

16th January 2014

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA

NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Assembly Debates.

First Assembly, second session

Special sitting

The House met at 2.30 PM

Hon Speaker in the Chair.

Procedural motion on State of Roads construction and contracting (Moved by Hon. John Kieru Wambui-Gatimu MCA)

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following motion on state of Roads construction and contracting:

“Aware that the Nyandarua County Government appropriated money for Roads development in the Financial year 2013/2014, meeting the stipulated Timelines, concerned that the state of our roads is poor while contracting, Hiring and payment of Machinery has been going on without clear regulations approved by this house; aware that we are a Government that is expected to expedite it’s mandate at a level equal to it and within the law; aware that the law has put it distinctly clear the difference of National Roads and that of County Roads and considering that the Kenya Roads Act 2007 established Right Standards of Roads Development, Rehabilitation and Maintenance; further concerned that this is not what is happening in Nyandarua, this House urges the executive committee member in charge of Roads, Public Works and Transport:

- To bring to light the mechanism in which the roads construction services were procured,
- To indicate the number for roads that they have so far completed to construct,

- To indicate the identified sources of Roads development materials and official fueling stations in the 5 sub-Counties
- To breakdown the work done and amount spent per ward so far in roads development,
- To indicate the rates of contracted and hired machinery.

Hon Kieru highlighted the issues raising questions as:

- Ten months work on the sector; roads so far constructed and in the process of construction.
- Haphazard way the roads are being constructed in the county arising out of lack of design and specifications of the work to be done by the contractors. Show how many bridges and culverts required and what is being done on the roads. He recommended the roads to be done in such a way that citizens will be satisfied by the work done.
- The sources of raw materials for roads construction need to be identified because ferrying materials from source to sites far away is wasting public money. He gave an example of hired Lorries /tippers carrying materials like quarry dust from Ol kalou to Kinangop which ends up only making two trips a day. Equally questioned is the sourcing of materials from another County at a cost while the local stones are free raising the issue of personal vested interests.
- He questioned the way the Hiring of machinery was done in terms of hours and not the work output and proposed the work be charged in terms of trips made to give value for the money and also emphasized that there are members of the public willing to charge for the same services in terms of work done.
- The procurement of machinery being used raised an issue that need to be addressed.
- Location of Fuelling stations was also raised irrespective of all procurement being cancelled. The member recommended that Fueling stations in each ward be identified so that vehicles will not come all the way to Ol kalou to

fuel the machinery and hence reduce the wastage of fuel. Single sourcing within the law was recommended.

- The rates for contracted and hired machinery were requested to make the process transparent and allow for oversight.

Hon. Moses Mwichigi (Nominated) seconded the motion and emphasized the need to have the contracting and hiring machinery mode changed from hourly basis to the work done in terms of kilometers.

He also trashed the idea of ferrying quarry dust more than 100 kilometers away citing loss of money and time and emphasized identifying quarries in all wards to reduce costs incurred in transporting the materials.

Hon S.K. Njiraini of Kaimbaga ward thanked the mover of the motion and pointed out that the rainy season is around the corner hence the repairs should be done now before the rains start hindering the construction and also before the financial year ends.

Hon Njiraini also complained that despite his ward being a source of stones and quarry dust, his ward has been left out as stones are ferried to other wards.

He also hoped that roads would be done systematically unlike the current situation where roads are repaired because there is a function like a funeral or a wedding. Citing one road at Huruma, he said that it was repaired because two workers in the County who wedded recently influenced the work and regretted that if things continue that way, the County will lose.

The usage of maintenance vote-head in the Budget was questioned as Njiraini noted that a lot of money was allocated to the vote but it has not been spent equally across the 25 wards.

Lack of supervision by the senior officer of the work being done was cited as a cause for shoddy work on the ground noting that the supervisors sit in the office while the work is being done.

Time wastage due to usage of old and worn out machineries was highlighted as another cause of resource wastage because the machines break down for hours and a lot of fuel thus wasted.

Poor work plan or no plan at all was noted as a weakness in the roads construction.

Hon Njiraini urged the Roads committee to investigate whether the quarry chips from Kaimbaga were indicated as being sold because the area residents gave them free of charge.

The member also requested that the wards in Ol kalou Constituency be given two graders to enable the road work be done before the rains start noting that the CDF machine is costing a lot in terms of repairs and punctures and the fact that the wards in the Constituency are vast.

Hon Njiraini also advised the executive to hire machines from the National Youth Service (NYS) in the area because the staffs there are professionals in roads repairs and also have good machines instead of hiring from individuals. He also emphasized that every Ward Representative should be told how much money has been used in his ward for the roads and also the balance to be known.

Hon. David Ndirangu (MCA Milangine) supported the motion but complained that nothing has been done so far in Milangine ward despite his several visits to the Executive concerning the roads. He said that Lorries pass through his ward ferrying materials to neighbouring wards which are indicated to be in Milangine in the work plans.

He lamented that only eight Lorries of stones have been taken to his ward and this is through the intervention of the Speaker which he appreciated.

Hon. Ndirangu emphasized on the need for work plan and its implementation.

Hon. Ndirangu pointed out that Grader KAB, property of the County is cheaper for the wards and wondered how the executive will ensure equity when other wards are using hired Graders. Also raised was the issue of hired tippers and County ones in relation to equity in spending the 15millions per ward.

Hon Peter Kairu (MCA Githabai) complained that his ward has only received eight Lorries of stones which he is still following up for their payment. He cited that he has been requesting for a culvert during the National Examination time from the executive for a long time until the residents could not wait anymore but took the matter in their hands and used timber to construct a bridge to cross over to allow the car ferry examinations.

He cried foul as some areas are receiving more attention than others while some areas are left out like Githabai ward.

He requested for equity in resource allocation and wondered why quarry chips can be ferried from Ol Kalou to Githabai ward unless there is someone with interests in the deal. He advised that a lorry in Githabai be used to ferry chips for repairs in the ward.

Hon James Gachomba (MCA Njabini/Kiburu) supported the motion citing that being an agriculturally productive area, the roads repairs are a priority to ensure products are not delayed to get to the market.

He said it does not make sense to ferry stones from Ol Kalou to Njabini while there are Lorries there which can ferry the same at a cheaper rate.

He noted that the supervisors mandated with the supervision job are not doing their jobs and need to be summoned to present themselves and give the wayforward or be censured.

Hon Gachomba said that Graders hired are breaking down and waste most of the hours under repair. He said that every ward should use the 15 million in the budget.

He claimed a member who had been given a grader from a ministry department and only needed fuel but his request was rejected because he was told to use the hired grader.

County Lorries and Graders should be shared equally to ensure equitability in resource sharing.

Hon Gachomba also highlighted the need to have elaborated Bills of Quantities for the roads being constructed to ensure the right job is done.

Repair of machineries belonging to the County government was said to be taking a lot of time citing the backhoe which are allegedly in Nairobi for repair. The delay in repairs was cited as a result of complacency by the officer responsible and sabotage of the operations in repair as the person sleeps on the job.

Hon Samuel Gachuhi (Weru MCA and Chairman of Roads committee) supported the motion and expressed his dismay at the incompetency with which the officers in the ministry are working with.

Hon Gachuhi said that the committee had requested for the work plan of the county roads with its cost but what was given is inaccurate on the ground and duplication of some activities and roads which on the ground are not there.

He informed the House that the CEC member in charge of road said that he banned transportation of quarry chips from Kaimbaga and Ol kalou to other far areas like Njabini but wondered whether he has identified other sources of the said materials in each ward.

The chairman of the Roads committee wished to know under what Terms and Rates of hiring graders and Lorries are being used to work on the Roads. He informed members that the Ministry of Transport has standard rates for hiring such services in terms of hours, kilometers. He proposed that the hiring be done in terms of kilometers.

The remuneration of implementing officers in the work was deemed as unfair as they receive less money than the drivers operating the machines do. The member advised the executive to pay overtime allowance to the implementing officers to ensure they are motivated and do work.

Considering the oncoming rains, Hon Gachuhi advised the executive to hire graders and Lorries per ward to ensure that the work is done fast and in time before the rains.

Hon .Edinald Kingori (North Kinangop) supported the motion and expressed the need to have regulations for the work on the roads in the County. He told members that he always hear that emergency repairs are being taken care of and wondered about the allocated amount on the Budget.

He advised that the executive to come up with regulations to avoid duplications of work.

He also advised that the County make a mutual plan to avoid duplication of work by KERRA,KURRA, CDF, County Government and the National Government.

Hon. Joseph Mumba (Wanjohi MCA) supported the motion noting that Michore in his ward, roads are bad and vehicles are sticking there. He complained that Lorries are seen when there are emergency incidents like funerals and wonder how they are paid.

He advised that the executive be asked if they are ready to work or not because the MCAs are the ones being blamed.

Hon. Mumba was angered by an incident where an officer authorized relocation of culverts which had been given by the defunct county council instead of helping the residents install them.

Hon Joshua Muriithi (Nyakio MCA) supported the motion and decried the wastage of money when the quarry dust was transported from Kaimbaga to Nyakio ward. Hon Muriithi also complained against an officer by the name Wahiu who, he, said does not turn up when sent by the CEC member in-charge of roads to install culverts.

Hon Muriithi also raised the issue of the need for Kinangop to have another Sub-County administrator noting that it is a vast sub-county with eight wards.

He noted that if the hired graders will be working in the Constituency, then it may never make it in all the wards before the rains fall and therefore proposed that every ward be provided with a grader.

Hon Dorcas Kihara (Nominated) also supported the motion but raised the issue of procurement process being skewed. She wondered why the Nyandarua County Government is not going through the tendering process saying that there is need to follow the law as public finance need to be prudently managed.

The member urged the House to uphold the law as provided for by the Constitution and therefore urge the executive to follow the due procurement process as provided by the law.

The Speaker put the question and the motion was unanimously adopted by the House.

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