

Thursday, 6th March 2014

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA

NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY (First Assembly, Third Session)

OFFICIAL REPORT

The House met at 2.30 PM

Hon. Speaker in the Chair

Prayers

Speaker: Next order

Clerk: Communication from the chair

Speaker: Maybe Hon. Members, this is informal communication and that is the need for members to remember that today at 2:00 pm there will be the speakers Kamukunji and will be on matters concerning this house. To discussed will be the alcoholic bill which has been brought to the house and awaits to be published and also the issue of harmonization of committees that is critical for the progress of this house, and also Hon Members at that time it will be expected that you will have chosen two members, your two representatives to the SACCO that has been proposed to be formed. It is an initiative of this house. So by the time you are coming to the Kamukunji please let us have the two representatives Hon. members.

Next order.

Clerk: Petitions

Speaker: Next order

Clerk: Papers

Speaker: Next order

Clerk: Notices of motion

Speaker: Next order

Clerk: Statements.

Speaker: Next order

Clerk: Motion on adoption of the report on the status of roads in the County by Hon Samuel Kimani.

Speaker: Yes Hon. Member for Weru. Ok, Hon Member vice Chair Hon. Member for Nyakio.

Hon. Joshua Muiga (Nyakio): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Chairman of Roads, Public works and transport to move a motion of Adoption for the **REPORT OF THE ROADS, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT ON STATUS OF ROADS IN THE COUNTY** by the committee on roads. The content of the report have

1. Acknowledgements
2. Mandate
3. Terms of reference
4. Committee composition
5. Committee findings and observations
6. General observations
7. Current roads status
8. Recommendations
9. Conclusion

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Mr. Speaker Sir, The committee on Roads, public works and transport wishes to thank the County Assembly through the Speaker for the mandate given to the committee and for the support accorded the committee during the process of fulfilling its mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank the office of the clerk for facilitating the field visits made to various wards in the County while carrying out the mandate bestowed on the committee including the report writing.

I also wish to acknowledge the contributions made by the members of the committee and their commitment to the business as mandated by the House through the able leadership of Hon SK Gachuhi. Members of the committee sacrificed their time in visiting roads in the wards and sometime walked long distances while their vehicles got stuck on the damaged roads and also responded fast once called upon urgently to write this report.

Also appreciated is the contribution of all Honourable members in highlighting roads issues in their wards enabling the committee play oversight role.

MANDATE :

Mr. Speaker Sir, The committee's mandate is pursuant to a motion moved in the house and adopted by the house on 18th July 2013 was to investigate anomalies reported concerning the construction of the roads D393 and D392 both in Murungaru ward.

The committee was also mandated to assess the Status of Roads in the County which included traversing the wards in the County and report on their status.

Mr. Speaker Sir, On the Month of January 2014, another motion concerning the current maintenance and construction of Roads in the County was debated in the house, passed and adopted. The House sought to have the executive explain how much has been spent so far on the ongoing Roads repair programs and Contracting terms.

The committee sought to know from the executive the work plans being used and amount of money spent in outsourced machinery in the ongoing work which includes the hiring of trucks, graders and other machinery used in the roads repairs.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The mandate of the committee is pursuant to standing order 191(5) which guides the sectoral committee on its operations.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The committee comprises of the following members of the County Assembly:

Hon Samuel K. Gachuhi	MCA	Chairman
Hon Joshua M. Muriithi	MCA	V/chairman
Hon Joseph M. Gichini	MCA	Member
Hon Margaret W. Wambugu	MCA	Member
Hon Ann W. Kionero	MCA	Member
Hon Rebecca N. Weru	MCA	Member
Hon Daniel Kibebo Ruara	MCA	Member

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The committee visited various roads in eight wards in the County as a sample of the County. The wards visited are; Murungaru, Gathanji, Weru, Charagita, Kaimbaga, Kanjuiri, Gatimu, and Mirangini ward.

The committee came up with the following observations:

Road D392 in Murungaru ward which covers approximately 7.8kilometers had only 1.6 kilometers done leaving out 6.2 kilometers undone. The layer of gravel on the road was not uniform and some parts of the gravel had been swept away by the rain water. The culverts had blocked completely compromising the drainage of the roads.It was also noted that the width of the road was not standard at some points i.e. seven meters width.

Likewise the road D391 which joins Murungaru and Kirima had uneven graveling and poor drainage but was better compared to the D392.The culverts had also blocked.

Road D393 which connects Kirima to Engineer town covering about 10.7 kilometers had a patch of approximately 300meters without any gravel laid.The layer of gravel on the road was not even and the width of the road compromised at some points.

The committee and the executive member in charge of Roads, public works and Transport observed that the work done on the roads was substandard and sought to have the contract

documents for the roads from the KERRA (Kenya Rural Roads Authority) manager Engineer Wanjohi. The document would give specifications for the contracted roads and the amount allocated to the said Roads.

The design for the said roads was not available and the KERRA manager was expected to provide in a meeting which was not held due to an interruption in the program of the assembly.

The Contractor alleged that the fund allocated to the Road D393 was the same used on Road D392 from Kirima to the Bridge near Ndida. This was cited as the reason why the work done was not up to standard.

NB/(Documents to be presented in the committee)

Concerning road D381, Boiman –Ngomongo, in Gathanji ward the committee visited the site and prepared a report that was tabled in this House. It is however worth noting that the road is currently under construction.

FINDINGS PER WARDS VISITED:

Charagita ward roads were observed to be poorly maintained and seemed to have been neglected for some time. Grading of the roads had not been done for along time leading to poor drainage which resulted in deep potholes that needed urgent repairs.

Weru ward roads were equally neglected with some sections totally impassable especially during rainy season. Drainage system was poor contributing to roads destruction and cutting connectivity in the ward. Road encroachment was noted to be a serious problem in the ward causing the roads to be narrow and hindering future repairs. Another problem noted in the area is lack of access roads as they were not factored in the original plans. The roads also lacked culverts for draining water from one side of the road hence contributing to sweeping of the roads by floodwater, the situation is worsened by grabbing of water ways. The connection to Lake Ol borosat which is a Tourist attraction site in the County was poor and in Kasuku town land grabbing was also noted to have caused narrowing of the roads initially in the Town plan.

Gatimu roads were seriously encroached by the public and the power lines right in the middle of a certain road. Water pipes on the roads hindered roads repair and culverts are needed to curb drainage problems. Residents in the ward have constructed a temporal bridge on the Nyakariang'a dam where culverts meant for the section could not serve the purpose as the place needs a bridge instead.

In Kaimbaga ward which hosts the County Headquarter; roads were poorly graded showing lack of supervision of the ongoing work. Some access roads in the Ward have never been graded before. A major road connecting Mihuti to Kandutura was completely disconnected by a

dam that broke its bank some time ago and has not been repaired since. The area needs a bridge to connect the road to serve the public who needs the school and health facility in the area.

Mirangini ward roads were observed to be poor and potholes were numerous, some roads have been neglected for some years without grading. Logging of Bahati forest during rainy season has also affected the main road connecting the Ward with Nakuru County making affected areas impassable. Poor maintenance and poor drainage were identified as major problems that needed to be addressed and also installation of a bridge on the road near Kwa Makara center where residents have put a temporal bridge made of logs.

Kanjuri ridge ward was not an exception as roads were equally poor. Lack of Grading and poor drainage of the existing roads has resulted in potholes on the major connecting roads and also the access roads are neglected. The roads lack culverts hence drainage is poor.

The committee was not able to visit all the wards but the visited wards forms a good sample on which the whole County can be evaluated upon.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The committee having visited only a sample of County wards observed that:

- Poor maintenance of roads over along period has led to the pathetic situation of roads in the County. It was obvious that some roads have been neglected for years while others have never been graded' opened' since they were marked.
- Encroachment of road reserves is a major challenge in the maintenance of roads as they get narrower making grading difficult.
- Access roads are not provided in some wards and connectivity is made difficult.
- The designs for the roads in question are not available and surveying need to be done so that the original roads be repossessed. It was however encouraging to hear from the members of the public that they are willing to leave the roads reserve areas to allow reinstating of the original boarders once the plans are provided in order to allow for repair and maintenance of their roads.
- Poor Drainage is a major cause of roads destruction and the main cause is the grabbing of water ways by the members of the public and partly by the contractors incompetence.
- Large trucks ferrying logs have also contributed in destruction of some roads in the County.
- Lack of road signs along the highways especially to show the location of the bumps. The committee noted haphazard installation of substandard bumps on the highways that

may cause accidents hence endangering the road users. The bumps need to be marked to make them visible to the road users.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee alerted the Executive arm of the government to liaise with the National Highway Authority to work upon the issue but nothing has been done so far.

- The highway under the KeNHA (Kenya National Highway Authority) especially C69 has several portions completely worn out and communications to the Authority through the executive member in charge of roads has not bore fruits as the said potholes continue to claim lives.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE ROADS:

At the moment several roads have been graded in various wards across the County and repairing of some roads is going on at the wards level.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee on Roads Public works and transport wrote a letter to the Executive on 15.01.2014 seeking clarity on the erroneous work plan earlier provided to the committee.

The County Engineer responded through a letter dated 22nd January 2014 and annexed a work plan covering the months December 2013 to Mid April 2014 for Murrum/gravel tipping and grading works. The report however lacks the costs component and the committee found it to be incomplete.

Work plan/program was devolved to sub-Counties with effect from 6th January 2014. The sub-County administrators met with MCAs in their sub-counties to prioritize road maintenance works, identify potential quarries and record the resolutions reached to the executive for implementation. Subsequently the work going on should follow the agreed upon priority at the sub-county level.

The hiring of road maintenance equipment according to the executive is still on hourly rates as pegged to the government Rates by the Ministry of Public Works-Mechanical and Transport department. (Annex 1).

The repair of the two Backhoe machines as raised by members was also addressed in the letter which states that both machines require 3.12 million shillings to be repaired. (refer to Annex 1 page 2)

Procurement of the budgeted machinery for roads repair according to the executive is about to commence as tenders were opened on the 22nd January 2014. (refer to annex 1 page 2)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The work plans for the months between April and December 2013 were full of errors and the committee did not adopt it hence an accurate Work plan from the County Roads Engineer has been requested to enable oversight of the repaired roads.
2. The committee also recommends that the County Government purchases land for access roads to enhance connectivity in affected areas. This will only apply in areas where the original plans never catered for the access roads.
3. The executive members in charge of Lands, Housing and Physical planning and the one in-charge of Roads, Public Works and Transport work together and come up with a bill to deal with encroachment of the roads in the County.
4. Physical planning department provide Nyandarua County maps showing main roads and access roads and their actual sizes both in length and width.
5. Stolen water ways along all the roads be recovered soonest to enhance drainage along all the roads.
6. Molding of Culverts be done at the Sub-County level and the right standard be maintained. This will create employment for the Youth and make them accessible. The County government to purchase moulding equipment for the purpose.
7. The budget committee in the coming financial year set aside some funds to be used for survey and to work on encroached roads in the County.
8. Designs for the roads under construction be availed to the committee for the sake of oversight in-order to avoid shoddy work being repeated in the County.
9. The County government identify busy crossing points in Olkalou town and mark zebra crossings points .
10. Proper records on the ongoing Nyandarua Roads constructions be kept for accountability.
11. The executive member in charge of Roads comes up with a bill especially to deal with Cess to ensure roads maintenance.

Conclusion:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to reiterate that roads in Nyandarua have deteriorated into the state they are in due to neglect and therefore wish to urge the budget committee to allocate more money for maintenance of the road in the coming financial year.

I also wish to urge all members of this Hon House to play their part in over-sighting the ongoing repairs in their respective wards to ensure the electorate gets the value for their money.

My committee is committed to its mandate and will continue to play the oversight role.

Thank you.

SIGNED THIS DAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2014 BY:

NAME

POSITION

SIGNATURE

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|
| 1. Hon. Samuel K. Gachuhi | Chairman | ----- |
| 2. Hon Joshua M. Muigai | V/chairman | ----- |
| 3. Hon Joseph M. Gichini | Member | ----- |

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|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| 4. Hon Daniel K. Ruara | Member | ----- |
| 5. Hon Ann W. Kionero | Member | ----- |
| 6. Hon Margaret Wambugu | Member | ----- |
| 7. Hon Rebecca N. Weru | Member | ----- |
| 8. Grace Njeri Ng'ang'a | Ass. Clerk | ----- |

I therefore call my chairman to come and second the report. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Hon Samuel (Weru): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to second. The reality of roads in Nyandarua in three or 4 months ago and Mr. Speaker Sir it is good to note that what is in the document or the report reflects the reality on the ground Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would first appreciate the members of the county assembly, Nyandarua County they have done a very brilliant and recommendable job. Mr. Speaker sir as an example, if you take this report and you go to the ground at this moment, you will wonder it is a reality of this report because Mr. Speaker sir what is done on our roads today is very recommendable. I.E the work of the executive in conjunction with the cooperation of members of the county assembly. They have come together to make sure that our roads are upgraded. And as the chairman am very proud of Nyandarua County so far because of the appreciation of the public or the people on the ground everybody or people even outside this county would appreciate and would be proud of being in Nyandarua hence that attracts more investors within the county. And also as a member of this assembly or as a member of this county am also proud to note that economically Nyandarua is growing. Even though we may not note it. But actually people are coming maybe for example, the more investors like in grading the graders that we are using help te people within and outside the county. In the process, the investors or those contractors are coming to our county to do the work there, they are discovering that we have very productive land whereby more people are buying land within our county. That encourages me to work hard and to deliver for the peo9ple of Nyandarua as the chairman.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would also want this house to note that the work that the work that was done by the previous leadership sometimes it amazes each and everyone as we witness what is happening today and they are asking, where was this money although we may understand the devolution that is working and that its threatened and we might go to where we came from. Mr. Speaker Sir, as a member for Weru I cannot allow it at all. Signals are being send to the president that even if this information may come to his office, it's good for him to come to the ground and see the reality. Mr. Speaker sir, I would also note that the road 393D and 292D are some of the roads Mr. Speaker Sir that need to be noted of what happened in those leadership.

This goes though you Mr. Speaker sir to the member of Murungaro, you need to beer with the former leadership I don't know what would happen because if we go to the investigation of the previous issues of those leaders I believe you may take centuries trying to investigate on the same. But Mr .Speaker sir, I would request this assembly to forge ahead and see what we have been mandate to do, we do our oversight job so that we see that these loopholes are sealed completely. I request this members of the county assembly discovers that the members or the leaders that have been working within the defunct county council or former leadership