primary schools, require to be fed and extra care that demands extra costs

4. Is he aware that there is the vote in the 2015/2016 budget to employ caregivers as the County Executive Member formulates a policy to employ the teachers, if not, when is the policy expected in the Assembly for approval?

Response; there is a vote head for FY 2015/2016 to employ 316 caregivers. As per the SRC guidelines, the department has formulated policies to employ these caregivers and forwarded the policy to the Assembly. The committee has received and discussed the policy and I will be tabling the same for adoption by this Hon. House in the next seven days

5. In order to ensure that no child, either orphaned or whose parents are unable to pay fees, miss school, can the chairperson of the committee inform this House when the county government will start paying the existing caregivers awaiting their employment?

Response; this can only be guided by the policy and the employer, the County Public Service Board. Thank you Mr. Speaker

The Speaker: Any rejoinder from the questioner?

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: According to the way the vice- chairperson has answered the question, it is good that he has told us the numbers, but since there are 629 ECDE centres and probably many have two caregivers and some have one, according to the response the Public Service Board will employ 316 care givers, which criteria will they use to employ these care givers and what will be done to the rest is that the parents of the children in the ECDEs do not cough money from their pockets. The response is not complete; we must take care of all teachers since all these ECDEs are devolved.

Hon. Danson Mburu: To answer the question on ECDE instructors, the exercise is on-going and it is not yet complete. We hope by the time it ends, we shall be in a position to have a list of those who are in the service and those who are not going to be employed and by then we will be able to re-adjust. Thank you

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: In the response that was laid on the table, page three, the question that can the chairperson provide information on the number of teachers employed by the county government in each ECDE and polytechnic?

In the response; in summary the county has 639 ECDEs with a population of 23, 495, my worry is, the question was talking about ECDEs and not polytechnics. Mr. Speaker it is talking about the public vocational training centres so polytechnics are not responded to.

The list attached on the response on the polytechnics, the list of polytechnics, number of trainees and instructors unless otherwise, I can only see list of 29 youth polytechnics and unfortunately there is none for Mathioya sub-county Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Now let the chair answer the question first.

Hon. Danson Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir and I welcome the question asked by Hon. Njuguna.

And as I had said earlier on, if the records are not correct, we promise that we shall go back to the CEC concerned with ECDE ask him to clarify all these issues so that you may give us two more weeks to come up with

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)

The Speaker: Yes point of order.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the response and this response was given by the committee and signed by the chair for education, child welfare, research and information technology and E-government.

The response is talking about public vocational training centres and the question was about youth polytechnics. Can he confine himself to the youth polytechnics? The number and vocational training centres.

(Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii rose on a point of information)

Hon. Rose Mary Wakuthii: Mr. Speaker, according to the response on number one on polytechnics, the answer is talking about public vocational training centres, the CEC Member for education told us that in the policy paper which is to be tabled in this House, polytechnics changed the names to vocational training centres.

Again ECDE centres are indicated in the attached list but for the polytechnics, that is the public vocational training centres is also attached at the back of the response. But for Mathioya sub-county Gitugi it is not there. It is an oversight

On question number two about the employment of the ECDE caregivers, we have discussed this issue in the committee and the CEC Member in charge of.....

The Speaker: Remember you are just giving the information you are not supposed to be responding

Hon. Rose Mary Wakuthii: I was informing the House. The information is that the 316 caregivers is not the correct number but we have 875, the ones who are undertaking the care at this juncture Mr. Speaker. That is the information I had.

Hon. Charles Karina: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to welcome members back to this Assembly.

Mine is a request on bullet number three to the committee, the CEC should be very careful with his response because we all know that this is a fully devolved function and from the way he has responded, I see that they are not serious because bullet three is asking whether he is aware that while the primary school education is free, nursery school children pay school fees and as a result the orphans and the children from poor families miss the basic education.

From the response given by the CEC and the committee, you can tell that this department is not serious. So I would request that the CEC goes back and works on this report to come with a comprehensive report.

You see here they are saying that they are doing something and they are not giving timelines on how our young boys and girls will be able to attain the basic education. They are just saying that they are doing something.

They should just come and tell this Assembly that these are our plans and they give timelines.

So Mr. Speaker, I see that they should go back with this report and work on it to answer comprehensively. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: My view on this one, so that we save time, is that the question has not been properly answered. The records are apparently not correct and there are number of things to be clarified, without going through it item by item. I also agree with members when you say something is being done what is that something that is being done?

I rule that this question goes back and proper answer is prepared

(Applause)

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker, other than the files and the water, this House is a very noble House. Not just any Hon. Member can just enter with a cap and put it on the benches. He should have left it with Serjeant- At -Arms or somewhere else may be in the pigeon holes, Hon. Jesse Mburu.

The Speaker: Yes, Hon. Jesse Mburu you are out of order.

(Hon. Jesse Mburu handed his hat to the Serjeant- At -Arms)

Thank you.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY CALENDAR (REGULAR SITTINGS) FOR THE YEAR 2016 (FOURTH SESSION) FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2016 TO DECEMBER 1, 2016

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker sir, I beg to move the following motion:-

That, pursuant to standing order number 28 and 29, this Assembly adopts the Murang'a County Assembly calendar (regular sittings) for the year 2016 (fourth session) from February 9, 2016 to December 1, 2016, laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday February 9, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the said calendar is in our files and the Assembly Business Committee sat on 1st December 2015 and came up with the following dates for the 2016 calendar year.

And as tabulated in the attached schedule Mr. Speaker, first sitting is starting from today 9th February 2016 to May 5, 2016 then there is a recess which will commence on May 5, 2016 to May 19, 2016.

Then the second sitting will start on May 24, 2016 to 11th August 2016. There will be another recess that will start from August 16, 2016 to September 8, 2016.

Then the third sitting will start on September 13, 2016 to December 1, 2016. Then there will be the holiday recess as from December 2, 2016 to February 6, 2017.

Mr. Speaker sir, knowing that this is the only year we are going to sit in full, that is from January to December; knowing very well that next year is an election year, the Assembly Business committee did approve these dates considering that the Hon. members should bring business so that we can tackle as much as possible, because next year being an election year, maybe it will not be possible to tackle as much business because of the election mood.

It is well tabulated from the first week to the 41st week of the year, so that the members can now prepare and bring business to the House.

With that I call upon Hon. Wanyoike to second the report.

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: Mr. Speaker I second

(Question proposed)

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: Thank you Hon. Speaker, with your leave I want to introduce some amendments to the motion.

Pursuant to standing order number 55 (1) and standing order 28 (2), I want to move an amendment to the motion that pursuant to standing order number 28 (2), this Assembly amends the adjournment dates of Murang'a County Assembly calendar regular sittings for the year 2016, fourth session from 1st December 2016 to December 15, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, before I move to the reasons that motivated that amendment, I must thank the committee for the good work of coming up with the calendar, but we must appreciate that this is the only full year we have to work for the county.

Considering that next year around March or May 2017, we will have nominations and this House will have come back on February 9, 2017, and considering that we have the budget process that will immediately kick off after we come back from the recess, I humbly request members of this Assembly to sacrifice a little bit more for two weeks, in month of this calendar year, so that we may not leave any business for this county unattended.

Mr. Speaker, I know come the beginning of the next year, we will be having issues to do with lack of quorum in the Assembly, I do not want to predict that, but I will request the members to support this motion so that the committee can consider including week 42 and week 43, so that when we go for Christmas we will have done justice in terms of work to the people of Murang'a.

I wish to call upon Hon. Esther Ngugi to second the amendment to the motion.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to second the amendment.

(Question on amendments proposed)
(Question on amendments put and agreed to)
(Question on the motion as amended proposed)
(Question on the motion as amended put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: There being no other business this House adjourns until tomorrow Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 3:10 p.m.