



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second County Assembly – Third Session

Wednesday 13th March, 2019

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Hon. Deputy Speaker (Mr. John Kamungu Nyumu) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we do not have a quorum. Searjant-at-Arms, ring the bell for 10 minutes.

(Quorum bell was rang for 10 minutes)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We still need five people. I can see one... Ring the bell again for 5 minutes.

(Quorum bell was rang for another 5 minutes)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waithera, why don't you do us a favour please and get some of those people who are outside there so we can form a quorum, thank you.

(Hon. Waithera rose to whip members who were outside the chamber)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I think we have the quorum now, please proceed.

STATEMENTS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Laura.

STATEMENT REQUEST REGARDING HAND CARTS AND TROLLIES PULLED ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROADS IN CBD AND ALONG JOGOO ROAD

Hon. Laura Mwendu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 35(2) (c) I wish to request a statement from the Chairperson of the sectoral Committee on Transport and Public Works regarding hand carts and trollies pulled on the wrong side of the roads in the CBD and along Jogoo Rd, Nairobi City County. Hon. Speaker, there have been...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Searjant-at-Arms to ensure we have the quorum nobody should leave the Chamber. Proceed Hon. Laura.

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Hon. Laura Mwendu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. There has been no order among the handcart trolley pushers ferrying their goods to different designated points within the CBD and other areas like Jogoo Rd. and Muranga Rd. Both the handcart and trolley pushers display complete disregard of traffic laws by either approaching or oncoming traffics or crossing the road in a manner that inconveniences motorists and other road users.

Hon. Speaker, in the statement the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:

1. What measures is the County government putting in place to ensure that this menace is cured and the hand carts and trolley pushers are regulated so as to comply with all laws regarding usage of roads within and outside Nairobi CBD.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Chair Transport! Vice Chair, member of Transport?

Hon. Joyce Kamau: On behalf of the Chairman, I urge you to give us two weeks and we will deliberate on the matter.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I hope you are a member of Transport?

Hon. Joyce Kamau: Yes.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Two weeks Hon. Laura? Are you comfortable?

Hon. Laura Mwendu: No I am not. Two weeks is a long time and any time from now we can have an accident, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Two weeks a long time. Member, Transport?

Hon. Joyce Kamau: Okay. Give us five (5) days

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Laura five days, are you comfortable? Thank you, *Mheshimiwa* Laura. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRE HYDRANT POINTS IN ALL SUB-COUNTIES

Hon. Daniel Muturi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion: THAT, aware that Paragraph 12 of Part II of the 4th Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, devolves the responsibility for firefighting and disaster management to the County Governments:

FURTHER aware that the County Assembly enacted the Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2015, which requires the County government to put in place adequate measures to respond to disasters such as fire outbreaks whenever they occur;

NOTING that Nairobi City County frequently experiences fire disasters especially in the informal settlements, where fires cause considerable property damage and immense suffering to citizens; CONCERNED that most firefighting equipment such as fire engines and personnel are stationed at one point thus making it difficult for timely response to fire disasters since most roads are typically congested due to heavy traffic;

FURTHER concerned that the fire brigades often experience challenges in refilling fire engines due to insufficient hydrants refilling points, this Assembly urges the County Executive to establish fire hydrant points in all sub-counties, every zone in the Central Business District and revive the existing ones in the County.

Hon. Speaker, we may all be aware of all the challenges of the disaster management response in the County which include lack of firefighting personnel, traffic challenges among others.

Hon. Speaker, on inquiry, of the five hydrants, only two were confirmed to be working. The five are around Globe Cinema, Thika Fox Valley, First Parklands, Muthaiga near Qatar residence and Valley Road near Department of Defense (D.O.D). A lot of buildings in the City have dry wet risers. This is where the

engines can come and hook up. I think you have seen in some hotels like Hilton and Serena which act as a backup for the fire engines. An alternative or supplement to both hydrants and dry wet risers to leverage the water bowsers. Some of these can be found around Dagoretti and can help in filling the fire engines.

Hon. Speaker, alongside the fire engines, the most important asset for firefighting is reliable and highly pressurized source of water. This is because the most important metric when measuring the capacity to extinguish fires is in the numbers of gallons per minute a fire service is able to apply to a fire. The provision of fire for fighting in Nairobi is a major problem, probably single biggest headache for fire fighters locally.

Hon. Speaker, the public has been frustrated from 2018 to 2019 by cases of fire services turning up fires late and without the necessary water to extinguish it. These problems are largely due to poor hydrant infrastructure within the City. This means the crew is unable to refill in good time.

Hon. Speaker, there are about 4500 water hydrants in Nairobi, but less than 500 are serviceable. Many of those which may be serviceable cannot discharge water due to low pressure in Nairobi pipes. Many hydrants are buried by construction. This is where the planning Department comes in. We cannot have situations where contractors built over these very valuable and important infrastructure. There are few examples like Nyota Lane near the Bus Station which has been buried by construction of a new hotel.

Target for inspecting and servicing the hydrants in the City is about 29% per month. Not even ten are serviced. Our informal settlements such as Kawangware, Gikomba, Mukuru Kwa Njenga, Commercial Village, Landimawe, Masai Village, Kibra and Kangemi--- I was very disturbed today when I saw a picture in the front page of the Star Newspaper showing what happened in the Toi Market. I give my *pole* to the area MCA, Hon. Mwangi.

Hon. Speaker, our firefighting personnel when responding to fire and other related emergencies, use their available water sparingly.

Hon. Speaker, I hope you are getting this they use water sparingly (*wanaweka kidogo kidogo*) due to lack of supply. With fire hydrants at the Sub-County level, the response of emergency call will be quicker, saving of lives and properties.

Hon. Speaker, I think when you look at what is happening in Nairobi County we really need to look at this issue of water hydrants so that in near future we can avoid all the disasters. Many families are sleeping out. I think even one of our MCA's here Hon. Ayot has had the same experience, where her house was burned.

Hon. Speaker, I now call upon Hon. Obuya to second the Motion. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: I Second, Sir.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Jeremiah Themendu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I rise to support this Motion because we have a big problem when the fire occurs. In our area in Embakasi Central Constituency, when the fire occurs and those fire bridge are here in CBD, by the time they reach the area the fire will have consumed all the Houses or buildings.

Therefore, I would like to support this motion by calling the Disaster Management Fund to be put in place so that they can compensate those who are affected by the fire. I stand to support the motion and I wish everyone in this House should support this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Lawrence Otieno!

Hon. Lawrence Odhiambo: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I want to support this wonderful motion. The reason is because yesterday you saw how Kibira or Toi market got burned. If the county could have put the fire engines in each and every sub counties I don't think whole of Toi market could have burned. I want to urge the county government to put two fire engines in each and every sub county. We normally have traffic jam when we call for an emergency. We are urging the county to enforce this. I support it.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jayendra.

Hon. Jayendra Malde: Hon Speaker I am on point of order. I rise on point of order under Standing Order 193 on reports of county assembly resolutions.

Hon Speaker Standing Order 193 provides that within 60 days of a resolution of the county assembly or adoption of a report of a select committee the relevant member of the executive committee under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls shall provide a report to the relevant committee of the county assembly in accordance with Article 153 (4) (b) of the constitution.

Hon Speaker I moved a motion in the house last year on the creation of multi-agency task force to review the city inspectorate...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Malde you are discussing about another issue. You should contribute towards this motion. Hon Wambua Mbithi.

Hon. David Mbithi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I support this motion because I happen to come from those areas which are prone to fire incidences. Since I took office I have experienced over 56 fire incidences and it has been very difficult for the fire engines to respond on time. For that reason I support the motion that for every sub county to have at least two fire engines. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Wachira

Hon: Mwaura Wachira: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir for this opportunity. I stand to support the motion basically because as most of my colleagues have said one of the reasons why there is a fire anywhere in Nairobi and there is a lot of destruction and sometimes death is because of the response time.

You find that when there is a fire during rush hour there is always big traffic jam across city roads and as you know with Nairobi drivers they don't respect the sires of the fire engines. They take a lot of time in the traffic jams and by the time they get to the scene the damage is done.

We actually have very many cases where the engines have gotten to the scene and they have been stoned because the residents are so angry. So, I would like to support the motion and insist that the county install at least 1 fire engine in each sub-county. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mbono.

Hon. Pius Mbono: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Even Zimmerman Ward is not spared when it comes to fire outbreaks. Last month, we had three incidents. Hon. Speaker, I was about to bring a similar motion. I think Hon. Ngengi heard this information from the corridors that I was bringing a similar motion. Actually, it is one of the best motion ever brought in this Assembly.

Hon. Speaker, other major cities have hydrants in almost every major or minor road, especially roads leading to human settlements. I know we have a problem with water supply in Nairobi. And if the case is true, I think the county Government is able to dig boreholes in every ward and these boreholes should be supplied with overhead tanks. In case we have fire outbreaks, the firefighters can access those boreholes and source water from them instead of waiting from these big vehicles from the city center.

Hon. Speaker, the County Executive, on several occasions, has promised this Assembly that they can buy quad bikes. Quad bikes are small vehicles that are able to access the informal settlements. I have not seen any. If we had several quad bikes around Toi Market, the damage that was done by that fire could have been managed than it was.

So, I am supporting this motion and because the residents of Nairobi have cried because of these outbreaks.

It is a high time that the County Government moves with speed to manage the situation. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The mover

Hon. Daniel Ngegi: Hon. Speaker, I thank members for contributing towards this motion; Hon. Lawi, Hon. Mbithi, Hon. Samora and Hon. Pius Mbono and also appreciate Hon. Obuya for seconding me. Since we are in the budget making process and I can see my chairman here, I wish to urge the relevant sectoral committee of Finance which I am a member of to consider setting aside a budget for implementing this motion. Hon. Speaker, I am also a member of the Implementation committee and should this pass through, then we shall follow up on its implementation and with these few remarks, I beg to reply. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, having transacted the business of today and there being no other business, the House stands adjourned till tomorrow 2:30 p.m. May God bless you. Thank you.

The House rose at 3.12 p.m.