

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**THE HANSARD**

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The House met at 2:45 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Honourable members, I wish to make this communication; following the adoption of the schedule of sittings outside the Assembly by the Liaison committee during its last meeting, I have noted with a lot of concern that a committee of the Assembly has scheduled sittings outside the precincts of the Assembly during plenary which is contrary to Standing Order 118, which clearly says that, "Except for the House Business and Rules committee, a committee shall not meet during a sitting of the Assembly without the written permission of the Speaker."

Hon. Members, it is important that you uphold the provisions of the Standing Orders that guides the Assembly committees and plenary in its day to day operations and in particular plenary to ensure that quorum is attained at all times to enable the Assembly dispense with any business before it.

I further wish to bring to your attention under Standing Order 118(iii) says that "Despite the above position, a sitting of a committee shall stand suspended when a division or quorum bell is rang." Which clearly shows that even the House Business and Rules committee has to suspend its sitting and whenever a division or quorum bell is rang so that quorum is attained.

Further Hon. Members, it is important to note pursuant to Standing Order 118 (iv) "The proceedings of a committee held during the sittings of the Assembly without the written permissions of the Speaker shall be void."

In view of the aforementioned Hon. Members, I hereby direct that no committee of the Assembly shall hold any sittings, within or outside the precincts of the Assembly during plenary, except as stipulated in the Standing Orders. Thank you very much.

## MOTION

### DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS-RESUMPTION OF DEBATE INTERRUPTED ON TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2018, DURING THE MORNING SITTING

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Hon. Members, during the morning sitting, we were in the process of discussing the Governor's address and this is a continuation of that sitting so the motion does not have to be moved again, so any Hon. Member can stand up and contribute.

**Hon. Lucy Ngugi:** I wish to support the motion on the Governor's address and also note some of the issues that a member raised in the morning concerning the youth. I think there was a question on the support on the youth and I am coming from the youth and sports committee.

I wish to note that on the Governor's address there is a Sacco called Ufundi Kwa Vijana, which is a polytechnic based programme that is there to empower skills upon our youth which we really laud the Governor for. There is also information that more than 10,000 youth, men and women had been trained for the last time which we are all aware of from our villages, we have come across our youth who have been empowered and they are now waiting for, I think for the qualification certificates and also for the Ufundi Co-operative to take them to the next level.

As Hon. Members, the Governor asked us to bring our young men and women who are idling in the village to the polytechnics. We have enough and where members feel that we do not have enough polytechnics in the villages, the Governor requested every member to go out and identify the buildings and come and talk to the Governor. I wish that the Honourable members in this House may desist from picking issues but instead be pro-active, identify what our youth need, bring it to the youth committee where we shall address these issues through our County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) considering that there is commitment from the Governor and from the executive.

We have also been told that the co-operative called Ufundi kwa Vijana will provide short time facilities, this will encourage and ensure that our youth after being trained will be empowered, I think we can all take advantage of this, we can all make sure that our youth are empowered through this and many others.

Lastly, I would wish to confirm that the youths that were empowered the last time and asked to get the licenses free of charge, some of them from my village have confirmed

getting such at half percent of the rates of the licenses; I do not know the situation in your wards.

Having said that, I wish that the Governor, through the Executive, walks the talk. The Governor said that they have the Ufundi Co-operative and many other programs for the youth and we wish to see the commitment of the Governor being carried out by the Executive, which is probably failing. It is actually; not probably, we are being failed in many areas by the Executive who are mandated to act on the Governor's commitment or on the Governor's wishes.

Through this House, I urge that the Governor pushes his Executive to walk the talk. The Governor says he is committed to the youth, it is true that the Governor and the Executive are committed to enabling the youth in sports and culture.

The Committee on the Youth in this House visited Kakamega last year, together with artists who had been invited to perform. However, up to today, all the artists that were in Kakamega have never been paid their allowances. It is good to note that there is goodwill but we want to see that translated into the real sense of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Thank you. Gachuhi.

**Hon. Nahashon Gachuhi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Gatanga Ward and I remember very well when we were here with His Excellency the Governor Mwangi wa Iria. He gave a very comprehensive speech about his aspirations towards the development of our County. Actually, as far as agriculture is concerned, I congratulate the County Government because, seven months down, they have already inaugurated the Kahawa Bora Program.

As he indicated here, he has already started the avocado thing that he promised the people in our County. With our support, checks and oversight, I am sure that these projects and proposals he gave will take our County far as far as development is concerned. If we remember, he said that he will make sure that the farmers in our County will get more shillings in their pockets compared to other times there before. Therefore, we should encourage our people to do more farming to reap from what our Governor promised. Thank you so much.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Amos.

**Hon. Murigi Amos:** Hon. Speaker, I am the MCA for Kimorori/Wempa and I wish to remind my brother, *Mheshimiwa* Nahashon Gachuhi of one of the successes he was unable to enumerate. I know that in Gatanga, especially Gatanga Ward, there was a lot of trouble

coming from monkeys but they have been partly contained. I am from Gatanga where, of late, they have been a menace. You may assume some of these things but sometimes they can go a long way in assisting the affected farmers in appreciating such facts.

It is also in taking cue from the Governor's address on 21<sup>st</sup> September last year, where he came up with some issues. As an Assembly, I believe that we do oversight, represent our people, and make laws. One thing I have seen and has been one of the issues the Governor has done for this County since he came, is the dairy industry. We have the 35 co-operatives. He started with provision of coolers in all the Wards.

In his address, the Governor said that they have been able to invest half a billion shillings in dairy creameries and there was a promise that within two months, that factory would actually be functional. We expected that it would, definitely, be functional on 21<sup>st</sup> November last year but, so far, that has not happened. It is important considering we have invested a lot of money. We roughly get Kshs7.4 billion annually and having invested about half a billion in such a project, it is prudent for it be finalised.

Learning from other Counties like Makueni, they started their creameries at a total cost of Kshs200 million and in only two years, they have been able to process their milk which is already in the shelves in most of the supermarkets in this country. It is therefore important that the concerned Committee does serious follow up with this issue to do with the creameries in Maragua.

The issue of milk is also important. During the campaigns, there was a promise that the prices would be adjusted from Kshs35 to Kshs40 once the creamery commences. The other issue is to do with the enhancement of the coffee sector. I thank the Governor because he started the Coffee Directorate in this County. That Coffee Directorate is performing some of the work which used to be done by the Coffee Board of Kenya. Some of these like transportation of coffee is done from within, licensing the small scale millers is also been done here.

But I believe that for Coffee Directorate we require as an Assembly to have laws because I understand they are issuing the licences for free because they cannot charge anything as there is no law which can be used. It is upon this Assembly to come up with law because we are losing a lot of revenue if we continue giving services for free.

We understand there has been a lot of climatic change and the issue of Kahawa Bora, there is a time when the coffee used to do so well at lower parts of Murang'a in mid-70, but today because of climatic change, coffee is not doing well in the lower parts of the County.

And even if we are going to get Kahawa Bora, unless we do irrigation, I know coffee cannot do as it was doing in mid-70. Something needs to be done because you cannot disassociate the issue of Kahawa Bora and provision for water for irrigation. Unless you do irrigation, coffee cannot do well in lower parts of this County.

On issue of coffee, Hon. Speaker, I think we have been having problems on the sector, and we cannot be able to fix the sector unless we fix something to do with co-operatives. It is important for committee on Trade to fast track Co-Operative Bill because most of these coffee societies have been messed up by management of co-operative societies. Unless as an Assembly we come up with rules to govern co-operatives, this sector will continue to have problems.

And I am proposing, when you look at some of the issues to be included is the age of the members of management of societies. Some of them are illiterate, some of them have been there since 1970's, and they should have a term limit. I know much of the problems we are having at coffee sector is to do with management.

Moving on from there, on the issue of agriculture because I know Governor is so passionate about agriculture, I think we need also to look into the issue of value addition. I know parts of lower Murang'a we do a lot of horticulture and I remember there was an investment in Makuyu ward where by coolers were brought but that facility has not functioned up to date. I think it is upon the committee on Agriculture to look into this issue because I understand about 60 to 70 million was used, but that packing house has never processed anything. I think it is important we look into this because we have to emphasize on the issue of value addition.

We are supporting our Governor in value addition and we appreciate what he has done in macadamia and avocados because I know our farmers used to be selling at Kshs3 and I was at home over the weekend and the kilo of hass avocados is going for Kshs60, and if we can be able to process that hass avocados instead of selling it raw, I think we can make a kill out of value addition.

I do not want to take a lot of time but I wish to say that in other sectors, especially in the health sector, the Governor was very particular. Let me thank him more sincerely because he talked that in Kimorori/Wempa we are going to construct a hospital. Kenneth Matiba hospital is on a rented premises and very soon the Governor said he will construct a dental and eye hospital in Kimorori and that one will go a long way in assisting our people who come from that particular side.

And as I conclude on issue of health it is also important, like we Members of the County Assembly we get a lot of people coming for assistance, those who are unable to pay medical bills, and what we are saying, it is important if we have the County Government registering our people, those who are poor with NHIF it will be very important, because you know if you register with only Kshs500 and you discontinue, once you get a problem what you do is to top up and pay some extra fine and your case is considered. We urge the County Government to consider paying for the poor, because once they have the problem they will just pay top up, penalty and they will get considered.

I do not want to take much time but there is one thing which was missing in Governor's address and courtesy of promises we made is the issue of road sector. The Governor never mentioned anything even one sentence to do with fixing of roads, and we know after this rainy season, I heard a Member of this Assembly who is here and he was supposed to attend a burial but he confided to me he will not attend because they will be so many questions touching on roads and he does not have an answer. This is one issue we would like the County Government to give it a priority because 90% of those who are here, I think they are here because of the promises they made on fixing roads.

Finally, I cannot sit down without mentioning issue of land. We have issue of Delmonte, we have issue of Kakuzi which is partly in my ward and I totally support the Governor that we are not going to allow renewal of leases without those people parting with part of the land back to the society, and more so have a new Thika town along Thika-Kenol road and it will go a long way in making sure that we improve revenue collection in this particular county.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to go beyond there because I know with this address I can use two hours but I do not wish to take a lot of time because I do believe because the other colleague members some sort of input, thank you.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Jecinta.

**Hon. Jecinta Ng'ang'a:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Hon. Amos Murigi you are the type of a father that eats everything for the children and doesn't leave food for other children, so next time leave something for us because we would also wish to contribute.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Jecinta Ng'ang'a:** Mr. Speaker on the Governor's address, according to me it has a lot of goodies, as my colleague has mentioned, on the issue of women. When we look at the issue on women, much has been done on the co-operative side and even on the issue of land.

When we look on the issue of land like Mjini, during the campaign time, the Governor had promised that by the time he shall be ending his period he would have made sure that the Mjini residents will have had their title deeds. This one went into history that the Mjini people have never had title deeds. And this time the Mjini people have their title deeds and the women were the ones most suffering because some of them are widows, they have been left by their husbands. Even the families at times disturb the women because women are unable to go to the bank and acquire loans. On that one, I applause our Governor for the goodwill to the women.

As the Governor, during his address, he recognizes the women leadership. In his speech he had even mentioned that the two women, Hon. Jecinta and Hon. Pelagiah whom wrestled with the men up to this House; that one is also applause to the Governor.

The other issue is upon the water issue. As we all know that water in this County has very much been politicized but the Governor has really gone a stone mile and he has even gone to the extent that even making sure that water tariffs has been brought down. And even the issue of the formation of the Water Boards, they are still in place and we all know that all this things will be put in place.

There was also the issue on disability. In the issue of disability they are also catered for although there is still time that we should find a way for a secondary school in Mugoiri, at Hon. Nyoko's place. We still have the vocational--- What do we call it? Remind me, at Muriranja's. It is only in primary school suppose we have a secondary school whereby these artisan courses will be provided there. We shall be well equipped so that we do not have our disabled travelling all the way to Thika town to Joy town, because it is only at Thika we have such a facility. Suppose we have such a facility here, it will be of great importance to our people.

The other thing is the issue upon agriculture and mainly the dairy. The people whom we were with as much as maybe we would say that the processor has not been done, it is also good to see that small thing that has been done by the Governor. The people who we were with at the Dairy Board workshop at Mombasa, we were overwhelmed when we heard that Murang'a is one of the best in provision of milk, because it is the only County that gives milk from nursery to class eight and even we went further to learn that it was a case study for other Counties coming for benchmarking.

On the Governor's address I wish to support, thank you.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Lilian.

**Hon. Lilian Kabaya:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, on the address of the Governor, we would wish to express our gratitude to the Governor for a well thought out plan for this County. I believe if we were to implement every single one of his programmes, our County will have progressed very far.

My colleagues have talked a lot on their specific areas and the issues they are facing, so I will try my best not to repeat what has been said. That said however, I wish to highlight the following in the issue of agriculture.

As Hon. Murigi has talked about value addition, we would like to see more of this, not just in milk processing because the problem that happens with a lot of production. Yes we are giving our farmers maize and we are giving them seedlings for avocados and what have you, but when there is excess production, then there is waste. However, if we do value addition, this will ensure that we can preserve.

For example our County is blessed with bananas in every other area of Murang'a you will see bananas almost growing wildly, if you could process this bananas and nowadays there are factories who are doing things to do with banana flour and *uji* (porridge) flour made from bananas, I think we would help our farmers earn more while at the same time ensuring that there is little wastage.

Another thing is on drought resistant crops, the Governor highlighted the importance, we have however not seen any of the programs on drought resistant crops in the supplementary budget. We hope that we will be seeing it in the coming budget.

And on this I wish to highlight the 'Kunde revolution'. In all Counties, not all but a few Counties that are experiencing drought, like Kitui and Meru they have embraced it, the 'Kunde revolution'. It is jointly done with Red Cross and Kunde which is a green gram has shown to survive in areas with very little rainfall. I would request the Executive to take this one up as well especially in lower parts of Murang'a that have issue with rainfall so that they do not always rely on relief food.

On the issue of health, I would like to emphasise that we do not need more structures, there are enough structures in our various wards. May be some wards may be left out but the ones that are there we are struggling with staffing issues, we are struggling with drugs issues.

Mr. Speaker we would ask the Executive, as the Governor rightfully said, devolution is about getting to each small scale household person, reaching the common *mwananchi* where they are, not building a big hospital here which people have to travel a 100 kilometres to



reach. I would like to request the Governor to first look into equipping the current dispensaries before we spend more money on infrastructure.

On the issue of education and polytechnics, polytechnics if I may say so are about practical training. Mr. Speaker this County needs to move with the times, we cannot keep training our youth on *jua kali* and carpentry which is a very good vocational course but using methods used 20 years ago.

The world is embracing technology, I think the first thing we need to do is to have a polytechnic that is based on technology. Why don't we teach our youth computer programming skills, why don't we teach them skills to do with, I mean internet based skills, so that we do not have to come and fund them again for them to start their own businesses. With computer skills all you need is a computer with absolutely no cost. So we would like to see technology embraced in our polytechnics, we would like to see that implemented because most of the population is the youth and they are moving towards technology.

Mr. Speaker on the issue of land, we wish to express our gratitude to the Governor for ensuring that landless people have titles and also on the issue of succession where families have stayed without titles for so long. I wish to emphasise that this should be a priority; succession issues take time. If we start dealing with succession towards the end of this term then unfortunately Mr. Speaker we may not finish what we set out to do. We need to start dealing with the issues of titles as fast as possible so that by the conclusion of these five years we can have something to show.

As I conclude, I wish to talk about trade, areas that are agricultural zones are very much favored by this policy, however as we can see, towns are growing, we are conducting our spatial planning. We need to look at the future of our towns.

Even as we build industrial zones which will be very good and prestigious for us, we also need to tackle the issue of trade in our small offices. A good example is the Mukuyu market right here, that market is honestly an embarrassment to us when it is at the headquarters of our County. We would like that to be prioritized; even the entrance to the market is a problem, there are no roads, no facilities, we would like to ask the Governor to first we start with our small trading centres and then we can move to the big industrial park.

On my last point, the disabled, we thank our Governor very much for remembering the disabled; while they may not be represented here it is our duty to represent them. Mr. Speaker we note with concern that the appointments that have been made, rather that we have vetted in this House; there has not been a single disabled person. We wish to remind the Governor

of his promise to ensure disabled interests are represented and to make sure that in the names that are forthcoming, especially for the Chief Officers that we are expecting that we have Chief Officers at least one person who is representing the disabled persons interests. We also wish to see a lot of funds dedicated towards disabled persons schools because they are very few compared to the population and we would like to see proper facilities for them so that we can include all persons. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Honourable member you have already spoken, you cannot speak twice. Honourable members like I said in the morning, we are very thin on business this week because when I look at the Order Paper tomorrow, the only business we have is this debate on the Governor's address, so I was hoping that it was not going to end very soon but since there is very little contribution coming in, I still like to give members the opportunity to still talk about it tomorrow again because if we don't then we shall have no business at all tomorrow. So because of that and hoping there will be more members to contribute on this debate tomorrow. I am adjourning this sitting until tomorrow 2:30p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*The House rose at 3:20 p.m.*