

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 13th October, 2015

The House met at 9:59 a.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE RE - PLANNING OF KIRATHANI MARKET AREA

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the chairman of Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Settlement committee and I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly;

The report of the Land, Housing and Physical Planning committee on a public forum on the re-planning of Kirathani Market Area, held in Ithanga ward on 28th September 2015.

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna laid the document on the table)

MOTION

SETTING ASIDE FUNDS IN THE 2016/2017 FY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN ALL MAJOR TOWNS

Hon. Beth Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to move the following motion:-

Aware, that Articles 42 (a) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, states that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, further aware that Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates that county public works and services including storm water management systems in built up areas and water and sanitation services is a devolved function of the county government, cognizant of the fact that the major towns in Murang'a county lack proper disposal of storm water and sewerage; this Assembly urges the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Transport and Infrastructure, to set aside funds in the FY 2016/2017 Budget Estimates and in every subsequent financial year for construction of sewerage system in all major towns of Murang'a county.

Mr. Speaker, the motivation of this motion resulted from having toured major towns in Murang'a county. You find that towns such as Kenol, Kandara, Kiria-ini, Makuyu, Maragua and others are choking with filth; in terms of waste water. Bathroom water, waste water from the kitchens, and urinals, is channeled to the open drainages, which is supposed to be for storm water.

You also find that most areas in Murang'a have septic tanks for the wastage to dispose the sewage, and sometimes soak pits. These soak pits and septic tanks overflow discharging the waste which sinks to the underground water, the wells and our rivers; yet the majority of the people in Murang'a rely on our rivers for their daily water intake. This water comes in its raw form, translating into poor hygiene. Children play in the open drainages and you will also

find the chicken and ducks wallowing therein. Sometimes, you will also find the livestock scavenging in the open filthy water.

The matter becomes worse during the rain seasons, when the storm water gathers, all that fluid flows into the rivers and the people downstream drink that dirty water. What is the outcome of that; all manner of diseases. You will find that we have *amoebiasis*, *giardia*, *salmonella typhii* and the recent case of cholera which gave us quite a fright.

The motion is urging the CEC to put into place sewerage systems to protect the people of Murang'a. I remember that on 16th June this year, a motion was passed in this House where water intakes were to be enlarged and construction of new ones initiated. We gave our people water which is a good thing. Where are they going to dispose of their waste water? It does not augur very well that they do not have enough water yet there are stagnant towns that are filthy. What will happen if they get more water? The cycle is going to continue year in year out.

It is only Murang'a town, where we are, that has a proper sewerage system. You will not find open drainages flowing with waste in Murang'a town because Murang'a and its environs have a proper sewage, there is also a water treatment plant which is supposed to be in all the towns.

Mr. Speaker, I remember reading history that in 1857, a young man called George Basil who was an engineer was attached by the government of Great Britain to construct a sewage system in London after that Parliament acceded to its construction. We are talking about 1857, meaning 19th century. The people then knew that a sewage system is something good. People need proper sanitation. Parliament approved that after an epidemic of cholera broke out in London whereby people died in large numbers.

When Parliament was acceding to that proposal, the stench in that Parliament was unbearable because some raw sewage was being deposited in a nearby plot. I think they acceded to it because of the stench and they could see sense of building a sewage system in London. Mr. Speaker, we do not have such a scenario; our Parliament does not have a stinking area next to it, however, it is only fair that we give our people in Murang'a adequate sanitation.

(Applause)

This kind of sickness is mostly waterborne. You find that drugs are used a lot in hospitals and if this system is put into place, I believe that our county government is going to save more on drugs, not so many drugs are going to be used. That vote will probably not be as big as it is right now. Our people will also be living in better conditions.

It is my prayer that this hon. House supports this motion for construction of sewage systems in all our major towns for we know that a healthy county is going to be a very wealthy county. Finally, I thank this House for listening to my motion. I call upon hon. Duncan Mwangi to second my motion. God bless all the hon. members of this Assembly. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the House has been excited, is it because she has called me to second her motion? All the same, I second the motion.

First and foremost, I thank the mover because the motion is very timely and well thought out because there is this El Nino song that is being sung each and every day. The meteorological department said that we may experience the El Nino rains any time from now.

Therefore, this kind of motion is very good for the county government to prepare as it is supposed to.

Second, we are in the budget making process and since she has urged the CEC to factor in money in the 2016/2017 budget, it is timely. If we factor in some money, it will be very easy because the process is still on. I also second because we in the Lands committee has brought some few reports and motions to this House, especially on the planning and re-planning of some areas, and spatial planning of major towns such as Kenol, Murang'a, Kiria-ini, Kanyenya-ini, Kangari, Kirwara and others. We will have towns that are well planned.

Mr. Speaker, we have been visiting most of these towns and in a report I already tabled, I indicated that we were at Kirathani market in Ithanga ward where you will find that most of these towns do not have the sewerage system, or even a planned one for that matter.

It is very good that when we are planning these towns, we also plan the sewerage system so that as the buildings come up, the contractors or the developers will not construct them on the sewerage lines. We also found out that the septic tanks and the dirt collection tanks in most of these towns are constructed outside the buildings; not inside the buildings or the plots.

At times, that affluent overflows on the access roads and open areas where it is very dangerous, especially to the children who play on those grounds.

Last week, we experienced the outbreak of cholera in Maragua whereby the first victim was a child. It is very good that when we are planning, we also plan for the sewerage system. As they say, a stitch in time saves nine and we shall save our county economically because we will not be trying to save the situation when the damage is already done. With those few remarks, I beg to second the motion.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Mary Waithira: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion and I want to start by congratulating the mover and commending her for the good idea and spirit in the motion she has brought.

We have had this persistent problem for all these years, mainly in some of the very major towns in Murang'a county. The storm water has never been taken seriously. As the mover has alluded, that storm water and other waste is left to spill along the access roads available; notwithstanding the very big population in these towns.

If you, for example, consider the population of Kenol, which is growing fast, and that water is left to drain and maybe remain stagnant, with all the kinds of animals along it that we eat later on, and the children playing around, then you will see the health hazards that are posed to the people that live there.

Mostly when it rains, all the water that is collected in the drainage eventually flows into the rivers. We drink water from some of those rivers and that explains why you will often hear people complain of suffering from diseases that are as a result drinking dirty water.

Mr. Speaker, if we take the spirit of what the plea is; that the CEC concerned constructs a sewerage system; our people will be saved from so many health hazards. When a sewerage system is constructed, we will make good use of storm water.

Our people are crying because of lack of water for irrigation. The moment this water is reserved, we will make good use of it, especially for agricultural purposes. We will therefore raise the standards of the people who depend on agriculture in Murang'a.

If we take that seriously and this motion is implemented, it will be a plus for our people. The plea is for the 2016/2017, and we are in the budget making process. I support this motion and request other members to support it as well so that, at least, we will have an answer to the filthy smell that comes from the drainages of the towns we live in. Maybe it will also reduce the cost of the medication that our children are being subjected to because of some of the diseases they collect as they play along the waste. I support.

The Speaker: Machiri.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, I stand to fully support this motion bearing in mind that I am the chair for Water, Environment and Natural Resources.

This is the day of the Lord, the Lord has come today; because this was overdue. It should have come earlier. The people who came together and thought of devolution, the essence is bringing services to the people, this Assembly is mandated to review the budget, and it's our moral obligation to look into the 2016/2017 budget so that we will not repeat the mistakes we have made in the past years from 2013/2014 to 2014/2015.

In our budgets, instead of including the things that cannot help Wanjiku, it is better to budget for buying land to use in sewage disposals in our major towns. There is increasing population in our towns and if we do not plan we will be in trouble.

This is a well thought out motion and well crafted. In towns like Kiria-ini, the population is about 10,000, coming downstream; the situation is similar in Kamacharia, Kaweru and Kangari. If we keep quiet rather than raising pertinent issues affection our community, we shall be judged harshly in future by our children and grandchildren.

It is better for us to critically look at the budget and remove the things that do not help Wanjiku and come up with things that will be of future benefit. Looking at pit latrines in Kiria-ini, there is no space for digging a pit latrine because several have been dug.

We need a solution; we can come up with a concept of buying land for sewerage facilities. Some of the things we are doing are primitive and shaming to our heritage, seeing an exhauster clearing the latrines, this belongs to 1970's, we are digital.

I support this motion and urge his House to seriously look into the budget and remove the unnecessary things that the government is doing.

Hon Cecilia Gitu: It is true that our major towns other than Murang'a have been planned without considering the sewerage system. I had the opportunity of serving as a director in Murang'a South Water and Sewerage Company and we went round, it is true that towns like Kirere, small towns like Kambi-Thamara and towns like Maragua are bursting with filth because of the large population.

These days people hope to have a house in town. There is a boom in rental housing and the boom is not going together with the provision of sewage systems, therefore, I want to congratulate Hon. Beth for this motion, although it is her maiden motion, it is well thought

and necessary. Looking at the bulk water supply that the government is serious with, it means that we shall deal with large volumes of water.

Most of our areas are now watered and therefore, the provision of water should be accompanied by good sewerage system to avoid the diseases. If you ask Dr. Ngige the medical Superintendent in Maragua, he will tell you that most of the infections that we deal with in Maragua are stomach problems because the population is exposed to dirty water.

Not many people will bother to boil the drinking water. When it rains, all the affluent from the open drainage systems goes to the river as members have decried and the rivers are already polluted as witnessed by the many times we have to deal with Cholera.

This august house should go down in history in passing a motion that is important so that we keep the populace healthy. Somebody has said that a healthy county is a wealthy county, I think it should be a concerted effort not just for the water department, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) should come in planning, the department of health should also work together, so the stakeholders should come together, plan together so that we will have healthy towns. I support

Hon. Peter Kihungi: I stand to support the motion; it is well thought and has come at the right time.

In the lower parts of Murang'a, we have a second cholera outbreak. I know one of the main causes is lack of sewerage facilities especially around Kenol. After the rain falls, the septic pits that our people dig are not controlled, they leak and the water vendors end up supplying contaminated water.

Last time when it was ordered that no water vendors should not operate, the cholera issues reduced, but after a short time, it has come back.

Murang'a town has benefited from sewerage facilities and that is why it is rare to have areas such as Murang'a town having such challenges. The mover has come at the right time. We need a survey of the hotspots in Murang'a that require sewerage especially Kenol. The way it is now, if we do not have a sewer system the town will not develop.

In Murang'a they benefited from the African Development Bank who did a sewer system in Murang'a because there was the initial design done many years ago. As a county government, if we do not conceptualize and start the framework of putting up sewer systems in our upcoming towns, we will go to a situation where cholera will always be a challenge.

As she said, people in Maragua have continuous stomach problems. I support that we take it serious especially in the 2016/2017 budget. We will budget what we will have and our government will be free to borrow externally e.g. through Athi Water that facilitated the loan that was given to Murang'a town to expand the sewer system. As a government we need to know how much we need to put up a sewer system in our major towns like Kenol, Kiria-ini and other Major towns that are coming up.

If international banks want to support us, we do not know how much we require, but in the next budget if we have done the surveys, putting up a sewerage system in Kenol it requires billions, but we can be funded by these international donors who are finding the water projects in Murang'a. We can be able to approach them.

As we give water to our people, we need to know how to dispose this water; we have a system that is going to Kenol. After people use this water, where do we take it? I think as the

mover has done it, it is urgent and congratulate her, but we need to make it a serious issue in the coming budget.

We have done a number of motions that have not been acted upon. This one is extremely serious, if we do not do some of these things, I do not know where we are heading as we expand the water system without expanding the sewerage system. I think the relevant department will take this seriously, thank you

Hon Jesse Mburu: I stand to support this motion. I would say if proper works were being done in every town that requires a water and sewerage we could not be having this motion. I wonder why the executive does not see things our way. There are certain areas where priority should be the norm.

I congratulate Ms. Mary of MUSWASCO who is doing a very good job at her place to give us water but the water disposal has not been thought out. I am wondering why because the CEC whose docket this motion will go does not act. If I zero in on Maragua town, as an example since the challenges are similar across all towns, I wrote him a letter on the water, sewer, open trenches in Maragua and nothing has been done. I do not know the reasons, maybe it was lack of money that the ministry did not act as it should, but now that we are going to allocate some money, they will not have any reason to give.

I went as far as identifying a piece of land where the sewer will be deposited but three years, nothing has been done. I also think that the implementation committee should take measures to ensure that the motions that come, the important ones like this one are worked upon by the ministry concerned. There are diseases like cholera and malaria breaking out in these towns and we know it is because of challenges in sewerage and clean water. The motion is timely, I congratulate the mover and I urge the members of this motion to see the seriousness of this motion and support it. Thank you.

Hon Rebecca Mwicigi: The health sector cannot be overemphasized, it is sad that the whole country is reading of Murang'a having a cholera outbreak even before the rains come. NEMA should be involved as we plan to buy plots for sewerage. There is a distance where the pit should be, not around the town.

I support we buy the plots. The waste in sewage is money. If you go to countries like Holland where the members here had an opportunity to visit, you will find that the sewage waste is turned into manure, packed and used to grow flowers. This is an additional income to a farmer who grows flowers. This would bring riches to Murang'a people and create jobs.

A town with sewerage has high property value. When doing the sewerage, there should be experts and cleaners of the line. When the county is clean, everyone will be healthy and we shall save on the money we put in hospitals.

Remember that our Kirwara market is congested and we do not have any sewerage there, the pit latrines are full and when passing by the road, you will find it uncomfortable to stand there and do some shopping. I support.

Hon. Charles Karina: Thank you Mr. Speaker for your eye catching me. I stand to support this motion and also congratulate the mover of this motion for it's a well thought motion and the good part of this motion is that to my feeling when I was seated there, I thought of about 50 years ago when we got independence, it is only one town that has sewerage system so I see that the mover of this motion had thought about it and it's a very good motion.

Going by the way people are moving from rural to the urban centres this is a well thought motion and I will urge members to support it because one the mover is also aware that to make this infrastructure of sewage is a very expensive exercise and with this it is important to note that its even appealing and urging the CEC to be placing money each and every year maybe starting this year.

Maybe start with planning and also it's a collective responsibility because we must work together with even the department of lands because when we talk of land banking, that is where we buy some of this pieces when you hear of that we need the sewer dams we need pieces of land and if you look the way our towns are today, you don't know whether we can get some pieces of land.

So as we plan, we must plan well and since it's a very expensive exercise. We must plan each and every year we see that if at all we are going to identify like one speaker here said that we identify major towns like Kenol we see when you talk of where we are going to put the dam, we see that area again its becoming very expensive in terms of land, so this is a very expensive exercise and we should continue planning in all our departments.

The other thing, when he talk of wooing investors, one way of wooing investors is putting up these facilities in all our major towns like sewerage, the drains so with this one we will be able to see that even the investors are encouraged to come to Murang'a.

The other issue, we are very lucky that our county is one of the counties which are marked as within the metropolitan boundaries so any assistance that we shall get maybe from the World Bank if at all we have come up with such an idea now when we start the development through the metropolitan, we'll also be able to be a part that we have already started then now we shall just improve on the same.

Finally, if we don't plan we are planning to fail, so I will urge this House to support this motion and see that this motion is passed and when it comes to implementation part of it, I'm very happy that everybody talks of committee of implementation, hon. members it is also important to note that the implementation committee has got timelines so already when this motion is passed after maybe 60 days that is when we start following the implementation part of it but it's a collective responsibility.

We must all work together, the department concerned must take up this matter as serious as the way members are debating in this Assembly so each and every motion once you pass a certain resolution it is for each and every committee to take up the matter and also even the mover to ensure that you didn't come here and bring a motion we debated then it rests there. It is for us as an Assembly to work together and see that all the motions that we have passed they are implemented in the right time.

I promise this House, I will take with seriousness and within the timeline. I support this motion and also urge my fellow colleagues to support this motion, thank you.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, provision of clean water is one of the basic needs of a human being, so it's a human right. Violation of one right affects all other rights, for example when the sewerage blockage occurs, human resource is wasted because people spend a lot of time going to fetch water with jerricans instead of engaging in productive activities.

I support this motion and recommend that all residents of Murang'a should be provided with clean water everywhere, whether in towns or out of town, because the sewerage water

cannot be used well because even the irrigation water if mixed with sewage water it will bring some outbreak of some epidemics so I recommend budget allocation for the provision of clean water to all residents of Murang'a, thank you.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the mover of the motion and I have seen that the visit to Israel where we went to learn about agriculture and other things have come in part of the motion.

We visited one of the sites where sewerage water is being used and if our county government put the money in the budget allocation for 2016/2017 and the other years that are coming and then benchmark with Israel and see the gold that we are lying on.

We think that we can invest a lot of money through the sewerage and areas like Kambirwa, Kambiti and Ithanga where there is scarcity of irrigation water can be able to be supplied with water and do farming.

Mr. Speaker the only thing advantage of Murang'a is that we are an agricultural county, if we tap the sewage water then that waste we do it in terms of fertilizer it will become organic fertilizer.

I support the motion and I would like to say that even that waste tapped in the sewage is very essential, we can get electricity from that human waste; we can get cooking gas from that human waste and we'll train our people and we'll create job opportunities.

I have seen that out of this motion the mover has many ideas. If it will be implemented if we start with some big towns then we come to the small towns I know that we are going to create employment for our young people.

So let the committee of budget see to it that 2016/2017 the allocation is put, if we do that I know we are going to save our county. Everyone who visited Israel learnt a lot, we saw how the waste is being transformed, how the water has been turned into a clean water for farming, so I support the motion and I congratulate the mover for doing that good motion.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker this is a very good motion and if we are good leaders, first things should come first. For those people who visited a place like Singapore, and if you look at their housing system which is government owned, they actually started with sewerage and drainage before even doing the houses. They clearly started with sewerage and drainage and this is because the way the order today is will not be necessarily the same tomorrow.

When I was young, I remember people used to have very big parcels of lands. If you look progressively, the land has now been sub-divided and we are almost coming to villages. I don't know whether you have ever gone to a place like Ndenderu and Banana and those places. If you look at how that place is and look forward in another like say ten years, the whole of that place will be like Kibera and that is the same thing that is happening today.

We are only going to be leaders who are orderly if we start making other shopping centres and other centres orderly. Although the motion is talking about towns, it is good for the mover to know that we don't have any town in Murang'a, we only have the shopping centres and urban centres probably Murang'a town because of the definition of a town.

If for example if we start with the biggest town going progressively to these smaller towns, we are going to even make it very easy for the governments that will come in future. But Mr. Speaker you can see the need therefore to have what we call database, let us know the population, and let us keep what we call statistics.

If today you ask anybody including the big people from the executive how many people we have in Murang'a town, what is the growth of Kenol town compared to Murang'a town, so that we can plan forward? If we don't do that then we are going round in circles, we are doing what we call circumrotating.

If we have a good start, plan and move forward then it will be very easy even to plan for our resources and all that, and this is a very important motion. I know that most of the motions that are passed here are not implemented and I am surprised even such a good motion will not be implemented and if we have such a good motion and it is not implemented then as a county we are actually not serious because if this is implemented, Murang'a county will go an inch higher.

So I truly support this motion and also request the executive to see the logic and to look into future and to see its importance. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Hon. Jane Ndegwa: Thank you Mr. Speaker I stand to support the motion.

I will say that cleanliness is second to godliness and if we have this sewage system it will be a way of cleanliness in our county and that will avoid many diseases like cholera and others that come through dirty environments which surrounds us.

I support that if the sewage system if included in all the counties as the mover of the motion has said and another member has said that we don't have cities in our county but urban centres, if all the urban centres have this sewage system, I am sure that all our county will be clean and this will avoid many diseases.

Those who pay the water bills, sewage system is included in our bills so I don't see why our government cannot give us this sewerage system because those who pay for the water are the ones who will be paying this system. I rest my case and I support the motion.

The Speaker: The mover to respond.

Hon. Beth Nguji: I'm really humbled from the response hon. members of this House have given this motion and I am happy to know that all is going to be well.

One member talked of the great magnitude of this project, yes hon. Speaker it's a big project and that is why we talked about its continuity in every subsequent year.

We also have one member talking about the manufacture of fertilizer from the sludge which could also be a good venture of the county government to get revenue.

We also had one member talking about all stakeholders working together, it is really not an issue of infrastructure docket but all the other organs of this county working together so that this can be achieved. And also the reduction of the vote in drugs, the storm water can also be channelled into good use, so many good points in fact I am amazed that it is like we are thinking alike and that's all what team work is about. I am really honoured. Thank you so much.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The House resumes at 2:30pm this afternoon, thank you.

The House rose at 10:55 a.m.