

# COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

## THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

*Assembly Building*

*The House met at 2.42pm*

*[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei) in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

#### WELCOME TO STUDENTS

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you, I take this opportunity to welcome students from Katundura Secondary school from Rongai sub-county, Visoi ward. Honourable Gitau from Visoi ward I believe you are around.

I believe you will learn a lot and maybe in the near future one of you will be where I am.

## PAPER

#### REPORT ON COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU VISIT TO TEXAS, USA ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2015

**Hon. Joseph Langat:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, the County Assembly of Nakuru received an invitation from the House of the Mayor, City of Houston, Texas, USA to send a delegation on a study tour.

The delegation was tasked with the following functions:

1. To study and observe on the City of Houston Council Parliamentary procedures, processes, the role and functions of their Committees, their parliamentary outreach to the public and meet the presiding officers for informal question and answer session.
2. To visit the office of the Mayor of Houston and meet Members of the Tourism department and examine how the City of Houston manages to attract a record 15million visitors annually and see how we can replicate the same in the town of Nakuru and other towns in the County.
3. Work with the City Council of Houston and learn how the City has managed to oversight a budget of Kshs. 128b dollars and how they managed to avoid duplication of duties between Federal and the State Government.
4. Explore how the City of Houston has managed to set various parks in its vicinity at a low cost and how the same can work for the County of Nakuru.
5. The general purpose of the trip was therefore to expose our Members on their core constitutional mandate of oversight which will inform the quality of our future debates.

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**Delegation profile**

Mr. Deputy Speaker. The delegation to Houston City comprised of the following Members;

- i) Hon. Peter Wanjala Palang'a- Chairperson County Public Investment and Accounts Committee
- ii) Hon. Paul Thuo Mwangi- Chairperson Health Catering Committee
- iii) Hon. Joseph Langat- Chairperson Health Services Committee
- iv) Hon. Hawa Ibrahim Hassan,-Vice Chairperson Catering Committee

v. Hon.Catherin Njeri Waweru-Member

Vi. Hon.Esther Mengere-Member

Vii Jane Njoki-Principal Finance Officer

Viii. Mr.Mwangi Muturi- ICT Principal

Mr. Deputy Speaker, honorable Catherine Njeri Waweru was the leader of the delegation while Madam Jane Njoki was the secretary.

**3.0 Office of the Mayor Houston Visit.**

The Mayor serves as the executive officer of the City, as the city's Chief Administrative and Official representative, the Mayor is responsible for the general management of the City and for seeing that all laws and ordinances are enforced .Administrative duties include appointments, with the council approval, of department heads and persons serving on adversary boards.

As executive officer, the Mayor administers oaths and signs all Motions, resolutions and ordinances by the city council. The Mayor also serves a legislative function, presiding over city council with voting privileges. The Mayor is responsible for advising council of the city's financial condition and presents to council an annual Budget for approval.

Mr. Deputy Speaker the delegation visited the office of the Mayor from 26, 27, and 28<sup>TH</sup> of May 2015.The delegation acknowledges the office of the protocol officer at the Mayor's office for staggering the learning into various departments so that Members could learn holistically how the city of Houston functions.

**Day 1: Education Departments**

On day one Members were taken through Houston education system. Education falls under the larger department of neighborhoods.The Mayor's office of education initiatives helps organize programs, events and conferences to provide students and families with the necessary resources to plan for high school graduation, college and careers. Preparing for life after high school can be difficult.

Members learned how the departments collaborates with many regional partners to impact education in Houston area. This was one area the delegation thought the County Assembly could be of great advice to County Executive especially in area of ECDE.

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**Day 2: Office of Emergency Management.**

On day 2, the delegation was taken on a study tour of the Office of the Emergency Management. The mission of this office is to provide programs and activities to the city residents to help them prepare for, cope with and recover from the effects of natural and manmade disasters. This is done through the four faces of emergency management:

Preparedness responses, recovery and mitigation.

The national weather service's broadcast warnings for the most dangerous types of severe weather national wide such as

- tsunami warnings
- extreme wind warning
- flash floods
- hurricane warnings
- typhoon warnings
- Blizzard warnings
- ice storm warnings
- dust storm warning

This was crucial learning experience for the delegation as we realize that Nakuru County is ill prepared for disasters especially with the upcoming El Nino rains

**Day 3: Parking management office**

On day three the delegation was taken through parking management which is one way most Counties generate revenues. Parking management is a division of the administrative regulatory affairs department. The department services and maintains 9,200 on street parking spaces across the Greater Houston area, parking management creates sound regulations for all commercial and residential areas enhancing pedestrian safety, ensuring a smooth flow of traffic and allowing emergency vehicles to reach their destinations.

Parking management also encourages parking awareness while supporting public transit initiatives. The department aspires to be a solution focused partner that supports the city of Houston's economic development goals by providing Superior customer service, investing in cutting edge technologies and through active collaboration with diverse user groups.

Members appreciate how a well-managed parking management can generate adequate daily revenue for Nakuru County.

**4.0: The Houston city Council****Day 4: the visit to the Council**

The city council is the City's legislative body, with the power to enact and enforce all ordinances and resolutions. Eleven council Members are elected from districts and five are elected at large by all voters of the city.

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The sixteen members of Council, along with the mayor, act only by ordinance resolution or Motion. They adopt and may alter the annual budget and confirm the mayor's appointments. Council is responsible for the appropriation and issuance of bonds, the awarding of contracts and the approval of city expenditures over \$ 50,000. The council may lease or dispose of the city's real estate and may levy assessments against property. Council determines its own rules of procedure and its meetings are open to the public.

Sixteen council members, along with the mayor and city controller, are elected every four years. Council members are limited to serving two terms of four years each, with each term beginning on January 2. Five council Members are elected at large or city wide while the other eleven are elected to geographic districts of roughly the same proportion of population.

The Tuesday session is devoted to public comment hence very effective public participation.

The delegation visited the city council and the delegation was introduced to the council by the mayor and just before the normal business of the council commenced, Members were taken through on how business is conducted at the Council, the oversight and how the council budget is developed and approved

## **5.0 The Johnson Space Center and City Tour**

### **Day 5: City tour**

The office of the protocol at the mayor office organized a city tour on the final day of the delegation stay in Houston. The Group visited the Johnson space which since its opening in 1992 has welcomed nearly 18 million visitors and currently hosts nearly 1 million visitors annually in its 183,000 square-foot educational entertainment complex. Space Centre Houston has a \$73 million impact on the greater Houston economy.

The center also uses space exploration to inspire wonder and interest in science and math. Educational emphasis is placed on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in a fun engaging way.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The team appreciates the great learning experience the office of Mayor of Houston offered the County Assembly of Nakuru.

We recommend that the County of Nakuru explores ways of strengthening studies in science subjects.

The delegation recommends based on experience in Houston that we strengthen ECDE as foundation of young children. To this end we recommend that the standardization of ECDE curriculum and maintain the same.

The delegation recommends setting up of more tourist attraction site especially public parks. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to table this Report.

*(The Report was laid on the Table)*

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**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon James Tuei): Thank you hon Lang'at for tabling that very nice Report. I would like to urge other members who visited other countries that you also do the same as soon as possible. We have quite a number of foreign visits which we have not received their Reports.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU VISIT TO TEXAS, USA

FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE, 2015

**Hon Joseph Lang'at:** Mr. Deputy Speaker I wish to give a Notice of Motion:

THAT this House adopts the report of the visit by the County Assembly Members to the Office of the Mayor of Houston, Texas in the United States of America from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015. I beg to move.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon James Tuei): Thank you for giving us that Notice of Motion Hon Lang'at.

I would like to urge the students and Principal of Katundura Secondary school you may remain behind so that the Clerks can take you through the proceedings of this House since today we had a very short sitting. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 am.

*The House rose at 3.00pm*