REPUBLIC OF KENYA MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 8th May 2019
The House met at 2:35 p.m.
[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Ruoho Wangechi) in the Chair]

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING OF VISITORS.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Ruoho Wangechi): Thank you members I want to take this opportunity to welcome students and teachers from St. Joseph Kiangage Township ward. Feel welcome to Murang'a County Assembly. Thank you. Next order.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT ON MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT QUARTELY REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 2018.

Hon. Jeremiah Kongo: Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to give notice of the following Motion:

That this Assembly adopts the report by sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on Murang'a County Government quarterly report and financial statement for the period ended December 2018 laid on the Table of the Assembly on May 7, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

REPORT ON VISIT TO STATE DEPARTMENT ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Hon. Sospeter Nyoko: Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to give notice of the following Motion;

That this Assembly adopts the report by Land, Housing and Physical planning committee on a visit to state department for Housing and Urban Development laid on the Table of the Assembly on May 7, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REPORT ON VISIT TO KIGALI RWANDA TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH

Hon. Chege Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to give notice of the following Motion;

That this Assembly adopts the Report by Health Services Committee on a visit to Rwanda to attend African Health Agenda International Conference held on March 5th to 7th 2019 at Kigali convention centre, laid on the Table of the Assembly on May 7, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON VETTING OF NOMINEES TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY AND MEMBER TO MURANG'A COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

Hon. Kamote Waciama: Thank you Mr. Speaker, before I move the Motion I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the students and teachers from St. Joseph Kiangage secondary school who are from neighbouring school and so they are also my people. So, welcome to this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker Sir, pursuant to section six of Constitution of Kenya 2010, section 8 (1) (a) of the County Governments Act 2012, section 7 of County Assemblies Approval Act 2017 all read together with second schedule of Murang'a County Assembly Standing Orders, the sectoral Committee on Governance, Labour and Justice conducted vetting of nominees for public appointment to the position of Chairperson, Secretary and a member to the Murang'a County Public Service Board on Thursday May 2,2019.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the terms of reference for committee are; Report on finding of vetting of nominee for public appointment to the position of Chairperson, Secretary and a member to Public Service Board. Recommend for approval or reject the nominee for the appointment to the position of Chairperson, secretary and a member to public service board.

Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee of Labour, Legal Affairs and Justice and pursuant to section 9 of County Assemblies Approval Act it is my pleasure and duty to present to this House the Committee's Report on vetting of Mrs. Catherine Wanjiku Kamau for position of Public Service Board Chairperson, Mr. Dominic Mathenge for position of Board Secretary and Dr. Ignatius Kibe Wanaruona for the position of Member of the County Public Service Board respectively vide letter Ref: MCG/CS/ST/10/I VOL. (46) dated 18th April,2019. The names of the nominees were forwarded to the sectoral Committee on Governance, Labour, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee for vetting and further for consideration of approval by the County Assembly for appointment to the Murang'a County Public Service Board.

The nominees appeared before the Committee on Thursday 2nd May 2019 at 9:30a.m, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. respectively. They were vetted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017 and the County Assembly Standing Orders 204 on their suitability for appointment to the position of a Chairperson, Secretary and Member to the Murang'a County Public Service Board respectively.

Section 7 (10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 provides that "any person may, prior to the approval hearing and by a written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated".

Hon. Speaker I would like to report that, there was no memorandum submitted to the objection of any of the three nominees.

Hon. Speaker, the specific observations pertaining to the nominees are as follows; that in particular with regards to the nominee for the position of the Chairperson of the Board, the nominee was eloquent, very well conversant with the issues of the board, possessed excellent decision making skills.

With regards to the nominee for the position of the Secretary, the Committee observed that the nominee had a wealth of experience in the public service having served in various capacities in different government entities for over 30 years. The Committee observed that he will be an invaluable asset to the Board thanks to his vast experience.

Further, with regards to the nominee for the Member of the Board, the Committee noted that he was a doctor of repute, having been in the private practice and served as a consultant and in different advisory capacities. The Committee also observed that coming from private practice; he will provide a different style of doing things and a different style of experience and doing things.

Hon. Speaker, the following are the general observation pertaining to the nominees; that the members satisfy the requirements of Chapter six of the Constitution of Kenya on leadership and integrity having been cleared by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Credit Reference Bureau.

That none of the nominees has ever been dismissed or removed from office for a contravention of the provisions of Chapter six (Article 7) of the Constitution of Kenya.

That all the nominees exhibited remarkable knowledge and skills of relevant issues pertaining to the department of County Public Service Board and in particular, the nominee for the Chairperson and Secretary who had been previously in acting capacity in the Board and as such would bring on a wealth of knowledge and experience in the public service.

That all the nominees had impressive academic and professional curriculum vitaes and demonstrated outstanding skills and experience in administration, requisite competencies and qualifications for the positions they had applied for.

The Committee was greatly satisfied that from the presentation, they are confident that the working relationship will be greatly enhanced and help the relations between the Board and the Committee.

In sum, the Committee observed that the Board does not have a person representing the youth or Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). The Committee noted that this is a principle enshrined in Articles 232 of the Constitution and Article 54 (2) and accepted that the principle relating to the persons with disabilities is an aspiration that requires more time in order to be fully achieved. The Constitution contemplates progressive implementation of that principle; and in this regard, the threshold of persons with disabilities and the youth would be met gradually through future appointments.

Hon. Speaker, the following are the Committee's recommendations;

- 1. That pursuant to section 9 (2) of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 and Standing Order 204 (5) (f), the County Assembly adopts the Report of the Committee on the vetting of Mrs. Catherine Wanjiku Kamau, Mr. Dominic Mathenge and Mr. Ignatius Kibe Wanaruona for the positions of the Chairperson, Secretary and member of the County Public Service Board respectively.
- 2. That, the County Assembly approves the nomination of Mrs. Catherine Wanjiku Kamau for appointment by His Excellency the Governor to the position of a Chairperson of the Murang'a County Public Service Board.
- 3. That the County Assembly approves the nomination of Mr. Dominic Mathenge for appointment by His Excellency the Governor to the position of the secretary of the Murang'a County Public Service Board.

4. That the County Assembly approves the nomination of Dr. Ignatius Kibe Kubiu Wanaruona for appointment by His Excellency the Governor to the position of a Board Member of the Murang'a County Public Service Board.

Mr. Speaker as I have read that report, the members were all in agreement that the members were equal to the task. As we know the Murang'a County Public Service Board has not been having a chairperson for the last four to five years. Ever since the last person was appointed in the last Assembly, I don't think he served more than six months before he resigned. The person that took over as the acting chair, the late Mr. Waithaka got an accident. The person who has been acting is, Catherine Wanjiku Kamau. Altogether, there was another person madam Nancy who was the first to act after the first chairperson resigned; that was Ms. Maina, she took the service board to court and there have been cases dragging all along. That is why there has been no one appointed as the chair for the Public Service Board. Therefore, I request this House to debate this Report. I can see most of my Committee members are not here because most of them are in other Committees, especially Agriculture. The vice- chairperson is outside the country with some other members so the members that are here will support the Motion. I request my colleagues in other Committees to support the adoption of this Committee's Report so that we can have a chair for the Public Service Board. I call Hon. Charles Ng'ang'a to support this Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Charles Ng'ang'a: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to second the Motion. When it comes to the academic qualifications of those nominees, it was above board. When it comes to experience, they were perfect with a wealth of wisdom. Which they are ready to share for the progress of the County. I know our mandate is to make ourselves an architecture for the future. At the moment we know the County Assembly has been having problems because of that chair. I call upon other members to support the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Jecinta Ng'ang'a: Thank you Mr. Speaker, first and foremost I would like to welcome the students of St. Joseph secondary school. I would also like to congratulate the Governance Committee for their well-done Report on the nominees for the Public Service Board. Thank you, for the work well done because from the report, the nominees had met the required criteria well, notably the criteria on section six of our Constitution. Those members are up to the task bearing in mind that some of those members were in the last regime and we believe that they will be up to the task so that our County may be spearheaded in the right position.

The other area of concern is the areas of your recommendation when you are talking about the representation of the youth and the people with disability. It is very unfortunate Mr Speaker when we look at some of these things, in our Constitution, matters disability and youth are a requirement and it is unfortunate that even in the county Assembly we do not have the position of someone with disability so in future, I pray that it should be taken seriously because we need the representation. I support.

Hon. Kibe Githuka: I stand to support, first of all, as Hon. Jecinta have said, today you are a youth as the Speaker. We have the youth who have visited us from the ward where we are and sometimes we get a scenario whereby the youth keep on wondering when they will get a job, so my humble request is when it comes to other appointments, let us consider the youth because

if we cannot guarantee them that after education there is a job somewhere, they may be demotivated. I stand to support.

Hon. Francis Kibe: A slight correction, one of the members of the Board by the name Kamami, that gentleman is a youth, I will not talk on the issue of disability but for the youth we are well represented by Mr Kamami

Hon. Charles Mwangi: I stand to support the Motion and concur with my colleague that the composition should also include the youth, but what matters a lot is what we call qualifications, it does not matter about the youth, what matters is whether the person is capable to deliver and that is what we are looking for. Thank you

Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Ruoho): I request the mover to respond

Hon. Kamote Waciama: Thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate the seconder of this Motion Hon. Charles Mwangi Ng'ang'a because as a member of the Committee he has spoken well. I would also like to congratulate Hon. Jecinta, Hon. Githuka and Hon. Kibe for supporting the Motion especially Hon. Jecinta who has talked about the youth and the disabled and those are part of the recommendations that we have given.

Thank you Hon. Kibe, you have talked about Mr Kamami, I do not whether he falls under the bracket of the youth but we had a youth representative, Mr. Ngunjiri who resigned sometime back and even if you say Mr. Kamami is in the youth bracket in the near future he will be out of the bracket so we request in the future appointments, the Governor to look at the issue of the youth and people with disabilities. Hon. Githuka I am grateful for your support and I know the issues that the members have raised we will look at them and push the governor to do as we recommend. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am grateful.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 3:00p.m.