

## MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

The House met at 2:49p.m.

*(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)*

### PRAYERS

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### FUNDS TO CATER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN MAJOR TOWNS IN MURANG'A COUNTY

**Hon. Beth Nguni:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion:-

Aware, that Article 42 (a) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, states that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, further aware that part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that county public works and services including storm water management systems in built up areas and water and sanitation services is a devolved function of the county government, cognizant of the fact that major towns in Murang'a county lack proper disposal of storm water and sewerage; this Assembly urges the County Executive Committee Member for Transport and Infrastructure, to set aside funds in the FY 2016/2017 Budget Estimates and in every subsequent financial year, for construction of sewerage system in all major towns of Murang'a county.

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

### STATEMENTS

#### LACK OF WATER PIPES IN ITHANGA WARD

**Hon. Esther Nyakio:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, pursuant to standing order 45 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Public Works, Roads and Transport committee on the following;

1. Is the chairperson aware that there are no water pipes in Ithanga water supply to replace broken ones which were installed and damaged 20 years ago?
2. Is he also aware that Ithanga and Lower Kakuzi, being the most marginalized wards, need to be served urgently with those pipes to enable the community have reliable water access since pumps have already been supplied by the county government?

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Chairman.

**Hon. Eliud Gitau:** I want to request to be given about 14 working days so that we can get a proper response from the relevant County Executive Committee Member (CEC).

**The Speaker:** Okay. Next.

#### ICHAGAKI HEALTH CENTRE

**Hon. Joseph Ndung'u:** Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, pursuant to standing order 45 (2) (c), I hereby request for a statement from the chairperson Health Services as follows:-

1. Is the chairperson aware that Ichagaki health centre had been allocated Kshs. 5,000,000 in the FY 2014/2015 Budget Estimates?
2. Why was the Health centre not constructed despite having budgetary allocation?
3. Can the chairperson inform this House when the Health centre will be constructed?

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Eliud Gitau:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am a Member of the Health committee and I request Hon. Ndung'u to give us about 14 days so that we can get a response from the relevant CEC.

**Hon. Joseph Ndung'u:** 14 days is okay and I will wait, although this is not a matter to debate right now, but as I had said yesterday, Ichagaki health centre has become a song. I therefore request the chairperson to follow up on the matter and kindly ensure that he brings a comprehensive answer, within 14 days, which will satisfy the people of Ichagaki.

### MOTIONS

#### CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR ENGINEERS EMPLOYED BY MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**Hon. Eliud Gitau:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am the chair Transport and Infrastructure Development and I want to move a motion:-

Aware, that county roads is a devolved function as stipulated in part two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, further aware that county roads require regular rehabilitation and maintenance to keep them in good condition and high operational efficiency, recognizing the fact that engineers employed by the county government have a responsibility of supervision of contractors particularly with regard to the standard of workmanship in accordance to contract drawings and specifications; this House urges the County Executive Member for Transport and Infrastructure to organize capacity building programs for the county government employed engineers so that they can enhance their project supervisory skills.

My motion has been motivated by the poor workmanship which has been going on through the county, as we do our road constructions. If we can organize capacity building trainings for engineers and works officers who supervise these works, we can add more skills to the construction work.

Through capacity building, they will be able to conduct day to day supervision of construction even in regard to the standards of workmanship. Some of them do not even understand what road construction means, you can visit an already constructed road and you will find that there is no proper camber and drainage, no culvert installations and one can conclude that whoever was supervising this was not even aware of what is supposed to be done, whereas all the documents have been done, specifications written down, but they are not followed.

Whenever you want to inquire what is happening, you will find that somebody may not understand how to supervise the roads and be in a position to issue instructions to the contractors so that they are well empowered with the skills.

If we can set aside some funds, and make the CEC responsible do capacity building to all those who are involved, I think we can do something commendable on our roads, we will also enhance the skills and give approvals to the qualities that have been approved in road making.

I saw it is important to let our officers be empowered so that we can question them more if we find such scenarios in our roads. This is an important tool in development. When we spend a lot of money but we cannot get the value for money, it means that along the way there is something that is not working up well. If we can have this in our system, I think this will work well. I request my hon. vice chair to second the motion.

**Hon. John Kiarie:** I second the motion.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Kago Njoroge:** I rise to oppose the motion. As much as I understand the importance, I oppose it on various grounds. As the mover has explained how our roads are

done in sub-standard ways, where cambers are not well done, culverts are not well installed and he as the chairman of the Transport and Infrastructure committee, I have never seen a report being brought to this Assembly explaining the lack of capacity on the engineers that we have and citing the reasons for inability to supervise due to the capacity gap.

I would be among the first to support if I see a report citing a road in Mugoiri explaining why it wasn't done to standard, I could have supported if I have seen the committee bringing the documents of the engineers employed by the county government saying they have not attained the required education level and that is why they need capacity growth.

I feel the importance of capacity building even for the members of this County Assembly but I can only support if our people are unable to do certain things after we go through several roads and come up with a report that they are not properly done due to incapacity and we can now set aside a certain amount for this.

If I remember very well in this financial year, we had some money set aside for capacity building, I would feel happy if the mover of the motion had stated that there was no money for such, but now he has not even cited the amounts allocated for such.

I wonder how we will urge the CEC to allocate more money yet the mover has not told us what was put aside. I also oppose since we have never seen a report telling us why the roads were not done well.

**Hon. Joseph Njoroge:** I rise to oppose this motion in consideration of the fact that the county government of Murang'a has employed engineers with all qualifications. When an employee is applying for a job, he is asked about his/her qualifications.

I think the engineers and quantity surveyors employed by the county government have good certificates which can enable them to do good work for the county. I fail to understand why the mover is requesting for a capacity building programme for the engineers to supervise the works done in the wards.

It is three years since the county governments started working, many roads have been constructed but I have never heard of any report in this House stating that certain roads were not properly done because we did not have quality engineers, quantity surveyors. I think the challenge is, when our engineers are proposing for the construction of a certain road, they do not even visit the site to get the clarification of what is on the site.

Now it is for the mover of the motion to go back to them and tell them now this is the time before giving any details of the road, go to the site, visit the road and get all that is required. If it is culverts, do the culverts, if it is a bridge, put a bridge with all the qualifications of a structural engineer or an engineer

I know the mover of the motion also knows that in each and every road and what an engineer cannot fail to see in a road is the shoulder of the road. There is something called shoulder of the road when a person who is qualified is inspecting the road.

I rise to oppose the motion and ask the mover to tell the engineers whom he works with that this is not the time for the county government to find capacity building workshops for those engineers..

**Hon. Jesse Mburu:** I rise to oppose this motion because if you read between the lines of this motion you find that we have been told that the CEC of transport does not know his job because you remember when we came into this Assembly we did not know much on the procedures of the House but you took initiative to educate us and here we are able to conduct the business of this House competently.

Equally, if the CEC finds that his people are not up to date, he is supposed to hold workshops with his officers and then train them what to do.

Again the same motion is also telling us that the County Public Service Board is employing unqualified people. These people are well paid, they went through the process and

are certified by the service board that they are qualified. I do not see how again we could come here and ask money to train these officers. If anything Mr. Speaker I would say that the mover of this motion brings another motion so that we can get rid of these incompetent people and get competent people to replace them.

Having said that it will be a waste of money to train people who have gone through colleges and they have certificates and they are certified to be qualified and then they come here to be given further training.

It is only that they are negligent, these people are competent it is only that they are sleeping on their job.

**Hon. Caroline Njoroge:** I stand to say that it could be a good recommendation in a report brought by the chairman. We would really oppose that idea, if it was a report saying that some work done somewhere in our wards because we know there are some works done in our wards by this department and then he recommends that we need a capacity building for our engineers or the staff in that department we can be able to support that.

But in form of a motion saying that we put more money on this I would wish that he withdraws the motion and bring something else.

**Hon. Eliud Gitau:** I want to thank members for deliberating this issue, it is an issue which has been coming up in my department where I came to think that these engineers need more training.

I could not have said so because they were employed by a department which got their papers and they were satisfied that they are qualified, but if you go to the ground what they are doing is something not satisfactory.

So Mr. Speaker I was trying to get ideas from these hon. members if it would be possible, because we have tried to push them to extent that either we set some funds to empower them so that they can do as required.

It seems they do not even understand, we agree here we suspend them and I come with another motion to suspend or sack them, I think I will be very comfortable. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Question put and negated)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*The House rose at 3:17pm*