

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 10th November 2015

The House met at 2:34 p.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Kariuki Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

CALL FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

The Speaker: Hon. members, we are all aware that the last three weeks have been a very trying and emotional period for all members. It is clear that the motion and subsequent vote of impeachment of the Governor created a very emotional and divisive atmosphere among the members.

However, members must learn how to deal with such serious Motions and Bills without losing their heads and personalizing debates. They must deal with it with cool logic and act according to their conscience, and also, letting others freely express what is in their conscience and wisdom. All of us cannot always hold the same opinion.

Indeed, the essence of having Parliaments and Assemblies is for members to freely express their opinions, guided only by what is in their thinking, the best for their constituents and the country at large. It would be a very poor and unreal Assembly were all members to have the same opinion on all issues.

Unfortunately, I have been informed of incidences where members have exchanged insults, in not only un-parliamentary language but also in manner and language that does not reflect the dignity and respect that is expected of an hon. member of this Assembly. This, when done within the confines of the Assembly premises, is in conflict with our standing orders, and most importantly, even if done outside the precincts of the Assembly, contrary to the Leadership and Integrity Act as to the Code of Conduct for state officers.

Hon. members, this Assembly is not going to tolerate such behaviour from any member. Take note that the House has powers to severely punish any such member as provided in the standing orders and these powers are going to be used. The Powers and Privileges committee will be meeting soon to standardize and domesticate the Code of Conduct as drafted by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. Thereafter, it will be applied vigorously on any member who does not comply.

(Applause)

A number of incidents have already been reported to me and I have been asked to take action immediately. Hon. members, like I pointed out, the recent events have created a very charged atmosphere which if not checked can be very detrimental to the way we move on from here.

I plead with you, that, let us put our opinion differences behind us and look forward to continue doing what you were elected or nominated to do here; legislate and effectively play oversight role as best as you can for the benefit of the people of this great County. Let us stop unnecessary and disruptive wrangles among ourselves. Believe me, you can achieve a lot when you have a unity of purpose; you will achieve very little with continued bickering instead of approaching issues with maturity and decorum.

I am happy to note that the vast majority of the members are very responsible, mature and wise men and women who control their emotions and are very careful with their utterances. I urge those few who may have the weakness of emotions taking control of their otherwise very good mental capacity to try and avoid any utterances that may go contrary to public expectations of an hon. member.

For now, what do we do? Like I said, this is a very charged and divisive moment in the Assembly. Do we exacerbate it or cool it? I am a believer in doing my best to bring people together. This, I will continue to try despite any hurdles and contrary opinions. As a leader, I do not believe in pouring oil where there is already a fire; I believe in cooling tempers. I am, therefore, reluctant to take any action based on immediate past events no matter how distasteful they were. There is little benefit in escalating the fire now.

Therefore, there is a general amnesty up to today. But today, and I repeat, today 10th November, 2015, is the last warning. The full powers of the laws and standing orders will fall upon any member who violates this very important code from this hour and reported to the Office of the Speaker for presentation to the Powers and Privileges committee.

These powers include expelling any member for any amount of time, be it one session, one week, one month, or a full session. Those are the powers that are there in the House and they are going to be used. However, for now, let us give peace a chance. Let this be a time for healing and reflection.

(Applause)

Thank you hon. members.

STATEMENTS

RESPONSE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (ECDE) CENTRES AND POLYTECHNICS IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the chairman of the committee of Education, Child welfare, Research, Information Technology (IT) and E-Government. I am not in a position to respond to the statement because we have not received it from the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member concerned, despite writing two reminders to him.

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Mr. Speaker, I am the hon. member for Mbiri. The chairman for education has not responded in the right way because this question was raised a month ago. Since then, he should have compelled the concerned CEC to give an answer to this Assembly.

The Speaker: Maybe you can say how much of that you have done.

Hon. John Gitau: All the members know that we have had some very stressful matters in the last few weeks, including the impeachment of the Governor that almost went through. The member also knows that because he was in the front line. Despite these people having received letters on this statement, they do not give it priority. I urge him to give me about seven days. I will be in a position to go there physically within that period.

The Speaker: Okay, let it be seven days.

RESPONSE ON COERCION OF RESIDENTS OF GIKINDU VILLAGE, NGINDA WARD, TO SIGN SALE DOCUMENTS FOR A PARCEL OF LAND LOC 7/GAKOIGO/682

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the chair of the committee of Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Settlement and last week I promised to respond to that statement.

I however received a message from Ms. Masaki telling me that she is out of the county on matters pertaining to the county which she was not specific on. She told me that she would not even attend our committee meeting scheduled for Thursday last week. We therefore gave her more time and since we have invited her this week, I request the hon. member to give us about ten days to respond. We will do so next week.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the one who wanted an answer from that committee and I have no objection to the ten days. However, it is good for the chairman to advise the CEC that such matters can be delegated and she does not have to be here. She can send papers for the committee to go through and get the proper answers.

The Speaker: Thank you, next.

RESPONSE ON SUPPLY OF WATER PIPES IN ITHANGA WATER SUPPLY AND LOWER KAKUZI WARD

Hon. Eliud Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the chair of the committee of Public Works, Roads and Transport and I have a response to the statement which was requested by Hon. Esther Nyakio who represents Ithanga ward. I received it on 7th October 2015.

She had requested to know if I am aware that there are now water pipes in Ithanga ward water supply to replace the damaged ones which had been installed 20 years ago. The second question sought to know if I am aware that the Lower Kakuzi is the most marginalised ward that needs to be served urgently with pipes to enable the community access water and have a water point.

Mr. Speaker, we wrote to the CEC Member and we received the response. Our committee then held a sitting to deliberate on the response; hence arrived at the following conclusion:-

The department has already supplied some items which it thought to be of priority because we cannot supply water that does not exist. There was a water point in Ithanga that needed a water pump. From the report I have, they have already received three of them; the electrical motor, control panel, two master meters and they have also repaired the pump. In addition, they have supplied the chemicals in Ithanga water treatment. After doing this, they requested for a water pipe proposal, which was received two or three weeks ago. We are going to deal with it when we receive funds. Thank you.

Hon Esther Nyakio: I want to thank the chairman of Infrastructure for the commendable work he has done. What he have said is very true, I think now we have already gone through the proposals of the pipes.

RESPONSE ON ACQUISITION OF KENOL DENTAL AND EYE CLINIC

Hon. Boniface Njihia: I would like to inform this House that the response we got from the CEC Health was not substantial, therefore the committee shall call for the acquisition documents and table that report as soon as possible.

Hon Caroline Njoroge: I requested the statement on behalf of the people that I represent and the people of Murang'a. It is very sad that the statement has now come out without the answer. I would wish, maybe how the response will be; however shallow it can be, we need to be informed so that we can either reject it in the floor or ask for more information, otherwise if we continue asking for more time.

That matter was urgent to those who needed to know, Cannot get that information, this government is bound to fail. We cannot tolerate such CECs, I need that information and I wish the answer to be tabled irrespective of how shallow it is.

The Speaker: I think the questioner is right. If there is a response, it is for the House to decide that it is shallow.

Hon Boniface Njihia: I would like to inform the House that the response I got from the CEC is as follows; I acknowledge receipt of the statement regarding Kenol hospital, however, I have not been able to finalize the report. I request to be given more time to finalize the report. That is the response Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: I think the question here chair, as the questioner has said, this is a matter that cannot wait indefinitely and when the CEC says more time, she should have indicated when. Can you get a clear date when this will be received?

Hon Boniface Njihia: I request up to next Tuesday afternoon session.

The Speaker: Is the next Tuesday to come with a detailed answer or is it to come with another letter saying that we require more time. Can you tell us what you mean by next Tuesday?

Hon. Boniface Njihia: As a committee, we have summoned the CEC and we have compiled all the statements directed to her. We have summoned her to our committee coming Thursday so that the CEC member can explain why she should not be discussed by this House for failure to respond to the statements by the members. Therefore on Tuesday next week I will be able to answer or give to this house the action we are going to take on his honorable CEC.

The Speaker: There is more interest on that statement.

Hon Charles Kirigwi: I think the chairman is lying to this Assembly, he knows very well that his CEC is being relocated and they are looking for offices somewhere at the general hospital. I believe when he is saying Tuesday afternoon, it will not happen, you will be in the Chair, and I can foresee that; the CEC is busy relocating

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: On the same Mr. Speaker, I tend to think that this statement has been with us for more than one and a half months, we have been made to know that the house is no longer called the Kenol Eye hospital, it is known as Stanley Kenneth Matiba hospital. We need to know when he is bringing the response and the evidence so that the House can know.

The Speaker: The member has promised, and solemnly done so, that he will have an answer by Tuesday next week, Let us give him the benefit of doubt and expect an answer on Tuesday next week

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Under standing order 53 (b) motion for adjournment, although we are done with the debates, I am rising on an important matter to the House, pertaining to the motion and proceedings of the last two weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to move a motion to discuss the event that happened yesterday in the morning, we are part of under Article 176 which states that the County Government is consisted of the County Executive and the County Assembly, as an Assembly, we are concerned, other than the security issues and threats we have been receiving, we have read in today's papers.

Yesterday we received the information that there was demolition work happening at the Governor's office. The Deputy Governor was not there to move his things, and they were thrown out during the demolition. As an arm of the county government, we are getting Concerned, this motion is coming after your communication that what we need now I peace.

We thought that since this matter was dealt with by the select committee of the Senate and It is no longer with us, and If it is with us we are going to so it after 3 Months, Mr. Speaker we continue to show with our businesses in this house, So that we can help the people of Murang'a through the Oversight, legislation and representation role.

Mr. Speaker, we are wondering how that can be done to the Deputy Governor and we as the members we just keep quite whereas we are of the same opinion as your communication because we need to take Murang'a forward. If we cannot work as a team, then we cannot move anywhere. Over a million residents of Murang'a are looking upon us. If we are not going to move as some counties are doing, then economically we are doomed, our people will be made poor and we will not have roads, Health Centers, ECD facilities and polytechnics is we continue like that. Chapter 6 mentions about Integrity, which cannot be a measurable, whether a drop or an ocean but Mr. Speaker Sir, if we respect one another, we are going to

work as a team and help the people of Murang'a. We are voicing our concern as a house so that these things do not repeat themselves. I rest my case.

The Speaker: I think the question is to move a motion of adjournment to discuss the issue of demolition of the deputy governor's office, I am just wondering whether since this is a weighty issue.

Should we just deal with it as an adjournment motion where members ventilate their issues or it should come as a substantive motion which can have a resolution on what is expected to be done when we discuss it here. We just ventilate but as a substantive motion, we will have a resolution on the matter.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you, I stand guided.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The House adjourns until tomorrow 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 3:06 p.m.