

The Murera Ward Manifesto 2027- 2032

A Shared Vision for Our Home

Julius Kariuki Naymbura



A letter to the People of Murera:

Why I am running for Member of County Assembly Murera Ward

The first time I came to Murera, I was only six months old. My family had come to lay my grandfather, Julius Kariuki I, to rest. Since then, Murera has never simply been a place I visit, it has become the place I call home. For years, I have called Murera home and only learnt the meaning of the name last year (2025). Murera comes from the Gikuyu name for the Fever Tree.

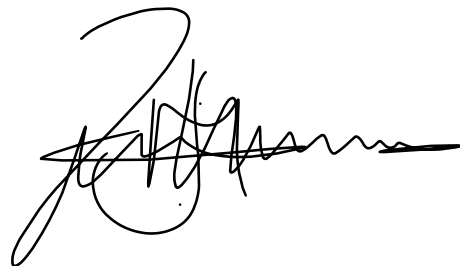
Although I spent my childhood in Nairobi before later settling in Murera, this community has always been home to me. Over the years, I have seen the growth of this community -more people, more homes, more institutions and more activity. The infrastructural development of Murera is however yet to match the growth of our home. We face several challenges that require solutions. Every rainy season reminds us of the state of our roads and drainage. Families experience unreliable electricity. Our Level 2 dispensary serves a growing population with limited resources. In some places, waste is dumped carelessly, affecting both our environment and our health. With the growth of a population, its needs increases; we need better waste management facilities; we need better roads, we need to advocate for better power supply; we need to equip our dispensary with medicine, we need to build our drainage system and we need to create a conducive environment for the growth of our children and youth.

The challenges we face require thoughtful leadership, honest representation, and a commitment to finding practical solutions together. That is why I am presenting myself to the people of Murera, let's sit down together, have discussions on how to bring about change in our home. Far from being my campaign, I want this to be a journey of civic education. As residents of Murera, we have both the right and the responsibility to carefully examine those seeking to represent us. Let us ask difficult questions. Let us compare ideas and commitment to service. Whatever our political preferences, let us always put Murera first. It is not a must that I be your representative, but it is a must that Murera changes.

With Hope for Our Shared Future,

Julius Kariuki Naymbura

Murera Resident

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julius Kariuki Naymbura', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Our Home: Murera Ward



Murera Dam

Murera Ward is more than an administrative boundary on a map. It is our home. It is where families have built their lives, children attend school, businesses grow, farmers cultivate the land, and neighbors support one another.

Located within Kiambu County, Murera is a community blessed with fertile land, rich agricultural heritage, growing residential neighborhoods, and hardworking people. As our population continues to grow, so too does the need for thoughtful planning, quality public services, and accountable leadership.

Understanding Murera, its strengths, opportunities, and challenges, is the first step towards building the future we all desire.

Murera at a Glance

- **County:** Kiambu
- **Constituency:** Juja
- **Ward:** Murera

- **County Assembly Ward No:** 0559
- **Area:** 6,668 hectares
- **Population:** Approximately 26,000 residents
- **Sub-location:** Mugutha
- **Cash crop:** Coffee

Our Identity and roots

Murera derives its name from the indigenous Kikuyu word *mũrera*, the yellow-barked fever tree (*Acacia xanthophloea*) that grew abundantly along local river valleys, which later became the name of a massive colonial coffee estate before the land was bought and subdivided by local land-buying companies.

Landscapes

Murera Ward features two significant water dams and is historically anchored by the Murera Coffee Estate, a massive colonial-era plantation that gave the area its name. The most prominent reservoir within the ward is the Murera Dam, popularly known by locals as the Titanic Dam or *Kariaini Dam*, which the Kiambu County Government has targeted for public recreational development. Murera is also bordered by the expansive Ruiru Dam (or Mugutha Dam). The historic Murera Coffee Estate itself holds immense cultural value, as it was purchased in the 1970s by the Nyakinyua Investment Group, a land-buying cooperative of elderly Kikuyu women, who subdivided the plantation into the thriving residential and farming plots that comprise our modern ward today.

Roles of an MCA:

An MCA is a representative elected by the people of a ward to serve in the County Assembly. The office exists to ensure that residents have a voice in county governance and that county resources are used responsibly to improve their lives.

One of the most common misconceptions is that an MCA personally controls development funds. Under the Constitution of Kenya, county development funds are managed by the County Executive under the authority of the Governor. The responsibility of an MCA is **not** to spend public money directly but to ensure that it is allocated fairly, spent lawfully, and delivers value to residents.

This principle also applies to county-established funds such as the **Ward Development Fund**. While such funds may be established through county legislation, implementation remains the responsibility of the County Executive, while the MCA provides oversight and represents the interests of the ward throughout the planning and implementation process.

An MCA (Member of County Assembly) in Kenya has three **main** constitutional roles:

1. Legislation

- **Drafting local laws:** Creating bills on county matters like markets, water, and local transport.
- **Debating policies:** Reviewing and voting on county specific policies.
- **Amending laws:** Updating existing county bylaws to fit current needs.

2. Oversight

- **Monitoring expenditure:** Checking how the Governor and County Executive use public funds.
- **Reviewing projects:** Ensuring County projects are completed on time and within budget.
- **Questioning executives:** Summoning County ministers to answer departmental failures.

3. Representation

- **Voice of the people:** Bringing ward-level issues and grievances to the County Assembly.
- **Community mobilization:** Informing residents about county government programs and public participation forums.

Issues Facing Murera

As a community, the challenges we face in Murera are shared by many other wards, meaning their solutions lie within our existing legal and institutional frameworks. Below, I shortly outline these key challenges alongside practical, lawful ways to address them. This serves as an introduction, and I look forward to discussing these ideas with you in detail during our community dialogues over the coming months.

Roads

One of the biggest and main challenges we face as the people of Murera is the condition of our roads. For us to solve this challenge, we need to understand who is responsible for the construction of our roads and the process behind road construction and maintenance. Road administration in Kenya is divided between national and county jurisdictions under the Kenya Roads Act – there are county government roads and national government roads.

In Murera Ward, we have 3 main bodies that are responsible for the construction and maintenance of our roads: The County Executive of Kiambu (**The Department of Roads, Transport & Public Works**) and the National Executive via the **Kenya Urban Roads Authority** (KURA) and the **Kenya Rural Roads Authority** (KeRRA) depending on the classification of the road. However, as an MCA, my role is to ensure that I have presented my road projects to the county executive and follow up with supervision (through the legislative arm) to ensure that our roads are paved.

The county government is (normally) only mandated to release funding to road projects that are in their Integrated Development Plan, as a result if an MCA does not present these projects to the county executive within certain timelines, then it becomes impossible for development. As a result, for development to take place an MCA must understand the bodies responsible for his/her roads and the process to make sure that the roads are paved as per the law.

Drainage

According to the **Street Design Manual for Urban Areas in Kenya** and standard design specifications from the **State Department for Roads**, a road is contractually and technically incomplete without a functional stormwater management system. Furthermore, under the **Kenya Roads Act**, road authorities are legally mandated to provide and maintain proper infrastructure for the drainage of streets and lands adjacent to the road.

Despite these legal provisions, Murera faces a sophisticated drainage challenge due to its uneven topography, which lacks natural gradients for rainwater to flow seamlessly into local reservoirs. Addressing this issue requires navigating through 3 distinct county mandates:

1. **The Department of Roads, Transport & Public Works** – responsible when flooding is caused by road surface run-off.
2. **The Department of Land, Housing, Physical Planning & Urban Development** – responsible for estate layout congestion and boundary alignments.
3. **Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change** – responsible for overflowing natural river channels and climate-induced flooding emergencies.

In Murera Ward, the drainage crisis exists as a collective combination of road run-off and estate layout congestion. As your MCA, my initial work will be to present these projects into the county's Integrated Development Plan and then utilize my legislative oversight to ensure they are executed strictly according to standard engineering specifications.

However, solving this permanently requires a collaborative effort. Together as a community, we must map out our most flood-prone areas. We need to also engage with the relevant authorities to secure formal permissions to create responsible, structured waterways connecting to our local dams.

Beyond the county executive, I will leverage my role to lobby non-state actors, development partners, and national agencies to supplement our drainage infrastructure, bringing collective action to solve the drainage problem.

Electricity

Under Article 185 and the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, County Assemblies are mandated to legislate strictly on devolved functions. Electrical energy generation and grid distribution are explicitly retained by the National Government. However, this constitutional boundary does not mean we are helpless. Under the Intergovernmental Relations Act, both levels of government are legally required to collaborate to deliver essential services to citizens.

To address the frequent power outages and overloaded transformers in our ward, we will take the following measures:

1. **Data-Driven Advocacy:** I will lead a community-driven exercise, mapping out areas facing chronic blackouts and pinpoint overloaded transformers.
2. **National Government Collaboration:** I will submit this comprehensive infrastructure report directly to the **Juja Constituency Member of Parliament (MP)** to champion our grievances through the National Assembly's Energy Committee.
3. **Direct Agency Engagement:** I will formally engage the **Kenya Power (KPLC) County Business Manager** and the **Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC)** to push for transformer upgrades and grid stabilization for Murera.

HealthCare

The Mugutha Level 2 Dispensary is currently struggling to keep pace with the rapid population growth of our ward. Given that the Kiambu County government allocates a significant portion of its budget to healthcare, this investment must reflect directly on the shelves of our local facility.

While upgrading a health facility to a higher tier involves navigating strict Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) guidelines and heavy inpatient operational costs, our immediate priority must be the reliability of primary care. As your MCA, my focus will be on securing a consistent supply of essential medicine and modern diagnostic equipment.

I will formally petition the County Department of Health to prioritize Mugutha in the county's centralized medical procurement cycles. Furthermore, I will use my legislative oversight role in the County Assembly to track stock levels and ensure that the medical supplies allocated to Murera Ward actually reach the facility and serve our citizens, eliminating artificial shortages on the ground."

Education & Youth

Murera Ward is rapidly transforming into a vibrant hub for youth-led activities, particularly through our growing local football teams. Under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, sports infrastructure is fully devolved to the county government. As a community, we must invest intentionally in this sector to ensure our young talent has access to recreational spaces that meet modern infrastructural standards. Beyond physical infrastructure, I will champion for a formal **Ward Youth Forum**. This structured platform will enable our youth to collaborate effectively, organize, and engage in meaningful mentorship dialogues with local elders, professionals and corporate institutions.

In education, my administration will focus sharply on **Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) modernization** and the equitable distribution of the **County Bursary Fund** to ensure that deserving students from vulnerable backgrounds remain in school.

Furthermore, building upon our field insights from the **MuguthaSafi Initiative**, school heads across Murera have consistently highlighted a critical sanitation gap: the severe lack of accessible waste bins within school compounds. While primary school administration falls under the National Government, environmental health and sanitation remain county functions. Therefore, I will utilize the **Ward Development Fund (WDF)** to deploy standardized, accessible waste-sorting bins across all public primary schools in our ward, instilling a culture of environmental responsibility in our children from an early age.

Environment

Environmental conservation is a cause deeply rooted in my civic journey. While Murera Ward remains relatively clean, unregulated illegal dumping is slowly becoming a threat to our neighborhoods. Waste management crises do not happen overnight; they are the cumulative result of minor, unchecked habits that worsen as a community grows.

Due to our strategic proximity to Nairobi, Murera is experiencing rapid urbanization and real estate development. As more families settle here, our waste output will naturally increase. Left unmanaged, communities facing waste crises almost always resort to dumping refuse into local water bodies, critically endangering public health and our local ecosystem.

Recognizing this threat is what inspired the birth of the **MuguthaSafi Initiative**. Alongside the youth of this community, we embarked on driving grassroots waste management advocacy and fostering a culture of environmental accountability.

As your MCA, I will transition this movement from a volunteer initiative into a structured, policy-backed county program. I will utilize the **Ward Development Fund** and collaborate directly with the **County Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change** to:

- **Establish Designated Collection Points:** Set up structured, gazetted waste collection hubs across our growing residential clusters to eliminate random roadside dumping.
- **Support Youth-Led Green Enterprises:** Formally register and equip local youth groups to handle safe, organized, and income-generating community garbage collection and recycling drives.
- **Enforce Environmental Bylaws:** Leverage my legislative mandate to enforce strict county penalties against commercial or illegal dumping within our ward boundaries.

We must act decisively now to protect the clean air, fresh environment, and healthy biodiversity that Murera deserves before the cost of neglect becomes too high to fix.

Closing Message

The future of Murera cannot be built by one individual or one office. Lasting development requires active participation from residents, community organizations, businesses, religious institutions, schools, and the County Government. From the county government public forums next year (2027) to the long-term growth and inspiration of our children and youth, our success will depend entirely on our collective action.

Murera is a community full of promise. We are defined by hardworking people, resilient families, brilliant minds and tremendous potential. While the structural challenges before us are real, so too is our ability to overcome them when we work together.

This manifesto is more than a collection of commitments. It is an invitation to every resident to participate in shaping the future of our community.

Over the coming months, I will be seeking platforms to engage different groups across the ward to dive into the specific details summarized in this blueprint. I intend to lead a campaign built on genuine discussion. I want to sit down with the residents of Murera, not just to seek votes, but to conduct robust **civic education** so that our community fully understands the constitutional mandates and delivery benchmarks we must demand from our leaders.

Let us build the Murera we want; for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come.

Julius Kariuki Nyambura



