

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

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The Assembly met at 9:48 a.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha) in the Chair]*

**PRAYER**

**STATEMENT**

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS OF THE WEEK COMMENCING AUGUST 13, 2024 TO AUGUST 14,  
2024

**Hon. Antony Marubu:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I beg to issue the following Statement; -

That, pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (a) the House Business and Rules at its last meeting approved Business that will come before the Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday August 13, 2024 to Wednesday August 14, 2024 as per the attached program.

On Tuesday, August 13, 2024 morning sitting; there will be a Paper laying by the Chairperson Finance and Economic Planning Committee on County Government of Murang'a Executive fourth quarter for FY 2023/2024 quarterly report and financial statement for the period ended June 30, 2024. There will also be a Paper laying on the report on investigation regarding the Murang'a County Government Nyota Zetu Scholarship program by the Chairperson on Education and Child Welfare Committee. Another Paper laying by the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee about the report on status of the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project in Murang'a County as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

There will be a notice of Motion for the adoption of a Report on investigation regarding the Murang'a County Government Nyota Zetu scholarship program by the Chairperson on Education and Child Welfare Committee. Another notice of Motion for adoption of the Report on status of the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project in Murang'a County as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, by the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee.

On Tuesday that is August 13, 2024 afternoon sitting there will be a Paper laid by the Chairperson Trade, Industrialization, Tourism and Wildlife Committee about the report on 2024 ASK Eastern Kenya Branch Show in Embu County at Njukini show grounds. On that afternoon there will be a notice of Motion on 2024 ASK Eastern Kenya Branch show in Embu County at Njukini show grounds by Chairperson Trade, Industrialization, Tourism and Wildlife Committee.

There will be a Motion about the adoption of the Report on status of the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project in Murang'a County as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, by the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee.

Hon. Speaker, on Wednesday August 14, 2024 morning sitting a Member of the House Business and Rules Committee will issue a Statement about the approved Business of the Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday August 20, 2024 to Wednesday August 21, 2024.

A Motion will be moved by the Chairperson Education and Child Welfare about the adoption of the report on investigation regarding the Murang'a County Government Nyota Zetu Scholarship Program. There will be no other Business. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Thank you Hon. Marubu. Next order.

### **MOTION**

#### **ADOPTION OF REPORT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON MURANG'A COUNTY INVASIVE AND ALIEN SPECIES POLICY.**

**Hon. Damaris Kagiri:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of sectoral Committee on Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources on its consideration on Murang'a County invasive and alien species Policy laid on the Table of the Assembly today, Wednesday August 7, 2024.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the leadership of County Executive Committee member (CECM) devolution and external linkages, Director of Policies Organic Agricultural Sector of Kenya and participatory ecological land use management. The Members of this Committee for diligence in enriching the Policy. To the committee secretariat for their service to the Committee and writing this Report.

On behalf of the Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources Committee, I present the Report on the Invasive and Alien Species Policy for debate and adoption.

Hon. Speaker, an invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native to a particular area and can cause great economic and environmental harm to the new area. A new species is deemed invasive if it has negative effects on its surroundings, for instance; by outcompeting or preying on native species. An alien species is an organism which humans have introduced intentionally or accidentally outside its previous range. You will see there are some names called flora in the Report. Flora refers to the collection of plants living in a particular region while Fauna refers to all the animal life present in a particular region. Therefore, invasive and alien species are animals, plants or other organisms that are introduced by humans, either intentionally or accidentally, into places outside of their natural range, negatively impacting native biodiversity, ecosystem services or human economy and well-being. For a species to be invasive, it must adapt to the new area easily, reproduce quickly, harm property, or economic or native plants and animals of the region. Some species are introduced to a new area on purpose. Often, these species are introduced as a form of pest control, while other times they are introduced as pets or decorative displays. People and businesses that import these species do not anticipate the consequences or they are not sure of how a species will adapt to a new environment.

Hon. Speaker, the invasive and alien species Policy has been developed through the support of the County Advisory Committee of the Upper Tana catchment under the Nairobi Water Fund (UTNWF) initiative to guide in the conservation of the Upper Tana Water catchment within the following four Counties, which are Nyeri, Nyandarua, Murang'a and Laikipia. The purpose of the policy is to achieve a coordinated sub sector approach that responds to environmental and conservation needs and contributes to sustainable resources and higher standards of life for the stakeholders. The Policy considers the current handling of invasive and alien species by the County Governments. The Policy shall cover the mandate of the County Government on invasive and alien species of flora and fauna and their control. It shall aim to address the management and regulation of the agricultural land and rural developments. The documents are in the files of the Members. So, we can go together.

Hon. Speaker, as a County, we are contending with invasive and alien species as the resultant effect has started creeping in slowly. Some invasive and alien species, remember we said what is fauna and flora, within some catchments include the water ecosystem and the terrible terrestrial unfriendly species. Some predominant invasive and alien species plant (flora) species are like; there are common botanical names, they are there; Eucalyptus the local name is *munyua mai*, Lantana Camara local name

is *mukigi* or *mucimooro*, *Caesalpinia Decapetala* which *Mubage*, *Opuntia stricter* (Prickly pear cactus) which is *Mahuura thii*, *Acacia Mearnsii* local name is *muthanduku* and *Salonum Incanum* which is *mutongu*.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Just a moment, Hon. Marubu, I think you have no Point of Order to interject or to correct. Please let her continue. Please continue.

**Hon. Dinah Muthoni:** Hon. Speaker, you know these names are---. let us take the case of Eucalyptus (*munyua maai*) in Kenya, Eucalyptus species is known to *coppice*, which is a traditional management method in woodland management of cutting down a tree stump, which encourages new shoots to grow from the stumps. Their adaptability, relatively fast growth rate, coppice ability, diverse utility value and broad climatic range have endeared them to tree growers.

On the flipside, this ability of eucalyptus tree to produce shoots from the stumps or roots makes it difficult to eradicate from the riverine. Hon. Speaker, alien species are reported to effect aquatic life, crops' yields and pasture productivity. Some turn out to be poisonous to animals including affecting water quality while some contribute to land degradation, siltation and sedimentation. *Lantana Camara* (*mukigi*) is predominant in abandoned quarries. Remember we said this Latana Camara. You can see like in the quarries those plants have invaded the place. At our discussions with the development partners, the following species were cited as being invasive and alien in the County;

1. The water snails invading rice fields and creating economic disruption in Thathawa and Kimathi Githuuri Irrigation schemes in Kiharu Sub County.
2. Invasion of armyworms (*nguunga*)
3. Invasion of aflatoxin causing fungi in our soils
4. The quelea bird, *thonjo* menace.
5. The invasion of the pia cactus, *mahuria thi* which colonize the hedges, compounds, forest and grazing lands.
6. Maize necrosis virus on small scale maize farmers
7. Invasion of grass species that are not being consumed by livestock
8. Purple arrow roots *nduuma ya mwanake*, it grows along the river banks.
9. Ndunda which is *thiina* which has been threatening the survival of plant host in our County thus weakening and killing our plants resulting to reduced crop yields.

10. Mimosa Pudica, *wanjiru mwikuiithia* this one if you go there, where the generator is you will see *wanjiru mwikuithia* there he usually comes with the sand

Invasive and alien species have been documented to affect diversity and human food security, health and livelihoods in a number of ways. These species are known as special eliminators as they monopolize available water and nutrients. They out-compete and replace native species of flora, disrupting the animal food chain and subverting the delivery of essential ecosystem good and services. Members you have the Report I do not have to read the whole of it.

The focus has to be the prevention of the long term effect of the mushrooming invasive and species. Water bodies are crucial to human and animal life and there is need to ensure adequate water flow in rivers and sustenance of static water. The Policy formulators, in a meeting with this Committee, alluded to the fact that residents in Upper Tana catchment area wanted animals such as vervet monkey and elephant classified as invasive due to the nature of their impact on the environment.

I want to give attention to these members, the vervet monkeys are classified as pets unless the law is changed. The monkeys that you see here are classified as pet. Invasive and alien species have been known to affect both diversity and food security. There is need for the County government through the Devolution and External Linkages docket and development partner look at the area considerably.

The department shall ensure adequate resources allocation while being complemented by the Devolution and External Linkages docket to plug the resource gap to ensure seamless implementation of this policy. The Environment department in consultation with the department of External Linkages shall facilitate an effective implementation framework with all the stakeholders with a plan on strategies to deal with alien and invasive species. It is anticipated that County departments will work with the following partners;

1. Kenya Forest Service (KFS)
2. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
3. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
4. Water Resources Authority (WRA)

5. Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
6. Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS)
7. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community social responsibility (CSOs) and Farmer Organizations.

The Committee made the following observations;

1. Invasive and alien species are best handled by early detection, monitoring and rapid eradication. It is possible to limit the aggression before they spiral out of control and cause damage to the ecosystem, food security and livelihoods.
2. The Policy benefits from a rich body of knowledge by NGOs/CSOs e.g. Upper Tana Water Catchment Conservation and PELUM-Kenya. This gives the County department of Environment the head-start to utilize findings and implement recommendations without having to engage consultants.
3. Prevention is absolutely the best, most cost-effective option – but eradication, containment and control are also effective in specific context. The invasive and alien species might not be pervasive in our county but it's slowly creeping in. For instance, purple arrowroot (*nduma ya mwanake*) in riparian areas, Mimosa Pudica (*Wanjiru Mwikuthia*) effect on pastures can be substantial and the vervet monkey is threatening to erode the gains made in food security in the county.
4. Invasive and alien species conservation and protection will be effective if only the County department works with local communities in context-specific integrated approach.
5. Budgetary allocation to support planning and implementation of policy strategies such as prevention of invasions through the early detection, containment and eventual eradication of invasive species is crucial.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

That, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Environment and Natural Resources department should ensure that capacity for appropriate steps such as eradication, containment and control have been undertaken to mitigate adverse effects is enhanced.

That, the CECM, Environment and Natural Resources should work with KEPHIS to raise public awareness with communities on phytosanitary issues and invasive species. You know I have mentioned

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many botanical names at once, holding public seminars at wards, exhibitions, preparation and distribution of pamphlets on preventing the introduction and management of invasive species.

That, the CECM, Environment and Natural Resources should work with Kenya Wildlife Service to implement National Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy of 2017 strategies on invasive and alien species.

That, the CECM, Environment should work with NEMA on policy interventions for dealing with invasive and alien species. The Policies may embrace user pay, full social cost pricing, precautionary protection of public interest among others. Subsidiarity means that action should be taken, and responsibility should be delegated to the most effective and appropriate level of governance (wards, sub-counties).

That the CECMs, Environment and Natural Resources and Devolution and External Linkages should establish an invasive and alien species management coordination unit. There should be adequate and regular budgetary allocation to invasive and alien species management programme.

Honourable Speaker, I want to tell the members what is Thina, if you go there at the gate, you will see plants growing on other trees. That is what we call Thina and it is a disaster in our county because it is invasive and whenever it grows on a tree, the tree dries up. Thank you honourable Speaker, I now call upon Hon. Wairagu to second the Motion.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I rise to second the Motion and add other things because of what my chair have said. I congratulate her for the good work together with the Committee even if some of these names are so difficult particularly from her end.

However, having said that, it is always good for us to know that not only in our County, almost everywhere. We have been invaded by this kind of alien species, there are some insects, plants and vegetation which is detrimental to economic advancement in our areas, more so, we can have some measures to eradicate such challenges, one of the measures is spraying some of these, if you go around the Assembly in an area where we have a carwash, you will realize you will find *Drosophila Melanogaster* and I know, the chair will not pronounce that, that is a new thing.

*(Hon. John Kamwaga rose on a point of order)*

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Yes, Kamwaga

**Hon. John Kamwaga:** Is the honourable member in order to lecture the chair and say what he knows and what he does not know, I think he should withdraw.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Hon. Wairagu, how sure are you that the Speaker is not conversant with that language, why are you underestimating the capability of the Speaker? that statement is reckless and needs to be withdrawn.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Mr. Speaker, I never directed it to you, I said the chair of the Committee. I withdraw the statement.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Order! you are addressing the chair, you are not cross talking to any other member, please address the Chair, I heard it vividly when you said the Speaker. the person sitting here is the Speaker and the chair of this particular session, so please withdraw so that we progress.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** I am guided. I withdraw the statement. Having withdrawn, I will say that *drosophila menengasta* is *ndomba*, that is what I meant so that Chefman and other people can know what that really means. As I proceed to support this, this is a new phenomenon to some of us. There were some botanical names, it beats the logic, the society assumes that we know almost everything because we represent them, let us be trained some of these things, like we know *mubariti*, *Ficas Germina* and some people do not know even *phullgalis* those are the things that we should know because everybody consumes that, that is Rose coco, not the one in quotes, everybody consumes that, mean *mwitemania*

(Laughter)

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Honourable Wairagu, Rose coco, do you have another meaning for this? You said Rose coco in quotes, what is the other one that is not in quotes?

(Laughter)

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Hon. Speaker, Rose Coco, Hon. Dianah was trying to explain to me in the morning while she was telling me to second the Motion and she was actually trying to explain to me but I never went into the details. Allow me to continue because the Rose coco is what -  
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**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Continue, continue brother, continue with seconding the Motion.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** I second it and also there is particularly in my ward there was the issue of mass wasting or what you call a gradual of denudation and exfoliation where by you know rocks are being thrown away due to the generates of weather. And therefore, if we can come here and look for a way of saving the situation because as we talked about the species and aliens, my point is directed that if we can come up with a way of planting some of the plants, some of the vegetation which will help even to scare away some of these animals like *theru* I don't know the biological name of that. They are called monkeys or *theru* because some of his monkeys particularly in my area they bring issues and this is true particularly the male monkeys. Our women are not going to prune *majani chai* (tea leaves) because of these male animals. I have a solution if we can plant like mango, *mangifera indica* because we are talking about the botanical names, that is the botanical name of mangoes. If we can plant mangoes, we can eradicate the widespread of these things.

As I sit down, this is a good lesson we are learning and all the factors remain constant, we are supposed to ensure that our communities are well protected. Go to Gikono area, go to the lower Murang'a, here you realize that there are dumping sites, there are some worms there and these are the invasive aliens which we are talking about.

Mr. Speaker I know we are moving in the right trajectory and I know that once we move like this, we shall cover more. Thank you Hon. Speaker for listening to me.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Thank you Hon. Wairagu for seconding that with a lot of words, I think I want to appreciate your botanical language in this particular sector.

*(Question proposed)*

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Yes Hon. Muteti.

**Hon. Thomas Muteti:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. I also want the appreciate the good work that has been done by the Committee especially Hon. Speaker I did not know the name of the Wanjiru mwikuithia but now I understand it is *mimosa pudica*. I just wanted to add something that has been so eminent in my ward and the issue especially is about these eucalyptus (munyua maai) tree. It has posed several challenges in my ward and actually the people have always approached my office in a way to seek for a solution to challenging by these trees.

Because half of Makuyu ward has this tree from Kakuzi Plc limited. The trees have posed two major challenges, one of them being the drying, the swampy areas, the areas that used to produce water are no longer able to produce water and research has shown that each tree consumes over 500 litres of water every day. So I believe that one of the things that has made Makuyu ward to be the way it is because of the huge number of this trees.

The other challenge is about the problem mentioned that has been mentioned by my friend Honorable Wairagu about the issue of monkeys because those trees don't produce any kind of fruits or anything therefore, they become a habitat to the monkeys and because they don't produce food for the monkeys, the monkeys tend to go to homes where they keep on disturbing the residents.

I appreciate one of the solutions that has been given by Hon. Wairagu about the plantations of guavas in the forest, the mangoes and also it is a recommendation to the company that cease from planting those trees maybe they can change with cypress trees so that we can avoid making some of these wards a complete desert. I stand to support the Motion. Thank you Honorable Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Hon. Sharleen.

**Hon. Sharleen Wambui:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the Motion by the Chair Environment Honorable Diana and Hon. Speaker it is worth noting that Hon. Diana speaks English the same way whites speak Kikuyu. So she is very much in order.

And moving on I want to support this Motion as we've seen in the recent past that Murang'a has been one of the counties that have been affected by climate change and whatever the Hon. Chair is talking about right now will consequently lead to the effects of climate change we have seen in various wards. So I believe it is very important as a County Assembly working together with the Executive to educate our people, our constituents.

Most of the people out here or quote and quote in *mashinani* (grassroot) do not fail to suppress the matters for example the things that Hon. Diana has spoken about those biological names, I am also having an issue and I am also struggling to mention them by name.

I think it is better for us to educate our people about the negative effects of those things like those things like the river beds, *nduma ya mwanake* and stuff like that because our people do not know the effects of these things. They have grown used to them, it has become so habitual and has become so common that they do not know what the negative effects of such things are.

Like that thing, which you step on and it dies, I cannot remember the name really well Hon. Speaker. It is common across the whole County and people just make fun of it. You will see children

playing with it, you will see people in *mashinani* (grassroot) just stepping just to see the effects but they do not know consequently, if it is not well taken care of right now, what it is going to be in the future.

As I finish Hon. Speaker, I believe it is very important for the Committee to also come up with a Policy that is going to regulate people that are encroaching our riverbeds. If you walk around town for example, in Murang'a town down here, you will see that the reserves of the water bed that have been there in the County map have been encroached by people. It is going to negatively affect us.

As Murang'a is growing, I think we must have a plan and various Committees can team up and come up with how we are going to alleviate the issues of people encroaching our water beds in town and not only in Murang'a town but Murang'a County in general.

The people encroaching those water beds are aliens themselves as the Honourable Chair has said, Hon. Speaker. I believe as a Committee they should take it very seriously because even in Murang'a County we do not even have a recreational park because where the recreational park should be, or they should have been according to the Murang'a town map have all been encroached by shops, by people, people have built houses across the river and you see when there is flooding, they are going to be the very first people to be affected. I believe prevention is better than cure. We can prevent future flooding cases and we can prevent future issues of hunger by making sure that people are not going to encroach our riverbeds.

As I finish completely, in totality Mr. Speaker, we have seen the things of monkeys affecting our County. These monkeys are going to be a huge problem as we forward because they are eating everything. From maize, to beans, to vegetables and this is going to lead to hunger or there is going to be insufficient food supply in our County. I believe as a Committee they should come up with recommendation that is sustainable. Not like the recommendations that were done by the previous government. They should come up with a recommendable recommendation on how we are going to deal with the issues of the monkeys because moving forward, the monkeys are eating everything. We just want to be food secure as a County, so the Committee should come up with a good recommendation. They bring it here in *bunge* (Assembly) and we are going to support them.

Otherwise, Hon. Speaker, I want to congratulate each and every member of the Committee led by the chair Hon. Dianah for the good work that they have done. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Hon. Kamwaga

**Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am a member of this Committee and I stand to support this Motion. Hon. Speaker, as a member I want to say that we have recommended that the CECM should do several things so that these issues can be dealt with.

However, I want to request or urge members that they should read this Report and make sure that they internalize it, because when we go to our people, these things are really affecting our people. And the only way we can help them, is by making sure when we go during our *barazas* try make awareness. Because some of this, as we can see the names are coming in the names of alien or foreign they start by maybe when we give them fertilizers or other things. It seems like some of them come from other areas. Not necessarily where they start spreading. So, it is upon us as members to make sure we make awareness to our people so that when they see something or any foreign plant that starts coming up in their areas, they can report to our agriculture officers so that it can be dealt with before it spreads very much. As we can see, maybe we sometimes we say this might be the second colonization. Some of these weeds might have been brought to colonize us or to make the fertility of our land lesser. So, it is upon us as members we try to engage our people so that before this thing spreads very much, they can report to us. So, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Hon. Chefman.

**Hon. Chefman Njoroge:** Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker Sir. I rise to support the Motion but with opinions and recommendations I will request the Committee to consider. Number one, we should ask ourselves question like *munyua maai*, how did it happen? That we nowadays have those trees even in our shambas. I remember in those good old days Mr. Speaker; you were not allowed to plant any *munyua maai*. But also it is good we note that what are the benefits of this kind of tree? and also medicinal value. We have more than one thousand types of *munyua maais*. And I remember when we had the Covid time, there were people who were getting the medicine from the eucalyptus. It was being used to brave in. I think the Committee should also seek more clarification. What are the best *munyua mais* medicinal? Or what are the beneficial ones? medicinal ones? And also when we talk about the Kakuzi issue, I think that also depends how the people have been migrating because most of the and I want to agree the Hon member, Muteti, it might have been because of migration and that has caused the kind of problem we have been having down there, because everybody came from up stream.

I will request that we should first know, why we have this kind of a problem? I think this problem is bigger because of the issue of poverty levels in Murang'a county and that is why most of the people are planting these trees and they are selling the same trees as firewood, they are selling as poles,

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they are also selling to this tea factories whereby it is like the tea factories are encouraging more people to plant this eucalyptus (*munyua mai*) in their homestead. Even if you go on the roads, you will find most of the people cutting the logs and putting them aside not knowing the effect of that. The more they cut, the drier the area becomes and the more it becomes a problem to us.

I think we also need to address that issue of poverty. We need to look at what should be planted as I said earlier, we have one thousand species of *munyua mai* and secondly, Mr. Speaker, is about the issue of having a master plan whereby we have harmonisation of an ad-hoc committee between energy, agriculture and water so that we can see how to put up a Policy that nobody should be allowed to plant a tree within the river beds so that we can know when the Committee of energy is there, when the Committee of agriculture is there, when the Committee of water is there and when we include the administration down there, we are able to have *barazas* (informal meetings) and explain to our people when all the Committees and even the government institutions when we are together.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am more worried about the issue of our rivers, you will find that if you go to Sabasaba river, people are starting to plant a tree, apart from the eucalyptus, there is another tree that is being planted there. It has brought an issue, whereby it is just wood and is a curving but it is taking a lot of the river water in terms of consumption more than eucalyptus and I think I will have time to go and show my Chair that tree because it is becoming common on that side. So, unless we go back to our basics and the Committees come together with these government institutions, then I think, we will not win this war as much we discuss here. We must learn to be practical and have an action plan. We now go to the field, we call people to the *barazas* (informal meetings), we tell them and take advantage of that. Otherwise, what will happen is another problem.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we must encourage and have this kind of a program of educating our people in our youth polytechnics because the future of our country and the future of the generation of the youth. If the youth do not understand the consequences of what we are going through, because they are in school, either high school or primary school and do not understand the effect. You will find that most of the time, they are the ones selling these trees and they are planting and they are selling those trees. I also did in my ward, and I thank God, I had to engage the CECM Devolution and we just changed one of our polytechnics in Kahumbu, it is now called Kahumbu Agro-Vocational Training Centre, so that at least we start training our youths on the effects.

When we say about hunger, when we say about energy, when we say about climatical, when we say whatever we are saying, we have the basics from down there and I think I am also on record

with the Chair of the Youth Committee, that I had encouraged her to visit the place and we see how we can start not only sitting down and coming to have a war or even having like "ooh what has hit us". We need to start acting now. We need to put the youth on the place. They should know, not only about sports in terms of football and all that stuff. Even in our colleges, at home, we should have that kind of a thing, so that we are able to reduce the risk in future. Also, Mr. Speaker sir, I did not know that a monkey is a pet, I thought it is my cousin but I will still go and find the books on how it became a pet and not the cousin as we always say that we evolved from the monkeys and all that stuff. I get worried why the monkeys of today do not become human beings while we are not becoming monkeys, that is a discussion for another day.

I rise to support, and I say that we have done a good job as a Committee but please on the side of recommendation, I would request we have a subject as a County government with our polytechnics apart from the issue on electrical and plumbing and all that stuff, let us also put agriculture as a basis to reach those youngsters who are our youth, our sons, who will be our generation for the future so that at least the gen-z can understand what the older generations are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Hon. Ruiru, please try to be concise and precise so that you do not take too much time.

**Hon. Ruiru Bernard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief, as I rise to support. Mine, first and foremost, I would like to thank the Committee for a job well done. My request and comment on the Report is basically, I think Hon. Chefman may have mentioned it, one of the point the Committee has made is that these animals we are calling monkeys but I believe they are within the group or family of monkeys. The fact that they are classified as pets, yet I think in the entire County, even when the executive was moving across the County, on a program called inua mkulima, this issue came up severally and I believe it is an issue that we, as an Assembly, through the Committee on, one, agriculture and also environment, should come together and come up with a permanent solution. My request to the Committee and to this Assembly is, all factors considered, it is my prayer, that we can come up with a permanent solution to this issue. It has been a serious challenge to our people and Murang'a County is an agricultural County, it might not be compared to other counties that are probably more urban. In as much as we have an urban aspect, to greater extent, our County is agricultural, you can also see the programs that our executive is running are also agricultural and therefore, I think it is upon the Committee on agriculture and also environment to come up with a Policy, come up with a program, come up with an approach that will bring this problem to rest. So that as we push agriculture, as we

push farming, as we push economising the farming practice, now we can at least be able to have as the benefits to our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Mover, respond.

**Hon. Dinah Muthoni:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I thank all the members who have responded.....(*inaudible*).....

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Please Speak up... ..(*inaudible*).....  
Just get a different mouthpiece.

**Hon. Dinah Muthoni:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I want to thank you all the members who have contributed this Motion and I know there are others who have had opinion of supporting the Motion. I want first of all to say what Hon. Wairagu said about the vervet monkeys. Hon. Speaker, the vervet monkeys, this is a disaster to our County, even Hon. Sharleen said so. I said this is a danger to our County but the problem in the Act, the vervet was classified as pets. The person who can help us is from the national government. The Act must come from the national government then trickle down and you see honourable members, nobody wants to talk about the vervet monkeys. Kenya wild life doesn't want to talk about it and when those monkeys come to your field, and kill them, you'll be prosecuted. Your yields and production will not be paid anything.

I urge the members, this is a serious issue and I thank the Governor, once he had a solution. He told us you can catch one and paint, the others once they see the paint, they run away. The problem is how you will catch one but Hon. Speaker it's a problem to our County. I urge the members, all our MPs should pick the issue and make it a law from their House.

Hon. Muteti said about the eucalyptus (*munyua mai*), this thing you know when you cut, that's what we say the copies, when you cut the shoot, they shoot as many as possible. Now the best thing is to know which is the best type. We can also engage with the KEFRI so that they can know the best type of this *munyua mai*. Unless we do that, this thing then our rivers and our river banks or our wet lands will dry up.

Hon. Sharleen has talked about our riverbeds and wetlands, we also have a Policy of about our wetlands. We are going to Table it here in the Assembly because there are some other people there outside who are now cultivating and planting maize and whatever. We want to make our wetlands to reserve because you know our wetlands are the place we used to at least to hold water. We are doing on it.

Hon. Kamwaga said about *Thina*, I understand in your ward, this thing is all over. Hon. speaker if you can visit our police station here up, this thing is everywhere and the flowers are drying up so we need to do with speed. Members the problem with *Thina*, when you cut and you put it here down it will just start to germinate. It doesn't need any roots through the that's a problem and I know we are going to finish once and for all.

Hon. Chefman, you said about *Munyua mai* benefits and whatever, you have said we are going to engage with the KEFRI we know the right trees to plants. Also, hundred percent we combine agriculture with energy because we know all this about food security. When we combine the two committees we know which the best three to plants and whatever.

Hon. Ruiru, you talked about vervet monkeys, we said this one we have to end this thing and once and for all. We cannot keep here saying that the vervet monkeys are eating our products. We have said the law must be changed from the pets and the only people can do it from our national government, then our MPS so that they can trickle down. Thank you, honorable members, and honourable Speaker. I'm very delighted. I'm urging all the members to support the Motion and we will still continue knowing these new botanicals. Members when we go to the public barazas because you want to go and have public barazas, you don't have to use these botanical names because our *cucu* (grandmother) we are not-----

Hon. Speaker thank you so much I'm urging all the members to support the Motion and so that we can do the policy. Thank you so much.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** There being no further debate this House is adjourned until next Tuesday next week.

*The House rose at 10:56 a.m.*