

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 29th March 2016

The House met at 2:45 p.m.

(The Deputy Speaker Hon. Gachui Mungai in the Chair)

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
2014/2015 TO THE PERIOD TO FEBRUARY 2016

Hon. Boniface Njihia: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

That this Assembly adopts progress report for the health department for the period 2014/2015 to the period up to February 2016 laid on the table on Tuesday March 29, 2016.

STATEMENT

CABRO BLOCKS IN KIRIA-INI MARKET PARKING BAYS

Hon. John Kiarie: Thank you Mr. Speaker, this question was asked and we requested for time and we have already communicated to the CEC and we have not yet received the response so we are requesting for seven more days so that we can be able to receive the response.

By the time we were expecting the answer because of the long Easter holiday we have not been able to receive it.

We request that we be given seven days and we shall provide response next time. I thank you Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. member who had requested the statement. He is not in, permission granted. Next order.

MOTION

CONSTRUCTION OF ANIMAL LABORATORIES

Hon. Florence Nyambura: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to give move the following motion;-

Aware that part two of the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates distribution of functions between the national and county governments and that Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is a devolved function, cognizant of the fact that there is no animal laboratories in Murang'a County; this house urges the county executive committee member for agriculture, livestock and fisheries to set aside funds in financial year 2016/2017 budget estimates and in every subsequent financial year for the construction of the said laboratories.

Mr. Speaker I thought to come up with a motion because in our county we have a very huge piece land in Mariira; which was initially a national government land but it changed ownership to the county government. That is where we are centralized in our farming and Murang'a we are agricultural county and we are also farmers and we keep livestock like cows, goats, pigs and others.

Whenever there is an outbreak of diseases, we do not have a laboratory where we can go and test that disease, where we can test what caused it and even the treatment sometimes becomes hard.

There was a time that pigs died in Murang'a South and nothing much was done because there were no laboratories, but if there was such kind of laboratory to take the specimen of the affected pigs to, we could have done the tests and assisted our farmers.

I remember when we were in Israel, we went to their breeding areas where we saw them do their own breeding by getting the semen and sell them outside the country. If we can start that project I know that we can improve our livestock farming.

I know there is a time that comes and most of our animals are affected. I remember in our area so many cows died and when we talked to livestock officers they came and they were able to identify the disease that was killing our cows. If we could have such a laboratory and livestock get infected by disease, we can be able to take samples there and have a cure for it.

We can even do the breeding of animals and after we get the best products we can export to other counties and countries.

We have potential; we have land in Mariira and infrastructure in place. The only thing we need to do is factor in the budget because we are in the budget process. And in years to come whether we will be there or not, I know that our farmers will not struggle.

The other thing is that we are going to create employment in the county because we are going to employ the veterinarians from our county. I think we are going to improve the milk in our county; maybe we are going to get the best quality because we are going to get the best cattle from that lab.

I request the hon. members to support it bearing in mind that it is not 2015/2016 budget it is 2016/2017 and other years to come and if CEC factors that, we will be able to make farming easy and farmers will enjoy the benefits.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I remember when our cows was affected by mastitis and when I called the vet, I was told to take the samples to Kiambu; I was not able to take it because it is a very big process. If we could have one in our county, we will even attract other counties and our county will benefit.

So with those few remarks I will request the members to support the motion and we will be happy as the county. Mr. Speaker allow me to call Hon. Charity to second the motion, thank you.

Hon. Charity Rugu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I first congratulate the mover for her wise thought bearing in mind our county is an agricultural area, it is wise to have the laboratory and minimize the diseases that affect our livestock. I second

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: As I stand I am in a dilemma and I need guidance from the chair Budget because the spirit of the motion is good and the mover has indicated so, but there are few questions that need to be considered before the House passes the motion.

One, it ends by construction of the said laboratories. How many do we need? We cannot talk about laboratories when even the country itself has only four or five which are serving the country well.

Mr. Speaker, the construction of the said laboratories, we cannot have laboratories constructed every year, at what level do we need to construct them? Is it the sub-county or the county level? We are leaving it open and the construction of these laboratories need funding from the Exchequer.

The other issue is whether the mover considered that it is just the other day that we adopted the County Fiscal Strategy paper, was this mega projected factored in? We had the Annual Development Plan (ADP) which had all the projects that were to be carried on in our wards. Were the animal laboratories factored in for the 2016/2017 annual plan?

Mr. Speaker, you find that even the member who seconded the motion talked of agriculture while the motion talks of livestock that is why I said that I am in a dilemma

whether to support something that was left hanging without considering the monetary matters. I leave it at that, without supporting or opposing.

Hon. Kago Njoro: I rise to support the motion, we need to have a laboratory, apart from those views from Hon. Duncan on whether it is in the ADP, but I believe it is the work of the executive to come up with a policy and the hon. member should just give her mind that we need a laboratory and why she thinks it is important.

As she have cited, the infection that was with pigs and her mother's cows, it is not the work of the hon. member to think on the amount because she is not technical, her work is to give the idea and it is upon the CEC to sit down and come up with the amounts that are required since it is them who have the technical knowledge.

If we have an outbreak, we will not have to go to all the people that Hon. Duncan has mentioned, he has talked of at least four; if we have our own laboratory and since we have professionals from our county who have done medicine on matters animals, Mr. Speaker, I believe in the spirit of milk being the Governor's flagship projects and even for us since we have the animals, with this kind of laboratory, our animals will be safe and we will have testing areas where we will stock vaccination ready for anything.

Our county is large, if we have an outbreak in Kiria-ini, then have another outbreak in Ithanga, a ready laboratory will save many animals. I support the idea and leave the executive to decide even the amount of money to do it and the framework of managing it.

I support this motion, since agriculture is devolved. Ideas such as this coming from members should not be rejected in our midst; let it be killed outside our midst because we are not the technical people. I support the idea in the motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes Hon. Mary.

Hon. Mary Waithira: Thank you Mr. Speaker, the spirit of the motion is very good bearing in mind that we so much want to promote the dairy sector in the county. I wonder if it will be possible if we go by the 2016/2017 budget because monetary motions are supposed to be brought a bit earlier so that the Budget committee, together with the County Executive Committee Member (CEC) for Finance can look at them and give their position.

We have already passed through two stages; the Annual Development Plan (ADP) and the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), which was through the support of the hon. member for Gitugi.

Mr. Speaker, I tend to think that those documents are very important that are supposed to capture this. I said the spirit of the motion is very good because she raised the fact that we would not have a problem with the land in her argument. It is very true that we have enough land in Mariira that we can use for breeding and also build laboratories. The laboratory is very important bearing in mind that we really want to promote the dairy sector so that we can test the animal feeds that we are giving and the diseases that attack our animals.

The problem comes in when we talk of the 2016/2017 budget. If I were to be asked, I would advise the mover of the motion to have this motion corrected so that it reads in the 2017/2018 budget and we get enough time for the Budget committee and the CEC to include it in our next ADP and have it contained in our CFSP.

As we speak, we may pass it but never have it implemented due to the fact that the budget process has really moved on. This is an important motion that we do not need to lose track of.

That is my advice so that the motion is corrected to read 2017/2018 because the government will still be there even if we will not be there. There is nowhere that the process of government will stop.

The motion is therefore very good but the Budget of 2016/2017 has already passed through some stages whereby this would have been captured. If we go to the laws that we have, monetary motions are supposed to pass through a certain process whereby the Finance

CEC can assent to it by maybe giving the position as far as funding is concerned. That is my take. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes hon. member for Gaturi.

Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support although I do not know if the mover of the motion knows that we already have a laboratory in place near the agricultural land within the town. If at all she is aware that there is such a laboratory---

Hon. Kago Njoroge: On a point of order Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, hon. member, and quote the order that has been violated.

Hon. Kago Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, however much I would wish to quote the violated order, we are facing so many challenges in our wards; hence I cannot remember all of them. You will either hear of a fire that has burnt down a house, a certain person has died due to a certain disease, or that someone has given birth and needs to be taken to the hospital.

(Laughter)

I am therefore not in a position to remember all the orders.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Continue.

Hon. Kago Njoroge: Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand why the hon. member is misleading the House by saying she is supporting and then going ahead to inform us that we have a laboratory. If we have, she is supposed to oppose rather than support. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, you are misleading the House because you have two cards. You are either supporting or not. Continue.

Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii: I am not misleading the House because I have not finished expressing myself; he is a bit quick. I was saying that although the mover seems not to be aware that there is a laboratory, I propose that we have a Supplementary Budget and set aside some funds to cater for the renovation of the one that we already have in place. I say this because time has already lapsed; we already have the ADP and the CFSP in place.

Therefore, the mover of the motion can liaise with the office to see to it that it is renovated. If it does not provide adequate services, we can think of constructing another one. I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I now call the mover to respond.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I thank the members for supporting and contributing and since I understand that we have already passed the CFSP and we would all like to have the motion see the light of day, I wish to withdraw so that we rectify and factor it in the budget of 2017 because we have already done the CFSP and the ADP. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: As per the advice that has been given by those people who were likely to support or oppose, the hon. member has decided to reconsider moving on with the motion to rectify and that one is allowed. Next order

(Motion withdrawn)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Before we adjourn the House hon. members, it is good for us to communicate that we shall be having a Speaker's Kamukunji tomorrow at 1 p.m. It is good for all of us to be present because very important agendas will be discussed by the members. It is important that we communicate to the members who are not with us today so that we can move forward as a team.

We have serious issues concerning the welfare of the members and legislative agendas of this House. It is therefore good for us to be there at 1:00 p.m. the House stands adjourned until tomorrow 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 3:13p.m.