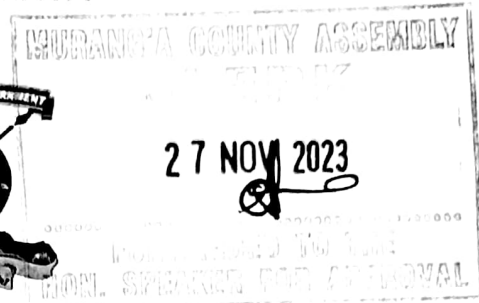


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MURANG'A

THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND
SOCIAL SERVICES

REPORT ON

GENDER MAINSTREAMING OF SPORTS IN MURANG'A COUNTY

Clerk's Chambers
Murang'a County Assembly
MURANG'A

NOVEMBER 06, 2023

YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Executive Summary

The global advocacy around recognizing women's equality and eliminating the discrimination of women on the basis of sex commenced with the United Nations Charter of 1945 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Until the 1960s, the main focus was on women's reproductive roles and issues such as obtaining access to food, contraceptives, nutrition and health care. Progressively, the emancipation of women's rights in participating in development and their role in national economies began to gain ground, especially after the first World Conference for Women held in Mexico 1974, the UN decade for women "76-85" and the promotion of the Women In Development (WID).

Presently, gender mainstreaming has continued to be rationalized in international, regional and national policy frameworks. It is on this basis that the Committee on Youth, Gender, Culture and Social Services embarked on an audit exercise to establish level of gender mainstreaming in sports across the county.

The Committee was able to establish that youth aged 18 to 34 are 24 percent of the population within the county and amongst the 24 percent around 51 percent are females and 49 percent males.

It was established that there is no gender parity in sports across the county and hence larger percentage of young people are ignored when it comes to sports. Further, the barriers to achieving gender parity in sports were identified among them poor status of sporting activities which are unfavorable to one gender. Also, lack of sports diversification was identified as a major barrier to achieving gender parity since the choice of sporting activities is limited to mostly football.

The committee in attempt to cure the disproportionate of gender in the sporting activities came up with several recommendations among them a review of existing sports policy to ensure deliberate plans are put in policy to focus on achieving gender parity. Further, there is need to have existing facilities made gender friendly mostly to female gender by providing appropriate changing rooms and wash rooms. Also there is need to have a shift of cultural based thinking when it comes to female gender and sports.

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

The Select Committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services is established pursuant to Standing Order no. 204.

The Committee pursuant to the second schedule of the Standing Orders is mandated to deal and consider all matters related to youth, persons with disabilities, orphans, Vulnerable Persons, cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities including sports and cultural activities and facilities, control of drugs and phonography, cinemas, video shows, firefighting services and disaster management, gender, culture and social welfare, national heritage, betting, lotteries and sports.

Under the provision of Standing Order no 204 (5) (f), *the committee is mandated to vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 198.*

1.2 Committee Membership

The Committee comprises of the following members:

1. Hon. Grace Sharleen Wambui Maina	Chairperson.
2. Hon. Kenneth Kamau	V-Chairperson
3. Hon. Anthony Chege Marubu	Member
4. Hon. Hannah Wairimu Kamau	Member
5. Hon. Boniface Ng'ang'a Mbau	Member
6. Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina	Member
7. Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri	Member
8. Hon. Julian Njiri	Member
9. Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge	Member
10. Hon. Moses Muchiri Maina	Member
11. Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu	Member
12. Hon. John Mwangi Kamau	Member
13. Hon. Mark Wainaina Gicheru	Member

14. Hon. Elizabeth Wambui	Member
15. Hon. Moses Macharia Mirara	Member
16. Hon. Jeremiah Gichobe Mbatia	Member

1.4 Terms of Reference

The Committee was guided by the following objectives;


- To observe on sporting activities and gender balancing across the county.
- To report on observations of gender balancing on sporting activities.
- To recommend on policy direction to engender sports in the county.

1.5 Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Members of this committee for their dedication, patience and valuable input during deliberations. The committee also extends its gratitude to the offices of the Hon. Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the professional, technical and logistical support accorded to it which enabled the completion of this report.

On behalf of the committee on Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's report on engendering sports in Murang'a County.

Thank You.

Signed: 

Dated this; ^{7th}..... Day of November 2023.

HON. SHARLEEN WAMBUI
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, CULTURE, GENDER AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Population Statistics

National Council for Population and Development in their publication titled "State of Kenya Population 2023" they note that according to Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019, youth 18 to 24 years constitute 29 percent of total population.

The same report indicates that in Murang'a County 24 percent of the population are youth aged 18 to 24 years. Among the 24 percent, 50.31% are females while 49.69% are males. This is according to United Nations World Population Prospect in their publication dated November 04, 2021.

Any government must put in place legal frameworks, policies and programs to enhance youth's wellbeing and participation in development.

From the statistics, gender balancing must be deliberately worked on to achieve gender parity else the larger percentage of young people, who happens to be females might be left out in major spheres of activities including sporting activity in the county.

2.2 Sporting Activities in the County

There are several sporting activities in the county. Major one being football tournaments across all the wards. Football is a common activity whether privately or publicly sponsored. It is a major source of entertainment and a dominating leisure activity across the county. It is a common method exploited by various stakeholders to disseminate information among young people.

Further, there are other sporting activities across the county. Such as volleyball tournaments, bits of athletics through various privately sponsored marathons and many more.

Unfortunately, these activities are male dominated and the cultural mentality of sports are meant for male gender is still dominating among a larger percentage of the residents within the county. This perspective needs to be deliberately changed and importance of sporting activities to both gender should be championed. It is time to have a paradigm shift on our sports.

2.3 Barriers to Gender Mainstreaming of Sports in the County

There is a deliberate effort across the globe to mainstream gender in all activities. Unfortunately, to successfully have our sports as gender mainstreamed several areas must be focused on and create favorable environment. Among the areas includes;

Sporting facilities. Most of the county sporting facilities are not in proper state to hold sporting activities of any gender. But as the nature have it, male are able to utilize some of the facilities in their current conditions. But some facilities are completely unfavorable for use by the largest percentage of our youthful population. Some critical areas like changing rooms, wash rooms and first aid provision facilities ought to be made gender friendly. Females are naturally sensitive about their privacy and hence some of the facilities should be worked on to encourage ladies to engage more in sporting activities across the county. It is unfortunate that across the county there is no single stadia with women friendly changing rooms.

Lack of support. Whereas many football tournament are being run across the county, it is difficult to come across a women tournament. Organizers should make it very deliberate that as they consider sponsoring football tournaments and other sporting leagues, women competition as well should be included. Talents are not gender based but rather are granted to all regardless of gender. Therefore, when nurturing and developing these talents equal efforts should be applied across the gender.

Social Perception. Sports in many areas, are seen as an area of hooligans and trouble makers. There is a perception that ladies attending sporting tournaments are not well mannered. This old line of thinking ought to be eliminated amongst our society. It is time leaders expose the residents to successful and positive side of sporting activities. This can be achieved by inviting successful sports ladies in various local tournaments to show case that sports are a discipline like any other career and they have huge economic gains.

Lack of sports diversification. The county suffers from concentrating on one sporting activity only. Football has become a synonym to sport. Once the word sports is mentioned what comes to many people's mind is football. This acts as a limitation to achieving gender balance in sporting activities as well as blocking people who are talented in other areas of sports from developing

and exploiting their talents. It is time to diversify sporting activities across the county. Let's introduce other forms of sports like bike riding, swimming, volleyball, athletics and others. Let us not limit our young people but rather expand the horizon by opening up as many activities as possible for them to pick whichever favors them to participate in. We should aim to develop sporting activities as whole and exploit various talents across the sporting areas.

3.0 Why Gender Mainstreaming of Sports in the County.

The most common definition of gender mainstreaming stems from the Economic and Social Council of 1997 report by a group of specialists on gender mainstreaming of the Council of Europe. They define gender mainstreaming as;

“The reorganization, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making”

The report further provides a wider definition of gender mainstreaming as;

“The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (UN, 1997).

Therefore, it is necessary to gender mainstream sports in the county since the rest of the world is moving towards gender mainstreaming and we are not an island that we can survive on our own, else, we become a laughing stock.

Further, we need to empower our ladies in line with United Nations Women goals which works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities namely:

- 1) That women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems.
- 2) That women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy.
- 3) That all women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence.
- 4) That women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.

Finally, we need to gender mainstream our sports so that we can be within the legal parameters on matters gender as provided for by the Constitution and other legal frameworks.

4.0 Committee Observations.

The Committee observed the following;

- 1) There is no gender parity across the county.
- 2) The facilities within the county are not friendly, mostly the changing rooms discouraging many ladies from participating in various sporting activities.
- 3) There is no policy in place aimed at achieving gender parity in sporting activities across the county.
- 4) The sporting activities across the county are mostly focused on one activity, football. Ignoring rest of sporting activities hence limiting areas of sporting within the county.
- 5) Cultural set up and thinking is hindering one gender from participating in some sporting activities.

5.0 Committee Recommendations.

The Committee recommends follows;

- 1) To achieve gender parity in sporting activities across the county any league organized by the county should have both gender participating. We should have both men league and women league.
- 2) The facilities within the county should be renovated and made gender friendly, a special attention should be given to wash rooms and changing rooms where each gender should have friendly changing room and favorable washing room.

- 3) The Chief Officer in charge of Gender should work together with Chief Officer in charge of Sports to come up with a policy aimed at achieving gender parity in sporting activities across the county.
- 4) The Chief Officer in charge of Sports should ensure diversification of sporting activities across the county to open up more opportunities for each gender to participate in.
- 5) There should be a deliberate campaign to change cultural hindrances on sports and gender parity.

APPENDIX 1

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The following Committees' Members adopted the report:

- 1. Hon. Grace Sharleen Wambui Maina *Sh.*
- 2. Hon. Kenneth Kamau *KK*
- 3. Hon. Anthony Chege Marubu *H. Marubu*
- 4. Hon. Hannah Wairimu Kamau *[Signature]*
- 5. Hon. Boniface Ng'ang'a Mbau *[Signature]*
- 6. Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina *[Signature]*
- 7. Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri *[Signature]*
- 8. Hon. Julian Njiri *[Signature]*
- 9. Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge *CSe.*
- 10. Hon. Moses Muchiri Maina *[Signature]*
- 11. Hon. John Mwangi Kamau *KJM*
- 12. Hon. Mark Wainaina Gicheru *[Signature]*
- 13. Hon. Elizabeth Wambui *Bangi*
- 14. Hon. Moses Macharia Mirara *[Signature]*
- 15. Hon. Jeremiah Gichobe Mbatia *[Signature]*