

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY- SECOND SESSION



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE STATUS OF KARII DUMPSITE IN
MURANG'A.**

CLERK'S CHAMBERS

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS

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MURRAY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY - SECOND SESSION

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY
AND NAT. RES. RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
MURRAY COUNTY

CLARK'S PRINTERS

MURRAY COUNTY ASSOCIATION

MURRAY

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1.0 PREFACE

Hon. Speaker, This report endeavors to highlight the current state of Karii dumpsite, the observations and recommendations towards alleviating the health hazards that are likely to be caused by the dumpsite.

1.1 Committee Mandate

The Sectoral Committee on Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources is mandated to consider all matters related to implementation of specific National Government Policies on Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, including soil conservation and forestry and control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances and outdoor advertising; Refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal; all matters related to electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation in Murang'a County.

1.2 Committee membership

The Committee comprises of the following members: -

1. Hon. Dinah Muthoni Kagiri	Chairperson
2. Hon. Gladys Wambui Waikau	Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Esther Nyawira Kamindo	Member
4. Hon. Hannah Wairimu Kamau	Member
5. Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu	Member
6. Hon. Margaret Wanjiku Gichia	Member
7. Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina	Member
8. Hon. Alex Wanyoike Wainaina	Member
9. Hon. John Kamwaga Mwangi	Member
10. Hon. John Kamau Munyua	Member
11. Hon. Gathe Wa Njeri	Member

1.3 Acknowledgement


- a) The Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support extended to it in the execution of its mandate.
- b) My appreciation to members of the committee for their profound

contribution through dedication of time and efforts towards the realization of the mandates of the Committee.

- c) The Committee wishes to record its appreciation for services rendered by the secretariat. Its effort and input made the work of the Committee and production of this Report possible.

On behalf of Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources Committee, it is my pleasure and duty to present to this honorable House, the Committee's report on the status of Karii dumpsite in Murang'a.

Thank you.

Signed 

Hon. Dinah Muthoni Kagiri
Chairperson -Committee on Energy, Environment, Forestry and
Natural Resources

Dated this day of2023

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

The overall goal of urban solid waste management is to collect, treat and dispose of solid waste generated by all urban population groups in an environmentally and socially satisfactory manner using the most economical means available. County governments are authorized to take responsibility for providing solid waste management services and by-laws give counties exclusive ownership over waste once it has been placed outside a home or establishment for collection.

For Kenya, major gains have been made at policy level and enactment of legislations such as EMCA 1999 which enhanced formation of regulatory institutions like NEMA, ensures that precautionary principles are applied to mitigate or minimize negative impacts on the environment due to implementation of major projects.

Some of these regulatory measures have been applied in many fields such as in the construction industry, manufacturing, mining and infrastructure development. On matters of waste management, a number of regulations have been formulated by different institutions and applied sparingly thus the impacts have been so minimal. Municipalities and towns continue to grapple with the problem of Solid Waste Management. As counties grow economically, business activity and consumption patterns drive up solid waste quantities.

Waste management within the County has faced serious challenges aggravated by rapid population growth and urbanization in various towns within the County. The rapid urbanization has seen the solid waste generation in Murang'a County increase. The growth in production of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste poses climate change risk. Currently, waste collected in Murang'a County is dumped at Karii dumpsite, leading to health implications to the nearby residents.

2.2 Karii Dumpsite

The initial acreage of the dumpsite was 52 acres, before the inception of the County Governments. Twenty – five (25) acres were set aside for Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company (MUWASCO) by the defunct Murang'a Municipal Council for a sewerage treatment plant.

Further, Approximately 27 acres were reserved for crude dumping. Out of the twenty - seven acres, approximately 7 acres were claimed by Kenya Railways and fenced off, leaving 20 acres for waste disposal by the Municipality. Solid Waste is one of the critical services the County Government offers to the residents of the Municipality, Towns, Townships, Market Centers, Trading Centers and shopping centers.

Karii dumpsite is located within the Murang'a Municipality and has an area of 300.7 square KMs and serves a population of approximately 109,770 residents. The Murang'a Municipality disposes its waste at Karii Dumpsite, located about 4 kilometers from Murang'a town. The dumpsite also serves as the major dump site for waste collected in entire Murang'a whilst administratively being under the Murang'a Municipality.

In terms of equipment, the Municipality has two tipper trucks that are available twice per week being Mondays and Fridays and a capacity of 14 tones per trip. The main challenges has been the breakdown of tipper trucks, lack of regular servicing and inadequate funds for fueling.

2.3 Workforce

The current active cleaning force comprises of 64 personnel as follows:

1. 1 Public Health Officer
2. 1 Environmental Officer
3. 6 supervisors
4. 1 dumpsite supervisor
5. 12 loaders
6. 4 drivers
7. 7 office cleaners
8. 1 watchman

9. 31 sweepers (In Mukuyu and Township areas)

2.4 Objectives of the study

The Committee set out the following objectives

1. To discuss on the management of Karii dumpsite
2. To outline recommendations on better managing the solid waste at Karii dumpsite

3.0 IMPACTS OF SOLID WASTE

- a) **Pollutes air, soil, rivers and groundwater** through open burning and haphazard disposal
- b) **It creates major health hazards to humans.** The Economic Survey of 2016 indicates that out of 47 million cases reported on morbidity in Kenya; about 21.5 million cases were attributed to respiratory and waterborne diseases, a consequent of poor environmental health.
- c) Is **aesthetically unattractive** and degrades the environment lowering the property value of facilities e.g. buildings and affecting the tourism sector.
- d) **Causes blockage of water ways and drainage systems.** This provides breeding grounds for vector borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid.

Noteworthy, a damaged local environment hits the most vulnerable segment of society the hardest. Poor and marginalized people lack the resources needed to mitigate the negative effects of a degraded environment. Rapid urbanization causes changing consumption patterns. The growing population poses waste management menace.

4.0 SITE VISIT AT KARIII DUMPSITE

The Committee undertook a site visit to Karii dumpsite in Murang'a Town on Wednesday February 22, 2023. During the visit, this Committee engaged a Casual worker who oversees the day to day operations of the dumpsite.

Members were informed that, the dumpsite accommodates all waste from all the Sub Counties in the entire County, which is ferried by county owned garbage trucks, private garbage trucks and tea factory trucks (Ikumbi Tea factory).

There are also private companies contracted by the County Government to undertake garbage collection within Murang'a. Members were informed that the County Government issues approval letters to Ikumbi Tea factory to enable them transport garbage to the facility. Members witnessed first-hand, smoke billowing from the dumpsite, which is a health hazard to the area residents especially with nearby child day care centre.

Member noted that the concern for the need for enforcement officers to be deployed to the dump site to ensure that all the garbage is not littered haphazardly.

5.0 CATEGORIES OF WASTES DEPOSITED IN KARIII DUMPSITE

5.1 Agricultural Waste

The Municipality is surrounded by agricultural lands that sell their produce in the various markets, resulting in having huge amounts of agricultural waste being generated. This contributes to 45% of the total waste produced mainly consists of banana leaves, cabbage, tomatoes, potatoes etc.

5.2 Domestic Waste

This waste is mainly from household activities and includes kitchen refuse and diapers. This type of waste accounts for approximately 40% of total waste generated.

5.3 Litter/office Waste

This waste is generated from offices, business premises, papers and plastics. This type of waste accounts for 15% of total waste generated.

5.4 Industrial Waste

There is only one food industry in Murang'a town, Equitorial Farm Nut Company, which processes nuts. They manage their waste by recycling to generate energy hence no major waste collected from the industry.

On a daily basis, approximately 96 tonnes of waste is generated, out of which approximately 60 tonnes is collected, which usually result to a backlog of approximately 36 tonnes daily. The waste explosion is as a result of three major universities; Murang'a University College, Pioneer University and Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC).

There are other several private colleges offering short courses that also attract people within the Municipality. Establishment of devolution also resulted in rural-urban migration which further increased the solid waste amounts being generated. There are 7 private waste collectors who are piloting the privatization of waste collection in the Municipality.

5.5 Status of the Dumpsite in Pictorials



Littered state of the dumpsite



Members engaging the casual worker at the dumpsite



Committee Members, Secretariat and the casual worker



Lure Park Daycare

6.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations

1. That the dumpsite is causing havoc to the residents and livestock as a result of houseflies that emanate from dumpsite that worsen during the rainy season.
2. That the access road to the dumpsite is in a deplorable condition.
3. That the dumpsite is a health hazard to the surrounding residents since the waste is burnt down thus causing air pollution.
4. That the casual worker managing the dumpsite does not have basic amenities i.e. the lavatories, water and an office.
5. That there are no enforcement Officers deployed to the site to enhance proper disposal of waste.
6. That there is an institution adjacent to the dumpsite (Lure Park Recreation centre and Day Care) which could cause respiratory illnesses to the kids and ECDE teachers.
7. That Karii dumpsite is among Murang'a County dormant income generating site that has remained untapped.
8. That the dumpsite had not been fenced; as a result the trucks drops the waste in areas that are set for roads.
9. The bot flies are a great challenge to the surrounding residents and need to be handled with urgency before the winter season.
10. The sewer line was found to be a health hazard to the residents.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee came up with the following recommendations to the CECM Environment and Natural resources

1. That Modern technology should be employed i.e. incineration should be established to prevent air pollution through emission of harmful gases to the surrounding environment.
2. That, the CECM should provide casual worker in the dumpsite with PPE and basic amenities.
3. That, enforcement officer should be stationed at the dumpsite securing appropriate infrastructure and adherence on proper waste disposal by private companies.
4. That, the access road to Karii dumpsite should be rehabilitated to enhance access to the dumpsite and proper garbage disposal.
5. That, the CECM should come up with legal and policy framework of enhancing Karii dumpsite into a revenue earner i.e. private investors paying charge for disposal of their waste for maintenance of the facility.
6. That, the CECM should register all private entities depositing waste at the dumpsite.
7. That, the Environment department should be allocated funds to enhance implementation of pending projects in Karii dumpsite in FY 2023-24.
8. Sorting and recycling plant should be established in Karii dumpsite for solid waste management. This is to be enhanced for purpose of job creation.
9. That, the CECM should conduct a fumigation exercise at the dumpsite to mitigate against the debilitating condition posed by the botflies as soon as possible as the conditions worsens during the rainy season.
10. That, the CECM should develop ways of managing the sewer line near the dumpsite as it is hazardous to the community near the dumpsite.

7.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, since Karii dumpsite is one of the major dumpsite in Murang'a County, the CECM should enhance measures of converting Karii dumpsite into a landfill which is easily manageable and poses minimal challenges to the surrounding community.

REPORT ADOPTION

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ADOPTED THIS REPORT;

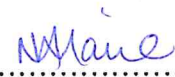
1. Hon. Dinah Muthoni Kagiri


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2. Hon. Gladys Wambui Waikau


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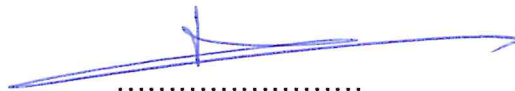
8. Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina

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9. Hon. Gatheo Wa Njeri


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10. Hon. Alex Wanyoike Wainaina


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11. Hon. John Munyua


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