

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 30th July, 2019

The House met at 3.00 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Please ring the bell so that we can have quorum. Thank you.

(Quorum Bell rung)

You may stop ringing the bell I think we have quorum now. Mr. Clerk proceed.

MOTION

REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL TOUR TO GREECE

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, good afternoon. Under this Order, we have one business to transact and this is a motion which is going to be transacted by the Hon. Moses Mitaa chairperson committee of agriculture. Hon. Moses.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the County Assembly leadership took part in an educational tour in Greece from 6th to 12th April, 2019 which was organized by the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Kenya in the Hellenic Republic; Further aware that the objective of the tour was to provide an opportunity to members to gain first-hand experience on how Greece had improved its agricultural and food processing system by visiting agricultural and food processing industries and service companies and also by having scheduled meetings with key policy makers;

Appreciating that the delegation attended several consultative meetings with the Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Korinthia, Head of the Peloponnese Region and also got to visit among others the Hellenic Juice Industry, S. Rokizas SA Industry and Alea Lakonika Factory;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the County Assembly leadership educational tour in Greece on agriculture and food processing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I call upon Hon. Constance Mbula to second my motion.

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

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Constance and Hon. Moses. Hon. Moses?

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will start with the County Assembly leadership education tour on agriculture and food processing in Greece.

PREAMBLE

Hon. Speaker, the County Assembly leadership took part in an educational tour in Greece in the cities of Athens and the region of Peloponnese from 6th to 12th April, 2019, which was organized by the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Kenya in the Hellenic Republic, in close collaboration with the Hellenic-Kenyan Chamber of Industry, Trade, Development, Tourism and Culture.

Hon. Speaker, the tour was aimed at providing an opportunity to Members to gain firsthand experience by visiting agriculture and food processing industries and service companies, to see equipment, personnel and operation mode and by having scheduled meetings organized to discuss matters relevant to the County Assembly and Machakos County at large.

MEMBERSHIP

The following Members and staff of the County Assembly participated in the educational tour that was held in Greece.

1. Hon. Florence M. Mwangangi - Speaker
2. Hon. Mark Muendo - Leader of Majority
3. Hon. Paul Museku - Chairperson of Committees
4. Hon. Tariq Mulatya - Majority Whip
5. Hon. Justus Kiteng'u - Deputy Leader of Majority
6. Hon. Ikusya Kaloki - Deputy Minority Whip
7. Mr. J.L. Mutisya - Deputy Clerk

Hon. Speaker, the Members of the County Assembly were accompanied by Mrs. Vicky Pantazopoulou, Hon. Consul of the Republic of Kenya in the Hellenic Republic, and Mr. Venizelos-Vassilis Katsikeas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic-Kenyan Chamber of Industry, Trade, Development, Tourism and Culture.

ITINERARY AND DISCUSSIONS 7TH APRIL 2019 - ATHENS City Tour 3

The Members toured the city of Athens where they visited the Aeropagus, the ancient marble stadium and the Acropolis of Athens. The tour focused on the infrastructure and the high-scale construction in the city.

8TH APRIL 2019 - CORINTH Visit to the Archaeological Site of Corinth

Hon. Speaker, the Members visited the archaeological site of Ancient Corinth where Apostle Paul was brought to the Bema by the elders of Corinth's synagogue, who accused him of subversive teaching against the Mosaic law. This was a religious site visit organized by the Kenya consulate.

Visit to “E. Mandrekas SA” Industry

Hon. Speaker, the delegation visited “E. Mandrekas SA” industry, one of the largest yogurt producers in Greece, whose core business is production of yogurt, and other milk products. The team learnt that the company uses both natural method of production, where they use no sugar or preservatives, and modern method of production. The milk used for yogurt production is sourced from local farmers.

Hon. Speaker, the industry produces 500,000 litres of yogurt and other milk products every day. The yogurt is produced as either liquid or scoopable yogurt. Following discussions, Members felt that it would be good for representatives of the South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc (SEKEB) to tour Greece and learn best practices in milk production and fruit processing.

The representatives of E. Mandrekas SA industry noted that some of the challenges they experience include high cost of packaging milk products, lack of fresh water and electricity.

Meeting with Members of the Local Chamber

The delegation further had a meeting with the Chairman, Mr. Panayiotis Pitsakis, and other members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Korinthia, during which the delegation from the County Assembly requested for transfer of knowledge to Kenya and more specifically, SEKEB. The Chairman advised that the chamber of commerce can partner with the National and County Governments as well as private companies in Kenya to enhance trade ties and technology transfer.

*8TH APRIL 2019 - ARGOS**Visit to “Hellenic Juice Industry-Aspis SA”*

Hon. Speaker, the delegation visited “ASPIS SA” fruit processing factory on the afternoon of 8th April, 2019. The factory has a plantation area of 90,000 hectares where oranges, peaches, apricots and apples are planted.

The factory, whose main objective is to achieve total customer satisfaction by producing quality products, produces canned fruits, that is peaches and apricots, essential oils and juices. They process 150,000 metric tonnes of raw fruits every year, which they use both in the local and export market.

The factory sources for products from the local farmers through the farmers’ association. They have also invested a lot in human resource and have a workforce of between 60 and 80 employees.

Following discussions, the County Assembly delegation urged the representatives of the factory to research on the Kenyan market with a view of creating a mutual business opportunity for both countries.

Visit to “S. Rokizas SA” Industry

Hon. Speaker, the County Assembly delegation visited S. Rokizas SA industry which deals with irrigation systems, fencing, plastic bags and plastics recycling. The team noted that the industry collects plastics from companies that use plastics in Argos for recycling. The company has a computerized recycling system operated by one or two people, depending on the intensity of the work. This technology can be transferred to our Country.

9TH APRIL 2019 - TRIPOLIS

Meeting With the Head of the Peloponnese Region

Hon. Speaker, the delegation had a meeting with the Head of the Region of Peloponnese, Mr. Petros Tatoulis. Hon. Speaker, I would like to inform the Members that “Region” is the Greek equivalent of “County.”

Hon. Speaker, during our meeting, we indicated that Kenya has potential for business because of good infrastructure which includes roads, port of Mombasa, airports and railway transport. Additionally, the ICT infrastructure is key to enhancing business in the country. We indicated that although we engage in farming, there is need for us to adopt modern technology to increase production and as a result, increase exported produce.

On his part, the head of the Peloponnese Region informed the Members that 80 per cent of economic activity in Greece takes place in Tripolis, whose climate is conducive for agriculture since it is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea.

Hon. Speaker, some of the products that the Peloponnese Region produces include apples, oranges, tangerines, olives and olive products, with Greece being the largest exporter of olive oil in Europe. In our deliberations, Madam Speaker, we agreed that through a joint venture with Machakos, the two regions could develop their economies and establish good business relations.

*9TH APRIL 2019 - SPARTI**Visit to A.S.E.E. Amyclae “Lakonia”*

Hon. Speaker, the delegation visited the fruit processing factory of the agricultural Cooperative, A.S.E.E. Amyclae Lakonia, which exports over 4,000 tonnes of orange juice to Europe. Since 1967, the cooperative produces fresh juices of high quality from 100 per cent Greek oranges from growers of Laconia. The cooperative has a population of 1000 farmers who supply the oranges.

Hon. Speaker, the county government can sponsor and send representatives of farmers from Machakos County to Greece so as to go and learn on the new methods of production of juice and transfer the same knowledge to the rest of the farmers in Machakos and more so to the entire SEKEB region.

Visit to “Alea Lakonica Factory”

Hon. Speaker visited “Alea Lakonica,” an olive and olive-oil processing factory in Sparti. Established in 1999, the factory produces pastes, edible oil, extra-virgin olive oil and olives, with 90 per cent of the produce being exported to other countries, including Libya, in Africa.

Hon. Speaker, it was agreed that in future arrangements need to be made to have Machakos businessmen visit Greece so as to explore mutual business interests between Machakos and Greece.

*9TH APRIL 2019 - KALAMATA**Visit to “Oinomessiniaki” Winery*

Hon. Speaker, the team was taken around the Oinomessiniaki Winery in Greece to see, first-hand, the production process. Quality control on production was a key point that is stressed by the winery with controlled temperatures and placing the wine in dark and cold cellars to mature.

The team learnt that after the grapes are put in the machine for the first process, the by-product is used as compost and also for animal feed and nothing goes to waste. Fermentation takes 10 to 15 days in controlled temperatures and the red colour of the wine is derived from the skin of the grapes. Thereafter, filtration is done to remove unnecessary elements. Hygiene standards are also observed and the wine can be kept for up to 10 years to mature into prime wine.

Packaging of the export product was also a major issue because of the global market and each country has its controls so the labeling must be clear. This was meant to counter misuse by minors and expectant mothers. The labeling of cartons in different languages is factored for ease of reference by customs departments in various entry points and for fragile commodity transportation.

The export product is also packaged and labeled to suit different legislation in the world so the producers said they take care of all details from the beginning of the process.

Meeting With the Messinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Hon. Speaker, the delegation held a meeting with members of Messinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and shared talks in regard to bilateral cooperation between Kenya and Greece for mutual benefit of the two nations.

Agriculture was cited as an area of cooperation for the two countries and the Greece team was invited to make investments in Machakos County in the area of grape farming and establishing a winery in the county. Tea, coffee and olive oil production was also cited as an area of potential investment.

On fruit-processing, Hon. Speaker, the Messinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was notified of the potential in the sub-sector because Machakos was known to produce large amounts of fruits that at times go to waste due to lack of a processing plant.

Marketing of crops, technology transfer and solar energy are other areas that the Machakos delegation sought indulgence of the Messinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry whom they invited to attend an exhibition in Kenya in August 2019.

The Messinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was assured that all county legislative enablers will be put in place for them to invest in Machakos County.

Visit to the Technological Educational Institute of Peloponnese

Hon. Speaker, the Machakos delegation made a visit to this university and had fruitful talks centered on improvement of agriculture and food technology. Collaboration between Peloponnese University and Machakos University was recorded as a possible avenue for achieving the link.

After hearing the challenges farmers in Machakos go through using rain-fed agriculture, the Peloponnese University suggested use of the following:

- Greenhouse technology.
- Hydroponic farming using mineral nutrients as happens in Israel.
- Fast maturing fruits.

Food security was also discussed and it was agreed by the two parties that excess use of pesticides in crop farming should be curbed as it is harmful to the health of the consumers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, the Members who accompanied you and I.....it is not me I am reading on behalf of Hon, Museku.....in the study tour to Greece will agree with me that the following need to be taken into account and followed through, if our county, and by extension, the country, is to progress economically.

1. From the learning got from this trip, it was proposed that a proposal be made to the South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc for Machakos County to specialize in milk production, Makueni to specialize in fruit processing and Kitui County to specialize in textile production. This was evident in Greece whose regions specialize in different products and this is supported by the whole Country.
2. Mobilize the community to form societies to enable us market the county's products both locally and internationally. These include milk, sand, coffee and other products produced by the county.
3. Reduce on importation of products that can be manufactured locally. These include juices, milk powder, clothes and textiles among others. We should instead boost the local industries in order to reduce on the cost of production and enhance the economy of the country.
4. The County should embrace new technologies in manufacturing to make the process of production easier and also reduce the cost of production.
5. The County should be represented in international exhibitions where we can learn new technologies that can thereafter be replicated in our county. We should take part in the 22nd edition of the Kenya International Trade Exhibition, the largest international trade exhibition in Africa for multi-sector products, equipment and machinery that will take place at the KICC in Nairobi from 1st to 3rd August, 2019. Most of the organizations we visited in Greece promised to send representatives to attend the exhibition.
6. The County Government should encourage our community to engage in farming activities as the Kenyan climate is conducive for agriculture and where there is no water; urge the county government to construct dams in order to boost the economy of the region.
7. Encourage the youth to focus more on entrepreneurship, especially in the agricultural industry sector, instead of wasting youthful years seeking employment in the very limited corporate sector. Hon. Speaker, with your permission I would like to show the Members a short video clip of our tour in Greece.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Please go ahead. Is it ready? Please go ahead.

(A video clip was played to the House)

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Conclusion

Hon. Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to thank the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for facilitating us in making the tour of Greece a success. I thank the Members who participated in the study tour to Greece for their cooperation and zeal in undertaking their duties of making our vision of enhancing the economy of our County a reality.

Hon. Speaker, it is, therefore, my privilege and honor to present this report on the study tour to Greece to this Hon. House for consideration and approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, very much Hon. Moses for reading that report.

(Question was proposed)

Hon. Members, you may comment on the report. Hon. Cosmus.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the leadership under the leadership of Hon. Madam Speaker, Florence Mwangangi for an elaborate report. Mr. Speaker, we have seen you really got a lot of learning towards agriculture. I have noted with a lot of concern that there are sections where you mentioned that some farmers and some businessmen within Machakos County need to travel to Greece.

Mr. Speaker, I want to believe that this House is full of Members who represent those groups and Mr. Speaker if any Member should be given a treat and go on behalf of those farmers and businessmen because we represent them. We need to go and learn more on this issue of agriculture and I am sure when we come back, the same will be converted to our people.

Otherwise Mr. Speaker, the type of recommendations we have, I am sure they need some budgets, so with our able Chair for agriculture, when it comes to budgeting we need to prioritize and make sure that we have some companies or factories to help and support farmers in milk, issues to do with the coffee farming, which I want to believe very soon it will be a devolved faction under the County Government whereby the Department of agriculture is moving very swiftly to make sure that we support our farmers in terms of subsidized revolving fund and more so Mr. Speaker get a marketing license for our farmers in coffee sector.

Otherwise, this is a good report and I support fully the traversing of Members. We used to hear that, in the First Assembly, Members used to travel. Mr. Speaker, we need to look at our books well and we make sure that we give Members enough exposure to things of this world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Winfred.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main agenda in our National Government, we have the Big 4 Agenda and agriculture is one of them and we need to empower agriculture in a big way. I want to thank and applauded the leadership for visiting Greece to bring the knowledge even to our county. Machakos is a big county and if we can concentrate by what the advantages that we are seeing and the positive things that we are seeing from abroad, if we can bring to Machakos, I know Machakos can be a better place.

Like we have seen the issue of cheese, if our people and if our farmers can be empowered, we can also have the same even in our county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

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

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to applaud the group of leadership because of their visitation and also the report which was brought back. My comment is on the rest of the groups which go out; I have seen the report as a challenging one because it is actually exhausting everything and it has gone to even summarizing what they actually went to see in a small video.

That is a challenge to the rest because the leadership had been urging us that when we go out we come with reports and you have actually set an example to us. Otherwise, if we impact especially the agriculture committee what has been recommended and also have the same visitations in the same places, the committee will come up with even more detailed reports on the same and even include the farmers when they will be going to such visitations so that the county can move far as far as agricultural issues are concerned. Otherwise, I support the report.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member you said ‘thank you Mister?’

Hon. Kiilu: Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I am not a Clerk; just a correction. You may proceed.

Hon. Kiilu: I withdraw. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, the Members who have spoken ahead have almost exhausted everything. I wish to applaud the committee for the exhaustive report despite the hard names. If we are also to come with equivalent reports, I wish to appeal that, let other committees also have such organizations such that we travel with the people of the HANSARD so that we can still capture those clips in whatever areas that we visit and also---

Hon. Masesi: Point of information.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of information from Hon. Cosmus.

Hon. Masesi: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform Hon. Kiilu that the delegation had no person from the HANSARD; you just need to work closely with the Clerks Assitants and make sure that all details are captured because I want to believe the only person from the Clerk's side was Mr. Mutisya alone. I have not seen anyone from the HANSARD side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Cosmas, but I do believe the Hon. Member was trying to make a case for the HANSARD people. You may proceed Hon. Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you. Again I used the word to appeal 'to be accompanied by' that is underline the word appealing. So, I am actually appealing for the same and again Mr. Speaker, in the recent past, I have witnessed cases whereby we are having some travels and you realize that the committees do not have Serjeant at Arms.

There is one time I realized that a certain Member, Hon. Member from this House, got a very special attention from Serjeant at Arms Kiptum when he collided with a certain vehicle at a certain parking. They are very important in fact am appealing that when we are having this travels let us also be accompanied by this Serjeant at Arms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, the report was very comprehensive, the report is very touching in regard to what Machakos is as a county. Machakos County everybody is aware that is an agricultural county and for the information or the report that has been presented to this House is a very important report and it is on that note Mr. Speaker, that I am saying we should also include the Members of the Executive in regard to agriculture; either the CO and the CEC Member for agriculture, the directors and most likely Mr. Speaker, we can also sponsor about three to four known farmers especially in dairy whereby after the visit, they will be the messiahs to the other farmers because I have been to Greece and importantly is that for this matter, the leadership went.

So, this time, through your able office, Mr. Speaker, I would also request the committee for agriculture led by Hon. Kamitu as the delegation so that when we visit there we shall come up with very good report to benefit the farmers of Machakos. I have gone through the report, it is very important Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to repeat myself that it was very educative leadership Members who went for that.

Practically, we need to engage our farmers and the committee for agriculture so that we may come up with another comprehensive report so that when we go on the ground, we shall be talking of things that we saw and more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the visual aid that they were given, we should come up with such things so that at least we can also give them to our training institutions in Machakos that touches issues of agriculture.

That is the right direction that we should take so that we may enhance and promote agriculture issues and for this regard the dairy issues. Thank you. I support the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jacqueline Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to applaud the committee, the leadership of this House for a well expounded report. When last time Madam Vicky visited us as a County Assembly, I was there as a leadership Member and she highlighted much on Greece which is very dry but they have done very well in agriculture.

Members you will agree with me that agriculture is one of the Big Four Agenda of this country and since leadership went there and they were able to highlight on different techniques to do with agriculture, I am very sure if we embrace the the same, our farmers will benefit a lot. Now since we have a South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc (SEKEB) for the three counties, I am very sure what was highlighted in the report if we implement it, our people will not suffer any more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Johana Munyao.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report. Mr. Speaker, from the time we were in primary school, I remember answering questions on Kenya being an agricultural country and as I grew up Mr. Speaker, it was unfortunate because among the first degrees to lose market was B.Sc. Agriculture in an agricultural country.

Mr. Speaker, the tours and the tour before us it was a very important tour because it points on a very key aspect of the economy of this country and I would still insist that even in future, such tours, we see whether we can be a bit more focused even before we leave the country. We know what we really want to achieve after the tour and on coming back we see an implementation of the findings of a given tour.

I would request that even for other tours Mr. Speaker, where necessary we see whether we can partner and have exchange programs so that even if there is some expertise required for others to visit us in exchange and share with us and may be part of the implementation for such noble ideas, we adopt such approach so that we can also be able to stand and be counted as serving being agents of change arising from such tours.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the committee and wish we plan for other such tours even for the best agricultural nations in this World and make frequent tours so that we can come and see whether we can improve our county and country in general. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to put a voice and commend the committee for the good work they have done; we have seen that this is an agricultural country and we even went up to where St. Paul was and he was preaching the Corinthians.

My request is that in the report we have seen that you have invited them to a conference here in Kenya which will take place in 3rd August, 2019. I am appealing before we go there, and since you have invited them here, it is my thought that we will be on recess; why not through the agricultural sector here? Take us all Hon. Members, we go to that conference, we also visit and take time to interact with the exhibitors there and enjoy ourselves when we will be on leave or during that time of recess so that we can try to check practically what you saw there because I know maybe there will be exhibitors from those areas.

So, I am requesting through the agricultural department and the agriculture committee, you organize for us Members and we go to that conference which you invited them to come to Kenya we also be part of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for positive recommendations they have given; I congratulate them for their support and one thing I must assure Hon. Members is that the issue to do with agriculture, I believe we have laid the right foundation on how this great county of Machakos can propel. In fact my dream is being center of excellence in terms of agricultural related issues.

Mr. Speaker, one challenge I can give to my colleagues; we all come from different zones where we do different types of agricultural activities. As a committee, we invite Members, if they can organize, if it is Members from a region which specializes on livestock we need to have a session on how we can improve on the issues affecting our farmers and the way forward because I believe if we can cluster ourselves, if it is a coffee zone we cluster ourselves, we can also do cotton farming in Machakos county so that we start from somewhere and we program and plan very well by doing so we will be able to achieve what Hon. Johanna has recommended.

Once we have establishments we can partner with other countries which have better ways of doing farming and through that we will be able to learn and improve on what we can do. Again, this report once passed by the House, we will see to it as the agriculture committee and all the recommendations will be factored and once in a while we will be giving updates on how far we have reached on the recommendations in this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and God Bless this Assembly. Thank you.

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

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, thank you I will like to comment on one thing which I learnt personally in this tour and another visit I did in Malaysia and Singapore; we should not force agriculture. These people plant the things which naturally grow in their countries; if you go to Greece, everywhere you go you will see an olive plant. If you go to Malaysia, everywhere you go you will see a palm tree and they don't deviate much from what grows naturally.

Much of the agriculture which people have been doing in our areas; you want to plant greens in an area where there is savanna bush thorn trees which means you are trying to go against the natural way of what nature is providing us with. We need to embrace the different climates we have in our country.

If you look at Mombasa and look at Rea Vipingo, because that area is dry so they grow sisal and you will find plantations and plantations of sisal there and they make money from sisal. You go to Lukenya, much of it during the colonial times had sisal and those colonialists were making money from sisal. Now we have removed the sisal and we want to put maize but the climate there cannot support maize. So even as we go and get this technology transfer, it will be important for efforts to be put with help of agricultural experts so that we can be able to specialize in agricultural crops based on the climate of the area.

Makueni used to do very well with cotton, if you remember; most people used to move from here and go and live in Makueni to plant cotton so the government should be able to put up factories which are processing cotton and let Makueni grow cotton which grows there naturally. That way when we embrace the natural way of doing things, we prosper.

If you go to these countries and I believe God-willing you will be able to go; when you land in Athens, everything you see is an olive tree everywhere. Where they grow oranges, everybody grows oranges but you will not see oranges mixed with olives. So they have embraced the climate which they have and enhanced on it.

Somebody talked about learning; the degree of agriculture. What you saw there, that is a university of food technology and it specializes in agriculture and the gentleman who took us there is a Professor in agriculture technology and food processing. We had him a whole day and that is what he has specialized in and that is what he is teaching. So you find a whole university

of agriculture doing research and assisting the country in coming up with better ways of doing farming.

Unlike you said in our area here, one of the degrees which lost market was B.Sc Agriculture; we need to revive those things so that we can be able to embrace agricultural environment

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the House adjourns to Wednesday, 31st July 2019 at 10 AM. Enjoy your evening and I will also like that the Hon. Members of Liaison Committee, we will have their House Business Committee shortly and I will be requesting them to remain behind so that we can be able to do a bit of consultation in the liaison committee. Thank you.

The House rose at 3.56 p.m.