

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 20th November, 2018

The House met at 2.49 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

ANNUAL CONTROLLER OF BUDGET REPORT 2017/18

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We have one Paper to be laid by Hon. Dominic Ndambuki.

Hon. Ndambuki: Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today, 20th November, 2018; the report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriation on the Annual Report of the controller of Budget for 2017/18

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

ANNUAL CONTROLLER OF BUDGET REPORT 2017/18

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We have three notices of Motion.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the Controller of Budget prepares a report in conformity with Article 228(6) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and Section 9 of the Controller of Budget (CoB) Act, 2016, which requires the Office of the Controller of Budget (OCOB) to submit to each House of Parliament a report on the implementation of the budgets of the National and County Governments every four months;

Aware that the report also satisfies Section 39(8) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, which requires the Controller of Budget to ensure that members of the public are provided with information on budget implementation;

Noting that the Committee on Budget and Appropriations main objective is to ensure that public funds are well-utilized and that the public realizes value for money in all government expenditure and that the basis of the Committee's execution of its mandate is annual and on special reports;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion that this House considers and adopts the report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriation on the Annual Report of the controller of Budget for 2017/18.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ndambuki. Hon. Peter Mutiso.

UTTERANCES BY THE GOVERNOR OF MACHAKOS

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Article 73 (1) (a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that authority assigned to a state Officer is a public trust to be exercised in a manner that;

- i. Is consistent with the purposes and objects of the Constitution.
- ii. Demonstrates respect for the people.
- iii. Brings honor to the Nation and dignity to the Office.
- iv. Promotes public confidence in the integrity of the Office.

Aware that H.E the Governor has on several occasions made public utterances that are demeaning to the Personality of the Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly of Machakos; Further aware that the Governor has also been using abusive words in reference to the Members of this Hon. House (*Clips to these utterances are available*).

Acknowledging that this amounts to abuse of office, Gross misconduct and gross violation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

Hon. Speaker, Section 13(1) of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 provides that “a person holding an elective position shall maintain the following ethical and moral requirement;

- a. Not engage in activities which amount to abuse of office.
- b. Accurately and honestly present information to the Public.
- c. Not engage into wrongful conduct in furtherance of personal benefit.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the Motion that the Assembly discusses and approves that the utterances by H. E the Governor of Machakos County be discussed by this house and appropriate action be taken by the following bodies;

- Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC).
- Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer (DCIO).
- Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).
- The Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutiso. Hon. Mark Muendo

NULLIFICATION OF POSITIONS HELD BY THREE OFFICERS AS COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Article 2(1) and (2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 states that the Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic of Kenya and that it binds all persons and state organs at both levels of the Government and that no person may claim or exercise state authority except as authorized under the Constitution;

Aware that the this the Committee on Public Appointments tabled a report on 8th November, 2017 in this Hon. House rejecting the nominations of Ms. Faith Syokau Wathome Kithu (MBS), Ms. Ruth Nduku Mutua and Ms. Naomi Mutie Kamala as County Executive Committee Members for lack of relevant qualifications for the portfolio nominated to pursuant to Section 9(2) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017;

Hon. Speaker, aware that H.E the Governor of Machakos appointed them when they had not been vetted and approved by the Assembly contrary to Article 179(2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and section 4 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017;

Hon. Speaker, cognizant of the fact the three aforementioned officers filed a petition at the High Court of Kenya at Machakos seeking amongst others a declaration that they satisfied the requirements set out in law for appointment as County Executive Committee Member via constitutional petition No.12 of 2017;

Aware that the ruling of the Court delivered on 5th November, 2018 nullified the positions held by the said officers as County Executive Committee members;

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the Motion that the Assembly discusses and resolves that;

1. The Officers vacates any offices they are holding illegally as the Court ruled on constitutional petition No. 12 of 2017;
2. The Officers be surcharged jointly with the appointing authority of any public funds received in terms of salaries and allowances;
3. Any contracts they may have entered into be cancelled with the resulting costs surcharged to them;
4. The resolution of this Hon. House be forwarded to the following bodies:
 1. Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).
 2. Controller of Budget (CoB).
 3. Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer (DCIO).
 4. Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).
 5. The Senate.
 6. Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

STATEMENT

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FOR 21ST TO 28TH NOVEMBER, 2018

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We have one Statement which I think will be done by Hon. Kiteng'u.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I stand under Standing Order 41(2)(a) where during the Statement Hour a Member of the House Business Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall for not more than ten minutes, present and lay on the table, a Statement informing the House of the business coming before the House.

Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met today 20th November, 2018 and balloted additional business for this week and business for the week of 27th to 28th November, 2018 pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151 as follows:

Wednesday, 21st November, 2018
Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Motion by Hon. Peter Joseph Mutiso, MCA Machakos Central Ward, that the Assembly discusses;

1. The Conduct of H. E the Governor of Machakos on his suitability to hold a state office.
2. The resolution of this Hon. House be forwarded to the following bodies;
 - Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC).
 - Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer (DCIO).
 - Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).
 - The Senate.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Motion by Hon. Mark Kimanthi Muendo, MCA Kinanie Ward, that the Assembly discusses and resolves that;

1. The Officers vacates any offices they are holding illegally as the Court ruled on Constitutional Petition No. 12 of 2017.
2. The Officers be surcharged jointly with the appointing authority of any public funds received in terms of salaries and allowances.
3. Any Contracts they may have entered into be cancelled with the resulting costs surcharged to them.
4. The resolution of this Hon. House be forwarded to the following bodies;
 - Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).
 - Controller of Budget (COB).
 - Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer (DCIO).
 - Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).
 - The Senate.
 - Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

Tuesday, 27th November, 2018

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- Report of Finance and Revenue Collection Committee on vetting of three Chief Officers by Hon. Stephen Mwanthi, Chairperson.
- Report of Transport and Public Works Committee on vetting of Chief Officers by Hon. Daniel Mbevi, Chairperson.
- Report of Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization Committee on vetting of Chief Officers by Hon. Cosmas Kieti, Chairperson.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

- Report of Health and Emergency Services Committee on vetting of Chief Officers by Hon. Cosmus Masesi, Chairperson.
- Report of Environment, Energy, Lands and Natural Resources Committee on vetting of Chief Officers by Hon. Robert Kisini, Chairperson
- Report of Agriculture Committee on vetting of Chief Officers by Hon. Moses Mitaa, Chairperson.

Wednesday, 28th November, 2018

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- Report of Justice and Legal Affairs Committee on vetting of Chief Officer by Hon. Moffat Maitha, Chairperson.
- Report of Tourism, Culture and Social Welfare Committee on vetting of Chief Officers by Hon. Betty Nzioki, Chairperson.

- Report of Education Committee on vetting of Chief Officer by Hon. Daniel Kiilu, Chairperson.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

- Report of Youth, Women, PWDs and Sports Committee on vetting of Chief Officer by Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu, Chairperson.
 - Report of Labour, Public Service and ICT Committee on vetting of the County Secretary and four Chief Officers by Hon. Francis Kalumu, Chairperson
- Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kiteng'u for that. Some observation I have made before we move ahead; the notice of motion which has been given by Hon. Peter Mutiso has in its resolution, what it wants is 'to give notice of the motion that the Assembly discusses and approves that;

1. The utterances by H.E. the Governor of Machakos County be discussed by this House and appropriate action be taken by the following bodies' which they have named the bodies there.

When I look at the summary, there is a mistake because the summary the motion by Peter Mutiso is talking about the conduct of His Excellency the Governor of Machakos on his suitability to hold a state office. I think those two are very different statements and I would like you correct and read as it is on the notice of Motion. Hon. Kiteng'u

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to repeat. Motion that the the Assembly discusses and approves that;

1. The utterances by H.E. the Governor of Machakos---

Deputy Speaker: Excuse; start with the date and time then you read.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you.

On Wednesday, Morning 21st November, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Motion that the Assembly discusses and approves that;

1. The utterances by H.E. the Governor of Machakos County be discussed by this House and appropriate action be taken by the following bodies;
 - Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).
 - Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer (DCIO).
 - Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).
 - The Senate.

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

MOTION

REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL TOUR TO TANZANIA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
(TAHA) ARUSHA

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one motion by the Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu MCA Upper Kaewa ward. Hon. Geoffrey.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, why are we applauding?

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Ooh, it is a maiden speech. Okay welcome, Hon. Member, thank you very much.

(Applause)

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker;

Hon. Speaker, that aware that 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, plant and animal disease control and irrigation;

Cognizant that building human and social capital through interactive forums is integral to strategic development because it leverages and multiplies impact by strengthening local partner organizations;

Remembering that on 13th to 19th May, 2018, some Members of the Committee on Agriculture visited Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), Arusha following an invitation that had earlier been received from the said organization;

Informed that Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) is an apex private sector organization that actively advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticultural industry in Tanzania;

Aware that in Kenya, horticulture industry is the fastest growing agricultural sub-sector and is ranked third in terms of foreign exchange earnings;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give Notice of Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report on educational tour to Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), Arusha.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to call upon Hon. Moffat Maitha to second the motion.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do support Mr. Speaker; I do second Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Moffat. Hon. Kamulu.

Hon. Kamulu: Report on Educational Tour to Tanzania Horticultural Association, (TAHA), Arusha November, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Hon. Speaker, Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) is an apex private sector member-based organization that actively advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticultural industry in Tanzania since its inception in 2004. TAHA works closely with producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products mainly in flowers, fruits, vegetables, horticultural seeds, spices and tubers.

The mission of TAHA is 'to develop and promote the Horticulture sector in Tanzania to become more profitable, sustainable, and participate more effectively in the development of the country.'

The Association safeguards the interests of the private sector and ensures that horticultural industry issues are well-mainstreamed in the national and international agenda. Since its inception in 2004, TAHA has successfully brought together the large scale professional operations and the many growers' groups and small holders into a single bloc with a single business oriented set of interests. This achievement has resulted in TAHA becoming the fastest growing farmer organization in the region.

Mr. Speaker, It is important to note that recognition of that accomplishment has brought the partnerships and support that are continuing to transform the industry. The Government of Tanzania and development partners such as USAID, BEST-AC, and the Royal Netherlands Embassy are all involved in supporting horticultural projects in partnership with TAHA .

Mr. Speaker, TAHA's main objectives include lobbying and advocacy for policy changes. Through this role, TAHA has successfully campaigned for numerous policy changes that have positively impacted the whole horticulture industry. For example, TAHA played a crucial role in persuading the government of Tanzania to waive the 18 % VAT which was placed on airfreight for horticultural goods and which was hindering Tanzanian businesses to become more competitive in the international market.

INVITATION FOR THE VISIT

Mr. Speaker, on 11th April, 2018, an invitation of some members of Agriculture committee, Machakos County Assembly was received in the office of the Clerk inviting them for an educational tour to TAHA. The objective of the visit was to;

1. To understand the horticultural production chain in Tanzania and how it can be applied in the Kenyan situation.
2. Find out what factors have made TAHA a focal point for dissemination of horticultural information.
3. To find out how Tanzania has utilized agricultural research in promoting agricultural production.
4. Determine how TAHA addresses challenges related to production and marketing of horticultural products.
5. Understand the role and process of production partnership.

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Speaker, the following were the participants who attended the educational tour:

1. Hon. Agatha Mutunga – Team Leader
2. Hon. Moffat Maitha – Asst. Team Leader
3. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu
4. Hon. Peter Mutiso
5. Hon. Winfred Mutua
6. Hon. Rozina Kanini
7. Luke Maingi – Technical Officer

AREAS VISITED

Mr. Speaker, the group was privileged to visit the following areas;

1. Tengecha and Arusha Horticultural Research Stations
2. Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) - Section for loading and offloading of horticultural products.
3. Tengecha Horticultural Institute.
4. Greenhouse Centres for TAHA.
5. Farmers demonstration plots sponsored by TAHA.

HORTICULTURE IN TANZANIA AND KENYA COMPARED

Mr. Speaker, the horticulture sub-sector in Tanzania has grown significantly in the last decade, but by volume still represents a small part of the overall agricultural industry. The sub-sector is growing fast at an annual rate of 6 to 10 % and has contributed to the country's export earnings.

Horticulture has made significant contribution to food security, nutrition improvements and economic growth. It is mainly practised by small scale farmers with a few large scale operators. The conducive warm climate, adequate infrastructure, proximity to markets, supporting technical institutions in Tanzania and neighbouring Kenya are some of the contributing factors that have favoured the growth of the sub-sector.

Tanzania started exporting horticultural products outside the region in the 1950s with the production of bean seed for sale in Europe. Perishable horticulture exports to Europe started in the 1970s following the success of Kenya's horticulture exports.

In Kenya, the horticulture industry is the fastest growing agricultural sub- sector and is ranked third in terms of foreign exchange earnings from exports after tourism and tea. Fruits, vegetable and cut flower production are the main elements of horticultural production in Kenya.

MOTIVATING FACTORS FOR INCREASING GROWTH OF HORTICULTURAL SECTOR IN TANZANIA

Mr. Speaker, the committee noted some motivating aspects that have encouraged growth of Horticultural sub sector in Tanzania;

High dependence on Kenya

Mr. Speaker, there is high dependence of large scale farmers and exporters from Kenya for importing inputs and exporting horticulture products. There was NO single farmer/exporter who was exporting 100 % of his/her products via Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) alone.

Instead they are all either combined with other airports such as Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) or exported entirely through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Kilimanjaro International Airport offers limited capacity and choice of planes to export their products to different destinations. Inputs such as fertilizers, packaging materials, chemicals and seeds are mainly sourced from Kenya.

Growing awareness for horticulture production potential

Mr. Speaker, there is generally a growing awareness of the potential of Arusha region in production of horticulture products. According to TAHA agronomists, there are more and more small scale farmers shifting and combining staple food production with horticulture production. Many are also shifting from coffee production or leasing their farms for horticulture production because in Tanzania, horticulture is perceived to generate more income than coffee.

Large number of initiatives and programs to increase productivity

Mr. Speaker, in Tanzania, there are increasing number of activities and programs to increase productivity in the sector. Experts mainly from private sector are conducting short courses to train farmers on best agricultural practices. For example, due to the increasing need, Tengeru research institute has been training at least 50 farmers every month in the whole country.

TAHA on the other hand together with other stakeholders has been organizing farmers' field days at least after every three months where farmers exchange information and ideas with other farmers about the high quality inputs and new technologies.

Increase in traders from Kenya

Mr. Speaker, there is an increase in the number of traders and investors in the horticulture industry especially in vegetables coming from Kenya to the areas of Arusha and Kilimanjaro which share a relatively similar climatic condition as in Kenya. They look for farmers that can grow on contract or sell their horticulture products at a farm gate price. This is seen as a strategic move to diversify risks related to the political instability in Kenya as witnessed in 2007/08 election crisis and frequent terrorist's attacks of Al Shabaab.

New agriculture technologies

Mr. Speaker, in Tanzania, there is a rapid spread of new agriculture technologies in the sector especially in vegetable production such as drip irrigation systems and the use of greenhouses (plastic covering). However, these technologies are not an option for small scale farmers because they are still expensive. Nevertheless, they are there and expanding rapidly.

Business Environment Strengthening in Tanzania—Advocacy Component (BEST-AC)

Mr. Speaker, this is a program funded by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN). Its main aim is to support business environment reforms through public-private initiatives in support of Tanzania's vision for economic growth through supporting private sector organizations to advocate for improved policy.

The Tanzania Horticultural Development Strategy 2012-2021

Mr. Speaker, this is a demand-driven initiative of the horticulture stakeholders to exploit the fast growing demand and market opportunities available in the national, regional and international markets. The horticulture sub-sector in Tanzania is growing fast at an annual rate of 6 to 10 % and has contributed to the country's export earnings.

KEY CHALLENGES TO HORTICULTURAL SECTOR

Mr. Speaker, despite the growing opportunities in horticultural sub-sector, the members learned some factors that often friction the sub-sector as stated below:

The value chain

Mr. Speaker, the value chain in Arusha's horticulture is characterized by last minute changes and quick actions and plans emanating from companies that are not having a fixed contract with JKIA. The companies wait for an opportunity if JKIA will have an available space for their products. Sometimes, JKIA makes last minute changes or even offloads products that were once loaded into the plane.

Time is the most valuable element of the value chain because of the product's perishability. A one day delay in transport might result into huge losses. Therefore, if products are offloaded from at JKIA, or at the last minute it is decided that there is no space, plans are made to quickly truck the products to other airports.

Dominance of small scale farmers

Mr. Speaker, horticulture industry in Arusha is dominated by small scale farmers especially in production of vegetables but in flower and flower cuttings production, large scale farmers are dominant. According to TAHA's agronomist, small scale farmers lack the skills and knowledge to produce horticulture crops because many of these horticultural crops are new or are only produced for local market hence difficult to produce to meet international quality standards.

Uncoordinated activities

Mr. Speaker, the dominance of small scale farmers in Arusha's horticulture value chain requires highly coordinated activities. For example, small scale farmers are highly dispersed and hardly work together. Due to small quantities produced by each farmer, say if an exporter company would want to buy 20 tons of tomatoes, he will have to travel around villages to different farmers to collect it. There are hardly collection centres where such volumes could be bought.

Acquisition of Land and related issues

Mr. Speaker, although Tanzania has large arable land for agriculture, land acquisition and its titling pace amount to a key limiting factor in realizing large scale farming. Sorting out land problems through land authorities and courts is often too time-consuming and challenging to Agricultural stakeholders.

THE PLACE OF HORTICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES IN TANZANIA

Mr. Speaker, Arusha horticultural training centre which was launched in 2015. It is equipped with greenhouses, drip irrigation system, nursery, pest management materials and training plots. It accommodates about 400,000 farmers from the northern region.

The centre serves as a platform from which farmers and other stakeholders such as students and lecturers are introduced to a wide range of horticultural practices and technologies.

This centre was established with close collaboration of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), USAID Tanzania Agriculture Productivity (TAPP) program and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFC). The centre is established in the efforts to improve productivity in the horticulture sector expected to address constraints such as high post-harvest losses, poor infrastructure, inadequate credit, vague markets, strict export standards and low levels of value addition among small holder farmers.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES LEARNED

Mr. Speaker, below is a summary of key issues learned:

1. There is high sensitivity in woodlands and water resource conservation in Tanzania. There are strict government policies that protect tree species and water resources that if a person breaks it can attract life sentence in jail. Because of this the team, observed that all rivers traversing Arusha town have very clean water for use and issues of poor garbage disposal in the towns are unheard.
2. There are strict policies governing acquiring and use of land whereby stringent procedures of clearance have been laid by the Tanzanian government. These measures have invoked discipline in the citizens and cases of land grabbing are rare.
3. Most of Tanzanian imports pass through Kenyatta International Airport and this has promoted Kenyan foreign exchange.
4. Tanzanian Horticultural Sector has established strong ties with international partners such as USAID, BEST-AC, The Royal Netherlands Embassy and Finnish Government. These players have promoted funding of the sector in addition to offering technological support.
5. Funding of agricultural research by both private partners and the Government of Tanzania is a priority. This has promoted technical knowledge, Agricultural productivity and increased GDP of the country.
6. There are initiatives for strengthening business environment by advocating for change of policies. This has encouraged entry of stakeholders in the Agricultural sector.
7. Horticultural sector has really contributed to poverty reduction in Tanzania through provision of food, employment and business opportunities. This was evident through the dominance of small-scale farmers in horticulture production which presents an opportunity for making an impact on poverty reduction efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker, based on the above observations the team recommends the County Government of Machakos to undertake the following:

1. Funding of Agricultural Research. Research work is one of the avenues which the County Government of Machakos can venture into to fight hunger, poverty and earn more revenue.

2. Promotion and building of awareness among farmers, traders, the government, consumers and the general public to exploit the product and market opportunities offered by the horticulture sub-sector.
3. Partner with development partners. This can play a complementary role to private and public finance, especially in facilitating or guaranteeing long-term financing options to smallholder farmers. Donor organizations and development banks have established various initiatives to finance the agricultural sector in Tanzania.
4. Promotion of Contract Farming (CF). Horticulture industry can benefit from contract farming by adopting and practising it. Contract farming (CF) is an agreement between two parties; a farmer/group of farmers and the buyer in farming business. Private sector participation can be promoted through contract farming arrangements to allow accelerated technology transfer, capital inflow and assured market for crop production.
5. Increase the number of qualified horticultural professionals so as to accelerate horticultural industry revolution. Moreover, building the capacity of horticultural associations, training and research institutions is fundamental to the development of the horticultural industry.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, sustainable social and economic development of the counties under the new decentralized dispensation in Kenya is highly dependent on improved performance and commercialization of smallholder agriculture. Despite efforts by the Government to increase on-farm productivity, there continues to be significant post-harvest value losses experienced at various stages of the marketing chain.

County governments need to step up efforts to improve the farm-to-market linkages through road infrastructure, improved transport services, common storage, and value addition infrastructure.

In addition, there is need for appropriate regulatory interventions to make the marketing system more transparent so that it can deliver equitable value and benefits to all the players across the chain.

These efforts require collaboration of various sectors across the national and county government spheres, the private sector, the smallholder farmers and their associations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu.

(Question proposed)

You may debate on the Motion Hon. Members. Hon. Fredrick.

Hon. Muthoka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me thank this team which was led by Bishop, Hon. Agatha. This is a good recommendation on funding of agricultural research. As a County, I think it is the high time we think of funding research. I was there at ATC with some Members and we had time with the workers and Principal there. These people have 600 acres but what they are using now is only 20 acres and there is no much activity going on there.

I think it is the high time as a County we put more money on research and we help our farmers. Also creating awareness, those people have trees there, mango trees, avocado trees but our members do not know and they are being given at no cost. So, it is also good as a County we promote awareness to our farmers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Fred. Hon. Moffat Maitha.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also wish to thank the team which visited

Arusha on the invitation of this Association. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank TAHA for having providing free transport to the Members to visit all these places we visited. I also want to encourage or request our County Government to do as what Mheshimiwa Muthoka said, to put a lot of money for research because without research, many of the things we saw in Arusha cannot happen here in our Country.

Mr. Speaker, there in Tanzania, the policy of the Tanzanian Government is to first of all provide for its people before they export to the outside Countries and if we can have such Centers like these ones when we know our County is somehow semi-desert, in fact it can generate a lot of food for our people.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, it is to talk about taking care of the forests. In Tanzania, you do not just cut a tree because you want to cut it. That cutting of the tree can make you be imprisoned for life and if you want to have water for agriculture, we should take care of our forests; we should increase the coverage so that we can have enough rain in our County so that we can have enough food or crops for our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Moffat Maitha. Hon. Judas Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to commend the Hon. Member who has brought this report. Mr. Speaker, when he was standing he was marching to come and read; you heard Members clapping for him. This is a commendable job. In fact, this is the second team which has been travelling abroad to bring reports to this Hon. House and I would urge other Committees; once we retreat let us have combined report we table before this House.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendations here are excellent starting with recommendation number one which is very elaborate. It is talking about research; in our county we just say let us go to our shamba and plant, we do not do research to know what exactly do we need to plant. We do not even investigate or have our soils tested to know this soil is good for this crop.

The only difference between us and our neighboring farmers in Tanzania, they do not just go to the shamba blindly, they do research. So if we can emulate that I am very sure Machakos County will be somewhere.

Recommendation number two is about capacity building; farmers are trained to know exactly what they are supposed to do and timing and the type of crop to be planted so that recommendation is also good. The other issue, Mr. Speaker, is about recommendation number three and it means that according to this report, this is not a journey for one person. It is a journey which has many partners or players. We have advisors, financiers and we have other players.

In Kenya you just decide to go and plant maize alone and you do not share with other people so you can get advice. Mr. Speaker, if we can emulate this, I am very sure we will address one of the key agendas of our President that is going to ensure that we have food security.

The other issue, Mr. Speaker, is about marketing. According to this report there is what we call or what they are telling us there is an agreement; as you go to plant what you are going to plant you are assured of where you are going to sell because somebody has provided seeds and your task is just to go and plant and make sure the crops grow well. Once you harvest you are assured of where to sell.

Mr. Speaker, in our County the last two months tomatoes were going one crate at Ksh. 150 and in most cases people were not selling those tomatoes; suppose we had this plan like Tanzania, I am very sure our farmers who incurred a lot of losses or who invested a lot in farming and what they got is less than what they spent.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is the best way to go; if we can adopt this report and ensure that the recommendations are followed up to the last word, I am sure that agenda of food security is going to be addressed and I am very sure our farmers will be stable, they will be able to educate their kids, they will be able to stand for themselves and stop begging for what we call relief food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Moses Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First, I want to applaud my colleagues from agriculture committee who visited Tanzania and came up with a very elaborate report on issues which can help our County become self-sustaining in food matters. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of agriculture committee, I undertake to ensure that all these recommendation are fulfilled to the letter Mr. Speaker, because I think our county is blessed to have an agricultural training center at Machakos, we also have Katumani which also is involved in advancing maize seedlings to fit the climatic area of our area.

We are also blessed to have a university in the name of Machakos University which I think we can partner with and see that they start issues to do with agriculture so that our children from within can come and learn on issues on how we can improve on agricultural matters within our county, Mr. Speaker.

Again I think it is also highest time we took long term investment on agricultural matters because Mr. Speaker, you know we neighbor a very important output in the name of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and we have ready markets; recently Kenya Airways has started flying to America we can make good use of that market since that within proximity to JKIA.

We also have the Chinese market. We saw recently that they signed a contract to do with avocado farming and I think we can make good use of these opportunities. Again Mr. Speaker, I think also Mr. Speaker, we need to embrace this issue of public, private partnership. We have seen how some organizations have been able to fund farmers from Tanzania and I think if we can adopt the same within our county this can be good Mr. Speaker.

As much as we ensure there is food security in our county it also opens a room for our people to earn a living. So, Mr. Speaker, I support this report and again as the chairman agriculture committee I will ensure that we implement these recommendations to the letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Rozina.

Hon. (Ms.) Kanini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was among the team that visited TAHA. First, I would like to thank Hon. Agatha; she led the team and we were overjoyed. I would also wish to thank the TAHA for hosting us; they took us round and made us feel at home. It is my hope that the TAHA report is going to be implemented by our county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me time. I want to comment on the report which is well educative. First I want to thank the coordinator Almasi and also the team which went there. This report is very educative we can see that they had very serious business there and one of the things I want to say is if we at Machakos emulate what is being done there more especially by this TAHA and if we bring our farmers like we have read they have over 400,000 farmers who have been brought together and who get aid from DANIDA, who get aid or partner with the Swedish aid, UK Embassy and so forth and so our farmers can benefit a lot.

There is also the full sustainability here; we have such a group coming together, being trained and our farmers being trained this question of food reliance or being given food donated by the government will be past tense. By that we always hear of relief food which is given to our farmers, to our people. If we had such a good organization like this whereby farmers are trained and get assistance we will not get any relief food from anybody.

So on top of that, there is also foreign exchange which can be earned by our county when they bring this food or when we sell outside we will be earning and to me there is also some job

creation. In such a big magnitude of farming, there is a lot of job creation which we can get so I want to applaud this group that went there, the report and see to it that we get that technology from that place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I now call upon the mover of the motion to respond to the motion please.

(Applause)

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank our team leader Hon. Agatha and your Deputy Hon. Moffat and also the members who went to Tanzania and I appreciate you for giving me an opportunity to present the report on your behalf. I also want to thank you members because of your contributions; it is my hope that our recommendations will be implemented for the betterment of our county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(Question put and agreed to)

Now that this House has adopted the report, I would like to just do two comments before we move on. The first one is there is need and this is just information especially to committee members, if your report is being read in the House, then that committee whose report is being read in the House, make sure you are in the House and you do not leave the House.

(Applause)

It would be unfortunate if you are a member of a committee and you went and did a report and then the report is being read in the House, you are not there and the report is thrown away for lack of quorum while you are a member of that committee and you decided not to be present when the report of the committee was being read. You need to take ownership of your reports and make sure that you stay with the report until the report is read and adopted by the House. It is important as you are a member of the committee.

Several things which have come out of the recommendations which have been made; I just want to mention a few. The first one you have talked about contract farming which the Hon. Member here has talked about which is marketing. Most of our farmers do not seem to understand that there is actually something called contract farming so most of them are farming blindly.

You go and cultivate for example, I cultivate maize and when I cultivate maize I normally get seeds from KARI, I will plant maize of KARI but when I harvest the maize KARI will buy the entire lot and they will buy at a very good price so contract farming needs to be encouraged a lot and sensitization of our people to note that there is contract farming outside there which can be able to benefit them.

We need to put funds where they are going to bring us most returns; you have heard about research to ensure that we get the best out of horticulture and other farming in puts. You have heard about common storage; we are talking about building or constructing different fruit factories and these other things. What we could actually need are cold rooms properly placed within the county for farmers to be able to store their produce as they await a market.

If you put a cold storage facility in Masinga and all the farmers in that area, when it is time for mangoes they take there, they have stored in a cold area before they are transported. That could be able to bridge and stop our people from selling away their perishables due to lack of storage facilities.

Also you have heard about professionalism; let us try and get enough trained agricultural field officers to train our people and I think the report is very good and if adopted as members have said it should be able to serve our people and I believe the secretariat will be able to deliver the report to the executive on the same and urge them to take note of the.

Obviously, urging the implementation committee 60 days from today you need to touch base with the executive and find out how far has this implementation of this report being done 60 days from now. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: This House stands adjourned to Wednesday the 21st day of November, 2018; that is tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. Enjoy your evening.

The House rose at 4.00 p.m.