

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

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The House met at 3:10 p.m.

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

**PRAYERS**

**STATEMENTS**

APPROVED ASSEMBLY BUSINESS FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
TO THURSDAY MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2017

**Hon. Duncan Njuguna:** Pursuant to standing order 46 (2) (a) I beg to issue a statement on the approved business that will come to the Assembly for the period between Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday May 25, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday morning the chairperson delegated legislation committee will table a report on the proposed amendments to the Murang'a county alcoholics drinks control licensing regulations 2015.

Order two by the chairperson Trade and industrialization on the status of the pending departmental projects, order number three notice of motion from the chairperson Delegated county legislation on a report on the proposed amendments to the Murang'a county alcoholics drinks control licensing regulations 2015, order four notice of motion by the chairperson Trade and industrialization on the status of the pending departmental projects.

On Tuesday afternoon paper lying from Agriculture and fisheries committee, number 2 notice of motion by the chairperson agriculture and livestock committee on Brade gate farm, order three is a motion from delegated legislation on the report on the proposed amendments to the Murang'a county alcoholics drinks control licensing regulations 2015.

Wednesday afternoon May 24<sup>th</sup> we only have one item on the order paper that is a motion from the chairperson agriculture, livestock and fisheries committee on a visit to the Brade gate farm.

On Thursday afternoon May 25<sup>th</sup> there will be statements on the business of the House since 1<sup>st</sup> of June will be a holiday, the second order is a motion from the chairperson Trade and industrialization committee on the status review of departmental pending projects.

**MOTION**

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES  
COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN MURANG'A  
COUNTY

**Hon. James Kariuki:** I beg to move the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries committee on assessment of veterinary services in Murang'a county, laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday May 16, 2017.

The Agriculture livestock and fisheries committee undertook an assessment of these services in the county. The report has the committee findings on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have the terms of reference for the committee this was to;

- (i) To establish the existing gaps in delivery of veterinary services in Murang'a county.
- (ii) To identify the current status of veterinary services delivery in Murang'a county.
- (iii) Report on the observations, findings and recommendations of the committee's inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, the committee met and deliberated on this and the report is in the members files.

In the introduction, it is estimated that 75% of the pathogens that afflict humans originate from both wild and domesticated animals according to the veterinary research institute. This calls for collective efforts geared towards alleviating the impact of livestock diseases, hence contributing to reduction of poverty, improvement of livelihoods and food security in our households. Effective disease control and livestock production can only be achieved through delivery of satisfactory veterinary services.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of delivery of veterinary services is critical because we are dealing with cattle, sheep and goats that we keep in our households which are very dear. In our budgeting we ensure that a veterinary service has enough allocation.

The vision of these services is to promote and facilitate achievement of optimal animal health, production, welfare and trade and contribute to public health, food security and poverty alleviation.

The mission is to provide efficient veterinary services for production of safe and high quality animals, animal products and by products and promote trade and industrial growth in a sustainable environment.

Mr. Speaker, since we do not have a county legislation on veterinary services, we depend on national Acts passed by the National Assembly, these include; Animal Disease Act, Chapter 364, Meat Control Act, Chapter 356, Rabies Act, Chapter 365, Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-professionals Act, No 29 of 2011, Branding of Stocks Act, Chapter 357, Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, Chapter 360, Cattle Cleansing Act, Chapter 358, Hides Skin and Leather Industry Act, Chapter 359, Veterinary Services Delivery Structure

Mr Speaker, some of these legislations may be domesticated to suit our county's specific purposes. As you are all aware, we have not passed any Bill in regard to veterinary services and therefore we have to rely on national legislations to carry out these functions.

The poor performance in vaccination is caused by delayed funding of the programme and payment of the suppliers. Mr. Speaker, this is an area with issues since we have always called upon the County Executive Committee (CEC) member to ensure there is no delay in supply of bull semen, straws and liquid nitrogen because these are important in that department and if they are not there, the functions will stall and people will seek private practitioners since when a cow is on heat and the supply of bull semen and liquid nitrogen is not forthcoming, the ordinary folk in the village resort to private practitioners.

In that regard, it is unfortunate that between the period of December 2016 and March 2017 Artificial Insemination (AI) services were not provided in the county and this was as a result of lack of animal supply from the Kenya Animal Genetic Resource Centre, the institution declined to supply semen to the department due to delayed payment of semen supply for the previous quarter thus accruing of debts, notwithstanding the substantive budgetary allocation of Kshs. 23 million every financial year for the department.

When we are making our budget as the agriculture and livestock committee, we always make sure we do not alter the budget that we are given by the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture; with regard to veterinary services. This is because we know how important they are and we would not want them to make us the scapegoat if anything wrong occurs; we cannot understand why for example there are such delays.

The meat inspectorate alone is able to collect revenue of Kshs. 10 million alone annually. If the above target is achieved up to 70% they are addressing existing problems of procurement and funding then the annual revenue accrued from veterinary services will tremendously increase.

The directorate of veterinary services had prepared a vaccination campaign which was to commence from December 2016 up to November 2017; the vaccination campaign was to be undertaken across all the sub counties, unfortunately the campaign did not kick off due to shortage of funds. This is something we do not understand because as I have previously stated; we had allocated Kshs. 23 million for that purpose, therefore, this should not have happened.

This presented major setbacks in the achievement of the department objectives and target for the vaccination campaign. If successfully carried out it would have enabled the department to achieve 50% of the annual target on vaccination.

Vaccination is not something to take lightly and I do not know why there is lack of seriousness in this area from the department because even with our own babies we make sure that we take them for vaccination when they are due because if we do not we will cause a major setback in terms of health in that particular child.

Our department has never failed a single year to allocate resources to this particular department and we do not cut a single cent in this department because we know the importance of vaccination. The department of veterinary services has the following number of staff: 10 veterinary officers, two staff who are to retire by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, 32 meat inspectors one is to retire 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, 43 artificial officers, veterinary extension disease surveillance management and control are 52, hide and skin officers are two and one is to retire 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, laboratory technician one, one office administrator, five clerical officers, two drivers. one cleaning supervisor, one support officer, charge and hand mechanic two, two security officers. Our concerns are with the four who are retiring on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 because chances are they might not be replaced causing a gap in the -----

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

**Hon. Duncan Njuguna:** Is it in order for the hon. members to sit down in this Assembly and instead of concentrating and we have a very important motion they are all chatting. We have the Chief whip, hon. Rosemary Wakuthii, Agnes Ndunge and Rebecca Mwicigi who are in WhatsApp and Facebook.

**Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to that point of order. According to where I am seated and where hon. Duncan Njuguna is seated he cannot be able to tell whether I am chatting or not; that means there is malice between us. Again, I was setting my phone in vibration mode, I was not chatting.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki):** The other hon. members you can respond because if it goes on Hansard that you were chatting it will be very bad.

**Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi:** Mr. Speaker just like my colleague has said I realized I had not switched my phone to silent mode and I just did it; two minutes were not even over hence I was not browsing. I am a member of agriculture and livestock committee and I was waiting for my chairman to finish I respond.

**Hon. David Kabaka:** I am not chatting, I have just received a message in my phone and when I was checking, hon. Duncan Njuguna thought I was chatting, I therefore withdraw.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki):** That point of order is ruled out it is very hard to determine whether a member is chatting or not. In the spirit of order I would urge members to concentrate on this important motion. Continue honourable mover.

**Hon. James Kariuki:** As I was saying, the department of veterinary is experiencing acute shortage of personnel. You will be surprised the county government has not employed any veterinary staff for the last 15 years. It is therefore regrettable that almost 10% of their staff retires every year without any arrangement for their replacement being made.

43 of them have retired between the period of 2013 and 2014 without being replaced. One of their drivers was deployed to the Murang'a County Creameries (MCC) operations, leaving the department with only one driver.

In July of this year veterinary officers in Maragua and Gatanga sub-county will be retiring and no arrangements for their replacement have been made. Further the department plans to combine Kigumo and Kandara sub-county under one veterinary officer as well as Kiharu and Kahuro.

Veterinary staff are becoming less and one veterinary officer operating in two sub-county is an uphill task notwithstanding the transport scarcity that they have are encountering. We would not like this to continue because combining two big counties like Kigumo and Kandara is not practical, it is not fair.

That is a lot of work for that veterinary officer and chances are he will not be effective and efficient enough, the same case with Kahuro and Kiharu; we shall give our recommendations at the end.

We have a veterinary laboratory located at Kiharu in Township ward, which was initially created for purpose of clinical veterinary services; it was later renovated for providing veterinary laboratory services. Despite allocating Kshs. 1 million every year nothing is happening in this particular laboratory since there is no water, equipment and electricity or even personnel. Yet we allocate Kshs. 1 million every year.

The Kenya Veterinary board which regulates the veterinary profession provides for the continuous professional development which is mandatory for all veterinary doctors, 20 hours of training per year and 14 hours for technicians.

Within the veterinary department there is occasional self-sponsorship to management courses, meat diploma courses among others for purposes of promotion. The county government has funded capacity building activities such World Laboratory Day and science conference in September 2016 in Mombasa county and senior management courses in Kenya School of Government where a number of personnel have attended I do not need to mention their names.

I would therefore go to the challenges experienced in the department:

- 1) Currently the department has one driver.
- 2) Vehicles for veterinary services are all grounded, these vehicles are required at the sub- county offices on shared basis by the agriculture, livestock and veterinary officers. One vehicle is also required at the county headquarters for veterinary field supervision.
- 3) Out of the 59 motorcycles issued to field staff, 19 are in good condition, 17 are in a fair and serviceable condition while 23 are completely grounded.
- 4) The current transport situation does not adequately meet the needs of veterinary services.
- 5) The department lacks support staff for data capture at the sub-county offices.
- 6) Repair of motorcycles and supplies of fuel for operations is not uniformly addressed across sub- counties.
- 7) To adequately provide services, field staff should be on call 24 hours even working over the weekends, but they are not adequately compensated.
- 8) Field staff are not provided with airtime for communication.
- 9) Lack of transport for close supervision of field officers for optimal performance.

Mr. Speaker, the committee observed the following:-

- 1) Most of the budgeted funds for the department's operations are utilized to settle pending bills, hence leaving operations in the current year almost grounded.

- 2) Funds allocated are not accessed as programmed in the budget, This is a very serious thing because what is programmed in the budget should be readily accessible to the users of that particular service.
- 3) There are perennial delays in payment of suppliers resulting to huge debts and delayed services delivery.
- 4) There is no laid down structure for replacement of retiring staff.
- 5) There is no structure for funding and sustaining of veterinary field activities.
- 6) There is little or no accountability of appropriated funds as well as of revenue generated by the veterinary services.
- 7) Field personnel are not able to adequately execute their duties due to transport hitches.

The committee therefore came up with the following findings;-

- 1) There is limited access to appropriated funds for the veterinary department.
- 2) Suppliers of vaccines, semen, liquid nitrogen and equipment are not paid on time, hence become adamant in continuing to supply resulting to delays in service delivery.
- 3) There is an acute shortage of veterinary services personnel; since no replacement is done after some staff retires.
- 4) There are transport constraints for field activities since there is only one driver and vehicle, and most of the motorcycles that need repair are still grounded.
- 5) Staff are not well motivated in the course of their duties, since they are not provided with airtime, neither are they compensated for working overtime and on weekends.
- 6) The veterinary laboratory located in Kiharu, Township ward, is not operational despite being allocated funds.
- 7) Despite operating within a legal framework adopted from national legislation before devolution, the County Assembly has not yet domesticated any legislation suitable for the county.

Therefore the committee made the following recommendations;-

- 1) The department should liaise with the County Public Service Board and place requests for employment of additional personnel and replacement of retiring staff.
- 2) In consultation with the CEC Finance and Planning, the CEC Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries should address the issue of delays in payment of suppliers.
- 3) The transport inadequacies should be addressed and grounded motorcycles repaired to enhance mobility and access for field staff.
- 4) Funds for the veterinary department should be utilized as appropriated on program basis.
- 5) The Chief Officer should ensure that veterinary officers are promptly compensated for working overtime, provided with functional motorcycles and vehicles for field activities and are provided with airtime.
- 6) The veterinary laboratory located in Kiharu should be operationalized immediately; we have been allocating budget to that facility and nothing is happening there.
- 7) The County Assembly of Murang'a should customize some of the existing legislation suitable for implementation in the county.

Mr. Speaker that is the report on assessment of veterinary services in Murang'a county, and you can see there are issues in that particular area of veterinary provision.

Therefore, I am asking the members to support this motion so that we can have this report adopted so that the CEC agriculture and finance can do something on those areas to have effective and efficient delivery of veterinary services.

I ask one of the members from my committee, hon. Rebecca Mwicigi to second the motion. Thank you.

**Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi:** I stand to second the adoption of the report of the agriculture and livestock committee.

Mr. Speaker we went into details of how we can improve this sector because the flagship project is almost complete and if it is complete with these shortfalls of services, I don't think there will be a lot of success stories in the dairy industry.

We went and saw some of the veterinary extension officers and found that they are very demoralized especially now it is raining heavily. They leave quite early in the afternoons of Friday so they can go home and sometimes the services are needed over the weekend.

We found that the farmers go out of their way and pay for their services and yet the dairy industry in Murang'a is one of the sectors that has been emphasized in the county government.

We would like the seven prayers granted if the House feels we should pass this motion and I am sure they will. It will help the farmers in the dairy sector to improve and even gain something even after being given the Kshs. 35 per litre. As of now they are hiring services of the private veterinary officers and if the government officers are not working they will maximize on the profits. I second the motion.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Duncan Njuguna:** I rise to support the report from the agricultural committee.

Mr. Speaker the report is quite detailed although there are few items left out, they did not report on the project because it is a flagship project by the Governor; they did it because it contains the services of Artificial Insemination (AI) which translates to farmers rearing cattle for milk.

I remember in our first year, 2013, there were the popular crushes that were built in all the 35 wards. Since there was no public participation on the same, the public were not involved; the erected crushes were left to crumble and in most wards the iron sheets and timber used were stolen; it was misplaced priority.

I also remember the Governor saying that from then henceforth, the farmers would be charged Kshs. 500 down from Kshs. 1000 to 1,500 that they used to be charged there before. I cannot find anything on that or how much they are being charged today or whether it reverted back to private players. In Gitugi, we pay Kshs. 1000 or 1,500 because the said charges that were mentioned by the Governor no longer exist.

Mr. Speaker as the mover has said, the motorcycles that were given to these officers are no longer in use; they are only in use in some areas. That makes the mobility of these officers very difficult, especially in places where we do not have all-weather roads.

The Artificial Insemination (AI) services that are accorded to farmers are very vital to our farmers. When there is no vote against the AI, and when everything allocated in that area in the budget is diverted for other uses, you get worried because the farmers do not get the services.

Mr. Speaker, as they have stated in their findings and observations, the funds are in some cases, used to pay the pending bills. Therefore, what is required in that department is as they have stated; doing a legal framework and adopting legislation that will guide the whole department on the veterinary services that are accorded to our farmers and prioritise which things should come first because you cannot produce milk without first engaging in the veterinary services. You should also educate and sensitise the farmers regarding the various diseases that affect our livestock.

You find that some of the officers listed here are not well distributed; we have them in some areas yet in some we do not. It is therefore very difficult to have those services.

As I sit down, there are also the meat inspectors, we do have a problem, I remember there was an issue in Gitugi of bribes or corruption whereby one of the meat inspectors was called upon by a farmer who had slaughtered his cattle to go and inspect the meat but was bribed by another farmer who had slaughtered his.

He was bribed so that he would not inspect the meat of the other farmer because had he done so, there would be competition and he would not sell. The other farmer could not sell his meat because it got rotten. Therefore, some officers lack integrity in this department.

Otherwise, this is a very good report but more should be done so that we can streamline the department and the farmers get to enjoy the services of this good department. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. John Kiarie:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my voice on this very important issue of agriculture. I want to thank the agriculture committee because yesterday, they brought us a very important issue on the status of fisheries in this county and today, they have brought us a very important issue on veterinary services in this county.

Mr. Speaker, we know that agriculture is the backbone of this county and the report we have received actually reflects the status on the ground.

Going by this report, yesterday's report and others that we have received, it is clear that what we have is not in line with the 'no wira tu' concept. For this county to be where it should be, and for this motto and spirit to be amplified as it has been in this county and the whole country, then we need to do more on agriculture and other things. Otherwise if we do not do that, we shall be cheating ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, when you got to the public, even the small children sing the 'no wira tu' every day. We need to reflect it in the actions that we do, projects and in all the departments.

Going by the report, it is very unfortunate because whereas transport is a very crucial department in any ministry or function, you learn that the whole department of veterinary is fully grounded. That is very pathetic. All the vehicles are grounded. More than half of the motorbikes are not functioning and this department thrives on going to the very interior areas of Kakuzi, Ithanga and other areas so that they reach the farmers. If our officers do not have the means of transport, it leaves our people in a very difficult and bad situation.

Mr. Speaker, our farmers have to rely on private services which are very expensive, especially considering that the price of unga and other commodities is too high; hence leaving the farmers in a very difficult position when they have to look for food and address the veterinary issues of their animals.

I wish that those who matter in this county get this report and understand the situation that our farmers are in and act upon it immediately. It is never too late but if the trend continues as it is, we shall be in a very difficult situation. I support. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Kago Njoroge:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the outgoing Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Mugoiri since the term is ending and they will have another representative.

I want to thank the members of the committee led by the chairman for giving us reports as it is on the ground and I stand to support the motion. This county is known for launching programs. Since we came here, we hear of launching each and every day. We spend a lot of money during those launches, we move from one sub-county to the other but there is no follow up for those things that are launched.

Mr. Speaker, we have failed this county and we will be remembered bearing in mind that Wanjiku of Murang'a has given another chance to people who just know how to launch but know not how to follow on that which they launch.

It is painful because I usually go to my office every Monday and farmers tell me that the cost of semen is now at Kshs. 1,500. When you call the AI providers, they tell you that the county does not have the semen and the nitrogen; they have nothing yet we are all clapping.

Mr. Speaker, I want to sympathize with this county because as someone was receiving his certificate on Saturday, he said that, "I know the MCA's who have been elected for me will allow me to work." he added, "They will not come here to disturb me like the other Assembly." Speaking the truth became a problem to us.

I have read through the report and I have seen the recommendations but I am wondering who the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member being referred to is; now we hear that he is in Mombasa looking for fertilizers. Our farmers are not poor and they have been able to buy fertilizers since the mzungu came into this country.

The CEC for Finance has been busy doing campaigns, who is this CEC being told to collaborate the CEC for agriculture? We are putting our county in trouble and we should not be ashamed. I know some of us and most of us have been subjected to this problem of being sent away by Wanjiku because the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) goes round the county, he says that the current Members of the County Assembly do not help him but rather they fight him making all this MCA's to go home not because they do not work but because they work the way they are supposed to work.

It will be very shameful if by the end of the term we do not have a motorcycle, we do not have drivers, we only have one driver who is almost retiring. If all the county vehicles are grounded and we are saying that we are working. I wish that Murang'a people will wake up even if it is after voting, they stand and demand that their money be given then best priority.

We should all stand up and say we are fed up with the launching of this program; we launched the other day in the department of agriculture giving of free seeds to the farmers. Since we started this Assembly this is the first one, do you expect another one or are we going to feed our people only once with this seeds?

When the chairman and his committee are talking of diverting the money for this department we are basing it on this. We have always been saying that money should stick where it is supposed to be. Where are these bills? Where did they come from? Where did they accumulate from? Who was supposed to pay? If it is this easy for CEC Finance and he is the one who made the accumulation and we go ahead and tell him to sit down with the CEC for agriculture, why do we have to continue giving him more if he has not been able to do another work?

I say that I want to support this and I hope that our voices goes to the right ears, let them make noise and accuse us of doing nothing, let them say that we have been against them but they should know that we have been doing the right thing.

As I sit down I would wish that all other departments and the other programs that we have launched and allocated money to give status reports. I would like to thank Hon. Duncan because of the motion that we had here requesting to know where this money went to and who did this work? All this is needed for Wanjiku to know.

I would also urge that after this Assembly that we have a leaders' forum which will be having a voice out there and talking on behalf of Wanjiku' even when out of the Assembly and be saying that Murang'a did this and that and even if it will need funding I will be willing to fund that committee so that we can have that committee which will be looking at the welfare of Murang'a county people and also the budgeting.

I want to support the motion and tell the committee and their chairman congratulations for bringing us what is really on the ground. Some of us have just moved when members have started to contribute positively because they like clapping even when the child is crying, that the work is going on well.



Let them go out; today it is good they have not taped us. I lost my seat because simply when we were discussing how the two kids died on their way to Kenyatta during the doctors' strike, I was taped and taken there and it is no problem. We talked the truth that we have problems.

I thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me time and I support this motion one hundred per cent and say that, this is what we should say and we have been saying this even if Wanjiku wants money and does not want to hear the facts of what we are saying.

**Hon. James Kariuki:** I am glad that I can see that the motion has support of this House and I would like to respond to a few issues.

The Hon. member from Gitugi has talked about the crushes and it is true they are not mentioned in that, mainly because we had a full report on crushes at the beginning of our term and we therefore did not find it necessary to repeat on that. Most members know that those crushes crumbled and are no longer in use, that one is a fact on the ground.

Diversion of the Artificial Insemination (AI) vote which I mentioned in the report that it is KShs.23 million being diverted to other uses. That is something that as an agriculture committee we do not support and I completely agree with the member because what happens when such a thing happens is that most of our farmers resort to getting help from the private players in AI sector.

We also committed to passing legislation to guide AI services in this county but of course we now have no time, may be the other House will do that.

The issue of meat inspectors and integrity of the same, disciplinary actions should be taken in my view on that particular meat inspector because that is very serious.

Hon. Kiarie talked about the concept of 'No wira tu' slogan which seems not to be working on the ground and I agree with him because when we have about half of the vehicles grounded and we are saying 'no wira tu' then there is something wrong there. I think we need to walk the talk and do as we say, being campaign time people seem to say anything.

Hon. Kago has talked about the follow up in the launching of programs which I agree with. I remember this program was launched immediately we came to this House and several motorcycles were displayed and Makuyu teachers college; they were quite a number more than I think 60 and it is sad that most of them are no longer in use.

As he says we launch programs but there is no follow up, that is a major issue of implementation in this particular county. However the report gives the findings as well as the recommendations and the observations and I think if the recommendations are taken care of then some of these gaps will be dealt with.

I therefore ask my fellow members in this House to support this motion because it is trying to cure a problem we all know that it is already on the ground. Thank you Mr, Speaker.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Bernard Kariuki):** The House is adjourned until Tuesday next week. Thank you.

*The House rose at 4:02 p.m*