

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 15th September, 2020

The House met at 2.34 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Museku) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

REPORT ON MACHAKOS COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY, 2019

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this motion, we have one business to be transacted by the Hon. Robert Kisini, Chairperson, Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural resources Committee. Hon. Robert Kisini.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to move this motion.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Climate Change Act No.11 of 2016 defines climate change as a change in the climate system which is caused by significant changes in the concentration of greenhouse gases as a consequence of human activities and which is in addition to natural climate change that has been observed during a considerable period.

Hon. Speaker, acknowledging that the County Government of Machakos is cognizant of the fact that its economy and that of the entire Republic is depended on its natural resources The sustainability of development is usually threatened since these natural resources are affected by climate change. It is for this reason that Kenya has committed itself to put in place measures to address climate change.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the committee on Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural resources on the Machakos County Climate Change Policy, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call upon a member of this committee, Hon. Hellen Ndeti to second my motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Hellen Ndeti.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Hellen Ndeti. Hon. Robert Kisini, you may read the report. Just as a guideline, you need to read the background information that is page 4.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well-advised.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hon. Speaker, the County Executive Committee Member in the County department of Water, irrigation, environment and natural resources submitted to the County Assembly the Machakos County Climate Policy 2019 for approval by the Assembly. The policy was received at the Assembly on 28th May 2020. The proposed policy was committed to the Assembly Committee on Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources for deliberation and compilation of a report for approval and subsequent adoption by the House.

Hon. Speaker, the policy comes at a time when the entire world is grappling with effects of climate change. In order to address the issue of the climate change within its jurisdiction, the County Government of Machakos has developed the Machakos County Climate Change Policy, 2019. The Policy identifies various sectors that, despite being important to the County's economy, are to a large extent affected by climate change. They include: environment; water; forestry; agriculture; livestock and fisheries; trade; energy; physical infrastructure development; tourism and health.

Hon. Speaker, the goal of the policy is to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change and promote low carbon development for the sustainable development in Machakos County.

Hon. Speaker, the policy also seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Establish and maintain an effective and efficient institutional framework to mainstream climate change responses across relevant sectors and into integrated planning, budgeting, decision making and implementation of the County.
2. Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity, enhancing climate change resilience and strengthening capacities for disaster risk reduction.
3. Catalyze County's transition to cleaner, lower emission and less carbon intensive development.
4. Intensify private sector involvement in building climate change resilience and engaging in low carbon development opportunities.
5. Facilitate widespread public awareness, participation, ownership and oversight of County's climate change response efforts and action plans.
6. Provide a framework to mobilize resources for County climate change response and ensure effective and transparent utilization of the resources.
7. Adopt intergenerational, special needs and gender mainstreaming approaches across all aspects of County climate change response.
8. Provide the policy framework to facilitate effective implementation of regularly updated and informed climate change action plans.
9. Enhance research and use of science and technology in policy decisions and sustainable management of resources.

Hon. Speaker, the rationale for developing the policy is cited as follows:

1. Climate change poses a significant threat to sustainable development.
2. Recognition by County Government of Machakos the continuing vulnerability and threat climate change poses to the County's long term development goals.
3. To encourage low carbon climate resilient development and output.

4. Facilitate a coordinated, coherent and effective response to the local, national and global challenges and opportunities presented by climate change.
5. Provide integration of climate change into County development planning, budgeting and implementation in all sectors and at all levels of County Government.
6. Enhance adaptive capacity and build resilience to climate variability and change, while promoting a low carbon development pathway.

6.0 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS ON MACHAKOS COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE

Hon. Speaker, Machakos County covers a geographical area of 6,208 square Kilometres. About 76 per cent of land mass in Machakos County comprise of arid and semiarid lands (ASALs) receiving an annual rainfall of about 500 to 1300 mm.

6.1 IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY

Hon. Speaker, climate change has become a global concern and its effects have been felt far and wide hence the need to address them. Some of the common effects of climate change in Kenya include:

1. Drought
2. Flooding
3. Declining agricultural productivity
4. Declining livestock productivity
5. Food and nutrition insecurity
6. Negative health impacts for humans and livestock
7. Land and ecosystem degradation
8. Water scarcity
9. Displacement of populations
10. Intra and inter-community conflict
11. Human-wildlife conflict
12. Landslides and erosion.

Hon. Speaker, in Machakos County the impacts of climate change cut across various key priority sectors as outlined below:

6.1.1 Environment, Water and Forestry

Hon. Speaker, Machakos County is vulnerable to climate change in the absence of sufficient investments in mechanisms to build resilience. The County is under threat from land degradation and desertification caused by climatic variations and human impact such as small holder farming on poor soils and creation of small urban areas. Loss of biodiversity, threats to animal and plant species, change in vegetation composition and structure, decrease in forest coverage, rapid deterioration of land cover, and depletion of water quality and quantity through the destruction of catchments and underground aquifers.

Hon. Speaker, increased scarcity of water resource is a core concern, making resource management more difficult and increasing the likelihood of conflict. Water scarcity also affects energy production and agricultural systems. Potential impacts include declining forest coverage, reduced water quality and quantity for domestic and industrial use, high water pricing and increases in water borne diseases.

Hon. Speaker, Machakos County has four types of forest: gazetted/State forest, trust land forest, community forest and private forest. The County has three gazetted/State forests: Iveti forest covering 364.07 ha, Muumandu forest covering 139.2 ha and Uuni forest covering 96.6 ha. Article 69(1)(b) of the Constitution provides that the State shall work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least ten per cent of the land area of Kenya.

6.1.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Hon. Speaker, agriculture is the major source of livelihood in Machakos County employing about 73 percent of the population and contributes approximately 70 percent of house hold incomes. Climate change limits development of the agriculture sector. In order to mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture, the County has adapted the following options: water harvesting, dry planting, intercropping, use of drought tolerant crop varieties, irrigation, value addition and use of indigenous knowledge in post-harvest handling and disease control, conservation agriculture, and collective action in selling. In poultry for example, adaptation strategies include value addition, use of indigenous knowledge for disease control and outsourcing for breeding stock.

Hon. Speaker, although remarkable success has been achieved with the adaptation strategies, adoption rates are still low and most of the underlying vulnerabilities have not been addressed yet. Like most of the counties in Kenya, Machakos County lacks a climate change policy, thus relying on the National policies to deal with matters of climate change.

6.1.3 Trade

Hon. Speaker, the trade sector depends on products and services developed by other sectors of the economy. Adverse climate change impacts on such sectors will eventually impact on trade.

6.1.4 Physical Infrastructure

Hon. Speaker, improved and expanded physical infrastructure is an important and necessary enabler of socio-economic development of the County. There is need to identify the adverse effects of climate change when developing county infrastructure facilities. Some of the approaches that can be used are climate proof infrastructure and promotion of investment in infrastructure that supports transformation to a low carbon economy while creating employment and reducing poverty.

6.1.5 Energy

Hon. Speaker, energy production and utilization is closely connected with climate change. Machakos County possesses significant renewable energy potential including wind, solar, biomass and biofuels.

6.1.6 Tourism

Hon. Speaker, the tourism sector is highly sensitive to climate change due to its close connection to the natural environment. Climate variability is causing negative impacts that could inhibit the positive contribution of tourism. Reduction in growth of plant and vegetation has often led to wildlife competing with domestic livestock and human beings for both food and water.

6.1.7 Health

Hon. Speaker, human health has been affected adversely by climate change impact in Machakos County. The county has a high degree of risk from climate sensitive infectious disease such as food or waterborne diseases especially typhoid fever.

7.0 KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE POLICY

7.1 LOW CARBON CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

7.1.1 Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptive Capacity

Hon. Speaker, the policy indicates that key economic sectors are particularly susceptible to climate change impacts that threaten to undermine the County's recent and impressive development gains.

Further, adaptive capacity is key to improving socio-economic characteristics of communities, households and industry as it includes adjustments in behavior, resources and technologies. Adaptive capacity is a necessary condition for the design and implementation of effective adaptation strategies so as to reduce the likelihood and magnitude of harmful outcomes resulting from climate change.

Hon. Speaker, in order to enhance climate resilience and adaptive capacity, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Put in place mechanisms for sustainable utilization of natural resources to enhance climate resilience and adaptive capacity to protect the natural state of the County.
2. Mainstream climate resilience into County Government development plans, processes and implementation.
3. Ensure integration of climate change risk and vulnerability assessment in environment impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment.
4. Develop incentives to promote climate resilient actions among public, private and other actors.
5. Identify and implement priority adaptation across key social, environmental and economic sectors under the framework of a county adaptation plan.
6. Promote public and stakeholder consultation and participation, including vulnerable groups to enhance adaptive capacity and climate resilience.
7. Develop mechanisms to build capacity to mainstream climate change into disaster risk reduction and management programmes.

7.1.2 Towards Low Carbon Growth

Hon. Speaker, Kenya currently contributes very little to global GHGs emissions. However, a significant number of priority development initiatives outlined in Vision 2030 and regular Medium Term Plans (MTPs) will impact on Kenya's levels of GHGs emissions.

It is worth noting that energy sector is a crucial driver of economic growth. Fossil fuel based electricity generation; consumption and increase in use of fossil fuel in the transportation sector contribute significantly to GHG emissions.

The agricultural sector is the largest contributor of GHGs emissions in the county mainly from livestock methane emissions and land use change.

Forests in Machakos are important for economic development and for environmental services. Forest cover in Machakos County currently stands at 3.4 per cent which can be attributed to deforestation and forest degradation in search for fuel wood, charcoal production

and creation of agricultural land. The transport sector in Machakos is dominated by road transport for the movement of both people and goods.

Growth of industrial processing in Machakos, though a relatively small contributor to GHG emissions, offers mitigation potential. A main source of emissions in this sector is the release of emissions from the cement manufacturing and charcoal production. The mitigation potential of industry is important because the economic growth target set by vision 2030 and the MTPs aim to convert Kenya into a middle-income economy, with industry as a major contributor.

Hon. Speaker, in order to attain low carbon growth, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Mobilize resources by developing a climate change fund.
2. Mainstream low carbon growth options into the planning processes and functions of the County government.
3. In view of strategic county interests, consider participating in voluntary emission reduction programmes.
4. Put in place mechanisms to develop and promote clean technologies in all sectors of economic development.
5. Promote the creation of green jobs by establishing an enabling framework for investment, creating business friendly regulatory environments in key areas such as renewable energy, efficient transport, clean manufacturing and sustainable agriculture.

7.2 MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE

Hon. Speaker, Machakos County recognizes that climate change mainstreaming represents the best strategic approach to ensure that action on climate change results in meeting the overall policy objective of attaining low carbon and climate resilient development. Given that climate change affects fundamental economic, social and environmental aspects of development, an effective cross-sectoral climate change response must place mainstreaming at the core of the County's climate change response efforts.

Hon. Speaker in order to mainstream climate change, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Mainstream climate change into county planning processes, including development policies and plans, CIDP, performance contracts, and the short to medium term budget making process.
2. Develop a framework and tools for mainstreaming climate change responses into County Government planning and budget procedures.
3. Ensure that County planning processes and documents account for climate risk analysis and vulnerability assessment, and identify opportunities to build climate resilience and achieve low carbon development.
4. Establish the institutional framework and build capacity to coordinate and enhance mainstreaming at the sector level.
5. Put in place mechanisms linking climate change data and information with County planning processes.

7.3 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

Hon. Speaker, research and technology will play a key role in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and interventions. The complex and dynamic nature of climate change and its impacts requires Machakos County to expand and maintain systems for targeted and continuous research and technology advancement. Empirical evidence is required to support policy, legislative technological and other innovations.

Hon. Speaker, in order to undertake research and technology, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Identify research and technology needs and promote strategic and systematic climate change-related research, impact and vulnerability assessments, technology development and diffusion.
2. Put in place mechanisms to encourage and facilitate locally appropriate climate change technological development, including strategies to enhance and maintain human capacity, especially amongst the youth.
3. Enhance the capacity of the public and private sectors, civil society and research institutions to develop and utilize technological innovations.
4. Put in place mechanisms to facilitate the integration of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge into Research and Development (R&D) and technology development.
5. Put in place mechanisms to enhance resource mobilization for climate change R&D and technology development.

7.4 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Hon. Speaker, public participation is a core value and principle of County governance. Increasing public awareness on climate change impacts and interventions can help to facilitate the role of the public as the positive agent to reinforce climate change interventions. The mainstreaming of climate change into the functions of various sector institutions and County government is central to implementation of this policy.

Hon. Speaker, in order to create public awareness, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Put in place a strategy for identifying, refining and disseminating climate change knowledge to the public and other stakeholders in user -friendly formats.
2. Incorporate climate change knowledge into county implemented public awareness initiatives including civic education and extension programmes.
3. Collaborate and support the private sector and civil society in incorporating climate change knowledge into advocacy and public awareness raising programmes.

7.5 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Hon. Speaker, the County Government of Machakos is aware of the need to gather and organize already existing data, while generating additional knowledge and information to inform decision making.

Hon. Speaker, in order to conduct knowledge management and create access to information, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Facilitate establishment and operation of a county climate change information hub and clearing house to generate, coordinate, collect, collate, store, retrieve and disseminate reliable, high quality and up-to-date data and information.
2. Facilitate setting up of climate information hubs to collect primary information and act as dissemination points for knowledge and information.
3. Put in place mechanisms for and undertake climate change knowledge and communication needs assessment in order to develop appropriate systems and processes for climate related data collection.
4. Develop a comprehensive communication strategy to enhance dissemination of timely, credible and reliable climate change information and research findings.
5. Put in place mechanisms to gather, document and promote application of traditional indigenous knowledge and practices on climate change.
6. Mainstream gender analysis into climate change knowledge and information management.
7. Implement mechanisms to facilitate and support access to climate change information.

7.6 CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Hon. Speaker, proper legislation provides a regulatory framework comprising vital components of climate change governance. To ensure good governance and regulatory framework on climate change, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Put in place overarching climate legislation to provide a framework for coordinated implementation of climate change responses and action plans.
2. Put in place a cabinet level climate change committee to coordinate the mainstreaming of climate change into County's sector plans.
3. Put in place an appropriate institutional coordination mechanism with high-level convening power to enhance inter-sectoral responses to climate change.
4. Put in place a technical institutional framework to guide policy and functional implementation of climate change legal obligations of the County government.
5. Regularly review and amend relevant sectoral laws and policies in order to integrate climate change policy considerations and implement priority actions in respective sectors.
6. Put in place mechanisms for public consultation and participation in climate change governance.

7.7 CLIMATE FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

Hon. Speaker, adequate and predictable financial resources are a crucial component in achieving County's ambitious climate change response objectives. Given the extent of projected climate change adaptation and mitigation needs in the County, it is important to ensure that all sources of finances can be mobilized. Machakos County therefore requires a suitable framework to attract and efficiently utilize climate finance.

Hon. Speaker, in order to source for climate finance, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Adopt a climate finance strategy and establish an appropriate fund mechanism that enables implementation of priority actions for climate resilience and adaptive capacity and low carbon growth.
2. Explore possible avenues to attract internal and external climate finance, including through foreign direct investment and other multilateral or bilateral funding.
3. Promote private sector involvement in climate finance opportunities through the introduction of incentives, removal of investment barriers, waivers, and creation of a conducive investment climate and facilitation of access to finance.
4. Promote public-private partnerships in the climate change response.
5. Put in place a framework for coordination and monitoring and tracking sources, application and impacts of climate finance.

7.8 MAINSTREAMING ISSUES OF GENDER

Hon. Speaker, Constitutional foundations of governance in Kenya emphasis equality of the society. Equality is the goal that the County aims to achieve in all aspects of society interaction. Hon. Speaker, in order to mainstream gender issues in climate change, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Ensure that its climate change response is equally beneficial to both women and men and enhances gender equality and equity.
2. Undertake systematic gender analysis of its climate change response, through the collection and utilization of gender-disaggregated data in relation to budgetary processes.
3. Ensure that marginalization and vulnerability arising from gender disparities are addressed at all stages of climate change response.
4. Adopt a gender mainstreaming approach at all stages of the climate change policy cycle from research, to analysis, to the design and implementation of actions.
5. Put in place mechanism to ensure and enhance participation of the youth in climate change governance and position them to take advantage of opportunities.
6. Undertake a systematic analysis of the various special needs and ensure that planning and climate change responses mainstream participation and protection to persons with special needs.

CLIMATE CHANGE MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND BENEFIT MEASUREMENT

Hon. Speaker, all actions taken to respond to climate change should be measured, reported and verified. The measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) requirements are established under the UNFCCC. Hon. Speaker, in order to measure and report benefits on climate change, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Establish an integrated MRV framework for performance, outcomes and benefits of mitigation, adaptation and climate finance actions.
2. Prioritize the use of existing MRV processes, data collection and information management systems to ensure efficiency in climate change related monitoring, reporting and benefit measurement.

3. Prioritize the integration of climate change parameters, data and information required for MRV into the national statistical management system.
4. Enhance awareness and build capacities of County entities to participate in the MRV process and systems.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Implementation Framework and costs

Hon. Speaker, implementation of climate change policy priorities and other actions will require significant planning, including detailing the full cost to determine budgetary and other economic implications. Hon. Speaker, on implementation framework and costs, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Prepare and implement comprehensive, fully costed and periodically reviewed Climate Change Action Plans under the framework of this policy.
2. Ensure that climate action plans for implementation of this policy are aligned with the regular MTPs of Vision 2030, CIDP and ADPs.
3. Facilitate continuous consultations and public awareness across all sectors, interest groups and the public.

Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation

Hon. Speaker, the County Government recognizes the importance of tracking implementation of this climate change policy and evaluating related outcomes. It is crucial to prioritize rigorous and continuous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of this policy. Hon. Speaker, in order to conduct monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Put in place mechanisms to utilize action plans and performance contracts as tools for review and evaluation of inputs and results under this policy.
2. Collaborate with County sectors in setting up M&E procedures for this climate change policy.
3. Incorporate climate change indicators into County integrated monitoring and evaluation system.
4. Set up coordination mechanism involving relevant stakeholders to undertake M&E of this policy over five year intervals in line with the climate change action plans, the MTPs of vision 2030 and the CIDP.
5. Disseminate the outcomes of reviews and evaluations for public and stakeholder discussion, and for County Assembly debate and oversight.

Resource Mobilization

Hon. Speaker, the funding required for financing climate change responses under this policy will be mobilized from both internal and external sources. All sectors of the County government will be required to integrate climate change response actions into budgetary processes to complement any external climate finance resources.

Hon. Speaker, in order to mobilize resources the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Allocate resources for climate change actions in County budgetary processes by allocating at least 2 per cent of its total budget for climate change mitigation activities.

2. Build capacity to mobilize and enhance absorption of resources for climate change interventions.
3. Mobilize substantial levels of climate finance to fund implementation of this policy and the associated climate change action plans from internal and external sources.
4. Put in place mechanisms to attract and leverage Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a vehicle to mobilize resources and enhance private sector participation and low carbon climate resilient development activities.

Collaboration and Stakeholder Participation

Hon. Speaker, Article 10 of the Constitution identifies public participation as a binding National value during the implementation of any public policy or decision, the making and implementation of any law. The County therefore recognizes the importance of building and sustaining partnerships at all levels of society to ensure a collective ownership of climate change responses. The County will continue to play the lead role in the strategic planning and management of climate change responses. The County government will foster participatory partnerships between itself and other public entities, the private sector, civil society, development partners, media and international agencies.

Hon. Speaker, in order to ensure collaboration and participation of stakeholders in low carbon growth, the policy outlines the following undertakings by the County Government of Machakos:

1. Put in place and operationalize a climate change public participation strategy.
2. Ensure that public participation enhances consultation and awareness of citizens, including facilitating equitable roles for women and men, persons with special needs and the youth.
3. Establish and sustain partnerships with various categories of climate change stakeholders including development partners and sectoral departments.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, after Committee's deliberations on the proposed Machakos County Climate Change Policy, 2019, the Committee makes the following observations:

1. That this is the first Policy on climate change to be prepared and submitted by the department of water, Irrigation, Environment & Natural Resources since inception of devolution.
2. That in the County Budget of FY 2020-2021, the County Government of Machakos appropriated Ksh. 31million for implementation of projects on climate change.
3. That the policy is in good faith and will provide a framework to enable the County Government to implement National government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation which may include but not limited to soil and water conservation; and forestry as envisioned in Section 10 of part 2 of the Fourth schedule of the Constitution.
4. The policy will help the County to attain sustainable development goals. In particular the County will attain goal no.13 on climate action by 2030 and directly or indirectly attain goal no.1: on poverty; goal no. 2: on zero hunger; goal no.3: on

- good health and wellbeing; goal no. 6: on clean water and sanitation; goal no. 7: on affordable and clean energy; goal no.14: on life below water and goal no.15: on life on land.
5. Section 19(4) of the Kenya Climate Change Act of 2016 provides that a County Government may enact legislation that further defines implementation of its obligations under the Act, or other climate change functions relevant to the County or such other related purposes.
 6. The Climate change requires a combined effort of all stakeholders. Currently, there are no concrete programmes to empower the community who are the primary casualties of effects of climate change.
 7. Climate change in Machakos County brings about both threats and opportunities. Whereas, Machakos County receives short rains during the months of October, November and December, last year the County experienced higher rainfall during the same season.
 8. The County trust land forests have received little attention from the relevant authorities and are at risk of encroachment by human settlement, overgrazing and deforestation.

Hon. Speaker, based on the proposed policy submitted by the Water, Irrigation, Environment and Natural Resources the Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. The County Government of Machakos should prioritize implementation of the Machakos County Climate Change Policy 2019.
2. That going forward the Department of finance and revenue should provide for adequate funds to implement this Policy.
3. The County Executive should align the climate change policy with other policies and regulations in order to allow sustainable development in Machakos County.
4. The County Government should partner with other stakeholders in private sector and the National government in implementing policies that have a bearing on climate change.
5. At the end of every financial year, the County Executive Committee Member responsible for matters on Environment should submit a report on the progress of implementation of Climate Change Actions as provided in Section 19(5) of the Kenya Climate Change Act, 2016.
6. Due to the dynamism in matters of climate change, and in order to enhance monitoring and evaluation of projects on climate change, the department should forward reports at the end of every quarter to the Assembly for continuous reporting and feedback.
7. The County Government should put measures in place to empower its residents to participate in activities to respond and mitigate threats on climate change as well as tapping the opportunities presented.
8. The County Government should consider setting aside funds to support the residents to undertake activities geared towards response to climate change.
9. The County Department responsible for matters related to climate change should ensure adequate involvement of the members of the public by establishing climate change committees at the ward and village level.

10. The County government should develop policies to help the County to tap into opportunities presented by enhanced rainfall.
11. There is need to fast track the implementation of County tree planting and tree planting campaigns in order to increase tree cover to at least 10 per cent in line with Article 69(1)(b) of the Constitution.
12. The County Government should reclaim trust land forests to curb the risk posed to the forests by uncontrolled human activities.
13. Before implementing the policy the County department responsible for matters related to climate change should conduct public participation on this policy to create awareness and get the input of the public and other stakeholders.
14. The County Government should introduce Carbon Credit Resilience Regulation to promote forest cover up to 10 per cent of the total forest cover.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hon. Speaker, the Assembly Committee on Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources is grateful to the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly for the support accorded during their meetings. I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of the Committee who sacrificed their time to participate in the discussion of the Policy and in preparation of this report especially during this difficult moment of dealing with Covid-19 pandemic.

Hon. Speaker, it is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources Committee to table this report on the Machakos County Climate Change Policy, 2019 for deliberations and approval by this Hon. House. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Robert Kisini, for that report

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, you may debate on the motion. Hon. Moses Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for granting me the opportunity. I first want to applaud the Environment Committee led by Hon. Kisini for coming up with that report on a very long overdue policy especially related to climate change.

Hon. Speaker, everyone is currently a victim of climate change and it is of essence that we also move with times. For a very long time we have suffered from climate change and this has been because of lack of policies on how to overcome the challenges which have come along with this change of environment.

Hon. Speaker, I want to appreciate this Hon. House because in our previous budget 2020/2021, we passed some funds because there is a program, I think it is a donor funded program fighting issues to do with climate change and the program is shilling for a shilling. In one of our sittings with the former CECM for Water, she had pleaded that we include some amounts of money in our budget so that our County Government can benefit from that program and I am happy that this House has passed and I hope that the executive will implement and ensure that we benefit from those available funds.

Secondly, I do not know whether the committee is aware that the National Government gazetted some water catchment areas and it happens that my Ward was a beneficiary from that even though I have not heard much from the County Government on issues related to that. Kanzokea Hills was gazetted as a water catchment area and we as residents from Kangundo and especially Kangundo Central Ward, we would want to know the measures which the County Government has taken to protect that forest which I know very well you know about it and ensure that we protect that water catchment because of human activities there is a lot of deforestation, Hon. Speaker.

I think another water catchment which was gazetted but it is subject for confirmation I do not know whether my colleague Hon. Musyimi is around Kangundo North was Kanzalu hills because that was also gazetted as a water catchment area and I would want to request the environment committee to make a follow-up and ensure that the areas that were recently gazetted as water catchment zones are taken care of.

Hon. Speaker, issues to do with the climate change and you heard in between that it involved also agriculture whereby I am the chairman. It has really impacted negatively because our farmers are getting zero returns from their inputs and I am very sure if we embark on technology, we will be able to succeed because we will come up with the right crops either from the animals or human feeds so that we do not just plant for the sake of planting but we plant the right type of crops which can yield at this time when we cannot predict the environment. So, Hon. Speaker, I support and I welcome that policy and I hope we will soon implement it and have it at work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. King'ori.

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to also congratulate the team which worked on the policy of environment but what I want to add is if we have to adopt this plan we need also to ask the executive to come with an Act that will support those policies from each and every department including agriculture, health, roads which have been touched in the policy because all these cannot be done on policy alone; we also need something to support the policies which we have here in Machakos.

Therefore, I want to ask each department to come with an Act which will help us implement the policy of climate change because everybody is affected by climate change in our area. The way Hon. Mitaa has said, the policy has just informed us on how to have ward committee members who will act on those ground things in the village that is why the policy requested for village committee to see to it that the policy is implemented to the lowest level meaning that we need also finance from the CECM, Finance to fund those committees depending on which sector they are.

Like the way we have one in Sand Harvesting Act, this policy now can be acted upon because we recognize that we need to have village and ward committees; they also need to be funded through there initiative so that we can meditate on climate change. We also need to know that the 2016 National climate change also encourages us to have those ward climate change committees so that everybody can participate in changing our climate because the climate is very sensitive to each and every individual including animals and trees.

Therefore, it is the high time we call upon all CECMs to see to it that they adapt whatever has been recommended by the Machakos policy on climate change to see that people benefit from harvesting of climate change resilient...like what we call carbon emissions credits. Now we

can benefit from the World Bank and other areas. We can also encourage to some point our County to introduce climate change carbon credit so that each and every member can feel that he owns the environment where he lives or where he is.

When you plant a tree, you would be paid for it, when you preserve climate, you would be paid for it. So, it is another form of getting jobs when we implement this policy very well.

Secondly, our rivers are drying because we do not have weirs and because of our slope areas so we need also to know that these areas need to be guided by paying with what we are consuming in the environment. If we have industries emitting carbon in our rivers, they should pay for that they should not be left alone to not pay, they should buy carbon to sustain the structure they are doing by adding carbon resilience in our area and our economy and so we shall be creating jobs for our youths.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to touch on something else. We have so many policies and Acts in Machakos but what we lack is the Regulations to enforce those policies and Acts so that they can be implemented including the people living with disabilities; we have an Act on it.

(Applause)

It should also be enhanced and see to it that people living with disabilities get a space in those Wards committees which will be looked upon by the County Government therefore, everybody is touched here and I think it is the high time we support this policy and also request other CECMs to come with Acts now supporting the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Annastaciah.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutuku: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report and say it is very elaborate and also on the recommendation of the committee is very clear that, that policy needs to be implemented as soon as possible because when we talk about the climate it is about people's lives and as Hon. Whip has said, it is very unfortunate because sometimes people who are farming, they assume farming because they do not have any knowledge especially when we are heading to the rainy season.

We need to have information from the County or National Government which is reliable. When people plant some crops, you are aware that the rains are either short or long so that you can see how you can do your farming because sometimes farmers get very disappointed like last season; people planted, spent their money then at the end of the season there was no rain.

Another case, as I support the Chairman of environment, land and natural resources committee, I want to say that, the report is very clear that the policy needs to be structured in a way that it will come up to the ground level where people can be selected through the County or National Government but that committee needs to be trained to create awareness to the public within that locality or that ward. How will the climate be in the next season? Because we need to work out on the mitigation of global climate change because we cannot underrate the climate because sometimes the rains start earlier when people have not prepared enough and sometimes the rains come very late.

So we need to be very focused as Hon. Members and the great County of Machakos to see to it that people are trained on global climate change and we request the executive of the National Government even if it is the County to create a board purposely to deal with global climate change. This is very key in three departments of Agriculture, Lands and Water and they

need to work together to see how they can support the public or Machakos people and even do capacity building advocating for global climate change. People need to be educated on how they can plant indigenous trees that can survive in the area as it is.

(Applause)

Again, that board will go down with the executive because we have 40 wards and some of them are not similar to others; like Kibauni it is very dry, people need to be educated to plant more trees. We have some dams which are not seasonal, we have youth and women groups, they need to be supported and be educated to plant more trees, to get seedlings at the end of the season let the County come to the ground to buy those seedlings for the farmers and the groups so that they can be empowered in another way.

So, Hon. Speaker, I stand to support the report and it is a very crucial report and the County Government needs to implement this immediately and we clearly come up with that policy and have some committees at the ground level for the global climate change mitigation. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I wanted to request the mover of the motion to respond, please.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members. Yes, we all agree that climate has changed and a good example is that at a time like this it is very sunny and very hot; we are in September but now it is the time we are facing a lot of coldness whereby we cannot even move from our houses. I think that makes part of our climate change.

Mr. Speaker, several Members have raised their concerns and more especially the Whip; he has talked of Kanzokea Hill and Kanzalu Hills which were gazetted as water catchment areas and I think for them to be gazetted I think you are going to show us the way forward so that we can incorporate them. Hon. King'ori talked of the Act to support the policy and we also look at guidance on how we can go about that one.

Hon. Annastaciah, thank you, very much for your reaction; you remember I visited Kibauni with my team but for other purposes and we found that there is a very big forest cover where all the trees have been cut down and I think this policy is taking care so that we can plant more trees and have a forest cover of 10 percent as it was said. So, Mr. Speaker, thank you, very much I am only requesting for Members to support this policy so that we can move a notch higher. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini.

(Question put and agreed)

(Applause)

Hon. Members, I just want to put one or two comments before we adjourn. On the issue of the gazetted water catchment areas, the minute a forest area is gazetted as a water catchment area, it gets out of the commercial forestation. That means you cannot get now the commercial forest, people come and buy trees and they cut for timber, it is no longer as timber area so that

means that the trees which are there should be the indigenous types of trees because you only plant the pine and the cypress type of trees in areas where you want to do harvesting of forests but in water catchment areas you plant the indigenous trees.

So, you need to work with the ministry of Environment so that they can be able to work with the Department of forestry to ensure that those areas are re-afforested with indigenous trees which will be able to enhance water catchment in those areas. While at it, I want you to check for me whether Iveti Hills has also been gazetted and whether it has been included as part of the water catchment area because it is a very serious water catchment area and the residents do not wish it to continue being termed as commercial forest farming area because Iveti hills supply all of Machakos with water and if those trees go then that will be a different story altogether.

Looking at where we are coming from and where we are going; we talked about 10 percent forest cover and when you look at the three gazetted forest areas, which were all done by the colonial Government back then, they total to about 600 acres and the total cover of Machakos land is 6,043 km². So, they actually had almost gotten already the ten percent from those three gazetted areas as forest cover which is what is required.

So, we need to ensure we add the additional 20.8 hectares to get to the 620.8 hectares which will be 10 percent of our total land cover, and then ensure that we do afforestation of all those areas because most of them have been depleted. Had we not stopped the process which was going on, you know this House passed motions stopping the felling of trees and by now I am very sure most of our forests will not be having anything on them, they will be having very few tree coverage.

The other thing which has been talked about here by Hon. King'ori is on regulations. Yes, we need regulations like yesterday in as far as also an amendment to Acts; the Environment Committee should have been heard looking at the Sand Harvesting Act. When you are talking about climate change and the effects of climate change you cannot forget to look at the mining which is going on especially sand harvesting and all those other things which are also affecting our environment very negatively. Has this Act been revised? Has it been changed to that it can be in tandem with current realities? Do we have regulations regulating it? So, those are the things we are talking about.

The report highlights 73 percent of the population is in agriculture. Does our budget reflect that? How much do we allocate in agriculture yet our economy is based on agriculture? So, there is a need to align our money where our people are. 70 percent of the income comes from agriculture so if 70 percent of the incomes are coming from agriculture, we need to ensure our budget is in line with that and there is a heavy investment on the agricultural sector even as we go into industrialization so that we can be able to sustain that sector.

Finally, public participation; Article 10 talks about public participation and we have been doing it diligently but unless public participation is followed by implementation of what the public is suggesting and you are going to get more and more hostile receptions when you go back to the people to seek for their mandate to do various things. Public participation needs to be followed by the implementation of what the public is requesting for.

If you go for a budget for example for public participation and your people say they want a bridge here, next year you go for public participation and they allocate funds, again the bridge is not built, you want a bridge there, the third year; are they going to listen to you? They will not listen to you, they will say that this public participation is becoming just a norm. So, what we need to do is to ensure that public participation is followed keenly by the implementation of the things which the public highlights during that public participation.

Another announcement I want to make before I live here is that there is a presser which is going to be done by the Majority Leader and the NASA team soon after this so all Members of NASA are requested to attend the presser.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So, with that Hon. Members, this House is adjourned to reconvene again on Tuesday the 22nd day of September 2020 at 10.00 a.m. Enjoy the rest of the week and enjoy your weekend.

The House rose at 4.00 p.m.