

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 4th July 2023.

The Assembly met at 9:54 a.m.

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

PRAYER

MESSAGES

**NOMINATION OF PERSONS FOR APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE
MURANG'A MUNICIPAL BOARD**

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Members, pursuant to the provisions of standing order no. 44, I wish to report to the House that I received a message regarding the nomination of persons for appointment as Members of the Murang'a Municipal Board. Hon. Members, in the message, it was conveyed that pursuant to Section 14 (2) (c) of the Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act, 2019, the following persons have been nominated; -

1. Bishop George Irungu Kariuki of ID no. 11182063 representing informal sector
2. Caroline Kaari Nyaga of ID no. 10252022 representing neighborhood association.

The County Executive now seeks the approval of the appointments by this House.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 44 (3) (c) requires that upon receipt of nomination for appointments, such nominations shall stand committed to the relevant Committee of the Assembly for consideration. In this respect, I hereby refer the message together with the curriculum vitae and testimonials of the nominees to the sectoral Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning for consideration.

Hon. Members, Section 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 requires the Committee to which such nominations are referred, to consider the matter and Table a Report in the House within 21 days from the date on which the Committee first sits to consider the nomination.

In this regard, the Committee is expected to immediately commence the approval process, notify the nominees and the general public of the time and place for holding the

approval hearings, Table its Report within the stipulated time, to enable the House to consider the matter within the statutory timelines. Thank you, next order.

PAPERS

REPORT OF YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. On behalf of Chair Youth. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper;-

That, the Report of the sectoral Committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services on the welfare of PWDs in the County be laid on the Table of Assembly today July 4, 2023. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

REPORT OF YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON KENYA INTER-COUNTY'S SPORTS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (KICOSCA) GAMES HELD IN KISUMU.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to lay the following Paper; -

That, the Report of the sectoral Committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services on Kenya Inter-County's Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) games held at Kisumu from January 14, 2023 to January 21, 2023 be laid on the Table of Assembly today July 4, 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, again on behalf of the Chairperson for Youth, I am a Member of that Committee, I beg to give a notice of the following Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of sectoral Committee on Youth, Gender, Culture and Social Services on the welfare of persons living with disabilities in the County, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday, 4th July 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON KENYA INTER-COUNTIES SPORTS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Hon. John Mwangi: Again, on behalf of the Chairperson for Youth Committee, I am the Member for Nginda Ward. I beg to give notice of the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Youth, Culture and Social Services on Kenya Inter Counties Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) games held at Kisumu County from 14th January to 21st January 2023, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday, 4th July 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF YOUTH, GENDER, CULTURE AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON FIREFIGHTING SERVICES IN THE COUNTY

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am the Member of County Assembly for Nginda Ward, on behalf of the Chairperson for the Youth, Gender, Culture and Social Services Committee, I beg to move the following Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Youth, Gender, Culture, and Social Services on firefighting services in the County laid on the Table of the Assembly on 27th June 2023.

Mr. Speaker, firefighting services are a devolved function of the County Government in line with the 2010 Constitution. Firefighting is the most visible function that is carried out under disaster risk management. This Report endeavours to highlight the current state of firefighting services and the challenges being experienced and recommendations, that will improve the operation of the department to ensure that loss of property and life injuries and distraction of livelihood by fire is controlled. The Committee made the following findings; -

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1. That, fire services and disaster management unit has been in existence in Murang'a County since its inception in 2013.
2. That, it was successfully convened in 2013 by training the first group of officers and acquiring a hired fire engine from G4S.

Members noted that the department has made the following achievements; fire stations, the department has three operational fire stations, namely, the head quarter station at Murang'a town, Kiharu sub- County, Kenol town, since June 2016, Maragua sub- County and Kangari town stations since October 2016, Kigumo sub- County. There is a need for more hydrant points to refill the fire engines to minimize response time.

Public sensitization and capacity building: that is the department conducts regular sensitization as it marshals for fire safety compliance which involves premises fire risk assessment, safety awareness, training, and awarding of the fire clearance certificate since 2015.

Fire services and disaster management legal framework; in 2014, the department formulated a Bill for fire services in Murang'a County that is yet to be approved by the County Assembly and gazetted.

Emergency line; that the department has a toll-free line, it is there on the Report, which is operated around the clock. Headquarter operation centre alongside two other regular numbers in the sub- stations. Kenol it is 0727211198, Kangari station 0796585111.

That they have sufficiently trained disciplines in trainer of trainees, emergency medical technicians, rope rescue technicians, advanced firefighting, basic level II firefighters and volunteer firefighters, hazardous materials, and emergency vehicles operation courses.

Currently, the section has four candidates undergoing a level III pump operator fire management course in the fire truck which is the TVET accredited fire academy in Kiambu. more skills are needed especially in handling hazardous materials and water rescue.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs); that the department has worn out response gears which are inadequate. There is an air compressor for self-contained breathing apparatus that requires a three-phase power supply. The section urgently requires daily wear and ceremonial uniforms, firefighting PPEs.

Development partners; that since August 2015, the section signed an MoU with Polish Centre for International Aid, A Polish NGO that has helped build their capacity in terms of training and equipment. That since November 2015, the section has partnered with Africa Fire Mission and

in 2019, Chief Fire Officers Association was formed to unify all the 47 county fire brigades. The County has also benefitted from national government initiatives i.e., the three fire trucks were acquired through the Metropolitan initiative by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Honourable Speaker, the Committee made the following recommendations;

- 1) That the County Secretary should resubmit the Firefighting Bill formulated in 2014 for consideration by the Committee.
- 2) That the County Secretary should forward the policies and regulations that it has formulated in 2023 for discussion and approval by the House.
- 3) That the firefighting unit constructs five new fire stations to ensure that every sub-County has a substation.
- 4) That the firefighting unit operationalizes the Kangema substation which is already constructed and has a fire engine.
- 5) That the firefighting unit renovates all the existing fire stations and equips them fully.
- 6) That the firefighting unit fast-tracks the activation of the emergency line short code, 1504, by the Communication Authority of Kenya.
- 7) That the County Secretary enables and accredits the TVETS in the County to have the capacity to train in firefighting and disaster management.
- 8) That the Public Service Board with the advice of the County Secretary should adopt a firefighting service scheme to enable proper remuneration of new staff and confirmation of the existing staff.

Hon Speaker. I now call upon Hon Mirara from Kangari to second this Motion.

Hon. Moses Musa: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I`am here Hon. Speaker to second this Motion. This is a very good move for the Committee because there has been a lot of negligence in actually having emergency service or having in place an action plan for emergencies.

I think it is the high time that we form some measures because these emergency or accidents are not anticipated and when we do not work well with the authorities so that the emergency services become and work for the benefit of the community it becomes something that our citizens are usually affected much when accident happen. We need to see that as County Assembly because this one is one of mandates to help them may be in mitigation of this accidents. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Samson Ngigi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I first for want to thank the Youth Committee for this work they have done. However, I am a bit challenged because I am aware that in Maragua sub- County we have Kenol town station and many times when fire accidents have been happening around that area they only come to the incident after everything has been consumed by fire. When you call these guys, they normally tell you that the vehicle does not have fuel and to make the matter worse the even say they do not have water.

We can try as much as possible to put up other stations like they have proposed in Kangema, Kahuro and also in Mathioya, but if we don't have competent workers this will all go in vain. Another thing I would like the mover to answer me, the radius that the firefighting unit should cover because I understand in Gatanga there is no fire station, that one should be guided. There are other areas like in my area, an area called Gicagi there are no access roads, not even being murramed, even when the fire happens to occur at the middle of that village, even a vehicle cannot access the area. It is therefore upon the surveyors and those people that are concerned to go and demarcate the actual boundaries of the road so that when such an incident happens those people can be reached.

We can have all these equipment, we can buy everything but at the end of it, it has no impact. As I finish this Report will be implemented to the latter because I understand we have been passing things here and nothing has been happening; particularly we came here and agreed we will purchase some vehicles and some couriers for the garbage to be collected in our towns up to this far we are in another financial year that thing has not been implemented. So, there is no way we can be coming here, passing these things and nothing is happening. It is simply as easy as not to do anything at all. I call those offices which are responsible for this to make sure that if something good is passed in this Assembly concerning the welfare of our people, it should be implemented to the last dot. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Anthony Marubu): Yes Hon. Chefman.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion with reservation of my comments which were supposed to be captured by the Committee. The Committee has done a good job though we are short of some of the things that I was expecting to be captured. As the Committee represents the youth and gender I have not heard or seen where

they are recommending that they will incorporate the youth in terms of departmental training and suggestions to the members how they are supposed to be fighting with fire.

As Hon. Mukora has said about us passing Motions here and them not being implemented to the latter or we do not know where Report disappear to, the Committee through the Speaker should think about incorporating schools in future in terms to do with upward drills like when there is fire. Of late we had fire in a house; an accident that happened in the County we had a lot of challenges about sensitization of how people should be saved.

This department should not only be supported but be improved to a certain area of them going to drills, going places, educating the people. Not only waiting for the fire or accidents, they should create like what we see outside most of the countries especially abroad. Sometimes they do the drills to sensitize the people about what they are supposed to expect and what they are supposed to be done by them.

For example, in my area and Hon. Mukora requested from the mover to respond to that; from Maragua to Kenol and from Kangari to Kenol and from Kangari to Kenol. In the area between Maragua and Kenol that is the area of Sabasaba and Kamahuha going all the way to Ithanga and Kigumo there are no fire fighting vehicles. On top of that our people there in that central area that is between Gaichanjiru, Kahumbu and Muthithi and Kamahuha, the department should be balanced to sensitize the people that even before the fire fighter comes at least our people are able to know which kind of fire-fighting equipment should be used for example if it is fuel what are they supposed to use. They should not use water, they should use foam, they can buy Omo and just do mix up and then use it on the fire. There should be very many comments that should be implemented, they should go to schools and educate them. They should come to the ground and educate our people. They should have drills in between, even before our people know there is an accident or a fire.

Recently when we were celebrating, I can't recall well, there was a drill here at the Ihura stadium. We should not wait for that; they should do it practically. Like now in this House, I don't know where the firefighting machines, what do we call them or whatever--- I am looking at a situation whereby even the honourable members here, they don't know if fire happens or occurs here, where should they run? Where should they exit? They know this door; others will run to the back and they will cause their own commotion and they will die.

The departments need to come to the institutions to try and train and educate people. Drills here in the Assembly. Suppose we have fires in the Assembly due to electricity, due to arson, due to various reasons. I am pleading with the Committee to have and actually improve the department of fire. We know our County is growing and a lot of investors will be coming and a lot of investments will be there. Challenges will be there, houses will be built, our roads will be expanded, we will build our roads, but is this department well established to cope with the budget given to them. Is it sufficient? There are things we are supposed to do, not a normal thing, writing a report, but also to enforce. We employ people who are capable. If you go to these firefighters, you will be shocked. Some of them do not know where the caps are, they don't know where the jackets are, they are more laymen like me. They don't know what to use and not to use.

The Report is well done but short of what more should be done so that at least in future if there is any emergency, we are able to take care of that. I rise to support but with my few recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes, Honourable Ndunda.

Hon. Ndunda Makau: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me first congratulate the Committee for coming up with this good Report. However, there are some few issues here I would like to note; I would like the Committee to note. One, for a very long time, for the last almost seven years that I have been here in Murang'a because I was here in the last Assembly, I have not seen much in the fire department, we have been having fire incidents and it has happened that, it's like the fire ends up consuming everything. This is a department which has not been very vibrant. Now it is their time they have to wake up.

These firefighting services they should cut across the county. Murang'a is not only here in the municipality or Kangari, there are also some other towns. These services should spread all over the County. Fire department should be well equipped, it should be having all the expertise because they are not only concerned with fighting fire. There are some other accidents, there are some people who drown in rivers. These are the same people who are supposed to be involved, they are supposed to rescue. I expect also expect some good divers. This is department that should be having all the expertise because also when there is a road accident. They have a part to play, they are supposed to be there. Again, like the other day we had a collapsed building. They should have been the first people to be there. Well equipped with machines to cut grills and everything to rescue those who were in the debris. This is a department for a long time it has not been operating as it is

expected. It is not well equipped and this Report should go a long way to wake them up so that they can do something.

Again Mr. Speaker I expect them to be available especially where there is a gathering, I have seen like in Nairobi when we are watching football in stadiums there is always a fire-fighting machine there ready, I think they should also collaborate with other departments like St. John Ambulance in their services, I have not seen this, I think the Committee needs to dig deeper and come up with good recommendations although I am supporting what they have recommended here but I think there is a lot to be done because the department seems to be dead so I expect them to start doing their work as expected, otherwise I support this Motion with those observations.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Father Alex

Hon. Wanyoike Alex: I stand to support this Motion. First of all, I want to thank the Committee for this good work they have done and giving us some light in regards to the fire department and what is happening, the situation in the ground for the County.

I wish to start my contribution by giving an example, one or two years ago that I had a very serious incident in my Ward. It happened that in a quarry, some two men were buried when they were doing some excavations there to feed their families. Trying to think of how to help them, you are there standing, your two men are buried there, you do not know what to do and everybody is crying and calling for help, you are there confused. Only when you think of where to reach out, Mugumo-ini is very close to Kiambu County and therefore I had to reach out to the County government of Kiambu to come with their firefighting machines and rescue people. So, they came and did very good work and they recovered the two bodies; they were already dead since we had taken a lot of time. Now I started wondering where is this department in the County government of Murang'a and especially serving Gatanga, Kandara there those areas which are next to the Murang'a- Kiambu border. Only to realize that it appears that they are not there and if there is anything near Kenol, when we tried to call them, the word that came is that there is nothing functional so I wondered. When I go through these recommendations and the Report of the Committee, I am happy to see that they are recommending that several stations be erected for this purpose.

This is an issue for urgency because an accident does not give us warning that we are coming tomorrow or next week. As we speak now, we have just on the way seen some small accidents and we do not wish that they become any big accidents or such, but you may realize that

even big accidents are taking place but getting someone who can come and actually help these people along Gatanga road, it has become a big problem.

So, I want to emphasize and re-echo my wish within this Committee, request the Committee and the County Government that we continue thinking about our County better and even in a stronger way as I have seen it done in other Counties like Kiambu. In case there is any incident around Thika town, every now and then, the firefighting machines you hear them running, right, left and everywhere, serving their people, but to cross the border from Chania to Murang'a, there is nothing happening. I wish to request that, as much as I support this Report and the recommendations are good ones, let us put more emphasis and request the office concerned to do this with haste. Let us establish these stations, train people to come and do this work so that in case there is any incident which we do not pray that it occurs, God forbid, our people are safe and can get help immediately as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker: (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you. Yes, Hon. Gichobe.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: I rise to support this Motion. Mr. Speaker I'm proudly one of the members of this Committee and that is why my signature is appended at the back of that Report. Mr. Speaker I rise to support. I want to take Members to page nine of that Report, on the observations that we made and Mr. Speaker sadly one of the observations we made is that the department does not have any legal working frame work and there has been insufficient budget allocation to cater for the four phases of disaster management. Mr. Speaker, those two observations are sad because that lies in our mandate as the County Assembly. We are supposed to come up with a legal framework for this and we are also supposed to facilitate budget allocation because budgets are approved in this House and therefore that means that we are being challenged by this Report as the County Assembly; that we should indeed try and do more with regards to firefighting services and emergency response because we have got that power and we have got that mandate.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to request the County Assembly as we move forward, we still have supplementary budgets that are going to come, this is something that we are supposed to sit and reflect upon, and make a decision of ensuring that the firefighting services indeed improve. I would request that Members, take good time to read this Report because in our Committee led by our Chair who is absent today, we took a lot of time to investigate and to look into the issues of firefighting services, we did a lot of research and this Report as compiled, Mr. Speaker, is very detailed. Therefore, I request members to really look into it, so that going forward we can agree as

an Assembly, how we need to combine our efforts, combine our knowledge, combine our experience to ensure that we bring a revolution to our firefighting services. Otherwise Mr. Speaker, being a member of this Committee, I of course, having endorsed it with my signature and having taken part in its compilation, Mr. Speaker, I support. Thank you very much.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you. I now call the mover to respond.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, I say thank you to all members who have contributed to this Motion. I say thank you to Hon. Gichobe, a member of this Committee, Hon. Chefman, Hon. Ndunda, Hon. Alex from Mugumo-ini but for Alex, I have something to answer, two years back, we were not in the government and you know well that the previous government left our County in a very pathetic state. Hon Speaker, as Hon. Gichobe has said, let us all join hands and make this thing happen.

Another thing to Hon. Mukora, we have talked the radius. Hon. Speaker, we have proposed or recommended as a Committee to have, in every sub-County, a department of firefighting. I know that once we pass this Motion, we will be able to cover the radius.

Another thing, for the accessible roads, as Youth Committee, Hon. Speaker, we have no mandate to know whether the roads are accessible and know the state of the roads. So, Hon. Speaker, I urge all Honourable Members, we have ward project funds, we use ward project funds to make our roads accessible. So, Hon. Speaker I urge Honourable Members to support this motion.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Honourable Members, this House now stands adjourned until today, July 4, 2023 in the afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

The Assembly rose at 10:38 a.m.