

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 14th March, 2018

The House met at 10.08 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Good morning, Members. Alright, get seated we start on the business for today. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

COUNTY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS 2017/2018

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this order there is one business and it is a communication from the Chair about a report that we have received from the County Executive. This is the first and second Quarter of the County Financial Statements. Hon. Members, the Assembly received reports and Financial Statements from the County Executive Member for Finance and Revenue Management on 13th of March, 2018, that is yesterday under section 166(4) of the Public Finance Management Act and Article 183(3) of the Constitution and this is a requirement of the law that, not later than one month after each quarter, the County Treasury is supposed to consolidate quarterly reports from its departments and submit them to the Assembly for interrogation.

The First and Second quarter Financial Statements for the year 2017/2018 have been received by this Assembly, they are late as you notice. Nevertheless, the same are committed to the Finance and Revenue Collection Committee of this House for interrogation and the House expects a report from that Committee on or before the 17th day of April, 2018. Thank you, Hon. Members.

PAPER LAID

COUNTY ANNUAL TREE PLANTING REPORT

Hon. Kisini: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House today, Wednesday, 14th March, 2018; report of the Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources Committee on County Annual Tree Planting Policy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Mr. Clerk, proceed. Hon. Kisini, please come back. Listed under this order is one business again by the Hon. Kisini.

NOTICE OF MOTION
COUNTY ANNUAL TREE PLANTING REPORT

Hon. Kisini:

Madam Speaker, that aware that forest resources in our country are valuable natural endowment that must be sustainably managed for present and future generations;

Further, aware that forest resources offer a range of benefits and opportunities for local and national economic development, improved livelihoods and provision of environmental goods and services such as watershed protection and carbon sequestration;

Cognizant that in the preamble of the Constitution, we the people of Kenya are supposed to be respectful of the environment, which is our heritage and determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generations;

Informed that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, County Government is mandated to protect the environment and natural resources with a view to establishing a durable and sustainable system of development;

Remembering that in October, 2017, a Motion to set up a policy on County Annual Tree planting week during the short rains of October to December was tabled in this House, discussed and approved then committed to the committee on Environment for investigation and reporting;

Aware that on 7th November, 2017, the committee invited the Chief Officer, Department on Environment and Natural Resources to discuss the plans that the Department had put in place to facilitate the success of the program;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the committee on Environment on County Annual Tree planting policy.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION
COUNTY ANNUAL TREE PLANTING REPORT

Hon. Kisini:

Madam Speaker, that aware that forest resources in our Country are valuable natural endowment that must be sustainably managed for present and future generations;

Further, aware that forest resources offer a range of benefits and opportunities for local and national economic development, improved livelihoods and provision of environmental goods and services such as watershed protection and carbon sequestration;

Cognizant that in the preamble of the Constitution, we the people of Kenya are supposed to be respectful of the environment, which is our heritage and determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generations;

Informed that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, County Government is mandated to protect the environment and natural resources with a view to establishing a durable and sustainable system of development; Remembering that in October, 2017, a Motion to set up a policy on County Annual Tree planting week during the short rains of October to December was tabled in this House, discussed and approved then committed to the committee on Environment for investigation and reporting; Aware that on 7th November, 2017, the committee invited the Chief Officer, Department on Environment and Natural Resources to discuss the plans that the Department had put in place to facilitate the success of the program; Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the committee on Environment on County Annual Tree planting policy.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

Hon. Kisini: Madam Speaker, I wish and I request Hon. Mark Muendo to second this report.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Muendo.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I second.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini and Hon. Muendo. Hon. Kisini, can you proceed on your report? Do you have a report?

Hon. Kisini: Yes, I have it. The preamble to the Kenyan Constitution recognizes that the Kenya people respect the environment which is their heritage and are determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generation. Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya entitles every person to a right to a clean and healthy environment including the right:

- a. To have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures, particularly those contemplated in Article 69; and
- b. To have obligations relating to the environment fulfilled under Article 70.

Madam Speaker, Kenya's forest cover is about 7 per cent although this is below the global standards. About 90 per cent of rural energy in Kenya comes from fuel wood (firewood and charcoal). Trees provide herbal medicine, fruits, control soil erosion, break wind speed, provide timber, protect water catchments areas and clean the environment by absorbing green House gases like carbon dioxide.

Deforestation, degradation of forests, desertification as well as global warming are some of the major threats to sustainable development that continue to negatively affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people.

Madam Speaker, the National Tree Planting Day is celebrated in Kenya every year on April 21. In the Machakos County Integrated Development plan, the vision of the environmental sector is to have a County living in a clean, secure and sustainable environment.

The tree planting season is a time for the Government to remind its citizens of the need to plant, protect and manage trees. This is aimed at increasing the area covered by trees countrywide.

Further, Madam Speaker, section 7 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act establishes Kenya Forest Service whose functions include the following as set out in section 8(e), (g), (i), (n) and (o) of the Act.

- (e) Assist county governments to build capacity in forestry and forest management in the counties;
- (g) Promote forestry education and training;
- (i) Collaborate with relevant persons in identifying research needs and applying research findings in relation to forests and forestry;
- (n) Establish forest conservancy areas for purposes of conservation and management;
- (o) Approve the provision of credit facilities and technical training for community-based forest industries, and the provision of incentives to persons for the sustainable utilization of wood and non-wood forest products;

Background

In October, 2017, a Motion to set up a County Annual Tree planting week during the short rains of October to December was tabled in this House by Hon. Justus Katumo. The motion was discussed and approved by the House after which it was committed to the committee on Environment, lands, Energy and Natural resources for further investigation and reporting to the House.

On 7th November, 2017, the committee invited the Chief Officer, Department of Energy and Natural Resources to discuss on the plans that the Department had put in place to facilitate the formulation of policy on tree planting.

The Committee was informed that at the start of the year 2017, an NGO by the name Greenpeace Africa condemned the government's plan to cut down trees in Iveti Forest within Machakos County. The county's Forestry Department had approved the cutting down of trees on 22 acres of the forest.

In the first CIDP, the County Government of Machakos had planned to initiate planting of trees such as eucalyptus, cypress, grevillea and pine for commercial purposes.

Mandate of the Committee

Madam Speaker, the Committee on Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural resources is a sectoral Committee established under Standing Order 190 and the Second Schedule with specific mandate to all matters related to the implementation of specific national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation, including soil and water conservation and forestry and control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances and outdoor advertising; land survey and mapping; boundaries and fencing; electricity and gas reticulation; energy regulation; water management systems in built up areas and water sanitation services.

Committee Membership

Madam Speaker, the membership of the aforementioned committees is as follows:-

1.	Hon. Robert Kisini	-	Chairperson
2.	Hon. Christine Koki	-	V/Chairperson
3.	Hon. Alex Kamitu	-	Member
4.	Hon. Brian Kisila	-	“
5.	Hon. Cosmas Kieti Muia	-	“
6.	Hon. Dominic Ndambuki	-	“
7.	Hon. George King’ori	-	“
8.	Hon. Hellen Ndeti	-	“
9.	Hon. Jacqueline Nziva	-	“
10.	Hon. Jane Nyawira	-	“
11.	Hon. Joseph Musau	-	“
12.	Hon. Mark Muendo	-	“
13.	Hon. Michael Mutiso	-	“

MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OFFICER DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Madam Speaker, Article 195(1) of the Constitution of Kenya states that, a County Assembly or any of its Committees has power to summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing information. The Committee invited the Departmental Chief Officer in Charge of Energy and Natural Resources on 7th November, 2017 and had an elaborate deliberation on this subject.

Madam Speaker, the Chief Officer informed the committee that the following activities had been initiated;

1. The Department, in liaison with the Department of Water and an NGO called METAMETA had begun tree planting program in Matuu, Kateki, Kwa Katoi, Ikombe, Kithito and Katangi market.
2. Organizing school programs to plant 50 trees in every school in February during the long rains.
3. Continuous tree planting in all Government institutions.
4. Introduction of incentives for Forest creation.
5. Encouraging Primary schools to join the KenGen-sponsored Green Initiative Challenge.
6. Mapping of existing nurseries in the county.
7. Identification of groups with nurseries and promotion of such groups by procuring seedlings from them.

Committee Observations

Madam Speaker, the committee observed that:-

1. There was no policy in place for County Tree Planting although measures had been put in place by the department to come up with the same.
2. The department did not have sufficient budget allocation for the exercise after approval of the policy.
3. The department did not have enough staff to enable them work effectively and efficiently.

4. There were inadequate tree nurseries in place at the county resulting to deficiency of seedlings.
5. There were so many private bodies and people who were willing to give tree seedlings though they had not been consulted on the same.
6. The department had not identified the right tree seedlings which suit the climatic condition in the county.
7. There was no proper sensitization done on the importance of trees in the county.

Committee Recommendations

Madam Speaker, based on the submissions the committee recommends;

1. The department to hasten preparation of the Tree Planting policy which should be tabled in the Assembly for deliberations and approval within 90 days from to-date.
2. The department to come up with a reasonable budget for the exercise during 2018/19
3. Sufficient equipment and tools and working gears be purchased and distributed fairly to all wards to enhance smooth running of the exercise.
4. The exercise to commence in all 40 Wards on a need basis and proper sensitization be done.
5. The department should take initiative of approaching all the bodies and people willing to donate the required tree seedlings for early preparedness.
6. The County Government should ensure that all the gazetted forests in the county where people have encroached have been reclaimed for better management. I beg to repeat number six, the County Government should ensure that all the gazetted forests in the county where people have encroached have been reclaimed back for better management.
7. Department of Energy and Natural Resources should set up an annual tree planting week on the commencement of short rains in the second week of the month of October whereby all the stakeholders will be put together to participate in the tree planting exercise. This will act as a forum for sensitization to the public and participation of people in fighting climate change.
8. The County Government of Machakos should embrace establishment of bamboo forests. Bamboo is the fastest growing plant in the world with studies showing that the plant can grow to at least 20 meters in three months given the right conditions. Bamboo is one of the best plants that can be used in the mitigation of climate change. This is because of its ability to absorb large amount of carbon from the air. The bamboo plant also has an extensive network of roots that hold the soil and prevent it from being eroded making it ideal for holding river banks. In Africa, Ethiopia is the largest producer of bamboo and bamboo products. Other types of indigenous trees like acacia, casuarina, eucalyptus, cypress, grevillea and pine could also be considered.
9. The County Government should facilitate organized groups that deal with tree nurseries by offering them technical knowledge and financial support. The nurseries will act as a bank to supply seedlings during the annual tree planting week.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement

Madam Speaker, Kenya is endowed with some of the most pristine forest ecosystems in the world. Machakos County is blessed with some of the most diverse forest ecosystems around from the moorlands to rain forests. This is an important National treasure that citizens have the sole responsibility of conserving.

Kenyans must never lose sight of the important roles that these forests play in their daily lives no matter where they live. In some years back, our forests were more expansive and ultimately more diverse but with population growth and demand for wood from industries, forests have continued to shrink at an alarming rate hence the need to be attentive on matters relating to environmental protection.

It is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Committee, to table this report on consideration of the Machakos County Annual Tree Planting Policy in this Hon. House for discussion and adoption. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, the Motion is open for debate now. Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is to support the Motion by saying that, if you can remember your biology in primary, trees are very important; they change the air to the good air we use. The other thing is that, the Executive, every time they have money for buying the trees to be planted.

So, what I can ask the Hon. Members, the 40 Wards should be given 300 tree seedlings to distribute to their Wards so they can be remembered when they go home with the trees which they plant; it is very important you have to be remembered by something.

You can distribute the 300 tree seedlings to primary schools, churches, secondary schools and even in your homes, it becomes a tree forest which is very important; trees are life and even the women, every time they go to search for water, it is not good for them to be going to search the woods to cook with, they can be having something.

If we keep on discussing here and the rains are on, we have to pass this motion so that you can go and get the trees and plant to your places. Madam Speaker, just pass this motion so that we can go and plant the trees. Thank you.

(Laughter)

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

Hon. Kieti: Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate my colleague Hon. Kisini for the elaborate report that he has presented to this Hon. House. I want to say that as Hon. Mueni has said; we cannot keep discussing about trees, we cannot exhaust the discussion about trees or the importance of trees. Trees provide natural beauty in the first place.

Trees are homes for animals and even we hear about some human beings who reside in the forest. Trees have unlimited resources just as it has been enlisted in the report; we have fruits, wood, timber, fuel which all can come from the trees. I also want to emphasize that trees protect our water catchment areas and they also protect our soil from eroding just as it appears from the report.

So, I want to support the motion that the county of Machakos comes up with a policy whereby we will be able to plant trees every year so that we can enjoy all the benefits that are enlisted within the report and which we cannot exhaust. I want to say that , the County of Machakos, if we could embrace this policy, with the population that we have of about 400 people and above, if each person planted a tree every year, then it converts to about two million trees within the five years; (??) that we will be in this House.

So I strongly support this policy that the County of Machakos comes up with a policy of planting trees every year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kieti. Hon. Ndalana.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndalana: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am supporting this motion because I have been planting trees in every school and churches for the last five years so every year I normally plant 5,000 trees. I have a NGO which I do that with the community. I will invite the Environment Committee to plant 500 trees in Mumbuni North because I come from there. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ndalana. Hon. Helen Matee.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support this motion because I believe that trees are very important in the sense that as my colleague Hon. Mueni said, they even bring more oxygen and change the environment. I think the motion is so self-explanatory, the only thing I would like to add to the motion that we are speaking about is that it seems like we are planning or talking about bringing foreign species of plants.

I think it is also very important as Kenyans to think the indigenous plants that have been in our country so that we know their names and include them in the planting of the trees so that whatever we plant is compatible with the soils we have.

Some years back, I went to Malaysia and I was very impressed because in Malaysia the policy is that; you never bring any imported species of plants; they prefer to deal with what has been there for many years and that is why they get rains throughout, the place is leafy and green because they have only been planting trees that have done well in the rest of their years.

So, my contribution to the motion is to state that it is very important we come up with that policy of tree planting, but we also look at the kind of trees that we want to plant in our environment because; like Machakos County we know it is a very dry area, we don't want to plant trees that are going to take part of the water that we have; we need trees that can help in holding that water. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndeti. Hon. Stephen Mwanthi.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do support that this House approves the motion that the county government needs to plant more trees. It is always good and when you check on our environment as at now, we have a problem of getting enough rains and as much as we are even trying to protect our environment, it is also good we lead by example. I am also suggesting that it is good even for the County Assembly we have a policy of tree planting; we also do it ourselves.

(Applause)

I have County government land in my ward, for example where we can as well go and plant some trees there especially the bamboo plant; I know it will make a difference and it will be remembered. It will be a County Assembly's forest that will have planted and make good arrangements so that as we lead, we also lead by example. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Steve Mwanthi. Hon. Kituku.

Hon. Kituku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am in support of this report and particularly, I have some few areas that I want to support strongly whereby one on page seven, recommendation number four, that this exercise should commence in the 40 wards; this one is for uniformity. Again, proper sensitization because we have some homesteads where you cannot find reasonable number of trees, so through sensitization, tree cover will improve.

Again on recommendation number nine; we have this issue of the County government supporting groups through financial support and technical knowledge. We have a number of groups in our respective wards and if these groups can be supported financially and also through technical knowledge on which species to grow, we will find our wards developing in terms of tree cover.

So, if the County Government actually would support this groups, we will find that we have a number of tree seedlings in our places and actually I am sure that people will plant because actually in our rivers, most of our rivers are drying up and this simply is because the water catchment areas are left open leaving those places prone to actually desertification. So, I am support of this report so I strongly support. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mutinda.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support this motion and I would wish to say that it is a good motion and I think the report is timely. Currently, rains are on and we need seedlings to plant. I think, Madam Speaker, it is the high time the County Government supports the National Government in achieving the international standard cover of 10 percent of the forest cover. I think this should be done through good policies, budgets and partnerships.

I think, Madam Speaker, the tree planting should be done and also safeguarding the same by trying to have a policy on reducing or eliminating charcoal burning because even if we plant so many trees and we continue having charcoal burning and whatever, then we will end up without forests.

So, I think the policy should also include the issue of charcoal burning so that we also save whatever we will have realized. I think in some places like the hills, I have hills which are

bare and it is unfortunate when you have bare hills because the hills should help us achieve more rains.

We have the public places like the schools, the private schools, the secondary schools and the market places which, with partnerships with the stakeholders, we may achieve more in this goal. So, I think the policy should be made and also we help the marginalized groups; people with disabilities, the youth, the women, the 30 percent, the people who are marginalized to help us and do this work.

I think the County Government can buy the seeds to those marginalized groups, buy water tanks, buy equipment to those groups and when these seedlings are ready, when the seeds are planted we have seedlings and the County Government again buys the seedlings from those groups and in that way we will have helped them have an income and we will be now helping our people get income as well as we get the development.

So, I think those groups should be involved and we will achieve more with this. So, thank you, Madam Speaker, I think it is the high time we do this with the County Government so that we achieve the minimum 10 percent tree cover. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutinda. Hon. Cosmus Masesi.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support this motion that the County Government of Machakos comes up with annual tree planting policy and just to start, I want to push and add a lot of weight on page seven number six; that this County Government makes sure that all gazetted forests are reclaimed back.

For instance, in my place I have two forests, Katunga forest which the members of the public have really taken a lot of it. How I wish the committee could come over to my place and see what can be done to reclaim that piece of land back to the community.

More so the importance of trees, Madam Speaker, is something that cannot be underestimated in terms of provision of survival from the air we breathe to the wood we use. Madam Speaker, if it were not for the forests, I do not know what would be in this chamber because if you observe you will see 80 percent of the furniture in the chamber is made of wood.

More so coming out of the forests is a source of job in the terms of their management and also conservation. Madam Speaker, I want to support the motion with those few point. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mule: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am in support of this motion that was brought by Hon. Katumo and the report that is brought by the environment committee. But my concern, Madam Speaker, is about these rains that are on they look promising and they said that, the recommendation number seven says that we start planting trees in October.

I am just concerned about these rains that are on and setting an example and leading by example as what Hon. Mwanthi said, as an Assembly we can start planting trees and I further suggest that we can forfeit, with your guidance, Madam Speaker, we can forfeit one of our sittings plenary sittings and buy trees. Every person to buy trees and we go and plant and probably tomorrow or the day after tomorrow so that we can make use of these rains that are on and look promising. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Caleb, Hon. Johana.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the report by the environment, lands, energy and natural resources committee. The importance of trees really not need be overemphasized.

I want to say that I really wish the policy could also detail the element of management of the trees on top of planting because we also want to gauge the survival rate of the trees so that we are sure that the number of tree seedlings planted survive almost 100 percent.

I would also wish to recommend that as indicated in the report that research is done facilitation to research is done so that we are able to tell which trees can survive where also the new methods of retaining moisture especially where rains are less or are short so that we can have the survival rate going up for the trees.

On page seven, the fourth recommendation which says that 'the exercise to commence in 40 wards' that is very okay but I am worried about on need basis because we require trees across the County. So, I would wish that we overlook the need basis and we commence the exercise on all the 40 wards. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Johana. Hon. Members I call upon the mover of the motion Hon. Kisini to reply.

Hon. Kisini: I want to thank Hon. Members, for the support to this motion and seeing the need that we improve our county by planting trees all over. I want to say that it is very good and I want to thank Hon. Katumo for bringing such a good motion which is going to have far reaching consequences in bettering the climate of our county.

As it has been said by the Hon. Member for Matugnulu East who said that in recommendation number 6, it is upon all Hon. Members to check and to see to it that the encroachment on the gazetted forest that they are claimed back. It is our duty to see to it that whatever land in your ward which has been may be encroached, it goes back to the county and to see to it that the planting of the trees commences.

I also want to emphasize on number 8, that we talked of other indigenous trees and we gave examples of acacia, casuarina and others. So, we want to consider even the indigenous trees because we know the climate changes in different parts of our county, and there are different species to different areas.

So, Members, I am honored and say thank you for supporting this motion although we have not yet voted and then I want to request the chairperson of implementation committee to take up the matter----

Hon. Speaker: Hon Kisini, don't cross boundaries, don't cross boundaries.

Hon. Kisini: So, I am sorry. Thank you for that. Thank you members I want to say thank you for supporting the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Kisini.

(Laughter)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, Hon. Kisini was encroaching upon the mandate of the Chair; I think it was for a good reason, this is a motion that has carried everybody and the interest is felt by the whole House in the motion.

Nevertheless, the implementation committee and the chairman is here and is hereby directed to look at this report and I saw a recommendations on page 6 Hon. Members, recommendation number 1, that this report is to be implemented particularly through the adoption of a policy and that is to be within 90 days from today.

However, because of the urgency of this matter, I appreciate that the hands of the implementation committee are full or we agree that we have to prioritize businesses. So, this is a matter that would be committed to the implementation committee and to file its report on the implementation of the report within 60 days of this resolution.

Hon. Members, allow me to remind you that yesterday, to those who read newspapers you may have that the national government came up with gazette of other water catchment areas, and it went in county per county and in Machakos, I remember seeing Iveti hill as one of the water catchment areas and this town is surrounded by Iveti hills and there is also Kibauni hills the interest of Hon. Annastaciah and there are others these are just a few.

So, this is coming at the right time and particularly the time we have seen a lot of rains and a lot of rain water just being washed down to the ocean. I am excited by the proposal by the Hon. Caleb, that the members in particular season you may consider forfeiting the one of the sittings of the plenary so that we procure trees as an initiative of the Assembly and immediately we go plant trees and that is also the work of the implementation committee but I would also ask the Clerk's office to see how they can liaise but I am believing that members, you are after that idea and so that we do what we preach.

We have a lot of rain water right now so we make use of it in our respective wards and I would suggest even in this Assembly, if we cannot get space for a tree for each one of you and you plant your name on it, a plate which you will show in years to come that this tree was planted by this Hon. Member, including the Speaker.

(Applause)

If we cannot get enough space for each one of 60 of us in this Assembly tomorrow going forward, we may as well do it by committees by committee but that is logistics to be worked on by the Clerk's office so that at least even as we go out there telling people to plant trees, we have already done it ourselves.

Let me just tell you something about me; I have already started planting trees in Kinanie primary school with the permission of my member of the Assembly, just to capitalize on the current rains that is the school nearest my home.

(Applause)

Let us see what we can do for the public and for ourselves.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon Members, with that this House is, the sitting is adjourned to proceed on the 14th day of March, 2018 at 2.30 p.m, that is today in the afternoon.

The House rose at 11.02 a.m.