

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 29th May 2019

The House met at 2:30 p.m.

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku) in the Chair]

PRAYER
PETITIONS

IMPOSITION OF HIGH-WATER BILLS, WATER DISCONNECTIONS
AND WATER SHORTAGES EFFECTED BY THE MURANG'A WATER AND
SANITATION COMPANY (MUWASCO)

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to state as follows; Honourable Speaker on behalf of the Water, Energy, Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources Committee I wish to state as follows:

The Committee received six Petitions that were all committed during the same period. The Committee prepared a work plan to handle the six Petitions and sequenced them as follows:

1. Public Petition by residents of Kenol town, Kimorori/ Wempa Ward, Maragua Sub- County, Petition regarding poor drainage system, lack of a proper sewer system and solid waste dumpsite in Kenol town which we have finalized and Tabled.
2. Residents of Kenol town, Kimorori/ Wempa Ward, Maragua Sub- County on excess noise pollution by the Kings Bistro club located at Kenol petrol station and the Santa More Gardens hotel located along Murang'a Road which we have we have finalized and Tabled.
3. Residents of Ngilelya village, Ithanga Ward, Gatanga Sub- County on acute water shortage in Thungururu secondary school and Ngilelya dispensary resulting from breakdown of the Ngilelya borehole which has never been repaired since early this year: status finalized and Tabled.
4. Residents of Kirathani, Ithanga Ward, Gatanga Sub-County on a drilled borehole at St. Theresa primary school commissioned on August 2017 as complete but has never had water for use. The status is finalized awaiting being Tabled.
5. The Committee is currently finalizing on the fifth Petition by residents of Mangoto, Kimorori/ Wempa Ward, Maragua Sub- County on lack of access to clean water and monopoly of a borehole in Kamiigua community by an individual.

Honorable Speaker, if you can recall about three weeks ago, we mentioned that the Committee had a lot of Petitions and you can see we have already finalized with more than three Petitions. The said Petition for today, has issues because as you are aware, The Petition is about MUWASCO and other related issues. The issue requires a lot of consultations which we are currently doing. We have not finalized with the said Petition.

We are currently are working on the Budget Estimates and therefore all Committees have prioritized discussions on budgetary estimates thus shelving all pending business. It is for this reason the Committee humbly request for an extension Honorable Speaker of 40 working days to

finalize on the said Petition because the next two weeks we are working on the Budget Estimates. It is worth to note that the Committee is working day and night to ensure that we have completed by the said period so I request for that extension.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): 40 working days? Honorable Member you are pushing the Petition to August? Can't you review on the working days, Chair Water?

Hon. Peter Mweri: Okay, Honorable Speaker there is annex of the things that we need to do but then we can work and finalize in the next may be three weeks, working days.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): I find that fair Hon. Member. Next order.

PUBLIC PETITION BY RESIDENTS OF KIHUYA, KANGEMA SUB COUNTY TO THE MATTER OF
KANYUIRA POLYTECHNIC WHICH HAS LIMITED TRAINING EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, TOOLS AND
STAFF TO SERVE THE STUDENTS AND FEW COURSES THAT DO NOT RESPOND TO THE CURRENT
MARKET

Hon. Waithira Ndung'u: Thank you Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-government Committee, I request for 14 working days as it is currently reviewing the said Petition. This is due to the fact that currently the Budget process is ongoing and so the Committee has shelved the pending business. Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): Thank you, next order.

PUBLIC PETITION BY RESIDENTS OF NGILELYA, ITHANGA GATANGA SUB-COUNTY TO THE MATTER
OF CHANGE OF MARKET DAY FROM SUNDAY TO FRIDAY

Hon. Jecinta Ng'ang'a: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the Committee undertook consideration of the public Petition by residents of Ngilelya, Ithanga Ward, Gatanga Sub- County in Murang'a County on change of market day for Ngilelya market from Sunday to Friday.

Honorable Speaker; on November 27, 2018, the residents of Ngilelya, Ithanga Ward, Gatanga Sub- County in Murang'a County, submitted a Petition to the County Assembly. Pursuant to Section 15 of the County Governments Act of 2012 and Standing Order 209 (1) (a), the Petition was submitted to the Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly by the petitioners.

Honorable Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 216, the Petition was committed to the Committee incharge of Trade, Industrialization, Tourism, Wildlife and Co-operatives management in a sitting held on 1st March 2019, the Committee was to make recommendation towards the Petition and report back within 60 days. The Petition read as follows; the residents of Ngilelya in Ithanga Ward, Gatanga Sub- County draw the attention of the Assembly to the following; Sunday is the official market day which is also our worship day, this being a weekend the youth take advantage and engage in bad behaviour some leading to pregnancies. They confirm that the matter is not in court. Prayer for the petitioners, the day is changed from Sunday to Friday. The community be given feedback on the same.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee held a briefing meeting on 21st March 2019 and resolved to commence the activities regarding the Petition. Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Article 195 of Kenya 2010. The Committee resolved to commence the consideration of the Petition by inviting all the parties involved in the matter and visiting the market.

The Committee findings and recommendations were as follows; Honourable Speaker, having considered all the submissions made by the respective parties who appeared before the Committee, from the field visit by the Committee, most traders were of the opinion that the market day remains on Sundays.

Those pregnancies cannot be blamed on the market since it is a social issue which should be taken up by the Committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services. That on stealing of goods on market day, goods can be stolen when people are in church and sold at a later day, this should be handled by heightening the security of the area to ensure that thieves have no space in the community rather than disrupting the market schedules. That in a country where a 24 hour economy is being encouraged, it would be advisable to have two market days rather than one. Those children that are taken by parents to work in the markets have rights and the parents should be reported on basis of child labour especially to kids below 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommendations were as follows; one, that the market day remains on Sunday to ensure there is no disruption of traders market schedules which would result to shifting of traders from Ngilelya to other markets that open on Sundays. The shift would lead to loss of trading opportunities, employment and loss of revenue to the County Government,

That the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade and Co-operatives liaises with residents of Ngilelya market and considers having two official market days, Sunday and any other day that the parties agree on. That the petitioners should address the issues of security, child labour, teenage pregnancies through the right channels as follows; teenage pregnancies be addresses through the County Executive department of Social Services and the County Assembly Committee on Youth, Gender and Social services.

Two, insecurity in the area be addressed through the area Chief and the Office of the County Commissioner. Prayer number two, the Committee to be given feedback on the same. This Report is the feedback of the Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): Pursuant to Standing Order 215, the Speaker may allow comments, observations or clarification in relation to a Petition presented or reported and such total time shall not exceed 30 minutes. So, we can have a comment or observation, Majority Leader?

Hon. Erick Kimani: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker because of giving me this opportunity. I am the Leader of the Majority Party and also the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Kahumbu Ward. First of all, I wish to congratulate the Committee on Trade, Industrialization, Tourism and Wildlife because they have done a good Report.

Mr. Speaker, if the Committee could have denied those traders that day, it could have, one, disorganised their way of doing business because the traders and the people doing business in that market are the same people who go to other markets during other market days. Maybe that could have denied them an opportunity to do business. Two, if they could have altered that day, then, the County could have also lost an opportunity to raise revenue because the County Government depends mostly with the small scale traders who go around every market. Maybe they could have denied the County Government that opportunity to raise revenue and we understand that the County has never been able to raise the proposed local revenue. That could have, maybe, made the situation worse.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee has therefore done quite well and its proposal that those people living in that area can still propose another day is better. They have the capacity to trade for two or three days and they can maybe liaise with the Sub-County administrator or the people responsible for allocating and slotting market days to be given another day for trading. I support whatever that Committee has raised and brought to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): Thank you Leader of Majority, Hon. Pelagiah.

Hon. Pelagiah Muthoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am the MCA for Kakuzi/Mitumbiri Ward and I want to appreciate the good Report from this Committee. Secondly, I want to support that the day of the market remains on Sunday because, surely, this is the time that we have many people who can do their market. Also, Kakuzi/Mitumbiri being a neighbour to Ithanga where we have this Ngilelya Market, most of our people work in Kakuzi Limited and Delmonte and they are only available on Sundays. If we shift this market day to a weekday, our people will not get a place to do their market and we need these people to sell their small items like goats, chicken and in our area, we grow a lot of fruits and this is where we take them for market. So, if it remains on Sunday it is the best news for Ngilelya, Ithanga and Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri ward.

I would also want to remind you Mr. Speaker that there are so many people who worship on Saturday and therefore Sunday remains their good day to go to the market and do their businesses. There are also those who worship on Fridays and we have them in our area. So, having the Sunday market it is good day. Even if it is put on another day you cannot force people to go to church and even those who go to church, they have whole afternoon to do their businesses.

Also remember most of our young people are small traders and they have their small items they would like to participate in selling. They are only available on Sundays and on Saturdays we want them to be in the *shamba* (farm) because we want them to help us in whatever we do. So, when the market day remains on Sunday it is very good, because we want as many people even once they are through with service, they pass through the market to buy their goods. Thank you very much I support the Report.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): Thank you Member for Kakuzi, it is also good to know you normally shop at Ngilelya market. Hon. Member for Mugoiri I had seen your hand.

Hon. Sospeter Nyoko: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this Report and I congratulate the Committee for the work well done. Once we inconvenience these small traders, we shall end up killing their businesses and once their businesses are killed, they will have nothing in their pockets, so I stand by that one and say it is good to add them one extra day in a week so that they can have two days to carry out their businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): Thank you I must say congratulations to the Chair Trade Committee for the good Report supported by the majority. Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Morris Thuku): This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday 30th May 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 2:50p.m.

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