

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

The House met at 10.13 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Good morning, Hon. Members. We want to start the sitting this morning. Mr. Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION OF WARD OFFICES

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, I have a brief communication and the first one is on the Ward offices that the Assembly has been constructing; an update and also request for information from some of the Members who have not given information on the construction.

Members, we are still constructing the 40 offices in the 40 Wards as you passed sometimes back, you have a budget. So, far, 10 of the offices started construction and a number of them are almost completing and 12 others are at the tendering stage but however, we still have 18 where the Hon. Members affected have not identified suitable County land for construction of the offices.

This information, Hon. Members, is to the effect that you need to submit the information by end of this month that is February, 2020 so that the process of tendering for construction can start. Remember when it comes March and April, we will not be able to execute budgets for the reason that you know when you approach the close of the year.

It was the intention of the Assembly that we complete the construction of the Ward offices in this Financial Year so that, the 18 Members who have not done it, please liaise with office of the clerk once you have the information because it is you who is to identify the location and then let us know so that the clerk can now take up to the County Executive so that you are facilitated for that construction.

COMPOSITION OF HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Hon. Members, the other communication is on the House Business Committee. I do understand that this is business that came to the floor of this House yesterday in the afternoon sitting when I was away attending to another official function and I understand that the debate of the Motion was suspended and the reason that I was given is that, the NASA Coalition team Members did not

agree on the new Members that they need to give for purposes of composition of a new House Business Committee.

Hon. Members, you know the importance of this Committee; it ballots business for this House and if there is no business for this House then you will not sit in the plenary and also in the committees and so Hon. Members, what you need to do, the NASA team, I am giving them seven days that is by the 26th of February, they need to sit, consult and give the relevant Clerk Assistant the names of the new Members so that then you do not hold everybody else in that committee and if by the 26th of February, 2020, the NASA team does not do that, the Speaker will give such further information and such further action will be taken because this House must continue functioning.

Hon. Members, I am hoping that you are going to take this matter very seriously and remember even in your training, at one point Madam Munga has kept on telling you to be very careful in the kind of resolutions you pass because some of them may even amount to sending yourselves home. I just want you to note that the importance of the House Business Committee is such that you cannot function as a House without a House Business Committee.

It is upon you and particularly the NASA team. Call your thoughts together, sit down and submit the names of the new Members that you want to join that Committee. Hon. Members, with that I will call upon the Clerk to proceed.

PAPER LAID

THANKS OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY CONTAINED IN THE ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Speaker: This particular Order, we have the laying of a Paper by Hon. Kamitu; I can see the surprised look on his face. You were not going to be passed. Please come and prosecute.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House today Wednesday, the 19th day of February 2020; the Governor's address to the Assembly delivered on 18th February, 2020. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let me see if it is a paper that is properly laid, Hon. Kamitu. Are you satisfied with the Paper as it is? Just look at it. I am referring to Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Madam Speaker, I think my signature is missing. Let me do it.

Hon. Speaker: Can you append the signature and lay the Paper again as soon as possible on a day that is suitable. It is not you to sign.

Hon. Kamitu: I have understood, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Alright, go ahead and do it next time in the proper manner. So that Paper has not been laid; it is lacking the signature of the maker of the document and it is a very critical aspect. So, Mr. Clerk, proceed.

STATEMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, on this particular order I understand there is a statement that has been sought particularly on the locust invasion by Hon. Jeremiah. That I have approved in total

this morning because yesterday I was not.....I think you submitted it only yesterday. So you make arrangements for it to be brought to the floor in the afternoon today. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

SETTING UP OF DEMONSTRATION FARMS IN VILLAGE POLYTECHNICS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, on this Order, we have one Motion by the Hon. Stephen Mwanthi.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, that aware that the Fourth Schedule Part 2 of the Constitution of Kenya mandates the County Governments to be in-charge of village polytechnics;

Aware that these institutions are centers where technical skills can impart to our youth as well as any other person who needs learning;

Aware that if well utilized, these polytechnics can be of great value to our County through producing graduates who are capable of employing themselves as well as helping the County in various technical fields such as agriculture, catering, bakery, construction, motor vehicles mechanics, ICT, and entrepreneurship;

Further aware that these institutions possess resources that if well utilized they can benefit the County through the transfer of skills to the neighboring communities through demonstrations;

Further aware that most of our village polytechnics have large tracts of land and aware that these pieces of land can be used as demonstrations farms;

Aware that the students, as well as the community around the institution, will be able to learn on various methods of farming;

Aware that this will also ensure full utilization of the County Agricultural Officers in the County;

Madam Speaker, I wish to move the motion that the County Government of Machakos considers setting a demonstration farm in each ward in our Village Polytechnics where the youth and farmers will come to learn on farming methods.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I call upon Hon. Kiilu to second the Motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwanthi. Hon. Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: I second.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, I think you will excuse me if I do not keep on standing now.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, with that I invite you to debate the Motion. Hon. Hellen.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This morning I am very happy to have listen to the Motion from one of our colleagues, *Mheshimiwa* Stephen Mwanthi; the Motion regarding setting up some land where we can be able to transfer farming technologies to our people. As you very well know, a lot of our people are peasant farmers.

Hon. Ngunga: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Point of order Hon. Ngunga.

Hon. Ngunga: Yes, Madam Speaker. I rise on a point of order to pose a question to the Member who is on the floor whether it is in order for the Member to keep on misdirecting Members and the public in general for she indicates that she is elected by Wiper. Madam Speaker, you know that Wiper is not an electoral body and so when a Member wakes up---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ngunga, can I also guide you on that?

Hon. Ngunga: Yes please; kindly.

Hon. Speaker: There is the word, specially elected and that is the terminology in the law.

(Applause)

Special Elect and specially elected is elected by the Party.

Hon. Ngunga: Madam Speaker, I do not want to engage in that one but particularly I wanted to be very clear because I heard what she said. She said that she is elected.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ngunga, please resume your seat because the Member is specially elected and let every Member who is specially elected to represent a certain special interest group is in the Assembly as of right and we stop at that. The only thing is Hon. Members, use the correct terminology, it is specially elected not selected and you are representing the interest that is women and we know the other special interest groups that are represented. So, let us get it right and those are matters really that you should not build mountains on. So, can we proceed?

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you for the support because I---

Hon. Speaker: I am not supporting; I am just correcting you. Hon. Member. Introduce yourself appropriately.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Hellen Ndeti, specially-elected and not nominated by Wiper Party.

(Applause)

Now, as I said most of our people are peasant farmers they have got small chunks of land and their livelihood is on farming. I think the Motion is very timely because these farmers require some knowledge so that whatever little they are growing can be done in such a manner that the yield is more and is beneficial to the Community. So, I am fully in support of the Motion and I would really request the County Government to pay a lot of attention to this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Hellen. Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to give my input on the Motion before the House. I will start by saying I believe the Hon. Member has brought the Motion in good faith. He is trying to assist the farmers so that they can have skills and so that they can do their best in their farming activities. Madam Speaker, the Motion is very okay, the only challenge is that we have this Vocational Training Centres which are owned by the County and most of them as we talk they are lacking instructors.

I cite an example of Matuu vocational center which is the biggest in Machakos County; it has about 518 trainees and we are lacking 14 instructors. We have been pleading with the county executive to employ the instructors but the response we get is that there is no budget. Madam Speaker, the question I have---

Hon. Speaker: When you passed the budget Hon. Ndawa, remember the public are watching the proceedings of this House on YouTube; did you have a budget for polytechnics and do you know that polytechnics are devolved functions? Hon. Steve Mwanthi and Hon. Dominic, the people in finance, did you pass a budget?

Hon. Ndambuki: Yes Madam Speaker, I do not clearly remember if we had an allocation for additional tutors in the youth polytechnics.

Hon. Speaker: Then Members, you are doing oversight and when you were passing the budget it did not occur to you that you needed to consider that aspect? When did they stop being staffed? Hon. Kiilu, yes it is your docket.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am the Chair of education committee and that is one of the devolved functions from the national government. It is true that we did a budget and I am cocksure that we facilitated the budget for instructors, the budget for employing the ECDE teachers and a budget for facilitators. I do remember very well that the budget for facilitating the facilitators at all levels, we gave a budget of Ksh. 250,000 and my surprise, now they are conducting some ECDE trainings and they are charging they ECDE teachers Ksh. 1,000 to Ksh. 1,300.

I am yet to consult the Chief Officer to give an explanation. In fact, this morning we had a sitting in education committee and we agreed to summon the Chief Officer to explain on the same. So we gave some budgets but they were slashed at a certain level that I cannot tell. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Stephen Mwanthi, you want to chip in on the budget?

Hon. Mwanthi: Not necessarily budget but Madam Speaker, you realize we have agricultural officers in each and every ward. My motion mentions the utilization of county agricultural officers.

Hon. Speaker: Not the village polytechnics?

Hon. Mwanthi: Now, what they do, it is funny that even when they are training the farmers they train the farmers in the market and automatically when you go to the market, you will only training a business lady or a business man on farming skills. So my view was, let the agricultural officers have offices in the vocational training centers and train the farmers from there and most probably have some demonstrations farms on what they are training the farmers.

So we might not require much of funds on that docket because the land is already there and the agricultural officers who are already working with the county government even without offices in the areas they are working.

Hon. Speaker: So you have clarified that: to use agricultural extension officers but in the vocational training centers? Hon. Ndawa, are you okay with that or you still want to have the issue of staffing of those vocational centers?

Hon. Ndawa: I think the issue I had raised has been addressed. So the other issue; how I had understood the motion it is as if we were to start new institutions.

Hon. Speaker: We have come out of that now.

Hon. Ndawa: Madam Speaker, the motion is timely and needs to be supported by anybody of a sound mind in this House. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ndawa, just stand up.

(Hon. Ndawa stood in his place)

Anybody of sound mind in this House! That implies that there is somebody who is not of sound mind; so can you withdraw that statement.

Hon. Ndawa: Madam Speaker, why I am using this word is because all the Hon. Members who are sitting---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ndawa, we have read English and we know what that means, so if you say anybody of sound mind it means there is a provision for somebody who is of unsound mind. So, can you withdraw because all the members here are of sound mind starting with yourself?

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to substitute the word with another one; I want to say the Hon. Members, because they are number ones and I believe they are working for the betterment---

Hon. Speaker: Are you withdrawing the last statement Hon. Ndawa or you are not.

Hon. Ndawa: I am withdrawing.

Hon. Speaker: Then now state and finalize.

Hon. Ndawa: Yes, I am saying the motion is timely, it is made in good faith and it is made to benefit the peasant farmers of this county to do their best with their farming activities. So, Madam Speaker, I call upon Hon. Members to support the motion so that we can move on. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndawa. Hon. Angela. I will give opportunity because you know agriculture is a devolved function and this is where you need to up the game.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Angela Munyasya, specially elected by Wiper Democratic Movement. I would like to support

Hon. Speaker: Make sure that the emphasis you are putting are running all through.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Yes, Madam Speaker. I did not want to make a mistake because some people are seeing it differently.

Hon. Speaker: We do not have people here.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Some Hon. Members are looking at it differently.

Hon. Speaker: Alright, proceed.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Madam Speaker I would like to support the motion in the sense that agriculture is a subsistence function for all our people on the ground but Madam Speaker, we have a challenge because some wards, for example Mbiuni ward, do not even have a TIVET or vocational training center. So I would like to be enlightened on whether we have the farms or even the trainers.

The farms that the Member is proposing that we get people trained we need to set again a budget maybe in the next financial year so that every ward has such a farm because maybe not all the wards have that farm. So Madam Speaker, I support the motion but I would like to have Members ensure that every ward we have at least a TIVET center in which I brought a motion sometimes back recommending that in every ward we need to have a TIVET center. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Angela. Hon. Kiteng'u.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I support the motion and state that our county government, in the department of agriculture, we have the quarter acre which I think the Executive has initiated and during the last Devolution Conference at Kirinyaga, I saw the demonstration which the executive was demonstrating as one of the initiatives Machakos is undertaking.

Hon. Speaker, in our wards, the Executive has demonstrated the same whereby you have construct a certain dam of 10 by 10 meters and if I imagine the demonstration of the quarter acre and the only demonstration area they have put it near People's Park, if we try and put it in each ward, I know our farmers will be able to have a easy access to go and learn how to do the farming. So I support the motion and I find it timely because our people need it urgently. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kiteng'u. The Chair agriculture, what is your position Hon. Mitaa?

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I first congratulate Hon. Mwanthi for the motion he has brought; I support it fully. Through the department of agriculture, we are trying to undertake some initiatives because much as agriculture is devolved, we are trying to encourage our youth to engage in agricultural matters through different ways, Madam Speaker. Hon. Kiteng'u has stated of the quarter acre, yes we have a program which we are currently undertaking through the quarter acre program; it is a World Bank supported program.

Again we have K-SMART; we have selected areas whereby we are coming up with community dams and part of these community dams will be used on irrigation on farming matters and through those dams I think we are in the process, because the minute the department of agriculture has run out of extension officers. To be sincere, we have less than 10 senior extension officers. The one who is serving---

Hon. Speaker: Are we supposed to have a senior one in each ward.

Hon. Mitaa: Yes, Madam Speaker. Somehow we have neglected that sector, we have not been keen on the issue of extension officers and these are the people who are dealing with farmers on the ground. These are people whenever there is an activity, like now we are trying to educate our farmers on post-harvest measure; we have good returns from our land and you find our farmers do not know anything or have information on how to take care of the produce we have.

We are trying to educate them on how to reserve the food and also how to prepare themselves because Madam Speaker, we do not know when next we will have such a harvest especially now that we have this invasion of the desert locusts. To support the motion, I would request this House to consider on our budget somehow we have a very big challenge on the budget because we cannot employ without money.

Secondly, I am happy that the county government is trying to come up with County Public Service Board which can now go through the employees and work on how to employ more especially on some departments because agriculture department unfortunately, most of our employees have either retired or in the next two years they will be retiring. We need to take care of that department because much of our interest is to see that they youth might have interest in farming. We are encouraging them to do agricultural business.

Whatever they produce, they sell because if you look around, whatever we produce we consume, we do not sell. We want to look at it from a different perspective where we will be able to feed ourselves and again sell the excess. So, Madam Speaker, I think we are working on several measures which very soon I will be tabling some in the House as time moves on because it is good we progress together as Assembly and as Executive. It is good our people to know any measures we are undertaking as county government of Machakos. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon, Mitaa; Hon Members, I know you have a lot of interest in the matters of agriculture because that is where we need to address our food insecurity much as *Mheshimiwa* Mitaaq has also talked about the preservation of bumper harvest that has been experienced in the county.

We also need to deal a little further and I think *Mheshimiwa* Kieti is not here; he sought to know what the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) submissions in the BBI are; it will be shared officially, one of which is a proposal that there must be a fund to boost agriculture in each ward and the fund is to come from the monies that are allocated to the counties.

This is on realization that that is an area which we need to pay a lot of attention to; that we shouldn't even be saying that we do not have extension officers and they should be so many as many as the people on the ground. So, the concern that is raised in the motion is actually coming at the right time and it is hoped that even when you go to engage the people on the ground on the importance of agriculture and this comes even with the issues of irrigation, issues of seeds, issues of fertilizers, the inputs, and we also said a farmer must get a certain minimum return for their input because you cannot plant maize at a cost of Ksh. 100,000 then what you are returning is half of it.

It does not make sense and the issue of boosting the coffee industry which is of importance particularly to our county because we have a coffee industry that has gone to the drains. So these are matters which we need to address not even through this motion but even outside there and that report will be shared officially as I have indicated. Hon. Mutinda, we are still on this debate.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this motion and I want to say the motion is timely, Madam Speaker, and I want to say that it is good that we match development with empowerment and through this motion our people will be able to be trained on agriculture and they will be able to continue doing agriculture and dairy farming and if possible poultry farming.

Madam Speaker, the challenge we might have is that of water because in our area mostly water is a challenge. So, I am in support and also saying that Madam Speaker, I think it is important that we see how we support the source of water for the training so that whatever agriculture is being done there is sufficient water to continue with the process. Madam Speaker, we can do it by doing a dam or a borehole depending on the specific area---

Hon. Speaker: And harvesting rain water.

Hon. Mutinda: And harvesting rain water. Thank you, Madam Speaker, so that we may have a continuous process throughout the year because like places like my place Wamunyu Ward, when we get to August, September and October even water to drink and do small things is a challenge. Even in the institutions we are going to mount the training in the polytechnics. You find at that time they use bowsers to bring water to the institution.

So it is key to provide a way of having water so that those demonstration farms can continue throughout the year. Madam Speaker, we also have the challenge of the department of agriculture in our county. In that sector, irrigation is placed under water and irrigation is mostly done to support agriculture. As it is now, I think through your guidance we should do something to have irrigation placed back to the agriculture.

Hon. Speaker: Have you checked the national government how it is placed? Anyone here who knows the ministry of water; is it also in charge of irrigation? Most likely it is because you irrigate using water so it has to be a close working relationship between the two departments of water and agriculture.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the guidance and also I think Madam Speaker, we might end up having a challenge where once shared we might see how it will work, Madam Speaker. So we should see that the section is placed in the right department so that we might move on well.

The other thing, Madam Speaker, is for this Assembly, we have passed so many resolutions and so many good motions like the one for MCA Kathiani on the artificial insemination and that thing has not taken place. There is a time I went to---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mutinda, can I stop you and ask you a question?

Hon. Mutinda: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Now you have an Implementation Committee of this House, you also have powers to summon any officer who is not implementing your resolutions. What is happening? So who do you blame but yourselves?

Hon. Mutinda: We can blame ourselves but we can still start afresh.

Hon. Speaker: So can you start a fresh? So can you stop the blame now and then you start a fresh because you have the powers.

Hon. Mutinda: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: You know the public there on the ground and I keep on reminding you that this is the year for you to make or break. The public there is watching and even when you tell them you know our work is to pass the budget.....they do not take it just that. So what after you pass the budget do you pursue the implementation of the budget? Our work is to pass the motions we have passed so many. So what? Do you pursue to check that the motions are implemented?

You have the powers; please members choose to survive and do not choose to perish because it is for you and this is the year of reckoning. So now stop blaming yourselves and just try and do what you must do for the public.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I think it is important that we ensure that we follow our sectoral committees ensure that they engage the departments so that when the budgets are brought to them they ensure these motions that we pass in this House they are factored in the budget and even in eventual document which is placed in the House to ensure whatever we pass here sees the light of day and is implemented. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutinda. Hon. Annastaciah.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutuku: Thank You, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I stand to support the motion because I understand that there are some wards which are very dry and I think our youth need to be educated well because we have a lot of youth who are many educated about the farming or the agriculture. So it is my humble request the County Government to chip in to save these people because in future might be our youth be useless people because of lack of jobs and it is very

important also the government to train the farmers. Like we have farmers who are dairy farmers sometimes, like this season they have a lot of milk and they do not know where they can get market.

Another issue is now we have the global climate change that has favored our county; I would like also to request the national government and the county government to find a way for this farmers to preserve this food until they will get a proper market because some of them are harvesting but they are selling at a throw away price and you understand in Kibauni there was a drought last year and the harvest is very nice.

So through the Chair of the agriculture committee, I would also like to request you to sit down with the County Government and negotiate about how they can maybe support these farmers to buy the crops at a good price because it is very important. We know nowadays people are farming there is new modern technology of farming. It is very important for our people to be trained especially at this time in a global climate change.

Probably, next year maybe the global climate change can be so bad for us so it is very important also the County Government to come up with a strategy to dig small dams for our people when they are trained in farming we engage the youth in farming. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Mitaa: Point of information although---

Hon. Speaker: The Hon. Member has finished. You want to inform her when she has finished?

Hon. Mitaa: I do not know how you would put it, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Perhaps what you can do because a member is supposed to contribute once, I can give you an opportunity to contribute for the very reason that you Chair the agriculture committee but you are not informing Hon. Annastaciah; just share with the House what you have but very briefly.

Hon. Mitaa: Well-guided, Madam Speaker, and thank you. What I would want to inform this Hon. House is that we are negotiating with the national government because you understand that we have National Cereals and produce Board which is under national government and we approached them to allow us to use their facility to store our harvest but unfortunately Madam Speaker, that negotiation has not yet yielded anything but we are actually trying to negotiate with the national government.

Because we have one at Tala, Matungulu, there is another one I think at Kibauni and Matuu, Kithimani. So, Madam Speaker, what we are trying to do because we can collect our harvest and use the silos to store for our products and at the right time our farmers will be able to sell. Again, Madam Speaker, because the challenge here is on budgets I would still insist on budgets and I would request my Hon. Colleague, Hon. Ndambuki who is the chairman of budget committee; please let us have enough budget allocation for agriculture. If we can solve the issue of budgets in agriculture much of problems will disappear, Madam Speaker.

Again on the issue of, Hon. Annastaciah talked about water scarcity, Hon. Mutinda talked about water scarcity and since we are unable to get what we are requesting, I would request my colleagues when it comes to those budgets for our projects those who come from areas they feel we are not doing much in water harvesting, please set aside some amounts for us to purchase dam liners

because you find we have those ponds but whenever we harvest that water after a short while it disappears.

So, Madam Speaker, if they will facilitate us to purchase dam liners, I think the issue of water shortage will disappear. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mitaa. As you were speaking Hon. Members on the issue of preservation of the grains, I know Matuu, Masinga areas they have big parcels of land and like now when the yield is good there is really a lot of food. Do the members who have big chunks of land or even anyone obviously *Mheshimiwa* Dan this is not applicable to you, you are in a town but those members who are in the agricultural areas have you considered even putting that building of a County silo as a project that you can push and it will be there for years and years and even when you are elsewhere you will be saying when I was MCA I built this silo. It was built through my pushing and now you people can put your *mtama* there you can put your maize there, you can put your seeds there.....why do we as a county have to go to the national government?

Can we ever consider that? We are still contributing then in schools there used to be 4K clubs are they 4k clubs or something? This is a kind of a 4K club for those who passed through that system. There is also Ngelani Secondary School or Ngelani agricultural school. Those who come from Ngelani do you know what used to be? It was purely agricultural school nothing else. They had a big farm for demonstration. It is still there but it has shrunk and it still has a lot of land they used to have all manner of farming including even cattle keeping so I think we should be nearing conclusion because the mood of the House is favorable to the motion. Hon. Cosmus; I will come to you Hon. Kamulu

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, first I would like to appreciate the mover of the motion bearing in mind that agriculture is the only option and especially this time when we have a lot of unemployment within our youth. Also, Madam Speaker, this reminds me that having devolved this key functions together with the issues with health and transport, through the Building Bridges Initiative, I want to believe we need to stand firm and make sure that we have some more funds from the national government which I think Madam Speaker, even the 35 percent is not enough.

Hon. Speaker: CAF proposed 45 percent.

Hon. Masesi: Something to that, Madam Speaker, because we need funds down here for the development to trickle all the way from the national government to the common *mwananchi* Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with the kind of inputs which we give to our farmers like the subsidized fertilizers, free seeds and even free chicks, these kind of farming...these kind of farms Madam Speaker, which are proposed to be in place they will help the farmers merge and also the county government might use it as some of the measures to follow up of whether the farmers make use of the seeds we give to them.

Madam Speaker, I want to believe farmers will learn new methods of doing things in terms of farming even Madam Speaker, without doing the farming on their own farms. Madam Speaker, we know there are so many new technologies which are coming up and we have experts in the side of agriculture who are employed by the county government. These are some of the ways which we should use for use to transfer the techniques from our agricultural officers to our people and make sure that they maximize the small farms.

In Matungulu East, we only have small farms and we do not have big acreage. The ward is also not lucky because we even do not have a functional youth polytechnic and I have been following on the same and I want to echo the sentiments of Hon. Munyasya that each ward has a kind of a polytechnic where our youth can get these skills.

Madam Speaker, sometimes back I was looking for a plumber which is very rare to get someone who is very much qualified to do in the areas where we reside. We need to encourage the youth to attend these polytechnic and I am sure that we are supporting them too much because I believe we are paying like Ksh. 30,000 per student attending these polytechnics.

Madam Speaker, otherwise I believe it is the high time and the motion is very much timely, we need to support as a House and June is not very far; we need to budget enough for this functions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cosmos. Hon. Kamulu.

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This motion at first I was not actually getting it right but as the members contributed, I have noted that the essence behind it is partnership with vocational training centers with agriculture sector in the County. Actually in the utility of the land which has been left fallow. Madam Speaker, one of the best ways of doing this is integration of agriculture as a subject in the vocational centers whereby the curriculum includes it as a compulsory subject in the schools.

Madam Speaker, if this one is done, there will be ownership of that institution even the students will be involved in doing those agricultural activities because Madam Speaker if we specify particularly from the extension officers Madam Speaker, they will require labor which actually might not be there but if it is integrated and put in the curriculum and may be the students programme will be actually infused in the school curriculum.

Madam Speaker, it is not necessary that we have very big trucks in the vocational centers so that we can have this policy infused in the vocational training centers because we can use the modern ways of farming like using the greenhouses where demonstration center actually in the institutions can be done in a very small portion.

Madam Speaker, if this one is done the farmers will get skills, free training and the students after they complete their work or their courses, this should not be seen as irrelevant because we know in the vocational training centers we take courses like masonry, courses like carpentry, dress making, hair dressing and if we look it at that level we might see as if agriculture is irrelevant but when these students complete their work and yet they will go back and they will be engaged in the agricultural sector in one way or other.

So, this one is very necessary. Even the harvest, you know today is not that in the agricultural sector we don't have demonstration farms but they identify potential farmers in the regions where they are then they use their own farms then in exchange they give the yields to the farmer but they train the farmers in those works. This one now can be transferred to the vocational training centers where the harvest can be used like feeding programme in the institutions and you see we will be solving the problems together with getting the skills we will also have food to feed the students in the institutions. So, Madam Speaker this is a good notion---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Stephen Mwanthi, I hope you are getting this although the HANSARD is capturing.

Hon. Kamulu: So, Madam Speaker, this is a very good policy which actually can originate from our County because the vocational training centers are all over the country. It is not only in Machakos County they are all over and if such trainings are done all over the country then the issue of food scarcity, the food shortage will be catered for because the farmers will get the skills and food will be produced in the right quantities. So, Madam Speaker, I stand to support the motion.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kamulu. Hon. Winnie.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not want to go to the sentiments of the Governor of which he made I know that one we will discuss later.

Hon. Speaker: Which one is this, Hon. Winnie?

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: Yes I am continuing to elaborate.

Hon. Speaker: Sentiments of?

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: Sentiments of the Governor; speech that he gave.

Hon. Speaker: But we are not on that; where have you got it?

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: I just want to mention because in the speech, he said there are over 400 boreholes and over 500 dams. I was asking the department of agriculture; can we start working even small even before we do the implementation. We start by the agriculture, we start by sampling what we can do like as Hon. Kamulu has said, we can sample and show that Machakos County we can do something and then we can pick up where the boreholes are if they are existing and the dams, we can do little by little and then we will end up somewhere. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Alright. So, you were referring to the speech in reference to availability of water.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mover of the motion; Hon. Nziva, sorry before you reply lets have Hon. Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Madam Speaker and the Hon. Members present. I wish to applaud the mover of this motion because it has come in the right time. You will realize that agriculture is devolved and is one of the four agendas of the President that is food security, so, when we have demonstration farms in our polytechnics, I think that is the right way to go because we have had several demonstration farms in our wards but you realize our extension officers are not enough.

Recently, I talked to the Chief Officer of the agriculture department and we discussed but I was about to bring that to attention of the budget committee because we need agricultural extension officers. In my ward which is more than 31 square kilometer, it is very vast; I have only one senior

extension officer and I can imagine the way he does his job. They are very active but with support; if supported by other officers I think their job can be easy.

I am lucky because in Ikombe ward we have the Kenya Climate Smart support which is supporting peasant farmers and if these farmers are being, or if we have some demonstrations on the same, I think my farmers even the farmers from the County will go extra mile and they will be given the best practices of agriculture and also we will have value addition to our crops, we will have food insecurity as a thing of the past.

So, Madam Speaker, I support the motion and ask Hon. Members when the Chief Officer will come to the agriculture committee kindly support so that we have several agricultural or extension officers. I am also happy because in my ward, there is an Makutano Community Development Association (MCDA) which has come up with a very big silo and even Kenyatta Farmers' Cooperative Society, so if the farmers will be sensitized of various best practices, I think will store our food and even Machakos County will come to buy food from Ikombe ward. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nziva. Hon. Steve Mwanthi, the mover of the motion, please reply.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Madam Speaker; thank you, Hon. Members for supporting the motion, Madam Speaker, we have 39 village polytechnics or vocational training centers in our County and that means maybe if there are wards without the vocational training centers are maybe one or two but I believe the distribution of the vocational training centers can allow these demonstration centers to serve all the communities around and Madam Speaker, you realize that we are all farmers including the Hon. Members who are here in one way or the other.

All of us, and every other person is doing some small farming in their area but I can say unfortunately agricultural lessons in our secondary schools is optional and you can imagine not so many youths will chose that lesson. So, my thinking while bringing this motion was one thing it is also good we introduce the agriculture lesson in our vocational training centers then with the introduction because when we are planning or thinking about something you start by planning, then budgeting and implementation should be the last thing.

So, if we plan and June is not so far, if we can plan and plan well on this issue I want to believe that agriculture is the only activity that is done by each and every one of us and that because it not being, we do not have areas of giving skills as I indicated before our County government is trying but you will find them just training the *mama mbogas* in the market people and sometimes when the trainers are coming because we have them.. Our people have been being trained but sometime we find them training people in the market.

So, I would wish after introducing the lessons in the vocational training centers then we have practicals on those same areas. Our vocational centers who are introduced by the whites sometimes back and they were mostly for agricultural use. I want to believe like in my place the white who were staying there used to do a lot of dairy farming now we when the whites left we forgot about the agriculture. We were left with some lessons or training that maybe will not require all of us but agriculture requires all of us.

If we introduce the lessons to those vocational training centers and maybe select a date, whereby the community surrounding can now be coming just like we have the agricultural shows that comes once in a year and you realize not all farmers will be able to come to the agricultural shows. If

we can have those demonstration farms, just small farms to be training the farmers, Madam Speaker, I believe we can do well.

In our area, for example, we do farming mostly on green grams and maize; we have other areas where farmers need to be trained like areas of Kangundo who need to be trained about their coffee farming, areas like Wamunyu and Mwala who are very good in dairy farming but they do not have the required skills. We need them to be trained from those centers and if that happens, Madam Speaker, I believe we will, as County, have achieved a lot for our people. So, thank you Members, thank you Madam Speaker for the support. Thank you.

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

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, the communication that I did in the morning on the House Business committee, I want to confirm that I did confirm as I wait for the NASA coalition to bring their names, the House Business Committee as constituted will continue to ballot for the business of this House. I hope that, that is clear to the membership.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: So, Hon. Members, at this point the sitting is adjourned; it will resume on the 19th day of February 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.18 a.m.