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# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY- 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

#### OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

*The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber (Manunga Catholic Hall) at 11.00 a.m.*

*(Temporary Speaker, Hon. Michael Kirumba on the chair)*

#### PRAYER

*(There is quorum as confirmed by the Clerk-at-the-table)*

**Speaker:** There being quorum we can proceed with the business of the session.  
First order.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

ADDRESS BY NYANDARUA SENATOR, HON. MURIUKI KARUE

Hon. Members, as you are aware, today we are expecting the Hon. Senator for Nyandarua County in the house and as stated by the standing orders, when they get in you will all rise and the substantive speaker will take the chair.

*(The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, enters the chamber followed by Nyandarua county Senator [Hon. Muriuki Karue] at 11.07 a.m.)*

*(Temporary speaker, Hon. Michael Kirumba leaves the chair and the speaker [Hon. Ndegwa Wahome] takes the chair)*

*(Hon. Muriuki Karue takes the seat on the left of the Speaker)*

**Speaker:** Without much ado Hon. Members as you are aware today we have a special sitting which is as requested by the Honourable Senator and in welcoming him to the first assembly of Nyandarua, I will give a welcoming address and the same is in the following terms.

The Honourable Senator of Nyandarua County, Eng. Muriuki Karue Muriuki and the Honourable Members,

I most warmly salute you and welcome you to today's address by our Senator pursuant to Standing Order Number 24 as read together with Standing Orders Numbers 22 and 23.

In March of 2013, Kenya had its first unique election, in the sense that it ushered in a new dispensation of government, the devolved system of governance. Indeed, we are here today because the people's voice rose supreme. And you the Honourable Members now come

to this place to serve as the voice of the people of Nyandarua by representing them at the different levels of engagements.

We as Members and leaders are aware that the people have vested in us their trust to deal prudently, responsibly and diligently with a multitude of policy choices important not only to how we live today but to what sort of society we bequeath to future generations.

It is in this spirit of betterment that our Senator, in consultation with the Assembly's leadership, has graced this Assembly with his presence and for a myriad of other reasons that I believe he is going to address himself to. As such, today is, and it is a special day in the history of our Assembly for this is the second occasion upon which we shall be addressed by our Senator.

Allow me to contend at this early stage that the Senator together with this Assembly has over the four years period worked constructively and with each other to focus on policies that improves the well-being and secures the future of all the people that we represent. Over the years, this partnership has proved itself as an effective instrument of change especially in dealing with the development challenges facing our county, as well as in the promotion of a people focused leadership.

Through representation and as a voice of the people, the people's concerns have been tabled in the House through Bills, motions, statements and petitions. In this spirit of citizen-focused leadership, the Assembly has through its legislative role midwived the passage of various Acts that have an enormous impact on the people. Among these are the Bursary Fund Act, the Trade Fund Act, the Early Childhood Education and Development Act and the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, to name but a few. Further, through allocations to the County and the oversight role of the Assembly, there has been implementation of a myriad of projects in the County among them being fast access roads network, increased access to water and improved medical care and services.

Indeed, it is through a motion moved in this very House and the creation of an *ad hoc* Committee of the Assembly that the J M Hospital in Ol'kalou and the Engineer Hospital in Kinangop have been remodelled and equipped through allocation of funds to suit their stature of Level IV hospitals.

But all this has not been achieved without there being hurdles and challenges. The most pressing of these challenges facing the County is perhaps that of meagre allocation of the sharable revenue from the national government and minimal local revenue base. We commend the Senate on its recognition and commitment to address this issue, among others, and I am confident that, through your advocacy as the protector of devolution for our county, these shortcomings can be effectively tackled. Our continued partnership and solidarity is therefore absolutely vital to address those many challenges that confront us.

Honourable Members, it is an enormous pleasure to introduce the Hon. Senator, Eng. Muriuki Karue Muriuki to this House. Before being Senator in 2013, Hon. Eng. Muriuki Karue Muriuki was Member of Parliament representing Ol'kalou in the 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> Parliaments (1998 to 2002). In 1998, he moved a motion in Parliament that compelled the government to apportion 24 percent of the Road Levy Fund (which you pay in fuel) to roads in the then districts, now counties. He followed this up the following year with a motion apportioning five percent of all tax collected to "the grassroots." The motion passed the legislative stages but was stagnated, so he followed it up with a bill in 2001 which in 2003 became the Constituency Development Fund Act (CDF). As you are aware, the principles behind the establishment of the CDF majorly informs Chapter 11 of our Constitution on Devolution. Between 2003 and 2011, about Kshs 70.3 billion was allocated to and distributed throughout the country by the CDF Fund which we all can attest to its resourcefulness and positive impact at the grassroots level.

Further, the Hon. Senator has sponsored into the Senate three (3) Bills, being: the County Industrial Development Bill, No. 7 of 2014, the Potato Produce and Marketing Bill, No. 22 of 2014 and the Impeachment Procedure Bill, No. 8 of 2016. Of these, the County Industrial Development Bill that seeks to ease the setting up of small industries to add value to overall produce at the Counties is awaiting the President's assent.

The Hon. Senator is a Member of the County Public Accounts and Investments Committee, the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare, the Joint Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity and the Parliamentary Sessional Committee on County Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment Fund (Created by a Resolution of the Senate on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015).

As you are aware, Nyandarua County has been disadvantaged in terms of infrastructural development from the onset. In cognizance of this, the Hon. Senator by a motion tabled in the Senate on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015, moved that an *ad hoc* Committee be established to conduct an inquiry into the needs of each of the forty seven (47) counties. It is through this motion, Honourable Members, that the national government has provided a conditional allocation of Kshs. 4 Billion to five (5) counties, among them Nyandarua County, to be shared equally for construction of county headquarters.

You have to acquiesce that pioneering for these prospects is a daunting challenge, to which the Senator has devoted great thought and attention. We acknowledge that his record in development for the betterment of our County of Nyandarua and the County at large is unmatched. I may not enunciate all the literature on the accomplishments of the Hon. Senator, but there are recorded numerous success acknowledgments in his name.

We welcome you today, not principally to commemorate the past, but rather to herald the present, and to gaze to the future. Hon. Senator, your presence here today is a beacon of hope to the many present and a wider majority who we represent. At this point, we would wish to report to you that as an Assembly, we are happy that our Assembly Chambers which unlike most other counties was started from nothing is nearing completion as only finishing works are pending and we are assured of occupying the same before the expiry of our term.

From all the above, we are proud that our covenant with the people of Nyandarua has largely been honoured through legislative work, representation and oversight. I would finally wish to most sincerely on my behalf and that of all the Honourable Members and the Assembly family thank you for honouring us with your visit.

It is now my singular and most pleasant duty and honour to welcome our Senator, the Honourable Eng. Muriuki Karue Muriuki to address this House.

*(Applause)*

**Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki Karue:** Mr Speaker Sir, the Hon. Members of Nyandarua County Assembly and the distinguished participants and visitors, hamjambo? Mr Speaker I am delighted this morning to have the opportunity to address the county assembly of Nyandarua and by extension the people of Nyandarua. Thank you so much for your complements Mr Speaker. Each one of us tries to do very many things for either yourself, those that you represent, those that you stay with or the country at large.

When I hear some of the complements that you have made in your welcome speech, I feel humbled. There are many things I may have attempted, some succeeded and others failed. With the permission of the people of Nyandarua who sent me to the August House, I may have been able to achieve one or two things for the people that I represent and others in the other parts of the country and I thank God.

I stand before you as your senator. We sit in Nairobi. The functions of the Senate are described in article 96 of the Constitution, however the principle function of the Senate is to make sure that devolution works.

When we talk about devolution, it may not be very clear to many. Article 174 of the Constitution has defined devolution but it can be defined in a single phrase as being “self-determination” Mr Speaker in your opening remarks you mentioned CDF and it is important for everyone to understand what it was trying to do. It was meant to do three things;

1. To see to it that the money allocated by parliament reaches *mwanachi*. The government would for example provide basic infrastructure.
2. For the people to be able to say the projects they wanted. Those members of parliament who make use of the CDF and do not ask *wananchi* what they want are wrong.
3. To avoid instances where *Wanjiku* had to sell her sheep or goat so that she can participate in a *harambee* to construct a classroom that a government is obligated to do.

What I mean by saying that devolution is self-determination is that the money for devolution should reach the people at the grassroots so that they can do what they think is the best for themselves and their county. I am a civil engineer and one time I happened to work on forest projects in Tanzania. An American consultation firm had been commissioned by the Tanzanian government to work on forest conservation. My company called Keyplan Consultancy had been appointed to be a sub consultancy to help. While we were there, we learnt one very important thing, that when you are working in a forest, you do two things; the extent of the forest and the types of trees in that forest. I want to say that it is not possible to see the extent of the forest and know the types of trees in there at the same time. You have to get into the forest to know the types of trees in the forest and then take an aeroplane so that you can be able to see the extent of the forest. This is the same way we prepare our budget. We either do it from up there, look at roads generally or you get down to the ward and ask what *Wanjiku* needs.

The new Constitution brought about devolution and that is what I am here to talk about. We start by asking ourselves whether devolution is working or not. I can say that it is working. When students do examinations, they get different grades and if one is asked to bring a form four certificate, they will all do so despite the differences, even those that got grade ‘E’. Those that got a ‘D’ and below have so many challenges. When they go for the Kenya Police recruitment drive, they are told that they did not get grade ‘C’ and are therefore not qualified. Our county’s performance is definitely not an ‘A’ or ‘B’. The pass mark in many of the countries is 33%. In my view our county has reached around the pass mark.

What could be the problem? Is it the Constitution? Yes, to some extent because in many areas the Constitution is not very clear. Is it the national government? I would say yes. Look at the NYS scandal, it is known all over but this was as a result of the national government trying

to do the county government work. The national government had no business doing drainages in Nyandarua County. The Nairobi city county had not done the drainages in Kibera because they were waiting for the national government to do them. Is the problem from the officers in the government? I think so. They are not committed. They do not want the monies to be sent to the county governments. Are the commissions in the Constitution part of the problem? I think so.

Mr Speaker I had forgotten some of the things that you have mentioned. For instance on the motion on equalization fund for the counties, I had thought of Nyandarua, Tana-River and Tharaka-Nithi. The Senate did not pass the motion initially because they were asking how they would know whether Nyandarua was one of the counties that needed more allocation. A committee was formed to look into that and luckily I was appointed the chairperson of the committee and we went round the country looking at the needs of every county. We came up with five: Nyandarua, Tana-River, Tharaka-Nithi, Lamu and Isiolo.

We interacted with the ministry of roads or public works then and they did what you are trying to do now. In 2011 when H. E the President Uhuru Kenyatta was the minister for finance, Kshs. 27 billion was allocated for all the counties. Some got much and others a little and Nyandarua had Kshs 583 million. The commission for Constitutional Implementation headed by none other than Hon. Nyachae who has been a lawyer for many year went and told the cabinet then that it was unconstitutional. That is how Kshs 27 billion disappeared into thin air. Then we can say that to some extent, the commissions are a hindrance to devolution. Does the treasury pose problems to devolution? Yes it does. Sometimes I hear governors saying that the money is delayed in their counties. When we go to treasury, we do not get tangible reasons for that. Are the governors the problem? Yes they are to some extent. When they come to us for one reason or the other, they feel so superior that sometimes they ignore everyone including you. As a result issues that could have been solved easily become a problem.

Do the officers of the county government pose problems to devolution? Yes, to some extent. In a certain county a wheelbarrow that costs about Kshs. 5000 around the country was procured at Kshs. 109,000. Does the council of governor pose a problem to devolution? Yes, to some extent. We see them busy complaining in the media all the time instead of coming to us so that we can try and solve the problems. In this way they encourage impunity. Are the contractors a problem in devolution? Yes to some extent, they are. Some of them have been reported to us as having done shoddy work. Some are paid before they work, I do not know how and then they disappear. Are thieves a problem to devolution? I think so, to some extent. Who are these thieves? What about we leaders, are we a problem to devolution? I think we are.

Before the new Constitution, we spent so many years demanding for a new Constitution. We kept saying that Moi and his government was bad. Even after the new Constitution came, the leaders that took over kept doing those things that they were saying were bad in the past regime.

I am not trying to find fault with devolution. We cannot sit here and listen to senator Karue and then start finding fault from his speech. For instance, start saying that this place is not good because it has an echo, there should have been a gallery here et-cetera.

In Isaiah chapter one verse eighteen, is says that we should come together and discuss. I have read this bible over and over again and this verse it does not tell us what to discuss. I am

here so that we can sit and talk. I will talk to you and I hope that I will make you see my way of thinking. You may agree or disagree with me.

We can ask ourselves what we devolved. In my view, we devolved politics and money. We did not devolve the economy. When I was taking an initiative on road and other things, my intention was to try and improve the economy at the grassroots. Devolution of politics and money may improve the economy but only slowly by slowly.

In the new Constitution, two levels of governments were created, the national government and the county government. Instead of the three people formerly elected, the President, the Member of Parliament and the councillor. We now have six. If you know, just compare notes and if you don't know you get to know: because I like going to the Bible, When Paul was writing the epistles to Romans, he asked how one would know unless he or she is told, and who is that telling unless he knows, I believe I know, and am not the only one who knows. I believe there are others who know, but all the same you get to listen to me, we normally say there are six electoral positions. The President, Governor, Legislative senator, Member of Parliament, Women Representative and MCA but if you look at it clearly, there are eight members in total. Article 148 says President and Deputy President, that is, once the President is elected the electoral commission will declare also the deputy, elected. Article 180 says once the governor is elected, the commission will declare the running mate as elected, remember my topic is devolution.

At the county, the two elected members are the Governor and yourself and if you like, the third one is the Deputy Governor. Be it as it may, the most important thing about devolution as I said before is that we devolved two things; money and politics. I want us to look at money, the money in the country by and large is what we pay as taxes in form of Pay as You Earn, exercise duty, Vat, levies fine etc. This is the money that makes the president to come to parliament once a year through the minister of Finance to come and tell Parliament which is made of the two houses, Senate and the National Assembly and that this is the money they think they are going to raise and divide it as follows, according to article 218 of the Constitution, this is to be divided into two, a portion for the national government and a portion for the county government; this is what is called Division of Revenue Bill.

It is of importance to also be familiar with the figures, we started off at Kshs. 861 Billion, we are now at Kshs 1.37 trillion which is not the budget because the budget is 2.1 trillion, however budget is not the topic of today, When I get time again I will come and discuss the difference between income and budget. The portion for national government is given to the national assembly where Hon. Samuel Gichigi and Hon Wanjiku Muhia sit and get to divide it among the ministries. The other portion for counties is the one brought to the Senate for Senators to divide the money among the counties, through what is called the Allocation of Revenue bill. Over and above that, there is also money called conditional grants where the national government gives money and if it comes to the county, it falls in the Division of Revenue bill but on a condition where you cannot do anything else with it other than the purpose for which it was given. This allocation bill is a Senate affair and the national government does not come in just like we don't interfere with allocation to ministries. In fact the Constitution has clearly stipulated this. Although after we have done our division of various counties, we take it to the national assembly but for them to change even a coma, they need a very high margin, the Constitution is written in such a way that it is purely a Senate affair, they will need two thirds of the house to change anything and getting this is not easy. When all this is done how much does Nyandarua get?

If you are looking at devolution in a country, it is good to know that once the money is sent to the counties, we actually don't ask Governors what they are going to do with the money, we allocate with our wisdom and this is where you must get a good senator, whether the money is being allocated by whims, by formula or whatever you will need a good senator for the county to get a reasonable amount. In 2013/14 I think we had Kshs. 3.1 billion or there about I know there is some other money collected in markets and so on but the one coming from government is Kshs. 3.1 billion, the next year was Kshs. 3.7 billion, then Kshs. 4.3 billion I think this year is about Kshs. 5 billion, I cannot remember the exact figure.

There is the office of the auditor general who audits all offices including the President's office. If one is involved in allocation, he is also doing oversight, so if it comes to the county, the county assembly must do oversight. We as senators must also do oversight although we have our own differences on who is to do which oversight, I truly don't get involved and I even have no problem with that because we get to listen to the auditor general on how money was spent, but I don't get involved in details of what happened here or there and I have no intentions of getting involved and we should not. But in checking what was done my friends, that is your job. If it is not done and was allocated, it is the work of the county assembly. So if the auditor general has done that, and I am now coming back to Nyandarua County, Mr. Speaker I want us to look at devolution in our county, so let us discuss. Psalms 133 says that it is good for people of the same family to meet. I am here as a member of the family called Nyandarua and I invite the members of the County Assembly so we can meet as a family and look at our county. Wanjiku shall always talk of those people we elected and am here as a person elected, and as one of you. The biggest danger is to look at individual roles, what has the senator done, the MCA, the governor etc.

Honourable members, I want to tell you there is overall dissatisfaction on the performance of the devolved unit called Nyandarua County. We may deny that and say a lot has been done, am not saying a lot has not been done; there is a singer called Erick Nilsson who sang and said no man is an island. I mean, there is another person thinking what you are thinking. You cannot deny the truth. If people are complaining, they are complaining. Perception is much stronger than facts, the fact of the matter is that people are complaining about roads, health, electricity, they may even complain to you Mr Speaker about the assembly, on things that have got nothing to do with you, complain to the Governor on things that have got nothing to do with him.

I hope you agree with me that there is a lot of dissatisfaction among the people who elected us and last year in one of the national celebrations, I remember speaking and telling the Governor as I welcomed him to talk, I said "Your Excellency the Governor, if we are told to show one mega project we have done for this county and show the people what we have done, we may have a problem." It was later construed that I was interfering with the governor which I was not. If there is a problem we must acknowledge there is a problem and solve it. It is a patient who goes looking for the doctor, it is not the doctor who comes to the patient and acknowledges they are sick, and you cannot be cured if you don't admit you are sick. When it comes to audit reports Mr. Speaker, I will mention some of this now that am standing in front of you, there are all manners of interpretations, should Senate be investigating the Kenya airways, or is it the national assembly that should do so? Should the MP oversight the Governor, it is good to talk about this things.

The other time the reports came and I decided to discuss them with the people of Nyandarua. I got a lot of resistance and people were really against it, I will not go into the

details of that day. I want the honourable members, because I understand some were involved, to please listen to me as I say this, we cannot do away with facts by saying they cannot be read in public. If I come to Ol'kalou, as the senator and I am saying this is how our money was spent, the facts in that book will not change. What we need to realise is that we may boo or demonstrate for one day, the senator who came with the book as an informer will go home, the speaker will go home but the process will not stop.

When all ended, I still went ahead with my job and told the Senate to look at the figures which they did. If you want to help the governor by perhaps ensuring that the figures are not read, the police will do what they do and go home. About three weeks ago I received a letter from Director of public prosecution requiring me to make a statement about so and so who took part in an incident on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015. Government process does not stop, you have heard people that have retired about 10 to 15 years being recalled over something they did a long time ago, years ago. So if you're doing something, just for now get to know that government processes do not stop. You see, the people in parliament know me well, virtually everyone and so if there was to have a contest on who is being irrational and who is not and they may have a soft spot on my side. Why I am saying this is because we may not look at that mathematics very closely. Now for example, there is a project called Tahal water project. I looked at it and by the time the Governor and his team were bringing it to the Senate, people had already formed an opinion that if it is to be read, *kuna kitu*. In the Senate there are some governors who come and say yes they were wrong for they did not know, Mr Speaker you know for you have been a lawyer, that even a judge can reduce a murder case to manslaughter and the convict is told to sweep around the court for one day and he is free.

Honourable members I thought we would talk about it one day and that day is today. I am not here to find fault but just to tell you Isaiah 1:18 says *tukutane tujadiliane*. Psalms 133 says People of the same family meet and talk *even* that litigation that will be there will be a refusal act if we are not able to talk as members.

Members, there are many things that have happened around the counties and some members say you know there is a lot of money in county assemblies, yes you want to make some money, and everybody wants to make some money; actually let me tell you if I were the Governor of this place, you people would make more money than you do now because there is a lot of activities we could be doing with licit money not illicit money. I wish to leave this topic because it is just housekeeping but before I do so, like to say most Governors have issues with Ward monetary public fund, and I never understand them, what is this they are quarrelling with, this people have been elected by the people on the ground, they are saying it is out of the Kshs. 4 billion given that we set aside this amount to go the ward; because you cannot see the forest and the trees inside the forest at the same time. Even at the county government level, you still need the eye of that person at the grass root to be able to see things you cannot see. Allow for Ward monetary fund so long as you're rational.

There are many gaps to be in the filled Constitution. Parliament and the National Executive should know their specific functions. There should be more dialogue between the Council of Governors and the Senate as there should be regular fora for discussions between the Senate and the County Assemblies. Some County Governments author highly viable and progressive acts and it would be profitable if every county implemented the same.

We should tone down our egos. We should use world examples to rank our county, Nyandarua. America, for example, elected Donald J. Trump as president and this has consequently triggered demonstrations because many Americans thought that Hillary Clinton would scoop victory. I was in America five months before the said elections. Many Americans



in the grassroots were largely quiet about Trump's utterances during his campaigns. Trump is not good. He is going to do bad things. But to who is he not good? The largest percentage of the American electorate voted him in; actually he garnered 309 Electoral College votes against Hillary Clinton's 232, this notwithstanding the froth he uttered and the insults he hurled during the campaigns. He won the popular vote by a big margin. He bagged 62.97 million votes while Hillary Clinton got 62.27 million votes. That is a difference of about seven hundred thousand votes. This man said what Americans wanted to hear. Otherwise why would they elect him overwhelmingly?

We are the ones who thought that the billionaire is bad. It seems the Americans want the America-Mexico border wall be erected. In addition, they probably wish for implementation of other items in Trump's manifesto. We have been copying America; but with the demonstrations that ensued after Trump's election, we have learnt that Americans are just ordinary people. Trump, I believe, will be hard on us, Africans. He even questioned why African countries have not built enough educational institutions since Africans keep on flocking American universities. All in all Trump's election has taught people from other parts of the world to be confident in themselves.

CDF has facilitated many children to join school. I listened to people say that the CDF initiative was copied from South Africa. This is not true because South Africa actually got the idea from us, as well as other countries like Tanzania, Uganda and Egypt. Why don't Kenyans believe that they can be originators of progressive initiatives? Many Kenyans believe that effective initiatives must be borrowed.

Mr Speaker, when you received me in your office, which I believe is temporary, I heard one of the Hon. Members say that they would get a copy of my speech. I did not say something in response. But I did not carry a written speech. I am not used to reading speeches; I am used to giving unwritten speeches. But I believe my speech is being recorded.

Mr Speaker and the Hon. Members of the County Assembly of Nyandarua, let us reason together. Americans elected the crazy-sounding fellow for American reasons. They still think this is the fellow who can do it. Nyandarua is divided into twenty five wards. The electorate in every ward elected a ward representative. So this Assembly comprises of representatives of the people. Through the Constitution, gender balancing was enhanced in the county assemblies. On the same thread, positions for the people with disabilities and the youth were introduced. I want you to see that you are the representatives of Nyandarua County. By being assembled here, Nyandarua is also assembled here. You would be wrong if you do not fulfil the wishes of the people of Nyandarua.

You may not be aware that I am one of the three Members who were appointed by the Council of Governors to push for the County Retirement Bill for the members of staff of County Executives and Assemblies. I am working hard to ensure that it goes through.

The County Industrial Development Bill, which is the last item of my address today, was framed on the premise that most of the counties have major products they produce or process. Milk and potatoes are the major agricultural products of Nyandarua. Dairy farming is also practiced in our county. When I was drafting the said Bill, I challenged pastoralists with a story which I would like to tell you. I consulted two gentlemen from France who deal in leather. They get their raw materials, that is, goat and sheep skins, mainly from Botswana and Morocco. In France leather is used to make products such as handbags, shoes, belts, et cetera. To the dealers, if, for example, a goat is well reared, its skin is at least five times more valuable than its meat. Why should people from France come to Africa to process leather from animal skins? Can't we do it ourselves? Bananas from places like Nyamira are exported to countries like Japan to make wine. Mr Speaker, until I engaged myself in the drafting of the Bill I did not know that one of the best wine brands, a bottle of which sells at not less than

five thousand shillings, is processed from bananas. Yet the farm price of a banana in Kenya may be as low as one shilling.

I have been going round the county talking to cooperative societies like Miharati Cooperative Society. I have also been visiting dairy companies in our county; they are eleven of them. They collect around 70% of the marketed milk. The Counties Industrial Bill aims at compelling the national government to allocate money for processing products such as milk. In Nyandarua, a kilo of milk goes for an average of Kshs 30. In some parts the same kilo of milk fetches Kshs 25 while in some parts of Ndaragwa, it goes for as low as Kshs 23 per kilo. In Nairobi, a kilo of milk sells at more than a hundred shillings. The owners of the cows, who do the donkey work of tending the same, are not the ones who reap this profit. The profit goes to the owners of factories. A dairy farmer only incurs a loss by selling a litre of milk at Kshs 23, considering the cost of rearing a healthy cow.

Why can't we, the people of Nyandarua, establish means by which we could earn large profits of the milk that we produce? This is an idea I am selling to you. Why can't the producers of milk in our county own a milk factory? Remember the powder milk sold at more than a hundred shillings a litre in Nairobi is what remains after ghee, butter and related products have been made out of unprocessed milk. I convened meetings in which we reasoned together and registered a company called Nyandarua Maziwa Industries. I appreciate that our county government has done a lot to establish cooperatives.

If there were no cooperatives in our county, there would be nobody to talk to about industries. We went ahead and approached people and organizations who could help us establish a milk-processing industry in Nyandarua. The total cost of the industry was estimated at about Kshs. 1.2 billion. Two local organizations and one international one are willing to listen to us on this initiative. We approached another Chinese organization though it was not favourable for us. Mr Speaker, we need your help as an assembly in the implementation of the County Industrial Bill. None of the local and international financiers will listen to us if we do not show them the land on which we want to set up the said industry. In the above-hinted meetings we were discussing where the industry could be established and we proposed either Kipipiri or Kinangop because in Ol'kalou we have the county headquarters and a big hospital. In OlJoro-orok, we have a polytechnic which I wish to see it grow to become a regional institution. We also have a teachers training institute and so forth.

We settled on Kipipiri because it is a little bit central irrespective of other reasons. We started looking for land and we identified quite a number of plots around. We were looking for 20 acres and luckily we found 30 acres. Due to dillydallying, the owner sold half of the land and we are now left with 15 acres only. This piece of land is located less than half a kilometre from Miharati town which is in Kipipiri ward. I can see the Hon. Member for Kipipiri smiling.

The issue is not where the industry will be located. I want you to see that the cost of that land is Kshs 15 Million since the owner is asking for Kshs 1 million per acre. We also need to fence it, ensure that the place has water and do one or two other things.

Ladies and gentlemen, we require around Kshs 30 million to be able to set up an industry in Nyandarua. God willing, we shall set it up here in Kipipiri and as I had said, it will be located only half a kilometre from the town. The owner is not a land broker because he is selling his own land and if we delay, he might decide to sell it to someone else.

Let me repeat, I stand in front of you as a Nyandarua's statesman. I therefore want to talk to you as a father. *Mtoto akilia, hulilia mamake ama babake*<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, as Hon. Members of Nyandarua County Assembly, I want to tell you that, *mtoto wa Nyandarua analia*<sup>2</sup>. You as the leaders are the child's father and mother yet it is still crying.

<sup>1</sup> Translation: A child cries to his mother or father

<sup>2</sup> Translation: The child of Nyandarua is crying

I want you to acknowledge that every person in Nyandarua County is a dairy farmer in one way or the other. Either a person has cows or is trying to get some. Mr Speaker, if you find a person in Nyandarua with a quarter an acre piece of land without a cow or two, he or she may have had one and unfortunately, the cow died or it could be because he or she sold it to pay school fees and he or she is still looking forward to buy another one.

Hon. Members, *mtoto wa Nyandarua anawalilia*<sup>3</sup>. The budget is usually brought to this Assembly for you to pass in order for development to happen. If you provide your child with clothes, toys, pens and pay school fees but you fail to provide food, he or she will continue crying.

Mr Speaker, I know that most of these projects come with a lot of politics. For me, I am doing this as a statesman. I am not doing this because of any hidden motif. You can recall way back in the year 2014, after realizing that we had gone through a whole year of devolution and we had not met as leaders to talk, I invited you, Members of Parliament, the Governor and others. We were ten of us and we sat at Tabor Hill for a whole afternoon. Honestly, we did not agree on some issues because every one of us had a different perspective but I can tell you that by the end of the evening, we agreed that we had sat for the first time as the 'Nyandarua ten'. We agreed that the media people should not interview any of us separately. We had a joint press conference and we chose the Governor to speak about the resolutions we had made. We may not have succeeded in our endeavours but let me say it was a major step forward.

On this issue of the milk industry, my role will be convening the meetings and selling the agenda. I am now appealing to you, as a child of Nyandarua, that I will step aside and not get involved in the running of the industry since it already has its directors and I am not one of them. My main aim is to ensure that we have an industry and, ladies and gentlemen, you will be very proud of it many years to come when you remember that you are the ones who facilitated our people and in essence, *mtoto wa Nyandarua akaacha kulia*. It is very easy for someone to go to the Governor and inform him that the Senator is taking over his work and playing politics. But, I say no. They may say that I brought CDF, KeRRA and others and I earn some scores but I want the Members of the County Assembly to be the ones earning the scores on this one. This is the reason I want to steer clear of the industry so that it is not politicized.

With those few remarks, I think I have delivered my message. On politics, I only have to say two things. I pride myself that I have done a little bit of pro-people things and if I was looking for some marks, I think I have done pretty well. If I came to the people and say that I am running for a political post, I won't be ashamed. I think I have done something worthwhile. Therefore, I only urge you to have a legacy and as I have told you, we are on one side and *Wanjiku* is on the other side looking at what we are doing.

The pro-people credentials hit me clearly the other day. A certain gentleman was trying to become a member of parliament in a certain constituency and was in charge of water. In his credentials, he was saying that he has been in charge of water projects in the country. He also said he had done projects with Nairobi Water, Mombasa Water, Rift Valley Water and so on. Therefore, he said that if he was elected in that particular constituency, the residents would get water. Although it is true that he was in charge of water projects in all those areas, a constituent asked him whether he was genuine because he had done all those projects but his own mother had no water. The person began talking as though he was not hearing what was being said. Another constituent rose to explain to him what the person had said.

Credentials are therefore very important but know that you were not born yesterday. If you have done something, let it be something that can be felt by us, the people of Nyandarua. I am telling you, ladies and gentlemen, that we have lost a lot of ground. Don't allow us to lose any more. If we happen to lose one year, it is gone. Some counties have really moved far. I

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<sup>3</sup> Translation: The child of Nyandarua is crying to you

don't want to start the comparison and insinuate that some people are better than others. What I am saying is that, '*chungu, tumepoteza wakati mwingi tukiongea siasa*'<sup>4</sup>. Some may say that I am just talking. For me, I pride myself not as a person who is complaining and whining but rather as a person who is trying to seek solutions to the problems faced by the people of Nyandarua. If you find someone with a solution, please let us listen. If we find a person with a better solution, let us listen too but let us not waste any more time.

Mr Speaker, some people may be wondering what position I will be vying for. But I will tell them that I am fit to hold a wide range of political positions but when the time comes, I will announce which seat I will be going for. For now, I just wanted to relay the message to the members of the county Assembly that, 'the child of Nyandarua is crying'. Even if I am elected by all the residents of Nyandarua to become the Senator, I don't take part in the budget making process of this county. I know you have a budget and you are already working on the supplementary budget. If you are dividing money for your family and your child has no food and you find it not worthy to allocate money for food, the entire budget is not worth it. In other words, if you are allocating money for roads, hospitals and dams and you fail to allocate money for food, the Nyandarua child will continue crying and the budget will be worthless.

Thank you Hon. Members, thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Applause)*

**Speaker:** Thank you very much Senator for those words and I really appreciate the fact that you made time to be in this Assembly. In view of what has transpired during the process of delivering your address, we shall not move to the next agenda in the order paper. Our Hansard department captured everything that you said and the Standing Orders are not explicit that the speech has to be written. It is not also indicated in what language the speech should be delivered in only that it has to be either in Swahili or English which are our national languages. This is for the guests but not the members. Therefore, I believe that you have satisfied the provisions of the Standing Order No. 22, 23 and 24.

The Hansard department should therefore transcribe what you have said, put it into a speech format and the same shall be brought to the House on Tuesday of the coming week so that we are able to allocate time for elucidation of the same by the members. The members will have their say on all the areas which you have addressed besides deliberating on challenges, problems and possible solutions.

## ADJOURNMENT

Without much ado Hon. Members, and our guest, Senator Karue, we shall now adjourn this House to today, Wednesday afternoon, at 2.30. p.m.

*(The House rose at 12.33 p.m.)*

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<sup>4</sup> Translation: Be cautious! We have lost a lot of time politicking.