

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 11th April, 2018

The House met at 2.35 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
FACILITATION OF MEMBERS IN THE HOUSE

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Members, I would like to pass some brief information on what transpired during the morning session and what I have directed the secretariat to be doing. When it comes to reports which are going to be laid in this House, the papers should be laid a minimum of one day before the report is brought before the House. When it comes to motions, the notice of motion should be given by the mover of the motion at least a minimum of one day before the motion is moved on the floor of the House.

This will be able to facilitate the circulation of reports to all Members to their pigeon holes at least a minimum of one day before that motion is discussed here. The minute a paper is laid before the table or a notice of motion, once a notice of motion is given it becomes property of the House and therefore the secretariat can be in a position distribute either the report or the motion. Thank you, Mr. Clerk Proceed.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Members under this order we have one notice of motion which will be done by Hon. Cosmas Masesi.

COUNTY COFFEE MILLER IN MATUNGULU

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. Members, good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, that aware THAT the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya bestows the County Government with matters of cooperative societies;

Aware THAT Article 174 (d) and (f) of the Constitution stipulates that the objects of Devolution of government are:

d) To recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development;

f) To promote social and economic development and the provision of proximate, easily accessible services throughout Kenya;

Further aware THAT coffee is a subsistence crop in Kangundo, Matungulu, Mwala, Kathiani and Machakos Central sub counties;

Aware THAT the preliminary processing of coffee is done locally in the sub counties by cooperative societies;

Cognizant of the fact THAT advance processes which include milling, roasting and grinding of the coffee beans is done by commercial millers and this exposes the local coffee farmer to exploitation by brokers and middle men;

Mr. Speaker, I wish to give a notice of the motion that the County Government of Machakos sets up a county coffee miller in Matungulu Sub-County to empower coffee farmers hence high productivity in the crop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Members under this order we have one statement which is to be made by Hon. Peter Mutiso.

SERVICE DELIVERY STATUS AT MACHAKOS LEVEL V HOSPITAL

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Statement is on status of service delivery in Machakos Level Five Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya states that “Every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I wish to issue the current statement on the current status of Machakos Level five hospitals.

The committee on Health, Emergency services, received public outcry on the following issues:-

1. Lack of key essential drugs in the facility, a situation which has deteriorated service delivery in the hospital.
2. Lack of food catering necessities in the kitchen.
3. Non-payment of casuals who have gone for four months without pay hence the purported strike;

Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform this House that the committee conducted an abrupt visit to the facility yesterday, 10th April, 2018 and collected data on the mentioned issues. A comprehensive report of the same will be tabled in this Hon. House in the shortest time possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I think Hon. Peter Mutiso has brought an important statement in this House on the status of the highest medication facility in the county and I would like Members to ventilate on this for a few minutes before we proceed.

Hon. Kisila: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that from the minority side, healthcare is a very expensive affair when it comes to running of the county and all of us know very well that the county is not having enough money to run the facility because of the supplementary budget. I hear what Mheshimiwa is saying and it is not just affecting him. In my ward some casual workers have not been paid either.

My plea to this House is that we should move very fast as a House and pass the supplementary budget because without passing the supplementary budget, this county very soon will come to its knees. The Executive doesn't have any money even to pay for this month's salary; so I hear what the Mheshimiwa has said and I seriously sympathize with what he has said and it is true, facilities are coming down but as a House---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of order please.

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it in order for a Member of this Assembly to purport to give answers on behalf of the Executive?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let me give guidance on that. The Hon. Member has every right to question because you are giving a response on an issue which is not in your docket. The statement is requesting issues of execution in the Level Five hospital which is in the hands of the

Executive and we cannot purport to say that because the supplementary budget has not been passed, that is the reason why the Hospital is in a pathetic state.

That statement is expected to come from the Executive or from the people concerned; you can comment on it but it might not be right to allude to the fact that maybe it is the delay of the House because it might imply like it is the mistake of the House which has led to the hospital being in the state it is but as we know the facts as they are on this, it is not the mistake of this House. You need to stay in order to ensure you give communication based on the House but not based on the position of the Executive whom you do not represent. Thank you.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was speaking actually as the Deputy Minority Leader and there is a difference; when I speak as the Deputy Minority Leader, I am representing the minority which is forming the government so I don't want to bring a lot of issues. I have actually rested my point; but as much as---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Please conclude.

Hon. Kisila: When a Member is raising a point of order, let them go to the Standing Order and quote that Order---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member I have told you to conclude.

Hon. Kisila: Hon. Members, let us look for a way, my plea; let us pass the supplementary budget so that the Executive can have enough money to be able to run the hospitals well.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of order Hon. Kalumu and quote the Order please.

Hon. Kalumu: He has already sat.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Hon. Mark Muendo.

Hon. Muendo: Mr. Speaker, I think the statement on the floor of the House should not be taken lightly by the Members. I was in that facility yesterday to pick a patient; one of my supporters, a bodaboda rider, who was involved in an accident and it took about three days with no treatment. I had to pick the patient and take him to Bishop Kioko. This is the reason I am saying, the Deputy Minority should not be on the side of the Executive; we know if he is not

aware, the facility collects Kshs. 500,000 every day. That is not in the supplementary budget; that money should be utilized well before we even talk about the supplementary.

For the last four months, these health workers have not been paid; we are talking about the supplementary this month, three months down the line. Hon. Members, we must be serious in this House; we must push the Executive to give health services. That hospital is in a pathetic dilemma; no Member of this House should be taken there. I know you go to Hospitals like Nairobi; our people depend on this hospital. This is like Kenyatta for Machakos County, and I think the Executive is sleeping on their job. So Mr. Speaker, I think this House should now stop talking about supplementary budget for now. Let us arrest the situation as the Member for this town, Hon. Mutiso, has a concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mwanthi: Mr. Speaker, I think with the concern, it is good for the Executive to be sincere; we do not have to talk of the supplementary budget yet. I understand they had planned for all this; they knew this would come and I don't think this House is late passing the supplementary budget. It's yesterday when I heard the Chief Officer of the facility blaming the CEC, Finance saying that for them, they don't pay any bills; the bills are paid by the Finance ministry. So, I think possibly we are supposed to either summon them, they come and tell us what is happening because if we are not serious---

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

Hon. Kamitu: Mr. Speaker, we need your guidance on the statement that has been brought to this House. It is turning out to be a debate, so we need your guidance in that regard.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kamitu you may be seated. I said that I wanted Members to ventilate on this issue; I think you were away. It is an issue affecting the county and Member have a right to ventilate on any issue which they feel is affecting them before we proceed. So, while you were away, I am sorry I had said I am allowing Members to ventilate on the same. Thank you. Hon. Mwanthi you may conclude then we proceed.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you Mr. Speaker for your protection. I mean, we need to be serious; it is a serious matter when you find a facility like that when patients are not getting food. Members, it's your people who are being treated there; so it is good that the statement has come, we all be positive on the issue and see what we can do as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Cosmus.

Hon. Masesi: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members we need, and it is my belief, we need to be sincere with ourselves. The Deputy Minority it is too unfair to mislead this House to say that such situations have emanated from the delay in the passing of the Supplementary Budget. Mr. Speaker, the Supplementary Budget will come, we will pass it but are we assured this situation will be solved?

I would like, Hon. Members, for us to look at issues as the representors of the people from the ground. The situations are bad; let us correct the issues one by one. It is the responsibility of this House to play the oversight role. If we fail, if we get things wrong, then the matters will always be wrong with us. So Mr. Speaker, it is good for this House to look at the issues and advise the way forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mueni

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was in the hospital and members you have to know your work very clearly and know that when you are depending on somebody, you are not doing your work. Your work here is to do your work clearly. If those patients are dying and they have already paid 800 shillings for each and they are supposed to eat, they are supposed to be checked and even the Minister for Health told us she does not know what to do because she is sending the payment to Jacinta and she is not paying and you are complaining saying this and this, what are you saying?

If the minister knows that the person concerned with the money is the one who is having the mistake, why can't you do your work? Your work is to watch and to correct those people. When you are sitting here my friend, you are very clever; I do not know why you are becoming stupid. You have to take care---

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mueni you may be seated. Sit down Hon. Mueni! Hon. Mueni this is a Hon. House and I expect decency in the language you are going to use here---

(Applause)

---and I expect you to withdraw that remark you have made towards the Hon. Member.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I apologize. He is also my friend.

(Laughter)

So mine is to ask the members to be serious and go to the hospital. You have somebody there; even if it is not your relative, it is your neighbor. Practice about the church; do not be saying that those who go there do not have money. Tomorrow it is you who will not be having money to go to a better hospital so be careful of what you are doing here and I tell you, Hon. Members, the last Assembly it was not bad, but because of what they were doing, it made them go home. So because of those people who are there in the hospital and they are praying you are the one who came back so what is there, I am concerned. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Constance you may contribute to the motion. She has already sat down and concluded, so just contribute to the motion.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: I withdraw.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Moffat.

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, the health of a nation depends on its people. Sometimes we bring politics where it is not due. Here we are saying people are dying there in the hospital; we are saying people are not eating, are not being fed; we are saying people are lacking drugs and the statement was asking the Executive to make sure all those bad things have been rectified. What is wrong with that?

Therefore, I am urging all of us at least sometimes let us not talk about our parties; let us think of our people. I have a niece who is working there, she is always texting me messages to give her money to pay rent. Those employees have to pay rent, they have to eat and here we talk of Supplementary Budget. In fact Mr. Speaker, let us be faithful to ourselves. If it is you who is not being paid, how would you feel? Let us ask the Executive to kindly do something to our Level Four (???) hospital. We need the health of our people taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Nziva

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members present. Mr. Speaker, I think I am an experienced member in this House and I sought a statement because Hon. Peter Mutiso sought for a statement. How I wish the Speaker, although the Speaker is always right, could be directed to a committee so that the committee urgently goes to meet the Minister and the Chief Officer to ventilate on the same because I am a member of the health committee and I do not remember going. So I thought if it was a statement already read, maybe if it was responding to a statement, I think we are supposed to discuss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mark Muendo.

Hon. Muendo: It is just guidance. This House is under siege. Are you in control when a member asserts your power? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mark Muendo, I was being courteous to allow the member to contribute towards the motion and like I said, it is me who allowed for ventilation. Normally maybe I can give guidance. The reason why you give people time to ventilate, maybe people don't understand the reasoning behind it, it is because if Hon. Members have things in their hearts which are pressurizing them, the only way they can be able to express them is by standing and expressing themselves in this House.

It is not meant to hurt anybody; it is meant to ventilate on key issues affecting the members and that is the reason why I allowed it to happen. I am now just going to take one or two more and I close it and I will do the rest. It will be Hon. Kiteng'u and from there we will go to Hon. Katumo and we close with the Minority Leader.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for catching my hand. Mr. Speaker, just to comment on the statement, I will be neutral. This issue is affecting all our health facilities in Machakos County and I remember two days ago, there was demonstration at the Level V hospital here in Machakos and I heard very clearly from the Chief Officer Mr. Ndanga tried to say that they will sort the issue yesterday morning and make sure the hospital is clean, because they are claiming even the hospital is dirty to accommodate the patients.

When he was asked about why the workers are going unpaid, he commented that as the Chief Officer they do not pay but the payment comes from the Finance department. The previous night the Implementation committee, where I am a member, summoned the Chief Officer and I must tell this House as Hon. Mark Muendo said, in the department of health we are under siege

because the Hon. Member who is the Chief Officer is trying to work hard according to the response. Because we have the implementation committee members here they can attest to that but he does not have the power. Wherever he requests for something the finance department goes mum; they do not respond.

So Mr. Speaker, as you give the direction on this statement kindly the health committee should chip in seriously and us as Hon. House we make sure we are serious on this. These are our people; our electorate who elected us and they elected us here to come and represent them fairly. If we try to sideline one side, we are killing our own electorate and I do not understand why I will stand in this Hon. House and try to protect somebody who is guilty against an innocent so Mr. Speaker, I would request this House when it comes to health department, let us be serious; let us speak on facts because the truth is the truth.

The CEC, Health also spoke and said she is aware of those minor things which are making the workers to demonstrate and will be sorted out. This is the third time since we were elected to hear the CEC, the Minister of Health speak of the same thing and it seems that nothing is giving out fruits. So, Mr. Speaker, kindly on this, try to assist the House; give us the correct guidelines so that we can end this once and for all for the benefit of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Mr. Speaker, sir, much has been said but I want first to thank the Hon. Member for Machakos Central for the great concern because that facility lies in his ward. You see members sometimes, we are almost finishing this financial year, the question we are asking ourselves is what has happened before with that money? You see I have heard members talk about supplementary budget; it is just that a supplementary budget nothing more, and if you ask me, I know how much money we are expecting to dispense through that supplementary budget so it is not a savior for that matter.

But I want to say when our people are hurting, when our people are suffering, when our people are dying every day, when people are going hungry, brothers and sisters I think our time is a waste in this House. Actually we should have sought leave and walk down there and see the situation so that as we deliberate issues, issues that are not of priority this is a priority of very great importance. Why am I saying that? I have lost two people in that great facility and when you want to find out, try to investigate and with your little knowledge you'll know that something is not working.

There is a lot of negligence and therefore I would say in this Hon. House that matters of County importance as this we should give them priority. Actually I was telling the Hon. Member who brought this statement, it should have been a motion so that we can have a leeway and we can issue some recommendations so that they can be worked on and implemented, but I think it is high time that the Executive does much than leave service.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kamitu

Hon. Kamitu: Mr. Speaker, it is good that you have given us some guidance in regard to you giving people to ventilate and it is on this regard I am saying one of my Hon. Member, my friend, good friend, observed these things as the MCA Machakos Central and as per the Standing Orders Mr. Speaker, in regard to areas or matters that are supposed to be brought here as statements, it is true this is a statement that needs an urgent intervention of this House so I am standing here in support of Hon. Mutiso.

As an Assembly now we should not be debating much about this. It is the health committee that should move out quickly so that they can come and give us a report in regard to that situation. So that is my humble request and I stand to be guided as you guided me. Otherwise thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Kamitu for your contribution. I think members after that ventilation which I believe was healthy, this statement is committed to the committee on Health and they need to be able to give a comprehensive report to this House by next week Wednesday, 18th April 2018 by which date I expect they will have visited the facility, they will have interrogated the minister in charge, they will have interrogated the Chief Officer, gone to the facility and gotten all the facts pertaining to this issue and come up with a comprehensive report before this House on their recommendations. Thank you very much. You may proceed Mr. Clerk.

(Applause)

MOTION

COUNTY COFFEE MILLER IN MATUNGULU

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this order number we have one motion by Hon. Cosmus Masesi.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

That aware THAT the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya bestows the County Government with matters of co-operative societies;

Aware THAT Article 174 (d) and (f) of the Constitution of Kenya stipulates that the objects of devolution of Government are; to recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development and (f) to promote social and economic development and the provision of proximate, easily accessible services throughout Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, further aware THAT coffee is a subsistence crop in Kangundo, Matungulu, Mwala, Kathiani and Machakos Central Sub counties;

Aware THAT the preliminary processing of coffee is done locally in the sub counties by cooperatives societies;

Cognizant of the fact THAT advance processing which includes milling, roasting and grinding of the coffee beans is done by commercial millers and this exposes the local coffee farmer to exploitation by brokers and middlemen, Mr. Speaker I wish to move the motion that the County Government of Machakos sets up a County Coffee Miller in Matungulu Sub County to empower farmers hence high productivity in the crop;

Mr. Speaker I wish to call upon the Hon. Member of Kangundo Central ward Hon. Mitaa to second this motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Mitaa for seconding the motion.

(Question proposed)

Members you may debate this motion. Hon Angela.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; mine is a point of correction. Mr. Speaker, we are told the motion says that coffee is a subsistence crop in Kangundo. We all know

that coffee is not a subsistence crop; it is a cash crop, Mr. Speaker. I beg for the mover of the motion to get that corrected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I think that has been noted and the secretariat has noted the same for the correction. We may proceed with the motion with that amendment. Hon. Kamulu.

Hon. Kamulu: Mr. Speaker, coffee is one of the major cash crops in Kenya and I want to thank the mover of this motion for bringing it to this House. Mr. Speaker, I happen to come from Kathiani where we have a lot of cooperatives associated with coffee and of course coffee has gone to the decline Mr. Speaker, the reason being of low prices so Mr. Speaker if we have a miller nearby, this one will reduce cost as far as transport is concerned and probably this one will increase the prices and the people will change their minds and engage in the same.

Mr. Speaker, mismanagement in the coffee sector has also brought a lot of challenges in this area because those people who are managing the cooperatives sometimes mismanage the factories leading to coffee decline. If you come to places like Machakos Central, most of the farmers have now changed from coffee growing to commercial houses. Mr. Speaker, I think if the prices increase because of maybe establishing a sawmill closer to the people, maybe the people will change their minds and grow coffee continually in the region so Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion that we have a miller near the growing regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Moses.

Hon Mitaa: Thank you Mr. Speaker for granting me this opportunity to contribute towards this important motion by my colleague Hon. Cosmos Masesi. I must say proudly that if it was not for coffee, maybe I would have not been in this Assembly today. I was educated through coffee, when there were good returns from the product, but unfortunately in between, that industry has been run down from the ground all the way to marketing position. Big cartels have come in and also the management, the committee management on the ground, have also taken that opportunity to create wealth, wealth to themselves at the cost or at the expense of the farmer.

Ideally as the chairman of Agriculture committee, I think I have taken this issue or this matter with great force so that at least I can leave a legacy that during my tenure as Agriculture chairman, there was improvement in coffee farming because this thing goes right to my mother and my brother and every one and henceforth, I must congratulate Mheshimiwa Ngula Masesi for coming up with a motion to establish a milling factory within Machakos County because we

barely have one at Machakos which I understand has some issues which I'm also trying to solve. There is a loan which was taken and they are trying very hard to remain afloat because I understand auctioneers are always knocking the door.

At the same point, we must know that whenever our coffee reaches a certain stage, it's usually taken out of our county mostly either to Kiambu county or Meru; that is where we have some processing plants and at that stage our farmers are shortchanged. Through my little interaction with the farmers, I have come to realize they don't even send a representative to check on what is happening on the other side but they rely on the reports which they receive and there is much that whenever it calls, the results which come back is they always produce poor grades of coffee and I tend to dispute that finding because I understand that our coffee is one of the best. So our farmers ought to be benefitting very much from that product, so Mr. Speaker, sir, I support the motion and I beg---

Hon. Muendo: Point of information.

Hon. Mitaa: I wish to continue Mr. Speaker. I beg that this assembly approves that motion with immediate speed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Ok, he has concluded. Maybe Hon. Mark Muendo you may contribute to the motion.

Hon. Muendo: Alright, thank you. I can contribute. Let me first thank the mover of this motion Mr. Masesi, Hon. Masesi. This county of Machakos where we belong, the only cash crop remaining in this county is coffee and when you check the coffee of yesterday and the coffee of today, the producers, the farmers are going down, down because the coffee has got a lot of cartels.

For example, I wanted to inform the Hon. Member that our coffee is not among the best; it is the best in the world. Our Kenyan coffee is best in the world and that is in every corner you go of the world, you find Kenyan coffee is the best. What I would like to say, we know we lose a lot of money when we don't have a miller or a roaster.

In that case, in Kiambu they have Thika Coffee Mills which is owned by a good friend of mine. Sometimes they normally come to Machakos to buy cheap coffee because when you have no miller, when you have no milling factory in an area like Machakos, you cannot control the

farmers but if this county can move with speed and acquire or give out, outsource a miller, then the farmers of Machakos county will be benefiting a lot and the way the Hon. Member of Kaewa said, the coffee people will not now be moving to build concrete jungles in our coffee areas.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, the issue of coffee should be taken seriously by the county because that is the only cash crop we have now and I propose that the people who come from areas, I mean Hon. Members who come from that area, that's a proposal where they grow coffee, they can be given by this House a trip to go to the main roasters of coffee, that is Brazil. They can acquire a system or they can sample a system to bring to this county for the county to reconsider because as Hon. Mitaa has said, some of the people here even including the Minority, I think they benefit much from the coffee and I have a concern because I have worked at the ministry of Agriculture.

I was a director in the Tea Board and we used to liaise with the people in the Coffee Board. In fact the societies here, the societies who run those cooperatives here of this coffee, they benefit much more than the farmer. So if the county can move with speed and acquire licenses, a private miller to be milling, we will be getting a lot of money and this county will move fast. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jeremiah

Hon. Munguti: Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support this motion which is timely Mr. Speaker and I would like to support it with the following points. First, coffee as many have said, is a cash crop which is benefiting our people but due to the poor prices which is given to the farmers, it has made them actually poorer than before and that is why you find that majority of the coffee farmers have changed; actually have started an alternative way of earning money either by building houses, rental houses, or maybe doing some other subsistence farming because they don't see the benefit of it.

First when these people will start growing coffee or will start selling coffee within our area, we will have accessible roads and the infrastructure of the area actually will improve and in other areas we must also look for allocation where these factories will be, where they will be built so that they can give what we call a value addition to the farmers because one thing I know, it will create employment to our people.

Like those people who grow coffee, much of the workers who will be working on the factories actually will belong to the same society and that is the reason why I want to support and say that we must have a coffee miller within either Kangundo or in Machakos town where our people actually can benefit on the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Justus Kiteng'u.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Mr. Speaker, I would like to chip in on this motion although I come all the way from Masinga and I always see coffee as I drive along and I would say this, I am trying to imagine if the nearer miller is at Central or maybe Embu County, I am trying to imagine how about the small scale farmers who produce little. Will they be able to transport all the way to Central? So, I am trying to drive my point on having our own miller in Machakos County; the small scale farmers will also be able to take their own little coffee to the miller and also the existing farmers will gain more morale and start producing more.

Other sub counties like Masinga will also start producing coffee because we know we have our own miller around. Mr. Speaker, having our own miller factory will also create employment whereby you know almost 80 per cent of Machakos people are jobless and we would wish that the Executive takes this one serious so as we can also try to feel like Makeni. They also have the milk factory and I am sure the people of Machakos County will be happy to notice that our Governor and the Executive and this House we have moved ahead and tried to create more employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Kalumu.

Hon. Kalumu: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. I would like first of all to thank the mover of this motion concerning coffee mills simply because by having our own coffee mill in Machakos, we will enable the farmers of Machakos County to take advantage of good prices that will emanate from value addition. Everywhere in this world where farmers or residents of a certain country concentrate much on producing raw materials without value addition, the economy is still not good. But for us, if you look at for example Nestle, a quarter of coffee is more than Kshs. 300 while a kilogram when it is raw, when it is bought from a farmer in for example Kangundo Central, cannot fetch that price.

So, this is one of the best motions ever brought to this House because we should concentrate on bringing in innovation for our county; innovation like this one of adding value on a product that has been existing like coffee. Coffee production has declined because of poor price and handling of the coffee in our county. If that crop or produce is managed well, I think the amounts of money gotten from the sales will even triple rather than just doubling. So, I totally agree and support the motion of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Judas.

Hon. Ndawa: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand here to support the motion and before supporting it I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member who has brought a motion which is going to rescue coffee farmers. Mr. Speaker, in Matungulu, where the mill is proposed to be constructed, that is where we have many farmers of coffee. We have different companies there in that Matungulu area.

I happen to be a Member of four companies which grow coffee there. We have Kyanzave Farmers Limited, we have Kwa Mating'i, we have Muka Mukuu, we have Wendano wa Matuu and Kayata. Those companies draw Members from all over the country. So, when we have AGM in every company like in Kyanzave, we have about 1800 to 1900 shareholders, that is close to 2,000.

Mr. Speaker, the coffee which is produced by Kyanzave Farmers alone is a lot of coffee but when it comes to marketing, when it comes to milling, it becomes the problem. I happen to serve in that company as a Director from 2004 to 2010. One kilogram of coffee if you sell it within that area, will go for only Ksh. 20 but when you mill that coffee and you prepare it and take it to the international market, one kilogram will be fetching about 4 dollars; 4 dollars times 100 that means that is Ksh. 400. If you compare Ksh. 400 and Ksh. 20 that we are selling locally here, Mr. Speaker, our farmers are suffering and as a county, we are losing a lot of money.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will urge this Hon. House to move with speed and rescue these farmers. I am very sure the essence of devolution was to ensure that the county manages its affairs within the county. The only millers that we normally take our coffee to are either Thika Coffee Millers or Ruiru Coffee Millers or we go to other millers. The cost of transporting that particular coffee to those millers is also very high.

So, if we have our own, I am very sure Mr. Speaker, the income that the county is going to be getting from this coffee will go up. This miller will also provide an opportunity to employ people within the county and it is going to assist in improving the economy of this county.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would wish to request this Hon. House to move with speed and ensure we have our own mill and not any other place, Matungulu. Matungulu is the best situated and most suitable area to have that mill. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kisila.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think this is a very good motion and I stand here to support. I want to remind Mheshimiwa Muendo that coffee is not the only cash crop we have

in Ukambani and especially Machakos County. Mangoes from my ward are one of the leading cash crops in this county. Now, the mover of this motion has done a good job. It is very timely and I would like to add one more thing Mr. Speaker. As much as I am supporting it, I want us to look at the best way possible to set up a factory. It is not up to the county to set up a factory. In fact, we need to incorporate what Mheshimiwa Muendo said.

The private sector needs to be involved in setting up this milling plant and we find a way of how the County Government will support in the budgeting process. I will be bringing a motion to this House of how we can incorporate the private sector and we can partner with them to set up factories in Machakos County and one of them will be for milling coffee and another one will be for mangoes, another one will be for milk because when you bring the private sector to run the plant, it will have a private sector mentality. We do not want to start a factory whereby it will just go down like the way other milling companies have gone down in this country.

So, I support and I would like us to move with speed. During our budgeting process, to provide some money for set up, to buy land for some of these factories because like Mwala, we are looking for land to build a factory for mangoes and I think in Matungulu to set up money to buy land where we can set up factory for milling and together with the private sector we can partner together where the farmers can come together maybe buy shares in that company and be part and parcel of running that company. I fully support, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Si and a Member who comes from Matungulu, Mr. Speaker, we have been given a picture by the Members who have stood here and I really concur with the Hon. Member who is my neighbor, Hon. Cosmus, in regard to the problem that is happening in regard to coffee societies and I want to paint another picture Mr. Speaker, Sir, that, fine we now have got the societies which are growing coffee like the examples that have been given by the Hon. Judas, that is Muka Mukuu, Kyanzave; all those societies are run by people elected by the shareholders and then again Mr. Speaker, Sir, another picture is in regards to now the small scale farmers and all in all what we are missing.

What the societies are doing is that, those societies run by the shareholders are taking their coffee, they are marketing their coffee to Ruiru, Thika like most of the Members have said and also now our small scale farmers, we have got societies within a certain area and again at the end of everything, at the end when they harvest the coffee, they also contract maybe those big farms, millers like Thika, Ruiru Millers. So, in a sense, we are walking on the same direction that

coffee can be of great benefit to this county, to our farmers, if sincerely it is going to be incorporated that we have a miller, we have a factory as what Mheshimiwa Brian has said.

We have our own miller; if not so, we partner with companies that are trusted because in practice, those millers, these factory millers from Thika, Ruiru, they have been stealing from our societies. So, in the sense what are we saying? For us to have a close eye of our own, this House should sit down and budget. If sincerely we are going to move in the right direction, we should sit down and budget; we put a budget to construct our own milling factory or facility for that matter---

(Applause)

--- so that when we talk about the small scale farmer, he knows where he is going to take his coffee, that is in his own area, and in that essence it should be brought centrally to Machakos because we have got people from Kathiani, people from.....Otherwise whichever place, the most important thing for this House is to sit down and exactly see, identify a place where we can sit down for ease of transportation, for ease of growing. We are able to identify the factory or the miller that will benefit the people of Machakos County. Otherwise, thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the mover to respond to the motion.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I want to appreciate the Hon. Members for their generous and well thought contributions towards this motion. Mr. Speaker, just to sum up, I would just like to inform the Members that coffee comes in as the fourth foreign exchange earner countrywide just immediately after tourism, tea, horticulture and there is coffee.

Mr. Speaker, it is the high time we do away with the middle men in the name of milling which involves the last stages of coffee before exportation where farmers do lose. A lot of theft is being taken on that stage. Just taking an example of an ordinary farmer with Ksh. 1,000 trees of coffee with an average of 10 kgs per tree, he will end up getting 10,000 kgs and on the last harvest for like in my place Mr. Speaker, we were paid Ksh. 50 per kilogram. So, if you multiply 10,000 kilograms times 50, that ordinary farmer with that little money will earn Ksh. 1 million (???) whereby Mr. Speaker, this plant is harvested annually.

So, you can imagine with 10,000 kilograms with Ksh. 400 per kilogram, this will bring Ksh. 4 Million per year. It is a lot of business; it is also a lot of money which we are losing as a county. Mr. Speaker also the services offered by these milling mactories are not free; it is another

avenue for the county to be earning the revenue which we are always not able to get our expected revenues from the locals which totals approximately Ksh. 1.9 billion. If we add some other streams of revenue collection Mr. Speaker, I am sure we will get what is supposed to be collected from the locals.

Mr. Speaker, without much, I want to rest my case and appreciate the contribution of all the Members hoping that this Motion will come to pass and the people of Machakos will have something which they can say is of their own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(Question put and agreed)

(Applause)

Now that the report has been adopted and passed by the House unanimously, I commit it to the committee on Agriculture to report back to this House on or before 25th June, 2018.

One thing I would like to also chip in on this from my experience in the coffee, maybe some of you do not know but before I became an MCA, I was also a Chairman of a coffee factory. Some of the main issues which we need to be considering here, and this I am directing to the committee is, you need to look at the existing facilities which are there.

I know we have LECOM (Lower Eastern Coffee Mills), which the Hon. Chairman of Agriculture said that he is also aware of but it has got issues. The reason why you need to consider this is, you must consider economies of scale. As you have heard, these millers from Thika, Ruiru, come here to get our coffee to try and achieve economies of scale. So, we will need to look at the production and see whether Machakos Coffee can accommodate two millers at the same time.

The other key thing which I would like you to consider is the issue of licensing, marketing licensing, and specifically the issue of the bond requirement for you to get a marketing license which had been set previously before the formation of devolution at Ksh. 1 billion. So, that becomes prohibitive in as far as you going ahead to be able to become a marketer because it is only when you become a marketer that the true value addition to our farmers is going to be achieved. So, those two issues just from my experience will be key issues for the committee to consider in as far as this matter is concerned. Thank you, Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: This House is now adjourned to Tuesday, 17th April, 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.49 p.m.