

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

Wednesday, 10th May 2017

The House met at: 2.40pm

(Temporary Speaker Hon. Bernard Kariuki in the Chair)

**PRAYERS
PAPERS LAID**

MURANG'A COUNTY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY PAPER

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, with your leave, allow me to withdraw the paper because it was to undergo some amendments. Unfortunately, my clerk had issues with his family; hence not yet amended. Give guidance whether I should lay it like that or I withdraw it until next week.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki): You may opt to table it or first amend it.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Mr. Speaker, before tabling, I wish to seek for your leave to first amend it because it is a bit sensitive.

(Hon. Caroline Njoroge did not lay the paper on the Table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

MURANG'A COUNTY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY PAPER

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Mr. Speaker, allow me not to give the notice of this motion until it is amended. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

FORMULATION OF A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR COUNTY LIBRARIES

Hon. John Gitau: Mr. Speaker, I am the outgoing Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Kamahuha ward and before I move the motion, I wish to allay my apologies to those who are also outgoing because---

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki): Order! Hon. member for Kamahuha, unless you want to imply that this Assembly is not here constitutionally, you will be out of order. The members are here constitutionally and their term is constitutional, therefore, withdraw the term outgoing because it very derogatory.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for your guidance. I withdraw the term and move straight---

Hon. David Kabaka: On a point of order Mr. Speaker, the member for Kariara has come to the House without a tie.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki): Member for Kariara, in spite of what Gitau is saying, you need to be properly groomed. Do the necessary.

(Hon. David Muhoro walked out of the Chamber)

Hon. John Gitau: I wish to move the following motion;-

Aware that Article 53(1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 which gives right to compulsory basic education, noting that education is largely a national government function under part one of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Further

aware that library services is a devolved function under the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, recognizing that it is the responsibility of the government to provide reading materials in all public schools, considering that there are many households in Murang'a county that live in absolute poverty and therefore school going children from the said abject poor families cannot afford educational materials including books, past papers and magazines, further considering that the core business of the said basic educational institutions is to impart knowledge to all, recognizing that many such institutions do not have enough course books, cognizant of the fact that, children from both the rich and poor families need to be given equal opportunities; this House urges the County Executive Committee member in charge of Education and Technical Training to;

1. Formulate a policy framework for county libraries in every sub- county.
2. Formulate a program for establishment of the county libraries in each sub- county in Murang'a.

I think this motion seeks to bridge the gap that is missing in the education system especially in the public schools.

You find the core business of any learning institution, especially the public institutions from nursery schools, primary and secondary is to impart knowledge and you agree with me especially the primary and secondary schools, there are what we call course books and I am surprised because my committee has been able to go to some schools and talked to some head teachers, we were surprised to learn that this books are not there.

One wonders what these institutions are doing if the course books are not enough. Even sometimes for the teachers only and the core business is to impart knowledge then there is a problem----- and a big one.

Hon. John Gitau: When I was coming to this place, I met some students who told me that they have been sent away from school because of fees. When I talked to some of them, I realized that two of them are orphans and they have not paid any amount of fee and therefore they are not allowed in school.

If such a child cannot raise school fees, you can imagine if those children are told to buy books.

It is common for children from poor families to lack books. It would be prudent if we have libraries in selected areas of the sub- counties to help the children have equal opportunities; equal opportunity is the core purpose of education.

There should be a programme on libraries, whether the children will be borrowing from county libraries or headquarters; as a committee, we thought about this motion to ensure that schools have enough books so that the children will gain knowledge from books.

This is a self-explanatory motion and I expect members as they debate they pursue ways of improving our education by supporting this motion. I call hon. Member Watiri to second this motion.

Hon. Mary Watiri: It is an achievement for this House if we leave our policy paper which will be guiding the House and the whole county to formulate and implement the education sector in this county. I stand to second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Thank you Temporary Speaker, I rise to support the motion---

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Is it in order for the Hansard team to leave their jackets on the Chair Mr. Speaker?

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki): Could the concerned officer ensure that decorum point is observed. Member for Kigumo ward.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion by the committee. This is a well thought motion and is indeed important as it supports education for our children in this county. It would also leave a legacy because we are all aware that in Murang'a we only have one public library, which if I am not wrong was initiated by our Senator.

The chairman has raised the issue of our children not having access to learning materials since the poverty level in our county and country has incapacitated most families from affording such learning materials for their children.

We are all aware that our country is going through a hard time and now that money has been channelled to the counties, it is most important we take such issues into our hands and think of how we can improve sectors such as education which would improve the standards of our people.

Since we have enough land in our sub-county and wards, I believe this is possible. If the county can facilitate and come up with a policy paper, I am sure our able County Executive County (CEC) member for education is going to do this.

They can think of how they can establish such libraries in our sub counties. We are aware that when our children are free they go to places that add no value to them and instead of that they can be going to do some research and learning in those libraries. They will live to remember that this county helped them in one way or the other in support of education. I therefore support the motion.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, though you restrained me from talking about outgoing members. I don't know why the House is very dull, I don't want to associate it with the exercise that was there two weeks ago.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Wanyoike): There could only be an outgoing people when there is a general election. Stand guided.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand guided. I am happy with the member who has supported the motion, and I know the rest will support the motion though they have not contributed.

I am happy with hon. Caroline who cited the importance of education of our children and to us. The fact that she had commented it is upon us to impress upon the CEC to come up with a policy because as the hon. member has said, reading materials are very important if we are to expose our children and they pass examinations. I hope the other members will support this motion and I rest my case, thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at: 2:59p.m.