

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 21st June 2023

The Assembly met at 10:20 a.m.

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

PRAYER
PETITION

REPORT ON PUBLIC PETITION ON PROVISION OF A SEWAGE SYSTEM.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper;-

That, the Report of sectoral Committee on Water and Irrigation on a public Petition by residents of St. Mary's in Township ward regarding provision of a sewerage system from Murang'a County Government and Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company (MUWASCO) be laid on the Assembly today, June 21, 2023.

Hon. Speaker, if you allow me, I am going to give a highlight of the assignment given to us on what transpired on our exercise. The Petition was committed to us and we commenced the exercise immediately, and Hon. Speaker therefore I want to give the Committee's finding on the exercise we had; -

1. That the school noted that the sewerage cost charged by Muranga Water and Sewerage Company (MUWASCO) was very high and hence constructed its independent drainage system in form of a bio digester that saw the school withdraw from MUWASCO sewer line.
2. That MUWASCO had previously used the school's drainage system to connect the main sewer operated by MUWASCO to other landowners without the consent of the school thus violation of the school's right and trespass. The school on noting the same blocked the connection.
3. That MUWASCO had taken the school management to court accusing them of vandalizing the illegally connected sewer line to the bio digester and the case was resolved after the water service provider got into a consent with the school never to interfere with school again.
4. That MUWASCO have never followed the procedure of seeking way leave from the school as provided for in the law.

Hon. Speaker, MUWASCO wrote to the school requesting for a way leave but the school declined signifying the following reasons; -

1. That, the sewer line would pose a health hazard to the students in occurrences of outburst noting that there is increasing death rates and hospitalization of students and

school staff in different schools across the country due to poor health sanitation in schools.

2. That, the sewer line would attract regular access by MUWASCO technicians to repair and maintain the sewer line and that could pave way for peddlers to sneak drugs into the school compound.
3. That, the section that MUWASCO intended to construct the sewer line, the school had already started construction of new classrooms, which are ongoing, noting that the population of the school was increasing rapidly from the time the facility became a national school.
4. That there was an alternative sewer line in the contiguous road along Njogu-ini ACK church, that would serve more than 200 households as opposed to the wayleave that would only serve less than ten households.

Finally, Hon Speaker, the Committee recommends the following; I will not read everything because it is on our desk but let me highlight a few recommendations which we did; that, following the ruling of the consent order adopted by the court, the status quo to remain, that MUWASCO should not enter into Murang'a high school property to reconnect the neighborhood with the sewer line using the school's waste disposal system.

That, there is no legal sewer way leave recognized by law belonging to MUWASCO, which should pass through the school.

That, MUWASCO should make a formal application for a way leave as per the law if they will consider construction of a sewer line on the school property. That is all Hon. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you Hon. Member. Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Order 215, I will allow this House to do comment, or observations or clarifications relating to this Report. Members. If there is not, we can go to next order.

STATEMENTS

APPROVED BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY FOR WEEK COMMENCING TUESDAY, JUNE
27, 2023 TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023.

Hon. Morris Ngunu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to issue the following Statement;-

That, pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (a) The House Business and Rules Committee in its last sitting approved the Business that will come before the Assembly for the week commencing Tuesday, June 27, 2023 to Wednesday, June 28, 2023 as per attached program.

Mr. Speaker on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 morning sitting we have Paper; Report on business generated by the Committees for period January to June financial year 2022/2023, utilization for committee budgets for the third and fourth quarter 2022/2023 and challenges in the Committee payments. There is also a notice of Motion; Report on business generated by the Committees for period January to June 2022/2023, utilization for Committee budgets for the third and fourth quarter 2022/2023 and challenges in Committee payments. There is also a Motion on adoption of a report on audited financial statements for Fort Beverages Company Limited for the year ended June 30, 2019.

On Tuesday afternoon session there is Paper; Report on firefighting services in the County. There is also a notice of Motion; adoption of a Report on fire-fighting services in the County. Number three, Mr. Speaker there is an adoption of a Report on a visit to Kagaa dispensary. We also have a Bill, Murang'a County Appropriation Bill of 2023 first reading. There is also a second reading of the same Bill, that is Murang'a County Appropriation Bill of 2023/2024, there is also a Committee of the Whole and finally there is the third reading of the same Bill.

On Wednesday, June 28, 2023 morning sitting, there is approved business of the Assembly for the week commencing Tuesday, July 4 2023 to Wednesday, July 5, 2023. There is also a Statement; request for Statement regarding Gakira market security light, Kangema and Karugia towns' streets lights and Muguru ward high mast a statement by Hon. Moses Muchiri, MCA, Muguru ward. That is the approved Business of the Assembly, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Next order.

LACK OF AMBULANCE AT GIKONO DISPENSARY

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Hon. Speaker, there was a statement requested by Hon. Pauline regarding lack of ambulance at Gikono. Hon. Speaker in an Assembly sitting held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, Hon. Pauline Muchiri requested for a Statement from Chairperson Health Services Committee. The Chairperson---I requested for 21 days to prepare for a response that was to be obtained from the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Health.

Hon. Speaker, correspondence to CEC Member of Health, the Committee resolved to forward the Statement requested in the Assembly to the County Executive Member of Health. This was in order for him to investigate on the matter and issue a comprehensive response by April 6, 2023.

This was the response from the CEC; the Committee the response from the County Executive Member for Health on April 18, 2023. The response addressed questions posed as follows; question one; is the Chairperson aware of the existence of Gikono dispensary in Kimorori/ Wempa Ward? Hon. Speaker, yes, I am aware. Gikono dispensary is a well-known County health facility situated at Kimorori/ Wempa Ward in Maragua sub-County. The facility is a level two tier and operates for eight hours and five days in a week. It provides basic health services that includes both medical and laboratory services. It has three nurses, one medical laboratory officer, HIV counsellor and cleaner. The facility has a maternity block that was built by Triple A flower farm though it lacked health products. It was one of the facilities scheduled for operationalization once staffing details were concluded.

Question two; is the Chairperson aware that there is no ambulance stationed at the dispensary which could also serve health facilities in the neighbouring wards such as Kakuzi, Mitubiri and Ithanga? Hon. Speaker, I am aware. Routinely, ambulances were not stationed at dispensaries since they were basic service delivery points where minor ailments were handled. The facility fails to qualify for ambulance services since it does not operate for 24 hours. Let me repeat that Hon. Speaker, the facility fails to qualify for ambulance services since it does not operate for 24 hours.

Question three; is the Chairperson aware that patients with emergency cases that need referral to other facilities hire private means of transport with some losing their lives before reaching those facilities? Response; patients are referred by the clinical staff to the nearest health facilities in case of emergencies. Ambulances are requested from Kandara and Maragua sub-County hospitals for patients in critical conditions. There is an established patient referral system to avert incidents of patients succumbing due to delayed treatment.

Question four; if the answers to above is in affirmative, what action has the Chairperson undertaken to ensure that Gikono dispensary is allocated an ambulance after planned acquisition of new ones by the county government? Response; Gikono dispensary can only benefit from an ambulance that will be provided for Ithanga sub- County and stationed at Ithanga health centre. Other neighbouring health facilities will also be served by the said ambulance. Hon. Speaker, let me repeat that. Gikono dispensary can only benefit from an ambulance that will be provided for Ithanga sub- County and stationed at Ithanga health centre. That is all Hon. Speaker. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you Hon. Chair for presenting your comprehensive response. Next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF FISHERIES SECTOR IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Hon. Hillary Muigai: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion; -
That, this Assembly adopt the Report of the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the status of the fisheries sector in Murang'a County laid on the Table of the Assembly.

Hon. Speaker the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries decided to find out the status of fisheries sector in Murang'a County because it is one area that has been neglected for a long time. Hon. Speaker the Committee decided to do investigations and come up with a status report on the fisheries sector and in these activities, the Committee came up with three terms of reference which included:

1. To establish the major constrains of the fisheries sector on both farmers and the County government.
2. To identify potential and opportunity in the fisheries sector.
3. To report on the observations, findings and recommendation of the Committee inquiry.

Hon. Speaker all the findings by the Committee are in the Report as provided and the Committee came up with statistics on the status of the ponds, statistic on fish stoking and statistics on fish harvesting as indicated in the Report. Hon. Speaker, the Committee observed the following:-

1. That, the implementation of the new Constitution to devolved key functions means that the fisheries sector now falls entirely under County government. With this view, the County government should enact legislation and policies geared towards revamping the sector.

2. That, farmers lack access to market information that would help them improve the fisheries activities. One of the things that disturb farmers is market and fish farmers are not an exception, that is one area that will need to be improved especially with the help of the County government.
3. That, there are limited funds towards the department of fisheries.
4. Lack of readily available fingerlings.
5. Lack of quality and affordable fish feeds.
6. Fish farming is not well commercialized in the County.
7. Low public investment in the fisheries sector.
8. There are few extension officers with limited mobility, resulting to limited access to fish farmers.
9. There are weak or no linkages of the department with research institutions, regional or international organizations concerned with fishing activities.
10. Lack of policies and legislations to govern the fisheries sector has resulted to limited budgetary allocations to the department.
11. The department does not have access even to the limited funds allocated to it.
12. Some fish species are not supported by unfavorable climatic conditions of some areas.
13. Most farmers are not able to access quality fish feeds due to the high cost of the feeds.
14. The high investment capital required for procuring fish farming equipment including fishing facilities and other basic aquaculture inputs has discouraged public investment into the fishery sector.

The Committee, Hon. Speaker, came up with the following recommendations: -

1. That, the Murang'a County Government should hire and deploy more extension officers to enhance their mobility by providing vehicles for field activities such as monitoring and inspection.
2. That, the fisheries department should liaise with research institutions, national government institutions, department of fisheries and other organizations to enhance access to critical information on new aquaculture technologies, market and challenges for the sector.
3. That, the County Assembly should enact legislations for the fisheries sector. In addition, the County Executive department in charge of fisheries should also prepare policy guidelines and regulations for the sector.
4. That, the County Government should provide readily available fingerlings and according to diverse climatic conditions across the County.
5. That, the County Government should provide farmers with subsidized fish farming inputs and feeds.
6. That, the fisheries department should direct more efforts towards the commercialization of these fish farming through capacity building, mobilization and registration of more fisheries co-operatives across the County.

7. That, the department should put in place sufficient infrastructure and programs for fish farming, post-harvest handling and processing to curb losses, through provision of freezers and vehicles with cooling facilities to transport fish.
8. Finally, that the County Government department of Agriculture/Fisheries should hold seminars and workshops with farmers for sensitization and information sharing and also establish a hatchery to provide farmers with fingerlings.

Hon. Speaker, in conclusion fisheries department seek to support programmes that shall contribute to the improvement of the fisheries livelihoods economically and improve food and nutritional security in the County. In this regard, efforts have been made by the Murang'a County Government to promote sustainable fish production and utilization of fishery resources in order to spur production and improve productivity.

It is apparent that fish farming in the County has been developed into a viable enterprise, capable of generating wealth to County residents. Indeed, aquaculture is the only viable alternative source of fish especially at this time when the natural stocks of fish from capture fisheries are declining. Hon. Speaker I now call Hon. Charles Machigo to second the Motion. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon Charles Machigo: Thank you, Hon Speaker, I second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Moses Muchiri: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I stand to support this Motion. Hon. Speaker in the Report, it is good to note that Kangema sub-County where I come from, that is in Muguru ward, where we have the majority of fish ponds. I believe from the Report that Muguru ward is leading in the number of fishponds which stands at 442. But out of 442, it is good to note that Hon. Speaker only 40 fish ponds have been stocked with fish. So, with that it is good to note that about 402 fish ponds are currently not stocked with fish.

So as much as I support this Report, I differ with the conclusion that has been made that the County Government is supporting the fish farming in the County whereas about 402 fish ponds in Kangema sub-County currently have no fish.

So, I support this Motion but it is good to note that Hon. Speaker I am in receipt of a proposal from Kangema sub-County fish farmers which they brought to my office in Muguru ward and which I presented to the County Executive Committee (CEC) Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon, Professor Kiringai. The recommendation made are almost similar to the one that has been recommended by the Committee and which I applaud the Committee that if we have to support fish farming, Hon. Speaker, we must start by supporting the reviving of those fish ponds which currently do not have fish as well as offering extension services to farmers because farmers mainly don't have much knowledge on fish farming. We must offer extension services as well as provision of the fingerings and fish feeds. If we provide to the farmers, for sure we would have revived all the fish farming in Murang'a County.

As it goes with the Report, fish is good on matters to do with nutrition because we know it is even good for the little children who we are trying to support through the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) feeding program because we know fish contain omega 3 which is good for brain development.

For sure Hon. Speaker if we support this fish farming, we would also be improving our academic performance in Murang'a County, because if you raise your child with ugali and porridge for sure there is no way your child would perform well in school. But if you provide them with fish which has omega 3 for sure our children would perform better in schools.

Hon. Speaker I stand to support. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes Hon. Gathee wa Njeri.

Hon. Gathee wa Njeri: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the chance. I want to commend the work that the Committee did to see that we have reached that point. I agree with Hon. Moses that there is a problem of an area whereby we have not explored in Murang'a County. Fishing requires a small portion; I am sure even areas where we do not have a lot of rains, farmers if they are well empowered, they can be able to produce fish. Areas such as Gitugi, where there are no big rains, areas such as Gaturi and other areas where maybe we have boreholes with the interventions of the County Government, we can be able to venture into this fish farming and maybe we can try to eliminate areas such as Mwea aquafish where they provide a lot of fish, we have Njoro fish farm among others which are just close here.

Even Mukurwe-ini when you just climb here up you will find that fish farming has been empowered as compared to what we have in Murang'a. I therefore agree with Hon. Moses that there is a problem from the good breeds provided to farmers, from building the fish ponds, there is a problem in feeding and a problem still in marketing because at some point I found that there was a farmer who was complaining on the quality of fish which comes from Murang'a as compared to other areas in Kenya.

I promise that we will work together in the Committee we see how best we can do this by putting on board our County Executive Committee Member (CECM) and director and making sure that we have put the right resources and energy to fish farming to be the same level with other areas where we are putting subsidy in other areas, milk and the rest so that we can see.

But I differ with Hon. Moses where he says when you give a child fish he is going to perform best in school. I do not know how sure he is because there is another saying that says teach your children how to fish but do not give them fish because when you give them fish and you happen to die along the way I do not know how they are going to get another fish but all in all if we work together in the Committee, we are going to bring our County fish farming to the best. Thank you I support.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes, Hon. Wairagu

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion. It is well researched and well presented. Honorable Member for Ichagaki Ward has done so well. I stand here to say because I know numbers do not lie statistically and I am there for these statistics. I

have realized in Murang'a County we have 2,392 fish farmers this is an area where we need to do a lot of work.

The Agriculture Committee and even us as an Assembly and the entire Murang'a County should rise up and try to sensitise farmers in terms of now doing fish farming because it is one of the areas we cannot do away with. Perhaps we can say we have these limited farmers because of cultural differentiation. In the Mt. Kenya region, particularly where I come from Gitugi there is this cultural issue that some of the fish is only supposed to be consumed by a certain region in the Republic of Kenya. It is the high time for us to make sure that these cultural differences are addressed to make sure that everybody consumes this fish.

I also want to draw your attention because I have also seen you also come from Kiharu sub- County. My own knowledge and understanding, you will realize that the total numbers of all ponds are 121 and the number of farmer sin Kiharu sub-County is 114. This is disgusting; let me use that word in very logical way; we would expect that Kiharu which include *mheshimiwa* (honorable) Township ward because this is where the high population is, therefore, we should expect a lot of fish farming to come from the area near Murang'a municipality; therefore, something needs to be done to deviate the scenario as it is now.

We need to up our game by sensitizing our people to address this issue of fish farming. Sometimes we think about mangoes which is okay, we think about milk subsidy, we think about these other things but forget an area whereby Hon. Moses has said, fish farming will help in terms of nutrition and health balances to all of us. I would draw your attention that if it is possible one of these fine days, the Budget Committee or whoever is concerned even if it the Finance, let them provide fish meal to the Assembly Members such that we will be able to prove to the society, we do not have cultural issue in terms of consumption of fish. If they can offer that I believe that even members outside there can be able to know; let us now farm, this fish because the honorable members are consuming the same. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): I now call the move to respond.

Hon. Hillary Muigai: Thank you Mr. Speaker, first of all I would want to thank my fellow colleague honorable members for supporting this Motion. As I respond to the issue raised and the observation by Hon. Moses Muchiri; it is good to note that in our observations we have indicated that the sector has been suffering insufficient funds. That is the reason when it comes to the stocked ponds in every area, the number of the stocked ponds represents a low percentage compared to existing ponds in every area. That is why in our recommendation we have recommended that the County Government and the executive puts more efforts into this so that we can realize full utilization of those fish ponds. As we walk together, we believe and it is our hope that we are going to realize maximized utilization of those fish ponds and that will definitely give us good production and I believe our farmers will be able to realize profits. In addition, there will be enough fish for nutrition for families in Murang'a County. Thank you, Hon. Moses, Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri and Hon. Edwin for supporting the Motion. At this point I urge all members of this Assembly to support this Motion. Thank you

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED CALENDAR OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker; I am a member of House Business and Rules Committee. I beg to move the following Motion; -

That, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 30 (1) and (4), this House approves the Revised Calendar of the County Assembly regular Sessions for the Second Session June 2023 to December 2023 as contained in the schedule.

The Calendar of the Assembly was revised in line with amendments to the County Assembly Standing Order approved in this House on 7th June 2023. The amendments approved related to reduction of plenary sitting from four sitting to three sittings per week. The implication of the amendments means that the Calendar of the Assembly has to be adjusted to expunge all sittings on Thursday, to remain with plenary sitting on Tuesday morning and afternoon and Wednesday morning. That means this House needs to adopt this Calendar for continuity. Therefore, I urge members to adopt this Motion and adopt the revised Calendar as contained in the schedule. I now call Hon. Gathee wa Njeri to second this Motion.

Hon. Gathee wa Njeri: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to second the Motion. The amendments in the schedule will give us more time; to attend to our people who elected us, our electorate because we will have two days as per the Calendar. It means the extra day we used to spend here now will be used for our people back there. We are going to get more things concerning what we should represent them here and also, we have to attend other functions at ward level.

On the same, with amendments that give us more time, it is going to contribute positively to our unity and time which we spend together in different things. For example, I have seen back there in our Assembly, we have two new pool tables now that we did not have time to attend to practise because we were always rushing back to our wards, now we are going to have an extra day where we can maybe come and spend time here after working in our wards. That is creating unity among us and even creating time for our families. Earlier on, you could spend three days we could not even have time to attend functions back there because there was no time. Therefore, I stand to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Honorable members the Floor is open for debates. Hon. Munyua.

Hon. John Munyua: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion noting that we are heading in the right direction, that we will have more time to know what those we represent need. I call upon this honorable House to ensure that the two days we are here and deliberate on issues that we will take to our people. I call upon all of you, let us be committed. Let us honour what we are called to do and be of good use to our people. I support the Motion thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): I now call the move to respond.

Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker; I am delighted that the members who have contributed have given us more of how it will affect this House. On Hon. Gathee, I am lucky that I have read those words in capital letters, when we talk of unity, I understand these are some of the moments we need unity through maybe having more time to interact.

Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi: Hon. Kamau has also said about us requiring more time to go to our wards. I also want to confirm that the Committee had made sure that all sittings that will be undertaken, will take consideration to the changes. Mr. Speaker, I thank members for their contribution and I continue urging them to support the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP TO COUNTY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES AND NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND E-GOVERNMENT

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Honourable Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion;

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the Committee on Selection on review of Membership to County Assembly Committees and nomination of members to the sectoral Committee on Information, Communication, Technology and e-Government (ICT), laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday June 20, 2023.

Honourable Speaker, the House Business Committee in consultation with Liaison Committee considered having an ICT Committee in this Assembly and the Report of the Committee was made and adopted in this House and the Committee on Selection was mandated to sit and do the placement of members in the Committee of ICT. The main objectives of establishing the Committee are; -

1. To ensure application of ICT in all County Government functions and processes.
2. To ensure that the County Government services go paperless.
3. To ensure that the department documents ICT standards and best practices to be applied uniformly across the County Government and its entities.
4. To reduce bureaucracies in accessing County Government services.

The names of the members of the Committee are given in page ten of our Report.

1. Hon. Peter Murigi Ngugi
2. Hon. Simon Mwaura Wamwea
3. Hon. Moses Macharia Mirara
4. Hon. Benard Ruiru Njeri
5. Hon. Peter Munga Njuguna
6. Hon. Pauline Njeri Muchiri
7. Hon. Priscilla Njeri Mwangi
8. Hon. Julian Njiri

9. Hon. Mark Gicheru Wainaina
10. Hon. Esther Nyawira Kamindo
11. Hon. Loise Mbogo
12. Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu
13. Hon. Isaac Chefman Njoroge
14. Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau
15. Hon. Gladys Waikau

Honourable Speaker, the other Committees remain intact though we have done only two changes in the Youth Committee where Hon. Wairagu has been dropped from the membership of Youth Committee and Hon. Gladys has been dropped from the membership of Implementation Committee. I call upon the Member for Ithanga, Hon. Alex Makau to second the Motion.

Hon. Ndunda Makau: Honourable Speaker, I stand to support this Motion whereby we are going to create a new Committee to be dealing with ICT matters. Mr. Speaker I remember there before this Committee had been joined with Education and it has not been effective, so it has come at the right time when we are planning to automate things in our County and this Committee will be of great help. I stand to second this Motion.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Honourable members, the Floor is now open for debate. Yes Hon. Kamwaga.

Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi: I stand to support the Motion particularly the membership of the Committee. One name has taken my attention, the name for Hon. Peter Munga, the member for Murarandia has taken my attention. That makes me congratulate the Committee on Selection, that shows they had checked all areas because this member happens to be a member of my neighbouring ward, whereby I have learnt he has done so much in terms of IT. I am glad to note that the Committee has selected the right people in that Committee. I stand to support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Honourable members, we are not campaigning.

(Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi rose on a point of order)

Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi: Point of order Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): No, another member to continue. Yes, Hon. Pauline Njeri.

Hon. Pauline Njeri: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion and give my appreciation for having been nominated as one of the members for ICT Committee. In deed this Committee has come at the right time. I think it was long overdue due to the fact the Hon. Speaker, our Country has gone digital and Murang'a County is actually leading in going digital due to the fact that His Excellency the Governor Hon. Irungu Kangata has actually

supported the need to incorporate ICT systems to manage the County services. If you look at the services that we are offering through ICT, those include payment of quarry, parking fees, market collection fees among others, this is right for us to have the ICT Committee so that we will be able to oversight ICT related services.

This will also align with the national and County government vision of integrating the social and economic development with information and communication technology. Hon. Speaker, I really support this and it is actually the right thing to do for us to go digital.

I also hope that we will also go digital in terms of transport. Hon. Speaker, if you have challenges of a car and if you have ever checked and done your research, in Murang'a County we do not have Bolt services, we do not have Uber services, this is because of the challenges we have been having for not having digitized Murang'a County. I believe due to the formation this Committee we are going to have even more services related to ICT department. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I support.

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

Hon. Morris Ngunu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to first congratulate the Committee for the good work they have done. It is good to say there is fairness in the selection of the said Committee. For the record Mr. Speaker and for the people who are purported to be recording, it is important to say as long as the Report is concerned, the one Hon. Grace Nduta, though not of concern to this Report, still remains in the Committees that the Selection Committee had provided for her to be in. It is therefore Mr. Speaker, that this Report was not to alter anyone from any Committee but to create and place membership in the new ICT and e-government Committee. Thank you.

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

Hon. John Munyua: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I have decided to stand and say, may the best man win. The competition is fair. For the purposes of fairness, the chair of Selection decided to come up with the Committee and I congratulate the team because everyone will be having equal number of Committees; that is commendable. I will urge the ICT department, for now, the Governor established this department of ICT, I urge you to check that department and ensure that for every polytechnic that we have in this County, we establish such a department so that our people can know what ICT is. I know regardless of age; ICT is a plus to every human being. I stand to say that I support the Motion and we are going on well in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes, Hon. Mark Wainaina.

Hon. Mark Wainaina: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this chance. First, I wish to thank the Committee for coming up with this membership. I am delighted to be one of the members of this Committee and I urge members to support this Motion because e-government and IT is the way to go. We have an example of what is happening currently in the County government, it is quite and crystal clear that the policies that we put in place for e-government has enabled the County government of Murang'a to increase its revenue exponentially. It is a good move and this Committee I am sure is going to work well. We also hope the same is going to be extended to this

Assembly like we don't have to have lot of paper to carry in the Assembly. That we should also go the e-Assembly way so that even the members of this House are also able to learn and be trained. I am sure the number of papers that we use here, it is a big cost. I am sure when we go e-government we are going to do a lot of cost saving. In administration we are not going to have paper waste, the need for toners, the need for printers will go. I am sure with e-government we will be able to do a lot of saving. I urge the member of this honourable House to support this Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes Hon. Kibaiya.

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. The formation of this Committee could not have come at a better time. This is a time where our County is going through the process of automation. We have automated revenue collection and we have seen the difference it has made though that system is not robust enough. I urge this Committee to look into such issues. We are also rolling out Afia Yake; it is a health management system that will help us manage all our hospitals. You know that most of our problems are actually management and especially at our level four hospitals, our level five here, our dispensaries and level three, we have a lot of issues. You go there sometime and find there are no cards, patients are being told to go out there and buy booklets so that they can come and get service. If we do automation, that will be a thing of the past. Also we have had very many leakages in revenue collection in our hospitals where we have collusion between our employees, the medical service providers and the patients and if that registration happens at the time you enter into office and your name is keyed in into a system that should be resultant into a financial transaction and we will be able to audit our hospitals in terms of revenue collection so this Committee could not have been formed at a better time and I urge those members in that Committee to take up their mandate and roles seriously.

I intend to work very closely with them as the Chair Finance because if we are able to collect more of our own source revenue, our County would not be having salary delays that we are now having. I support, thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Let me take this opportunity to thank the members who have stood in support of this Motion; Honourable Kamwaga, Honourable Pauline, Honourable Munyua, Honourable Mark, Honourable Kibaiya, they have positively contributed to the debate and it is my request to the honourable House to support this Motion

(Question put and agreed to)

[SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER]

PAPER

REPORT OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE
AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 AND OVER THE MEDIUM
TERM

Hon. Charles Karina: I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today June 21, 2023; -

The Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Murang'a County government estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2023/2024 and over the medium term

(Hon. Charles Machigo laid the Paper on the Table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OF
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 AND OVER
THE MEDIUM TERM

Hon. Charles Karina: I beg to give Notice of the following Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on Murang'a County government estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2023/2024 and over the medium term 2023/2024 and over the medium term

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OF
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 AND OVER
THE MEDIUM TERM

Hon. Charles Karina: I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on Murang'a County government estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2023/2024 and over the medium term 2023/2024 and over the medium term laid on the Table of this Assembly on Wednesday 21,2023.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, it is my pleasure and duty to present to the County Assembly, the Report of the Committee on the Murang'a County Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the County Executive and the County Assembly for the financial year 2023/2024 and the Medium Term.

Hon. Speaker, the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 2023-24 were submitted on 30th April 2023 and consequently Tabled on 3rd May 2023 where it was committed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee and all the sectoral Committees pursuant to Standing Order 221.

Hon. Speaker the Budget and Appropriations Committee has scrutinized the estimates, with the guidance of sectoral Committees recommendations, the views of the public and the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning as provided under Section 131 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act 2012. The findings of the Committee and the recommendations are as contained in this Report.

Hon. Speaker, the Murang'a County Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure financial year 2023/2024 represent the first budget to be prepared under the new administration of County Government that was inaugurated on September 2022 after the General Elections. Hon. Speaker, the Estimates have been prepared under a different Fiscal Framework with five broad strategic priorities;

- i. Agricultural transformation
- ii. Infrastructural development
- iii. Achievement of Universal Health Care (UHC)
- iv. Provision of quality education and training
- v. Improvement of business environment

Hon. Speaker, agricultural transformation shall be attained through implementation of the agriculture input subsidy program that was introduced, that aims at supporting small scale dairy and mango farmers to be able to purchase inputs, thus increasing productivity and growth. Among the key initiatives under infrastructural development include the introduction of the community-based programs and the Smart City development program. Universal Health Care shall be achieved through enhancement of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) support and maternal infant support programs. The County government has successfully completed the first phase of the Universal Health Coverage by supporting about 20,000 indigents whose impact has been felt countywide.

Hon. Speaker, quality education and training is supported by the scholarship programme where a substantive allocation of Kshs245 million, where every child will be supported to attain a minimum level of education across the County. Additionally, the County technical training institutes will be transformed by hiring of competent trainers who will create change among the County youth. Lastly, Hon. Speaker, the County government prioritizes business growth by providing a counter funding to the Special Economic Zones that will attract Kshs250 million from the National Government for the development of trade and industries. Small-scale trade has also been promoted through an allocation of Kshs20 million where traders will get support to revive and growth their enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee finds this budget as a transformative tool that will promote growth and development during the first phase of implementation of the County Integrated Development Plan 2023-27. Mr. Speaker in compliance with the legal framework, Hon. Speaker, the preparation, submission, scrutiny and approval of the estimates have complied with the following legal provisions;

1. The Constitution of Kenya (Article 201)
2. The County Government Act (Section 113)

3. The Public Finance Management Act (Section 130 and 131)
4. The Murang'a County Standing Orders no. (200 and 221)

Mr. Speaker in alignment with the County planning framework, Hon. Speaker as stipulated earlier, planning precedes budget and the County Planning Framework should guide how the County government does annual budget. This House is aware that the County Integrated Development Plan was approved on 17th May 2023 and consequently, the Annual Development Plan 2023 was also approved.

Mr. Speaker, the CIDP contained the strategic direction on how the County government would spend public resources during the next five financial years. In essence, the CIDP is the fiscal policy of the County government in correlation, the Budget estimates shows how the policy would be actualized through public finance management. The County fiscal framework contained the following policy objectives; transformation of agriculture sector through the input subsidies, revitalization of coffee sub-sector through the provision of farm inputs and renovation of factories. Establishment of a wholesale hub at Maragua, construction of Kenol Level hospital to serve the people of Murang'a South, achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (Kang'ata Care) through NHIF, maternal health and in support for young mothers, support to affordable housing, Smart City development program and extension of the Scholarship Fund to support education

Mr. Speaker, all the policy objectives have been reflected in the budget estimates through substantive allocations to programs aimed at achieving the goals. This House should note that this budget represents the first phase of the CIDP implementation and therefore growth will be achieved gradually during the five fiscal years.

Mr. Speaker, on alignment with the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, the Public Finance Management Act the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP 2023) was submitted to the County Assembly on 28th February 2023 where it was Tabled and considered by the Budget and Appropriations Committee and approved by the House on 17th May 2023. Mr. Speaker, the approved CFSP contained the sector ceilings and the resource envelope that should guide the budget estimates for 2023/2024.

Hon. Speaker, the schedule below indicates how the submitted budget estimates; this is the schedule one of the recurrent budget expenditure vis a vis the approved CFSP. The approved CFSP was amounting to 7.166961 billion and the estimate for the financial year 2023/2024 was 7,152,690,962, we had a variance of 53, 999. In schedule 2, the development budget vs the approved CFSP were as follows from the CFSP and our estimates were 3,074,837,363 and so that in our development budget estimates we had a variance of 29 million. Mr. Speaker, the amendments that have been made are to align the estimates with the approved County Fiscal Strategy Paper pursuant to Section 131(3) of the Public Finance Management Act. Specifically, the County Assembly Development Budget has been readjusted from Kshs20 million to Kshs50 million. The approved CFSP had allocated Kshs145 million to the county assembly development budget.

Hon. Speaker, the resource envelope has also been readjusted to include other revenues that the County government had anticipated during the consideration of the County Fiscal Strategy

Paper. Specifically, the fertilizer subsidy and the livestock value chain grants amounting to Kshs197,960,790 and Kshs71,618,400 respectively had been included in the CFSP.

Mr. Speaker, in consideration of the sectoral Committee recommendations schedule 3, my Committee has considered the sectoral Committee recommendation, the sectoral Committee from Governance, we have also considered from Roads, we have also considered from Health, Finance, Education, Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, consideration on public participation; by Article 196 and 201 of the Constitution, the County Assembly should conduct its business in an open manner and facilitate public participation and involvement of the public in the legislative and other business of the Assembly and Committees. Further, the County Assembly should ensure openness and accountability including public participation in financial matters. In compliance with the legal provisions, the County Assembly advertised for a public participation exercise and stakeholder engagement on June 17, 2023 where the activity was carried out on 19th June 2023. Hon. Speaker, during the exercise, the members of the public and relevant stakeholders gave their views on the budget estimates, which have been considered and are acted in this Report.

Mr. Speaker, the general observations of this Committee; after thorough scrutiny and analysis of the proposed estimates of revenue and expenditure, the Budget and Appropriations Committee has observed due to process of the following preparation of submission and consideration of the budget estimates for the financial year 2023-24. Further, the Committee is cognizant that this is the first budget to be prepared and considered by the third County administration that was incepted on October 2023. The House should also be aware that the new administration was in the process of developing strategy framework in line with the manifesto that was rationale for the delays experienced during the consideration of budget documents.

Hon. Speaker, this budget is also prepared under a difficult economic cycle where the national government is not able to collect sufficient revenue to service expenditure needs and debts. The next financial year is hampered by high inflation patterns, ballooning wage bill and unsustainable debts. The County Government should therefore ensure prudence use of resources creatively and revenue mobilization to create enough fiscal space.

Despite this situation Hon. Speaker, the Committee notes transformative ideology contained in this budget through various programs that include; community-based projects, universal health care coverage, agricultural input subsidy and health infrastructure projects among others. Implementation of the projects Hon. Speaker as per capita level of Murang'a residents notwithstanding the improvement of living standards of the county competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, we adjusted our budget as listed below:

- a. Increase estimation of local revenue by Kshs75 Million
- b. Additional allocation amounting to Kshs50 million to the County Assembly development budget to approve the County Fiscal Strategy Paper
- c. We also had adjustment on health, that addition
- d. We also had adjustment on youth development
- e. Road development

f. County Public Service Board – recurrent

We also had reduction on Health department and the governance that is on the recurrent and also finance on recurrent.

Mr. Speaker, on the Committee recommendations, we recommended the following; that the Budget and Appropriations Committee recommends that the estimates of revenue of the expenditure be approved as follows: this is as listed in schedule four, we have our resource envelope estimation for the financial year 2023 that sum up to 10,758,970,425 which contains the sharable revenue of 7,473,786,703; livestock value chain support - 71,618,400; nutrition and international – 20,000,000; leasing of medical equipment – 124,723,404; agricultural sector program – 1.8; balance brought forward from the CRF – 650,313,247; Finance for Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) – 22,000,000; DANIDA conditional grant – 11,492,000; NAVCDP – 250,000,000; NARIGP – 197,147,434; Local Revenue – 1,475,000,000; Conditional Grant for Fertilizer Subsidy – 197,960,790; Transfer of Library Services – 13,000,000; Aggregated Park – 250,000,000. That totals to 10,758,970,425.

The approved estimates for all the department were as follows; Mr. Speaker; Governorship had a development budget of ten million and a recurrent budget of 404,906,836 that totals to an allocation of 414,906,536 that marks 4% of the budget; then we have Finance department which has a development budget of 100,000,000 and a recurrent budget of 372,169,107 that totals to 472,167,107 which marks a 4% of the budget; then we have the Agriculture which has one billion development budget and a recurrent of 263 Million which totals to 1.277 Billion that reflects to 12% of our budget; Mr. Speaker, then we have the Roads department which has a development budget of 660,000,000 and a recurrent budget of 132,135,387 that totals to 682,135,387 which marks 6% of the budget; Mr. Speaker, we also go to irrigation which has 100 Million and 93 for recurrent that totals to 193,409,566; then we go to trade, which has the development 618,500,00 and 91,633,000 which totals to 700,183,000 that is 7%; Mr. Speaker, we have the Health and Sanitation, which carries the lion's share of 5090,726,000 and also a development budget of 3.59 which totals to 3.650127 million; Lands has 61 and 36 that totals to 97 million; Murang'a municipality 20 million which totals to 89e million; public service has a total of one billion; environment and natural resources has a total of 109 million; public service board has a total of 42 million and also the County Assembly 830 and 70 million which totals to a budget of 900,709 million which is about 8%.

Mr. Speaker Sir, below here members you have the list of the programmes entailed in our budget and the programmes as listed below in our schedule six. It is very, very clear for all our departments. There are the programmes and those development programmes total to three point six billion six hundred and seven million three hundred and fifty-two. Mr. Speaker, the Murang'a County Government recurrent budget of the financial year 2023 be approved as indicated in section 7 as listed below. Our total recurrent expenditure is 7,151,908,270.

Mr. Speaker, the policy recommendations of my Committee, they came up with the following recommendations. That following the policy interventions during the budget implementation of the budget of the financial year 2023 and over Medium Term:

1. The County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Planning should operationalize the Emergency Fund by developing Fund regulations that should be submitted to the County Assembly for approval.
2. County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries should submit to the County Assembly policy documents for the Fertilizer Subsidy and the Livestock Value Chain grant under the agriculture sector.
3. The County Treasury should ensure that budget documents are submitted to the County Assembly on time given that the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023-2027) has been submitted.
4. The County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Planning should ensure that quarterly reports are submitted on time to enable the County Assembly track implementation of the budget.
5. The County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Planning should expedite the establishment of the Murang'a County Budget and Economic Council as provided by Section 137 of the Public Finance Management Act. The council would enable consultative budget process for better growth.

Hon. Speaker, that is the Report of our budget for 2023/ 2024 and I urge members since it is a balanced budget, I urge members to adopt this Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I call my able chair to second.

Hon. Julian Njiri: Thank you madam Speaker. I stand to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Hanna Wairimu): Honourable members, the Floor is open for debate. Hon. Ndunda.

Hon. Ndunda Makau: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I was confused because I could see madam Speaker also on the Chair. I stand to support this Motion and say that these estimates for the revenue and expenditure for the year 2023/24; by looking at them, I can see a balanced budget. I am saying this because in the previous budget, I could see some areas whereby development was not considered, but now, after going through this Report, I have seen that it is like almost cutting across the whole of our County.

Mr. Speaker, I want to note a few things here, first, let me say that , regarding agriculture, I must congratulate the team that came up with this document because I can see the mango subsidy. I come from an area whereby mangoes do well and seeing some amount allocated to this department of agriculture it is a plus. Mr. Speaker, I must say that, last season when we sold our mangoes through the co-operatives supported by the subsidies, my people were very happy. In fact, a lot of money came to my ward, the *wazee* (elderly) there were not taking illicit beer, in fact they were going for the bottled one and it was good in a way because at least for the first time we could see that we are being considered.

Again Mr. Speaker, let me also say that, regarding education, I can see the Committee in conjunction with the department, they also considered and allocated some amount and I guess that this same amount, because Mr. Speaker, it is the work of the County Government to take care of the ECDEs and I know we have been building these ECDEs and I know Mr. Speaker, now that the issue of shortage of ECDE teachers is also considered and it is going to be taken care of in this budget which is going to the education.

Again, I can also say that the Health department is taking the lions share and I am expecting some more beneficiaries of our Kangata program in the coming financial year. Again Mr. Speaker regarding Trade, I do not know what plans they have but I would like to say that it is very important to know that we have an idle land of 1000 acres lying there which was surrendered by the Delmonte, and it is good that the department decides on what to do so that development can start coming in this land and we stand to benefit when there are activities going on there or business.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that people living with disabilities, the amount that is allocated to them is not enough, I think Kshs5 Million is not enough because last two months I conducted an exercise in my ward whereby I brought the expert to come and do the assessment. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that those people who came, the PWDs they are many. They came in big numbers because in a day those who were registered, they were over 500. So, I am trying to imagine this is the case in almost every ward and with an allocation of Kshs5 Million, I think this is not enough. Something has to be done so that we can support, remember these are people who have challenges and they need to also eat like any other person. I think in the future we will have to look at them.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned about the allocation of Kshs5Million to our stadium down there, Mumbi stadium and I know the other day our team from Murang'a; Murang'a Seal we are proud of this team because it has been promoted to the premier league. How I wish we had a very nice stadium whereby we can spend the weekend cheering our team. I think the Kshs500 to Mumbi is so little something has to be done. Again Mr. Speaker I think we need to see things working because we did the same with our stadium across here and the work which was done here was shoddy, it cannot be used so I expect all the allocations which have been done to do the right thing. Otherwise, I stand to support this Report, the estimates and the expenditure for the year 2023/2024 thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes Hon. Munyua.

Hon. John Munyua: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am going through this budget as presented by Hon. Machigo and I have been talking of this target of Kshs1.4Billion revenue. I hope it will be a reality this time. Let us not see there will be a deficit, I do not know where the deficit in the budget is? I would like to hear that from our Chair Budget. Because again---

(Hon. Naomi Maina rose on a point of order)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Member there is a point of order

Hon. Naomi Maina: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Munyua has not stated whether he is supporting or not.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes Hon. Kamunyua and address the Speaker.

Hon. John Munyua: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am sorry for that and I am Hon. John Kamau Munyua again. I would like to say I support the Motion but with some observations and point to note and saying that again she interrupted a little bit my line of thoughts but I hope my able Chair has captured that in his comments. Again, I have seen our development budget is at 29.8%, the recommended is 35 % so we are not yet there, but we are heading there with time, it is commendable if we follow the budget as it is. I call upon all the sectoral Committees, kindly ensure what we have budgeted here is adhered to. Let us not see where money is moved and we are not aware. If money is to be moved let us have a supplementary budget, we are ready for that so Chair I am waiting to see that.

The budget is fair and I will request you Mr. Speaker, that those recommendations that we are calling upon on the CEC Finance they are followed and we see them being practiced. There is a point there you have noted we should have an Economic Council; this is a requirement by the PFM Act we have not seen it place. We need to have that Committee for mortgage for those people in the Executive, so we have a long way to go but we will ensure compliance of the budget in our various Committees. So kindly Mr. Speaker I support the budget and we will be waiting to see the Appropriation Bill and where necessary we will do the amendments with the Committee of Whole. Thank Mr. Speaker I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Gichobe.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Thank Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. Before I do that let me say that from the onset, I was a bit apprehensive when I saw the Member for Kambiti because previously in our engagements he had told me something and I almost hid myself today but I am happy that he is here and he is happy.

I want to confine myself to the Committee on Governance and Labour and Mr. Speaker I want to note from the budget, I would want to take Members to page eight and nine of the budget Report. Mr. Speaker I want to commend the Budget Committee and the work that we did in our various sectoral Committees. I want to particularly address the issue of sub-County administration in the governorship. Mr. Speaker I want to talk about the plight of sub-County administration in this County. Previously these offices have been very disempowered and that is why we proposed from our sectoral Committee of Governance that this sub-County administration needs to be empowered. Otherwise why would we have sub-County offices that are not operational, that are not empowered and I am happy this Budget has recommended that at least we support these sub-County offices so that we can have seamless delivery at the sub-County level. Some of the issues we have as elected Members can be solved at sub-County level

but every time we turn at sub-County administration there is always a problem because this people do not have any thing.

I am happy although the amount that has been suggested in the budget is still low at least we can begin somewhere. I think in the spirit of Devolution even the County should take that spirit of devolving funds and devolving more services to the sub-County administration so that we can deal with these sub-County administrators in solving some of these small issues that do not have to come to the County headquarters.

I also note about how this budget in one way or another tried to empower the Public Service Board; of course the members who we vetted and passed the Motion to have them serve as the members of the County Public Service Board have also really been left out in the previous budget and I am happy that this budget at least has taken care of them in one way or another.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that I am happy about the strides that we are making as a County to make sure that we increase our development expenditure vis a vis the recurrent budget, and I think in as much as we are not where we would want to be there is positive progress and this is something we need encouraging.

Mr. Speaker I do not want to speak much, as I support, I seek your indulgence for me to mention something that I felt I needed to mention, and say that on my own behalf previously this Assembly was under attack and we all know that and we had one day when Members had to stay in this House because there was drama outside and I want to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker to recognize the special efforts that were made by the department of the Serjeant-At-Arms.

One day the Majority Whip of this House told me that, people might not remember what you gave them but they will always remember how you made them feel. I think it is good I recognize the effort of Serjeant-At-Arms of this House. That day they put their life on the line to defend our dignity as a House and it is right that they are appreciated. I want to say thank you and I think it is a good show that when time comes every person should rise to the occasion to defend the unity and the dignity of this House. Thank you Mr. Speaker I support, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Yes Hon. Ester, the Floor is yours.

Hon. Ester Kamindo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion though with a very humble request as the Chairman Budget was reading the budget, I have learned that money allocated for Persons With Disability (PWDs) is Kshs5 Million which is very little bearing in mind, one, the devices for PWDs are very expensive. For instance, the cheapest white cane goes for Kshs4500 and you can get even for Kshs30000 and above. So, I kindly request the Chairman budget next time kindly consider the PWDs at least you raise that amount.

Also, on 3rd December we normally celebrate disability day in the world which is a very expensive event. If you consider hiring vehicles for people in Murang'a County it is usually very expensive. So, the budget is very low, kindly consider that next time, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Thank you. Hon. Naomi.

Hon. Naomi Maina: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First allow me to congratulate the good work that has been done by the Committee and also all sectoral Committees for the engagement they did and I rise to I support. Looking at the Education where I chair, they have really put great

emphasis on the sector and you can note we have different programs which will be running. For instance, number one, you can see we have the Scholarship Fund that has been allocated an amount of Kshs245 Million, it is a plus because each and every ward will be getting at least Kshs2 million for bursaries. We will also be hiring new ECDE teachers it has also an allocation. Our polytechnics you know our youth in Murang'a have also been considered, we have an allocation of around Kshs123Million and the feeding program will also continue. On development budget we have been allocated Kshs130 Million and I would like to urge and I would like to be on record, we have a recommendation as the Chair, as a Committee that when we will be having an Appropriation Bill at least Kshs5 Million for teaching and learning materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Kibaiya

Hon. John Ngugi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this budget estimates and I want to acknowledge in the onset that no budget is perfect because resources are limited. We do not all get to do what we want because of the scarcity of resources but in the wider scheme of things, I want to commend the Budget Committee for really taking time to balance this budget. The requirements is 70-30 and we have done 67-29 point something so we have done really well. And I think we have also done well in prioritisation of the programs.

During the Governor's address in this House sometimes back I think in December, he talked about giving Agriculture and Health more money so that we can be able to achieve health care and also, we can empower farmers who toil throughout the year and were the biggest contributors of the money that we are budgeting here. I am happy though we have put a lot on the recurrent budget, big programs that our financial burden in Kangata Care and also, I am happy to note that we have found some money to do community projects which are a game changer in this County. The budget that we have been using before is not our budget, it was passed by the Second House but you can see the difference that budget has made on the ground. The face of the County, the face of the County Government of Murang'a can be seen in our rural areas. I think going forward because we appropriated more money for community projects, we will liaise with our electorates and also the executive to ensure that we implement this budget without side shows and ensure that our people are getting what they deserve. I am also happy that we have put some money for automation in this budget and we also put some money to purchase surveillance vehicles or enforcement vehicles for revenue collection.

We can appreciate how an additional Kshs500 Million injected to this budget can go to help this County and achieve all the things that we told Wanjiku we shall do for them. As the Chairman of Finance and Economic Planning, I am happy because I have seen also there is some money set aside to empower those people that will be collecting money in all the revenue points and I bet the future of this County Government is not on the equitable share but the future of this County Government on the ability to collect their own source revenue. As I said, I rise to support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Mwangi Mpesa, you are trying to catch my eye.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I am the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Nginda Ward and a Member of the Budget Committee. I rise to support this Motion of the Appropriation Budget but there are some few changes that has a typo error for Ithanga hospital. We made a visit at Kakuzi health centre and we found that there was a need to improve maternity and a casualty at some areas there. That money, Kshs15Million, is not meant for Ithanga hospital. I think that was a typo error, Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri health centre improvement. Then the development and improvement of health services, there is a name omitted there, Kaharo health facility. I rise to support again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that opportunity.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): I now call the Mover to respond.

Hon. Charles Machigo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members who have contributed to the debate. Going by the concerns of Hon. Alex, mine is to just to assure him that all the concerns he has raised regarding all the sectors that he has mentioned here, they are well captured and we are going to take necessary measures to ensure that we enhance those comments. Hon. Munyua had the concern of Kshs1.4 Billion, how we are going to realize it. We have in mind now that we have automated our system, and also the remit for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) that we will be able to achieve the same. The other one is the comment on 29 percent on development, mine is just to assure that as a Committee, we are going to improve on the development.

The other one on the recommendation to the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) regarding the recommendation that we have given, this one is now on the Chairperson of the Committee on Implementation, immediately this Report is adopted, the Committee on Implementation to follow up on the implementation of those recommendations of this Committee. The other one is just a comment through Hon. Gichobe, about the support of the Sub- County administrators. He saw the need and he was just congratulating the Committee, so, that one we shall continue supporting our sub- County with whatever they need. Esther, for the issue of disability, the Committee got guided since some of these votes, we did not increase money because of proper legislation. That is why you see that we have not yet gotten the Regulations for the same and having gotten the Regulations for the--- that is why we gave Kshs5,000,000 to that vote until the CECM comes up with a Regulation of the same, we shall be able to increase that amount.

The other one concerns just a comment by Hon. Naomi, she really appreciated the education sector; the way my Committee has touched on the scholarship, youth and also the feeding program. So, the concern of the Kshs10 Million, that one maybe we consider it during the Appropriation, to make changes you consider necessary. The other one is Hon. Kibaiya, that one we shall work together, it is a collective responsibility for all of us to see that our development and recurrent, at least we try to raise the development at least to the ceiling of 35 percent. On agriculture and community projects which he mentioned, we shall work together and see that the relevant Committee takes up the matter on each and every comment that was made by Members.

Hon. Mwangi Mpesa, the Committee was very careful, it was going in terms of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP). There were some programs that were introduced that were not there in the CFSP. Some of the programs that you are seeing that are left out and the recommendations

that were given, is that some of these projects were not in our CFSP and as a Committee, we were not able to place them in line with the CFSP. So, mine is just to thank Members and urge them to support this budget so that we can start working. You have seen the way we have been having problems in the procurement process because of timelines. So, immediately we pass this budget, we are going to have proper implementation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Antony Marubu): Hon. Members, there being no further business, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 27th June 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

The House rose at 12.22pm