

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 16th February, 2021

The House met at 10.41 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Mwangangi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

PRACTICE FOR CASA GAMES 2021

Hon. Speaker: Members, under this Order, I have the following communication. The first one is a reminder on the CASA games. Hon. Members you are aware that this is the season we are preparing for this year's CASA games. I did a communication earlier on, it was scheduled to be in February, 2021 but because of the situation, you are aware of the coronavirus, it has been pushed to mid-march but remember mid-march 2021 is not far, just next month.

So, Members, you are reminded that the practice for the games and also for the traditional dances is ongoing and this happens every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and so Members you know there is a fraction that has to be of Members, it is important that you participate in the practice and this time we want to make a little better performance. We always perform well but we can do better and the venues remain the same but if you are not clear where to go, please get in touch with the Human Resource department; that is Mr. Mutisya's office for the details.

In the meantime, Members, we are already waiting for the Members and I am told it is the majority side which is yet to give their nominees for the *ad hoc* committee and it is that *ad hoc* committee that is going to work on the issue of uniforms and we have been talking about getting the uniforms in good time. We discussed this matter yesterday in the Board and the information we get is that the *ad hoc* committee is yet to be formed.

We are getting late, so let us hurry up and finalize on that issue so that the *ad hoc* committee can fast track the acquisition of uniforms so that the Members can fit in good time before the actual date of the games.

KAMUKUNJI MEETING

There is another communication, Hon. Members, on *Kamukunji*. You remember this has been outstanding, we have been thinking on having one on matters that concern the Assembly and so we wish to have it today the 16th February, 2021 in the afternoon and this means that the business for the afternoon which is already balloted either we take a short while and then take a break or we decide to depend on what you think which way forward so that we the *Kamukunji*.

So, in short is to say that the *Kamukunji* is scheduled today at 3 p.m. because we may have to come here and address the issue of the business for the afternoon.

INTERRUPTION OF STREAMING ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

There is another communication, Hon. Members. We have a problem with our audio and the pictorial as well that is serving the extended chamber; there is a cable that is on and off working. We will be operating in difficulties for today because the Clerk is addressing it so that we have a seamless communication on both sides of the chamber. We still cannot mix Members because remember coronavirus is still with us and if you watched yesterday's news, the positivity rate is starting to go up. We should be worried, and here in Machakos I know some colleagues in the court who were admitted having tested positive so let us continue being careful.

I thought of having some Members sit in the gallery but then again is very uncomfortable there and it may be a problem so if we go off as we discuss if any Member in the extended chamber wants to contribute, the Serjeant At Arms will facilitate for that Member to come to contribute and just go back and sit there in the meanwhile if we miss them out on the communication. So, thank you very much, Members.

PAPER LAID

REPORT ON MACHAKOS WATER POLICY 2018

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have business as listed in the appendix. Hon. Kisini or any Member who can hold his brief. Hon. Cosmas Kieti.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am standing in for Chair of environment Committee, Hon. Kisini. Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay the following Paper on the floor of the House today, 16th February, 2021; the report of the Environment Committee on Machakos Water Policy 2018. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kieti.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have two businesses; the first one is by Hon. Kisini and I believe Hon. Cosmas Kieti will continue holding brief and the second one is by Hon. Alice Nzioka. Hon. Kieti.

REPORT ON MACHAKOS WATER POLICY 2018

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the mission for the Department of Environment, water, and irrigation is to facilitate environmental and natural resources protection, restoration and conservation and to contribute to county development by promoting and supporting water resource management to enhance safe water availability and accessibility for all;

Aware that the County Executive Committee Member in the Department of Water, irrigation, environment and natural resources submitted to the County Assembly the Machakos County Government Water Policy 2018 for approval by the Assembly which was received at the Assembly on 23rd March, 2020;

Cognizant that the policy is informed by the existing challenges in water resource use and availability and the devolution of water services management to Counties as per the Fourth Schedule of Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

Noting that the Committee interrogated the Policy and also held several engagement fora with the Chief Officer in charge of water;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give Notice of Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of Committee on Environment on the Machakos County Water Policy 2018.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kieti, Hon. Alice Nzioka.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL UNIT AT MACHAKOS
LEVEL V HOSPITAL TO TAKE CARE OF FISTULA PATIENTS

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka:

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health which includes right to health care services;

Aware that Counties have been mandated with provision of promotion of primary health care;

Aware that there has been an increase in the number of cases of obstetric fistula in the County and in Kenya as a whole;

Further aware that obstetric fistula most often develops during labor and birth when the infant's head descends into the maternal pelvis and cannot pass through, usually because Woman's pelvis is too small or poorly developed and when the infant is too big or is poorly positioned;

Acknowledging that millions of girls and young women with fistula are living in shame and isolation, often abandoned by their husbands and excluded by their families and communities;

Noting that the affected mothers shy off from seeking health services because of fear of stigmatization, cost of consultation fees and lack of information;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give Notice of Motion that this House discusses and approves that;

- i. The County Government of Machakos under the Department of health establishes a special unit at Machakos level V Hospital to take care of fistula patients.
- ii. All procedures of treatment of obstetric fistula be made free.
- iii. The County Government comes up with a programme of identifying such patients with a view of medically assisting them.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Alice Nzioka.

STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have three businesses. The first one is by Hon. Majority Leader, the second one is by Hon. Jacinta Luka and the third one is by the Hon. PJ Mutiso. Hon. Minority Leader is in place of Hon. Majority Leader.

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FOR 16TH TO 23RD FEBRUARY, 2021

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on Monday, 15th February, 2021 to prioritize business for the House as forwarded by Committees and Hon. Members pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151(5).

The Committee balloted as follows:

Tuesday, 16th February, 2021

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- a. Report of Agriculture Committee on the performance report for the department of Agriculture for FY 2019/2020 by Hon. Moses Mitaa, Chairperson.
- b. Statement by Hon. Jacinta Luka (MCA Special Elect) on what measures and facilities the County Assembly has put in place to ensure compliance with section 23 of the Persons Living with Disabilities Act 2002.
- c. Statement by Hon. Peter Mutiso (MCA Machakos Central) seeking:
 - The statistics of the patients with mental illness treated in public health facilities in the County for the last one year.
 - What the County Government is doing to ensure that there are enough personnel to handle cases of mental illnesses in the County.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Motion by Hon. Alice Nzioka (MCA, Special Elect) that:

- i. The County Government of Machakos under the Department of health establishes a special unit at Machakos level V Hospital to take care of fistula patients.
- ii. All procedures of treatment of obstetric fistula be made free.
- iii. The County Government comes up with a Programme of identifying such patients with a view of medically assisting them.

Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Machakos County Climate Change Bill, 2020 Second Reading by Hon. Robert Kisini, Chairperson, Committee on Environment, Energy, Lands and Natural Resources.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Report of Environment, Energy, Lands and Natural Resources Committee on Machakos County Water Policy by Hon. Robert Kisini, Chairperson.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Minority Leader. Then unlike the two Statements coming Members this statement Members does not call for any reactions. We just carry on now to Hon. Jacinta Luka.

Hon. (Ms.) Luka: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I beg to move my statement from here.

(Hon. (Ms.) Luka remained seated in her place)

Hon. Speaker: Please do; it is in order.

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 23 OF PERSONS LIVING WITH
DISABILITIES ACT 2003 BY THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. (Ms.) Luka: Hon. Speaker, Section 23 of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003, states that every public building should be made accessible to persons with disabilities which is mainly achieved by provision of physical access which includes accessible routes, curb ramps, parking, passenger loading zones, elevators, signage, entrances and restrooms.

Hon. Speaker, there is concern that persons with disabilities are having challenge to access the amenities in the County Assembly. Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41, I wish to seek Statement on what measures and facilities the County Assembly has put in place to ensure compliance with Section 23 of Persons living with Disabilities Act 2003. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jacinta. So Hon. Members can we have some reactions to this statement before we commit it for the necessary processing. Hon. Katumo, I will come to you Hon. Minority and Hon. Museku.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate my colleague Hon. Jacinta for seeking that Statement. Actually, as you can see the Statement was supposed to come last year, I know the Assembly has made a lot of progress in terms of trying to achieve part of that statement.

Last Tuesday we were able to have a meeting at the Speaker's boardroom and I used the lift but the spirit of that Statement goes along with Article 27(1) of the Constitution of Kenya read together with Article 54(1) which express itself in terms of trying to include; that inclusion of all Members of the public in terms of trying to enjoy all benefits in wherever they are including accessibility, physical information and otherwise.

Madam Speaker, we also have a law in place which came in 2016 that is Machakos People with Disabilities Act 2016, of which Section 67 also provides for the same to make sure that no Member of the society will feel excluded in all matters including accessibility to any premises. Actually, this Section 23 of the Act 2003 provides for incentives at the same time it also provides for if you don't comply there are also penalties and I would wish going forward the assembly makes laws and we should also be able to obey and comply to these laws and therefore there is a lot which needs to be done to make sure that this County Assembly is accessible, friendly and at the same time we feel comfortable serving here.

You can imagine there are things that we don't see and we should work like we are seeing them. Imagine somebody with wheelchair trying to access those meeting rooms up there, even the toilets are not compliant and going forward you can also imagine having somebody who is having visually-impaired, you can also imagine other kind of disabilities because they are many. We need to work together; we are in a free country, in a new dispensation where everyone matters, every citizen has a right and that why I am calling that Article 27(1) is very clear of our Constitution, then Article 54(1)(a), (b) and (c) expresses itself to make sure that we would feel that we are in the right place any time.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude I want to say this Assembly needs to do more and I said that before that we don't have sign interpreters even when we are in YouTube, Members of the society in Machakos are watching us but just imagine, actually, I have been receiving messages from my deaf and dumb community saying we can see you but we cannot hear you.

Our languages that are given in the constitution are three, we have English, we have Kiswahili then now we have sign language. We need to have sign interpreters so that, the accessibility of information is very clear; we need actually to mover, we are not in the First Assembly but we are in the sunset days of the Second Assembly and we should make great progress going forward to make sure that we feel actually we are part and parcel. Actually, I am doing a paper on the inclusion and participation of PWDs in the political process and this is the area that we are remaining behind and we need to move forward.

I have, of course, been able to talk to other Members of other County Assemblies who are serving as representatives of PWDs and they have also made a lot of progress. We should also learn and also benchmark with others so that the best practice is part and parcel of this County Assembly but thank you for this County Assembly, I think they are doing much but they need to move very fast and they need to do more. Thank you, I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Katumo. Hon. Majority Leader just a moment, as you came in I had talked of Hon. Minority Leader and Hon. Museku and then we will have Hon. Majority Leader. Just brief comments Members.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. Madam Speaker, as you say, I will be very brief on this issue on this debate. Madam Speaker, it is very clear that every public building should have all the facilities that favor people living with disability and as an Assembly, we are supposed to be in the forefront in regard to those issues of Members with disability are the most comfortable in this building and then I would also urge this legislative arm of Machakos County to pass an Act regarding all the government buildings in Machakos County under constructions should also include the facilities that are required to make people living with disabilities comfortable and have access to all these facilities.

Otherwise, without much ado Madam Speaker, I would also request that we check also that in our new chamber that is under construction we check whether it is also friendly, whether the BQs include all these facilities required for people living with disabilities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kamitu. Hon. Museku.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support of the Statement and thanking the Hon. Member who represents that ward for bringing it up, apparently as she has said and as other

Hon. Member has said, it is still not acceptable that in the year 2021, we are talking in a country like ours, in a county like ours that then minority of our people who live with disabilities are still having issues of accessibility, are still having issues of being able to move freely where they want to go into any building. We have a County Government which is getting very many resources every year from the National Government and when you look at that ward, it is one ward which is composed of very few people.

Enacting laws and ensuring that government buildings and other facilities which we have are in compliance with this Section 23 of the Persons with Disabilities Act will not be an expensive thing for any government to be able to ensure it is done. If it is buildings, is to ensure that the approval process for any plan for a building, if it doesn't have that, it is not approved which will make sure that all buildings which are coming up do have those facilities. It is through an audit of the main facilities which are utilized by our PWDs and do the necessary structural changes which need to be done for them to be able to access those facilities.

In addition, to this Madam Speaker, I get surprised in my ward when I see people living with disabilities coming to me seeking for bursaries so they can be assisted in going to a school for a physically disabled. Sincerely speaking, how would we be charging somebody who is physically disabled school fees for them to go to an institution which is a special institution for treating them? Are we saying that the government is so uncaring that they cannot come up with facilities for free so that anybody who has got a child who is physically disabled does not have to think about where they are going to get money to take their physically disabled child to school.

How much money are we getting? Ksh. 12 billion, Ksh. 10 billion, every year and we cannot spare a few coins for our people living with disabilities to be put in facilities where they can get their education? So, I would like to request the County Government of Machakos to do its duty and ensure that every physically disabled child in this country has equal access to education and opportunities like anybody else because the resources are there and if we are spending so much resources on things which do not really that matter, we should be having that compassion and feeling and ensuring that our people living with disabilities are given access to education in addition to the facilities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Museku. Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me also support this Statement by Hon. Jacinta Luka and Madam Speaker, say this is overdue. Madam Speaker, in this century where we are now, it is actually something which we should not be talking about, the structures that are not compliant with the PWDs. Madam Speaker, as I always say, these are people who need to live well, these are people who need to stay the way the other normal people stay and Madam Speaker this must be made easy for them through the people who are able.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say it is very easy and this Assembly can make it a law that every construction before approval of all the set s of the drawing must comply with the disability facilities, and that one will be very easy, if you submit your drawing for your house or even if it's another institution, there must be a clause whereby your drawing should not be approved unless it passes that facility for the PWDs.

Madam Speaker, Machakos Government whereby we receive a lot of money, I have never seen the government setting aside some money aside for even buying wheelchairs, for even buying these walking sticks for the blind. Madam Speaker, it is only this House which can

pass those laws and those laws when they are passed, those institutions like the engineering section, housing section will enforce those laws.

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, when our construction are going on, even today the existing buildings, we can also pass a law and say they must be compliant and that one will be achieved. In our area here whereby we have the Assembly, I can say yeah, the administration has done fairly well on like for example now the lift is working that is also very good but the toilets, although I have not visited all of them Madam Speaker, I think the toilets are not compliant but we need those are the things which we use very little funds to adjust them because you need to lower them and put some iron bars and that is very easy.

Madam Speaker, I think this information and the CASB is here and you are the Chair, immediately we will see action because we don't need a lot of money on that.

Madam Speaker, we are saying that the PWDs with impaired vision, we need also to make our corridors wider for them to be walking and not knocking and it is very easy to remove all the supporting roofing materials and make it compliant to the people with impaired vision and that one doesn't need a lot of money.

For the people who are deaf Madam Speakers, we need a sign language interpreter who can be doing it when we are also carrying on with our debate here because they are also people, they look at us but they cannot hear. Let me tell you, Madam Speaker, this is a bit embarrassing when you are seeing somebody people are clapping and laughing and you cannot hear; it is a bit embarrassing and we have a lot of those people in our county.

To live well, Madam Speaker, as I always say is not to have a lot of money; those small things make people enjoy. There are people, if you have been to India, Indians they live very simple life; you talk of a computer and they come with something which is very simple and not expensive, you talk of a software they develop their software which can be used by the people who are down here.

Madam Speaker, we sometimes we oversee these things and think about doing big things. Madam Speaker, as I support, I would like to say the new building which is coming up must comply if the designs have not been there they can be now because they have not gone far they can also work on it and do redesign to fit the disability people. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mark Muendo. Hon. Jeremiah, in the extended sitting. Hon. Jeremiah if you wish to contribute you can walk briefly to the chamber. Hon. Hellen, can you contribute as Hon. Jeremiah comes here to make his contribution.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I stand here to support the motion brought forward by *Mheshimiwa* Jacinta. I believe that the County or the Assembly managed to come up with a new ward for PWDs so instead of Machakos County having 40 wards we have got 41 wards and what I would request is that because we have all heard the various challenges our PWDs are going through, in the next financial year, we need to come up with a budget that can be able to start addressing these challenges. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Hellen. Hon. Jeremiah. Is he coming here or do we commit? Can I see the extended chamber?

(Hon. Munguti entered the chamber)

Let me make an address to the Members seated in the extended chamber. Hon. Members, who are sited outside, I have said it again and again that if we start and you see a lot of space here please feel free walk in and occupy the seats that are empty because it doesn't really, make sense that we have just a handful of Members sitting here and a lot of space which is empty and then Members in the extended sitting are having difficulties even in communication.

So, the Serjeant At Arms, the Members who are in the extended chamber are at free will to move in and sit on the seats which have not been occupied since morning. So, Hon. Jeremiah, you can contribute.

Hon. Munguti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Hon. Jacinta Luka who has just brought this Statement. It has been my prayer that when will we discuss the people living with disabilities. Madam Speaker, when you go to my ward, I have at least 345 people living with disabilities and these people have never been taken care of. If you look at the Act of 2003, it states very well that each and every person must have access to offices, institutions and this person living with disabilities many times suffer because of their mobility.

Therefore when you look at our Assembly itself, when we are having meetings in our rooms and conferences, even the Members living with disabilities sometimes feel disadvantaged because there are no walkways which can help them ride very well when they are walking to the rooms.

Also, Madam Speaker, you can bear me witness this is our fourth year in this Assembly and we have people living with disabilities and disability does not mean that you are inability or you are unable to do something. We have had Hon. Katumo who has been doing very well in sporting nut since we came here; he has never been facilitated to do sports to represent our Assembly.

Madam Speaker, it will be prudent if in our budgets we consider so that we can have people living with disabilities also engaging themselves in sports and also those in the wards, like last year but one, I saw Hon. Katumo and Hon. Jacinta participating in the county sports when they were playing volleyball. It was so interesting and also this was done through the county executive. We should also make sure that during our budgets, we pass budgets which are also favoring the people living with disabilities.

The other point is that Madam Speaker, people living with disabilities are also human beings like us and they need to enjoy their time fully and also, they should enjoy the services which they should be getting. Madam Speaker, you understand very well that we have very limited institutions for this people living with disabilities. Like the lot I am talking about in my Muthetheni ward, they need a school which can enable them learn, but they have never been able to go to those schools as Hon. Museku has said, in my ward when I am giving out bursaries I have been giving out to those students though they are in primary school so that at least they can enjoy education like any other person in this country.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, it is my prayer that this Assembly will do something so that our people whom are living with disabilities can enjoy their lives as they live. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Jeremiah and the other Members who have contributed to the Statement and much more thanks to Hon. Jacinta Luka for having though about bringing up the question that she has put ably before this House. So Hon. Members the

Statement is committed to the committee on Youth, women, sports and PWDs and the committee is to bring a report to this House on or before the 3rd of March, 2021. It is a matter that is urgent so given a much shorter time than is normal.

That committee needs to urgently seek a sitting with the CASB so that the way forward on this issue can be found. It is a matter really that is indicting on us because we should set an example even as we talk about the issue of PWDs in the county; we should set an example from here. So, really, it is a matter that should not even have come to this floor because it goes without saying that the needs that have been raised in the Statement ought to have been addressed by now. It will however now be addressed as is necessary. So the next Statement we have is by Hon. Peter Mutiso.

INTERVENTIONS BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE MENTAL ILLNESS AMONG RESIDENTS

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you, Madam Chair, for granting me this opportunity. Hon. Speaker, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 in Article 43(1)(a) provides that every person has the right to the highest sustainable standard of health which includes the right to health care services. This includes mental health care.

The World Health Organization 2003 defines health as the state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or any infirmity. Hon. Speaker, National Government statistics indicate that at least one in every four Kenyans suffer from a medical illness in one point in their lives---

Hon. Speaker: Mental illness.

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Mental illness. Unfortunately, Kenya has only 88 psychiatrists, 427 psychiatrist nurses who are trained to handle mental illness, about 10 medical social workers and a few mental psychologists and counselors who are competent to handle mental issues.

Hon. Speaker, Machakos County has one mental counsellor whom with the recent increased cases of suicide due to mental illness and life challenges which increased with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic; there is dire need to have at least one mental counsellor in every sub-county of the county to attend to those in need of counselling services.

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) I wish to seek the following Statement:

1. The statistics of patients of mental illness treated in public health facilities in the county for the last one year.
2. What the county government is doing to ensure there are enough personnel to handle cases of mental illness in the County.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutiso. Hon. Members, do we have reactions and comments on this? Hon. Mitaa Chief Whip.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for the opportunity. I want to congratulate my colleague Hon. Mutiso for the Statement. Hon. Speaker, sometimes last year, we passed a motion here that the County Government of Machakos establishes counselling points across the County

to take care of our people especially now that Covid-19 brought so many challenges to the residents. So, Hon. Speaker, I believe this Statement is timely because we cannot have those centers without specialists.

My request is to the right department and County Public Service Board to check on the issue and have those specialists employed in our health facilities so that we do not have facilities without people to serve our residents. I appreciate the Statement and I stand to support it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mitaa. Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the Statement of *Mheshimiwa* Peter by saying even we need people to be going to every Church nowadays to talk to the women and girls because every day you hear on the radio somebody has killed herself and her children. There are so many problems even with the money and the men divorcing the women because within the Covid the men were not staying with the women before but nowadays the women have stayed with the men and known the type of person who married her.

(Laughter)

I think we need a lot of education even before employing the people. The County should be having people going around every Church every Sunday to talk to our women and the men. They are killing themselves because of the problems. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mueni who says it as it is; so let those who have ears hear. It is good that we need to talk openly about these things. It is part of us. Hon. Kisila.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate my colleague Hon. Mutiso for a very good Statement. This is a very timely Statement and we have a lot of people who are suffering from depression. Last week, in my ward we had two men who committed suicide. In fact, Hon. Mueni is right; it is men who are committing suicide and it is becoming a trend in the entire sub-county.

I think this Statement is timely and we should encourage it and we should actually look at the department which looks at this particular sector and, in fact, we need to have even mental clinics in every sub-county because people are really suffering so I stand to support the Statement. I think it is very timely and we should move very fast before we start losing many people especially men. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisila. Members in the extended sitting do we have any Member who wishes to make a comment? Hon. Members, this again is another critical issue that is raised on the floor of this House and the matter is committed to the Committee on Health and Emergency Services and it is to bring a report to this House again on or before 2nd of March, 2021. It is another urgent matter and it is a matter that has seriously affected our society in the county and of course even in the whole country.

The other day we witnessed a young man who killed almost the whole of his family and then we are seeing mothers who are running into a dam with their kids strapped on the back to kill them. There is a lot of mental illness in the society and it is a matter we need to address

urgently to mention the suicides that are being mentioned everywhere. We can only also pray for our society because we seriously need a serious healing. So, we will proceed, Hon. Members.

MOTION

APPROVAL OF REPORT ON PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN 2019/20

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, this business is one and is by Hon. Mitaa Chief Whip Majority Party. Hon. Mitaa, how do you propose to do it?

Hon. Mitaa: Hon. Speaker, I would request first we move the Motion and then at the stage of---

Hon. Speaker: We discuss the rest later.

Hon. Mitaa: Yes. At the stage of report reading.

Hon. Speaker: Sure.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the Mission for the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Machakos County is to promote innovative, commercially oriented and modern Agriculture through development and enactment of enabling legal framework;

Aware that Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya provides that, the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County;

Informed that in exercise of the functions vested on County Assembly in Article 185(3), the County Assembly through the Committee of Agriculture requested for the performance report for the Department of Agriculture for the FY 2019/2020; Cognizant that pursuant to Standing Order 190(5), the committee analyzed the status report of the Department and consequently compiled a report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the Committee of Agriculture on performance report for the Department of Agriculture for the FY 2019/2020.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: The seconder of your motion?

Hon. Mitaa: I wish to call Hon. Constance Mbula to second my motion.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Constance Mbula. Hon. Constance Mbula there are two ways you can second you remember? There are two ways you can second---

Hon. (Ms.) C. Mbula: Yes Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Okay. Choose the one you like.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Mbula: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to second the motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mbula. Hon. Mitaa. So Hon. Members we have come to a point where the Hon. Member, the mover of the motion is to address the report and Hon. Mitaa just come nearer to the mic. What we will do is, unlike in the past where we have been reading the whole report, you have been trained enough now so Hon. Mitaa you can note that you will come just to the introduction, you will do the mandate only, the composition of the committee and then you will tell us who were the persons you met in the interrogation stages and then you will touch a little on your observations which actually should go on the HANSARD and then your recommendations. Hon. Mitaa, is that okay? Are you worried that you will be a guinea pig the one that is tested first?

Hon. Mitaa: No, Madam Speaker. I think I am okay.

Hon. Speaker: I know you are able to carry on. In other words you do not need to read the whole lot of the report.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. The following is the report on the committee of Agriculture on performance report for the department of agriculture the fiscal year 2019/2020.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hon. Speaker, Article 183(3) of the Constitution provides that, the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County. In exercise of the functions vested on County Assembly in Article 185(3), the County through the Committee on Agriculture requested the Chief Officer to submit the report on performance on development budget for the 2019/2020.

In the Machakos County budget for 2019/2020 financial year, the department of Agriculture, Food Security and Co-operative Development was allocated a budget of Ksh. 383.45 million for recurrent and Ksh. 354.53 million for development.

2.0 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker, the committee on Agriculture is established pursuant to the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders with specific mandate to deal with all matters related to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, cooperatives, livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control, irrigation, fisheries, cooperative societies and veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession).

3.0 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Hon. Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture as currently constituted comprises of the following Hon. Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Moses Mitaa | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Michael Mutiso | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Benedette Musyoka | Member |

4. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu “
5. Hon. Joshua Nzuki Muli “
6. Hon. Constance Mbula “
7. Hon. Antony Mulu “
8. Hon. Nicholas Mutuku “
9. Hon. Paul Nyanzi “
10. Hon. Rozina Kanini “
11. Hon. Tariq Mulatya “
12. Hon. Mark Muendo “
13. Hon. Ikusya Kaloki “

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT

4.1 Request for information and invitation of the Chief Officer

Hon. Speaker, the provisions of Article 185(3) bestows the Assembly with oversight role over the County Executive. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 183(3) as read together with Section 39(2)(b) of the County Governments Act 2012, this committee requested for a performance report for the Department via a letter

Ref: MKSCA/PSC/CMM/ALC/VOL1/46 dated 12th August, 2020.

The committee, after the receipt of the report, invited the Chief Officer to shed light on issues arising from the report as provided in Section 39(2)(a) of the County Governments Act 2012. The report, projects and programmes are as provided in Table 1 on Performance of the Department for the financial year 2019/2020 (*See table 1 appended*)

Hon. Speaker, I request your permission to go.....I will seek your guidance Hon. Speaker, because I have noticed in all---

Hon. Speaker: There are different observations.

Hon. Mitaa: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe what we can do Hon. Mover of the motion I am seeing the comments before the observations are not long. Isn't it?

Hon. Mitaa: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: So we will just have to bite the bullet and you will do the usual.

Hon. Mitaa: No problem, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes. Let us just do it.

Hon. Mitaa: Okay.

4.2 The Quarter acre programme.

Hon. Speaker, the concept of the quarter acre programme was born out of a scientific study on the Social Economic Impact of the Christian Impact Mission (CIM) agriculture

development model. The CIM model is focused on a participatory skills-transfer approach and mind-set change concept in agricultural development.

The programme was implemented in Masinga Central, Ikombe, Katangi and Kalama Wards. The objectives of the programme were to:

1. To create wealth at household level within a short period.
2. To mitigate the effects of Climate change.
3. To diversify livelihoods of Machakos residents through promotion of high value horticultural crops and rearing of indigenous chicken.
4. To shift mindset of farmers from subsistence farming to commercial farming in the County.

Observations from the report

- a) The programme of excavating pods was not funded. The department only gave technical advice to farmers on how to do the measurements of the pods. Hence only 10 per cent of the pods were excavated implying that most farmers did not have a reservoir to store their water to grow the intended crops.
- b) The Department intended to purchase 2 backhoe tractors to excavate the ponds for farmers. The budgeted amount was Ksh. 5 million of which one backhoe costs about Ksh. 10 million. Hence the Department did not purchase any backhoe which in turn affected the programme of excavation of pods. Farmers were therefore advised to fund the programme of pod excavation.
- c) In the programme for purchase of pond liners, it was observed that only 4.8 per cent of the pond liners were purchased. The use of pond liners is a water conservation strategy to prevent water infiltration into the soil especially where the soil is porous. The reason for purchasing the low number was inadequate budget allocation.
- d) On the programme of horticultural free seeds like capsicum, black night shade and *Kunde Mboga*, the programme was funded under the other programme of free seeds. However, procurement challenges arose and the seeds were not distributed to farmers but the Department intends to issue to farmers this November season. Hon. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Hon. House that this report was supposed to come before we went on recess so they will understand now when we talk of November, that was 2020 and the seeds have actually been delivered to farmers, Hon. Speaker.
- e) On the programme of agro chemicals, the Department. Budgeted Ksh. 8,000,000 but just like the horticultural free seeds programme stated above, following procurement constraints, the chemicals were not distributed to farmers but the Department intends to issue to farmers this November season.
- f) The late procurement of seeds and agro chemicals was attributed by the fact that the National Treasury took a long time to issue the Department with IFMIS authorization. Initially, this the Department used to be under the Department of water where they shared IFMIS authorization. After the Department of Agriculture stood as separate Department the Treasury delayed processing the authorization.
- g) As a result of delayed authorization most of the funds under the Department were supplemented to other areas hence a good number of programme were not done as planned

- h) Low or insufficient budgetary allocation was a major cause of low performance of the Dept. for the FY 2019/2020.
- i) Generally all the programmes under the quarter acre programme were poorly achieved.

4.3 The free tractor programme

Hon. Speaker, this was a flagship project by H.E. the Governor which was initiated in 2013 where the Dept. purchased a total of 40 tractors with an objective of increasing crop production and reduce hunger in the County.

Observations from the report

- a) In the financial year in question, the programme was allocated Ksh. 5,000,000 for free ploughing programme. This money was meant for both maintenance and fuel.
- b) It can be observed from the table that the performance of the ploughing programme was very low that is only 5.5 per cent. This means most of the farmers did not benefit from the programme in the financial year in question.
- c) The Chief Officer informed the committee that it is now seven years after the tractors were purchased. The rate of depreciation has gone high
- d) Members were also informed that the Ksh. 5,000,000 allocated to cater for both maintenance and fuel was not sufficient to do reasonable work because with the high depreciation maintenance cost is currently a big challenge.
- e) It was stated that the frequent breakdowns of these tractors is because they are now old hence very low efficiency
- f) The low efficiency and breakdown will therefore cause a corresponding cost implication on maintenance and also low performance.
- g) The Chief Officer stated that the solution to this problem is purchase of new tractors and members were informed that this will guarantee farmers good work.

4.4 Free seeds and Subsidized Fertilizer programmes

Hon. Speaker, In the programme of seeds it was allocated a budget of Ksh.15,000,000 and the Dept. targeted to procure 160 tonnes (160,000 Kg) of beans and green gram seeds. However only 60 tonnes (60,000 kgs) that is 38 per cent were purchased and distributed to farmers during the Second and Third Quarter of the year.

For the subsidized fertilizer programme the Dept. planned to acquire 150,000 bags but it distributed 10,473 bags (7%) which were distributed through Tala, Machakos and Kithimani Depots. Tala depot serves Kangundo and Matungulu Sub-counties, Machakos depot serves Machakos, Mavoko, Kathiani, and Mwala Sub counties and Kithimani depot serves Yatta and Masinga

Observations from the report

- a) The Dept. identifies the number of needy cases from each Ward who will benefit from the seed and fertilizer programmes
- b) The seeds issued are sourced from KALRO and they are scientifically improved such that after harvesting the second generation of the seeds can be re-planted to produce the third generation, then the fourth without losing its genetic potential.
- c) An average of about 115 beneficiaries are identified from each Ward.

- d) Each farmer was given 1 bag of seeds (2 kg) either for beans or green grams. Beans were issued to farmers in Machakos, Kathiani, Kangundo and Matungulu and Green grams were for farmers in Mwala, Yatta and Masinga.
- e) Currently, KALRO is selling its seeds on Cash Basis and this is causing a big challenge to Counties which all through rely on procuring then pay for service later.
- f) For the subsidized fertilizer, it was issued through the National Cereal and Produce Boards whereby a beneficiary had to be given an authorization from the Department of Agriculture. A bag of fertilizer is 50 Kgs.
- g) The fertilizer distributed was for the previous FY of 2018/2019 implying that the procurement process for that year took too long.
- h) The committee noted that both the seeds and fertilizer programme are very key programmes which are highly acknowledged by farmers of Machakos County.
- i) That during the First Assembly, the number of beneficiaries and the quantities especially for the seeds was more than the current number and quantity issued during the FY year in question.
- j) The Chief Officer informed the committee that insufficient budget allocation constrained both the number of beneficiaries and the quantity given per head.
- k) The committee was informed that Department had no budget allocation for the fertilizer programme for the FY 2019/2020. The fertilizer distributed was for the previous FY 2018/2019.
- l) Late distribution of seeds was noted as a factor that inconvenienced the programme of farmers as far as land preparation and planting was concerned.

4.5 The Free Chicks Programme

Hon. Speaker, this programme was initiated with an objective of making farmers self-sufficient in food, impart a concept of changing from subsistence farming to commercial farming and also to reduce poverty within the County.

During the FY in question, the free chicks programme was allocated Ksh. 5,500,000. The Dept. planned to distribute 100,000 chicks throughout the entire County but only managed to distribute 29,932 chicks that is 30 per cent target.

Observations from the report

- a) The Department sourced the considerable number of chicks from KALRO and some from the Machakos Training Centre (ATC) hatcheries.
- b) The Chief Officer stated that KALRO serves the entire Country and so deliveries of the procured chicks in most cases takes too long hence affecting the timelines set by the Department to issue chicks.
- c) The capacity of the KALRO hatchery was said to be low such that it does not meet the demand of chicks procured by various Counties including Machakos.
- d) That this is one of the successful programmes in the County which many residents of the County are requesting the Department to invest a lot because the programme is a source of employment for many individuals and self-help groups.
- e) That the Department during the FY under discussion consulted the Area MCAs during the exercise of identifying the beneficiaries and also during the time of distribution of chicks.

4.6 Free Livestock Vaccination and Artificial Insemination.

Hon. Speaker, this is one of the key programmes under the Directorate of Livestock whose service is highly needed by livestock keepers within the County. It is also the programmes that need high technical skills and expertise to realize results in the livestock sub sector.

During the FY under discussion, the programme of free vaccination was allocated a budget Ksh. 3,000,000. The Department targeted to vaccinate 140,000 animals and managed to vaccinate 117,245 animals which translates to 84 per cent performance. In the programme of Artificial Insemination, the Department was allocated Ksh. 5,000,000 and targeted to Serve 20,000 animals.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kisila, point of order under what Standing Order?

Hon. Kisila: Under Standing Order 27.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mitaa, briefly resume your seat.

PROCEDURAL MOTION
EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Hon. Kisila:

Madam Speaker, that aware Standing Order 27(2) provides that the Speaker, shall interrupt business at 12.30 p.m. for the morning sitting;

Aware that Standing Order 27(3) provides that the House may resolve to extend its sitting time;

Aware that Standing Order 27(4) requires motion to extend sitting time to be allowed at least 30 minutes before time appointed for adjournment;

Hon. Speaker, I move the motion that the House resolves to extend its sitting until the business under consideration is completed.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisila. Who is seconding your motion?

Hon. Kisila: I call upon Hon. Mutiso to second.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mutiso?

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Speaker: The motion is now open for debate. Hon. Alice.

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Madam Speaker, I second the motion keeping in mind that we have some business which is in front of us so we should get the extension of time to complete our

business. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Alice. Hon. Mueni, on the motion of extending time.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion by extending the time.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Nziva, on the motion of extending time.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also support that we extend time because the business ahead of us is crucial. Thank you, Madam, Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Which Hon. Member in the extended sitting? Any Hon. Member? Hon. Rosina? Thank you. Sorry Hon. Grace.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutwiwa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to support the motion because the items in that motion are of importance. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, very much Hon. Grace. Hon. Members I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, our sitting time is extended. Hon. Mitaa you can proceed.

(The House resumed business as per the Order Paper)

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am on observation on free livestock vaccination and artificial insemination.

Observations from the report

- a) The Department performed well in the programme of vaccination whereby 84 per cent performance was realized although the programme was not well distributed within the County.
- b) Some areas like Kangundo Sub-County did not benefit well from this vaccination programme because of failure to involve the area MCAs in the planned programme. Cases of serious disease outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease was reported from Kangundo which highly cost the livestock farmers in the said area.
- c) That Artificial Insemination programme is in high demand to enable farmers improve the quality of their indigenous breeds to a breed that is high yielding and that fetches good prices in the market
- d) That despite the good budgetary allocation of Ksh. 5,000,000, the programme was never implemented because the tender advertisement was not responsive. Hence all the money was supplemented to other programmes and livestock farmers from key livestock keeping areas like Mwala, Yatta and Masinga Sub counties missed this essential service.

- e) The Department is highly understaffed and most of the serving staff are tending to retirement very soon. The Chief Officer informed the Committee that since devolution the Department has gone short of staff to a tune of about 150 and soon the Department will have no single extension officers to man both the crop and livestock sub sector.

4.7 Pasture Distribution and Construction of Dips

Hon. Speaker, the value of livestock production sector is highly depended on both disease control and feeding. The type and quality of feeds determine the rate of growth and amount and quality of any of the livestock products.

During the financial year, the Department was not allocated any funds for both pasture acquisition and construction of dips. The Department intended to distribute 6 tonnes of pasture materials but only managed to distribute 1.3 tonnes of pasture seeds which translated to 22 per cent performance.

Observations from the report

- a) The Department underperformed in the programme of pasture distribution because of lack of budgetary allocation
- b) That with many farmers now practicing Zero Grazing method especially where land size is small there is need to seriously address the need for pasture availability.
- c) That the programme of dips was not implemented because it had not been factored under the CIDP.
- d) That areas where livestock keeping is highly practiced and where the number of livestock kept is high, pest and disease control can only be addressed by constructing many cattle dips in those areas.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, considering the above observations the committee of Agriculture recommends as follows;

1. That since the Department underperformed in many of the programmes under the Quarter acre programme, fertilizers, seeds, chicks and pasture programmes because of low budget allocation, the County Government should in the next financial year increase the budget on these programmes above the current allocation to ensure that performance and service delivery is not curtailed by budget constraint.
2. Maintenance of the tractor programme because of the aging factor and depreciation is proving to be very inefficient and expensive. The Department should therefore dispose the already grounded tractors and use that money to lease tractors from other service providers. This will ensure that farmers get adequate and timely ploughing service and also reduce unnecessary maintenance expenditures.
3. That since the Department is getting seeds from KALRO and given the fact that KALRO is now issuing seeds on cash basis, the Department should now adjust its procurement process to ensure that money is available to purchase seeds for farmers on time.
4. Extension expertise is highly needed in the field of vaccination, Artificial Insemination and disease control. The Department should in the next financial year put mechanisms on how to acquire technical personnel to replace those who have

- retired from the Department so that residents of Machakos continue to get the desired technical services in the said fields.
5. The Department should develop a work plan on the activities planned for the year, guided by the timelines of land preparation and expected dates of rainfall. This will ensure that services like ploughing, distribution of seeds, fertilizers and chicks are not done at times which may confuse the normal programmes of farmers which may in turn affect their productivity.
 6. The Artificial Insemination is the only solution to high yielding breeds that fetch good prices in the market. The Department should in the next financial year diversify its search on service providers and procure those services on time to ensure that farmers in the livestock keeping areas get this service and avoid the scenario of 0 per cent target that was attained in the FY 2019/2020.
 7. The Department when executing its programmes as defined in the Budget should involve the Assembly for the purpose of effectiveness in those programmes so that priority services go to priority beneficiaries.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Hon. Speaker, the primary goal of the government is the provision of the essential goods and services to the citizens. The Government is held accountable by the citizens on allocation, custody and use of state resources through the budget. These functions should be performed in accordance with established rule, policies and practices contained in the Government financial regulations.

A well-formulated and properly implemented budget has capacity to promote socio-economic well-being of the people, finance development projects and support public service administration. This cannot be achieved without a good budgeting process and good will in implementing the budget besides depicting high standards of transparency and accountability. It is therefore my privilege and pleasure on behalf of the Committee of Agriculture to table before this Hon. House the performance report for the Department of Agriculture for the FY 2019/2020 for discussion and adoption. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

We have attached a list of programmes in column form. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, very much Hon. Mitaa

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, I invite you to debate the motion. Hon. Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Madam Speaker and the Members present. I wish to thank the Chair of Agriculture, Hon. Moses Mitaa and his committee for a commendable job. The report has explained many issues that are going on in the Agriculture Department. I also wish to thank the Department of Agriculture for the commendable job that they are doing.

On Climate Smart Programme, I thank God because that has really changed the lives of my people of Ikombe ward because it is a semi-arid area and the many techniques that the farmers have benefited, I don't think the farmers could have been in such a position without it. So I want to thank God that through this programme, many farmers have economically developed.

You realize that the area is very dry but with the new farming technologies, the area has really grown and there is more to be done so that they can continue benefiting.

I also want to thank this Assembly because when the budget for agriculture came through the Climate Smart Programme, the Members really supported the budget and also the one which came from the World Bank. So, I want to thank these Members and urge them to rally behind this budget because it will benefit our people.

I also wish to thank the Department of Agriculture because Climate Smart is everywhere and will encourage our people to do modern farming. The department should also recruit more staff because in the report, there are a few staff who are serving our wards, the Agricultural Extensions Officers, they are very few and many have retired. So I want to urge this Assembly when the department of Agriculture brings the budget for recruiting more staff, may we do something so that our people continue benefiting on these good services.

On the programme for cattle dips, each Member gave out several cattle dips to be renovated and I do not know what happened. I have read on the report that the budget was enough, so I urge Members and even the Chair, Agriculture that, when that time comes, can we look on that issue of cattle dips issue because it will bring more yield to our cattle and health-wise, improve.

On artificial insemination (AI), that is the way to go because we will realize high yield breeds. In Yatta, Masinga and Mwala counties, they did not benefit from the AI services, so kindly next time, the Agriculture department, through our Chair, can we look on that so that we can also benefit on such services. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nziva. I saw the energy with which you shot up that you must have experienced good things from this programme and that is how it should be and also the passion with which *Mheshimiwa* Mitaa handles this Committee is commendable. So, at least when some good work is done, it will be felt. Hon. Kisila.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start by thanking Hon. Mitaa and the committee for a very good and detailed report. I must say in this Assembly, if there is one Committee or department which is pushing hard and tough challenges it faces, it is the department of agriculture.

Two points I wanted to raise is on the issue of seedlings. We are doing very well on the seedlings but unfortunately, the quantities are too low. For example in my ward, I have 12 sub locations and four locations. The little I get hardly gets to the majority of the needy and I am forced to share the little I have to only widows.

I am requesting that we push for more and it will help us. The seedlings are good and because in Mwala we are pastoralists, please try to give us grass seedlings. I happen to have bought some for my farmers using my resources and I am very impressed by the quality of grass coming in now. So *Mheshimiwa* you need to see how you can give us more grass seedlings even if we are going to have a centre where we can show them how to do it because grass is growing very well and the beauty about it is that they are harvesting their own grass and it is becoming a good practice in my area.

I want to bring to your attention what *Mheshimiwa* Nziva has said. It is a pity that we have done four years. We gave out a list of cattle dips in our wards; personally, I have 24 in my ward and none has been rehabilitated. *Mheshimiwa*, at least push so that we can get one or two

cattle dips rehabilitated. I am sure you can talk to the relevant CECs to at least give us one or two cattle dips.

Hon. Speaker: *Mheshimiwa* Kisila, I read on the report that the cattle dips were left out of the CIDP, but remember that plan can be amended if an important aspect like dips has been left out. So, it is for Hon. Mitaa, and because of the mood of the Members here, to think about seeing how that amendment can be done and the soonest the better.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is a pity if it was left out but we have been passing that in many years. All the ADPs have been having cattle dips if I am not wrong and we have not gotten any.

My last point is on the tractors programme. I happen to have gone where the tractors are parked; some even in the sub-counties. Most of them are still in good shape but they are parked because of small spare parts.

Is there a way we can have private public partnerships? If for example, Mwala sub-county we can be given our tractor and we are told to buy the spares for our tractor and we partner with *wananchi* and instead of giving it for free, we find a way of partnering so that we can give out that contribution and we make the programme successful.

It is not good that most of the tractors are not in use and not serving us. I do not know where they are working and most of them if you go to the department of agriculture, you will find a lot of them parked there. So how can we rehabilitate and revive this programme so that our people can benefit?

You also realize that God is on our side because the rains are very good now. People in Mwala are planting now and the beauty about the weather forecast it is almost very accurate; they are projecting that the rains are there. So *Mheshimiwa* don't be waiting for twice a year; in the mid February *ukipata kidogo*, just send us so that we can start farming, and that also we can start ploughing our farms in good time for the long rains.

So, can you give us a report on the tractors and how we can work together with the department so that we can make sure that they are effective? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisila.

Hon. (Ms.) Kanini: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am a Member of this committee and a proud possessor of the report. I want to zero in on the issue of the tractors. Madam Speaker, it was clear from the Chief Officer that the tractors were purchased with a lot of money. They were very expensive and at the moment they have depreciated and after depreciating, the performance has gone down.

It also came to our notice that the tractors are grounded and this is a waste of resources that should be used in a more profitable exercise. It was the opinion of the committee that the tractors should be disposed of. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Rozina.

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have a good report but we need to improve on some issues like rearing chicks so that if we have a shortage in the department that is giving chicks, we should have a department in Machakos County which will do the same

practice so that our farmers can benefit more because they hold a great deal of improving the lives of the society. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. King'ori, what do you say about Artificial Insemination and livestock issues in your ward because you come from areas like Yatta, Mwala and Masinga where there is livestock keeping?

Hon. King'ori: I do not want to speak of Mwala about Artificial Insemination because it has been dealt with by some Members but what I can improve on it is that in my birthplace, we have been practicing this since birth—

Hon. Speaker: Now we are talking of Muthwani.

Hon. King'ori: That is where I am coming to Madam Speaker. I want to say I have a lot of knowledge in Artificial Insemination; when I am talking of AI, I am not guessing because I know what benefits we get from it. We also need to have another department only dealing with AI so that we can improve our agriculture in animal husbandry.

It is good we are starting to see changes in Machakos after devolution which is a success of devolution and if we continue in that direction, we will improve and compete with other counties on our animals and chick rearing. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. King'ori. Hon. Constance Mbula.

Hon (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am a member of the agriculture committee and I want to say as you saw in the report, it was well put; what we did is what you have heard. However, we had some areas with a lot of challenges. For example, I have heard Hon. Nziva talk about cattle dips and I thought we had also put that in the report well.

However as we went round, those cattle dips were vandalized most of them and whatever was left, even the materials had been taken away in most areas and so the ground---

Hon. Speaker: Point of information from Hon. Kisila

Hon. Kisila: Madam Speaker, I tend to disagree with what *Mheshimiwa* is saying; most of the cattle dips are in very good state. In fact, you cannot believe they were constructed by Hon. Mulu Mutisya over 40 years ago and they are still in a very good state. We only need a budget of Ksh. 200,000 to Ksh. 300,000 and they will be working.

I can invite the committee to all the cattle dips in my ward. They only need a minimum budget of Ksh. 200,000 to Ksh. 300,000 and this is not something to talk about new cattle dips.

Hon. Speaker: *Mheshimiwa* Kisila, maybe what *Mheshimiwa* Constance is talking about the vandalism is just the timber because it would have died because of the weather. So, the holes are still there, they hardly get vandalized.

Hon. Kisila: Where the cows jump; the dip itself. It is a pity that we cannot repair these cattle dips and if you come to Mwala, rearing cows is a very serious business for our people but

ticks and other diseases are messing the quality of our cows because of lack of cattle dips. So, the lines she was trying to pursue of the cattle dips being in a bad shape, I disagree. We only need minimum rehabilitation. If we can be given a budget of Ksh. 200,000 to Ksh. 300,000, it can be done, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: We hear you and we see the passion in you about cattle dips. *Mheshimiwa* Constance, can you finalize?

Hon (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What I meant is that the iron sheets have fallen in most of the cattle dips, the structure and simply because they cannot be used, that is why I said they are not in good shape. Me and my team we went round and saw that. In other areas, I can assure you that we even found in some that the land has been taken by churches and they are also converting them to take title deeds and we alerted the Chiefs and they are trying to avoid that.

However, what we need is not so much but that also needs a budget and those cattle dips have been there for a very long time without use and most of the people where the land is not so big, they have reduced the cattle to zero grazing; if you have 10 of them you don't need to go to that cattle dip.

The other thing is about the quarter acre programme; that must be doing very well. However, the few that we have, people have tested and have seen it grow. On chicks, people are happy and it is helping them to transact.

Madam Speaker, about tractors, I know we all want our farms to be prepared very well so that we can get a good harvest but from the look of things, tractors will not be able to serve every person and somehow, we had come to a conclusion that if the government can make it, many people would want to be funded to have the plough, because you only need two bulls to do it. Those who do not have chunks of land and the ploughing will save money and help them a lot.

I want to congratulate my Chairman for the report well done and wish whatever he requested will be done by the department of agriculture. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mbula, you can resume your seat but remember when you stood up to second the motion, I drew your attention to two ways of seconding a motion and proceeded to talk instead of just bowing and reserving your opportunity for talking but because I noted you are a Member of the committee, I used my discretion and I allowed you to talk.

Members, please learn on these techniques because I may tell you may not speak for a second time when you have a very important point. Most of the time, just bow when you are seconding; then you have preserved the opportunity to speak in details. Hon. Johana Munyao in the extended sitting.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with the report and applaud the committee for the good work. The report is very exhaustive and it gives various programmes which are meant to enhance food security in the county. In that case, I want to thank the committee which despite so many challenges ranging from the locusts and the like, they have been able to make follow up on all the programme.

Madam Speaker, I have realized in some of the programmes just to mention like the free seeds programme, I would say that we have it more organized such that we can conduct public participation, possibly identify some areas for demonstration plots where we can engage

farmers, bring them together, walk with them as they also keep their *shambas*. We share how we intend to make use of the seeds and project the yields expected from the quantities distributed. Whether it is per half an acre or an acre, we should be able to walk the farmers through so that they can appreciate the importance of getting such seeds and running away from the temptation of selling the same.

Madam Speaker, there is also another programme of fish farming which I don't think I saw it in the report and it is another important source of income and food security. I have seen two cases in my ward where such a programme was started without any participation and such arrangement lacks ownership.

The locals are not even able to tell the expected impact through such programme and through public participation, the concerned people can learn the behavior of a certain dam, how fast it dries up other than just coming and putting the fingerlings and then after a short while, there is the threat of the dam drying up.

So I would request in such programmes, we also conduct public participation we get to understand the nature of that dam, how long it takes to dry up, how we intend to harvest the fish and we get to enlighten the community on the importance of taking care of such projects.

Madam Speaker, on the tractor programme, we need to be very keen and see if the tractors are not able to serve us, we either call it off as a programme or outsource such services so that we can be able to address all the areas which require cultivation and preparation as we await rains.

Even when the programme was running, we realized we used to have the tractors start the programme a bit late. So, we need to be very keen with seasons; when do we distribute seedlings? When do we do the cultivation so that we are not caught up by time? I want to appreciate this report and at the same time imagine that the implementation of the recommendations which we have seen will be done perfectly because they are very nice and if actualized, I am sure we can have a department with the required impact. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Johana. The mover of the motion, please reply.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to congratulate my colleagues for supporting the report and seeing the importance of it. I would want to highlight a few issues which have been raised. It has been a challenge for this department because, as a committee, we have tried to narrow on some of these programmes but I must admit that the kind of response we are getting is not good, Hon. Speaker.

The issue of cattle dips that was my first assignment when I came to this Assembly and this House passed a report that we have cattle dips in all sub-counties, but it is unfortunate that it has not been implemented despite our constant follow-up.

Until late last year when that topic changed; I think there is a report I brought into this House and the response we got from our Chief Officer is that some of the monies which had been allocated for cattle dips had been re-allocated to repair Athi River abattoir and we queried why because Hon. Members have been pushing the Committee to have cattle dips operational in their wards.

If Hon. Members, remember very well especially elected Members, the ward administrators sometime back were tasked to identify two sites for fresh cattle dips. We even did public participation, but up to date, that issue has not been implemented and I would want to

request this House through your guidance, Madam Speaker, to organize for a sitting so that I invite my Chief Officer for Agriculture and especially on the livestock department, to come and explain to this House why this issue of cattle dips is becoming hard to implement because as Hon. Kisila has said, we have been passing budgets and those budgets have not been implemented in terms of cattle dips.

I now seek the help of this hon. House through your guidance. We have a Whole House sitting with our Chief Officer and explain to us the issue of cattle dips. We have been getting excuses every time we go.

(Applause)

Another issue is on the pastures as Hon. Kisila has stated and we have been pushing but again the response we got is that there was zero budget.

Hon. Johana has stated about fish programme; there is a report which is ready and I am supposed to table it as soon as possible because we worked on it early this year and it is ready because as Hon. Johana has stated, again we have some shortcomings on that programme. I want to be very clear that these programmes meant well for our people but unfortunately, in between, that intention has not been actualized, Madam Speaker.

You talk about free seeds; we get reports that in the first Assembly, Hon. Members were distributing a lot but whatever we are getting nowadays, sometimes I say it is not worth because it even leaves the Hon. Member with problems because you ask yourself, whom do you give and who do you leave out.

At the end of the day it is like they cause war between you and the electorates and we have been requesting; in fact, instead of giving twice, we give once so that the amount we give at that time at least can satisfy our people but now this break of you giving this time and again after a time is not adding up, Madam Speaker.

As a Committee we are trying to ensure that that department has programme which have tangible results and not just a programme on paper. We actually requested the Chief Officer to identify; we would rather have two instead of five but the two make impact on our people especially the programme of chicks, it has an impact on the ground but we are not helping the people because we are not giving them something which can have results.

So, Hon. Speaker, once in a while, I will be coming back to the House where we face those uphill tasks and request for your assistance and see whether we can have that department wake up. I know there is potential, but again let us get assistance on the side of the budget.

Every time we go back to them, they cry about budget; if we can work on our side and ensure there is no excuse from our side, then we will be heading somewhere and we will endeavor to improve on the livelihood of our people through the agriculture department and I know at the end of the day, we will smile about it. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mitaa

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, I note and you are aware of the importance of agriculture and particularly, it being a devolved function at the County Government and that lies squarely on your hands and you also know that once you improve agriculture, you are improving food

production and security; you are improving the health of the people and their income because they will be able to sell products from the agriculture and that way again, you are addressing the issue of insecurity because those who are well-fed will have little reason to cause insecurity of stealing from others or mugging them. So, we cannot ignore the issue of agriculture; it is a very weighty county matter.

On the reply by the mover of the motion, I heard him talk of the need to take the matter on a higher level particularly with the department and I just want to remind you Members that if you are faced, as a committee Chair or as Committee Members, are faced by a weighty matter of county importance where you feel you need a little help from the House, there is the General Oversight Committee which is a committee of the whole House and if you want, you can have the particular officer invited to that committee so that we can see what fruits can come from the particular department.

So, assistance is there, you can seek it so that you can then serve the people because I appreciate when you say some participation was done on cattle dips and then they are not implemented one or two years down the line, then it is a war that is waged on you and we see the way they do it at home. I also do my livestock in that manner and it is not effective. It is only when they are dipped then you find they are treated in a better way.

So, let us see what we can do because that is your oversight role; please play it effectively. Thank you very much, Hon, Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: At this point the sitting is adjourned. The House is going to reconvene on 16th February, 2021 at 2.30 p.m. Thank you, Hon, Members.

The House rose at 12.48 p.m.