

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 1st August 2023

The House met at 2.43 p.m.

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga) in the Chair]

PRAYER

PETITIONS

**PETITION ON LIMITATION OF ACCESS TO WATER PROVIDED BY MUWASCO IN
KAHUMBU WARD, KIGUMO SUB-COUNTY**

Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Public Petition on challenge of access to water provided by MUWASCO (Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company). Pursuant to Standing Order 214 (2) (b) I wish to report that on June 7, 2023 the County Assembly received a Petition submitted by the residents of Kahumbu ward in Kigumo sub-county. The petitioners drew the attention of the Assembly to the following matters:

1. That Kahumbu ward residents has challenges in accessing water despite the rationing program by MUWASCO.
2. That contravention of Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya that provide the right of everyone in Kenya to water that is safe clean and sufficient in quantity and Article 56(e) which further obligates the state to put into place affirmative action program designed to ensure that minority and marginalised groups have reasonable access to water.
3. That the water shortage challenges have mostly affected lower Kahumbu residents ranging from Githembe, Kimachu, Mugumo-ini, Gatunduguru, Mbogo-ini, Gakuyu, Kandani, Kahuho, Mumbu to Gakarati and its environs.
4. That Kahumbu ward residents have been limited to access of water for only three days in a month as per the rationing program by MUWASCO.

5. That Kahumbu ward has salt water boreholes named: Gakarati, Mumbu and Kandani which are currently not under use.
6. That there are other boreholes in Kahumbu ward such as Mumbu, Mugumo-ini, Kagwathi, Kahuho and Ndonga which could have eased the water shortage but are not being utilised due to lack of pre-requisite operating equipment and pending bills for Ndonga and Kahuho boreholes due to poor workmanship on installation and drilling.
7. That efforts have been made to have the matter addressed by relevant bodies and it failed to give a satisfactory response.

I further wish to state that the Petition is signed by 29 petitioners. The petitioners affirm that the issues in respect of which the Petition is made are not pending before any court of law. The petitioners prayer is that the County Assembly of Muranga passes the following resolution:

1. That, a special hotline pipe be installed from Mariira waterpoint to Gitembe sub-location which are 15 kilometres apart so as to facilitate ease of water supply to address the water supply shortage as per Articles 43 and 56 of the Constitution.
2. That, MUSWASCO adjusts its water rationing programme for Kahumbu ward residents, so that they access the commodity for more than three days in a month, of which they would be willing to pay maximum charge of Kshs300 to Kshs500 per household and scrap the standing charges.
3. That, the County government procures an osmosis machine to facilitate removal of water impurities at Gatakari,- I like Hon. Chefman he is guiding me because some of these words are from his Ward - Mumbu and Kandani boreholes. Thank you.
4. That, MUSWASCO forms a sub-committee to facilitate connection of the borehole water to Kahumbu Ward residents which will boost agricultural activities such as; livestock farming, sanitation levels among the elderly and the children to enable realisation of Articles 43 and 56 of the Constitution.
5. That, the County government provides the modalities of reconnecting and rehabilitation of the following boreholes and installation of solar panel on them. That is:
 - i. Mumbu borehole-solar panel installation
 - ii. Mugumo-ini borehole rehabilitation and solar panel installation.
 - iii. Kagwathi borehole rehabilitation and solar panel installation.

iv. Kahuho and Ndonga borehole rehabilitation.

Pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 216 (1), the Petition is hereby committed to the Water and Irrigation Committee. Further, pursuant to Standing Order 216 (2), the Committee shall in not more than 60 calendar days, respond to the Petitioners by way of a Report addressed to the petitioners and laid on the Table of the Assembly.

Next order.

PAPER

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS AS AT JUNE 30, 2023

Hon. Samson Ngigi: Hon. Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table of the Assembly;-

The quarterly progress Report of the sectoral Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport on Community Based Projects as at June 30, 2023.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Next order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS AS AT JUNE 30, 2023

Hon. Samson Ngigi: I beg to give the following notice of Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the quarterly progress Report of the sectoral Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport on community- based projects as at June 30, 2023, laid on the Table of the Assembly.

Thank you.

(Hon. Gathee wa Njeri rose on a point of order)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): What is the point of order Hon. Gathee?

Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri: Mr. Speaker there is someone consulting here loudly. He is using some gadget.

temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honourable member from Rwathia, you

seem to be consulting widely. Kindly members need to concentrate.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO ATTEND A PROGRAM ON TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Hon. Hilary Muigai: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly notes the contents of the Report on a visit to the Republic of Singapore to attend a program on transformational leadership, laid on the table of the Assembly on July 26, 2023.

Hon. Speaker, a delegation of seven members, comprising of Hon. Members and officers visited the Republic of Singapore and attended a program on becoming a transformational leader. The case of Singapore was informed by the fact that at independence (1963) Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$926 million while Singapore's GDP was \$917.2 million., which shows that Kenya's GDP was higher comparatively. Surprisingly, in 2022, Singapore's GDP was \$662 billion compared Kenya's \$117 billion, which implies that Singapore's GDP is approximately six times Kenya's GDP.

The tremendous growth in the economy in Singapore is majorly attribute to transformational leadership devoid of corruption. Therefore, with lessons on the change in Singapore evident, Murang'a County Assembly is desirous of borrowing a leaf from the strategies employed to enable it drive the change that is needed to spur economic growth at the county level.

The program's therefore intended to achieve the following objectives:

- a) To understand transformational leadership and how it facilitates realization of institutional goals and objectives.
- b) To understand how transformational leaders create commitment in their employees and how this translates into increased organizational performance.
- c) To identify the skills required for a leader to be transformative and how the skills can drive change in an institution.
- d) To establish the nexus between transformational leadership and climate change as well

as environmental conservation.

e) To understand how political leadership can be transformational leadership.

Hon. Speaker, it should be noted that with a visionary, strategic and dedicated leadership, every country in the world has the potential to offer the best quality of life to its people and the future generations. Some of the key recommendations in this Report are that the County Government is encouraged to harness innovative ideas and invest in actualization of innovations to make Murang'a County a hub of economic transformation.

Hon. Speaker there are lessons learnt and they are in this Report, I will go through them for members to understand. From the transformational leadership programme in Singapore, the following were the lessons that were learnt by the team, one, formulation of policies centered around economic growth and attracting foreign investment is a recipe of transformational leadership. Recognizing the limited natural resources and prioritization in building a skilled workforce and establishing economies as a hub of high value industrialization sustains economic growth. Three, learning through policies and practices over time enables a country to alter its policies and institutions to be able to respond to challenges that facilitates transition from a developing to a developed country.

Four, foster intercultural understanding and promote education helps to lay the groundwork for government commitment and multiculturalism which is a fundamental pillar of a nations identity. Five, the focus of a comprehensive integrated management approach, the government programme; provides an active bed for new ideas and the ability to implement them effectively. Six, leadership style characterized by his unwavering determination, strategic thinking and a longtime vision for development helps transform economically disadvantaged countries into a thriving economic powerhouse, a culture of anti-corruption entailing inclusion and encompassing anti-corruption legislation and an effective independence system that punishes corrupt practices adequately and an efficient government administration helps to mobilize the entire civil service to fight against corruption.

Through policies of keeping public sector jobs economically competitive, the government is able to hire and retain professional staff hence reduce the chance of other public sector workers resorting to corruption. Nine, increased evidence shows that climate change will require more flexible water management systems as such given the extensive hard infrastructure is likely that

there will have to be changes to address the emerging risks and have some more relative management approach.

With a visionary strategic and dedicated leadership every country in the world has a potential to offer the best quality of life to its people and the future generations. The programme offered an opportunity for the delegates to understand how transformational leadership determines the success or failure of a country, government or institutions.

Speaker, the delegation came up with the following recommendations:

1. The County government should formulate policies for consideration by the County government that are centered around fostering economic growth and attracting domestic and foreign investments.
2. The County Assembly should focus on a comprehensive integrated management approach in execution of development programmes so as to provide the active testbed for new ideas and the ability to implement them effectively.
3. Three, the County government should develop policies of keeping the public service jobs economically competitive which would go a long way in ensuring that the County government is able to hire and retain professionals hence reduce the chances of other public sector workers resorting to corruption.
4. The County government should embrace visionary, strategic and educated and transformative leadership that guarantees the public a descent and quality life as guaranteed under the Constitution.
5. In the light of the eminent challenges posed by climate change, the County leadership should endeavor to adopt more flexible water management systems to address emerging risk and have a more interactive management approach.
6. The County government should instill a culture of anti-corruption that entails effective and all-encompassing ant-icorruption legislation, an effective and independent system; a system that practices adequately and effective government administration that helps to mobilize the entire county public service to fight against corruption including complying with provisions of the Leadership and Integrity Act 2012.

I now call Hon. Mark to second the Motion.

Hon. Mark Wainaina: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was a member of delegation to Singapore. I must say and I stand here to second the Motion. Travelling to Singapore was an eye opener and as I always say, every exposure is always a learning experience. From the highlight of Singapore I noted that the culture of those people is one that they do not tolerate corruption which has been a factor that has been affecting our country.

The other thing I also noted about them is about the issue of drug use and abuse, in fact it is well displayed at the airport. If you are caught trying to traffic drugs, it does not matter, it is a death penalty. Those are some of the culture that we should borrow from a country like Singapore. It was chance for me to learn their culture, a chance to make memory and a chance to see some of the best housing projects. Our government is trying to come up with such housing project like the one that is going on, the one being implemented by the Kenya Kwanza government. Finally, it is my prayer and request that every honorable member of this House will be able to travel, learn regardless whether you are elected, or nominated and we get Reports of what members learn and finally I must say I made memories.

(Question proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honorable members, the Floor is open for comments. Hon. Ndunda Makau.

Hon. Ndunda Makau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, let me appreciate the good Report that we are getting from the delegation that had gone to Singapore. I have had not gotten any opportunity to be outside those sides but I am happy to get some good information from this delegation. I must say that this delegation must have brought a lot of knowledge here and we can borrow something from them.

I am interested when they mentioned that this Singapore where they had gone there was a time in the year 1963 when their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was at par with our GDP here in Kenya. When I mention GDP, I think the meaning of this is the monetary or the value of money of final goods and services and I think it is good for us as a country at least to be benchmarking with such countries which at a time we were in the same level. Because I am trying to imagine Mr. Speaker, a country like Kenya, it is like we have been mark timing for the last 50 years. When you

look at our economy you find that there is a lot needed. Today we are talking of our inflation being around seven percent about which is a bit higher and I think this is the time that each and every one of us as Kenyans we need to come together and reason. For one there is no development or we cannot achieve, we cannot improve our economy when there is no peace. Without diverting from the Report, I am saying that what we are learning from Singapore is something which we as Kenyans we should also try and find, ask them what is the secret behind all this.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to get this Report from the delegation, the other thing I know that they were not going for a tour they have come with something let us also try to implement or try to borrow something from Singapore and bring to our County here in Murang'a. I know currently we are doing very well because we are ranked among the best performing Counties and I think if we bring all this wealth or this knowledge that we are getting, I know there are other delegations which are going to some other countries and if we can bring all this knowledge here in Murang'a, I just believe we can head somewhere otherwise I support this Report and thank the delegation for their work well done.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga): Hon. Chefman.

Hon. Chefman Njoroge: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to support the Motion but obvious with three or four reservations in terms of the Report. Well, my question, I would like to ask ourselves as a County or as a country what went wrong with us? If in 1963 we were not par but actually with the issue of monetary funds which I have seen in the Report, we were ahead of Singapore and today Kenya is going to Singapore to learn from somebody who was behind them.

Then I think the other question I ask myself what went wrong? And I have come to realize that various reasons have costed us as a country, as my Hon. Member, my senior *mheshimiwa* (honourable) Ndunda has said we are still mark timing. And I think it is high time we move rather than standing in one place as a Country. However, I appreciate that we have a new Constitution by now it is a responsibility of each and every County government to learn and to do what is needed to be done. What has caught my eye as to why we are in this problem is because of tribalism in this country of ours. Number two, is our former president, our late former late President, His Excellency Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi who had said that and I quote in Kiswahili '*siasa mbaya Maisha mbaya*' (bad politics bad life). And number three I think the obvious animal which we

have, which I have never understood what is corruption up to now. Because everybody says the issue of corruption, if you go to the Executive, it is corruption, if you go to the lay man, it is corruption, I think one day someone should come with a solution and tell us what is corruption because it has various meanings. The worst thing is about us not implementing the resolutions, the recommendations, which we always give to various institutions in this country of ours and especially in our County. We have various Committees, like now, the Delegation Committee which had gone with our Members. They have come with good recommendations they have observed. But now the question, is, who will follow these recommendations so that our country can grow and become like Singapore? That is the challenge. Tomorrow, I will request to go to Singapore for trade but the question is, the moment we come with these recommendations, who follows them? Why are we not able to implement? Why are we not sanctioning those people who we are giving these recommendations so that this country, this County of ours, can progress and become the next Singapore?

I thank that we have a good Governor in Murang'a County who is thinking more about development. We as Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) also thank them because they are more development conscious. The question is, with our various Committees, the recommendations, the advice which we give, if they are followed to the letter, Murang'a County will be the next Singapore; Murang'a County will be a mirror to many Counties and also be a good example within our East African Country.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I am saying so is because Murang'a is known for hardworking people. I think whenever you mention the name Nairobi, the first name that you think is Nyamakima. Nyamakima has been build by Murang'a people. We are lucky that, at least, we have devolution. We are lucky that we have County government whereby now our effort will be brought back home and turn around with the issue of the subsidy which we are getting, we are seeing within our government, turn around with the effort of my fellow colleagues, how they are pushing day and night about development in their Ward level with the issue of the community project.

Mr. Speaker, I will just add and say that this Report is good but I am more worried that it should not go to the drain but the recommendations should be followed to the letter. I will also request the Committee of Implementation to push and follow whatever other Committees are recommending, that they are followed to the letter so that Murang'a County can become the next

Singapore. We want the people of Singapore to also come here so that they can have good memories like my Hon. Mark. He has said that he went there and left with good memories. I would also like, they should come to Nairobi, Kenya, and especially to Murang'a and as they leave with good memories, we will have good rapport with them that things are changing.

It will be unfair if all the efforts, if all the delegation has gone there, has come back with recommendations and we cannot implement them. Then we are losing the touch. It is like when you boil the milk and then pour it down rather than taking it. It is high time that we force and enforce any delegation which goes outside this country, whatever recommendation they come with, should give an impact especially to our people in Murang'a County, especially to our villagers, especially we get time also to learn. And it is good to sit with the delegation to give me more elaboration of what they learned there so that, at least, I can be able to get, apart from the recommendation, but in and out of the box. I will also sit with them. I want to know what happens there, what we can do. I have seen one of the fact is like the issue of the water.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to their recommendation number five, and if you allow me I can just re-read it again just for the sake of record; that in light of the eminent challenges posed by climate change, the County leadership should endeavor to adopt more flexible water management system to address emerging risks and have a more reactive management approach. Murang'a is known with the issue of rivers, waters, but the whole water is going to Mombasa. If we can do this, our County is an agricultural County, it will bring impact with whatever we are doing as a County in terms of subsidies and other stuff. The same case with recommendation number three; another one, a good one. The issue of the lesson they learned about the skilled labours, we need to think and empower our youth, we need to think and empower ourselves and make sure that even our learning institutions, those are the universities, the polytechnics which are around our Murang'a County, that they should not just be taught or learn about how to get white collar jobs but we should have courses of skilled labour courses so that, at least, they are learned fellows and can be marketable. So, as I sit down Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to support the recommendations and I may plead that we implement to the fullest any recommendation for the goodwill of our people in terms of us becoming the next Singapore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Thank you Hon. Member for your short comment. I now call the mover to respond.

Hon. Hilary Muigai: Thank you Hon. Speaker and I thank so much Hon. Members who has rose to support this Report.

It is good to note that and it is my Prayer Hon. Speaker, that members of this honourable House be given such opportunities so that they can be able to explore the world because what we learnt as a delegation is far much good or will go very far in informing the County government on ways to undertake economic issues so that our County can grow.

Thank you, Hon. Mark, for seconding the Motion, Hon. Ndunda and Hon. Chefman and members of this Assembly, I urge you to kindly pass this Motion and I also call upon all the other delegations that will have an opportunity to visit such kind of programs to bring us a Report so that we know what we can adopt, what measures to take, what we shall copy from other countries so that our County can grow, and we be able to help our people to achieve very well in terms of economic growth. Thank you very much Hon. Speaker, I beg to sit.

(Question put and agreed to)

[SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER]

BILLS

THE MURANG'A COUNTY LAND LEASES MANAGEMENT BILL NO.4 OF 2023- FIRST READING

(The Bill was Read for the First time)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi): Honourable Members, there being no any other business, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

The Assembly rose at 3:26 p.m.