

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 14th June 2017

The House met at: 2.32 pm

(Temporary Speaker Hon. Beth Nguni in the Chair)

PRAYERS

MOTION

SETTING UP AN INVESTMENT DESK

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

That, aware that Murang'a county is endowed with vast untapped wealth which can be harnessed to generate income and jobs for our youth, cognizant of the attractive natural panorama of hills, water falls, caves, iron mines, tile making soils and historical sites found in Murang'a, noting that these natural resources can be tapped for tourism activities and revenue generation like cable cars, trout water fishing and sports, tiles manufacturing industries and electricity generation, mindful of the need to attract investors in our lovely county, dismayed that the county government has not established linkages of our resources to both local and international investors, leaving the county treasures buried to waste, concerned that trade, industry and tourism development is a devolved function pursuant to the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, yet it is not being fully achieved; this Honorable Assembly urges the County Executive Member in charge of Commerce, Trade, Industry and Investment;

1. To set up an investment desk where potential investors can access all the information they need to invest in Murang'a.
2. To map all the natural resources in our county.
3. To allocate budget for establishment of such an important office in this FY 2017/18.
4. To prepare an investment incentives policy to attract investors in Murang'a County.
5. To convene annual Investment conferences in Murang'a in the next term 2017-2022, and allocate budget for the same in every Financial Year.

Madam Speaker, according to the schedule as we have said before, it seems like for the last four and a half years we have been here nothing has been done on investment. According to my prayer in this motion; if this honourable assembly passes this motion it will draw a road map to unearth all our wealth in Murang'a county.

An investment desk will set up an information strategy, where the investors will be made to know what we have, where you can find natural resources in Murang'a. The officers will produce a magazine citing what Murang'a has and distribute them to local offices; like investment promotion council and foreign embassies. He will provide finances for traveling where the Kenya tourism and trade offices will be holding exhibition mapping of all the natural resources.

This office has to be properly equipped with personnel and machinery so that they can undertake their mandate to unearth the investment potential.

Madam Speaker, we have the Gatari iron mines; while I was growing up the Kikuyus used to get knives, spears and pans from Gatari; this is a valuable mineral and if we can establish the quantity that is there, I am sure it can attract investors because it is a good mineral.

We visited Gaturi with the Water, Energy, Forestry, Natural Resources and Co-operatives committee; the area is endowed with soil used in tile making and we found so many lorries coming to collect this soil which is taken all the way to Kitengela and Nairobi, where it employs youth from other counties, thus empowering people with our natural resources.

Last week Nandi Governor came up with a Nandi Hill cable car, he has already gotten investors, it was in the newspaper. When I was bringing this motion I thought about Gaturi Hills; Gaturi might not be good for farming but it is endowed with hills which can be good for tourist attraction. Hotels can also be built up there and cable cars as well.

We are lucky today that people who are experts in cable cars are from Switzerland; the Ambassador is from Murang'a county; Kandara sub- county in particular and I am sure if he can be asked to look for people who can invest here, he will be more than willing to do that.

Waterfalls and local rivers can enhance hydroelectric power production for our county. If that is done by our county government, it will add revenue which will be used for other areas and also it will create employment.

The climate is good when we come to agriculture and we can have the jobs on value addition, like the avocados, if we have a factory where we can be doing value addition, I know it can employ many people than when it is going to somebody else and it can benefit the farmer.

We have all types of fruits in our farms because the climate is good. Coffee and Tea the quantity and quality is not documented, if we are together since Murang'a is known for co-operatives movements, then we bring all these figures to the investor, I am sure they would come and buy directly from the farmers and that would be an industry in itself.

Let us make sure that this department will be included in our budget in the financial year 2017/2018 so that those who join this honourable House may push for its implementation.

Without the county coming up with a policy, nothing can be done because any investor who would like to invest, they would like to know if they use their money to build an industry what would be their profit and the sustainability aspect. That can only be done if there is a desk that is documenting that.

The county government should be holding investors forums annually so as to attract competition as well as attending international tourism and trade fairs; like the western Berlin fair, which attracts so many people in tourism. It can also help us to make banana wine, that Germans are fond of drinking; they can take it for whole two weeks.

I would request members of this honourable Assembly to pass this motion to pave way for employment of our youth as well as creation of employment and wealth in Murang'a county. I wish to ask honourable James Kagoni to second this motion. Thank you.

Hon. James Kagoni: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to second this motion but foremost to thank the mover of the motion.

When you look at the motion, you realise she has organised it carefully; the prayers she is making to this honourable House, is to consider numerous opportunities and to consider blessings endowed in Murang'a; to see what we can be able to do so as to put Murang'a on the top of the mark.

When I look at some of the opportunities that we are talking about, that include hydropower that we can tap due to the number of rivers that we have here, when you look at these resources, she is mentioning cable cars and I come from Gaturi and I know that the hilly part can be used for this. The soils in Gaturi can manufacture several products and many other things. We can only fully support this motion.

Looking at her request, I wish she even stated the actual amount of money that we can ask for to actualize the dream such that is not just a good paper, looking at the request on the investment incentive policy, many places in the world attract investors through incentives. In our context we need to create a website where the world will know about us.

This will not cost us a lot, so that the Kinyona caves can be known by someone in Europe or in America, Australia and Middle Asia, so that our boundary to the Aberdares can make sense to the investors. When we fail to expose this to the world, this remains a beautiful scene just known to us who might not have the capacity or interest to move forward.

As we invite the investors, we have plenty of land and looking at what they bring we should be thinking around leasing the land for ten or so to those who want to develop hotels in the Aberdares, to those who want to use the Gatari hills which have been lying there and see whether we can do free electricity and water connections and see whether we can develop some wealth for Murang'a.

Singapore is half of Murang'a county 43kilometres from north to South, from Mugumo-ini to Murang'a, from Murang'a to Nyeri is another country, but they have been able to organize their resources and expose the opportunities that they have, we can now see what Singapore has been able to do.

I do not understand why we cannot be facilitating investors to hold conferences here so that we can expose our county.

While the mover was explaining the motion, I was remembering that we have been pleading for a pilgrimage day for Mukurwe-wa- Nyagathanga, so that we can start somewhere with all the Kikuyus coming and create a movement and draw generations across all walks of life like the Muslims troop to Mecca.

I want to say here that we do not have any other county apart from Murang'a, the choice is ours whether we want to tap these opportunities or we will just let them lie. I am aware we have foreigners who visit our county and cannot believe the wonder they see in this county, many wish this is their county unfortunately we are not able to see the beauty and utilize it.

Madam Speaker, I am currently reading a book written by Sarah Elderkin about the struggle for independence, there is a chapter she has written that when the governor visited and they were doing publicity in UK for settlers to come and occupy the land, there was a specific announcement done in 1896 about Murang'a, that one of the places we are inviting you to come and settle is a place called Fort hall and she has written a whole page on the beauty of Fort hall and what is there to tap, the hills, the rivers the good terrain. In 1896, settlers were being invited by the colonial government to come and utilize the opportunities in Murang'a, 100 years later we the residents are yet to exploit this beauty.

The time has come and the mover has provoked our minds to look at that direction, it is not late, we are nearing the end but we can still mark this by saying that we request the new government to organize and investment conference and see whether we can bring Murang'a to the top of the list. I second this and support.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Madam Speaker, I am rising to support this motion because it is touching on issues that we have been deliberating on for the last four years. I have remembered that in the reports and motions that we have passed we touched on investment.

I remember that in the lands committee there was a time we brought a motion on land banking and the House passed it. We simply meant that land bought by the county government, set aside to woo investors to come and build industries or any other buildings to set up their businesses in.

This is a well thought motion by the mover and I know if implemented as she has put it, it will create employment and also wealth for our county.

On the said issues, if we look at the motion that was brought here in November last year on how we can acquire back the Delmonte land among others, we talked about greenhouses, since we will create employment for our youth, who are going to be allocated those greenhouses, each manned by four people, therefore creating a lot of employment indirectly.

Also the industrial cottages we are going to woo investors who are local for the manufacturing of the simple jua kali things. The motion is well thought of and is good for our county and our people.

The only problem I have is prayer number three, to allocate budget for establishment. Even though we are yet to pass the 2017/2018 budget, the level we are in because I am in the budget committee, we have received reactions from the sectoral committees and I don't know whether before drafting this motion, Hon. Mwicigi visited the concerned committee of trade to air her views on the same but it is not too late since a code can be created, the far we have gone to get the same allocated funds.

But on the others, the annual conferences, they can be even converted to trade fairs as she said so that we can let the world know what we can produce.

Before I conclude, I remember when we were in Naivasha last week, the Hon. Speaker did say that he is in consultations with his friends from Poland who are ready to invest in this country. It is a good start for this motion if adopted by the House. With those few remarks I support the motion. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Honourable Wandia.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: I rise to support the motion, we have the committee of implementation and the members are here. We are coming to the end of our term, the chair for implementation and his team should have taken stock of the motions we have passed. I remember we had talked of coming up with an investment conference in this county and we overwhelmingly passed the motion.

We have one month to go, it is important the chairman of implementation committee informs us the motions we have passed and how many have been implemented by the county government. I am sorry because we have talked about this investment conference but it seems it was to deaf ears.

Murang'a should be known outside the borders of this country because as the previous speaker has said we have got a lot of natural resources which if investors can come in but if we set up this desk without the support of the executive then we are going nowhere.

It is better we first hold investors conference because somebody somewhere is thinking investors conference cannot bear any fruits and it can bear fruits because we do not know what the outside world needs.

When we were in Naivasha as one of us said there is an investor who wants to come and invest in Murang'a, maybe there are others other than those but the avenues have not been opened and one way of opening the avenue is to have investors conference so that we may know who needs what. After that it is for the county government to take the initiative and contact the investors and see whether they can come to this county. I do not know what we are going to do; I

do not know whether it is the Speaker of the next Assembly to come and do this if executive cannot do it.

If that one is done I think Murang'a can get a lot of investment and at the end of all that Mr. Speaker we can get a lot of revenue but if we go like this Murang'a will be the same, it will remain the same not unless we make changes and the changes will come from this Assembly or from the executive. With those few remarks Madam Speaker thank you very much for giving me that opportunity.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to support this motion and say that it is a well thought motion especially because of the prayers.

On prayers there is one key issue which is mapping the resources of our county, that is very key because when you map you know where to invest in agriculture, where to invest in industries and where to invest in tourism and she has pointed out very clearly mapping pertains to other things like poverty and that is the first thing the county ought to have done.

Investment is very key for the development of the country and county. I happened to attend the burial of the late Hon. Mwicigi and coincidentally this is the wife moving the motion and what I heard the President say was very encouraging, the President said Mwicigi is the one who brought investors in Murang'a, he never relied on the government and everyone including the late President Kenyatta visited Kandara to see the project; this is typical example of investment.

If you look, almost half of tycoons in Kenya comes from Murang'a county and these people have a lot money and they are ready to invest in this county. What we do not have is the environment, do we have investment environment because the investor want to get return to their money.

I am telling you Madam Speaker we have seen micro-finance which are from abroad and they have all the money to invest. If they can invest in people what about counties. It is sad we keep looking for the money we get from the national government and that money is a meagre six billion will not take this county very far but we know that there is potential by members including members of this Assembly, who would like to invest and get returns in this county. If this government is serious they should do it like yesterday investment forum very key Madam Speaker. I rest my case.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Mover to respond.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I thank you Honourable Members because the spirit you are supporting the motion is very good and I want to cite a few things and tell you my first prayer which was zeroing on everything is information desk.

If there is one person manning the desk you can see all what you are saying like land mark resources and all other things which are supposed to be informed to the investors. You can see the proximity of Murang'a because we are within the metropolitan. Maybe we were put within the metropolitan because some of the people who were doing the metropolitan mapping came from Murang'a and they know the resources which we have.

I am sure that if that desk is established, all these other prayers I have raised will fall in place because this is the person who will be representing them in the Governor's conference where he will be calling his ministers and the rest.

Madam Speaker, the investors conference cannot be overemphasised; I know it has been talked of here several times and I am happy that everybody is supporting this.

On the budget issue raised by Hon. Duncan, it is true that we have to look at it. When I was drafting my motion, I said 2017-2022; hence there is enough time for people to put money into the budget so that what we have requested here can happen.

Thank you very much members, this will go into history; that you have really looked into the investors. There are so many people who would like to invest in Kenya, especially in Murang'a. They keep on asking what we have; unfortunately, we have nothing to show or nothing to tell them because you must quantify. Thank you Madam Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)
(Applause)

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER

PAPER LAID

MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Rwathia ward, and also vice- chair to the Budget and Appropriations committee. Allow me to lay the following paper on the Table of the Assembly;-

That, the Murang'a County Government second Supplementary Budget for the year 2016/2017 be laid on the Table of the Assembly.

(Hon. Peter Mweri laid the paper on the Table)

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you Madam Speaker.
Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Next

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Hon. Members, there being no other business this afternoon, this House adjourns until tomorrow 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at: 3:02 p.m.