



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
1ST ASSEMBLY- 4TH SESSION



OFFICIAL REPORT

(The Hansard)

Tuesday 26th July, 2016

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber (P.C.E.A Building) at 2.30 P.M.

The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Wambugu King'ori, in the Chair.

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(Clerk-at-the-table confirms that there is quorum)

Speaker: There being no quorum, I direct that the division bell be rung for the initial ten minutes or until such a time within the ten minutes that the quorum will have been achieved, pursuant to Standing Order number 34.

(Division bell is rung for one minute and quorum is achieved as confirmed by the clerk-at-the-table)

Speaker: Quorum having been achieved, let us proceed with the business of the day.
First order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to welcome you back from the short recess and I hope you had a very fruitful engagement with your electorates.

Next order.

PAPER LAID

THE THIRD QUARTER FY 2015/2016 COUNTY BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
REVIEW REPORT

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Kariuki Muchiri, Leader of Majority Party and Member for Murungaru.

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg to lay on the table, The Third Quarter, FY 2015/2016 County Budget Implementation Review Report from the Controller of Budget. Thank Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay.

Speaker: Very well. The Third Quarter, FY 2015/2016, County Budget Implementation Review Report is duly tabled and I think this is a matter to be handled by the

Committee on Budget and Appropriations and I think the chair can inform the House about how long it will take them to peruse through the report. Yes, Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Appropriations, Hon. James Gachomba.

Hon. James Gachomba: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would request that the Budget and Appropriations Committee be given at least one month to go through the document and come back with a report. Thank you.

Speaker: Very well. We hope that after one month the committee will bring back the report to this House.

Next order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

MIHARATI AND NJABINI ECO-TOILET

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Peter Kairu, Chairperson of the Joint Committee of Health Services and Roads, Public Works and Transport.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Joint Committee of Health Services and Roads, Public Works and Transport on Miharati and Njabini eco-toilets, as a report of this House and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Very well. The notice is duly given and the House Business Committee shall allocate time when the motion shall be moved.

MOTION

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF BOREHOLES IN THE COUNTY

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Paul Kiruka Mburu, Chairperson, Committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources.

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources in Response to a Statement Sought by Hon. Patricia Wanjugu Njoroge on the Status of Boreholes in the County, as a report of this House and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker, the statement was requested on 2nd December 2015 and I suppose that the member's intention was to have the Committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources

come up with recommendations on the issue. The statement was not specific to a particular borehole or location and therefore, the committee looked into the issue in the entire County. The committee hopes to look into the matter in details with special emphasis on the recently drilled boreholes done by the county government.

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of this committee is to look into all the issues that deal with water and sanitation in line with our Standing Order No. 191.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee derived its terms of reference from the statement request which sought to establish the number of boreholes in the County, current status of all boreholes within the County, number of boreholes rehabilitated since devolution and measures being undertaken by county to ensure that residents in the county have access to water throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to article 195 of the Constitution, read together with sections 191 (5) and 171 of the Standing Orders, which give the committee the power to summon witnesses, the committee, summoned the CECM for Water, Irrigation, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources who was accompanied by the Chief Officer with information collected from different sectors of their department so as to shed light on the issues raised.

Details of the recognized boreholes and their status were submitted to the committee which is annexed to this report. On scrutinizing the submitted report, the committee realized that the report needs to be updated to include other boreholes drilled in the current government.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee is grateful to the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for granting it continued support while executing its mandate. The Committee also extends its appreciation to the Department of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources for its cooperation in providing the information sought.

Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of my Committee who sacrificed time away from their families and their electorates to participate in the activities of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Committee to move a motion of adoption of this report.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, Sir, provision of clean water and sanitation services is a devolved function of the County Government. Many residents of Nyandarua County lack access to clean water despite the County being a source of water for other counties. You know we have many water towers but only 5 to 8 percent of Nyandarua residents can access clean water. Therefore, we

need to work very hard as county and rethink the issue of water because we cannot have so many water towers yet our residents do not benefit from them.

The white highlands region was fondly referred to as a land where the white man explored development opportunities. The white settlers had realized that, although there was no piped water, they could sink boreholes and construct water pans which would supply their families and farms with sufficient clean water throughout the year. It is now 53 years after independence and we are yet to access clean water which settlers used to access way back then. It is therefore important for the county government to realize that it has a major role of ensuring that its citizens can access clean water.

Committee’s Findings

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information provided by the Department in response to the above question, notified the Committee that there exist two hundred and eighty (280) boreholes in County. However, there are several boreholes which have been drilled by the County Government but are yet to be completed. There are also a few boreholes drilled by Non-Governmental Agencies which were not included in the list.

The other question was; what is the current status of boreholes in the county? Mr. Speaker, Sir, Out of 280 registered boreholes in our county, 74% (206) are not operational, with only 26% (74) being operational. Imagine this, Mr. Speaker.

Table 1: Data on the borehole is shown as below;

S/No	owner	Number	Operational	Non-operational
1	Colonial era	212	22	190
2	Government/Transferred from National to County	43	31	12
3	Private owned	25	21	4
Total		280	74	206

From this table, most of the boreholes constructed by the white settlers are not functional, while privately owned boreholes have the least non-operational boreholes, which means that their owners are able to maintain them, while the Government owned ones are not maintained. This raises the question on inclusiveness of stakeholders in management of water resources. The critical issue of sustainability of the water service providers is not articulated

squarely, an indication that the County has no structured way of assisting small water providers like self- help groups at the grassroots.

The statement further sought to find out how many boreholes have been rehabilitated since the inception of the County Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County government has so far rehabilitated three boreholes since the year 2013 which include the boreholes at:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1) Rurii dispensary | Rurii Ward |
| 2) Rurii Polytechnic | Rurii Ward |
| 3) Karangatha borehole | Nyakio Ward |

Currently, five boreholes are in the process of being rehabilitated, as indicated by a report from the Department of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources. These are;

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| 1) Kianda | - | Karau Ward |
| 2) Malan | - | Rurii ward |
| 3) Gituamba | - | ” |
| 4) Matuiku | - | ” |
| 5) Mathathi | - | Kaimbaga ward |

The Committee was in agreement that this number did not certainly represent the whole county and therefore it resolved to make site visits to the said Boreholes under construction to ascertain the information given.

Mr. Speaker, the members also wanted to know what measures and plans are in place for interventions for instance drilling of boreholes, provision of water tanks and emergency water schemes to ensure that people have access to water despite dry weather conditions. In response, the CEC member of the department of Water reported to the committee that the county Government has planned to drill eleven(11) boreholes this financial year as follows:-

Table 2: boreholes earmarked for construction in the financial year

s/n	Borehole	Ward
1	Mutonyora	Magumu Ward
2	Wendani	Magumu Ward
3	Gitwe	Magumu Ward
4	Gitwamba	Rurii Ward
5	Matuiku	Karau Ward

6	Kiburuti	Karau Ward
7	Munyeki	Karau Ward
8	Kwa Haraka	Nyakio Ward
9	Heni	Githabai Ward
10	Koinange	Githabai Ward
11	Faru	Engineer Ward

In order to mitigate water shortage and emergency cases the CEC member promised that:

1. More boreholes would be constructed in future. This, she indicated, would depend on budgetary allocations which, unfortunately, has been decreasing instead of increasing yet many projects are incomplete. The members will bear me witness that the funds allocated to this department are hardly sufficient. It is the high time for the government to ensure that all the projects that were initiated are completed.
2. The department also plans to construct fifteen (15) masonry storage tanks of various sizes ranging from 50m³, 100m³ and 225m³ to be distributed across the County.
3. A total of seven hundred and ten (710) plastic water tanks of between 210 -10,000 litres in capacity have been bought to cater for water groups and schools which will enhance water harvesting, and which will go a long way in alleviating water shortages.
4. The department has one water bowser to cater for emergency situations whose charges are affordable. However, the committee noted that the cost of the services offered by the bowser are not affordable to residents residing far from Ol kalou town since the charges depend on the distance from the County headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee unanimously came up with the following recommendations:

1. That the Department should give clear and updated report on the funds that have allocated for drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes since the inception of the County Government in 2013.
2. That the County Government should prioritize on investments in gravity reliant water supply but also increase funds for drilling more boreholes in drought-prone areas. This is because the cost of pumping borehole water is high and sometimes unsustainable.

3. That the County Government should consider adopting solar and wind powered pumps for newly constructed boreholes to cut on electricity costs. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to continue relying on electricity which is a bit too expensive.
4. That the County Government should consider providing more funds in the future budgets to procure a water bowser for every sub county to supplement the one bowser currently serving the whole County.
5. That the Department should fast track establishment of effective and efficient management unit for small water projects to make them sustainable in line with the institutional strengthening for water resource management in the County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 95% of the population in the County have no access to clean piped water and therefore relies heavily on the stagnant water from shallow pans and dams because boreholes are expensive to drill and maintain. The County may not have sufficient funds to fix the problems in the County, but should ensure that all funds utilized in implementing water projects are sustainable and do not end up being white elephants.

It is in this view that the committee has planned to go to the grassroots to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects under implementation with specific emphasis on Boreholes and come up with a more comprehensive report. My committee also hopes to follow up on the Funds pledged by the National government in supporting the Water provision infrastructure to augment the County budget. However, the county should show more commitment in providing water to its residents noting that clean water is an inalienable right for all citizens.

It is in this view that I call upon members to support the allocation of more funds in the coming years to ensure all Nyandarua residents get clean water. We always say that Water is life and it is also a basic human right to access clean water. Let us work towards touching the lives of our residents in a meaningful way by providing them with clean water.

We believe that if we adopt and implement these recommendations, our people will appreciate our leadership but if we don't, there is no telling how we will be judged. The county government must take this department seriously, they can't set aside only two million shillings per ward. What are you to do with only two million shillings? We can only buy 20 plastic storage tanks. Let them give at least 20 million shillings per ward so that we can see to it that every *mwananchi* has access to clean water.

Mr. Speaker, in the annexures is a list of the boreholes in the county categorized on whether they are privately owned, NGO-owned or government-owned. It is pointless to have so many boreholes that are not beneficial to the public. I cannot overemphasize on the need to

allocate more money to this very crucial department but I will now call Hon. Kimani Njiraini to second.

Speaker: Hon. Kimani Njiraini member for Kaimbaga

Hon. Kimani Njiraini: Thank you Mr Speaker I appreciate the chairperson committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources for moving the report. Water is life and every ward in Nyandarua County needs clean water. It is known that in Nyandarua people do not have clean water supply in support of what has been said, that only 5% of the people in Nyandarua that get clean water. Dry areas like Ndaragwa and lower part of Ol'kalou that need water urgently. 280 boreholes have been drilled in Nyandarua County as listed but only 74 of them are functional.

From the cubic metres that are pumped from the said boreholes you can tell that there is enough water for the people in Nyandarua County if the water is distributed well. Most of them were drilled during the colonial era and others were transferred to the County Government by the National Government. There are also private boreholes which, compared to the rest the private ones are well managed. There is no need to do more boreholes because the ones we have, have enough water. They only need to be properly managed.

Some of them in certain wards have been rehabilitated and they supply water to the said wards, for example Rurii. I call upon the county government to rehabilitate those that can produce water for the residents of Nyandarua County. Most of the boreholes have failed because they use electricity as the source of energy which is very costly. The county government needs to think of another source of energy such as solar that is less costly. This is being done in other counties such as Turkana. In Kasuku near Lake Olbolossat, they have sank small wells and they use solar energy to pump water. They do not use much incurring the cost of buying and installation of the solar panels. In the past we have been emphasizing on road construction. We should know that when we lay water pipes and connect homesteads with water, we shall not repeat it. It is not like road because you tarmac a road today and tomorrow you are repairing it.

We have many other water projects in Nyandarua people however the rates are very high. In Ol'kalou you find that people pay Kshs. 500 each month whether you use water or not. This is an area that the county government needs to look into so that we can reduce those rates. The county government can also take over these water projects.

For the areas that have water shortage such as Ol'kalou, the County Government should enlarge the water intake because it is the one that supplies water here. That water can be used for farming and other domestic purposes.

The Karau member allocates his part of the ward development funds to buy tanks. Others bought pipes and their major challenge is that there is nowhere they can get water. We need to emphasize the need to supply clean water to the residents of Nyandarua. With those few remarks I second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes county member from Weru Hon. David Ndirangu Mwangi.

Hon. David Ndirangu (County Member): Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion. The committee has gone round the county and seen that there is need to supply water to the residents. They have majored on boreholes. Water is very important to us. Whenever we are doing development in any area, it should be emphasized that there is need for water.

One of the annexures has a list of the boreholes that are not operational. The few that are operational are private. It should be the initiative of the government to ensure that these boreholes are working and that people are getting enough water. Apart from what the committee has done, the department of water needs to do more and ensure that what has been recommended here has been implemented. If it will not be implemented, then we shall be shelving a very important report even if doing it is very normal in this county. I support.

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Patricia Wanjugu, County Member from Karau.

Hon. Patricia Wanjugu: Thank you Mr Speaker, sir, for giving me this chance to support the report by the Committee on Water. I appreciate the committee for coming up with this report. In biology we are told that our bodies contain 65% of water. If we do not have water, our bodies will be dehydrated.

Mr Speaker, I requested for this statement after seeing how our people are suffering. Nyandarua County does not have many permanent rivers and therefore people use contaminated water from the dams. After devolution our duty is to see to it that our people get clean water.

The report says that there were 280 boreholes that were drilled by the white settlers. When the white settlers went back to their country, almost all the boreholes were destroyed because of mismanagement. The county government should ensure that all the boreholes are rehabilitated.

The County Government should rehabilitate boreholes to ensure that our people get clean water. The white settlers were able to maintain the boreholes. The County Government, considering that it collects revenue from various sources, has enough resources that can enable it rehabilitate the boreholes. The elected Members of the County Assembly should ensure that the electorate have access to clean water.

It is my opinion that there should be sunk a borehole in every sub-location for the benefit of the households. In view of this, the County Government should procure a drilling machine.

If the CECM for Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources cannot manage the money allocated to her department, then the department cannot be added more money. She must come up with a budget for purposes of implementing the departmental projects. She is in fact a failure for failing to sink boreholes within our county for the benefit of our people.

If it is so costly to use electricity to pump water from the boreholes, wind pumps could be used for the same. Nonetheless, we should commend our president for ensuring rural electrification. We should therefore make good use of the electricity. We cannot talk of electricity being costly if it would be used to power the pumping of clean water to our people.

The Governor included sinking of boreholes as one of the achievements of his administration. But I know of a borehole that was drilled near Ol'kalou town but it was never completed, yet money was paid for the same. Now people are asking where the money allocated for full drilling of the said borehole went. In regard to this, the CECM for Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources should make sure that the said borehole is been completed.

Due to consumption of contaminated water, our people usually visit hospitals to seek medical attention. But should the County Government ensure provision of clean water to our people, there would be reduced costs of purchasing medicine for ailments arising from consumption of contaminated water.

I beg to support.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Magumu, Hon. Teresia Njoki.

Hon. Teresia Njoki: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Water is life. With regard to this, existing boreholes should be rehabilitated. Many people in my ward have boreholes in their homesteads and the County Government should help the people rehabilitate the same.

The boreholes would act as supplementary sources of water considering that our county has less rivers.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Speaker: Yes Member for Leshau Pondo, Hon. Josphat Kamau.

Hon. Josphat Kamau: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion.

Mr. Speaker, Leshau Pondo Ward has no permanent river. So the only source of water for the residents of the said ward is boreholes but the cost of maintaining the boreholes is high. The cost of diesel or electric power needed to pump water from the boreholes is also too high for the community to bear. The Department of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources should look for cheaper alternatives of power, such as solar, that could be used to pump water from boreholes.

The County Government should come up with proper geological reports before sinking boreholes. It is wrong to assume that there exists water beneath every part of the earth surface. Without proper geological reports dry boreholes would be sunk; and I think that that is what happen in the case of the borehole that was cited by Hon. Patricia Wanjugu which was sunk near Ol'kalou.

Some boreholes have a high discharge rate while others have a low discharge rate. Therefore, the geological reports should consider possible discharge rates of the proposed boreholes.

Proper management of the boreholes should be done. The community should own boreholes drilled for their benefit. Many projects in our county have been neglected because the community feels that it was never involved in the implementation of the same. In view of this, the community should be involved in identifying where communal boreholes should be sunk. Strategic places should be identified for sinking boreholes. Actually it would require higher costs to pump water from a borehole located in a valley.

The County Government has been proposing to sink boreholes near those drilled by the white settlers. This should not be the case because there is no assurance of good results. You know Africans have been brainwashed to think that everything that was done by the colonialists is right.

I reiterate that the County Government should ensure that affordable sources of power to pump water from boreholes introduced.

I now call the mover to respond.

Speaker: The mover.

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank my fellow Members for supporting the motion. I also thank Hon. Patricia Wanjugu for seeking for the statement that led to the compilation of the report whose motion we are debating on. I further thank the

Members of my Committee for their unyielding cooperation during the compilation of the report. Remember one of our roles is representation. Another of our roles is to ensure that projects are implemented. The people may lose confidence in us if we do not oversee implementation of projects.

Finally, I thank the Almighty God for granting my committee energy to compile the report at hand.

I now beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Hon. Members, having exhausted the business for this sitting, this House adjourns to the next sitting tomorrow, the 27th day of July 2016 at 9.00 a.m.

(The House rose at 3.34 p.m.)