

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Thursday, 15th October 2015

The House met at 2:50 p.m.

(Second Chair Hon. Catherine Mugo in the Chair)

PRAYERS

STATEMENTS

RELOCATION OF REHABILITATION CAMP FROM IHURA STADIUM TO KAMBIRWA HEALTH CENTRE AND THAILAND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Madam Speaker I wish to request for the following statement; pursuant to standing order 45 (2) (c)

(Hon. Beth Ngugi rose on point of order)

QUORUM

Second Chair: Hon. Beth

Hon. Beth Ngugi: Madam Speaker there is no quorum.

Second Chair: The clerk to order that the bell be rung for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung)

(Several members walked into the Chamber)

(Critical minimum achieved)

Second Chair: You can continue hon. Njoroge.

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Madam Speaker I wish to request for the following statement; pursuant to standing order 45 (2) (c), I hereby request for a statement from the chairperson for Health and Sanitation committee on the following

1. Is the CEC in charge Health and Sanitation aware that Kambirwa health centre and Thailand agricultural training centre are located in Gikindu location in Mbiri ward?
2. Is she also informed that the county government of Murang'a plans to relocate the alcoholic rehabilitation camp from Ihura stadium to the above cited centres?
3. Is she alert to the fact that the planned sites for relocation of the rehabilitation centre are not suitable to act as permanent rehabilitation facilities? Further is she aware that the Thailand agricultural training institute lacks water connection?
4. Can she therefore indicate the period through which the rehabilitation centre is meant to be situated in Kambirwa and the Agricultural Institute, before relocation to a suitable convenient and permanent location?
5. Pursuant to section 87 of the County Governments Act, 2012 when does the CEC intend to conduct public participation in Mbiri ward regarding relocation of the rehabilitation camp from Ihura stadium to Mbiri, and when does she intend to bring a policy paper on the same programme to the Assembly for approval?

Madam Speaker if you allow me, I can elaborate further on this issue of relocation of rehabilitation from Ihura stadium to Kambirwa land because the day before yesterday people who were at Ihura stadium were taken to Thailand and some to health centre in Kambirwa.

It is good to know that where they were taken in Kambirwa health centre is an area meant for maternity so there is no boundary between where those people are staying and where the patients are. There should have been a fence to protect the relocated people from moving in the designated area to where the patients are.

Yesterday morning I was called by the people from that area and informed that the people who were taken to Thailand are grouping into ten and loitering all around the area looking for where they can take alcohol and mind you by yesterday at 10 p.m. four people were caught drunk and were brought to police cells.

Those people are loitering and posing a threat to people of that area because by yesterday nobody went to the farm to plant because of these people who are moving in groups of ten or five and they are going to look for beer and bhang.

This is an issue of urgency and I would like those people of Kambirwa to be involved in public participation and be told when those people will be brought to Kambirwa and when they will be relocated to another area where there are no people around. Thank you

Second Chair: Thank you Hon. Njoroge. Hon. Boniface

(Hon. James Kagoni rose)

Second Chair: Yes hon. Kagoni.

Hon. James Kagoni: Thank you very much hon. Chair, we have taken seriously the comments that have been made by the hon. member and in deed I want to agree. We will try and do our best and I want to promise the hon. member that on the sitting of next week on Wednesday afternoon we will be able to table our report or respond to the statement.

Second Chair: Hon. Njoroge are you satisfied.

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Yes

Second Chair: Thank you, next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZATION, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED MURANG'A TOWN SHUTTLE SERVICES

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: Thank you Madam Speaker, on behalf of the committee I beg to move the following motion;-

That, the Assembly adopts the report of the Trade, Industrialization, Tourism and Wildlife committee on the proposed Murang'a town shuttle services laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Madam Speaker the motivation of this motion by my committee is that this town is growing very fast, we have institutions that are coming up, recently we had a new university by the name of Pioneer International University, we have already existing one Murang'a University, and we have another institution that is Kenya Medical Training Centre (KMTC) Murang'a and of course we have friends of our government who come to visit our government offices.

Based on that going forward, we felt that this is not a town that we need to just sit back as leaders we need a plan. Recently, Madam Speaker, if you have driven to our neighbouring town called Thika you experience a lot of traffic jam to the entrance of that town.

Consequently as leaders of this county we are also foreseeing a scenario where we can have traffic jam and there is also need to grow our town fairly from all corners rather than concentrating on one area.

The needs of these institutions are coming up; they will all need hostel facilities. Last time our government partnering with some bank, I think Jamii Bora and they were looking for areas to develop around where Murang'a University is, I think it is called Kiharu area and as a committee we felt that it is not fairly done because we have other

areas like the lower parts I understand it is called Kandundu area where we have a lot of land and we can have investors growing Kandundu to accommodate students.

As a committee and in the spirit of consultation, we consulted many stakeholders all the institutions that I have mentioned, we also consulted the transport sector these are Matatu Owners Associations, Taxi representatives, Bodaboda people and several other saccos That are dealing with transport.

Our dream is to establish like what we have in Nairobi, it is to establish a 'route number nine number six' whereby we can have matatus going one way and another going the--

Second Chair: Allow me, members, those consulting please consult in low tones.

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: Thank you, the route that we have marked, we have matatu one going maybe clockwise and another one going anti- clockwise so that we can have members having ease to access all the corners of this beautiful town.

We proposed the route to start from the bus park where Mentor sacco is, there is an open space there and the route to go to the left to Huhu petrol station goes to Mumbi, I am not very conversant with the names of these villages here then to Mukuyu. After Mukuyu it comes to the main road up to where we call *Kwa mai* then takes up Kangema –Kanyenya-ini route up to where we have the Catholic church towards Murang'a high school route.

It will serve Murang'a high school and Murang'a University. It will then pass through Sports club to the Governor's offices; to serve those people who will be visiting the Governor's office. When it reaches the post office, it will trespass through the road above Ihura stadium where there is a 'ka-murram' road up to hospital to serve the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC). It will go down back to Huhu Petrol Station.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: On a point of order Madam Speaker---

Second Chair: Yes Hon. Duncan.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Madam Speaker, can the Mover of the Motion let the House know what a 'ka-murram' is? What language is that Madam Speaker?

Second Chair: Hon. Kirigwi, withdraw or substantiate.

Hon. Charles Kirigwi: I withdraw, it is murram, there are some hard-cores by the name of murram. Before I was rudely interrupted by the member for Gitugi, I was saying that it will go back to Huhu petrol station. One matatu will be going through that route and the other one will be going vice-versa.

After the meeting with the stakeholders, we agreed that there is need to provide civic education to the people of Murang'a so that they can be aware of the proposed route. We can use all the media coverage to sensitise them. The work of the county government will only be to facilitate; we are not going to do business or have vehicles there. Ours will be to facilitate. We will, for example, establish flood lights along the route. We will also create bus stops and map them out. In consultation with the stake holders, we will allow the matatu owners to come together and get vehicles to transport people along the said route.

Lastly, the committee also proposed that we should have a launching date so that it is well known to the members of the public. I believe that the stakeholders will have cheap rates for people to afford the route. Madam Speaker, I request my very able Vice Chair to second.

Hon. David Muhoro: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I stand to support this motion. Let me first start by thanking the committee on Lands.

(Laughter)

Sorry, I meant the Trade committee and most sincerely the MCA for Township because we are the originators of this good initiative of the shuttle. We are not only core leaders because we are occupying these seats; but we must think beyond time. Murang'a town will

continue to be the county headquarters for the time being. Therefore, there must be structures that will make the people appreciate that they are living in town.

Fortunately, there was a group of Murang'a people who were here pleading with this House to have documents of land ownership. After having ownership, they need to move from one place to another. As the mover has highlighted, we have at least three main institutions which have come up. In two or three years' time, we shall have a population of more than 10,000 students living in this town. Without good means of communication, we shall, and God forbid, continue experiencing a lot of cases of hijacking, rape and all that. With the initiative of a shuttle, somebody will be sure to reach his or her destination after boarding a matatu.

The mover has explained very well how, together with the stakeholders and the Executive, we, are planning how this route should run. The stage in the bus park is almost empty, not because it is bad but because it is very far from where people are coming from. I believe that it is rehabilitated and it is good. From the Governor's office, or this Assembly, to where that stage is, it will take you more than 20 minutes, but with a shuttle, it can take you only five minutes from the same place.

It is good for all the leaders, stakeholders and people of Murang'a to be well involved in this because we do not want to be seen as if we are dictating to the public. It is important for the public to own this initiative and I believe it is so because we have sat with most stakeholders, especially those in the matatu business. We have also talked with the university administration and they are taking it with a lot of appreciation. It is now important for the leaders to appreciate and start spreading that gospel so that, before we call for public participation, we shall have agreed as leaders that this is the best way to add value to this town in terms of communication.

I am sure that we are also creating jobs. Instead of matatus plying one route, we are creating a route where more work and services are needed. I therefore support and urge this House to do the same. I pray that it will become a reality before our five year term ends. I second. Thank you Madam Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to support the motion. Even though we are making the lives of our people bearable instead of walking to all the mentioned institutions, our life here is becoming unbearable because this Assembly is very hot. You are going to agree with me because you are also here. I think the concerned people can do something about that.

Otherwise, this is going to open up more routes, especially for the matatus or buses that are coming from Kangema, Gitugi, Kiria-ini, Othaya, Sagana, Karatina and Nyeri because they will now be used as transport routes. It will be like the Eastleigh route and that will be good for this county because you will always find traffic along the Maguna-andu Total route, especially in the morning. If you open up more routes for these matatus, it will be good for the county, economically. We started this together with the Trade committee but we were kicked out along the process.

(Laughter)

Therefore, hon. Muhoro did not make a mistake when he thanked the lands committee. We started on the right foot. Otherwise, I support the report. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Second Chair: Hon. Karina.

Hon. Charles Karina: Thank you Madam Speaker---

Hon. Kago Njoro: On a point of order Madam Speaker---

Second Chair: Yes Hon. Kago.

Hon. Kago Njoroge: Is it in order for the hon. member who wants to contribute to do so while his shirt is not tucked in?

Second Chair: I did not understand your point hon. Kago.

Hon. Kago Njoroge: Is the hon. member for Township in decorum bearing in mind that his shirt is not tucked in?

Second Chair: Hon. Karina, you are out of order if you have not tucked your shirt.

(Hon. Charles Karina tucked in his shirt)

(Laughter)

Go on.

Hon. Charles Karina: We are prone to losing weight if we do not get enough.

(Laughter)

Thank you for catching my eye.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: On a point of information Madam Speaker---

Second Chair: Yes hon. Duncan.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Can the hon. member and the House know that it is not you catching the eye; it is the other way round, it is the Speaker's eye that catches you.

Hon. Charles Karina: Thank you, those are issues of grammar. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to support this motion. I am very grateful to this Committee, I thank the members because they did not kill this idea. This is a very good idea because, going forward, we are going to see our town growing in all areas.

I was very happy when the chairman was explaining how the route for Murang'a shuttle services will use. I would like to explain it again in a better manner. The route will start at the middle of the town, which is the Mugoiri stage, then to Huhi petrol station, to Mumbi, Mjini, Mukuyu, Majoyce area then down to water supply, then to the CCM Cathedral, then to St. Mary primary School, down to our University to the governor's offices, then to level 4 hospital before going back to the stage. There will be two routes, one on the right side and the other one on the left side, so we shall be having a scenario like the one in Eastleigh where the vehicles ply number six and nine.

When this idea came, the committee took it seriously, we came together with the land and physical planning committee and saw the route as a bright idea. As we stand here, the university is growing and we have investors building hostels around the university. If we can open the route, the students can be renting hostels in Mumbi, Mukuyu and all the other areas.

The infrastructure across the route needs to be improved. We shall make sure there are street lights for security and setting up of stages because we cannot allow the vehicles to be picking and dropping anywhere, that is why we are urging the Infrastructure CEC to ensure that he acts fast and sets up bus parks and the rest.

As one member contributed, what will matter is the way we will have tried to change these people. This is the County headquarters, when it comes to transport, we must improve the services at our headquarters. I am happy and I urge members to support this motion so that as the implementation we will see to it that the recommendations are fast-tracked.

Hon Rebecca Mwicigi: I stand to support the report. This is well thought and we hope it will be implemented. This commercial enterprise will add safety to our towns and also create jobs for our youth. People will be parking their vehicles and moving around. We will not have vehicle congestion that everybody is driving to the same destination.

Madam Speaker, we have seen many accidents happening with motorbikes and personal vehicle colliding and the matatus, if there is a way that the traffic will be directed like the shuttle directions the accidents will be less, the town will be cleaner and everybody will be

happy. When this one succeeds in Murang'a town, it should be repeated in all the other towns and I hope by the end of our term we shall have done two or more.

Hon. John Gitau: This is a good report; I think the county is now moving towards the right direction. If this is done we will create businesses because people will opt to drive rather than ride or walk. If this succeeds, there are issues that need to be addressed especially on security issues. As we talk of town services, all the vehicles should be marked so to avoid carjackers at night. This is a good report and if this happens I might decide to move from Kamahuha and start living here. Thank you.

Hon. Esther Ngugi: I stand to support the motion and inform the House that we have deliberated on this issue for a long time and we have even invited the stakeholders. We recommended that different stakeholders should come together to determine how they will be plying the routes. I do not know the names of the areas, but there is a route from University to Mumbi and from Mumbi to University. They need to agree.

You could sense that there were supremacy battles among the sacco's and to solve that they ought to come together. We also recommended public awareness to know that there are no people coming to deny others business. The initiative will be of economic importance to Murang'a town and its environs and also it will be convenient for them when they are travelling around and save them time.

Second Chair: Mover to respond

Hon Charles Kirigwi: I thank the members for the support they have given to our motion as a committee; I agree that the Implementation committee will work towards this. The member for Township ward being the chairman Implementation committee, I would expect him to be biased in making the work faster.

I agree with the members that it will create jobs and spur growth and development in every corner of this town. If it works, we will move to our second town Kenol, where we may create a route for Kenol to Kabati area and have the area growing.

If we get the 3000 acres that we getting from Delmonte, we may also need to plan for that town. I will urge the Clerk to forward this for implementation upon resolution by the Assembly so that we can actualize this dream; I thank the members for supporting the motion, notwithstanding all the concerns about the security and the need of marking the cars and the stakeholders.

In the report, as stated by one of the members, initially the stakeholders thought that we were hand picking one sacco because we had called it Murang'a shuttle services and there is a shuttle company that plies the Nairobi route. There was a lot if discomfort but we addressed the issue and explained what we meant by shuttle and they agreed. The CEC helped them to map the route and this committee agreed that the town manager will be incorporated so that it will be actualized. I thank member for the support.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Second Chair: The Assembly is adjourned until Wednesday 2:30 PM
The House rose at 3:30p.m.