

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 27th March, 2018

The House met at 10.03 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

STATUS OF CATTLE DIPS IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Good morning members, under this Order, we have one Paper to be laid by the Hon. Moses Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House today Tuesday, 27th March, 2018; the report of Committee on Agriculture on the Status of cattle dips in Machakos County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one notice of motion which again is going to be done by the Hon. Moses Mitaa.

STATUS OF CATTLE DIPS IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker;

That aware that the Mission for the Department Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Machakos County is to promote innovative, commercially oriented and modern agriculture through development and enactment of enabling legal framework;
Further aware that on Wednesday, 13th December, 2017, a motion on rehabilitation and construction of cattle dips, one in each location within the County was tabled in this House and was committed to this committee for investigation and reporting;
Remembering that in 1991 management of cattle dips was privatized by the Government whereby the community was given the mandate to run dips;
Aware that management of communal dips started collapsing after the handing over to the community;
Cognizant that pursuant to Standing Order 190(5) (a) the functions of a sectoral Committee shall be to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to

the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;

Informed that on 16th and 17th February, 2018 the committee conducted a fact finding mission in selected cattle dips within the County;

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the committee on Agriculture on the status of cattle dips in Machakos County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Moses Mitaa for that notice of motion. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

STATEMENT

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FROM 27TH TO 28TH MARCH, 2018

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this Order, we have one Statement listed, which is on the statement on business of the house as presented by the house business committee and is supposed to be presented by the Hon. Majority Leader and in his absence is going to be presented by the Hon. Judas Ndawa. Hon. Judas.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to represent or to hold brief on behalf of the Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 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.

Mr. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on 26th March, 2018 and balloted business for this week pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151 as follows:-

Tuesday, 27th March, 2018

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Report of Committee on Agriculture on rehabilitation of cattle dips in the County by Chairperson, Agriculture committee Hon. Moses Mitaa.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Motion on construction of public toilets in Kiosyoni, Kalukuni and Kimangu markets in Kithimani Ward by Hon. Francis Kitheka.

Wednesday, 28th March, 2018

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Report of County Assembly Service Board (CASB) on approval of the 4th and 5th Member of the Board by Vice Chairperson, CASB Hon. Caleb Mutiso.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Motion on upgrading of all feeder roads within a radius of 10 km from Machakos town to murram status by Hon. Paul Museku.

Motion on Adjournment for short recess 29th March to 9th April, 2018.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon Speaker: Thank you Hon. Judas Ndawa for the statement. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Members, under this order we have one motion by the Hon. Moses Mitaa chairperson committee on agriculture.

STATUS OF CATTLE DIPS IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That aware that the Mission for the Department Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Machakos County is to promote innovative, commercially oriented and modern agriculture through development and enactment of enabling legal framework;
Further aware that on Wednesday, 13th December, 2017, a motion on rehabilitation and construction of cattle dips, one in each location within the County was tabled in this House and was committed to this committee for investigation and reporting;
Remembering that in 1991 management of cattle dips was privatized by the Government whereby the community was given the mandate to run dips;
Aware that management of communal dips started collapsing after the handing over to the community;
Cognizant that pursuant to Standing Order 190(5)(a) the functions of a sectoral Committee shall be to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
Informed that on 16th and 17th February, 2018 the committee conducted a fact finding mission in selected cattle dips within the County;
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the committee on Agriculture on the status of cattle dips in Machakos County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request Hon. Agatha to second the motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutunga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the motion by hon. Mitaa the chairperson of the agriculture committee.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Moses and Hon. Agatha. Hon. Moses, you may proceed.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would want to present to the Assembly a report on the status of cattle dips in Machakos County; a report prepared by a committee on agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the Livestock sub sector in Kenya accounts for 10 per cent of the entire GDP and 42 per cent of agricultural GDP. The sub sector employs 50 per cent of the agricultural sector labour force according to National Livestock Policy Kenya, 2008.

The practice of dipping in Kenya started in 1912 when the first dips were constructed. However, tick control became a national concern after the enactment of Tick Control Act, Cap 358, in 1938.

In 1977, the government took over the management of the communal cattle dips to increase effectiveness and then highly subsidized dipping charges. This continued up to 1986 when, under the influence of Bretton Woods Institutions, the government effected the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) and privatized the tick control services. In 1991, management of cattle dips was privatized by the Government whereby the community was given the mandate to run dips.

Unfortunately, low private sector participation led to poor service delivery and compromised livestock productivity. The management of communal dips started collapsing after the handing over to the beneficiaries. According to the 2008/2012 Strategic Plan of the department of Veterinary Services, the number of working dips decreased from 4,800 in July, 1991 to 608 by June, 2011 in Kenya.

Ticks are generally regarded as ectoparasites that cause the greatest economic losses to livestock production. The economic impact of ticks and diseases they transmit is enormous. They cause diseases, many of which result in unthriftiness, anaemia and even death. In 2015, Kwale County Government revived 21 cattle dips worth Ksh. 50.1 million with the ultimate aim of helping farmers to improve animal health by boosting their productivity and immunity.

These dips were constructed and rehabilitated in different parts of the County and acaricides provided to farmers in addition to training them on how to manage the dips. Committees were also formed to educate all livestock farmers on the need to use the dips to prevent diseases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 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).

Mr. Speaker sir, the committee on Agriculture comprises of the following Honorable members;-

Hon. Moses Mitaa – Chairperson
Hon. Constance Nzioki – V/Chairperson
Hon. Agatha Mutunga
Hon. Benedette Musyoka
Hon. Eric Musembi
Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu
Hon. Joshua Nzuki Muli
Hon. Michael Mutiso
Hon. Moffat Maitha
Hon. Nicholas Mutuku
Hon. Paul Nyanzi
Hon. Rozina Kanini
Hon. Tariq Mulatya

In December, 2013 during the launch of livestock, slaughter and tannery project in Wamunyu market by the Machakos County Government and a local industrialist Rao of Alpharama Company Ltd, the sitting CEC for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries at that time Mr. Larry

Wambua said that Machakos County Government will invest Ksh. 20 million for the refurbishment of community cattle dips to benefit livestock farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, On Wednesday 13th December, 2017, a Motion on rehabilitation and construction of cattle dips, one in each location within the County was tabled in the House by the Chairman, committee on Agriculture. The motion was discussed and approved after which it was committed to the committee on Agriculture for further investigation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 16th February, 2018 and 17th February, 2018, the Committee visited selected cattle dips located in various wards within Machakos County. The terms of reference of the committee were:

1. To visit selected cattle dips within the County.
2. To observe the current status of those dips.
3. To interview dip users on factors that led to their failure.
4. To get information on the wishes of the public as pertains rehabilitation.
5. To recommend on interventions that may be applied to rescue the dying enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Article 6(2) of the Constitution recognizes the existence of two-level government, the national and county level which though distinct and inter-dependent must conduct their mutual relations based on consultation and cooperation.

Section 30 of part 1 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution provides that Veterinary Policy is a function of the national government while agricultural including plant and animal disease control and animal control and welfare including facilities for the accommodation, care and burial of animals is a function of the county governments as set out in section 1(d) and 6(b) of part two of the fourth schedule of the Constitution.

Further, Section 4 of the Cattle Cleansing Act provides as follows as regard to the declaration of Cattle Cleaning areas by the Minister; 'where a Provincial Agricultural Board has recommended to the Minister that any area within the province for which that Board is established should be a cattle cleansing area, the Minister may, if he is satisfied that it will be of general benefit to the stock owners in the area to do so, by notice in the Gazette declare that area, or any part thereof to be a cattle cleansing area.'

Section 12(1) and (2) makes provisions of how the national government can partner with the county government to provide dipping tanks or spray races as follows;

1. The Minister may provide dipping tanks or spray races in suitable places for the common use of cattle owners and may charge such fees for the cleaning of cattle in such tanks as may be prescribed in that behalf under the Animal Diseases Act (Cap. 364).
2. In cattle cleansing areas, the Minister may require local authorities to provide dipping tanks or spray races for the common use of cattle owners within areas under the control of such local authorities and such local authorities may charge the fees prescribed by subsection (1) of this section for the cleaning of cattle in such tanks or spray races.

Madam Speaker, in the various Wards visited, the table below is a summary of the findings on the status of dips. The committee used their own observation to collect data in addition to interviewing of respondents around the dip area.

A sample of 29 dips was chosen. Attached behind is a list of all cattle dips within the County.

S/ N	Name of Dip	Ward	Land	Existence/ Condition of the Dip Structure	Functionality of the Dip	Tick control method used currently	Current Frequency of tick control by the respondent
1	Kaliambu	Muthetheni	Available	Fair	Not operational since 1995	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
2	Mililuni/ Uvaini	Wamunyu	Available	Good	Not operational since 1999	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
3	KwaSyowai	Mbiuni	Available	Good	Not operational since 1998	Spray at home	Once in a month
4	Kituneni	Mbiuni	Available	Good	Not operational since 2005	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
5	Ndovoini	Masinga Central	Available	Good	Not operational since 2002	Spray at home	Once per month
6	Katothya	Masinga Central	Available	Destroyed	Not operational since 1990's	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
7	Kitangani	Masinga Central	Available	Good	Not operational	spraying	Once per month
8	Katangi	Katangi	Available	Good	Not operational	spraying	Once in two weeks
9	Kivunga	Ikombe	Available	Good	Operational	spraying	Once in two weeks
10	Ndalani	Ndalani	Available	Good	Not operational	spraying	Once in a month
11	Mumina	Kithimani	Available	Good	Not operational	spraying	Once per week
12	Kaliluni	Upper Kaewa	Available	Dilapidated	Not operational	Spraying at home	Once per week
13	Kyamwee	Upper Kaewa	Available	Fair	Not operational	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
14	Kathalani	Upper Kaewa	Land is under conflict	Fair	Not operational	Spray at home	Once per week

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of order on a report. Yes, you may continue.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Spraying at home; there is spraying and spraying at home. When you say spraying and spraying at home, we need to make the difference because there some which are not operational spraying then not operational spraying at home.

Hon. Ngunga: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of order Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Ngunga: Thank you Mr. Speaker; good morning, members. I think the Hon. Member is actually disorderly because the member was reading the report and has not finished the report and therefore what you are doing you are pre-empting what you are going to discuss. So, Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I was waiting for somebody to do exactly that. You may proceed; I think Hon. Angela, you are guided accordingly. Proceed.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to remind you that it is not Hon. Agatha but Hon. Angela so I wish to thank majority for wise intervention. I beg to continue. I was at number 15.

15	Kathiani	Kathiani	Available	Fair	Not operational	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
16	Emwea	Masii	Land under conflict	Good	Not operational	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
17	Kyaitha	Masii	Available	Fair	Not operational	Spray at home	Once per week
18	Katheka	Masii	Available	Good	Not operational	Spray at home	once per week
19	Kwakilui	Masii	Available	Good	Not operational	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
20	Isinga	Kangundo	Land grabbed by RGC church	Fair	Not operational	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
21	Kitanga	Mua	Grabbed by Kitanga catholic church	The roof was removed	Abandoned	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
22	Kaseve	Mua	On the land a dam was constructed	Not in existence	Not in existence	Spray at home	Once in two weeks
23	Muthwani	Muthwani	Catholic	Was	Not in	Spray at home	Once in two

			dispensary build on the land Also beacons have been inserted on the land	demolis hed	existence		weeks
24	Kyaani	Mua	Kyaani Sec. School build there	Was demolis hed	Not in existence	Spray	Once in a week
25	Mwangang a	Kathiani	available	Was demolis hed	Not in existence	Spray	Once in two weeks
26	Ngiini	Kathiani	available	Was abandon ed	Not in use	Spray	Once in two weeks
27	Ngoleni	Kathiani	available	Was abandon ed	Not in use	Spray	Once in two weeks
28	Yakamete	Machakos	available	Was demolis hed	Not in existence	Spray	Once in two weeks
29	Ngelani	Machakos	available	Good only requires minor repairs	Not operational	Spray	Once in two weeks

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the above data it can be deduced that;

- i) Dips failed from 1991 after the privatization plan by the National Government which channeled management of dips to the community.
- ii) The parcels of land where the dips were located are still there but few have either been grabbed or are under conflict. Also change of user has been done for the grabbed parcels of land.
- iii) Most dips are currently not in operation, others have been demolished and farmers have opted to control ticks by spraying their cattle at home.
- iv) Generally, the current condition of these dips is fair and so they can be renovated at minimum cost.
- v) The frequency of spraying the cattle ranges from one to two weeks.
- vi) In Masinga, Yatta and Mwala Sub-counties, farmers keep the indigenous type of cattle and most livestock farmers have more than seven heads of cattle. This is due to availability of land and pasture.

- vii) In Kangundo, Kathiani and Machakos sub-counties, farmers keep the exotic (grade cows) through zero grazing method due to lack of land. The number of grade cows kept is also limited because of the cost of production.
- viii) Some cattle dips were rehabilitated by NGOs for instance Syowai dip in Mbiuni ward was rehabilitated in 2013 by INADES FORMATION but the organization only rehabilitated the collecting yard. The dip was used for a short time then abandoned since it was leaking.

Response from the public

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members of the public confessed that:

1. The role Livestock farmers was to present cattle for dipping and promptly pay dipping fees, Contribute towards dip repairs, cleaning, clearing of the compound and provision of water, Electing dip committee which was to coordinate collection and banking of dipping fees, purchase of acaricides, keeping of proper dipping records, writing reports and inviting farmers to management meetings.
2. Dipping as a method of tick control is better than hand spraying since the animal is fully immersed in the acaricide. In this case, ticks that hide in the ears and under hooves can be controlled.
3. The dips were run by a committee from the community around.
4. Lack of support from the community was the one contributor of decline of dips. This is because some farmers opted to spray animals at home complaining of long distance to the dip and dipping charges.
5. Lack of support from the Government also contributed to decline of dips. This is because the Government through Extension Officers did not monitor concentration of the acaricide making it ineffective in tick control. This made most farmers to pull out.
6. Change of livestock type from indigenous type to exotic type. Most farmers who kept grade cattle feared that taking their cattle for dipping could likely lead to disease contamination. In this case they opted to do spraying at home.
7. The number of cattle heads have decreased to an average of 5 due to unavailability of pasture. In 1990s most farmers could keep up to 20 heads of cattle. This large number of cattle could only be served by dipping but not spraying.
8. On average one head of cattle was charged Ksh. 5. This money was used to purchase acaricide.
9. High operational expenses made it hard for the committee to run the dips.
10. The dip compounds are currently being used for vaccination of cattle and dogs. According to the report of ADP for Machakos County for 2016/2017, 107,000 animals were vaccinated against Foot and Mouth and Black Quarter diseases in addition to 56,000 chicken at a cost of Ksh. 24 million.
11. Livestock farmers gave diverse opinions that the land for those dips can be utilized to construct either polytechnics or ECD centres. Others were of the opinion that the dips need to be revived again.
12. Since the time farmers stopped control of ticks from dipping to spraying at home, the number of cattle heads dying from tick-related diseases have increased because most farmers rarely spray their cattle or if they do, the acaricide concentration is too low to control ticks.

Response from the Chief Officer, department of agriculture

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 1st March, 2018, the committee invited the Chief Officer and the Director of livestock to a meeting held in Sunstar hotel Nairobi to respond on the plans the Dept has laid to save these crucial livestock structures (dips) from dying.

The Chief Officer informed the committee that for the last two financial years, the department had no budget to finance cattle dips and that the budget allocation for agriculture was low and so dips could not be given a priority in the allocation. The Officer added that the department is aware that most cattle dips have not been in operation from the time they were privatized.

The committee was notified that the department has planned to put a sufficient budget for dips in this financial year to rehabilitate them and also use its extension officers to monitor the acaricide concentration.

The members were also informed that the extension officers will train the committees and work with them to ensure that dips become functional again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the matter of land, the officer said that parcels of land were grabbed when dips became non-operational opening a loophole to opportunists. The committee was promised that the department will do what is required to have the ownership of the grabbed parcels of land streamlined.

Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, Sir, based on all the above stated observations the committee hereby recommends as follows;

1. That construction of one cattle dip in each location within Machakos County as per the motion tabled on 13th December, 2017 may not be attainable. This is because basing on the general livestock survey in Machakos County, only Masinga, Yatta, Mwala, Kathiani Sub-counties and Kalama ward have a substantial number of cattle heads that can warrant establishment or rehabilitation of dips.
The other areas the number is low and farmers prefer zero grazing method which matches well with spraying at home. Basing on this observation the committee therefore recommended that rehabilitation of one cattle dip in each location be done only in Masinga, Yatta, Mwala, Kathiani Sub-counties and Kalama ward.
2. That livestock sector in Machakos County forms one of the forefront economic activities which has enabled residents of Machakos County do business and get money, pay fees, pay dowry and that livestock keeping forms part of culture of Kamba community. The County Government of Machakos in 2018/2019 should therefore allocate sufficient funds for rehabilitation of dips in the above stated areas in order to reduce livestock deaths resulting from ticks, encourage farmers to invest in livestock sector and also maintain the Kamba culture of keeping livestock.
3. Pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Constitution and County Governments Act Sections 94, 95 and 96, there is need for the County Government of Machakos to do thorough public participation to sensitize the residents of Machakos on the merits of dipping as a tick control measure and also the need to embrace community projects and facilities.
4. Pursuant to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, matters of planning, land surveying and mapping, boundaries and fencing are functions of County Government. The

Department of agriculture should immediately investigate on the grabbed parcels of land reserved for dips in the County.

Further, it should invoke the provisions of Section 155(1) of Land Act, 2012 which provides that any person who, without express or implied lawful authority or without any right or license, under customary or statutory land law occupies or erects any building on any public land, clears, digs, ploughs, cultivates, or grazes animals over, any public land or part of it shall be taken to be in unlawful occupation of that land.

5. In the physical plan of a cattle dip, there is provision of a chemical store. Further, low acaricide concentration and poor response of farmers in paying dipping fee were observed to be some of the factors that discouraged farmers from using dip facility. Just the way the County Government of Machakos is providing subsidized seeds to farmers, in 2018/2019 there is need to purchase and regularly supply livestock farmers with proper acaricides that can efficiently control ticks.
6. The Department of agriculture should administer appointment of dip committees, then facilitate training of committee members in order to empower them with veterinary skills and also make them responsible to protect and manage this community facility, that is the dips.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rationale behind devolution was to transfer the power and responsibility from central to County governments in the spirit of empowering citizens by empowering their local leaders with responsibility, resources and capacity to advance political democratization, promote economic and political growth as provided in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya.

Cattle dips are run by the community and it is pleasure to bestow our people with this service so that they feel part and participants in governance. Plunge dipping remains the most efficient and economic method for periodically treating a very large number of animals against ticks, flies, mites, lice and other external parasites. But plunge dipping needs a substantial investment for its construction and once built any modification can be expensive.

For this reason, most areas have only one dip, to which all animals have to be brought, sometimes from quite a distance, which can be time consuming and laborious. In order for the County Government of Machakos to realize one of its goals of providing employment and promoting the spirit of devolution there is need for the Government to intervene to rescue some of its entities that are collapsing due to managerial or financial constraints.

It is therefore my privilege and pleasure on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture to table before this Hon. House the report on the status of cattle dips in Machakos County for discussion and adoption.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. This report was read and adopted by the following committee members as indicated below.

1. Hon. Moses Mitaa
2. Hon. Constance Nzioki
3. Hon. Agatha Mutunga
4. Hon. Benedette Musyoka
5. Hon. Eric Musembi
6. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu

7. Hon. Joshua Nzuki Muli
 8. Hon. Michael Mutiso
 9. Hon. Moffat Maitha
 10. Hon. Nicholas Mutuku
 11. Hon. Paul Nyanzi
 12. Hon. Rozina Kanini
 13. Hon. Tariq Mulatya.
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Moses Mitaa for that report.

(Question proposed)

You may debate on the report, members. Hon. Judas Ndawa?

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to support the report which has been tabled by Hon. Mitaa. I also want to congratulate the committee which took part of their time to come up with this elaborate report. The only few things that I have observed is that they have concentrated on some areas and forgot some other areas. Like in Matuu ward which is in Yatta where they are saying is viable for this dips to be rehabilitated; in my ward none of the dips appear in this report.

I do not know whether it is an oversight or it was typing error. I have seen a dip in the third page where there is this table. Number 11 they are talking of Mumina dip I do not know whether it is in Kithimani or Matuu because I have a dip by the name Munina which is in Matuu. So, maybe it is a typing error but it is subject to be confirmed by the committee. Otherwise, the report is commendable and I would suggest that this report be adopted and acted upon so as to rescue this noble activity of ensuring that our animals are given what they require or they are taken to dip so that they can at least be free from these ticks.

So, Mr. Speaker, the other issue that I would say I can see in some wards they have identified at least four or three while in other areas they have identified one. In Matuu ward, I have Kikule cattle dip and I have Munina cattle dip so I would request they also include those two dips in this report. Otherwise, I support. Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kisila.

Hon. Kisila: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I would like to thank the chairman for tabling a very detailed report. This topic is very dear to my heart because I come from an environment where cattle rearing is one of the biggest sources of livelihood for my people and although they did not have time to visit my area, and I am not in any way blaming them because they say this is a sample of the areas visited but Mr. Speaker, I would like to put it on record that I am Mheshimiwa who has rehabilitated, using my own resources and those of my fellow ward members; we have rehabilitated four cattle dips.

In Mwala ward we have a total of 15 cattle dips which were done by Mheshimiwa Mulu Mutisya; a man who we still remember up to know and I think as leaders we need to continue doing work so that we can be remembered 20 years or 30 years after we die. Now, my having gone

through the experience of rehabilitating four cattle dips, I would like to add my voice into what I have learned and what can help us add more meat to this report.

My observations, one of the biggest reasons why cattle dips are not functioning is because of the big charge cost; costs which are charged per cattle in every cattle dip and I want to go to page 12 on the recommendations. First of all, the four cattle dips which I have rehabilitated, talking about page one, we are doing an average twice a week about 600 to 800 animals and I think if we go to recommendation number two, we should not charge our farmers any fee for this service.

I think in the financial year 2018/ 2019, we should provide money for the rehabilitation of these cattle dips and in fact, we should not have committees because these committees are the ones which run down these cattle dips. In our budget, we should provide for an employee to be employed in every cattle dip to take care of the cattle dip and the County Government should meet the cost of maintaining the dip including rehabilitation na ile dawa inawekwa hapo.

I think all of us have received a letter from His Excellency the Deputy Governor requesting us to give him a list of two cattle dips and we should ensure in the supplementary budget which we are going to pass, that money for rehabilitating two cattle dips per ward is factored into.

Now moving to page 13, I am a bit shocked that public land has been grabbed by even churches. I think we should, I agree with the committee that this land should be repossessed and given back to the public.

Number five, I want to echo the point of waiving paying cattle dip fee. It should not even be subsidized; we can be able as a County to afford free service to wananchi because in average in Mwala, every household has about 10 to 20 cattle. If you charge an average Ksh. 20; now Ksh. 20 multiplied by 20 that is about Ksh. 400. For a poor person at home, twice a week that is ksh. 1,000 and they cannot be able to afford.

So, I am requesting the chairman budget committee to ensure this service is offered for free but it has to say this is one of the biggest success stories we can be able to be remembered for and with about Ksh. 150,000 you can be able to rehabilitate a cattle dip including putting water na hiyo dawa and running or employing someone to run it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion and I think I support it in mind that it should be a free service to our people and on top of it Mr. Speaker, most of these cattle dips are sitting on about two acres, most of them and I want to move a suggestion because of shortage of grass.

The County Government should be able to construct storage facilities for our farmers to get grass from these cattle dips and this grass can be bought, procured from Rift Valley and then it is brought to the cattle dip and that money that the grass can be subsidized and the money got from selling the grass can be able to refill more grass when there is famine in our area.

Otherwise, to empower our people this is one of the best ways we must use and I really support this motion and we should do it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Rozina?

Hon. (Ms.) Kanini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to make a correction page eight, name of the dip number 29 I think it is not Ngeleni; it is Ngelani. I come from that place. Okay, being a Member of that Committee, I visited the said sites and I can attest that this is what is actually on the ground. Then, I want to applaud my able Chairman and the Assistant Clerks for compiling such a wonderful report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to commend the good report by the Agriculture Committee and point out a few observations. One, there are number of cattle dips that are not included in the list that was provided in the annex and I also tend to think that there is a typo where some of the cattle dips identified fall into different areas as provided that is wards, where they are provided....maybe that is a typo.

Hon. Speaker, our farmers have incurred a lot of costs when spraying their cattle. I am a farmer, I keep cattle and I can attest we incur a lot of cost spraying our cattle and if we can have cattle dips within the County rehabilitated, Mr. Speaker, it will go a long way in ensuring that, as a County, we move dairy farming to another level.

Farmers from this County, Mr. Speaker, have the potential of supplying milk to the entire County and to also other Counties and this will be one way for improving the economy of the County and by so doing; we will be supporting the good initiative by our farmers of improving dairy farming.

What I can also say is that, from the recommendations, one of the recommendations is that we identify one cattle dip per location that is to be rehabilitated. I would request that the Hon. Members be part of the team that identifies these cattle dips in that each MCA identifies one cattle dip from their area so that we can be part of the exercise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kalumu.

Hon. Kalumu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. I would like to start by congratulating the Hon. Chairman for the Agriculture Committee for giving a detailed report on how and what is happening on the ground concerning cattle dips. Mr. Speaker, it is true that the report which has been presented before the House, that most of the cattle dips are not working and if you look at what necessitated their failure to work condition is when the Government of Kenya transferred the operations of doing the business of dips to the community.

First of all, the most viable question you can ask yourself is about the most productive community project which has been done by the community and it is operational, you look at the primary schools we have today, are they viable. We came from those primary schools but today they are not as the way they were before.

Everything has been left to each person, you have been left that every man for himself, God for us all and that is what has necessitated what is happening today. It is a good gesture that we want to keep cattle but this can happen only in few areas of this County like Matuu but not all the parts because some of the land is arable; it is being used for farming, like Masinga; it will reduce the cost of keeping cattle to the real mwananchi who is being affected by the diseases which need to be controlled through the dips.

You ask yourself, if it the community to control these things of availing those services to themselves; will it be viable? The question still stands without an answer because it was first given to them and now it is not in existence.

When it comes to County, we ask about priorities; yes it is a business to the people of Machakos for rearing cows and selling, it will help them to sell and educate our school going children but another question is; is it sustainable? Is the Government of Machakos able to do one cattle dip in each location? The answer is yes.

They should have done it even yesterday but where is the political will because the Counties are now almost five to six years old and this was a major project that could have helped and improved farming of cattle in Machakos County but it is not yet done.

I fully support this report if it can be done or implemented fully but I will also try to figure out how it will do it while other projects which they have been trying to do they have not completed but that is another Committee's report that will come to this House.

Mr. Speaker, dips will control diseases for this County and for the farmers of this County. Mr. Speaker, that will improve milk production and meat production of this County and meet food sustainability of this County. But if you look at production levels of milk of indigenous cows, for example, I have one cow or three I do not even bother milking because you can only get half a liter from one cow.

So, the recommendations speak for themselves, the committee has given the best recommendations that this business can only survive if it done in specific areas because in areas like Kangundo, they do not keep indigenous cows they keep the grade cows which we have today and I will request to give a suggestion that maybe next time, Bw. Chairman you can bring us a report on the levels of cattle rearing and not grade cows in our Machakos County so that we can produce more milk to the market.

So, Mr. Speaker, I fully support this report; the only thing which I doubt is implementation because doing it is one thing, passing this report as it is, is another thing and also there is another thing; sustainability.

Mheshimiwa, Hon. Kisila, has talked about doing it as a County, giving the services free of charge. I doubt if it will be sustainable. I beg to stop there and say that I support the report. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the Motion but the dips are for the poor because when you hear they spray their goats or cattle at home it is the rich people but in this House we can keep talking and talking but now I think you know we have no CEC for agriculture, not even for agriculture, we do not have for anything and we are talking.

We can talk here hundreds and hundreds of times but whom are we telling to do this work? So, I think the most important thing and what this House can do is to stop everything and we ask for the CECs and whatever the Executive we can work with because I think we are doing a lot of nothing. Talking here every day and every day and passing things, you are passing those things to who?

(Laughter)

So, I think Minority Leader, you can stand and talk what you want but---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: There is a point of order.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: But I have said what I wanted to say.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mueni, resume your sit there is a point of order please. Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Machakos County Government is working. So, when Hon. Mueni is saying that there is nothing the Government is doing, I think that is abuse of office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kamitu. Members at this juncture, I now wish to put the question.

Hon. Ngunga: Point of order Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you put the question.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You cannot interrupt the Speaker when he is putting the question.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, this House is adjourned to the 27th March, at 2.30 p.m. and as you are aware that we are going to have the General Oversight Committee meeting here in the next five minutes.

The County Secretary is going to be interrogated by the Oversight Committee. So, I would request Members to remain so that we can be able to proceed to the next item and clear it as quickly as we can be able to do so. Thank you.

House rose at 11.08 a.m.