



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second County Assembly – Fifth Session

Tuesday 5th October 2021

The House met at 2.30 p. m.

[Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Ms. Immapet Kemunto) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTION

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Members I am in receipt of request of a statement from Hon. Waithera Chege Esther and because it has just come to my table right now, please I would like to advise her that it go through the normal procedure so that we can read it on Thursday, please.

Also Motion by Mary Mwami Arivza, we can do it on Thursday. It is too late. I cannot decide because I have not gone through the content. Thank you.

STATEMENTS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT REGARDING FLEET MANAGEMENT OPERATION OF COUNTY VEHICLES ESPECIALLY THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUELING AND GARAGE SERVICES

Hon. Paul Kados: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order 45(2) (c) I wish to request for a statement from the chairperson of Sectoral Committee on Transport and Public Works regarding fleet management operation of county vehicles especially the administration of fueling and garage services.

Hon. Speaker, the administration of fueling services and garage services for county vehicles was well administered in the defunct Nairobi City Council which arrangement made it easy for the operation of County vehicles even for critical services such as fire and emergencies. The County inherited this system in the year 2013. For instance the County had a garage for its vehicles in the industrial area and a fueling station with six pumps and tanks for all its vehicles and their operations.

Hon. Speaker, this was however changed at some points and repair services opened to other players. While fueling is now reserved for one Shell petrol station in Gigiri, as a result county vehicles even

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fire trucks and bulldozers and other critical services have to make the journey to Gigiri before embarking on any works across the County which is a tiresome and time-consuming exercise costing the county many hours and public funds.

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

- (i) Reasons for reservation of fueling services to only one Shell petrol station in Gigiri and that is in Kiambu County and breakdown of County garages in the industrial area.
- (ii) Table document of the procurement process by which the county decided on the one Shell fueling station and another document for that approval thereto.
- (iii) Ownership of the said petrol station and whether their evidence of conflict of interest or corruption for such illegality.
- (iv) Measures being put in place to ensure the County fueling station in the Industrial Area is operationalized and the garage fully working if the two broke down
- (v) A comprehensive list of County vehicles of the year 2020/2021 and their service history and fueling cost in summary showing the difference in efficiency if any between the county learn fueling and garage services and the use of private providers such as Shell petrol station in Gigiri.

Hon. Speaker, I lay the document.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Chairperson Transport Committee or any Member from Transport?

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Madam Speaker because the Majority Whip has asked the question, in the spirit of the handshake and the spirit of leadership in the Assembly and because my chair - I was with him during lunchtime and unfortunately we were from a funeral for one of our Members who happen to be Osman Halif who he lost the father...

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: I hope you are in the Transport Committee.

Hon. Peter Imwatok: I am a leader of the Assembly. The leader of the Assembly has asked the question, on this side, the chairperson is not present, and we are all mourning the loss of ...

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Order! Are you holding the brief on behalf of the Committee or just because of the leadership?

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Yes Madam Speaker, because in parliamentary practices when one leader asks a question on the other side one can respond to the same. I will take obligation and correspond the same to the chairman of the committee. Therefore, I would like to beg for one week to lay the message but the Shell station is based in Kiambu County; not even in Nairobi. Mheshimiwa Kados that is a very good question.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Minority Peter Imwatok, please with due diligence and I understand your passion about this statement but on behalf of the committee let a Member respond on it and expound more on when they will be able to respond back to us or rather to Hon. Kados.

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Hon. Speaker, I was saying...

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Peter Imwatok!

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Please sit down.

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: The Majority side, any Member from that committee!

(Hon. Peter Imwatok spoke off record)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Yes, I understand Hon. Peter Imwatok, but that can come later. Hon. Paul Kados, I have heard your concern about the statement and I am hoping Members from Zoom who are in the Transport committee may have to respond. Okay, you are in Transport, Hon. Ariviza.

Hon. Mary Mwami: Madam Speaker, sorry I have just come in but I would undertake if there is any issue on Transport Committee, I can undertake that we will be able to sort it. Therefore, I can get a little brief on it but we are undertaking that we can be able to sort out our Majority Whip concern.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: On that, bear in mind we only have next week; on Thursday we are going for recess so give us stipulated time.

Hon. Mary Mwami: We can respond by next week and give an update on how far we have gone by next week. However, if there is a need for further consultation then we can let the Hon. Whip to know by next week, that we were able to sort out. However, we are further going to consult on this by next week before going for recess. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Okay Hon. Paul Kados are you contented.

Hon. Paul Kados: Hon. Speaker, I think it is in order I will wait until next week.

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Hon. Speaker, it is my privilege as a Member of this House based on the statement envisioned by the Member. It is very clear before the Members of Public Works that this Shell station is in Gigiri in Kiambu County because it was not noted in the statement. Therefore, when you will be doing an investigation you have to be keen on how our resources are being transferred in Kiambu County and not in Nairobi. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Noted.

MOTION

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY PROGRAMS ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand and I beg to move the Motion that, aware that Part Two of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for the functions of the County Government, which include ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level, and assisting communities and locations to develop the administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level; further aware that Kenya continues to face violent extremism by radical militarist groups, especially in areas along within Nairobi where drivers of violent extremism are localized and depend on the socio-political landscape of the communities, which serve as recruitment hubs; concerned that a majority of young people in Nairobi have high hopes and ambitions. However, poor macroeconomic performance, a lack of labour market opportunities an education system that suffers from the problems of access, quality, relevance and a society that negates the self-expression of young people knew that many young people are unable to translate their aspirations into a productive and fulfilling future; further concerned that high expectations, disappointing employment and life prospects and marginalization amongst young people fuels frustrations and desperation to the advantages of drivers of violent extremism who recruit such young people. Noting that hard military and security approaches used by the National Government have not successfully and completely addressed

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the threat of violent extremism especially in Nairobi City County, which has the highest rate of inequality that exists between young community members and community leaders in urban settlements. This Assembly, therefore, urges the County Executive in partnership with local stakeholders such as community and faith-based organizations to;

1. To develop programmes that address poverty and unemployment by incorporating vulnerable at-risk groups in such programmes
2. Develop programmes that identify and empower trusted influencers with skills and tools they need to provide concrete solutions to help at-risk individuals in their surroundings which makes them feel that they have more options than turning into a violent extremist group and allow for more information sharing and coordination of strategies in preventing violent extremism in the County

Thank you Madam Speaker for allowing me to move this Motion. Allow me to also recognize the presence of the executive director of the County Governance Watch Mr. Kevin Osido who is seated at the gallery.

The reason why I am recognizing him is that he has been at the forefront on fighting issues of violent extremism in Nairobi. Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that Kenya has been beset by terrorism since 1998 and Nairobi County has been leading in the execution of terrorist activities. When you look at data and the reasons and factors that have led us to where we are today, you will find that Kenya is leading in East Africa on the issues of terrorism.

Data shows that about a 5.2 million jobless young people, out of which 3.7million are jobless at night and 5.3 million are jobless or lack opportunities during the day. Nairobi plays host to the activities from these extremists groups because of its strategic location and it being the capital city of Kenya, there is a high volume of infrastructure and installation of systems from high-level government offices, high commissions, embassy and high powered institutions.

Madam Speaker, if you look at where we have come from the bombing of the Norfolk hotel to the Garissa bombing where students and other individuals were killed to Mpeketoni and Dussit in 2019 we lost over 400 lives. These are people who were killed by terrorist activities.

The President of this country Uhuru Kenyatta gave an executive order to all the 47 counties to come up with county action plans and I am happy to report today that Nairobi County is leading in this but we are yet to start on implementation. I am also happy to report that the department of Education led by the CEC Hon. Jared Ouko has also taken great steps in trying to look for a solution for our young people to avoid them from joining these extreme groups. The Members of our Assembly have gone for training through the County Governance Watch where we have discussed and agreed on the measures and solutions to the problems facing our youths.

Madam Speaker, I wish to remind you that Article 28 of the Constitution of Kenya gives every person an inherent dignity and a right for their dignity to be respected and protected. Further, our Article 43 of the 2010 Constitution enumerates the social-economic rights and to be specific, the right and freedom from hunger.

Some of the factors that have played a key role in the formation of these extremist groups in Nairobi County is unemployment. The issue of unemployment, cultural orientation, limited livelihoods where we have

young people in the informal settlements because they are idle and that makes it easier for them to be part of these groups. We are getting into a political moment where campaigns are likely to start and it is at this moment where the idle male youths are mobilized, recruited and radicalized to get into these militia groups.

I do not wish to leave young women behind. If you go to Nigeria, you will hear the Boko Haram group that have intensively mobilized young girls and women and it is in this light, Madam Speaker, that I urge this Assembly to move with speed and allow programmes that will help facilitate young people within Nairobi County and especially in the informal settlements. The government should allow easier access to grants and soft loans so that those who are unable to get formal employment can run other businesses.

The Constitution of Kenya says that a family is a fundamental unit of the society and they are potential bleeding slots of recruitment of the militia groups. I have done my research extensively and it shows that some of these people are recruited right from home. Some parents are aware that their children are being recruited to these groups and with this action plan, we will be able to implement it later.

In this Assembly, we have more than 122 Members and every ward in Nairobi has an informal settlement beside it. We are therefore asking the county to get out there and work with these young men and women. Terrorism is becoming the biggest security threat; we cannot just sit and watch as our young men, and women are being recruited. People are dying. The story of Boko Haram shows that young school-going children are the ones being used as bombers.

I urge the Assembly to agree and help the young people in our county to avoid this urge. With those few remarks I urge Hon. Elizabeth Nyambura to second the Motion. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Elizabeth Nyambura: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand to second this Motion on the development of county programmes on countering violence extremism in the county. Before I sit down I would like to talk about our youth; they are highly targeted and are being recruited. Our youth right now have lost their identity, lack self-esteem and are hopeless because of lack of employment.

Madam Speaker, with the county development programmes, our youth will be able to contribute more to society and have a steady income. Suicide among the youth has become rampant and parents have struggled to take them to school but after that, they are recruited to become terrorists and may end up being taken home in a casket. The county development programmes are going to help the youth to get employment and equal chances for the youth to earn income and building a better future for themselves and the community. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, before I propose the question, I would like to thank Hon. Waithera Chege for your input in this particular Motion. As a mother and a legislature, you thought widely especially at this time when we are entering into the electioneering period because our youth are very vulnerable. It is very easy for the youth to be lured by the political parties. I appreciate the Motion and I hope the House will come up with such Motions that are going to help society.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Anthony Kimemia: Thank you Madam Speaker for according me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I want to applaud the Member who has come up with this Motion; let her know that she is thinking like a nationalist.

The youth are the backbone of any society and even politicians to get into power have used them in many ways. The youth are energetic and are therefore targeted by any extremist group. It is very important

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that this Motion goes through so that programmes can be developed that can help the youth to get out of this extremism. They don't involve themselves in this because they want to, but are forced by circumstances like the economy and social welfare. The boy child is the most neglected and suffers most.

I would urge the author of this Motion to include the issue of proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The government need to take cognizant of this because we have so many small arms in the society which is easily accessible. This will also help to curb the issue of extremism. If the youth are not taken care of and are not engaged, then the society suffers because one cannot go with his fancy vehicle because the youth at Viwandani where Mheshimiwa want to vie, will come and mug me.

Madam Speaker, the youth have been used to do bad things and this is a Nairobi issue, a Kenyan issue and is a Harambee Ward issue. I thank the sponsor of this Motion, and I support the Motion. Thank you very much.

Hon. Mary Mwami: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand to support this Motion by Hon. Waithera. I was able to attend that meeting courtesy of Hon. Waithera who invited me to the Windsor Hotel. We are sitting on a time bomb if we do not put in place structures that make sure that we engage our youth. I helped a street boy to get admitted in a secondary school and right now his school fees are being waived. When I was teaching him I counselled him and at one time he had been recruited into extremism while living in Mombasa. He had been registered to do Form Four exams and he just left; it is that serious.

This extremism makes the youth think that education, society and social values are not important. The people who have recruited them becomes the members of their family. I would urge us to help our youth by encouraging them to do small businesses. Secondly, I would like to tell parents that it is our responsibility to take care of our children, nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives. When God gives them to us, it is important that we monitor their movements.

Some of the youths are being recruited by people living with us in our estates, in schools, universities and colleges. When you find that the personality of your child is changing, be on the look out and find out what is happening with these young people. Don't ignore it because it goes on slowly but surely and by the time you realize the child is completely changed and can even kill you as a parent.

We should monitor who are their friends, where they go to school, and the people that they visit. This idea of 'sleep over' in Nairobi where we allow our children to go and sleep out with friends that we do not know should stop because this is where our children are being recruited into extremism. It is very rife in Nairobi and when it is appropriate it is very important for it to go on.

Thirdly and lastly, it is not only in informal settlements but we have people even in leadership positions who have this extremism mind. They may look like very good people but they are the same people who will use money or any other means available to lure our young people by giving them handouts. These people are not only in informal settlements but are in high places in our city and they drive high end vehicles using money they had gotten through dubious means, drugs, tenders, and sometimes like what happened in Somalia sometimes back, hijacking ships. This is used to lure young people who are jobless and helpless into such activities. It is important for our security agencies to be on the lookout.

Our marshals in Nairobi may not have the power to arrest, but it is good for us to have our eyes on the ground. We need open mind where our young people can be able to come and report without being noticed. Sometimes it comes with threats that if you do this, your head will be cutoff. They get killed. We need

a special unit where they can report and surrender their lives, if already they have been involved. The place should be protected and secure.

We need to be careful as a country because it can easily become a battleground with this extremism, especially when they take themselves to be nice politically and get into high office. We will find ourselves in a very dangerous place. They are not necessarily in the slums. I appreciate and support the Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Members who are on Zoom, your contributions please.

Hon. Mbugua Kabiro: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Hon. Waithera for presenting this Motion before the House. It is a Motion that is timely because this is the season of political terrorism and terrorism related activities, including violent extremism in the name of loyalties, discrimination, and all those other things that we hide behind to make sure that we feel okay--- (*technical hitch*)

Madam Speaker, 2017 and the year before and the year after, if you look closely, there must have been terror activities that were there. 2013 and two years after and two years before, there were terror activities that shook the world, including Garissa Attack in 2015, which left 148 university students dead. It was a very dark moment for the Republic of Kenya.

Madam Speaker, it is not a coincidence that we are going for elections next year. That is why I have said this is a timely Motion because I wouldn't want to be insensitive to the fact that it could happen anytime. We are within one year of an election. After the election, it could actually still happen.

In August 2020, there was public statement that Kenya must take heed. They don't joke. Who is going to do all these? Sons and daughters of this land, people who we grew up with, people who we believed we were friends but later turned against us, people who we have put our trust for, people who worked for this government in several sectors, but they in one way or another have felt like they have been discriminated upon and have not had opportunities that others have had. In the end, they come back and destroy our country and make people cry.

In the global terrorism index, Kenya ranks number 23 just behind South Sudan. In your own thinking, you would actually think how bad that is for us to be right beneath South Sudan, where there have been civil wars for very many years. We are the tenth African country in the rank. That is how rampant it is for terrorism activities in Africa. This Motion is good and the time is even better. For it to be implemented, I would wish to see that all these groups that are of interests, like the religious groups and the civil societies, which are involved in such initiatives, to come together and put our minds together and look for best solution to provide for our youth who are languishing in poverty and lots of debts. We should try to help them out of this situation that they have put themselves in. Where they think it is a death sentence, they should be gotten out and be told it is the normal part of life. Let us talk to them and come up with policies, like what Hon. Waithera is suggesting. These policies will deal with violent extremism at this point so that next year and the years to come, we have a solution that we can say, indeed, this is a roadmap that will eliminate and eradicate certain things that can make sure that Kenya is not bombed again.

Madam Speaker, I would like to support this Motion and urge that we continue with the same spirit. Let us present Motions that are here for posterity, like what Hon. Waithera is doing. After our lives in this Assembly, it will be recalled that we are the ones who caused this to happen. Thank you, Hon. Waithera for presenting this Motion. Thank you a lot, Madam Speaker. I support

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waithera Chege, before you reply, round of applause once more.

(Applause)

The Bill that was supposed to be passed about community health volunteers, I think it is a good thing. May be you can liaise with the community health volunteers to come up with programs which should be incorporated in this Motion. You can now reply.

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to first thank the office of the Speaker because of all the meetings that were held between last year and this year, the Speaker, Hon. Benson Mutura has always been available to open those meetings, workshops and trainings. The Office of the Speaker has played a key role in the development of this Motion. Of course, that is where you fall in, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, allow me to also thank other Members who have participated and given their views and opinions in this Motion. I thank Hon. Elizabeth Nyambura for seconding the Motion. I also thank Hon. Kimemia, Hon. Ariviza, Hon. Mbugua, for supporting the motion.

I wish to remind the House that the department of Education has a draft policy, I am sure it has not yet reached here, but I know with time it will be on the desk of the Committee on Education. Therefore, we are making good steps towards reducing these issues of violent extremism.

Madam Speaker, it is also important to remind Members that even within our communities, we need to check on early warnings of these people who are joining these extremist groups. I agree with you that the Bill that was being read yesterday, we will look out and engage and agree on the way forward. We will even have the CEC, Education in that meeting so that we see how to integrate these programs within other programs we have in the County.

Having said that, we are looking forward to not only putting these documents in the drawers, but we are also asking the County Attorney, moving forward, to let us have this implemented immediately because we are planning to bring the Bill almost immediately. So, let us not wait. I am also looking forward to the support of the Governor because from here, she also needs to sign both the Motion and the Bill. I want to give you our assurance through the support of County Governance Watch, that we will do our best to make sure that the youth and the young women get these opportunities within this County.

Therefore, I wish to reply. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: There being no other business, the House stands adjourned until Thursday 7th October 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.45 p.m.