

# MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

The House met at 2:46 p.m.

(*Second Chair Hon. Catherine Mugo in the Chair*)

### PRAYERS

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Second Chair:** Hon. members, I wish to make the following communication; pursuant to section 4(1) of Murang'a County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2014, that stipulates that two Members of the County Assembly from each sub-county shall be appointed to represent their respective sub-counties in sub-county in alcoholic drinks regulation, the committee of health services selected the following hon. members to co-ordinate the appointments in their respective sub-counties at the rise of the House today; Maragua sub-county the co-ordinator in regard to appointments will be Hon. Eliud Gitau Kabuthi, Gatanga sub-county the co-ordinator will be Hon. James Njoroge Kariuki, Kangema sub-county the co-ordinator as to the appointments will be Hon. Mary Watiri Kariuki, Kiharu sub-county the co-ordinator will be Hon. Charles Karina, Kahuro sub-county the co-ordinator will be Hon. Samson Kago, Kandara sub-county the co-ordinator of the appointments will be Hon. Boniface Njihia Mbogo, Mathioya sub-county the co-ordinator will be Hon. Joseph Kimani Machiri.

There is also communication that members to meet for games after the Assembly. The volleyball team and football team to meet at Ihura stadium and other sports disciplines will meet at sports club. Next order.

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### FORMULATION OF A POLICY FRAMEWORK ON MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN'S HOME

**Hon. Florence Nyambura:** I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

Aware, that Article 53 (1) (d) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that every child has the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practice, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour, cognizant that some individuals are starting up children's homes in the county through donor funding and later abandoning the children after benefiting from the funds, leaving them to suffer; this Assembly urges the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Youth, Culture and Social Services to;-

1. Identify all private children homes in the county
2. Partner with the children's department and come up with a policy framework on management of children's homes.
3. Establish a county board which will look into all matters relating to children's affairs for both the public and private children's home in the county.

### MOTIONS

#### PROCUREMENT OF MURRAM LAND IN EACH SUB- COUNTY TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE DILAPIDATED RURAL ROADS

**Hon. Charles Kirigwi:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;-

Aware, that transport infrastructure is a key priority in the Kenyan development and growth strategy, further aware that feeder roads include any road off the primary paved network that provides a link between the primary network and the network of rural access

roads, recognizing that development of economic activities through improved road access is significant in boosting the growth of the county; this House urges the County Executive Member for Transport and Infrastructure Development to facilitate the procurement, lifting and loading of at least 10 acres of murram land for each sub- county for making feeder roads to improve access and transportation within the dilapidated rural roads, further the County Executive Committee Member to facilitate the respective areas with pneumatic rollers to flatten the roads.

I must say that I brought a motion that was similar to this one before and I learnt that due to my selfishness then, the motion that I had was going to specific area, and following the advice that I received from Hon. members of this House is that the motion is good we need to do our rural roads and we make sure that the development of our rural roads go to each and every corner of this county.

Madam Speaker, I was looking at the budget that we passed just the other day, we did only 350 million and going by that it is small amount compared to previous that did the roads.

If we sit down as leaders and we agree to procure about 80 acres of murram land the amount of money that we have budgeted for, we will go about doing our roads in a very easy way, because we have the land with us, after that we make sure that we get the means of lifting and transporting the murram to the respective areas.

Some sub-counties like Kigumo, Mathioya and Kangema may not have murram land; they may not have somewhere to procure murram land, this murram land may not be necessarily be from the same place. It does not mean that we go to one area like Kamahuha and we procure there. The county government can procure from the nearest area possible from the sub-county. Going by that, I request the members because I took a lot of your input last time to consider this motion positively, so that we do our roads fast.

I was reading the papers yesterday and I saw Nyeri has done the same. The Governor of Nyeri has partnered with Kenya Forest Services for quarry land and I think this is the way to do our roads very fast.

I was doing my calculations the Kshs. 350 million that we have, if we were to do roads by contractors it will merely do 50 kilometres, so Madam Speaker I urge members to support this motion and I request Hon. Danson Mburu to second.

**Hon.Danson Mburu:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to second this motion. The motion talks about putting aside at least 10 acres of murram land to every sub-county and I think this one is quite in order and it will hasten development.

Madam Speaker we should bear in mind that so that we may be seen to develop a road network and this is very important and it shows how development has come to certain area. In most developed countries they are judged by the rate of roads in those areas.

I remember when we went to Singapore last year we found that the roads in that country are so good, I do not remember seeing any earth road in that area. When you go to other countries you are told that roads prove that the country is developed. It will be the same case if we start putting murram in all sub-counties and we urge the County Executive Committee Member in charge of roads to think about this and make it possible.

I urge the members to support this so that we may start off and think about our roads, and I think if this is passed by the Assembly, I am sure the CEC may hasten to do the work, I second.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. James Kagoni:** Madam Speaker, I stand to support this motion and also introduce an amendment to this motion if you allow me; that after the word 'roads' we add the following words 'in addition, the county government to engage 10,500 youths distributed

among the wards to provide labour not limited to roads and to also engage the mechanical and transport department of the Ministry of Public Works in the national government and the National Youth Service to source for cheap trucks and the machinery for the works.'

Madam Speaker the reason why I am introducing this amendment to the motion is because that part of the proposal is very much compatible with what the mover has moved in terms of the contents that he is proposing to this House.

The other idea is if we were to borrow from the NYS model, is that if we are able to engage the young people in the development and in doing the work in the murraming itself, we will be creating a lot of employment for our young people, and equally we will also be equipping young people with activities and skills related to these area.

When I was listening to the mover as he was making his submissions to this House, I realized that we are sharing a lot in terms of what he is proposing, in terms of the benefits that can be brought by the procurement of 10 acres of murram land. For that reason I would wish if we were to join through the addition of that amendment to the motion so that the youth are included and appear like the principal beneficiaries of this activity that will be activated in the county if the motion goes through, then we will be able to benefit our young people a lot and it will reduce a lot of petty crimes and other activities that young people are included in. Madam Speaker if allowed I would ask Hon. Esther to second this amendment.

**Hon. Esther Ngugi:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to second the amendment. The engagement of 10,500 youth distributed among the wards will create employment in all wards for our youth. Involvement of the National Youth Service will provide experience and expertise required by the youth as they do this work. As a result of this, the youth in our county will not indulge in alcohol and other drugs. Therefore I second the amendment, thank you Madam Speaker.

*(Question on amendment proposed)*

**Hon. Charles Kirigwi:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I support the amendments because it is very clear that as I was doing my mathematics here the mover of the amendments was creating employment for at least 300 youth per ward which is very good.

In some of the sub-counties like Kigumo and Kandara we have seen what the youth can do in terms of the mobilization. The mover has said that when we are through with the roads, we do not limit ourselves to engaging these youth to only roads, they can do even water. I know we have a very big budget for water about 400 million and once the county procures the pipes we can also engage them in this.

It is in the public domain that there is a department called transport and mechanical at the national level and it deals with hiring and leasing their equipment and machinery to people, even individuals, if you want to hire those machineries you can do it at a subsidized price.

We have also seen the National Youth Service with the machinery, if you engage them to lift this murram we are saying that we can be able to do our roads in a very short time and very cheaply where we get value for money. I support

**Hon. James Kariuki:** I support the motion after the member withdrew it and the version we are having here

**Second Chair:** Hon. Kariuki, I would want you to address yourself to the amendment.

**Hon. James Kariuki:** I support the amendment because I am one of the beneficiaries of the National Youth Services in Ng'araria and they are doing a wonderful job so if we were to engage 300 young people to do our roads, that would go a long way in empowering them and making sure that there is no idleness and drinking and other vices, therefore, this ammendment is proper and I support it in total.

I also feel the cost of doing our roads is on the higher side, this is why this motion is proper because when I am told one kilometre costs about three million, with this cheap labour I think it will come to about 1.5 million or there about, and therefore we will be able to pave most of our roads. I support.

*(Question on amendment put and agreed to)*

*(Question on amended motion proposed)*

**Hon. Joseph Machiri:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I stand to support this good motion with amendments therein. We have gone a way forward, as you remember very well, we were a bit adamant last time in supporting the previous motion, I was one of the few people who shot it down, but this time round I echo my sentiments to applaud the mover of the motion and the mover of the amendment.

As you already know there is a disaster in form of the drinking menace in central province, specifically in Murang'a, people are drinking to death. We have already buried four people in Kamacharia and the reason why these young people are engaging in illicit brews is because they are desperate as they have no jobs, but this time round if we can create at least 300 vacancies for our youth in the respective wards; this is a notch higher in terms of putting a shilling in the people's pockets.

I urge because we already had another motion of engaging these youth in maintaining our drainage system and bush clearing in our respective wards, but I do not know whether that motion which was sponsored by Hon. James Kariuki was implemented by this county government. If we can see to it that the youth are fully engaged in bush clearing in our roads, water connection and digging the trenches.

Madam Speaker, if you can recall during the Kibaki regime there were a lot of people engaging in illegal activities like Mungiki, but when the motorbikes popular known as boda boda were brought in the country tax free, the people who were engaging in idleness are now few, they are not as many as those days. Therefore, Madam Speaker, if we can engage our young people so that they can be tired in the evening, they cannot engage in this senseless drinking. Therefore I support the motion fully.

**Hon. Mary Waithira:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I also rise to support and to commend whoever has brought the amendment because if we look at the motion it has a lot of quality compared to how the motion was before.

As we bring the issue of the youth and the employment of 10,500 we are answering to so many questions that have been brought as a result of idleness as far as the youth are concerned. When we have the youth working together, we are also promoting and enhancing socialisation amongst our youth. We are also bringing an opportunity where we can be able to deal with cross-cutting issues to our youth in terms of HIV/Aids, alcoholism, conservation among others.

The need to have all the feeder roads murramed is to make sure that we are able to access all the produce that is coming from the farms to the markets and to the factories on time. It is not good when we get our produce together and we want to get this to the markets and the trucks to ferry the produce that we get to the factories cannot be able to get there just because the feeder roads from the factories connecting to the other main roads are impassable. The moment we murram this, if this House is going to approve it, we are going to be a notch higher in terms of getting our produce to the factories on time.

When we talk of the Ministry of Public Works and more so to the department of mechanical and transport, the trucks that we usually get from there, because they belong to the government are very cheap. There may be someone who may look at it as if we are killing

the private sector but this is not the issue. When it comes to a given government giving services to our people we are not trading. We might not look at it from that angle because if at all we are able to use a cheaper way like now using the mechanical department to hire trucks in a cheaper way, then it means we are able to get more feeder roads constructed and may be at the end of the day the services will be able to help our farmers.

So I am seeing this as an advantage that we have made this amendment because the trucks are hired on per hour basis and the moment the truck gets a mechanical problem, this will not be charged, unlike in the private sector where you hire a lorry for the whole day. We are looking at the prudent use of the money that we will get from the public kitty. We are saving government money and making sure that the same money will get to our people and do a bigger area.

Looking at the 10 acre murrum land issue, we are also going to benefit a certain farmer who has lacked market for this commodity, because whatever you are producing, whether water, coffee or murrum, this is what will improve your economic situation. There are some of our people who do not produce crops out of the said land because this murrum is not production of any cash crop or food crop. The moment we buy the murrum we will be making sure they benefit from their pieces of land. It has benefits to the county government to give more services to our people and at the same time engaging our youth, while still benefiting the people whom we are acquiring the murrum from. If this House supports the motion it has a lot of quality all round, I support

**Hon. Kago Njoroge:** Madam Speaker, last time I had really supported the motion with the whole of my heart but today I oppose. If you look at the motion, the spirit is good, the amendments are good but I would like to correct that most of those people who are drunkards is not because they are jobless. We can talk of low self-esteem, being neglected in the society and not knowing where they are going but not because they are not working.

I know some of us here who did not have any other job before they were elected and they were not drunkards, so when we look at the drunkenness let us also know what else is making these people drunkards. We are even seeing professionals like teachers, doctors and lawyers who cannot manage their drinking. We need to look at drunkenness deeper than beyond employment.

Madam Speaker, the reason why I am opposing this motion is because I have looked at Kahuro sub-county where we have three wards. I have a big quarry where the murrum can be bought from; we have Wangu with two quarries and at Hon. Martin's area in upper Murarandia where there is a quarry. By buying 10 acres in Mugoiri ward, we will kill the business for those with quarries in Wangu and Mugoiri ward. Similarly we will kill the business for those investors who have the land in Murarandia ward, and I also see us killing the business of contractors because I have seen government tractors being hired out, why does the government hire them out? So that it can be able to sustain itself. We have many young people becoming contractors and then there is free murrum which is being given so their work is only loading. Next time we will come here and pass a motion that we need to buy trucks to ferry murrum, in so doing we will be killing our people, making them more desperate and jobless, and if joblessness makes them drunk, I am seeing my Rwaro area full of drunk people because they have nothing to sell because whatever they sold to the government they can never go back to that.

I would encourage a retail business where the contractor buys the murrum on that particular day. I know of people who have gone for loans from banks but the money has been used so by the time the salary is credited, they only get a third that cannot sustain them, leading them even to suicide. Assuming in Mugoiri ward we buy land for the whole quarry,

all those people working there will get more money and they will not get any more money the rest of their lives.

So, I am opposed to the fact that Kahuro sub-county is very big, we have many quarries where we can buy murrām. If they go to Wangu, Mugoiri people will never sell their quarry waste because there is free murrām in Wangu and my people in Mugoiri will stay hungry so I oppose the motion and state that we need to look at how we can deal with drunkenness in more serious ways of doing business or are we uplifting the businesses of our people. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**Second Chair:** The mover to respond

**Hon. Charles Kirigwi:** I am happy today by the support this motion has got. I must say that the motion is not about drunk people, there's nowhere in the motion that is mentioned that it an alcohol controlling measure. We are here for public interest, we hold our offices because if the public trust that members of Murang'a county gave us. I know if this motion is passed, it will bring a lot conflict with existing contractors but personally I do not have any apologies to make. For public interest, we would rather do it the cheaper way, much that we will have prudent use of our resources, value for money and Wanjiku will see our work.

Madam Speaker, the biggest challenge we may have after the adoption of this motion is the implementation and I urge the implementation committee to work hard to ensure that now that there is money and before it is used elsewhere, we will make sure that we implement the motion as it is.

There is the notion that we will make some quarry businesses collapse in Kahuro sub-county; I must say that this whole county has more than 3000 kilometres of road network, out of that 2, 454 kilometres are earthen, there is no murrām. By saying that we will kill business in Mugoiri, this may not hold water because even if we buy 80 acres, we will only do a thousand, there are additional 1454 kilometres remaining. We will not do murrām this year as if we are dying tomorrow, the budget cannot allow.

Looking at the milk issue, there were sentiments that if the county comes with coolers, we are going to kill the existing milk industry, but what I am seeing now, they are still thriving, they have infact upped their game. Rather than what they were paying their farmers the county government has come in and upped their game so I think by entry to this classified area, we will have fights with contractors, but I know it is for the public good and we mean well to them so I urge members to support the motion with amendment and our county to go forward, thank you.

*(Question put and agreed to)*  
*(Applause)*

#### DEVELOPMENT OF A CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM

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

Aware, that sections 98, 99, 100 and 101 of the County Governments Act no. 17 of 2012 provides that county governments are supposed to take up the role of civic education, further aware that the dream of our independence leaders was to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and disease in our midst which has not been realized in any meaningful way to this date, this Assembly urges the County Executive Member in-charge of Education and Technical Training to develop a civic education curriculum that can be used in educating members of the public on their civic responsibilities.

Madam Speaker, the reason why I thought of coming up with this motion is because the duty of educating the public through civic education lies with the county governments. Since independence in 1963, we have committed ourselves to eradicate illiteracy, ignorance,

disease and poverty but so far it has not happened, that tells us that going to school is not enough, so many of us have gone to school but there is a lot of ignorance doing the rounds. With the new Constitution, basic education is supposed to be up to Form 4, but this is not helping matters, people are still very ignorant. I remember when our very own Kenneth Matiba asked for multi-partism in this republic in 1990, most people supported but they did not know what that were supporting, Subsequently, here was a clamour for change of the constitution because we realized that the removal of Section 2A was not enough, the same old government came back to power.

Madam Speaker, I must confess that during the Constitution making process which I was very much involved in, in my own small way, I learnt a lot from the Nairobi Law Monthly which was being produced by Gitobu Imanyara, I remember also there was a clamour for *majimbo* in this country by Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga. Most of us did not support *majimbo* with good reasons, but with time, we realized what *majimbo* was all about. Of course the connotation was wrong, so we came up with a better system which we called the devolved governments. I remember listening to one of the Senators presently, who was the MP for Mandera, Billow Kerrow explaining how Mandera can be transformed into a very rich agricultural area because there are two permanent rivers that flow through his constituency and I was convinced henceforth that devolved governments were the solution.

Madam Speaker, when we talk about education, there was once a big conference in Nairobi and one of the speakers said that education in Kenya is extremely expensive, but one professor rose up and told him, if you think education is expensive, then try ignorance. There is nothing in this world that is as dangerous as ignorance. In this country, I give people a lift in my car and if they find papers, nobody bothers reading them, maybe if there is a newspaper, but beyond this, Kenyans do not read, they are very ignorant and this is why we need civic education, they need to be educated through radio, newspapers public *barazas* etc.

I thought this is important because there is a lot of confusion in the Constitution regarding the two levels of government, people do not know the role of the president, Governor, Senator, Woman Rep, MP and the MCA, there is a lot of confusion on the ground.

When I am in my ward, people tell me that I have not done a particular road, but I have to educate them that this road belongs to Kenya Rural Roads Authority and I have to educate them that there are three bodies, that there is the Kenya Rural Roads Authority. Kenya Urban Roads Authority and the Kenya Highways Authority, they do not know, but when you educate them they appreciate and I tell them that this particular road belongs to the Kenya Rural Roads Authority and the patron of the road is the MP. So I am trying to say that this is not my road and the people understand and this is what I am looking forward to. Can we educate the people so that they know the role of all elected leaders?

Madam Speaker, they also do not know the role of the civil service and this is precisely where the rain started beating us in the 1970s when the Ndegwa Commission was formed and one of its recommendations was that we allow civil servants to participate in business. This messed up this country completely, we lost the vision of what a true civil servant is supposed to be and as a result, there is a lot of wastage and corruption in use of public resources and it is no wonder elected members have asked to be given money in order to do what they think they should do for the people who elected them; this is what informed the former MP, Senator Muriuki Karue to come up with the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), because the civil service was not doing their job. If you leave the public servants to do their job even here in the County, they will not do it, and who will be blamed? The elected leaders, so Madam Speaker we must change this.

I appreciate, with coming up of many radio stations in this country, especially the vernacular stations, people are becoming aware of their civic responsibilities, I am also aware

that the TV educates people, some churches like the Catholic church through the Peace and Justice commission have a curriculum to educate their followers, we even have a Lantern campaign which comes before Easter, this is important that even the church need to take up the civic education role.

Since this responsibility is ours, we should take up this role seriously because it is important for us to educate our people so that they know what they are supposed to do. I know sometimes politicians like exploiting the people's ignorance, but it does not help in my view, for how many years will you be in power, even for our case. Why would we want to exploit the ignorance of our people?

Madam Speaker, with the present Constitution, we have two levels of government, the central government and the county governments. The county governments have 14 roles that they are supposed to fulfil and the people do not know. It is important that people are told through *barazas* and civic education that people are educated on the roles of national and county governments, so that we as leaders are kept on our toes so that when the executive says it will not built nursery schools, the people will know that it is so and so refusing because it is important for the people to be educated and to know.

Two things are going to change this country of ours; that is citizens awareness of their civic responsibilities and two technology, the e-procurement and the IFMIS is changing things really fast. You cannot just misappropriate public funds because you are going to be caught and this is important because if we have a citizenry that is aware of their civic responsibilities, this country will develop at a much faster rate than we are presently doing. I urge the members of the Assembly to support this motion. I even have Hon. Bernard Wanyoike who has developed a curriculum, so if the CEC member for Education and Technical training is not able to develop a civic education curriculum, as the members of the education committee we are willing to help. I therefore urge the House to support this motion wholeheartedly and ask Hon. Bernard Wanyoike to second, thank you

**Hon. Bernard Kariuki:** Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the mover and take this opportunity to second this very important motion and say that we gave ourselves a Constitution and Article 10 of the Constitution requires that we do public participation in every governance process in this country; therefore it is important to find a way of making the members of the public aware of what they are supposed to do. The only way to involve the public is by imparting to them civic skills, this can be done by the county governments.

I appreciate the Tenth Parliament, in the history of Kenya, it is the parliament that have been able to come up with very progressive laws e.g. the County Governments Act which provides that county government to do civic education since the members of the Tenth Parliament knew that with the advent of a new Constitution there was need to engage the public in civic education. This is simple; it is as simple as making the public aware of the various democratic processes that take place within the republic or within the county and therefore this is not a complex thing which the motion is praying for; I pray that the CEC member for Education will find time to consult me because I would be willing to provide a skeleton curriculum that can be used for this county.

Civic education across the world ensures that the citizenry acquire civic knowledge. Through this process, members of the public would know where to participate in the governance process, e.g. if we do this civic education, the public would know that they are supposed to participate in the budget process, this would be automatic. They would appreciate their role in the legislative processes of the Assembly and the implementation processes of the executive. They would appreciate their role because every governance process must have a public participation aspect. This is an important process that we should engage as a county government.



As the mover said, there are so many governance processes going on which the members of the public are unable to differentiate, for example which roads are supposed to be done by KERRA, which are supposed to be done by the MCA, they do not even know the name of the MCA, most refer to them as councillors. So these are issues that civic education should be able to address.

We are going to have a public with civic skills, those soft skills that make the members of the public able to participate effectively and efficiently in the governance process. We will also have civic dispositions; those character formation issues that make the public to appreciate constitutional democracy, separation of powers etc.

If we engage in this and it is not a costly thing, we can be able to have a knowledge-based public that is going to appreciate the work of county governments, the work of national government and the work of various government organs of government. I would urge the members in this Assembly to support this very noble motion that will ensure that our public will not be taken for granted and Madam Speaker you always say in your profession as a lawyer, ignorance is no defence; if we make our public aware of themselves in the midst of government and society we are going to reduce the levels of ignorance because as we speak, our public requires us to attend funerals and very informal functions so that they see that we are working, but this is not where our work is. Our work is in this august House and in the committee rooms but Madam Speaker if we say that we are not going to funerals, we would be in for a rude shock but if we are dealing with an informed public, we could be worried on motion we have moved, how many statements we have sought but since we are dealing with a slippery public that does not really know the functions of Assembly, county government-the executive arm, functions of the Member of Parliament and the functions of various state organs, we have to behave the way we behave. If we have an efficient programme for civic education, maybe the people who come for the next term will not have many difficulties dealing with the public.

Civic education is important because it helps the public understand the various changes within the governance structure, for example when we enact laws, we do not enact them for this Assembly's consumption, it is for the public so that public will need to know the meaning of that particular legislation and others.

This is a very important process and I ask members to really support it and if it will require a budget, I would request the Budget and Appropriations committee to reconsider this program in the Supplementary Budget Estimates since this House has already approved the Budget Estimates. In case of any budgetary implication, I would urge the Budget and Appropriations committee, in which the Member for Kinyona sits and the mover to pursue this matter so that it is budgeted for and by the year 2017, people will really know what they are voting for, their citizen rights, and things like that.

Madam Speaker, anywhere in the world, one of the parameters used by the developed societies is how are people aware of their civic responsibilities and that is what we are supposed to do, pursuant to the County Governments Act (CGA). With all that, I urge the House to support this motion, it is very progressive and very forward thinking, it is not just for this Assembly; even for the Assemblies to come when people like Jimmy will be elected,

*(Laughter)*

They will have a public that is really aware of what they are supposed to do. I second.

**Second Chair:** Thank you Hon. Bernard.

*(Question proposed)*

The motion is open for debate, Hon. Mburu.

**Hon. Danson Mburu:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to support this motion. The role of civic education is very important in any society because when we say that we have developed people in various areas of the world, the difference there is

*(Hon. Kago Njoroge rose on a point of order)*

**Second Chair:** Hon. Kago, your point of order?

**Hon. Kago Njoroge:** I observe that there is no quorum yet the motion is good. I think it is good that we have a quorum for the debate to go on, thank you.

**Second Chair:** I order that the quorum bell be rung for five minutes.

*(Quorum Bell was rung)*

*(Loud consultations)*

*(Several members entered the Chamber)*

**Second Chair:** Do we have the quorum now?

*(No Quorum)*

*(Quorum Bell was rung)*

*(More members walked in)*

*(Quorum Attained)*

**Second Chair:** Hon. Danson Mburu can go on.

**Hon. Danson Mburu:** Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, as it is indicated in the motion, when we were asking for the independence of our country, we were looking forward after attaining independence, that we would eradicate poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and diseases. We had high hopes of attaining that, however, illiteracy to date is yet to be eradicated; it has increased. It is said that some pupils in standard six and eight in some schools are unable to read the Bible; meaning that there is something wrong in education.

At this juncture, I would ask the Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-government committee to sit and think about reading skills, especially in the lower classes where if these pupils get proper education and are in a position to read fluently when they are in standard six, seven and eight, we will in a way eradicate illiteracy. When these pupils do not acquire enough education and they proceed to secondary schools when they are not properly equipped with the necessary education that is required, they later on turn to be ignorant and instead of even struggling to acquire more in life, these are the people who end up in drinking the illicit brews and that is the reason why we are having the problem of alcoholism at the moment.

Therefore, civic education should be done; it should be done and the curriculum should be prepared so that people are educated and taught about their rights because that is another problem when people are illiterate, people like the policemen use that ignorance and arrest them anyhow and even torture them because they know that those people do not know their rights. However, if they are properly educated and they know their rights according to the Constitution, these people will be in a position to go to the courts and ask for protection as per the law but majority of them are harassed by the policemen because of being illiterate, they are also harassed by the administration and suffer quite a lot.

At this juncture, I ask Hon. Bernard that if he has a copy of the curriculum to instead of taking it to the ministry; he should provide a copy to the members so that they may also know

and congratulate him if he managed to prepare a good one. Let him make copies and give us so that we may be on the same footing with him. I support.

**Hon. Mary Waithira:** Madam Speaker, I also rise to support the motion and say that it is very brilliant and I commend the mover for that. When we talk of civic education, I think that this is an issue we are supposed to have done yesterday. If you look at the people that we are leading, there is a lot of ignorance from them. When you look at the issue to do with civic education, it has been enshrined in the basic education and more so, in the primary education curriculum. I remember there was a forum on education, whereby we had 'education for all', a consensus made by all the United Nations member states that we are going to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2015.

When we talk of basic education, we are talking of form four but if you look at the people we have in Kenya today, and more so in Murang'a county, many of the homes are assuming the basic education to be class eight. That is why you are finding some of our families tending to take class eight pupils to have graduated as far as the basic education in Kenya is concerned. You then find such pupils going direct to the *boda boda* industry and we are not saying that it is bad but we are supposed to conduct some civic education and tell our people that the basic education for Kenya is form four and not class eight because some of them can be in a position to continue their education in the day secondary schools that we have and even some are admitted to very good county secondary schools or even better schools. However, the parents think of the fee that they are going to pay and assume class eight to be enough basic education. Some of them, out of ignorance and others out of poverty prefer to have certain pupils join the *bodaboda* industry or some other businesses.

Madam Speaker, if only we ensure that there is a civic education curriculum, and we make sure that we implement it in every home, we are going to take advantage of that and make sure that all these pupils who are dropping out of school from class eight will be in a position to engage further to form one, two and all the way and some might even get lucky along the way and manage to get to go up to the college level.

If we adopt a civic education curriculum, it will address issues of primary health care. If you look at some of the diseases that many of our homes are facing, you will realise it is because of ignorance, others do not know what to do to prevent some of those diseases. We say that prevention is better than cure and the County Government is spending a lot of money on health which is devolved to buy medicine and even pay the health workers that we have. If we prevent the diseases, we can spend some of these monies in other areas or even save.

Many offices we visit have installed technology systems, if you are not IT conversant; you are somehow living in a world of your own. Yesterday there was education on how to file taxes and even how to procure jobs in the county and national governments through the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS). It means that some of our business people who are not lucky to have gotten to that level will be barred from procuring any job. Therefore, there are all the advantages of having the civic education curriculum put in place so that, at least, we can conduct it where our people are and enlighten our people.

We will also be able to enlighten our parents and the children that we have on their rights. Women, for example, are denied so many rights, sometimes you find that our women are not even aware of some of the rights that they are entitled to, as far as the Constitution is concerned, sometimes we even go to the administrators and see how our people are mistreated because they are known not to understand their rights. The moment we as the leaders and this House that legislates and gives all what pertains to be done as far as representation is concerned intervene in that, we will help a lot as far as our people are concerned. Therefore, this is a brilliant motion and I hope that members will support it and it will see the light of the day.

I am happy to hear that there is one of our members already has a curriculum; it will be very easy for the Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-government committee and even for our CEC Member to borrow a leaf from the already developed curriculum. We can, in one way or another, be in a position to commend whoever has come up with it. I can see that the work is easy if we only follow and have it implemented and see to it that our people benefit.

Madam Speaker, just the other day, we were in the House Business committee and were talking of the people knowing their right to vote. As you can see, other counties have embraced the campaign of encouraging the youth to acquire identification cards so that they can be registered as voters. This is an area that might make us lose the presidential seat in the year 2017. The civic education curriculum will really help our people by opening so many areas for them. With that, I support the motion, thank you.

**Second Chair:** Hon. Kagoni.

**Hon. James Kagoni:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I wish to make brief remarks in support of this motion. One is to congratulate the mover and the seconder of this motion for hearing that he has gone an extra mile and come up with a draft of the curriculum. That is very commendable and we need to encourage that kind of spirit, that is very important.

Madam Speaker, they always say that an enlightened society is an empowered society. If you were to ask these members, they would tell you that they spend a lot of money almost every weekend on issues that emanate from the people. Those issues are wrongfully regarded as ward development and are usually not within the core business of why we are here. It is important if members of the society are empowered and enlightened with this kind of civic knowledge so that they understand the limit of what one can do, especially on the requests the citizenry make.

I have been a victim on several occasions, I have been in situations where members of the public expected me to behave in a certain way or maybe make some contributions in a certain manner. In my personal opinion, those requests were not within my mandate in any way and I was not even supposed to participate in some of them. Others use social events to judge our performance. I remember an incident where I coincidentally failed to attend two dowry payment ceremonies of people of the same group and the group thought that I was not representing them very well because I was not in a position to participate in the dowry functions. This is only one example and there are many other things that have been happening around that make you realise that the citizenry does not really understand. For instance, and the mover spoke about it, many people are not aware of the difference between the County Executive and the County Assembly, in fact, most of the people in the public think that we are actually under the Governor in terms of answering to him. I remember I was once in a function and I was almost getting late for another meeting and my uncle made some sentiments and said, "You need to hurry up so that you are not sacked by the Governor for being late." That tells you the amount and the level of ignorance in our people who do not understand how we really operate.

Madam Speaker, you also realise that our people do not demand for their rights as they are supposed to because they do not have knowledge of what they are supposed to demand for. If you look at the number of petitions that have found their way to this House, you will realise that they are very few. Anytime you are in public somewhere, you realise that people have grievances they would want sorted out but they do not know how to channel them to this House. They do not know that they have the leeway to use the petition channel to and make sure that their issues are tabled here. The citizenry need to be educated the reason why petitions appear first on the Order Paper. They are slotted before the motions and other

businesses to ensure that we give them priority. If people were to understand that, they would make use of that opportunity they have as they are supposed to.

Madam Speaker, you realise it has gone further to the demands that people make to the county government, The Constitution is very clear that the devolved functions are 14 in number, However, sometimes funny demands are made by the public and you realise that we are tempted to attend to other functions that are the mandate of the national government. We therefore end up spending a lot of monies from our budget on functions that are not devolved. That is why you realise that there is a lot of duplication of roles. The County Governments Act, 2012, stipulates clearly the projects that the county governments should prioritise. Sometimes we are carried away by the demands of the public which are many.

Madam Speaker, I find this motion to be very timely, it is one of those motions that should be implemented immediately because it speaks about our survival as well because if the public understands these things very well, it will become very easy for us to operate. Something else that has come up which I find will be a controversy for quite some time if it is not attended to; is the issue of IFMIS and how it has gone further to the E-procurement, which forms part of the civic education where the government is expected to publish all the tenders online and suppliers are also expected to do all their applications online.

Sometimes you will be finding people who want you to assist them but there is a basic requirement that they need to fulfil yet they do not know that they have not fulfilled it. They request if you can manage to assist them and you then realise that you have become a victim of circumstance where the suppliers may not be comfortable with you and may even think that you cannot be able to assist but it is because they have not even been able to get the minimum basic requirements that have been set out by the law.

It is important for some of these things to be checked and even when we are doing this civic education, I always find a lot of controversy on what the public perceives of the County Assemblies and the county governments, especially in regard to how much we are paid. I guess the media has misled this country completely in terms of what even the officers of the county government are paid. Others will mention that you are paid half a million shillings for entertainment and all that. I keep telling them that if I was being paid that kind of money, I would not even be around; there would be no need of staying around while being paid that amount of money. The civic education will clear some of these expectations that are false because when someone perceives you to be receiving a certain amount of money that does not exist, then there are expectations that

*(Hon. Charles Kirigwi rose in his place)*

**Second Chair:** Hon. Kirigwi.

**Hon. Charles Kirigwi:** Madam Speaker, I want to move a motion that we please limit our time to two minutes because many members want to contribute. I call Hon. Njoroge to second.

**Hon. James Njoroge:** Madam Speaker, I second.

**Second Chair:** My ruling is that we limit our discussion to two minutes, Hon. Kagoni you have another two minutes.

**Hon. James Kagoni:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I understand the member is involved in shot-put games and he is eager to participate. As I conclude, I was only emphasising on the need to have this curriculum and to share it because, as the County Government, we are in the best position to empower and enlighten our people. Some of my friends were asking me why we keep using the word cognizant. They have been wondering whether it is part of the words that we should be using anytime we are moving motions---

**Second Chair:** Hon. Kagoni, address yourself to the motion.

**Hon. James Kagoni:** Madam Speaker, it is part of that and I was just saying that it only shows the level of ignorance or the much people want to know because sometimes they think that we just use them for purposes of just using them. I really support this motion and I am also eagerly waiting to see the draft and if there are any budgetary implications, we are ready to even support the Supplementary Budget, thank you very much Madam Speaker.

**Second Chair:** Hon. J.K. to respond.

**Hon. James Kariuki:** Madam Speaker, I am happy that my motion has been supported because it is for the good of all of us. As one of the members has said, some of the social pressures we undergo, such as going to funerals, are completely unnecessary. You will find people here rushing for funerals and dowries yet that is not their work but the people do not know that.

So if they are educated or if we have civic education, people will know their rights and their responsibilities and they will not ask you to be going to their funerals; if funerals were part of the roles that we are supposed to be judged on, I think most of us would fail. If we were all supposed to be attending funerals, then virtually anybody can come to this House, including an old *mzee* aged 100 years because all he would need to do is attend funerals and dowry functions. It is important that we allocate some money and maybe have a Supplementary Budget so that this motion can be implemented. Thank you Madam Speaker.

*(Question put and agreed to)*  
*(Applause)*

**Second Chair:** Next order

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Second Chair:** This House is adjourned to Tuesday next week.

*The House rose at 4:19 p.m.*