

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 22nd September 2015

The House met at 9:42 a.m.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. members I wish to inform you that following adoption of Murang'a Tea Bill 2014 by this Assembly on 21st of July 2015 and subsequent forwarding of vellum on 28th of July 2015 to the Governor for assent pursuant to section 24 of the County Governments Act 2012 and standing order 138, I have received a memorandum from the Governor on Murang'a County Tea Bill 2014 and I hereby commit the same to the relevant committee for consideration. Thank you.

PAPERS

REPORT OF THE LAND, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BARAZA ON LAND ISSUES HELD AT MJINI CHIEF'S CAMP

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Mr. Speaker; I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly today September 22, 2015.

The Report of the Land, Housing, and Physical Planning Committee on public baraza on plot issues held on July 28, 2015 at Mjini Chief's Camp. Thank you hon. Speaker.

(Paper Laid)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CONTROL ACT, 2014

Hon. Charles Karina: thank you Mr. Speaker; I beg to lay the following:-

That, the report of the committee on implementation on the implementation status of the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2014 be laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday September 22, 2015.

(Paper Laid)

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF IMPLEMENTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CONTROL ACT 2014

Hon. Charles Karina: thank you Mr. Speaker; I beg to give notice of the following motion:-

That, this Assembly adopts report of the committee on implementation on the implementation status of the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2014, be laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday September 22 2015.

MOTIONS

REPORT OF EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE, RESEARCH, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON BENCHMARKING VISIT TO JOYTOWN SPECIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, THIKA.

Hon. Anderson Muchemi: Thank you Mr. Speaker; I moving the motion on behalf of the chairman for education who is committed somewhere else.

Mr. Speaker this is a report on visit to Joy Town special primary school located in Thika which we visited on July 20th this year. The committee on education wanted to benchmark on modalities with the aim of establishing a similar multi-disciplinary school in Murang'a county. Members agreed that we visit and see what is going on there. So we went there on 20th July 2015 to familiarise ourselves with structures that are there, facilities and needed equipment's and we came up with this report.

When we got there, we learnt that Joytown was started in 1933 with 30 pioneer students and currently it has 340 students. One of our members is beneficially of that school that is hon. Peter Kariuki Njogu, he attended that school.

The main objective of the church to start that school was to train the disabled students and pupils to be independent in their lives, and also to offer education up to standard eight to those pupils. The school also provides medical attention to the students and also rehabilitates some of the deformities of the children. It also does post- surgery physiotherapy and also trains walking with some aids.

When we got there we found that there are several categories of handicapped children. We were taken through those categories and they are three, starting with polio; there are students who suffered from polio, we have students who suffer from muscular atrophy, that is wastage of muscles and we were told these children grow very fast such that when the child is at the age of 15 years it is like he is aged 90.

We were taken to another kind of disability that is spinal bifida which is manifested by a hole at the lower level of spinal cord. The other category was cerebral palsy which is manifested by shaking of the hands due to damage during or after the birth of the child. There is another one which is due to brittle bones. Another one was bow legs, congenital malformation which is characterised by occurrence of big or small head due to non- drainage of water from the brain.

The challenges that we found in that school, which we intend to start here in Murang'a is lack of funds for making new wheelchairs for their children, they do not have enough facilities for computers and they do not have well- equipped workshops. They also lack good policy and legal framework on examination mode for physically challenged children because they do sit for the same exam with normal children.

They have a demotivated non-teaching staff due to low salaries and poor information to members of public on physically challenged children.

We learnt some lessons there and as we intend to start our own, we found that we must have very good budget allocation and ensure that the county government urgently searches for suitable land to establish similar education facility in Murang'a if we want to have it.

It is good that we lobby for allocation from the national treasury since we cannot have enough money from county government for that kind of institution to support the services and physically challenged in Murang'a county in the coming years.

Because I was there what I saw was really touching and I wish if the government of Murang'a can start one of our own because the principal told us they are limiting because of the facilities. He informed us they cannot admit everybody but they are admitting the ones with a lot of problems, those with multiple physical disabilities then sending others to normal primary schools back in their counties.

The principal comes from this county, from Gatanga and he was telling us that we have very many challenged pupils from Murang'a and he was telling us it is a very noble idea to have one such schools in our county, and he advised us to please find good land and enough funds to start this kind of school.

With that I would wish to call hon. Kiarie to second the motion and request members please support this motion as we engage to support one in our county, I thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. John Kiarie: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to second this motion but just before I second this motion allow me to make one statement, that I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members and the Speaker for the support they have given me during the challenging exercise that we have had at Kakuzi- Mitubiri ward and specifically in a farm called Kihiu- Mwiriri now renamed Kenyatta farm. Mr. Speaker I wish to thank you and the team for the support you have given us during the hard and trying moments.

(Applause)

It has been so difficult for me as the people's representative. As we all know what has been happening and members have been so concerned about me personally and about my people, I am so grateful. I am also grateful for the members who were able to make it for the presidential function of awarding the first phase of the titles, I know all members would have wished to attend but because of the postponement and the challenges that we had, the communication came very late but I wish to thank the Speaker because he attended and also the chair for lands and several other members.

Please receive my heartfelt thanks and may God bless you as we continue with this good work of serving people. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, I wish to second this motion, it is a great motion, it is a good motion personally I visited Joytown special primary school and the strength of any nation, the strength of any county is measured by the way we take care of the weak in society and the poor amongst us.

Joytown is an institution that actually takes great care of the weak in the society and the poor. This is a great institution supported by the county government and Salvation Army who are actually doing a good job and also several other donors including Kijabe mission hospital.

The number of students or people this school is able to accommodate is too little, they receive so many applications. Hundreds and hundreds of children who would like to join the institution but the number that they can be bale to care of in any given time is so limited.

Because of that, it is so important that we as people who has been entrusted by God and by the people of this county, that through this experience we can move in and see how we can be able to establish such an institution and other institutions in this county that will go a long way in serving the weak amongst us.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of institution should have been started as early as yesterday, three years down the line. We should move with speed because we realise we have so many children who are hidden in our homes, who cannot be able to get access to education and proper care within the county and the country? This institution will go a long way in assisting our people. I would also wish to request the members, for those of us who visited the institution, it was a real experience, that makes you realize how God has provided for you thus providing the need to see what you can do for your neighbor, brother or sister.

I would also request the members that each one of us makes an effort to visit the institution to learn more. I pray that we all visit such institutions to be able to put up quality institutions in the county such that by the end of the day, we shall be counted on what we did when we had an opportunity. I second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Cecilia Gitu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, we visited Joytown school Thika which was a real eye opener for us in Murang'a. The ringing word was disability is not inability. We were able to experience firsthand the many different kinds of disabilities that our children are living with and establish the fact that some of our children in Murang'a cannot get a vacancy in that institution because the vacancies are limited and we were really moved because it has taken a long time to establish that school. However, we should not worry here in Murang'a about the amounts needed here in Murang'a to establish such a school.

These are days of partnerships, we can seek funding from donors, private sector and we should not shy away because this is very necessary. We were also able to see the challenges that are there and in fact we offered to go back there with assistance. We noted that there are children who change diapers every 30 minutes, like children with holes in their spinal cord and cannot control their bowel movements and they have to go to change every time, there is urine smell and the teachers were telling us that at times they lack the facilities to ensure that the children are clean.

When we came back, we have already raised Kshs. 100,000 as a committee and we are appealing to you members so that the next time we go, we will not only take ourselves to learn, we will take something to help the children, we are appealing for your assistance.

We are alive to the fact that schedule four gives special education to the national government but we cannot delegate our disabled and weak children to the national government. It is us who should establish and follow.

We are appealing to the CEC Education to follow up with the national government, since this is their docket and ensure we have a special school in the county. How many of our children are at home because we do not have such an institution? I remember when we went there; we actually shed tears with Hon. Esther because you cannot even fathom how the child will be, but those people are not giving up, they make sure they maximize the capabilities of those children and the children come out and do something for themselves. We saw one of them who have no feet, no hands.

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)

Hon Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker, is it in order for Hon. Jane Wanjiku Ndegwa, nominated, to concentrate on the newspaper which is not in today's order paper?

The Speaker: Certainty it is not in order, members are not allowed to read newspapers or another literature irrelevant to the proceedings of the House during the session. Thank you for drawing my attention to this.

Hon Cecilia Gitu: Thank you for that hilarious break

The Speaker: It is not hilarious, it is a serious one

(Laughter)

Hon Cecilia Gitu: I was about to appeal to us to support the motion so that we will have such an institution. I included, we have reached the end because we do not have an institution like that, and it is the high time that we encourage the county to establish such a school. That would be a historical achievement of this first Assembly of the county. This would be an important project of the House which would go down history that we were the first to consider the education of the disabled in our county. I stand to support and remember we are appealing for help so that next time we attend we will take something with us. Thank you

Hon. Esther Ngugi: I stand to support the motion, I was part of the team that visited Joytown and as the hon. member who has contributed has said, most of us shed tears when

we saw how members of this Assembly and the residents of Murang'a should appreciate when we do not have disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, we went round the schools and saw different categories of disabilities and how helpless, they are. There is a difference between a special school and a school for people with disabilities. A special school specializes on only one category of disability like the school for the blind, school for the deaf etc. but, a school for the physically challenged caters for different kinds of disability and that is why we are urging the county government in collaboration with the national government to establish one for the county.

The fact that Murang'a county has no school for the people with disabilities, most of our children with disabilities do not go to school. Those who go to Joytown, as the hon. member has said, the school is expensive, congested and it is in Kiambu county, so those from Murang'a are overcharged.

We need to establish a budgetary allocation and look for a suitable land to establish one. Disability is very expensive because these children will not just go to school like any other, different forms of disability need assistive devices to move around, and others will need aid, so this will not be a normal school or case.

We also urge the government to do a survey of all the existing special schools in the county and document their status. We say that these schools are there but greatly neglected because of the blame game that these are national government functions and the county governments should not intervene, but Mr. Speaker, there should be a consultative meeting to harmonize these issues where both governments can get involved to establish a disability school in the County, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon Joseph Ndung'u: I stand to support the motion, that the committee has done a good job to visit that place and come up with an idea of how we can start such a school. That will be a good idea in our county since we will be able to help our pupils who are disabled but lacking space in Joytown or other schools.

It is a good time for hon. Kariuki who was a former student at Joytown primary school, and has been promised by the head of state to visit the State House, he should now take advantage and request the project from the President, so hon. Kariuki, if it is possible, let this be one of the requests when you visit the State House and do not forget to go with us.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: I would like to congratulate and thank the committee of education for what they have done. It has been our cry since we joined the County Assembly and became aware of our mandate of representing persons with disability who are less fortunate and lack a voice in the county.

I would like to thank the hon. members for assisting students in Joytown and other schools with bursary funds. I would like to support this motion noting that I was late this morning assisting a woman who wants to take her child to Joytown. The child is in class five and got disabled when she was in school. She is not sure whether she will succeed or not.

Coming up with a school in Murang'a county, I think we will be able to help our people and remember those children. As I said in this House, disability occurs every day, nobody can claim not to be liable to be disabled. Last month, we collaborated with the Majority Leader and hon. Martin where Inooro FM conducted a data survey at Githambo in Murarandia ward, so many people, around 50 of them, were referred to Joytown.

I think it is better if we have our own school. We need to collaborate with the Ministry of Education. We are very lucky because the chair for the committee on Education comes from our county, I know that she is going to be touched when given the recommendations and she is going to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker sir, we know that there is land in Murang'a, if we do not have land, we have some schools that do not have pupils where they can be taken and do something. Our

Constitution provides for integration with the regular schools, however, some conditions cannot be integrated because of the nature of how they move and everything. We should give this the first priority. I urge this Assembly that this is not the time to argue that there are functions for the national and county governments. If the county government will donate some cash for it to be done, it will be our joy and it will make history thereby leaving behind a legacy as the first Assembly to have contributed and done something for our people.

I therefore support and request the committee of Education not to stop there but rather press on. We will support one another and manage to do that. Lastly, as hon. Ndung'u has said, hon. Kariuki should make a request to the President, we will be very happy to hear that he is doing that and we will appreciate. I support and thank the committee and I urge them to continue doing that. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I represent Muthithi. I stand to support this report 100% and also congratulate the Seventh Day Adventists.

(Loud consultations)

We should all support this and have this institution put up in Murang'a county.

(Hon. John Kiarie rose on a point of information)

Hon. John Kiarie: On a point of information Mr. Speaker sir

The Speaker: I think there is a point of information.

Hon. John Kiarie: I wish to inform the member that it Salvation Army of Kenya and not the Seventh Day. We, however, also pray that the Seventh Day comes in and joins this good work.

(Laughter)

The Speaker: Thank you for the information.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir for that information; it was out of my mind but I am happy that it is back. If this is done, it will encourage the disadvantaged people because sending a disabled person to such an institution has become very expensive. I have one very pitiful case in my ward because this person was sending his child to Mombasa and we had to arrange for a fundraising where we raised some money. Still, I look forward to having another fundraising to help this family have their child in Mombasa.

Over and above that, I have another case in Muthithi that is very pitiful; there is a disabled lady in Joytown who, unfortunately, got pregnant. She was doing dressing and I am also going to visit that family to see what we can do to have the child back to Joytown. It is therefore important that we encourage this and have it in Murang'a and have the fee subsidised so that those with such children in their homes can come up so that we know them and place their children here.

Mr. Speaker sir, the bursary fund we have only caters for those in secondary schools and universities, including the disabled. I therefore appeal to the Members of this Assembly that we increase the budgetary allocation from Kshs.1.8 million to about Kshs.2.5 million and we have it categorised that a certain amount of the bursary has to go towards the disadvantaged. We can do that before we come up with one institution; coming up with an institution would take us time and we can therefore help those who are already in various institutions. For example, it will be very expensive to have the lady I have talked about back to Joytown.

I urge this House that in the next financial year of 2016/2017, we make a good allocation that will help us to put the disadvantaged people in institutions of higher learning. I

rest my case hoping that members will consider that and put a good allocation for that in the next financial year. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

The Speaker: My friend Peter Kariuki.

Hon. Peter Kariuki: Ahsante sana Bwana Spika, nimeteuliwa kuwasimamia walemavu. Jambo la kwanza, naipongeza kamati ambayo huchagua kamati zingine maanake wakati nilipo lalamika walisikia maombi yangu nakunipeleka katika kamati ya elimu. Nilipoingia katika kamati ya elimu, jambo la kwanza nilifanya ni kumsumbua kinara wa elimu kwamba tuitembelee shule ambayo nilisomea.

Unapoingalia historia ya shule hio, utapata kuwa ilianza na watu thelathini. Lakini kwa jinsi ambavyo magonjwa yalivyoonekana kwa watu, waliweza kupewa elimu ya kujua ya kwamba wanaweza kwenda shule ya Joytown waweze pia kupata elimu ya kujisimamia katika hali yao ya maisha.

Tulipoitembelea shule hiyo, tuliyaona mambo ya ajabu ambayo mimi binafsi niliyaona kuwa ya kawaida maanake nilikuwa nimezoea kuanzia nikiwa nasari hadi darasa la nane. Baadaye, nilienda Mombasa niliposemea masomo yangu ya shule ya upili. Naipongeza kamati hii kwa mambo waliyoona. Waliona kuwa kunazo aina mbalimbali za ulemavu, sio lazima iwe ni jambo limetokea kigafla ukawa na ulemavu maanake unaweza kuzaliwa ukiwa na ulemavu.

Ombi langu katika mjadala huu ni kwamba serikali iweze kuitikia kuwe na shule ya walemavu maanake unapoiingalia shule kama ya Joytown utapata inaweza kuweka kiwango cha watu 340. Wale ambao huondoka katika kidato cha nane huwa wanaondoka tu watu 30 peke yake. Hakuna shule ingine katika nchi hii yetu ya Kenya ambayo huwa inafundisha masomo ya elimu kama Joytown. Kwa hivyo ombi langu ni kwamba kama hapa kwetu katika Kaunti ya Murang'a tunaweza kuwa na shule kama hii, watoto wengi wataweza kunufaika na wataweza kijitegemea.

Nilipokuwa katika shule ya Joytown, niliweza kufundishwa mambo mbalimbali. Jambo la kwanza, niliweza kusomea kucheza kinanda na niliweza pia kusomea kuzitunga nyimbo na ndiposa nilipoweza kutoka shule ya upili nikaweza kutunga nyimbo zangu na nikaanza kujitegemea kabla hata sijaingia hapa. Niliweza kuyafanya makuu hata kushinda ndugu zangu ambao tulikuwa tumezaliwa nao.

Wengi walishangaa walipoona ya kwamba mtu mlemavu anaweza kufanya jambo maanake wengi walifikiria ya kwamba mtu mlemavu ni mtu tu wa kuombaomba na hawezi kujitegemea.

Kwa hivyo, ningependa hii iwe funzo kwa kaunti zingine katika nchi hii yetu ya Kenya. Tunaiomba serikali tuwe na shule kama hii ili watu ambo ni walemavu waweze kujitegemea na waweze kujenga taifa letu la Kenya. Mungu awabariki.

(Applause)

The Speaker: I ask the mover to respond, is the mover not around? He is.

Hon. Anderson Waweru: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I thank all the members for supporting this motion. As Hon. Gitu had requested, we were contributing something so that we can go back to visit Joytown. So far, we have raised Kshs.100,000 and we appeal to other members to contribute something. You can choose to donate food or pampers if you do not have money. We will visit them again the coming month. Thank you members, for your support.

The Speaker: Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. members, the House is now adjourned until 2:30 p.m. this afternoon, thank you.

The House rose at 10:27 a.m.