

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 2nd August 2023.

The House met at 2:56 p.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu) in the Chair]

PRAYER

STATEMENT

APPROVED BUSINESS FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING AUGUST 8, 2023 TO
AUGUST 9, 2023.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to issue the following Statement; -

That pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (a), the House Business and Rules Committee at its last meeting approved Business that shall come before the Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday August 8, 2023 to Wednesday August 9, 2023 as per the attached programme.

Mr. Speaker on Tuesday August 8, 2023 there will be a Paper laid; Controller of the Budget Report on the County government budget implementation review for the first nine months of the FY 2022/2023 and that will be moved by the Chairperson Budget and Appropriation Committee. On the same day there will be another Paper laid; Murang'a County Emergency Management Policy 2023 by the Chair Finance and Economic Planning.

Number three, there will be another Paper laid; Public Finance Management Act, Murang'a County Emergency Fund Regulations 2023 by the Chairperson Delegated Legislation Committee.

There will be a Motion on adoption of annual progress report on County Assembly business for the period September 2022 to June 2023 and that will be done by a member of the House Business and Rules Committee.

On Tuesday in the afternoon Mr. Speaker, there will be a Paper laid, on Report on skills development training for a delegation of Hon. Members and staff of the County Assembly of Murang'a in Arusha, Tanzania held on January 10 to 14, 2023 by a member of the delegation.

There will be a notice of Motion on Report on skills development training for a delegation of Hon. Members and staff of the County Assembly of Murang'a in Arusha, Tanzania held on January

10 to 14, 2023 by a member of the delegation. There will be a Motion; adoption of quarterly progress Report on community- based projects as at June 30, 2023 by the Chairperson Public Works, Roads and Transport Committee.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday in the morning sitting there will be a Petition; Report of a Petition by residents of Kamahuha Ward regarding the poor state of Igikiro shopping centre - Gikungu shop- Kabogoro Road. That will be done by the Chairperson Public Works, Roads and Transport Committee.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a Paper laid on a Report of a training on strategic County Assembly leadership for County transformation for a delegation of Hon. Members and staff of the County Assembly of Murang'a in Arusha, Tanzania held from December 15th to 19th 2022, by a member of the delegation.

There will be a notice of Motion on a Report of a training on strategic County Assembly leadership for County transformation for a delegation of Hon. Members and staff of the County Assembly of Murang'a in Arusha, Tanzania held from December 15th to 19th 2022, by a member of the delegation.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a Statement, it is notified that pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (a) and 46 (2) (c), the Speaker has approved the following Statements to be issued on that day Wednesday, August 9, 2023; approved business of Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday August 15, 2023 to Wednesday August 16, 2023 that will be done by the member of House Business and Rules Committee. Statement regarding public land in Muranga County that will be done by the Chairperson Land Housing and Physical Planning.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a Motion; Report on a visit to the Republic Singapore on the Water Resources Management Summit by a member of the delegation. Mr. Speaker that denotes the approved business by the House Business and Rules Committee for the week starting from 8th to 9th of August. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Thank you. You have highlighted very well. Thank you, Hon. member. Next order.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS ON MANAGEMENT OF AMBULANCES IN THE COUNTY

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the sectoral Committee on Health Services, it is my pleasure and duty to present to this County Assembly the Committee response to the Statement of Hon. Chefman Njoroge, MCA Kahumbu ward on the management of ambulances in the County. The Committee has a membership of 14 members. Hon. Speaker the sectoral Committee on Health Services is established pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 204 (5) and is mandated to inquire the following: Hon. Speaker, this Report is in response to the request of a Statement on the management of ambulances in the County by Hon. Chefman Njoroge from Kahumbu Ward during the Assembly sitting held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 2.30 p.m. pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 46.

We have the response Hon. Speaker; the County Executive Committee Member for Health issued a response to the Statement in a letter vide MCG/HWS/VOL 11/139. The Committee held deliberations on the issues responded to on July 5, 2023. Hon. Speaker the following is the detailed response:

1. Is the Chairperson aware of the total number of ambulances in our County health facilities?
Yes, I know the total number ambulances in the health facilities are 21.
2. Can the Chairperson disclose the number of ambulances that currently have maintenance arrears with various garages? Currently there are no ambulance that have maintenance arrears in any of the garages.
3. Can the Chairperson provide information on how many have been donated and by which specific institutions? Response: Ambulances donated to the County: -

KCH 869E, Toyota Hiace, Donated by Gakuyo holdings, condition is good.

Is he aware of any plans for disposing the dysfunctional ambulances? Response: the dysfunctional ambulances include those owned by the national government and those owned by the County government. The breakdown is indicated in the table below. We have 14 of them, four are from national government, five are from County government.

The last question: is the Chairperson in a position to provide the above information before the County Government procures new ones? Response: the information provided above indicates the current state of ambulances in the County. At the time of tabling this Report, budgetary provisions have been made and the County is yet to purchase new ambulances for the County to use.

Hon. Speaker, as a Committee of Health, we are planning to Table or come up with a Motion concerning the same, on management of ambulance which will be complying on how the broken up ambulances can be distributed within our wards where every member who will be willing will be making repairs and start using the same ambulance in his or her ward. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you, next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENTAL WORKPLAN FOR FY 2022/ 2023

Hon. Gladys Waikau: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources on the departmental workplan for the for the year 2022 / 2023, laid on this Table of the Assembly on July 26, 2023.

Hon. Speaker, the department of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation, management and development of the County's environment and natural resources. Hon. Speaker, the workplan was developed in order to help the department achieve the environmental targets.

Hon. Speaker, Murang'a County Government endeavors to attain environmental sustainability across the County. Environment department is tasked to work to achieve this cardinal objective. Hon. Speaker, over the last one year, the department with support from the County Assembly has developed legislations and policies that are aimed at guiding this noble objective. Some are ready and some are in the pipeline. Some of these legislations and policies include, Murang'a Municipality integrated garbage management policy, Climate Change Bill, (already assented as an Act) and Environmental Safeguards Policy.

Hon. Speaker, the department is also tasked with the provision of the solid waste management services across the County. This regular and routine service is critical in municipality, townships and other trading centers.

Hon. Speaker, environment protection is critical across the County and defines the department. To achieve this protection, the department undertakes deliberate actions and commits direct resources to ensure the impact and visibility. Partnerships with assorted stakeholders is also undertaken to allow more people to participate in this noble environment protection activities.

Hon. Speaker, this Report endeavors to highlight some of the activities the Environment department intends to carry out which include; environment management and protection, natural resource conservation and management, and administration planning and support services. The Report briefly highlights the existing opportunities and challenges in the environment management in Murang'a County.

The Committee's observations that were made are; -

1. That there is no policy on waste management in Murang'a County.
2. That Mitumbiri sanitary landfill is a project funded by World Bank and implemented by NAMSIP. The project is over 80% complete and the contractor is still on site.
3. That, implementation of waste management in the County is faced with many challenges due to lack of enough funding to facilitate the activities.

Finally, the department is intending to collaborate with other institutions in undertaking most of the activities in the work plan.

The Committee recommendations are as follows; Hon. Speaker, that the County Executive Committee member (CECM) should fast track drafting of the waste management policy in consultation with the Committee members for adoption in the Assembly.

That the County government should consider purchase of land for recreational purposes in towns and municipalities Murang'a County, that department should ensure that there is an agreement between the private entities involved in waste collection and Murang'a County government on how to carry out the activities of waste management and collection in the households. Five, that the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) should make prior arrangements in collaboration with the Committee in making the world environment day a success. In conclusion, the environment conservation is very crucial and therefore the department needs to be allocated more funds to facilitate its operations. I call upon honorable Esther to second the Motion.

Hon. Esther Kamindo: I stand to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Thomas Muteti: Thank you so much honourable Speaker, I want to appreciate the way Hon. Gladys has highlighted some of the issues regarding the energy, environment, forestry and natural resources but I have a concern and this one is related to forestry. Honourable Speaker, in Makuyu, in Kirimiri location, more than half of the area has the trees by the name blue gum and research have shown that a mature blue gum consumes at least 18 gallons of water per day, that equals to four litres per day. The number of trees are so many such that they have made the area be very dry. Just the other day, I had requested the Governor to get us a borehole due to the numerous number of trees, the blue gum have lowered the water capacities in Makuyu and the surrounding areas.

My request to this House, if we can come up with a way to make sure we have replacement of those trees in as much as we are advocating for afforestation, we need to check on the issue of water because most of those families have really been affected. Also, the trees have become a centre of attraction for monkeys and chimpanzees, in fact the number of monkeys and chimpanzees exceeds the number of people.

It is my humble request, it has been an outcry from the residents and therefore because that is the matter that touches this House, I would request we look into that particular issue and make sure that we replace those with trees especially with fruitful trees. Maybe people took it as a joke where a woman said from Makuyu that instead of having so many monkeys around maybe they can be replaced with gazelles if they happen to catch one of them then they can benefit from the meat. The trees can be replaced with fruit bearing trees like guavas so that those particular trees can provide food for those particular monkeys. When they lack food, they come even in the households where they get food that has been prepared for the families. I support. Thank you.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion and I commend the team for doing a wonderful job but I must cite that the Report is kind of obsolete now because this is a work plan for the year 2022/2023 and we are already now in the financial 2023/2024 and I would have thought the team would have brought the work plan together with the implementation Report. Because I see there was a recommendation to buy skipper trucks and skipper bins and that has not been done and we are already in the new financial year. So, I want to support my brother from Makuyu Ward on the issue of those trees, they are the next menace in our society. The issue of velvet monkey is a ubiquitous issue in the County of Murang'a. I know that we are trying as much as we

can in consultation with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) once the teams come to our various areas and shoot at the monkeys for a day the following day they are back. One of the issue that we have to reconsider though we are advocating on re-forestation we must choose the kind of trees that are conducive to our areas and I must say that we must have a campaign to replace blue gums and those other trees that have no benefit to the society with trees like avocados, like macadamia, fruit bearing trees that way the trees will not be able to harbor the velvet monkeys. Because the issue that we are facing is that if there are so many tall trees in an area, it is a futile exercise to fight those monkeys because first of all you cannot reach them and if we had avocado canopies, they are low they will still cover, provide cover. And because of the nature of that tree, its cold, it is not a conducive environment for those monkeys to live. So, I support that this team, the Committee on environment they should carry out a campaign to sensitize people on the kind of trees that is conducive for our environment because ours is an agricultural region and I can attest like in my ward they are not planting maize anymore because of the velvet monkeys. So, it is a serious issue and this Committee should look into ways of reducing the population of those monkeys. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you. Hon. Mwangi.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. First, I congratulate the Committee for the well-done job. But I have one comment I would like the Committee, it is my suggestion, you come up with a unit you can call monkey controlling unit within Murang'a County. This unit will be able to control these monkeys within the County. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Gathe.

Hon. Gathe Wanjeri: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I was just asking for a clarification on the unit which Hon. Mwangi is requesting for and as a Member of a Committee I am also concerned for an elaborate may be an idea of the unit he is talking about. Do you talk about we should have a unit of the Committee to control monkeys? I am requesting for an elaboration of the same.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): I think Hon. Mwangi, sit down, resume you seat. Hon. Mwangi you visit them in the Committee level so that you can give that idea to them. Thank you. I now call the Mover to respond.

Hon. Gladys Waikau: Thank you Hon. Speaker, First is to thank the Members, Hon. Muteti, Hon. Kibaiya, Hon. Mwangi and Hon. Gathe for their contributions and for supporting this Motion. About the forest, the blue gum trees, it is with great concern that Hon. Muteti has noted that and, as

a Committee, we are discussing about how we can plant trees according to the areas because there are trees that do well in certain places and others do not do well in other places. So, planting blue gum in dry areas, it is a menace to that place and we have noted that with great concern. Hon. Kibaiya, about skippers and trucks, the process is ongoing.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) has confirmed that they will be ready by the end of September for use. Hon. Mwangi, we are doing rehabilitation of our rivers and our forests and we are praying that after planting of these trees in our forests and rivers, the monkeys will be back to the forest and where they are supposed to be. I wish to thank everyone for supporting and I pray that all of you support this Motion.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Members, there being no further business, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 8th August 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

The Assembly rose at 3:29 p.m.