

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**THE HANSARD**

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The House met at 2:38p.m.

*(Temporary Speaker Hon. Bernard Kariuki in the Chair)*

PRAYERS

MOTION

YOUTH, WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT

**Hon. Jesse Mburu:** Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this chance to bring this motion in this House.

Aware, that Youth and Women in Murang'a County compose 75% of the county's population and that 65% of them have lacked adequate opportunities for jobs and wealth creation. cognizant of the high level of rampant crime, drug abuse and other social vices arising from unemployment of the youth and women, recognizing the need to empower the youth and women through wealth creation and job opportunities; this House urges the County Executive Committee (CEC) member for Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services in consultation with the CEC Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries;

- a) To ensure adequate budgetary allocation for agricultural activities like rabbit rearing, fish keeping, poultry and goat keeping as programs for economic empowerment of youth, women groups and persons living with disabilities starting this financial year 2017-2018 and subsequent financial years.
- b) To ensure that a county policy framework is formulated by the Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services department for empowerment of the above mentioned vulnerable groups.

Regarding this motion, I would urge the members to consider what is going on in their wards because every stop over you make be it in the trading centre or wherever, you are going to meet the youth; their behaviour is similar in all wards as well as the whole country.

They will always bring about their problems telling you about unemployment and lack of money. They will also request the members or whoever they are going to meet to buy them tea or give them money. That is why it came into my mind so that we can empower our youth. By so doing, they will start living on their own without depending on the hand-outs given to them by politicians or other people who are able to give them money.

Sometime back we had visitors from the ministry of Agriculture, national government and they said that they had come from Ngong; they talked about rabbit rearing and they assured us that even if every resident of Murang'a would keep rabbits; there is a ready market and we shall even be able to export the rabbit meat. That gave me encouragement and I came thinking why not our people? If we introduce them into that field.

This cannot be done without money that is why I am standing so that this House can approve the motion and we see the implementation committee, even if it is not in this session, the next Assembly will see to it that this is done.

Rabbits do not need a large piece of land, if we do not have government land in other wards like we have in Nginda, where we have 15 acres. If this land is leased to the youth and then they are given money then this project can do.

The officials told us they can come here and train people on how to construct rabbit houses and then teach them on how to feed the rabbits. When they are ready for harvesting they will show them the market.

I have got a company; I met the regional manager of a certain company from Israel and all they need is a piece of land for constructing a pond which would be Kshs. 60,000; even the members can venture into that, then you sign an agreement with them and they will teach you and give 1200 fingerlings.

Within four months they will have grown and if properly taken care of they will have grown up to two and a half kilogram meat, that one I am not very sure about the ready market, but we all consume fish and we all go to the hotels and I am very sure the county executive or ourselves as the MCA's looking for the market for our youth, definitely we are going to get the market; and I am talking about every ward.

*(Hon. James Kagoni rose on a point of order)*

**Hon. James Kagoni:** Mr. Speaker when the member is moving the motion, I realized the senior clerk assistant is not able to concentrate and she is all alone here, we seem to be crippling this Assembly. I don't know what happened today, we have a number of Serjeant- At- Arms but no assistant clerk? She is all alone trying to consult on her phone, who is recording all this? It is very serious now.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki):** Order! I think the clerk is doing her job and she is doing all the table work she is supposed to do. If she can do it alone okay, if she needs help there is a mechanism on how to communicate. It is quite in order for the clerk to be alone. Honourable mover, continue moving.

**Hon. Jesse Mburu:** Thank you Honourable Speaker and thank you for Honourable Kagoni for noticing we are crippling the Assembly. As I continue, we had reached a point where we were talking about the poultry, but I am not very sure about the market as of the previous two projects I had mentioned. I had said we all take eggs, Kenyans, Murang'a people we take meat and I am very sure the market will always be there.

Turning to the women groups, I had in mind we can buy them milk goats... Honourable Speaker I am being interrupted, could you protect me.

Milk goats will do well for women groups and I have seen somewhere in Ichagaki ward where women came together and I don't know where the goats came from but they were given goats. That is where I bought the goats and they are doing very well.

Remember goat milk is very dear than the cow milk and I am sure if we encourage our women groups and the other groups; I was targeting, persons living with disability, these two groups we can assist them by giving them money or buying them the milk goats and they are going to assist themselves.

With this Honourable Speaker, what I am trying to say is that these two groups cannot do without two things, one is land. As I had said there is lack of land in Nginda ward and in all other wards. If there is no land, land is there to be leased two or three acres are enough and it is doable by the county.

The other is money, I am targeting 1.5 billion long term project, I am not saying that we do it now but we can start because everything starts from somewhere. What I am saying is that if executive commits themselves that they will give some money to all wards and that be the starting point. But this fund should be revolving and a certain amount should be ploughed back to the fund so that the other groups should be able to generate income for themselves.

Mr. Speaker this is one way of eliminating poverty in this county and to assist people because in every year we have graduates in all levels of academic fields and only a small percentage get jobs, but we have never thought what happens to the bigger number of people who are not getting these opportunities.

This is one way that we can engage our people, our youth, our women groups and people living with disabilities and when we say that the crime is high this is also another way of reducing crime in the county.

With that I am going to request the members to support that motion, you have heard and you might think the amount I am mentioning here Kshs. 1.5 billion is a lot of money, but it is not, it will help our county if it is distributed.

Again, as I said, it is a long term project; it is not something that we are going to do overnight, it will be okay even if it will be between five to ten years. We will engage our people and put something in their pocket. With that, I request Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi to second this motion. I also request the members to contribute and accept this motion because we are looking at the future. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I am a nominated Member of County Assembly (MCA), and I stand to second the motion with the prayer that the County Executive Committee (CEC) member of Youth, Culture and Social Services in consultation with the CEC member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries ensure that money is added in the current budget as estimated to be Kshs. 1.5 billion. That will make sure that the youth and women have activities to do in our County.

Mr. Speaker, all of us have been going round during the campaigns and you saw the pain with the youth and the poverty portrayed by the women. If you empower a woman, you have empowered the world because whatever she gets from whatever she has been empowered with, is used and distributed to the homes.

Our youth have been leaving the colleges and schools, thinking of the white collar jobs. It is unfortunate that they have not been forthcoming and that is why this motion is so important, especially to our youth in Murang'a.

Mr. Speaker, if these prayers can be granted after the members support the motion, we can empower our youth and when we go out next time to ask for votes; they will not feel left out.

The mover has prayed for two- thirds interventions and that is very well related with health factors that are being preached by all the people who look after our wellbeing, especially the fish, rabbits and poultry, which are all white meat and are very good for the growth of the people and for the elderly who are suffering from things like diabetes and those who do not want to have high cholesterol. These items do not lack items.

The proximity of our county is favourable to us such that if you have kept fish, rabbits, poultry and goats, you can slaughter them in the morning and you will be in the market in the afternoon. That can employ quite a sizeable number of the youth in our county.

We hope that the people who will come here will see the need to push for implementation because it will also help them have a peaceful time in the Assembly. They should also ensure that all these projects are started.

I am happy that the Mover thought about a policy paper which is very important; there has to be a policy paper. There are so many motions that have been moved here and we have requested the CEC's to come with policy papers which we have found to be very important because they will make the interventions long term.

I am here to support the motion. I had an opportunity to visit a fish farming training centre in Mwea where it is employing so many people and poultry farm

somewhere else. I am sure that my chairman for Agriculture knows about that, I do not want to pre-empt his report.

We have seen how many people can be employed by small interventions and they are not expensive but can employ and put money in the youth and women of our county. We know it can stop them from being engaged in other activities that are not legal if they have money in their pockets.

Before I sit down, I welcome the school that is sitting outside there, they have done a good job to come and see what we do before we leave the county. I second the motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Beth Ngugi:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I am a nominated MCA and I rise to support this motion as it is and congratulate Hon. Jesse for coming up with it, it is a very important motion.

As we are aware, women and youth are the majority in population and of course, they usually bear the brunt of social, economic and, sometimes, even emotional hardships.

Hon. Speaker, the best thing that this county can do is to empower this group of people. Across the wards in our county, you will notice that alcoholism, substance abuse, and domestic abuse are the order of the day for this group because the status that they are in which is unemployment, contributes to them being in that situation.

If they are self-empowered and they get themselves self-employed it will auger very well. Of course this will automatically emancipate them from emotional, mental, economic and social slavery that has reduced them to their current status.

Honorable Jesse talked about dairy goats and I will probably remind him as well as the House that the Alpine goat is the one that is reared to produce three to four liters of milk, very good milk and this can be ordered from the Dairy Goats Association of Kenya.

Fourthly, I would like to say that if this is achieved we shall have a class of entrepreneurs who are self-employed and they will employ others and they will be smiling all the way to the bank and of course the community will have an impact, there will be no room for idlers, drunkards, hooligans, sluggards and thugs.

I believe as the mover of the motion has prayed this can be achieved properly if good and proper policies are formulated and implemented. I believe that department of gender, culture and social services is competent enough to carry out this task. I support the motion, thank you.

**Hon. Samuel Wandia:** I rise to support this motion and first I would say that what we need mostly are seminars and training of the youth, women fraternity because the central government the wise leadership of His Excellency The President of this country Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, has got the Women Enterprise Fund and the Youth Fund which are both revolving and not that youth cannot utilize this money, women can utilize this money equally but what lacks is knowledge.

I have really confirmed that women and youth in the rural areas only need training so that they can start using this money. This money has no limit of what can be done; they get this money and dig fish ponds, rear rabbits, bee management they can do all that but I have no quarrel even the county government of Murang'a can complement and set aside a fund which could equally be revolving with very soft terms for our youth, may be softer than what the central government has in the field of financing of youth and women.

Irrespective of whether the fund is created within the county government or what is happening within the central government, I would say that its important the ministry of

culture and social services in this county of which the chairperson is here, it is encouraged to train our youth on how to use these funds that are set aside by the central government so that they can utilize it after extensive trainings and seminars.

If that is done, I do not think even the Murang'a county government can set aside such huge amount of money, Kshs. 1 billion, we cannot hold such big amount money if at all the youth are trained.

The first level is to train them, so that they may know what has to be done, how to manage the bees, fish ponds and all those other things. That can help them. My take is that first we train our people, we have to encourage them.

I think that is all I can offer this afternoon to this motion and thank you very much for offering me that opportunity and congratulate my friend because he has made my mind to wake up and contribute to this motion.

**Hon. James Kagoni:** I want to start by appreciating the mover for having thought about this motion and especially in regard to this special group called the youth.

As one of the people who represent the interests of the youth in this Assembly, I feel obliged to really support this motion.

Before I do so may I acknowledge the pupils of Karingu primary school under the able leadership of Mrs. Murage and the teachers who are seated at the gallery, they visited from Wangu ward to come and have an experience of what goes on in this Assembly.

I want to support and share the sentiments of the senior member from Muthithi, what he has just spoken about, but allow me to share a caveat in regard to this motion, I fully support it, we must acknowledge the thinking of the young people, it is not that the young people are not aware of these opportunities, we keep telling them, some of the opportunities are ready; we can regard them as the low lying fruits that will be picked.

The thinking of the young people is that unless we entice them, this is not their area. Young people are much into quick money; they are lured to the quick money of boda boda, betting, games and haircut. While we urge the CEC Youth, culture and social services to consider this, we need to entice the young people into this area.

When you tell a young person that you need to do something that will give him returns in the next six months in one way they are demoralized since they want easy money like boda boda and betting.

I sit in the youth committee and I am happy that there is a policy paper that will enforce what the honourable member is asking the House to pass.

I remember in the 2015/2016 we had set around 60 million for these activities to create opportunities like the member is requesting. In this budget year we need to ensure that we allocate some money and ensure the implementation committee will do a follow up to ensure the money is passed in regard to what the House intends to do.

The members interacted with the young people during campaigns and we need to give them hope. There is a lot of money in agri-business if only the young people were to access opportunities. I support this motion and congratulate the mover for thinking about it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Jesse Mburu:** I want to thank the members, those who have contributed and those who have not; I know in your hearts you are supporting the motion.

This is a way of laying ground to come back in the next five years. When we went into the field, they were talking of not having money or anything to do, and they wanted their faces to brighten up with these.

We look forward to coming back, we have just been given a leave for five years. What we need as Honourable Kagoni has mentioned is a policy paper that will embrace all what is in the motion, then money will be allocated, then training, we can be taking

every two for training in regard with what I have mentioned considering that these are our children.

We are not limiting those in other business; they can join the groups and generate more income. I hope the members will support the motion

*(Question Put and agreed to)*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki):** The House adjourns until tomorrow 2:30 p.m.

*The House rose at 3:19 p.m.*