



**NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Third County Assembly – Second Session**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Diana Mwangangi) in the Chair]*

**PRAYER**

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Members, you may be seated.

**QUORUM**

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Clerk, confirm if there is quorum.

*(The Clerk-at-the-Table confirmed there was no quorum)*

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the bell for 10 minutes. Deputy Majority Leader, Hon. Kaende, you can assist in whipping the Members.

*(Quorum bell was rung)*

Hon. Members, having attained the quorum, we will proceed. Clerk!

**MOTION**

**REHABILITATION OF THE COUNTY SOCIAL HALLS**

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Anthony Kimemia Gathumbi.

**Hon. Anthony Gathumbi:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have a Motion before me on rehabilitation of the County social halls.

THAT, aware that Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides for the State to take measures, including affirmative action programs to ensure that the youth have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life, access employment and

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are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation; further 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; concerned that there is joblessness among youth with talents in the County which has negative impact on the economy as it forces to depend on small working class thus stretching family resources; further concerned that most County social halls are in deplorable conditions due to negligence and desertion by the County Government, which has contributed to lack of talent nurturing venues for youth within the County; noting that creative Arts and Talents Sector is greatly overlooked and under-appreciated window of opportunity in the County where youth with talents can be mentored to discover, develop and build up their capacities; further noting that unemployment among young people fuels frustration and desperation and in response, some of the youths turn to socially and legally unacceptable vices such as violence, substance abuse and even suicide, which have negative repercussions on the young people and contribute to growing security, moral and psychological instability in the society; acknowledging that in many developed countries creative arts such as films, music, dance and painting amongst others have proved to be well-paying and good revenue earnings, this Assembly urges the County Executive to urgently rehabilitate and modernize all the existing County Social halls and streamline their management to ensure that youths across the County are encouraged and mentored to develop and manage their arts and talents in the County.

Madam Speaker, I have indicated most of the benefits of a social hall in any ward or county. Just to mention a few; social halls have developed many talents, social halls have made many people come together in social make-ups, social halls have been a home to many of our youths who have been unable to gain much education from the normal education system that we have. I will give an example of our first boxing gold medalist from the Olympics. This is none other than Robert Napunyi Wangila. His talent was discovered in Jericho Social Hall. I am getting some tips from a friend here, and I hope he is going to speak and support the Motion. It cannot be overstated that social halls have brought down usage of drugs in our own wards. It has been a cliché that if the youths are involved and are helped to participate in matters that concern them, the issues of drugs will come down. We won't have a society where young people become drug addicts.

In my ward, Jericho Social Hall, the hall that I have mentioned where Robert Wangila was nurtured, is in a very bad state. Actually, it has been used as a nursery school. The adjacent ground is where the Tana Nursery School ought to be build, but the contractor who was supposed to do that job has been unable to do so. I understand he took many jobs in the County around the year 2007. So, the children from nursery school were transferred to the social hall. As much as we are saying that social halls are supposed to be helping everybody in the social sector, including youths, women and our old wazees who go there to play ajua to keep them busy. So, we need to have social halls to be social halls for that specific purpose.

I will not speak much because I know there are Members here who have social halls which are in bad state. I ask Members to support this Motion as it will go a long way to help our society. We don't have jobs to employ our young people. Let us find ways to nurture their talents so that they can employ themselves

and even employ other young people in society. I want to ask Mheshimiwa Jera Ochieng to second the Motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Samson Ooko:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First, let me thank and appreciate Hon. Kimemia for the Motion. I stand to support. Hon. Speaker, this country and this County is at a cross road because the future of our youths is at stake. We are heading to unknown destination, particularly our youth. As leaders, we may not promise a lot, but there are things that we must do that will benefit our youth.

Madam Speaker, renovating these social halls will go a long way in restoring dignity of our youths as it will equip them with skills. Just as Hon. Kimemia has said, these social halls will give our youths opportunity to get places of training, filming, meeting, talent search and many others that I cannot mentioned today. It is our responsibility as leaders to make these youths access these facilities. If we don't do that, we will give room to many youths to do nothing and eventually end up in crime. As we all know, most of our youths across the County are being killed mostly because of committing crimes. Yesterday in my ward, a youth was killed by the people for committing crime in the morning. I am sure if we had such halls, he would not have woken up very early to go and steal. May be would have gone to nurture his talent either in drama, music shooting or anything. This would have saved his life.

Therefore, Hon. Speaker, I beg that this House supports this Motion because it will be a way of empowering our people economically. Once you are self-reliant, you will be making a good move forward and it will help us reduce the level of crime in our wards.

I beg to support this Motion and draw to your attention that I hold dual citizenship of Kenya and Turkey. I saw how youths in Turkey are managed, everybody is living a good life committed into business. We must do something to our youth here in Kenya and Nairobi. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I second.

*(Question Proposed)*

Members, you may now debate. Hon. John Mwaniki Kwenya, MCA CBD.

**Hon. John Kwenya:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. This afternoon I really want to thank Hon. Kimemia for coming up with this great idea which is overdue. We have seen the way our young men are idle in our streets. Most of the public facilities in my ward have been neglected and being used by people who are not supposed to be using them. For example, when we talk about Kenya Cinema and Kenya Theatre, the voters of the area do not at any chance benefit from these facilities. Therefore, this Motion will help us prioritize the young people from our wards to benefit from these facilities.

It is my prayer, Hon. Kimemia, that as you push for this motion, think of a way that we can keep them under our watch and hire them out, generate income which will go a long way to maintaining the facilities. If we continue waiting upon the County Government to maintain these facilities, then it means that they will be neglected and end up to be of no use in the future. Thank you, Hon. Speaker and thank you, Hon. Kimemia. I support.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Emily Oduor, Vice Chair of Budget.

**Hon. Emily Oduor:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support Hon. Kimemia's Motion. I happen to have visited a number of these social halls, especially during the public participation. They are in pathetic conditions with some roofs almost falling apart. This is where we expect the people who live in informal sector

to meet and showcase their talents. This is the only place where these people can go and have space because their houses are very small and putting about ten children inside from morning to evening can be depressing. So, these social halls are very important for them. Once rehabilitated and in good use, even individual MCAs can organize events such as dancing, singing and painting competitions for these children. But the current state of our social halls are pathetic, some of them are so inhabitable that they are being used as free lodgings, drug dens and being used by criminals.

In my community, we have a habit during funerals where we look for a place to meet. These days we are forced to look for expensive areas. If we had these social halls in our estates, we would contribute something small that would go towards buying trophies and such. This would be a way of encouraging them. So instead of meeting in pubs, we meet in the halls and it will be a way of encouraging them. We can even get donors from outside to come pick talents, but if they stay at home, then their talents go untapped. With those few words, Madam Speaker, I beg to support.

*(Hon. Kago walked to the Chamber without bowing)*

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Kago, you are hereby reminded to bow while leaving and entering the Assembly.

*(Applause)*

*(Hon. Kago walked to the bar and bowed)*

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Eutyclus Mukiri, you may contribute to the Motion.

**Hon. Eutyclus Mukiri:** Thank you, Madam Speaker for this great opportunity. This is a great Motion. Social halls are a resource of the County which have been built by the taxpayers' money. When we neglect and leave them in the state that they are in, it means that we do not care about the taxpayers who have sent us to this great House to represent them. My social hall in Kahawa Ward is falling apart. Yesterday, I was showing my colleague photos sent to me by people from my office, of the bad state of the social hall. I know that is the state of many of the social halls in this great County. We know that not all our youths can fit in the City Hall or employed in offices.

Currently, youths are coming up innovative ways of earning a shilling, for example, through content creation. Therefore, we can be creative and make these social halls innovative hubs, provide Wi-Fi and give them computers so that they become global citizens. They can learn coding from there and also have studios so that upcoming artists can record from there. We are underusing these social halls. It is a very great and noble idea and I know that this Motion will pass because the Hon Members have the interest of the wananchi at heart. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to support.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Munuve, I had seen you intended to speak.

**Hon. Julius Kimanzi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the Motion and correct my brother, Hon. Kimemia. Wangila was nurtured in Kariobangi North, that is where he started his career. Kariobangi North has also produced a guy called George 'Foreman' Onyango and Nick Odhiambo who has represented Kenya in the Olympics. My hall in Kariobangi North is in a very bad state. Some cartels have taken over the hall and are charging people to undertake activities there. So, this Motion is very important

because we need to rehabilitate these places and make them available to our community. I suggest that we look into the issue of cartels taking over and charging fees in the social halls thereby denying our youths the privilege of using them.

Lastly, the condition of our playing grounds are pathetic. If you look at the playing ground in my area, you will think that it is a fishpond because it has potholes, mud and sewer water that runs from the neighboring sewers. I hope the County is going to do something about it. *Asante sana*, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Paul Wachira Kariuki.

**Hon. Paul Kariuki:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the Motion by the Hon. Kimemia. This is a very good motion that is speaking to the one thing that I am very passionate about and the effects of social halls amongst the youths and the electorates. I would love to propose that you amend the same to include the gazettelement of the said facilities to avoid and deter encroachment by outsiders. My social hall in Kayole North was turned into a rehabilitation center about 10 years ago. It is my prayer that we include that in the Motion so that the social halls can be returned to the people of Nairobi.

I would also propose that we amend the Motion to include the running of these facilities by seconding officers from the County to be in charge so that we are able to safeguard the halls from goons such as the ones Hon. Munuve has spoken about. Let there be rehabilitation and reclamation for the halls that were converted into uses that do not resonate with what people on the ground want. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Hellen Awuor Okello.

**Hon. Hellen Okello:** *Asante sana*, Bi Spika. Nimesimama ili kuunga mkono huu mjadala wa kumbi za kijamii. Ningependa kumpongeza Mheshimiwa Antony kwa kuleta mjadala huu wakati ufaao. Sisi wote tunaelewa kuwa watoto wetu wana changamoto nyingi wanazopitia. Kupitia ukumbi wa jamii, itafanya watoto wetu wakae pamoja ili wapate kujadiliana kusuluhisha changamoto wanazopitia. Itafanya wengine wasitumie dawa za kulevya na pia kutoingia vikundi vya wizi. Bi. Spika, kumbi za kijamii pia zinatusaidia sisi kama watu wa Nairobi kupata mapato. Kwa mfano, wakati ambapo ukumbi hautumiki, unaweza kukodishwa kwa watu wafanyie mikutano.

Bi. Spika, tumeona watu wengi wamepata support kwa sponsorship kulingana na talanta tofauti tofauti kama vile mpira. Ninaunga mkono. *Asante*.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Mheshimiwa Hellen, I would like to kindly remind you that when you start contributing in Kiswahili, try to use it till the end. You tried. The two words, 'groups' is 'vikundi' and 'sponsorship' is 'ufadhili or mfadhili'. Hon. Martin Mbugua Mwangi.

**Hon. Martin Mwangi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate Hon. Kimemia for this very timely motion.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** You are not very audible, Hon. Member. Position your microphone well.

**Hon. Martin Mwangi:** I hope I am audible now.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Yes, proceed.

**Hon. Martin Mwangi:** Thank you. Madam Speaker, I first want to congratulate Hon. Kimemia for this timely Motion. I support it for the reasons that have been highlighted by all the other Members. My addition to the Motion would be to encourage the Executive to prioritize building social halls where there are non-

existing, like Mutuini Ward. That will go a long way so that youths and children in those areas get to enjoy the same benefits like those with social halls. Thank you and I support.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Finally, Hon. Kimondo.

**Hon. Francis Kimondo:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the Motion, despite having none in my ward. There is one in the neighboring ward, though it is private, but it benefits my ward. As they say, “an idle mind is the devils workshop”, most of the youths who lack jobs are just roaming around in the wards while the social halls have a lot of activities that keep them engaged in various activities thus preventing them from being involved in drugs and other illegal activities in the wards.

Two, we have an opportunity for them to socialize, learn, and access key services from these areas, which is really changing our community. So, I am here to support and actually say we need these social halls in our wards. Thank you.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** I had said finally, but I can see a request from Hon. Mwangi Joy Muthoni. Also, Hon Mark Thiga wanted to contribute, though I cannot see it in the system here, but I will allow. We can do it in this order, Hon Joy Mwangi, Hon Mark, Hon. Kago and Hon. Lugonzo.

**Hon. Joy Mwangi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support this important Motion. I have heard many MCAs who have supported raised issues that I wanted to raise as well. So, there is no need of repeating. Personally, I know the impact that the social hall in Kayole South has brought in the entire Embakasi Central Constituency. For the uncountable years that has been there, people from Komarock, Kayole Central and Matopeni usually conduct meetings Kayole South Social Hall. The youth and women have been empowered a lot from that social hall. I wish we could bring that impact to all of Nairobi's wards. But as of now, I support this Motion for rehabilitation. Thank you.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Mark Thiga.

**Hon. Mark Thiga:** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this chance to make my contribution. I also support this Motion. Hon. Speaker, as you are aware, the social halls in our wards are not fit enough to be in a city that we have dubbed as a City of hope, order, and opportunities for all.

Madam Speaker, recently we had Easter Festival competition for choirs. As you could see, there are talents here in this city of ours. There was also a suggestion that next time folk songs should be introduced. These people who will come to compete need a place where they can train. It is good that what needs to be done gets done. If possible, these social halls should be equipped with PA systems so that our musicians can get a place to train. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Hon. Sam kago.

**Hon. Samuel Kago:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I rise to support this Motion. Before this motion was moved, I was very sad today because I attended a public participation in Kibra Constituency with my colleague there, Hon. Jera. The venue of the public participation was inside unfinished Joseph Kangethe Social Hall. It is a very nice building, equivalent to this chamber, but has been left unattended with no paint. Outside there, our youths were just sitting on the soil idle. It shows you how badly we need these social halls. There are not many which need these renovations; in fact, most of our sub counties and wards do not have these social halls. Nairobi is called ‘Shamba la Mawe’ because here we do not have farms to irrigate. We have a talent to nurture.

The other day, we had choir's day at the KICC. How are we going to nurture these talents if we are not going to put up these social halls? We keep on telling our youths not to steal, not to take alcohol and not to indulge themselves in sexual activities, but you are not providing them with an opportunity or an option where they are going to sit down and nurture their talents. You do not have to get grade A or have a degree to be successful in life. We have people like Mariga and Njoro wa Uba who are earning good money. Not they got a degree or they were number one in their school, in fact, some of them got an E, but it is because of their talents. They nurtured their talents and are reaping from them.

For us Members, the budget is coming, we need to scrutinize that budget and see enough money was allocated towards the social halls and amenities in our wards. I was happy today to hear Kibra residents saying their number one priority is social amenities. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize for not bowing down. Some of us come from serious religious backgrounds. Apologies.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** That is not it, Hon. Kago. Hon. Lugonzo, kindly close this session for us.

**Hon. Joyce Lugonzo:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I am here to fully support this Motion on rehabilitation of the County social halls. I beg the mover to reply. Thank you.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** Mover, Hon. Antony Kimemia.

**Hon. Antony Gathumbi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I must say I am very much overwhelmed by the response and support from the Members to this Motion. The importance of social halls is evident from the contributions from the various speakers who have spoken. I want to thank the Assembly and the people who have supported the Motion. I do not want to add some more but just to thank the speakers. I want to thank the seconder, Hon. Jera, who insisted that we should have trainers in these social halls giving them some stipends, and also it is an opportunity for people to train.

Hon. Kwenya, though he has left, I would like to thank him very much because he said the youths should be given first priority and the halls should be used for generation of income so that the halls are maintained. So, we should have management of the halls. Hon. Emily Odour, thank you very much. She said that the halls are used for public participation, so they should be given priority when the budget is done and provide space for people to organize events. Hon. Mukiri gave a good example of a dilapidated hall and the need to be repaired. This has been captured, and I will make sure that your hall, which we discussed with you yesterday, is given the first priority from the small amount of money that we have.

Hon. Munuve, although he has left, said the Wangila was nurtured in Kariobangi North. Wherever there is a good thing, it is taken and owned by everybody. He also emphasized the importance of social hall. I am very grateful to him. Hon. Wairia raised a very important issue about the gazettement of these facilities and reclaim those that have been grabbed. Social halls stand to provide work for officers from the County as some will be assigned to these facilities. Thank you very much for adding value.

Mheshimiwa Hellen, nasema pongenzi nyingi. Umesema kwanza, makumbi haya ya kijamii yanaleta mapato kwa vijana wetu. Nakushukuru sana kwa kuzungumzia wazo hili na pia kwa kuzungumzia kwa lugha ya Kiswahili, lugha ambayo naipenda sana. Wakati unapozungumza, Kiswahili chako ni kizuri, ni Kiswahili fasaha. Shukrani, Ni kizuri kama yeye.

Hon. Mwangi, you talked about reconstruction new halls. He left, but it is very important that we create and reconstruct new halls because there are some areas that, like Mheshimiwa Maina has mentioned,

depend on other halls, his people go to the next ward to gain from the halls. Hon. Kimondo, thank you for saying that social halls have changed the mindset of the youth and helped them. Hon. Joy, you have given a good example on the positive impact that the halls have made on the youth and the women in these areas. Hon. Mark, Thiga, thank you very much. You said that we should also include folk songs, and also equip these halls with PA systems. That, of course, will help our youth enhance their talent. Those who can sing and those that can recite poems should be helped in that regard.

Hon. Kago has left, but he mentioned the unfinished Joseph--- Oh, you are here. Thank you very much, and that is good that you have stayed put. I like members who stay put so that when I am answering or talking about in the Motion, they hear what I have to say. You talked about Joseph Kangethe Social Hall, and you gave an example of public participation that was to be undertaken today in Kibra. We know that public participation is anchored in the Constitution and social halls are the facilities of choice for these very noble purpose. So, the Assembly should provide a budget for these halls.

Hon. Lugonzo, thank you very much. She is my good friend who has been supportive and who helped me to write this Motion. She has been sitting with me burning the midnight oil, not for other reasons, but to write this Motion. So, Mheshimiwa Lugonzo, I am grateful, thank you very much. Hon. Members, without further ado, I would like to thank you very much and say that I have made my reply. Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Temporary Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

**The House rose at 4.38 p.m.**