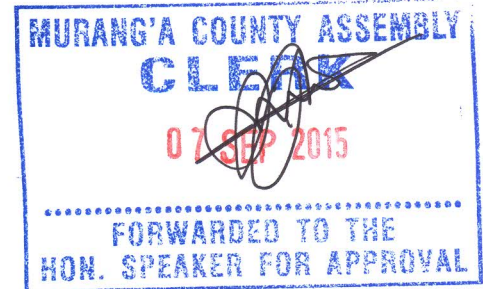


Report tabled by  
Hon. John Njoroge Gitau  
on 15/9/2015

## MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

FIRST ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION(2015)



EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE, RESEARCH, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON

MEMBERS BENCHMARKING VISIT TO JOYTOWN SPECIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THIKA

AUGUST 2015

## 1.0 PREFACE

Hon. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of Members of the Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-Government Committee and pursuant to **Standing Order No 195(g)**, I beg to table for noting by the Assembly, the Committees report on the **Members visit to Joy Town Special Primary School located in Thika Town.**

This Committee was established pursuant to Standing Order No. 195 of the County Assembly. Further and in accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders as read together with the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the Committee is mandated to deal with;

- a) All matters related to Pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and child welfare including childcare facilities
- b) County Communication, Information, broadcasting and development management
- c) Libraries, Research and County technological advancement

## 1.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

This committee comprises of the following members:-

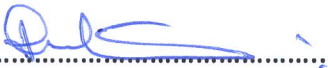
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|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Hon. John Njoroge Gitau       | - | Chairperson      |
| 2. Hon. Danson Mburu Muchoki     | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Julius Maina Kimani      | - | Member           |
| 4. Hon. Anderson Muchemi Waweru  | - | "                |
| 5. Hon. Martin Mwangi Macharia   | - | "                |
| 6. Hon. Bernard Wanyoike Kariuki | - | "                |
| 7. Hon. Cecilia Wanjiku Gitu     | - | "                |
| 8. Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi     | - | "                |
| 9. Hon. Mary Watiri Kariuki      | - | "                |
| 10. Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii Njine | - | "                |
| 11. Hon. Peter Kariuki Njogu     | - | "                |
| 12. Hon. Charity Wangui Rugu     | - | "                |
| 13. Hon. Peter Murigi Ngugi      | - | "                |
| 14. Hon. John Kiarie Ngugi       | - | "                |
| 15. Hon. James Kariuki Ngugi     | - | "                |
| 16. Hon. Joseph Ndungu Muchina   | - | "                |

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) The Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Hon. Speaker and the office of the Clerk of County Assembly for facilitating the committee on the visit.
- b) The Chairperson of the Committee takes this opportunity to thank all Members of the committee for availing themselves and the management of Jown Town Special Primary School for the hearty and warm reception given to the committee during the visit.

It is now my pleasant and duty on behalf of Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-Government Committee to present this report to this Honourable Assembly.

Thank you.

Signed..........

Hon. John Njoroge Gitau  
(Chairperson)

Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-Government Committee

Dated this...13<sup>th</sup>.....day of...August..... 2015.

## 2.0. Introduction

The committee visited the Joy Town Special Primary School on July 20 2015 as part of the Committees work plan for the Financial Year 2015/2016 to familiarize themselves with the operations of special schools for the physically challenged. Further the visit was geared towards achieving following objectives;

- i. Familiarize members with the structures , facilities and equipments needed to cater for the needs of the physically challenged children
- ii. Learn about courses and curriculum being undertaken by the children
- iii. Benchmark on modalities of establishing a similar multi-disciplinary school in Murang'a County
- iv. Find out challenges faced by such children and how the same can be mitigated in such schools in Muranga County

## 2.1. History of the School

The Salvation Army Joy Town Special Primary School is a Government School sponsored by the Salvation Army. It was established in 1963 in Thika Town with an initial enrolment of 30 children. Currently, the school has a total population of 340 students with a total of 34 teachers of which 7 are physically challenged. Initially it was contemplated the school would fulfill its purpose as an asylum center but almost at once, the question of education arose and fulfill fledged Primary School was established for the unfortunate male children most of whom were victims of early polio.

Upon additional dormitories being constructed, a decision to incorporate Handicapped Girls into the school was made and since then an orthopedic gymnasium and a swimming pool have been built. Further, volunteer physiotherapists from an organization by the name Bethany Kids and offer free services to the children. AIC Kijabe also carries out surgical operations to the deserving cases at the school.

**Mr. Speaker Sir**, it's worth noting here that our own Nominated County Assembly Member of this Honourable Assembly, Hon. Peter Kariuki Njogu was a former student of the School.

## 2.2 Mandate of the School

- i. To train pupils to be independent
- ii. To offer primary level education up to standard eight for the physically handicapped children
- iii. To present pupils for the national examination for that level
- iv. To offer rehabilitation which includes a process of correction of deformities on the limbs through surgery, post-surgery, post-surgery management , physiotherapy and training on walking through aids
- v. To offer boarding facilities, feeding, clothing, spiritual attention and social activities
- vi. To provide medical attention

## 2.3 Vision

To instill a sense of worth, confidence and hope to children with physical challenges.



## 2.4 Mission

To rehabilitate, care and educate

## 2.5 Category of Students Admitted to the School

Joytown School is a Special School for the physically challenged children with multi-disabilities. The school comprises of several categories of physically handicapped children as outlined here below;

- I. Polio
- II. Muscular dystrophy (wastage of muscles) - This is a unique disability that affects the boys. The gene for this deformity is passed to the child by the mother and has no cure. Death of the affected child usually occurs as 3 to 15 years after birth.
- III. Spinal bifida- It's manifested by a hole at the lower level of the spinal cord. The hole affects the bowels and children are always wrapped with diapers
- IV. Cerebral Palsy- Its manifested by shaking of the hands due to damage of the brain during or after birth of a child
- V. Brittle Bones
- VI. Bow-legged and club foot
- VII. Congenital malformations (Hydrophorus/ Microphorus) - characterized by occurrence of a big or a small head due to non-drainage of water from the brain.

For those who cannot walk, read or learn, they are taught activity or daily living to enable them perform small functions on their own. During the visit Members observed many who couldn't wake up or feed by themselves and had to be assisted by the teachers.

## 2.6 Current Status of the School

The school lies on 7.5 acres piece of land and is a full mixed boarding Special School. The Ministry of Education ranks the school in the category of a **national tertiary institution**. It's therefore administered by a Ministry of Education appointed Board of Management and a Parents Teachers Association. It has a dispensary and a chaplain to cater for the pupil's health and spiritual needs. Due to lack of facilities it only admits 30 children every year.

In supporting the school, the Government provides money to pay the workers and as all the teachers are paid and seconded to the school by the Teachers Service Commission. Also the government gives food grants to supplement the school feeding Programme.

### **3.0 CHALLENGES**



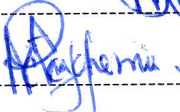
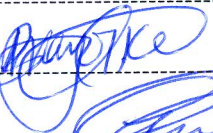

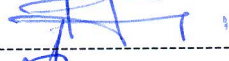
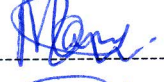




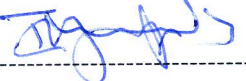



During the visit members observed the following major challenges being faced by the institution and the pupils themselves it;

1. Lack of enough funds to make new wheels and chairs for the children
2. A poorly equipped workshop.
3. Inadequate facilities like computers and aids to facilitate easier learning
4. There is lack of a policy on legal frame works for examination mode of the physically challenged children at national examinations. They sit the same examinations and are given the same time to finish the exams as normal children
5. Despair in the children
6. Demotivated non-teaching staff due to low salaries
7. Sexual harassment of the children by parents relatives and neighbours back at home
8. Non provision of vehicles by the Government which are compliant to the needs of the handicapped
9. Poor information of members of the public on the plight of the physically challenged persons/ children
10. Lack of funds to perform surgical corrections to enhance capacity for the children to use their limbs

### **4.0 LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD**

In order to establish the same kind of an institution in Muranga County, the Committee urges the County Government in consultation with the relevant arm of the National Government which is responsible for establishment of Special Primary Schools to work together in order to achieve the following goals and objectives for the physically challenged children in Muranga County;

1. Make budgetary allocations and ensure that the County Government urgently searches for a suitable land to establish a similar special education facility in Muranga County
2. Make proposals to the National Government and other donors through the Ministry of Education to ensure that a special fund is set aside to assist special schools for the physically challenged children in Muranga County
3. That there is undertaken a baseline survey on all existing Government schools for the physically challenged children in Muranga County to document their status and needs
4. Explore through consultations with relevant Government agencies on how pupils in special schools for the physically challenged could be examined on their own special examinations by the National Examinations Council
5. Lobby for allocation of more funds by the National Treasury to those institutions/ schools supporting or offering services to the physically challenged persons in Muranga County in the coming years

Name	Signature
1. Hon. John Njoroge Gitau	Chairperson----- 
2. Hon. Danson Mburu Muchoki	Vice Chairperson----- 
3. Hon. Julius Maina Kimani	Member----- 
4. Hon. Anderson Muchemi Waweru	"----- 
5. Hon. Martin Mwangi Macharia	"----- 
6. Hon. Bernard Wanyoike Kariuki	"----- 
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