

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 11th September, 2014

The House met at 2.49 p.m.

[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

CLEANING OF MAIN TOWNS AT NIGHT

Hon. Speaker: We begin with hon. Cecilia Sereka.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of motion that the County Government of Machakos be cleaning or sweeping the main towns at night. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Geoffrey Munyao.

CHALLENGES OF COFFEE FARMERS IN MACHAKOS COUNTY

Hon. Munyao: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion that this house discusses the challenges facing the coffee farmers in Machakos county and come up with modalities to curb the problems. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Thomas Kasoa.

Hon. (Ms.) Kaluki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the entire House. The notice of the motion of Hon. Thomas Kasoa, Mr Speaker, Sir, I propose it to be deferred until next week Tuesday. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Recourse granted. Hon. Nathaniel Nganga.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, he was not to give his notice of motion today and Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Nganga, member for Ikombe ward is not present. He has called me and told me that this motion can be deferred to next week. Any day of your choice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: This should be the last and final deferral of that motion. Next sitting.

STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Dominic Maitha gave notice of statements, he is not available, and that is deferred.

MOTIONS AND BILLS CLEANING OF MAIN TOWNS AT NIGHT

Hon. Speaker: Let us now begin with the first motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that Machakos County has various several main centers which are growing very fast, aware that this towns have many residents and business activities which are hindering cleaning during daytime, Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that cleaning at night will reduce dust, will give the employees time to clean and collect the garbage, well aware that this activities start early while centers like Athi River and Mlolongo are busy 24/7.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that this town has major economic activities and are attracting business, hence need to be cleaned always and finally aware that this centers produce a lot of dirty garbage, this hon. houses discusses and passes a motion that the main towns of Machakos county be swept at night to avoid disturbance of business activities at daytime. Mr. Speaker, I ask hon. Philip to second my motion.

Hon. Ndolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and house at large. I am here to second this motion of cleaning major towns during the night. Mr. Speaker, understanding how our areas are congested, especially the big towns, we need to clean our towns for healthy purposes, especially at night. When we clean these areas, we shall avoid so many things, especially the dust and also for the health of the people who are cleaning. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Point of order?

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want the mover of the motion to clarify to this house the major towns which are supposed to be swept during night time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: The point of order is rejected. The motion is properly laid on the floor for debate and I open debate for it and the point of order can be properly addressed within debate. So let us hear arguments in support of the motion.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker and respect to the house at large. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to support the motion with the amendments of sweeping and cleaning the major towns within designated areas like the bus parks and only the areas which are used for markets. Because Mr. Speaker, if we go all the way of cleaning the entire towns at night, it will cause a high cost implication on the same issue which we might have not budgeted for.

So Mr. Speaker, in support of the motion which we have dealt with in other avenues for and we saw the best way we can make this issue workable is looking at the designated areas like the major bus parks and the major markets. So that at least at the night when the people are not there, the areas can be cleaned. But if we go all the way of cleaning the entire towns, it may cause a problem and we may not meet the cost of doing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Let us hear the mover maybe.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think my motion is very clear Mr. Speaker, it says the major towns not all the towns Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know, Machakos County, has those major towns which are growing very fast and I have given example of Mlolongo, Athi River and Mr. Speaker, we have Tala, Kangundo and we also have Machakos Town.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you just go now to where the bus park of Machakos town is, you find somebody sweeping there and see all the people who are being affected. This house will agree with me that something needs to be done. These markets need to be cleaned at night. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Muli: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for granting me this opportunity to contribute about this motion which is very important for us and also I honor the Hon. Cecilia for bringing this

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motion on the floor of the house, because if we support and pass this motion, where this activity should be done during the night, we shall avoid much of the confusion which seen when the sweeping is taking place while the business issues are also made within our towns.

But Mr. Speaker, we have to make amendments. When hon. Cecilia is saying the major towns, we should also remember there are some of the streets within the major towns, which this issue can't be cleaned at night because of the security issue.

You may find it is a good motion. It can bring much of the cleanliness within our towns during the right time and being performed at the right hour where the dust will not very much the businessmen and people within the town affect. But Mr. Speaker, let this designated areas be specified, we know where this action should be taking place Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Kitheka: Mr. Speaker, I am not disputing the issue of cleaning the towns during the night. My issue is, we clarify the areas which sections have to be cleaned within the night. Not just everywhere, but we specify those areas like the bus parks and the major markets. We are on the right track when we talk about that but when we talk about the entire streets, some of them will pose a lot of security issues and we may not be able to manage that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I think my reading of the motion and the spirit of the motion is that, 'let there be cleanliness in the night,' but then the planning committee will sit and define the designated areas that should be. I think that is my understanding, because those fine details cannot come within a motion.

Hon. Nduva: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I support this motion as it is. In many countries that are cleaning and sweeping the towns, it is done at night. But all together Mr. Speaker is that, some of my colleagues are arguing, we must also look at the security of our employees considering the areas which are not lit will endanger the lives of our employees.

Mr. Speaker, I want also, while considering cleaning the town at night, I request this house to pass that, watering of flowers around the town also to be done at night. I came across a truck, I think it is owned by one of our---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member you are out of order, that is not within our motion.

Hon. Nduva: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Katela: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. In support of the motion, I want to remind my fellow hon. members that, I think we spend a lot of money for this assembly going out of the country to benchmark and a good example is South Africa where you could not see anybody sweeping, but we could find the streets clean in the morning.

When we found out, we found that the cities were being cleaned at night. I do not see why we should waste time on this and we went out to benchmark, to borrow and bring the same, and establish it here. So I am in support of it. I think we are talking about security of our people. We have spent a lot of money lighting these towns and the motion is clear that major towns. There is no major town in Machakos town which is not lit.

We should not waste a lot of time here. We should pass that and try it. If it does not work, we are here we can change it. But me I support it fully, we start sweeping our towns at night. You can see now Machakos town has a lot of jam during daytime, even we are now risking the lives of our workers who are sweeping at daytime, because they can be hit by run-away vehicles. So I fully support it and I pray that our hon. members can support the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Any other contribution? Then let me put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Then the motion passes with directions that it be placed in the Planning Committee to define the suitable designated areas to enable us adequately communicate to the CEC officers in charge. Proceed to the next motion.

CHALLENGES OF COFFEE FARMERS IN MACHAKOS COUNTY

Hon. Munyao: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that coffee farmers from the county have been facing a lot of challenges due to high rates of management in coffee society and coffee millers, and aware that this leads to exploitation of the coffee farmers due to the lengthy channel of middlemen, hence hindering farmers from getting what they deserve after selling their produce that pays off well and which can help the farmers if the problems are solved.

Mr. Speaker, aware that coffee Saccos are the key beneficiaries of the coffee farming and not the farmers and aware that most of the coffee farmers have diverted their market channels to Thika to avoid the challenges which face Machakos County, and further aware that, the mismanagement in coffee societies is negatively affecting our county and has greatly put the county economy backwards, I wish to move the motion that this house discusses the challenges

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which coffee farmers face and come up with modalities of resolving the problem. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

And I urge the hon member for Tala, Alex Kamitu to second my motion. Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand here, strongly to support the motion which has been moved by hon. Geoffrey Munyao from Kathiani, in consideration that, coffee is one of the cash crops which immensely promotes our farmers.

I would also request the county, in that regard, to have its own milling machines so that it may safeguard the cash crop in Machakos County. So, I strongly once again stand to support and second the motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: For the mover of the motion, hon. Geoffrey Munyao, I don't know whether you had an occasion to look at the Agriculture Act which is in the pipeline, which is in form of a Bill now? Maybe your fears can be accommodated in that Act.

Hon. Munyao: Yes Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe we can take a moment and take a look at it together so that we don't discuss a motion that will jeopardize a pending Bill. With your permission, we can have this deferred to next week.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Then I invite you for discussion.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Next Motion.

BILL

Second Reading

MACHAKOS COUNTY SAND HARVESTING BILL

Hon. Muli: I am the chairman for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. About the issue of Machakos County Sand Harvesting Bill, Mr. Speaker, I am seeking to defer the second reading to next week, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe you can spend a little while and tell us why you are having difficulties.

Hon. Muli: Yes Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the committee, we went through discussion of the Bill and requested for certain amendments which we felt, as a committee, will make this Bill make sand harvesting to be performed to the maximum after it is passed.

And Mr. Speaker, when I came from France, I went through the amendment which we proposed and they are supposed to be fitted in the Act and I found, they were not amended. Therefore, I requested the legal personnel to have a sitting, we discuss about those amendments. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I am persuaded. You can have it done next week on Wednesday that will be fine?

Hon. Muli: Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: The matter is referred to next week Wednesday. In the absence of any other business, then the house adjourns.

The House rose at 3.11 p.m.