

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Friday, 2nd January, 2015

The House met at 2:30 p.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

MOTIONS

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET, 2014/2015.

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the Chairman, Budget and Appropriations committee. I would like to move the Motion that this Assembly adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the first Supplementary Budget, 2014/2015.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee, and as required under Standing Order 214 which gives direction on how the estimates of revenue, expenditure and the supplementary will be dispensed by the House; I hereby present to the House the Committee's Report on the first Supplementary Budget for the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

Mr. Speaker, copies of the report are in the files of the Hon. Members. I will not go page by page because we have gone through the report separately, but I would like to highlight a few things.

Mr. Speaker sir, on 30th April 2014/2015, Budget Estimates were tabled on the floor of the House. The Budget and Appropriation Committee, jointly with the Finance and Planning Committee, held several sittings in the months of May and June 2014 where it deliberated and scrutinized the budget proposals. The committee also considered the views of the public. The Budget and Appropriation Committee tabled a report of the Financial Year 2014/2015 Budget Estimates, pursuant to Standing Order number 207 (6), and the House adopted it.

Further, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Public Finance Management Act 134 (1), the County Assembly passed a Vote on Accounts on 30th June 2014. On 10th July 2014, pursuant to Standing Order 212 (17), the Budget and Appropriation Committee introduced the Murang'a County Appropriation Bill, 2014 on the floor of the House, and it was approved. The Murang'a County Appropriation Bill was submitted to the Governor for assent.

However, the Controller of Budget declined to approve the Vote on Accounts as per the High Court order dated 25th July 2014, citing the circular reference, CRA CDM, volume 99, dated 22nd April 2014.

Mr. Speaker sir, the recurrent expenditure in the Budget Estimates approved by the County Assembly on 30th June 2014 did not comply with the ceilings of the CRA on the part of the Assembly. The recurrent expenditure of the Assembly was 484 million, which was 98 million above the set ceilings. On the other hand, the County Executive recurrent expenditure was 423 million against a set ceiling of 294 million, exceeding the limit by 190 million. Similarly, almost all the County Governments were faced with the same challenge of having to put up with the set ceilings which they viewed as irritating and unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker sir, the committee tabled a report on the proposed first Supplementary Budget Estimates on 22nd December 2014. However, the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations committee withdrew it following some consultations which were necessary. The aforementioned concerns by the members for engagement necessitated another sitting. In this regard, on Monday, 29th December 2014, the Budget and Appropriation Committee, the Finance and Planning Committee, and the County Executive Member for Finance held a consultative meeting where all the teething issues were addressed and consensus arrived at.

However, Mr. Speaker sir, the committee notes with concern the emerging trend of setting ceilings for the County Assemblies by the CRA prompting adjustment of expenditures as was approved by the House in the planned budget which is passed every June. This undermines the independence and role of the County Assemblies in the budget process. Mr. Speaker, the committee worked strenuously to ensure that the Budget Estimates adhere to the ceilings set by the Commission on Revenue Allocation.

Mr. Speaker sir, the overall budget has gone down by 0.8 billion. The committee notes that the recurrent expenditure has decreased relatively while the development expenditure has increased significantly. While appreciating the positive impact of such a trend, it is apparent, from the onset, that it is likely to adversely affect the day to day operations of the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, several key changes were made on the approved Budget Estimates. For example, the local revenue was reviewed downwards from 1.4 billion to 800 million. The total recurrent expenditure decreased by 272 million, from 3.1 billion, to 2.8 billion. Mr. Speaker, the total development expenditure decreased from 3.46 billion to 3.1. This was attributed to the downward review of the local revenue. The percentage allocation to development is 52% against a recurrent of 48%.

On the other hand, the recurrent expenditure under the County Assembly decreased by 98 million where key Votes were reduced significantly notably, salaries for the new staff reduced from 192 million to 178. Sitting allowances decreased from 61 million to 51 million, a difference of 10 million. International travel reduced from 23 to six million, and local revenue from 40 million to 21. Further, training, induction, courses, and seminars decreased from 30 million to 20 million. Boards, committees, conferences reduced from 15 million to 14 million, while allocation to community participation programs was scrapped. Other items whose allocations were decreased include printing and stationary, upkeep of grounds, and general supplies.

Mr. Speaker sir, in line with SRC circular on County Assembly Members and Executive Committee Members empowerment, the former has been allocated 155

million while the latter has an allocation of 50 million. In addition, 25 million has been set aside to cater for the County Assembly Members' gratuity.

Mr. Speaker, the committee came up with the following recommendations:-

The committee is concerned on the continued disregard of the financial requirements and needs of the County Assemblies for effective discharge of their mandates. In this regard, the committee implores upon this House to persuade the County Assemblies' forum to initiate talks with the Commission on Revenue Allocation and the Office of the Controller of Budget so as to agree on the ideal and rational criteria of capping recurrent expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee resolved that due to the cash flow challenges that the County is facing, the County Treasury should foot the pending Bills passed, based on the urgency and prominence. Remarkably, the contractors, fees gratuity and empowerment funds were long overdue and should be disbursed before the end of January, 2015.

In addition, the committee proposes the following policy measures: that in order to ensure that the planned budget actually functions as a tool for growth; supplementary budgets should be limited to once per year. Frequent disruptions and reductions in expenditure, especially for the development budget, undermines the government investment and the country's growth strategy.

The other recommendation, Mr. Speaker, is that before any other Supplementary Budget Estimates are approved by the House, the statement on how additional expenditure relates to the fiscal responsibility principles and financial objectives as required by the Public Finance Management Act should be provided.

The other recommendation is that since Section 210 (12) of the Public Finance Management Act requires the Budget to be programme based, going forward, the Supplementary Budget Estimates should be presented in the same format. And this is one of the recommendations that we are very harsh on.

The other recommendation is that, before any program underlying this budget is implemented, sessional papers from respective departments should be submitted to the County Assembly for approval.

The other recommendation is number five. And there is a correction there for those with the copies. The ESP workers, and not nurses, who are working on contract basis, should be absorbed on permanent basis before the end of July 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking into account the recommendations contained herein, and the pertinent issues underlying the report, I do propose to this House to adopt this report and resolve that the Supplementary Budget Estimates be approved as presented.

Mr. Speaker, the committee was very keen on the recommendation of the ESP workers because even as we talk today, the ESP nurses are on strike. They had not been paid salaries for the last four months. I instructed that they be paid immediately.

The other issue I would like to stress on is on the sessional papers. The committee resolved that every Sectoral Committee Chair from this House should also take the initiative to be requesting for the sessional papers before any program is undertaken.

In the report, we also realised when we were doing a review that we can maybe substitute some of the programs that were on the budget with others, because as you realise, we had given a leeway to spend money when we were given a Vote on Accounts on a 50%. However, when we went to the ground and met with the executive, we realised that some of the programs have already been initiated and some of the contracts have already been awarded.

And some of the affected programs are in agriculture, for example cash crop seedlings, hybrid seeds, and avocado seedlings. All those projects, Mr. Speaker, have been undertaken. We said that unless there will be a lot of consultation, we will be very keen on passing some of these programs when preparing the next budget to see to it that they are factored for in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, during the committee's sitting with the executive, we also discussed at length on some of the issues that pertain to the members, like gratuity and mortgage. We agreed that immediately this budget is passed and they get the disbursement from the treasury for January, the members will be in a position to get their loans. With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call upon my able Vice Chair, Hon. Muchina, to come and second this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Joseph Muchina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the MCA, Gatanga Ward. I rise to second the Motion of this report. Members, through the Speaker, I do not need to repeat what my able Chair has already said because you have heard for yourselves. As you are aware, the contentious item that prompted the withdrawal of the previous supplementary document has been sorted out and most of the concerns that members raised during the Liaison Committee meeting have been looked into and the amendments made.

Mr. Speaker, I do not need to elaborate further because of time for the purpose of the pending businesses. So, I do hereby second. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my warm greetings of the New Year to you, Mr. Speaker, all the Hon. Members and members of the staff. I wish you all a happy and prosperous year.

(Applause)

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Charles Karina: Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi hii niunge mkono taarifa hii ya kamati ya bajeti. Mheshimiwa Spika, ningetaka pia, kwa ruhusa yako, unipatie nafasi hii nizipeane salamu zangu za mwaka mpya kwa wajumbe wenzangu na niwatakie mwaka mpya wenye mafanakio.

(Applause)

Mheshimiwa Spika, tulikua hapa katika Bunge hili wiki iliyopita, tulijadili zaidi kuhusu hii taarifa ya kamati ya bajeti, tukakubaliana ya kwamba kamati hii ya bajeti

itarudi ndio iangalie taarifa hiyo vizuri. Mimi nawashukuru sana kwa vile wameenda na vile tulikubaliana, na kutengeneza ripoti hii.

Kama sisi wajumbe, ni vizuri tujue ya kwamba ni wajibu wetu wakati kazi za kaunti haziendelei vizuri kwa sababu ya jambo tunayostahili kufanya kama wajumbe, ni vizuri tujue ya kwamba kuna mambo ambayo yanayochelewesha utendekazi katika Kaunti hii yetu. Ningewaomba wajumbe wenzangu ya kwamba, vile hii kamati imeangalia hii taarifa vizuri, tuiptishe ndio kazi za kaunti ziweze kuendelea.

Ningewaomba ya kwamba, wakati tutakapokua tukitengeneza bajeti ya mwaka ujao, ni vizuri tuangalie zaidi, na kila kamati katika bunge hili waangalie vizuri katika idara zao waangalie waone yale yote wangefikiria iweze kuwekwa katika bajeti ndio tusije tukazisimamisha kazi za kaunti kwa sababu ya shida ambazo tunajua ni zetu na zenye tunajua ya kwamba tungerekebisha kitambo.

Ni vizuri kujua ya kwamba kuna sehemu ambazo zilikua na shida kidogo, lakini kwa vile makosa yalipatikana na hii kamati ikarudia na ikatengeneza ripoti hii, ningewaomba tushikane pamoja tafadhali na tupitishie taarifa hii ndio kaunti yetu iweze kuendelea mbele. Kama viongozi, najua ya kwamba hatuwezi kuja hapa kupinga. Ni vizuri kuangalia ya kwamba yale yako na shida tunasuluhisha. Na kwa vile kamati hii imeweza kutengeneza hio taarifa vizuri, nawaomba kama wajumbe tuiptishe. Ahsante sana.

The Speaker: I ask the Mover to respond.

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I am the happiest man this year. One, when you see the members not talking too much, I think they are happy with the budget.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass my personal appreciation to all the Hon. Members. I think they did justice the last time we were here because if we did not withdraw that report, some of the issues could not have been addressed. I would like to personally congratulate Anderson; he is very keen on the budget process. He realised we had under budgeted a very important area, called the Scholarship Fund, we had under budgeted with 70,000,000 and our people could not have benefited from the bursary this year. Thank you, Hon. Anderson.

The other congratulations go to the staff, the Speaker himself, and the Clerk. This has been a very consultative process. I have been very pleased with the contributions of each and every one and I think we have come from far. Last year, I think we did not do as we have done this year. I think we will even be much better next year because we have already started the budget process for 2015/2016.

Mr. Speaker, it is good if we pass this budget because there are some benefits that will come with it. For example, I just mentioned about the mortgage issue. We agreed that, immediately we pass it, the funds will be released from the Treasury. We will have the mortgage directly to our accounts. Members, can you clap for me for that?

(Laughter and applause)

The other thing, if we have not thought about passing this budget, which I hope the members are going to pass, it also good to note that beginning this January, the County will not get disbursement. What that could mean is that most of the projects would not go on. Most of the suppliers who have been camping at the Office of the

Governor who have not been paid will not get paid. And most probably, we will also go without salaries. So, I think that is a point people should note.

So, Mr. Speaker, without wasting time, I honourably request the Hon. Members to support this report. I would like to rest my case there. Thank you, Hon. Members.

The Speaker: Thank you, very much. I will now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)
(Laughter and applause)

FORUM TO DISCUSS THE NORTHERN WATER COLLECTOR TUNNEL PROJECT

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker sir. I am the Chairperson for Water, Energy, Forestry, Environment, Natural Resources, and Cooperative Management Committee.

Aware that the Assembly adopted the Report of the Committee on Water, Energy, Forestry, Environment, Natural Resources and Cooperative Management on the Northern Water Collector Tunnel Project in Murang'a, and serious that the recommendations on the report be implemented, regretting that some areas and rivers in Murang'a are under the Tana River Water Service Board, including Mathioya, Maragua, Sagana, Irati and other rivers managed by the Athi Water Service Board, including Thika, Chania, and Gikira, making management of water services duplicated and confused; this Assembly urges:-

a) The Speaker of Murang'a County Assembly to convene, as soon as possible, a forum of all the stakeholders of the project, including, and not limited to, the Athi Water Services Board, the County Government of Murang'a, the Members of the County Assembly of Murang'a, the Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA), the Natural Environment Management Agency (NEMA), among others, to discuss the following issues:-

1. To develop a common board stand on the project, and in particular, address the key issues raised in the committee report.

2. Guarantee that water flowing in Murang'a County as well as the underground water levels will not be affected by the said tunnel.

3. Guarantee against any adverse environmental and economic effect.

4. Develop a program to provide for benefits and water schemes for the people of Murang'a, to be implemented alongside the Northern Water Tunnel.

b) That the CEC in charge of water establishes a technical, that is a professional committee, to evaluate and advice the County Assembly and the County Executive on the design and implementation of the project.

c) That all the rivers and areas of Murang'a be transferred and managed under the Athi Water Services Board as soon as possible to remove the confusion and duplication of having two water service boards, which are Tana and Athi, from the waters of Murang'a County.

Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to, first and foremost, take this opportunity to thank the County Assembly of Murang'a, the Speaker, and the staff because for the last two years, this Assembly was rated the best in the whole republic for the mature debates we have been undertaking in this House. First and foremost, there has not been any

infighting here or taking the Mace and going outside with it. These people have been debating in a dignified manner and that is kudos to all of you, and mostly, to the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say that this Assembly adopted and approved the report of Water, Energy, Forestry, Environment, Natural Resources and Cooperative Management Committee that was tabled in this House last week. And after that, that triggered a very hot debate in this County whereby all the leadership of Murang'a County who were sleeping on their jobs woke up in the morning to hear about Murang'a County Assembly coming up with a very vibrant and pertinent report about the Murang'a water which is a lifeline to the people of Murang'a in general.

This, Mr. Speaker, necessitated a forum whereby, even our Governor who was also sleeping woke up and called a meeting through our Leader of Majority, our Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker, in Nokras.

(Laughter)

We were called on Saturday 28th December this year. That was about a week ago whereby we were about 15 MCAs, the Committee of Water and some other stakeholders from the areas affected by this Northern Collector Tunnel, although Hon. Muhoro was not included and I do not know the reason, but in future, he will be included in such a forum.

Mr. Speaker, we debated and everybody was on board, including the Tana Water Management Board, the MD- Mr. Murgor- who was present, and other five engineers from the Athi Management Board. The Governor was there, all the County Executive Committee Members and we were there.

We started the meeting and it took us five hours to go through the report again so that they could understand the content of the report and the beauty of that day is that the Governor came to our side and fought not like a wounded buffalo, but he fought so hard and said that there is no Governor like himself who can be so foolish who can allow water to go to Nairobi when people in Murang'a do not have clean drinking water.

First of all I would like to thank the Governor and the entire county government for supporting the report in this Assembly. Even the Senator himself was looking for this report and so I thought some of the people who were coming to look for political mileage out of the report, but this is the work of the County Assembly so we have to stand firm, be principled and stand with the report.

While in the meeting I raised an outcry and said that the report was not a committee report because it was approved by the Assembly it came to be an Assembly asset from that time it was approved. And I stood up and requested the Speaker to be present in that meeting but somebody somewhere who is the Majority leader came to his rescue said that the Speaker was aware of the meeting and that is when we started the meeting.

I read the mandate of the committee one by one and the recommendations which we had. Mr. Speaker Sir, there were very key recommendations which we had in our report and that is where we highlighted the most pertinent areas.

The recommendations were that we come up and develop a common stand on the project and in particular the key issues enumerated in the report. All the things that were being addressed by the Athi Water Services Board, most of them were verbal, not formal and all the stakeholders were not present.

That is the reason why we are saying all the political leaders, all the stake holders in Murang'a, all the public including the religious leaders must be present so that we can come up with a formal and written agreement including the legal advisors and professional centres like Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA), Tana Water Service Board engineers, the local engineers and even the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) people should be present.

Mr. Speaker sir, this is a very pertinent issue in this county and I urge this House to approve this motion unanimously as you approved the report.

The other thing is that we have to agree and formalize in writing that our normal water levels will not go down because of the water flowing in the tunnels. The other thing is about financial benefits. Murang'a County government can benefit from this resource called water.

We had indicated in our report that we demand one shilling per cubic metre of water but there was a mistake there. We should give these people a percentage or may be five shillings per cubic metre of water can be ploughed back to this county so that we can stop levying women who sell bananas in Kiria-ini and other markets.

We cannot let this water to go with Nairobi. First of all they constructed Ndaka-ini dam and we kept quiet but this time hon. members of this Assembly must stand up and say no to more siphoning of water without first of all sitting down with stake holders of Murang'a County and I know the leaders when they come together they will approve and even the national government will come to our rescue.

The other issue is about the technical committee to evaluate and advise the Assembly and the county executive on the design and the implementation of the project. When we enquired from some of the CEC's and engineers there is nobody who knew the design and the implementation of this project.

We questioned how can CEC in charge of water is not aware of the design and how the project is on-going? That is why we recommended that we shall come up with a committee composed of professionals to advise the County Assembly and Executive on the way forward.

This county is under two service boards, one Mathioya as I had stated and the other one Kandara and others as I have stated are under Tana Water Service board. The other section of Gatanga they are under Athi Water Service Board, that is why we are demanding Mr. Speaker sir that this motion passes to compel the county government so that we can be under Athi Water Services Board, so that we can have bargain power and our people can be supplied with clean domestic water. It is easier to bargain while under a service board unlike when you are under two water services boards.

The other one is developing the program to provide for benefits and water schemes for Murang'a people to be implemented along the Northern Water Collector tunnel.

Mr. Speaker sir, it is only 36% of Murang'a people who have access to clean water and it is time we should stand up and ensure that the people of Murang'a who has the resources of Aberdare forest and catchment area of Aberdare which serves Mukurwe-ini people with water and serves Nairobi people with water.

It is high time as an Assembly we stand and say enough is enough, not stop the project but give the people of Nairobi the surplus water that we may have.

I now call upon Hon. Mary Waithira to second this motion.

Hon. Mary Waithira: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I rise to second the motion which has been elaborated so well by our able chair.

First of all let me take a chance to thank all the hon. members for the way they supported the report that we had and secondly give thanks to the Governor for the time that he attended the meeting that we had at Nokras and overwhelming support he gave to our report and we were seen by all those who listened to the media that we were reading from the same script.

Hon. members I think this is just a continuation from where we left last time and we felt that there is need to have this motion so that you may give us an approval to continue with some of the issues that has been raised.

Most of what we are saying in this motion is that we need to have a committee that we are saying the County Assembly Speaker to formulate so that we may have various stakeholders sit down and look at various issues that were raised by the committee.

There were issues to do with ground water I may not repeat more, there was also the issue of environmental and economic effect from the same and there was also the issue to do with the benefits and also schemes that we have already started not forgetting that we have the irrigation that have already started.

So all this we are saying the moment the committee will be substituted and we address maybe we can look at the other areas and we said we are not going to look at this if first of all we are not going to have a strong environmental impact assessment survey done so that it clears the fears that we have. If only it is done and the fears are still indicated that they are there is nothing like the northern tunnel that we are going to allow.

If the environmental impact assessment is done, and then we see the levels of the water that we have and water schemes and irrigation schemes that we have are not going to be affected, then there will be no problem we may move ahead and have Nairobi people given water.

And that is why we said that after the environmental assessment survey is done the CEC may also establish a committee to evaluate and advice on the design and the implementation of the said project, because maybe the environmental impact assessment may be good but the design may have errors, we need a committee to look into that.

After a lengthy discussion in Nokras we found that Murang'a County is under Nairobi metropolitan and if at all the Athi Water Services Board is working on this so that Nairobi and its environs may have some water, why don't we also be included as Murang'a County because we are also falling under Nairobi metropolitan.

Not to forget if this water gets into Nairobi, the Governor there will make money out of it and remember hon. members we are saying it is after environmental assessment surveys clears all the fears.

If at all the water will go to make money out of A natural resource that is coming from our County, we are also supposed to benefit equally. That is why we are talking of other benefits. Our people should get water and our county get some revenue which will improve many other areas in the county.

That is why Mr. Speaker sir, we are saying that whenever the stakeholders meet and environmental assessment survey be provided and all the fears cleared we will be speaking in one voice.

Since we may not have all the knowledge and ideas, the moment we convene these stakeholders, we may have many issues to add unto it. It is this morning that I was being told that there were engineers from this county who are calling a meeting amongst themselves so that they can deliberate on this issue and this is after we raised the alarm so that they can advise on the whole process.

But before then, when we will be taking stock of the stakeholders we would want to include in this forum it is good to have people from this county in the name of the engineers, we have one or two representatives from the other group so that they may add value to our discussions and at the end of the day we will benefit from this water and may be they will also help us to clear the fears that we have.

I am requesting the hon. members to support this so that we can address these issue quickly and be done with Northern Collector Tunnel and have the Athi Water Services Board also taking Murang'a county not in part like now we have Gatanga under the Athi, but the rest we are under Tana and there is no way we can have two children and one child belongs to another person and the other to the other. Why don't we bring these two children together and obviously look at the one who is more influential and who atleast has a cake and since the Athi has a cake which they are about to cut, let us not go to Tana but let us associate ourselves with Athi so that what they are about to do the moment we give them an approval we will also be incorporated.

Mr. Speaker sir, I second the motion and request the hon. members to support us in the same so that we may now see the way forward, I thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. David Muhoro: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker sir for allowing me to contribute on this. I first convey my well wishes to all the members and the staff for this New Year as we continue to build Murang'a and make it better for generations to come.

I rise to support this motion and congratulate the water committee because the issue we are addressing is an issue of life and death. If there will ever be a third world war the bone of contention will be water.

It is very important for the leaders of this county to stand and talk with one voice. I was impressed after the Nokras meeting when I saw our Governor in the press stating categorically that the water belongs to us and there must be consultation. For once Mr Speaker sir, our Governor stood with what we said and even went to the press.

There is A body which regulates how much should be charged, that is Water Service Regulatory Board (WASREB) and it recommends 250 shillings per 10 cubic metres in Murang'a that what our people pays to water service providers. That is 25 shillings per cubic metre.

Ndaka-ini alone gives 20 million cubic meters daily to Nairobi, so if we go with what the committee is recommending, we are talking of Murang'a County being given 20 million shillings daily. That is why we are saying let us not talk of a shilling let us talk of a percentage because as life continues, it will be more expensive to pay water.

A program of benefit to our people is very important. So we ask and urge you Mr. Speaker sir, this meeting should not take long because I understand from the people of Kangari where this project is starting, the machines are already on the ground and if we don't move with speed we might be overtaken by event.

I support this motion and Mr. Speaker, I urge you in your wisdom to let the meeting be forthcoming and be urgent so that we can talk in one voice. Let us not act like an orphan in our county, what concerns our people is only addressed in this House. Let us have all our Members Of Parliament so that we read from the same script and let the people of this nation know that Murang'a has gold called water.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: I stand to support the motion. Being a member of that committee I feel this motion has to be given the due cause because the way we are debating this motion shows how important water is to our people.

Mr. Speaker we received the apologies from the County Commissioner and we must convey it here that she overlooked informing us that she had this project for the last one year and that she did not think it was important that she brings it to the Assembly.

We instilled in her that we have three arms of the government, the national government, executive and the legislature and all of them must know what is happening at the home ground.

We had a good meeting and we all agreed that a committee must be set up composed of technical people because the argument was that we are not technical but we had technical information from the technical people in Murang'a.

And we said that we have so many engineers from Murang'a who are interested in joining us in bargaining for this water, that if it has to go, may be it is a national government policy, we have to be paid and we have to be guaranteed that our people will not miss irrigation and consumption water.

This stake holders meeting which has been thrown in your court Mr. Speaker should be called very soon so that we all agree on what we are going to charge the Athi Water Services Board before we let the project to go on.

We said we have no objections on the project but with conditions. One condition is that we have to be assured that the rivers are not going to be affected. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Athi Water Services Board assured us that there is not going to be any effect on the water following in the rivers but we said we cannot trust that statement and requested that they allow our engineers to peruse their documents.

As many speakers have said, we need to move from Tana management board to Athi management board because Athi told us in that meeting that they have already planned to give Gatanga water because it falls under them. Then we said if Murang'a falls under them we shall have better negotiating power because we are asking the same father to provide to his children.

On the water charges, this morning I heard in the media that Nairobi water management board has increased water charges in Nairobi and when they are increasing this is the time we should tell them that they should include our charges.

We do not want our irrigation projects interrupted because it is then that we shall be able to feed our people and provide them with clean water.

I sit down as I support this motion and wish everybody a happy new year, I thank you.

Hon. Danson Mburu: I stand to support this motion and say that the Northern Collector held many meetings before and the Governor admitted that he and his officers were never informed about what this body was about to do in Murang'a and I wondered how these people would come with such a huge project and fail to inform the concerned people.

Therefore Mr. Speaker in that meeting the Governor asked the Managing Director of Athi water to agree to have some terms between Athi and Murang'a County and he refused. He was pushed very hard and it is then that he agreed we will have some memorandum of understanding on some terms if this project is going to succeed.

I would therefore Mr. Speaker ask when you are requested to arrange for such meeting you do it with speed so that these issues may be thrashed up.

We feared Mr. Speaker that when this big tunnel is dug and water directed to Ndaka-ini, it is most likely that all the water would follow the channel and end up at Ndaka-ini. We asked ourselves why Nairobi people should be treated in a special way whereas we Murang'a people are left without water.

The Governor said that he was going to engage some engineers who will come and study whether the tunnel will have any effect on water flowing downstream so that the downstream may not get dry.

The chairperson of the committee was the County Commissioner and we asked her why he held so many meetings and forgot the County Assembly and she did not give any

specific answer as to why. But we agreed during the other subsequent meetings that they will hold, Murang'a County Assembly members are going to be involved and that one will be good. Therefore, I think there is some light in the matter. As the Chairman has said we will hold the committee meeting as soon as possible. I stand to support.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: May I start by wishing my colleagues a handsome year, I am hopeful it will benefit all of us. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this motion which is quite important.

Mr. Speaker, water is our natural gift to us the people of Murang'a. When we talk of oil deposits, we refer to Turkana. When you go to Turkana they are giving terms to the oil prospectors including the Government of Kenya. Mr. Speaker, since this is our natural gift, let us take pride, they have come back again, and they first came to Ndaka-ini. It is unfortunate that the water is running to Nairobi and our people are not benefiting from this water.

Mr. Speaker, let us not make the mistake that was made by the former county councils, when they entered into a contract with the Nairobi City Council and the Murang'a County Council, it was a great mistake that we cannot repeat.

This august House is composed of learned people, we are seeing far than those who were there during the county councils era, let us not play with this House. Mr. Speaker, may I also say here that this water the memorandum of understanding, I do not know whether we all understand what it means with the memorandum of understanding, I understand that one cannot come to the site before the memorandum of understanding is signed by both parties. Mr. Speaker, as we speak now, I hear that the machineries are in Kangari.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Governor is aware, he is the Chief Executive Officer of this county and he should move with speed and tell the people to stop and take the machinery back to Nairobi until the memorandum of understanding is signed. You cannot bring machinery to my homestead before we have signed the memorandum. If that fails Mr. Speaker, we have an able County Assembly Clerk who is a lawyer and can advise us on the way to go.

We file a petition in court if the governor fails to stop them. So Mr. Speaker, my argument is, they should be stopped, either by the Governor or this august House. With your wisdom Mr. Speaker, I hope you are going to lead and take the bull by the horns, if they continue, just go to court and let this Assembly stop the entire project until the memorandum of understanding is signed.

Mr. Speaker, I also submit that it is the high time they pay the price, one of us has said that he heard in the news that Nairobi has increased the water rates. Are we fools to allow them to take all the money and Murang'a to go without a cent. It is the high time Mr. Speaker that we took the task. With those few words Mr. Speaker, I rest my case.

Mr. Speaker, because I do not know whether I will get a chance, allow me to digress, politely

The Speaker: It depends on how you digress

Hon. Samuel Wandia: The member or Kamacharia congratulated you for your leadership over the years. Mr. Speaker; I pray that you organize a retreat for all the members so that we may find the way forward for this year. I know we have had obstacles. Let's sit and analyze the positives and the negatives and I know we shall have a smooth year. Thank you Mr. Speaker

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, reading the mood of the House, since we have a lot of business ahead of us, I call upon the mover to respond.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker sir, I take this opportunity to thank all the Hon. members of this Assembly for coming to our rescue and approving this motion. I thank you very much Mr. Speaker and state that we as a government we are not trigger happy, that tractors can be returned to Nairobi because we are not aware why the tractors were taken to Kangari. As the members have said and the Clerk has heard, it is better for the Clerk and this House to order the committee to end its recess to come back and visit the place to establish whether the machinery is already there and whether the project has started. With those few remarks Mr. Speaker, I say thank you.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

BILLS

MURANG'A COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 13 OF 2014-
FIRST READING.

(The Bill is read for the First Time)

MURANG'A COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 13 OF, 2014.-
SECOND READING.

Hon. Kimani Gitau: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move;-

THAT; the Murang'a County Supplementary Appropriation Bill No. 13 of 2014, be now read a Second Time.

I call Hon. Dishon to Second

Hon. Samuel Wandia: I Second

(Question proposed)

(No debate)

The Speaker: I will ask the mover to respond

Hon. Joseph Kimani: I request you move from the Chair so that we can have the Committee of the Whole House.

The Speaker: You are out of order. You just need to respond, even if you have nothing to say, just say that you have responded

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Thank you I hereby respond to the second reading

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

(COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE)

MURANG'A COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 13 OF 2014

(The Speaker leaves the Chair)

(Hon. Gachui Mungai in the Chair)

(CLAUSE 2)

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Mr Chairman, I propose that the clause be amended by deleting the words between the word 'shillings' and the word 'and' immediately after the word 'thousands', and replacing therefor with the following;5,981,587,000 (Five billion nine hundred and eighty one million five hundred and eighty seven thousands

The Chairperson (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Read the figures well

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Mr. Chairman there was an amendment on the same because if you check on the former bill.

The Chairperson (Hon. Gachui Mungai): That is the Amendment that you are moving.

Hon. Joseph Kimani: The clause be amended by deleting the words 'shillings' and the word 'and' immediately after the word 'thousands', and replacing therefor with the following;5,981,587,000 (five billion nine hundred and eighty one million five hundred and eighty seven thousands to read as follows; The County Treasury may issue out of the County Revenue Account and apply towards the supply granted for the service of the year ending on the 30th June, 2015, the sum of Kenya Shillings 5,981,587,000 (five billion nine hundred and eighty one million five hundred and eighty seven thousands) and that sum shall be deemed to have been appropriated as from 1st July, 2014 for the services and purpose specified in the First and Second Schedule annexed hereto

The Chairperson (Hon. Gachui Mungai): I now propose the question that clause 2 as amended be part of the bill

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

(SCHEDULE OF THE BILL)

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Mr. Chairman I beg to move an amendment under the Schedules Vote No. D05 be amended by deleting the figure Kshs.177,000 and substituting therefor the figure Kshs.247,000.

Vote No. D08 be amended by deleting the figure Kshs.508,000 and substituting

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

The Chairperson (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Point of order. Resume your seat

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: Hon. Chair D05 is 177 thousand not million

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Thank you Hon. Member, under the Schedule B Vote No. D08 be amended by deleting the figure Kshs.508 million and substituting therefor the figure Kshs.488 million

Development sub- total be amended by deleting the figure Kshs. 3,067,522,000 and substituting therefore the figure Kshs.3,116,722,000

Under Schedule B, note B, The grand total be amended by deleting the figure Kshs.5,931,587,000 and substituting therefore the figure Kshs.5,981,587,000.

The Chairperson (Hon. Gachui Mungai): Hon. Member you are very fast, In fact you did not even wait for me to propose the amendments, but it is good because I know you want us to end the debate.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

(TITLE)

THE MURANG'A COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2014.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

(CLAUSE 1)

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

The Chairperson (Hon. Gachui Mungai): I call upon the mover

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Thank you Chairman, I beg to move that the committee reports to the Assembly its recommendation on the The Murang'a County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2014, and it's approval therefore with amendments

(Question Proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Assembly Resumed)

(Hon. Gachui Mungai in the Chair)

Hon. Joseph Kimani: I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole Assembly has considered the Murang'a County Supplementary Bill 2014, and its approval thereof with amendments. I move that the Assembly agrees with the committee on the said report, I call upon Hon. Wakuthii to second

Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii: I rise to second

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

MURANG'A COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 13 OF 2014.-
THIRD READING

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Mr. Speaker I beg to move that the The Murang'a County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2014, be read a third time. I call upon Hon. Mweri to second

Hon Peter Mweri: I second the Murang'a County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2014.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The mover, do you have anything to say about that?

Hon. Joseph Kimani: I thank all the hon. members for the motion without much debate because we are all aware of what it entails. Mr. Speaker before I sit down , I wish you, the staff, Hon. members and the people of Ithiru and Murang'a County people a nice and prosperous new year 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The House stands adjourned until February 10th at 10: 00 a.m.

(The House rose at 4:07 p.m.)