
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

1ST ASSEMBLY- 4TH SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday 7th December, 2016

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.00 A.M.

The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, in the Chair

PRAYER

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(The clerk-at-the-table confirms that there is no quorum)

Speaker: Quorum having not been recognized, I direct that, pursuant to Standing Order number 34, the division bell be rung for an initial ten minutes or until such a time within the ten minutes that quorum will have been achieved.

(The division bell is rung for 10 minutes and quorum is achieved as confirmed by the Clerk-at-the-Table)

Very Well. Quorum having been satisfied we proceed with the business for the morning session. First order.

PAPERS LAID

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS ON BUDGET EXPENDITURE IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SECRETARY

(Hon. Kieru Wambui rises on behalf of Hon. Paul Maina)

Speaker. Very well. Member for Gatimu Ward, Hon. Kieru Wambui.

Hon. Kieru Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. On behalf of the Chairperson of my Committee, I wish to give an overview of the said report on the extent to which implementation of the resolutions on Budget expenditure in the Office of the County Secretary has been and the status of the County Wage Bill.

The Committee has engaged various offices within the County Executive starting with that of the County Secretary which acts as the liaison office between the County Assembly and the County Executive on formal engagements. The County Secretary was engaged in matters with respect to implementation of the Assembly's resolution whereby the Committee was also looking into the expenditure of the Budget as it was allocated for the Financial Year 2015/2016. That allocation fell under the Office of the County Secretary. It included the Recurrent Expenditure for salaries of the County Human Resource Department and the funds were also

set aside for recruitment of more officers to fill the human resource gaps within the County. The Assembly resolutions had been implemented.

It is worth noting what the County Secretary had put forth that all the resolutions of the County Assembly had been transmitted to the relevant departments. Last time we made a resolution that once a resolution of the County Assembly has been adopted, it would be paramount that if, for example, that matter touches on the Department of Health, in as much as the letter goes to the County Secretary, we proposed that a copy be done to the Chief Officer of the said department. I do not know whether the Office of the Clerk has been doing that. It was the concerns of all departments that informed the County Secretary that most of the resolutions had not been received. They say that they do not receive the resolutions of the Assembly despite making the resolutions. Some resolutions are made but they say that they never receive them. Mr Speaker, we have passed the resolutions of the budget estimates which they never deny seeing. They see it immediately and if there were things they had not paid, they pay. However, resolutions that do not directly touch on them, they say that they have never seen them. Another issue is about the County Executive Car and Loans Mortgage. When it came to Car Loans and Mortgages, they got it and implemented it fully. Nobody ever denied receiving them. So, we need to understand who these people work for. The County Secretary promised the Committee that he would contact all the departments and register the concerns of the Committee. I know this was just a PR exercise.

Mr. Speaker, in as much we were dealing with the Office of the County Secretary, we noted that he was playing some brain games and we therefore decided to extend scope. This necessitated us to do a progress report because we have decided to deal with various departments one after the other because the issues raised by the County Secretary were not satisfactory and couldn't help the Committee. He said that he could not give information about other departments and so we could not rely on him alone. The core objective of the report was to deal with the County Secretary but he came and passed the blame on other departments. That is why we want to deal with other departments.

Mr Speaker, I know the office of your Clerk has delivery booklets. In those delivery books, let a department say that it never received reports when we have deliveries. On the Budgetary Expenditure in the Office of the County Secretary, the County Secretary gave an inconclusive report on the budgetary expenditure. Here, I want to give an example. When we were calling the County Secretary to address the issues on budgetary expenses in his department, he came with an inconclusive report. You know in financial year preceding 2015/2016, the Office of the Sub-County Administration was under the County Secretary. Now he comes and says that the Sub-County Administration is no longer under his department but under the Governor's Office being run by the Chief of Staff. That was understandable. We, therefore, said that we would want to deal with the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Governor. On the County Human Resource Wage Bill, it is worth noting that the budgetary allocation had provided for employment of Early Childhood Education Development Assistants, several engineers in the Department of Roads, Public Works and Transport, officials in the yet to be established Fire Department among others.

The Committee received and scrutinized lists of employees in the payroll and other lists of employees who are not in the IPPD system containing the documents submitted. The two documents had a total of 2,237 employees. 1,739 are in the payroll system while 498 are outside the IPPD payroll. The documents submitted contained other information such as the department, job group and education level of the employee.

Members were concerned about officers who were above job group J without having diplomas or degrees, yet, they hold senior positions in the various County Departments. The response we received from the HR was that the County had inherited these number of employees from the national government at the inception of devolution. In as much as we

inherited these people, we also wanted to understand the efforts of the County Government in the rationalization. They ought to have done something and not cry foul.

The Committee was concerned by the large number of employees in some departments and yet no services were being provided. For example, in the Department of Agriculture, there were so many staff members and nothing is happening. Rationalization can be done and the Departments with excess numbers of employees can transfer them to those with few employees. The Committee on Public Service needs to address these issues regarding HR. When one department has very many employees and the other one has very few, modalities can be worked out to address that. In the national government, there were so many parastatals and now they are being merged. Why are they being merged? They are being merged for easier management. If the national government can collapse parastatals, why not do it ourselves. If we have so many employees in the County Assembly and the County executive does not have, something can be done. These people cannot tell us that they wake up every morning to go to work and cannot do rationalization. I urge the Committee for Public Service to work on this as quickly as possible.

However, the County Executive halted all the recruitments in the County thus creating a hostility. The County Secretary informed members that the Executive had formed an ad hoc Committee on County Wage Bill to investigate the matter in the period 2016/2017. The ad hoc Committee, in its draft report, noted that the County Wage Bill stood at 42% against an ideal situation of 35%. The ad hoc Committee made several recommendations to the cabinet despite insurmountable challenges encountered during their investigations. The ad hoc Committee, however, admitted that it did not conclusively exhaust the matter that there was need to have a human resource audit in the County. Let the audit be done. We have always said that since the first day we came to this Assembly. On implementations, the Committee upon deliberations, decided that it would await the final and adopted report on the County Wage Bill from the County Executive which was premised on an assurance by the County Secretary who said that he would provide the final report to this Committee.

In our conclusion, the Committee on implementation is still in engagement with the office of the County Secretary to get more information on the issues raised. The Committee has also initiated a process of engaging sectorial departments now that the CS cannot give us satisfactory answers. As soon as the reports are availed, the Committee shall scrutinize them and the report shall be tabled on this house with the necessary recommendations. Mr. Speaker you can advise on the issue we resolved that this Assembly will always make resolutions, send them to the County Secretary and do a copy to the relevant departments. Does it still take place because they were saying that they do not get those resolutions? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, I think that was a progressive report by the Committee on Implementation. They have clearly indicated how they want to pursue that issue to conclusion because there is a clear admission that the architecture of the initial engagement would not bring concrete results. Therefore, of importance is to give more time to the Committee having laid down the roadmap on which to reach their objectives. How much time would they require to be able to bring the final report together with resolutions to the house? I believe that this is subject to confirmation which I will do from the office of the Clerk that the resolutions are actually sent to the County Secretary with a copy to the requisite department because those directives were given. I would like to formally confirm from the Office of the Clerk in writing. I will request for the same and communicate to this house. For now, we are supposed to know from the Committee the timeframe that they require to bring a conclusive report with its resolutions to the house.

Hon. Kieru Wambui. Thank you Mr Speaker. Immediately we come from the December recess, we expect to have handled the matters conclusively. Thank you.

Speaker. Very well. It should be noted therefore that the House Business Committee shall allocate time for the final report of that Committee on priority immediately after resumption from recess.

Next order.

MOTION

NAMING ALL COUNTY ROADS

Very well. The Deputy Leader for Majority and Member for Kipipiri Ward, Hon. Michael Kirumba.

Hon. Michael Kirumba. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion:

Aware that Nyandarua County has numerous unnamed roads within its rural and urban areas. Further aware that there is need for roads within the county to be named for direction and location purposes and that there is a culture of naming roads after our freedom fighters and other heroes;

Concerned that failure to name roads in the county has both directional and cultural negative impacts, now therefore, I urge that this house does resolve that

1. The County Government of Nyandarua does name all its county roads with emphasis on the major centres;
2. That special preference is given to names of freedom fighters and persons associated with heroism in Nyandarua County and;
3. The process should be consultative.

Mr Speaker, this motion is as a result of the experiences that we have had in the four years that we have been here. Members are aware of the challenges we have had when allocating resources. I ensured that Mahinga road had been allocated money and coincidentally there was another road in the same name and the MCA of the said ward had allocated some amount to the road too.

Fortunately, I was able to arrest the situation when the amount was almost allocated to road in Kaimbaga ward. The member was celebrating because he did not know that it had been corrected. This could have created unnecessary conflict and the fault is not of the members of the county assembly but it is because we have not named those roads.

Members have been complaining that some issues on roads are not clear and some wards have benefitted because others could not tell where some of the roads in the budget were located. If someone from the USA comes to Ol'kalou wants to go to equity bank, you may not be able to tell that person the direction to the bank. Naming of the roads may look so petty but it has a big impact. This one has a lot of cultural and historical attachment and it is good that we think about it so that in day to come we shall have a data bank of all the roads in the ward and the shopping centres.

There was a problem in Mombasa County where the governor tried to name a road after Fidel Odinga. No one could tell what the Kenyan named Fidel Odinga had done for this country. There was an outcry on that. Should we take that route? Let them consult because this is fair. Members from Ol'kalou know that there is are secondary schools called Gachwe and Kahia. Probably they were named after them because they did something for those schools. What would stop anyone from naming this street Kamuruchi Street or road? She was the first

clerk to this county assembly. What would stop anyone from naming a road in a certain ward Wahome road? Wahome Ndegwa was the first Speaker of the County Assembly of Nyandarua. When you go to Nairobi you can see a street named Kimathi Street, Muindi Mbingu Street Koinange and Wabera. We shall not be reinventing anything. Why was Biashara Street named that way, because the Asians had very thriving businesses along that street. Moi Avenue was named after a man that was the president of this country for over two decades. In future we shall be connecting water to homesteads and this tells us that we should be on the 'Google map' and those rivers should have names.

I hope that the members will support this so that we can give the executive some time to work. We shall be able to leave this place better than we found it.

Thank you Mr Speaker. I call upon Hon. Kimani Njiraini to second.

Speaker: Yes, member for Kaimbaga, Hon. Kimani Njiraini.

Hon. Kimani Njiraini: Thank you Mr Speaker, I first thank the mover of this motion. Naming of the roads in the urban centres is very important. There are so many heroes in this county and if roads were to be named after them, it would be good. It would also be good to give the name 'Wahome Ndegwa' to a road or 'Kamau Ngotho'. We can name roads after the people that have done good work in Ol'kalou. Many roads in Nairobi were named after most of our people and we remember them. In Huruma they have called an estate, Mombasa estate but you may not be able to give directions to some of the other estates because the streets are not defined.

Hon. Kirumba has mentioned Mahinga road. There is a road with the same name in his ward and this brings confusion. We can honour people that are moving this county from one level to a higher level by naming roads after them.

I think that naming of the roads will make the executive remember these road and construct them. They will be in their records. I second the motion and I would ask that one of the roads in Kaimbaga ward be named after me, Kimani Njiraini.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes, member for Karau, Hon. Sammy D Ngotho.

Hon. Kamau Ngotho: Thank you Mr Speaker, I support the motion. There is a motion that was in Nairobi County Assembly by the member for Karura. It was meant to rename a road so that they could honour Wangari Maathai. I believe that we are headed the right direction because we are going to honour the heroes such as J. M Kariuki and the rest. The greatest challenge in this is the funding. Signage is a function that requires money. We can ask that before the funding of signage is done, we do the naming. We should also do public participation and after approval of the same in this House, it can be funded so that we can start with the signage.

I urge the mover of the motion to pursue the same so that the roads within Karau, Kaimbaga and other areas that are urban centres to be named. The chairperson of the committee on roads wanted to name a road after himself and he got into trouble in his ward. I think we cannot be ranked as heroes yet. This is a very good move. I support the motion.

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

Hon. David Ndirangu (County Member): Thank Mr speaker I rise to support this motion. Failure to name road has caused duplication and has brought about confusion when

constructing the roads. We saw a road that has been given three names and is allocated money thrice. It is therefore important to have those roads named.

The member for Karau has mentioned something about naming of the roads. If you go to OlJoro-Orok you will find a street by the name Pele Street. This was done by people who know what I have done in that area.

(Laughter)

I did not do it, it was done by the business community members who thought that it would be good for my name to be mentioned when one is going about in that centre. It is good for us to recognize the MCAs that have done a lot to ensure that there is development in this county. It would be good to have Kirumba Street in Miharati so that those who will come after that person will know that that leader did something for this county.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes, member for Gatimu Hon. John Kieru Wambui.

Hon. Kieru Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. As I support the motion by Hon. Kirumba, I would like to say that reference is very important. Being specific is very good but it is hard on matters to do with roads in Nyandarua. The previous regimes found that it was good to use specific names to refer to streets, avenues and roads. We are not inventing anything new here. The Kenya roads board has the responsibility of classifying road and giving them names. This is done for easy reference. The common mwananchi may not know the terminologies that the Kenya roads board uses so it is good for us to have easier references for them.

We are not going to start with the village roads, let us start with the urban areas. In the village we know each other and the roads in the village. It is good that we name the urban roads first. We may not give them our names yet but we can give them names of those that were before us. If the government that comes after us decides to name roads and streets after us, that will be okay. As for now it would not be fair to name the roads after us yet we are in this government. This will be fought left, right and centre. Let others come and see what we have done and see the need to appreciate us. Let the people see the work done by Waithaka Mwangi. Today the people are saying that Waithaka Mwangi has done nothing. They say in kikuyu that *'iganagwo yari iria yakua'* (a cow is said to have been producing a lot of milk after it dies). If a person comes after me and does a better job than me and they decide to name a road after the person, that would be okay.

How can a person in Mombasa name a road Fidel Odinga? That is a joke. What did he do for the County to be even recognized by a county government? This had taken a political angle and as a member put, it this one needs sobriety. Let this be consultative. In Nyandarua we have people like J.M Kariuki, we may not name a road after him because we have named a hospital after him. However, we have Kimathi; what would be the problem if we called a road Dedan Kimathi Road? Even if we have such a road in Nairobi, there is no problem if we do the same.

We can look for an individual that has been known for his or her efforts and integrity. We can name roads after them because they are individuals that we cannot forget. What would the problem of naming a road after Mheshimiwa Karue who started devolution even before it started through CDF? We can name roads after their names even if they are alive. I cannot fail to give names of people that we can name roads after. Let the names be given consultatively. The busiest road in Ol'kalou has been given a bad name. It has been called Koinange and we

know why it was given that name. We know that there is such a street in Nairobi and the spirits in that street. We do not want such spirits in Ol'kalou. As the first government we can change that and give it a better name.

Hon. Kamau Ngotho talked about financial implications because of the signages but all that we need is a small metal bar. We can do a few roads in Ol'kalou, Engineer and of course the ward that the mover of the motion represents. Thank you Mr Speaker. I call the mover to respond.

Speaker: Ok, the mover and the member for Kipipiri Hon Michael Njoroge Kirumba.

Hon. Michael Kirumba: Thank you Mr. Speaker it is important to appreciate the input of members because they will go down history books and on record as having seen and leaving the country better than it really is. Mr Speaker, it is not lost to the importance and the significance of having these roads after our heroes. As a starting point for example, if we choose and agree to appreciate the widow of Dedan Kimathi, she is living and she is in Njabini. If we said for example that we will name the road between Jamaa all the way to Kware and we say this is... I don't remember her name: Mukami, Lady Mukami Dedan Kimathi, you will make that day a day that it will go to the national Television and the media that we have appreciated that old lady and it will go even to make anybody appreciate that the husband did something for this country, now that she is living and we have seen even national leaders going there, why don't we appreciate her and we let everybody see what Mukami Kimathi did for us. That can be a starting point like Hon Kieru said.

If we did that and we queue there, it will even have some marketing. That can be a starting point. Mr Speaker Hon. Kieru or Hon. Ngotho brought the issue of Koinange street in Ol'kalou, anybody, because I was in Ol'kalou then, Koinange, everybody will remember Koinange in Nairobi, that street used to be called Kamihihu. And Kamihihu had reasons why it was refereed as Kamihihu, by extension that's why, that was opposite Kahias shop and when I was in Nyandarua High school in the seventies I coming there during mid-term and just next to where the market is ,there were small cubicles and all you could here in the evening were whispers and whispers was like the Koinange connotation and that's why it was named that ;and some of us from high school would penetrate once in a while, it is no harm to say as things were. So it is important to we have those issues coming forth it will help people because you just don't name things without an attachment.

Koinange is just the same Koinange everybody knows in Nairobi and that's why the name was imported this way. So in essence Mr. Speaker, what we have done today is just laying a foundation of something that can be of value in naming and even in budgetary allocations and so forth. The issues of the Pele street, you know people appreciate that he is one of the MCAs who managed to get a slot which was controversial, people are trying to imagine how disabled he is, he is aged and the Honorable member who stayed for a long time before he was sworn in, because people were arguing is it years? Is it anything we cannot see? And then people had issues with the name Pele and they have to go on record whether you like it or not, because generally what happens you will get recalled when you're dead and buried. People may not appreciate what you are doing when you're living, but when you're dead and buried, they will remember that there was a very smart Pele there who could penetrate from the national level to the county level and he has lived to milk the cow we worked for and that is history. With those few remarks, I thank the members for seeing what this motion might do long after we are dead and buried.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Actually the passing of this motion is the start of more serious business because I think the importance and the profit if this and the importance of the motion to the county cannot be ignored, it is all there to be seen, but a lot of work needs to be put into this matter for it to have the impact that is desired. I want to believe that the mover of this motion will work very closely with the legal department even if necessary so that we incorporate some element of the road form commission so that are able to first do the heroes recognition act. First before we do the structures let us know the heroes, then we can assign them roles and duties whether post humorously or when they are living and then that role, if it is followed by another role whether naming of roads, trading centres and bus stops, actually in Nyandarua bus stops are named after everybody, you go there one is called Gakorofa, another one Kichinjio, there is nothing that informs our naming system to bus stops or trading centres, trading centres are coming up and some of them are given immoral names but we have no control over this things.

The member for Kipipiri, the work has just started, let us have the heroes recognition law, and that one we will just do a few modifications on Kenya heroes act so that we have it and we know who our heroes are and we know how we shall be identifying our heroes. And then from that we shall have naming of roads, bus stops and trading centres act or bill for our county and then we have the legal set infrastructure to have the bill in place. I think this one will become one of the legacies that we can leave for this county. Therefore we are going to give it the necessary support to actualize this motion into the two bills to ensure as our term expires that we live this two laws into place. Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

Very well that business having been exhausted, Honorable members this house will now adjourn to today Wednesday 7th Dec 2016 at 2:30 pm.

(House rose at 11:03 a.m.)