

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 16th June 2015

The House met at 9:32 a.m.

(First Chairman *Hon. Bernard Kariuki* in the Chair)

PRAYERS

PAPERS

REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ON VISIT TO SPORTS CLUB AREA IN MURANG'A

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Hon. Speaker I beg to lay the following paper on the floor of the House;-

That, the report by the Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Settlement committee on a visit to Sports Club area in Murang'a Town, Township Ward be laid on the table of the Assembly today June 16, 2015.

I thank you Hon. Speaker.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ON VISIT TO SPORTS CLUB AREA IN MURANG'A

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: I thank you once again Hon. Speaker I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report by the Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Settlement committee on a visit to Sports Club area in Murang'a Town, Township ward, laid on the table of the Assembly today June 16, 2015

Hon. Samuel Wandia: I thank you Mr. Speaker.....

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

First Chair: What is the point of order Hon. member for Ng'araria?

Hon. James Kariuki: Mr. Speaker there is no quorum

First Chair: I will ask the clerk to establish whether we have the quorum.

(No Quorum)

I order that pursuant to standing orders we rung the bell for eight minutes pending quorum.

(Quorum bell rung)

(Quorum Attained)

First Chair: Member for Muthithi proceed

Hon. Samuel Wandia: I thank you Mr. Speaker I take this opportunity to give notice to the following motion;-

Aware that Article 43 (d)of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates that every person has the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities, cognizant of the fact that a good number of households in Murang'a County lack piped water supply; this House urges the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Public Works, Roads and Transport to;-

1. Enlarge water intakes and main delivery pipes respectively in the County.
2. Construct new water intakes to increase the resource in order to meet the demand by the increasing population

STATEMENTS
KARII WASTE DISPOSAL

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (c), I hereby request for a statement from the Chairperson Water, Energy, Forestry, Environment Natural Resources and Co-operative committee on the following;

- i. Is the Chairperson aware of the existence of Karii waste disposal site in Mbiri Ward?
- ii. If the answer to the above is affirmative, is he aware that the facility fails to comply with Environmental Management and Coordination (Waste Management) Regulations Legal Notice No. 121 of 2006?
- iii. Is the Chairperson aware that the road to the dumpsite namely Muthigiriri is in deplorable condition thus contributing to littering of the road by the trucks transporting the waste to the facility?
- iv. Can the Chairperson table a report on the compliance of the Waste disposal site with the said Legal Notice?

Hon. Peter Mweri: Mr. Speaker I am a member of that committee and on behalf of the chairman I request the member to give committee 14 days so that we can check on the details of the disposal site.

First Chair: Member for Mbiri are you comfortable with one week?

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: I agree with what the member have said but if it is one week let it be one week not two.

First Chair: Very well, next order

MOTIONS

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR TRAINING
PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES ON APPROPRIATE SKILLS AND
KNOWLEDGE AND PROVIDE DEVICES, SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT TO
ENABLE THEM ACQUIRE RELEVANT SKILLS**

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Mr. Speaker with your permission I would like to quote some law as reference. Can I quote..

First Chair: Hon. member you should move the motion first.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Hon. Speaker I beg to move the following motion;-

Aware that all persons with disabilities face challenges in access to education and acquisition of relevant skills, knowledge and to facilitate personal growth and development, recognising that persons with disabilities lack full access to formal training thus denying them formal employment, deeply concerned that persons with disabilities can contribute to meaningful development in Murang'a County; this House urges the County Executive Committee Member for Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E- Government to establish a comprehensive program for training persons living with disabilities on appropriate skills and knowledge and provide devices, special equipment and support to enable them acquire skills to earn a decent living.

According to the Constitution of Kenya 2010 Article 54(1)(b) (c) and (d) it stipulates that every person with disability is entitled to attend educational institutions and facilities in society to the extent compatible to the interests of the persons.

They are entitled to reasonable access to all places, public transport and information. They are entitled to use sign language, braille or other appropriate means of communication. They are entitled to access materials and devices to overcome constraints arising from the person's disability.

And according to the Disability Act 2003 section 19 on special and non- formal education the government and other relevant agencies shall make provisions for integrated special and formal education for persons with all forms of disabilities and establishment where possible braille and recorded libraries for persons with visual disabilities.

According to United Nation Convection for the people with disabilities in conjunction with the National Council for the Persons With Disabilities article 24 on education stipulates that, the state parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to participate their full and equal participation in education as members of the community and ensure that their measures include, facilitating the learning of braille and other formats of communication, to ensure the learning of sign language and promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community and also to ensure appropriate measures to employ teachers including teachers with disabilities who are qualified in sign language interpretation, braille and special computer operations.

Basing my argument on the above, I am discussing people who have several problems, these are people some of them do not have legs, hands, others are blind some are deaf, some have skin problems and others have mental challenges.

Because disability is related to poverty these people are extremely poor and as a result they are rejected, dejected, isolated, they have no self-esteem, they are not exposed and they lack formal education.

As a result they lack competitive power, they have no confidence to compete in the job market. They face challenges which are barriers to their progress, these challenges include economic challenges which are unemployment, lack of representation in decision making bodies, they are not nominated or appointed as stipulated in the law. They do not possess essential skills to enable them do business. They also face social challenges whereby they are discriminated ...

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna on a point of order)

First Chair: What is the point of order member for Gitugi?

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker sir, we cannot even concentrate because of the loud consultations between the member for Township and one for Mbiri and I will request if they have not finished up the public participation on budget give them permission to do it.

(Applause)

First Chair: Order! Member, Member for Township and member for Mbiri I know you are good neighbours can you consult in low tones? Continue Hon. Esther.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: They also face social challenges, they are discriminated against, they are looked down upon and ignored. They have no access to information; they even do not see job advertisements. They do not have braille materials especially for the blind, the hearing aids for the deaf and sign interpreters.

For those who have talents they have no special facilities for training to enable them master the talents. They face physical challenges because they do not have assistive devices to ease the mobility. Public and private institutions are not user friendly to enable access and the terrain around us is not friendly.

The national and county government have tried some interventions but we have not seen improvements. To guide these interventions I have classified people with disabilities into three.

First classification is for those people with severe disabilities. These are people who cannot do anything on their own. They cannot dress themselves, feed themselves or take themselves to the wash rooms. These people need cash transfer which the President launched

last year which included the elderly, the vulnerable and for the severely disabled. If we do this one class of disabled will have their problems solved.

The second classification we have people with disabilities who can join formal education, they can join primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities and technical institutions. The government should set aside bursaries specifically for people with disabilities to enable those who are interested to further their studies. We also provide braille machines, hearing aids and sign interpreters and computers with special software to enable these people learn.

The government should facilitate the primary and secondary schools with special classes, well equipped with personnel and adequate infrastructure because it is only when it is conducive for these people that they will be encouraged to re-join these schools.

With your permission Mr. Speaker this group will benefit because there is a provision in the Constitution that 5 % for all public appointments and nominations should be for people with disability. It is only when they go through the school that they will be employable and they will give quality services to their employer and at the same time they can be self-employed.

Third classification where majority falls is that of people with less education or no education at all or they probably have basic education and some talent. They can work and do business. Some of these can join polytechnics if there are special equipment and if the environment is conducive.

They can do courses like tailoring, carpentry, welding, making and repairing of crutches, wheel chairs. We had an issue of workshops and if the workshops are distributed we will employ some of them and some of them can run data analysis and interpretations so that they can manage their own groups. With these skills they can run their own business or be employed.

The last category is of those who have nothing in education but they have talent like music, poetry and drama. If the government can facilitate them they can develop these talents which can benefit them economically.

After doing these things we need the government to organise some workshops where they can be trained on business skills, management skills and communication skills. With those skills they are employable and they will give quality service to the employer.

Leadership and communication skills will have them in their groups because they have their own groups and especially when they will be electing their leaders they will be able to identify the ones with the right skills because right now we have some chairmen of the groups who cannot even write proposals. It will reduce internal wrangles in their groups, network or organisations because they will be able to identify good leaders and a good manager.

I would like to comment on the budget with your permission not to discuss it but to comment. Yesterday when we went for public participation there was this misunderstanding that in social department the word vulnerable is repeated many times and that it means disability but Mr. Speaker I can see the only vote for disability is 227 which is for disability intervention 10 million.

To my understanding children homes 228 to me they are orphanages and it is not in the category of disability. Then we have elderly, vulnerable and very poor support which is given 10 million. This is where the elderly, poor and those severely disabled are cared for and are given 10 million and these are of the class that I was talking about.

Then there is elderly, vulnerable and very poor institutions this one we have institutions for special people around and they lack facilities like dormitories and others. In Hon.

Wakuthii's ward there is one Don Orrione, we went there and it is not in good shape, there is Mukerenju in Muruka, I do not want to interpret the budget but I think this is what it means.

There is a different between special schools and schools for people with disabilities. Special school only specializes with one category of disability and we do not have even a single school in Murang'a for people with disabilities. We should have one school starting from primary school all the way to university if possible and it should incorporate many categories of disability and I think it should be funded.

Since most chairmen of sectoral committees are here I will suggest that to empower people with disabilities we can combine vote 227 with vote with 232 where vulnerable group support and disability interventions can be put together, this Mr. Speaker will create funds to empower them economically in their individual groups, Mr. Speaker, I am not discussing the budget but I wanted to interpret what this means because I realize that the public have misunderstood this word vulnerability.

I want the members to support this motion, they be aware that we are coming up with a Disability Bill and in the Bill there is a fund that has been created, realizing that these people need special equipment for training, the equipment is very expensive. A braille machine, I was working in an organization where we used to have one and it was costing 1.5million.

Mr. Speaker to start with we can have one in the county, we also need a computer with the software where blind people can learn because without assisting them with these assistive devices, they will not feel encouraged to join institutions that can help them. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Caroline Wairimu to second the motion.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: I rise to second the motion by Hon. Esther, it is our responsibility as members of this County Assembly to think of those people that need us, especially those people living with challenges, the disabled and the vulnerable, because we also have orphans in our county.

Mr. Speaker, in the motion she has really tabulated a lot of issues that they go through as one of their members. We need to know that we are also candidates because we can get an accident and eventually be disabled, by that, it is in order to come up with ways to help these people living with disabilities especially how we can have a Disability Education Act in our County to ensure that all children in our county access special education because by this we will ensure that we develop and offer training programmes for skills to people living with disabilities like the hard on training techniques.

If I may cite in our County, we have a big boda boda sector and if we train our people on skills like motorcycle repair, they are going to earn a living; we are going to make them self-reliant rather than waiting for our help. They are really talented and we know they can be able to earn their living through these skills.

We need to think on how we can improve the quality of life of every member in or county especially people living with disabilities. This can only be achieved, when we come up with good laws for our county, give them capacity and motivation so that they can come out and be able to learn these skills especially if we partner with organizations in our County, especially our polytechnics by ensuring that we have people living with disabilities going to our polytechnics and be trained on these skills and thus after training they can be good in these skills, once they are able to be trained on these skills we are sure that we will be able to get market for what they make and even the equipment for them especially.

I would wish to state that, we are in the budget process in our budget we have set aside Kshs. 40 million which we are going to make a special school for people living with disabilities. It may not be enough but I hope that the department of Education will take good care of the money and ensure we have an institution for people living with disability and put good support to polytechnics because this is where we can be able to support our people in,

and also ensure that when they go to these polytechnics they are able to undertake the skills that will be provided there without paying.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Members representing people living with disabilities in our County, because they were able to come up with a Bill that we were discussing last week and very soon it will come to this House, these are the things that we will ensure are incorporated in the Bill. If it is passed, these people will learn to appreciate what this Hon. House has done for them, so Mr. Speaker I will always rise to support them, I will always rise to support this vulnerable groups and I will wish that this Hon. House supports this motion because it is one of a kind, that can be able to bring out even those who are hidden at home after they realize we are recognizing them, we are making good laws and encourage them, with these funds as we get them and I am sure we are going to transform our society. Mr. Speaker, I second.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Joseph Ndung'u: I rise to support the motion and thank the mover for coming up with a good motion on how those people created in a special way can earn their living.

To support, I will start by saying that people living with disability, some may not be able to access primary schools probably due to some reasons but there are many ways that we can support them by making them have skills like repairing of mobile phones and computers and with that they will be able to earn their living by repairing those devices. Some of them can be able to operate things like sewing machines, knit pullovers, repair shoes, work in a *kinyozi* or beauty therapy courses, that is if we will support them to join either the polytechnics or anywhere else where they can be able to get these skills and thus they will be able to earn their living even without begging because many people think that people with disability are only entitled to selling sweets and other simple things, not that they like selling these things but we deny them their right to get skills.

But I thank God that with the budget, now we may be able to allocate some funds to them, support them and then come up with a programme to identify the disabled in our wards and ensure that they join the mentioned programmes and others that will get mentioned by the Hon. Members, so it is upon us to ensure that some of the money in the budget that we think it is not useful, we can change the funds and add to the disabled so that they can be able to get the skills. I stand to support, thank you

Hon Mary Waithira: I rise to support the motion and commend the mover for the brilliant idea she has brought to this House for us to support. Mr. Speaker, sometimes if we do not have proper representation of various people we tend to forget but I think you can see the good representation of the people, we can see the ideas that are coming up because the people living with disabilities are coming up well and that is why we do not forget to discuss anything pertaining to them.

Mr. Speaker, going by the functions devolved to the county government and our mandate, I think the motion is well placed because it is talking about training for the people with various special needs to be trained to acquire the skills that they require. One of the functions that we have been given, is to give our people either with special needs or not is the polytechnics. I support this motion because we can be able to come up with a polytechnic that is squarely for those with disabilities. With this, we can be able to note their different talents and come up with a curriculum for various levels.

We have those with hearing difficulties, physical disabilities and those who are mentally challenged. When we look at them their level of disability is not the same, so when we come up with a curriculum after developing a Bill from whatever they are suggesting, we will be able to line up according to their various degrees of disability, and with this we can be able to

give them the knowledge that they require and later on, because we are saying that we are going to equip these training centers with the special training devices that are required to enable them acquire skills.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about this, we will be empowering our people so that they can live a decent life wherever they are. In many towns we have, you find these people begging but if they are taken to a certain polytechnic, that they can be able to go through the curriculum, develop a skill that will earn them a decent lifestyle. Whatever, we live up to is what these people need, they are not challenged in ways that they cannot be able to marry and raise a family. This is the pride of every individual.

By virtue that these people cannot be able to sustain families, you find that these people sometimes live a boring single life but the moment we are able to take them through this training, they can marry. It is not just a matter of a person with a physical challenge marrying another with a physical need, We usually get attracted to them, but when you look at the kind of life you will live with this person and you will not get any help, at times we keep off, the moment these people undergo this trainings, I am sure that they are going to live decent lives.

Mr. Speaker sir, they are even going to have confidence that the Assembly they have is taking care of them. During campaigns, we do not leave these people behind, we provide means to ferry them to voting stations but afterwards we just forget about them. If they are part of determining the government that we will have, then we should also make sure we take time to discuss on how we can improve their lifestyle.

I am here supporting because I know that all of us are candidates and we do not know about tomorrow. When we are about to give birth, what kind of a child we will give birth to, so when we support this, we are supporting our people and the children that our children may have tomorrow. I support

Hon. Florence Nyambura: I rise to support the motion and congratulate the Hon. Members who have bursaries; they have been supporting the disabled. Despite the law not allowing bursaries for primary schools, our Hon. Members have provided bursaries to people who have gone to Joytown Thika and Thika School for the Blind because these are primary schools and our PLWD are there and the parents are not able to support themselves. So Hon. Members thank you. I also request you to continue setting aside bursaries for those people because schools like Joytown are expensive and when a student is given 5,000, it might not take be enough for the whole year.

Mr. Speaker sir, I wish to say that, if you go round the special institutions that we have and visit a school likes Pacidevis or Don Orrione, you can see that

(Hon Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker, the nominated Hon. Member Agnes is not well dressed for this session, because if we allow this, next time they will wrap lessos around their waists.

First Chair: Where is Hon. Agnes?

(Hon. Agnes Ndunge removed the shawl she had on)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: She has removed it and turned the seat into a wardrobe.

First Chair: Hon. Members I think decorum is of essence when members are in this Assembly and our standing orders provide for this, so it is important to make sure that when members enter the chamber, they observe decorum. Continue Hon. Florence

Hon. Florence Nyambura: If you visit those institutions like Mairungi, Mukerenju and also Muriranja which is among the 13 schools by the national government, sometimes the

training offered in these institutions like PaciDavies for the mentally challenged is basic, like feeding themselves, clothing and going to the washrooms.

Mr. Speaker, those people are being given trainings, if you visit them, you will see that they have good things they are doing, e.g. beadwork and some of them have been trained on carpentry. We only need to provide quality skills to the students. In places like Muriranja, there are many products, in my area, there is a polytechnic teacher.

People can remember that in Muriranja you were facilitated to any course, school fees was fully paid and afterwards one was given a package of working tools. Many people were unable to get the chance because some parents do not want to take a PLWD to school because some of them see like these people do not bring anything to the country, but if the people were given skills some of them would be able to enjoy their lives without depending on anybody because dependency causes contempt.

Yesterday we went for budget participation and in the places that I was in, Rwathia and Kanyenya-ini, people are saying that if the PLWD are given a special teacher to train them in the nearby polytechnics, when the county government would be employing teachers and instructors they should consider those polytechnics bearing in mind that there are children who will go there because the polytechnics are near their homes.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes there are children with disabilities that cannot be taken to a boarding institution on grounds of how it is managed and sometimes parents need to stay near their children, When those children are being catered for, we will be grateful. Last year we passed a motion that the county government provides braille machines in our institutions and public offices. Last month, children from Murang'a school for the deaf brought a petition here on tuition fees; nobody at the gate was able to understand their message. They brought a letter to our clerk who was very wise and understood a bit of the information, but even if you were given the letter you could not understand it because they start their writing from the right. When I was given the letter, I brought a teacher who had done sign language to interpret the letter.

If the equipment is taken to the necessary institutions and this county government gets interpreters, even in this Assembly we need to have braille because some people out there are blind and cannot be able to read what we discuss. Mr. Speaker sir, I support and urge the county government to implement since our work is not just to pass motions. I also thank the committee of budget and urge them not to consolidate the money rather they let it remain as we proposed in the social services committee to enable us support our people since service to mankind is service to God

Hon. James Njoroge: I would like to say that it is unfortunate that we as the county government, as we map people living with disabilities, we need to focus on their photographs to see the levels of disability and also focus on educational achievements, We would be surprised that some of them have made it to high levels of education and as a county government that is where we could start to see that so and so is recognized due to their education levels, we can even employ them and in future they would be giving hope to the hopeless. Otherwise, it is unfortunate.

Yesterday I came across one who was saying that it is better for funds to be allocated in the budget, it can be done in future but we tend to forget these people when implementing the same yet they are very important to our society. It is very important for the Government of Murang'a County to start undertaking meaningful projects so that these people can begin to have a life. When they earn something they will also start having families and, at the end of the day, it will not be a big burden for the families who have such people. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

First Chair: Hon. Beth.

Hon. Beth Ngugi: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support this motion in regard to Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). Nicholas (Nick) Vujisic was born in Australia with no arms and no legs except two stubs protruding where the limbs should have been. After giving birth to him and while still in the maternity, the mother said, "Take this thing away." That is what happened. However, that country has comprehensive programs for the people with disability. They, for example, equip their institutions with any desired devices and equipment. It was in those institutions where Nick was able to attend school and learn. He schooled up to the university level. Today, Nick Vujisic is one of the motivational speakers and has even written books.

This means that if people with disability are taken care of, equipped and trained properly, they can be anything that they would wish to be in this world. Therefore, disability is not inability. It is just a question of embracing our people with disability, training them and identifying the categories of disability to enhance them in those areas. I support with those simple reasons. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

First Chair: The Hon. Member for Ng'araria.

Hon. James Kariuki: Mr. Speaker sir, I also rise to support this motion and congratulate the mover for being very passionate and conversant with issues to do with the PWDs. The mark of any civilised society anywhere in the world is judged by how well it treats its weak members of society, that includes women, children, the poor, the marginalised, PWDs and so on. We have made great strides in the area of women because we have really promoted the girl child and women are now serving the highest positions in most societies in the world. However, we are very far when it comes to PWDs.

Mr. Speaker sir, our Constitution is very clear that basic education, from nursery all the way to form four, is a right, therefore, nobody should be discriminated against simply because they have one disability or the other. That is why I stand to support this motion. I have been to Joy Town, Thika and I will tell you that the PWDs from such institutions are so talented in areas like music and drama, you would not believe it if you saw them act or sing; hence as we have always said, disability is not inability.

One of the best brains working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in America is a blind person; I think that he is also from Kenya. That shows that we need to really put a lot of emphasis on the PWDs. Now that we are an autonomous entity as a County Government, it is necessary when we are doing our budget allocation to make sure that we support the PWDs in the best way possible. Whenever I visit Kandara children home or Don Orrione in Kamburugi which is also in my ward, I sometimes sympathise with what I see because those people depend purely on well-wishers. Most of the care takers there are people with very good hearts and are also very generous. This needs not be the case and we need to move from that level and completely integrate the PWDs in our society so that they do not feel left out.

Mr. Speaker sir, when giving our bursaries, I think we should give special consideration to the PWDs. In order to take care of all this and also bearing in mind that the member has moved several motions with regard to the PWDs, I suggest that she comes up with a comprehensive Bill that will address these issues once and for all. When there is a Bill, we shall make sure that we do as per the Act. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

First Chair: Chairman for The National Alliance party (TNA) Caucus and who is also the Member for Kamacharia.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I am proud to be called by that name because everybody almost forgot that there is a Chairman of TNA caucus in this Assembly.

I rise to seriously support this motion and salute the mover and the other people representing the PWDs in this Assembly for they have done a commendable job since they came to this Assembly. They have done a lot and I also commend the party that seconded them to this House. The party identified capable people for that docket, therefore, I sincerely appreciate them for good work.

The other issue is that I have a case in Kamacharia about Thuita Primary School, which deals with children with disabilities. The school has a section for all the children with disabilities from all corners of Kamacharia. Can you imagine a girl child who is disabled being escorted by her mother or father for about six kilometres out of fear of the people who would be waiting for such a child to molest or even rape her? You have to escort such a child to and from the school. How I pray that this government comes to its senses and initiates boarding schools for the PWDs in every ward, instead of starting boarding schools which is not a devolved function.

As I support this motion, there are two issues in this House, one, there is the issue of viable motions which have already been presented by members and approved by this House but there is the challenge of implementation. It is for you to advise if we can stop bringing motions because they are not being implemented and first implement the ones that have already been approved in the last two years we have been in this House. Even if we approve a motion as good as this one and wait for this government to implement it, there is no such implementation that will take place.

Yesterday, about 400 people turned up in the ward which I represent for public participation on the Murang'a County Budget Estimates 2015/2016. I have the video clip which I can play for the Chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee to see what the people of Kamacharia ward said. The sentiments of the entire people of Mathioya should be considered.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker sir, there is a lot of noise here; we seem to have more than one meeting.

First Chair: Order! Members can you consult in low tones!

Hon. Joseph Machiri: The Member for Gitugi is disrupting this sitting. Anyway, I was saying that people spoke their mind yesterday; they talked at length about the issue of the budget and what is supposed to be included.

They for example talked about the vulnerable children in schools such as Thuita. I urge Esther and the rest of my comrades to be paying visits to schools such as Thuita in Kamacharia which will be facilitated by this Assembly and see for themselves the dilapidated classes which the children are learning in.

It is a pity that, after more than 50 years of independence in Kenya, we are just saying so many words without any implementation. We are giving empty rhetoric in this Assembly and everywhere in Kenya and playing lip service to the disabled people, instead of supporting them seriously. There are no actions. Let me rest my case there hoping that this motion will be implemented fully. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

First Chair: Member for Ruchu.

Hon. Bonface Njihia: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support this motion. First of all, I would like to commend the mover who is very passionate about the PWDs. We have been consistently saying that we associate the PWDs with poverty. I know and tend to believe that education is the only thing that can transform the poor into being rich, therefore, if we want to assist the PWDs earn a living; we have to equip them with the skills that the Hon. Member is speaking of. We will manage to uplift them from the poverty levels and they will begin to earn something to cater for their families and this country.

If we help those people, I know that they will be very productive. There are many people in this County who live with disability and if they acquire skills, they will make this County very productive. It is good that the Hon. Member has always been talking about the PWDs. I am a Member of the Youth, Culture and Social Services committee and we have come up with a Bill that is composed of all the motions which she has been moving in this House. I urge the Members to support her until we pass that Bill so that we will help our PWDs. I support, thank you Hon. Speaker.

First Chair: Hon. Mwicigi.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the motion and also congratulate the member for coming up with many motions on disability. She has been doing what she is supposed to do in this House. As one of our colleagues has said, we have passed so many motions which need to be acted upon, it is sad that some of them are very urgent and when the next financial year comes, there will be nothing that will have been done, yet sometimes, money has been set aside.

The disability issue is an issue for the family; it affects the whole family because when somebody is disabled, she becomes a burden to the family, to avoid the family burden, it for us in Murang'a to educate these people and give them the appliances.

Mr. Speaker, I accompanied you to your area where your people said that they have gone to an extent of starting tree nurseries. I was imagining that they started the tree nurseries when the rains were there and I do not know how they will be watering those trees without the rain. If this motion passes today, I urge the CEC to look into that particular initiative so that he can give them water to enable them water the nurseries as they sit down, as they said that is what they have been doing.

There are many other initiatives that have been started. We should make sure that these people are educated, given appliances, and if they make things for sale, there should be a market day for them where they will be allowed to display their items in the towns at a place where everybody can access and buy. There are many people in the town centres who can buy their items. We buy fruits from the PWDs in schools such as the school for the blind in Thika. If we take care of our disabled people, even God will be happy that we are caring for the less fortunate because he said that, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers you do it for me." I support this motion. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker sir.

First Chair: Minority Party's Whip.

Hon. David Muhoro: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, for recognizing the important position that I serve. I rise to support this motion. These are some of the issues that were addressed by our people yesterday. One of the disabled persons in my area reminded the crowd that disability is a club and anybody, including the members of this House, can join it anytime. It is therefore prudent for anybody to treat the PWDs knowing that he or she is also eligible for the same. We do not pray for that but fate can take anybody there.

Mr. Speaker sir, it would even be crazy for anybody to think that the best he can do is to provide funeral vehicles instead of supporting the people who are alive. As a House, leaders and government, we need to give attention to the PWDs.

I do not have much because most of it has been said. I support this motion and urge the members to join hands with those they represent and those who are leading in the communities to even go further to make sure that they get the best share of the cake we are just about to divide. Let them have the best as well as a big share so that they see that we are not there to just talk but that we are committed, we are talking about them and we really want to support them. I therefore support the motion and even congratulate the mover. By the way, the member who has fronted this motion is very passionate about disability, we recognise that she is not severely disabled but she has a heart for the people. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

First Chair: Member for Nginda.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I want to congratulate the mover of this motion and reading the mood of the House, I follow suit and support the motion and passionately ask the members who could be having different ideas to join us and support the motion. With those few words, I support the motion, thank you Mr. Speaker, sir.

First Chair: The Mover to respond.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members for overwhelmingly, supporting this motion, however, I would like to clarify a few issues. There is a difference between a special school and a school for the PWDs. A special school usually deals with a specific category of disability; we have for the deaf, the blind, and others. Most of the schools that are found in Murang'a mostly concentrate on people with mental challenges.

Mr. Speaker sir, the school we are talking about for the PWDs is one that can incorporate many categories of disability and we would, if possible, prefer to start from primary schools, to secondary and even go higher, I know that members will support that. I also notify the members that we are coming up with a Bill to do with disabilities. We already held a stakeholders meeting and also convened a technical meeting the other day. The Bill incorporates most of the motions that we have brought into this House and most of the issues that we discuss concerning the PWDs.

It also good to bring to the attention of these members that, especially the Chairpersons to the sectoral committees, issues of disability cut across all the sectors, we should have provisions for them in all the sectors, whether it is in agriculture, infrastructure, and trade and so on. If we join hands, we are going to help by improving their lives economically.

I would also like to comment that talent development is very important. It was raised by one of the members that we have famous people internationally who have been assisted by the government to develop their talents and that is why they are famous. I would like to cite the example of Jim Reeves. We know that he is blind and is also an international musician.

Therefore, if our polytechnics are equipped with special equipment and these people acquire and develop skills; their lives are going to change. I would also like to comment on the issue of funds allocated to the PWDs. This Bill has created a fund and as you have heard we need these funds, especially for bursaries, special equipment; empowerment fund, money to start businesses, and facilities in some of the schools that members are talking about, these are very expensive projects. I therefore urge the Members that when we come to allocate funds for the PWDs, we be alert to the fact that they require a lot of money. A child with disability is more expensive than a normal child because of the special equipment that such a child would require. I thank all the members and pray that when the Bill comes to this House, they will support it, especially on the issue of the budget. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

First Chair: Hon. Members, you are requested that immediately after the Assembly you remain in the Chambers for a meeting with the Transitional Authority (TA). They have a very important agenda to discuss with this Hon. House.

ADJOURNMENT

First Chair: Members, the House is now adjourned until today at 2:30 p.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 10:49 a.m.