

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 2nd September, 2015**

The House met at 10.06 a.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****Hon. Speaker:** Good morning, Hon. Members.**PAPER LAID****REPORT ON BENCHMARKING STUDY TOUR TO HONG KONG**

Hon. Gideon Kavuu: I stand here on behalf of Hons. Sammy Nduva, the chairman of trade, planning and industrialization committee. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table on the Assembly today Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015. Report of trade, planning and industrialization committee on benchmarking study tour to Hong Kong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Paper laid. Proceed.**NOTICE OF MOTION****REPORT ON BENCHMARKING STUDY TOUR TO HONG KONG**

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Again, I stand on behalf of Hon. Sammy Nduva. Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of the following motion; that this Hon. House discusses and approves report of Trade, Planning and Industrialization Committee on benchmarking study tour to Hong Kong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Paper laid. Proceed.**STATEMENTS**

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Hon. Speaker: Hon. Majority Leader, you were to give a statement. You did not indicate the time. I don't know whether it is ready and if it is not, you can deliver it this afternoon.

Majority Leader (Hon. Joshua Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, I beg the leave of the House that I issue the statement in the afternoon.

Hon. Speaker: Okay. It will done I the afternoon. Proceed, Clerk.

MOTION

REPORT ON BENCHMARKING STUDY TOUR TO HONG KONG

Hon. Kavuu: Mr. Speaker, I stand on behalf of Hon. Nduva. Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that benchmarking is a practice that assists a visiting entity---

Hon. Speaker: Maybe as you proceed, Hon. Kavuu, the paper may be circulated. It has been laid. Immediately a paper is laid, it must be circulated. So, Clerk, have the letter circulated. You may proceed, just proceed.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that aware that benchmarking is a practice that assist a visiting entity to identify best practices from the host and then try to adopt them to the entity's environment for the better results. Aware that the committee on Trade, Planning and Industrialization tour to Hong Kong republic to benchmark on best practices on Trade and Planning, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and adopts the report on Trade, Planning and Industrialization Committee on bench marking study tour to Hong Kong. So, Mr. Speaker, I therefore request Hon. Cecilia to second the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Cecilia Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the House at large. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand here to second the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the motion before us about the benchmarking to Hong Kong. Mr. Speaker, the committee went, some of the members went to Hong Kong and Mr. Speaker, the benchmarking was very successful, we learnt a lot of things about that country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, the motion is laid. Proceed. Take us through the report Hon. Kavuu.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I stand on behalf of Hon. Nduva. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of this committee, I am not the Chairman but the Chairman had some commitments and that is why I am going now to read the report. Report of trade, planning and industrialization committee on benchmarking study tour to Hong Kong

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREFACE

Mr. Speaker, Sir, six members of the County Assembly majority of whom were members of Committee on Trade, Planning and Industrialization and one Clerk Assistant visited the Republic of Hong Kong for benchmarking. The trip took place between 25th November and 2nd December, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trip was very beneficial and members of the delegation would like thank the County Assembly management for facilitating the trip. The following are the members of the delegation who visited Hong Kong;-

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Sammy Nduva | - Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Wilson Kasimu | - Deputy Majority Leader |
| 3. Hon. Gideon Kavuu | - Majority Deputy Chief Whip |
| 4. Hon. Philip Ndolo | - Member of committee |
| 5. Hon. Cecilia Sereka | - “ |
| 6. Hon. Mary Ndinda | - Member of County Assembly |
| 7. Dominic Musyoka | - Senior Clerk Assistant |

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee on trade, planning and industrialization was established pursuant to Standing Order 190 and second schedule of the Standing Orders with specific mandate on to all matters related to trade development and regulation including markets, trade licenses (excluding regulation of professions), fair trading practices and statistics.

2.0 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee has thirteen (13) honorable members as follows:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hon. Sammy Nduva | - Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Ruth Ndumi | - Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Joshua Mwonga | - Member |

4. Hon. Cornelius Kitheka “
5. Hon. Stephen Muthuka “
6. Hon. Francis Matheka “
7. Hon. Phillip Ndolo “
8. Hon. Collins Mbithi “
9. Hon. Nina Mbithe “
10. Hon. Phoebe Koki “
11. Hon. Gideon Kavuu “
12. Hon. Cecilia Sereka “
13. Hon. Alex Kamitu “

3.0 HONG KONG VISIT

3.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF HONG KONG

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hong Kong Republic consists of Kowloon peninsula protruding from South Eastern China and about 260 islands scattered off the coast. Lantau Island is the largest island and it houses Hong Kong Airport. Hong Kong Island is the second largest island and it is the seat of government of Hong Kong. Kowloon, Lantau and Hong Kong are connected by six undersea tunnels built in 1972 (three for subway train and three for road transport) of about two kilometers each.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hong Kong covers an area of about 1,100 square kilometers and has a population of approximately 7.3 million people which is a population density of more than 6600 persons per square kilometer. To sustain such a high population density, the government reclaims land from the sea, ensures that all residential and commercial buildings are storey buildings averaging 40 floors and above. Moreover, residential buildings are situated close or adjacent to industries and commercial centers so that workers walk to and from work thus lowering cost of commuting. Special foot bridges overhead roads connect residential zones to industrial and commercial zones hence reducing traffic jams and road accidents.

3.1 SITES VISITED IN HONG KONG

Mr. Speaker, Sir, members visited five areas namely, the Ocean Park Hong Kong, Dynasty Jewellery Manufacturers workshop, Victoria Peak, Aberdeen Fishing Village and Stanley Open Air Market.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ocean Park can be likened to the Machakos People's Park although it is quite expansive and has sophisticated and Hi-tech facilities. The main theme of the Ocean Park is to conserve marine wildlife and has several attraction points such as shark, dolphin and seal water games, breathtaking tall swings, very high speed trains, boats rides through high waterfalls and many more.

Indeed, if the park was in our county, there would be no other such a place in East Africa and would be the leading tourist attraction. The main means transport to and from one side of the park to the other are subway train (underground) and cable cars (electric driven). Escalators facilitate movement of visitors within the park since the park is situated on a steep hilly ground.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, visitors to the park pay gate charges and are free to enjoy all the entertainment facilities inside the park free of charge. The visitors are not allowed to bring into the park any edibles including water so that they can promote the businesses inside the park. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Victoria peak is at a vantage point of about 373 meters and from this point one is able to have an aerial view of the Victoria harbor (which was reclaimed from the sea) and the Kowloon peninsula. At this point, members saw the beauty of well-planned buildings of almost similar design, the tallest building in Hong Kong which has 188 floors and the Hope Well Center which has 62 revolving restaurants and a horse race course (was the tallest building in 1980s with 120 floors).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a visit to the workshop of Dynasty Jewellery Manufacturers gave members an insight of making jewels by hand while ensuring that quality was maintained. Members were explained the process of making jewels.

At the Aberdeen fishing village, Mr. Speaker, Sir, members boarded a boat that took them round the fishing village. They were able to observe how residents took great care of the environment by collecting any floating litter in the ocean.

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Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Stanley Market is a well-organized market at the beach front. The Market targets visitors who come to the beach as well as those who want to buy souvenirs. The market is made up of several stalls from where traders sell their wares. Each row of stalls deal with a particular set of goods such as clothes, souvenirs, electronics, shoes, furniture and many more.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tour was very educative and the Committee on Trade, Planning and Industrialization wishes to recommend the following;

1. That, the County Government of Machakos to introduce gate charges for people entering the People's park.
2. That, the County Government of Machakos to invest on the park facilities such as swings, trains, cable cars across Maruba dam, boats, film and drama theatres, hotels, supermarkets and any other facility that would attract visitors to the park.
3. That, the County Government of Machakos ensures that no food or drinks are brought into or near the vicinity of the People's park so as to promote business within the park.
4. That, the County Government of Machakos considers environmental conservation seriously and draws legislation to deal with pollution and waste management.
5. That, the County Government of Machakos plans its towns carefully taking into consideration future growth and scarcity of land for expansion.
6. That, a day be set for exhibiting Kamba Artifacts at the People's Park to enable visitors to the Park know about Kamba culture as well as provide market for such goods.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trip was educative and the committee urges the Assembly to approve the report tabled. Further, we urge the County Government to improve the facilities at the Park to attract more visitors and generate more revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware that, the members I mentioned on the visit to Hong Kong Republic

and as I read the report, there are so many things which we saw, which can benefit our County that is Machakos. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the members to support this report and then approve the report. So I therefore, Mr. Speaker, ask Hon.Cecilia Sereka to second the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir and the house at large. I think I had already seconded the motion but to add on what the Hon. Member is saying, Mr. Speaker, we visited the Country and the Country it is very far, Mr. Speaker. Infrastructure is very well done. When we go to where roads were being made, they were doing the roads even at day time and there was no traffic. Mr. Speaker, their bridges are so well done that, when you go there you just want to bring what was meant there to our Country. Mr. Speaker, I will even urge the transport committee to visit Hong Kong because they will learn more about roads.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, about the buildings, they are well done, the roofing is uniform, each city has its own colour. If the roofing is green, everything is green, if it is red, everything is well done, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you go to the side of culture, people there know to follow their culture, Mr. Speaker and what really made me proud of that Country is that, they love their people who are physically challenged. Mr. Speaker, you could just go to the park and find a family sitting with their children or their mothers who are physically challenged, they are not even afraid of what people will say and Mr. Speaker, I saw, people who have a lot of love for their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, the floor is open for contributions. Okay.

Hon. Dominic Maitha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it was once said that the earliest bird catches the worm and I know when I speak the first, I will be given enough airtime the rest you will cut them short so have I learnt this trick. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to applaud the Committee for the report they have brought before this house, and much appreciate the Chairperson of health committee who has recommended that the Committee on transport visit Hong Kong, where I am a member of the Committee and I hope I will not be cut short of that dream. So Mr. Chair, I will follow you up so that you can proceed and pursue the matter.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, recommendations have been made in this report and Mr. Speaker one, we need to understand the essence and the need as to why we make these trips. In as much as in quotes which I do not want to mention more, we go for these trips, in quotes. We have got the wider benefit of these trips that we are making. We started with South Africa, we

have been to Dubai, Members have gone to Hong Kong, members have gone to Israel, members have gone to USA and we need to do a stock take and analyze, out of all this trips that we have attended, what benefit has the Government County of Machakos in general gained from this trips. We not only need to make trips for the sake of going for these trips. We need to have trips which have got impact to the development of the County of Machakos because that is why we travel to these trips.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendations which are here, it is surprising they are only basing their recommendations on only one area that is the People's Park. Well, it is good but we need to see the wider picture and especially the aspect of infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, in this country. I want to give a practical example. For those who went to Eldoret last week, if you took time to see what was happening in Eldoret, the kind of roads that the County Government of Uasin Gishu was doing, the depth of the feeder roads in Eldoret, that is Uasin Gishu and Eldoret town by itself, it leaves more to desire and a pity to our County, Mr. Speaker.

Most of our roads within and especially within even Machakos Town, the feeder roads are less than six meters. Actually, you will find that even most of this Hon. Members who are residing in Machakos, the estates where they are residing they cannot pass two cars at the same time on the same road. If it is Hon. Kasoa coming in, he has to wait for Hon. Majority Leader to come out so that he can go in. That is the situation of our feeder roads in Machakos County. Most of the roads within the estates are less than six meters, Mr. Speaker. I think some time back, I said, the committee on transport and planning committee, need to sit down and come up with a legislation that is going to say that the minimum size of a road within the estate should either be 12 meters or 15 meters or 20 meters. Those roads which are feeding are being the main roads which are being fed by the feeder roads, we should set a minimum standard of either 20 meters to 40 meters for future expansion, Mr. Speaker.

To date, for those who use Mombasa Road on a daily basis like me, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of traffic along Mombasa Road. It is growing every other single day that is for the benefit of the Machakos County. The traffic being experienced, if the road reserve left is encroached, Mr. Speaker, then we will have a transport crisis in the near future. We need to emulate on the same on what I saw in Eldoret, and Hon. Members who went to Eldoret can prove me right. I was with the Hon. Minority Leader, we went round in most areas and we saw the way these roads are wide enough for expansion, even to allow for pedestrian path to be constructed in the right manner, Mr. Speaker.

So, I think with what Hon. Cecilia has said. This report needs now to give us an eye opener of what we need to do to make Machakos the place to be in terms of infrastructure because if we do not go ahead and do that, Mr. Speaker, we are going to set a very bad precedence to this County. We will be making trips out of the country but the trips will be of no benefit to the people of Machakos County. So what I want to say is, the recommendations before here, are very much good on paper but if not implemented, they are as good as nothing.

So, kindly, Mr. Speaker, I am supporting this report and urge other committees and the Hon. Members present here, anytime we take these trips, let us ask ourselves as an Assembly, what impact, what legislation are we going to put in place to ensure that these trips are of benefit both to us and to the people who we represent because at the end of the day, you will say that you went to South Africa, what can you be associated with, with South Africa? You went to Hong Kong, what can you be associated with your trip in Hong Kong? I was in Singapore, what can I be associated with, with what I learnt in Singapore?

That is what we need to see. In future, Mr. Speaker, we need to incorporate all members, irrespective of our opinion differences. We need to ensure that members travel so that when we bring that wealth of ideas in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we can come and make it a conclusive resolution on how we are going to grow our county and basically more important is the infrastructure part of it. The moment we develop our infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are going to develop the markets, we are going to develop the wealth of our people and we will make Machakos County the place to be because of the beneficial factors that we are going to put in place after we go for these trips.

I second the report and wish that the committee follows up and most importantly the committee of implementation has to take over this now. The committee on Trade and Planning has finished its work, it is now the committee on implementation, and whatever will be agreed and resolved by this house now, is implemented as per this report. That is how we can be saying the trip was beneficial to the Members and to the Members of Machakos County Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Yes.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I did not want to be the earliest worm which is caught by the earliest bird, Mr. Speaker, and I am not imputing that my colleague is a worm, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by applauding this committee and the Members who went to Hong Kong, Mr. Speaker, and in the list, in the list of those who went to Hong Kong, my deputy here who is not a member of this committee. Mr. Speaker, I opted not to go to Hong Kong so as to offer the so called servant leadership and in leadership, Mr. Speaker, we have very many styles of leadership, one being delegated leadership that is why I delegated this to my Deputy Mr. Speaker and I would urge other chairpersons to borrow a leaf from the Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker, as much as I support this report, I would want to urge the Chairpersons, to be presenting their reports in this Hon. House within the shortest time possible. Whenever they go out, let us not sit on the report for a whole year, Mr. Speaker.

(Loud consultations)

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Speaker: Let us take a point of information.

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, I need the Majority Leader to come clean, you know according to the law of Maxims of Equity it says; when you come for equity, come with clean hands. Maybe he can tell this house, did he opt not to go to Hong Kong because he knew he was to go to USA? Can he come clear, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Order Hon. Member.

Majority Leader (Hon.Mwonga): Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Speaker: I reject the point of information. Proceed.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to proceed. I was urging members the Chairmen of different committees to be bringing their reports the earliest time possible wherever their committees have a trip outside the Country or within the Country Mr. Speaker. This is a very good report and if it had come earlier, maybe this house would have budgeted for subways or for expansion of roads in our Country, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on page one on, not page 1, sorry, Mr. Speaker, on 3 (1) that is brief history of Hong Kong, it impresses me very much, if in the year 1972, this country had constructed subways, with railways and roads under the sea and in this country, which attained independence in 1963, we do not have even a tunnel which is 100 meters long Mr. Speaker, I do not think if we have any.

Mr. Speaker, we have travelled to many countries and if as my colleague said, if we want to make use of these trips, when we go out there to benchmark, we should put in practice what we see outside there Mr. Speaker. And how do we do this, Mr. Speaker? It is having these reports, seeing what we can do about them and allocating some funds. Like now, if I may say, Mr. Speaker, on Fridays and over weekends, Machakos, we have not yet built the new city, I do not know what to call it a new city. Machakos Town, there is a lot of jam. We should think of what to do. Can we construct a tunnel or what are we supposed to do? Or do we have bypasses

which go round the town so that people can avoid jam, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, also on the issue of recommendations, I want to agree with the committee, we have the People's Park whereby, we are not charging anything.

I think this house should pass a resolution that, we should introduce payments at the gate so that we can increase revenue which will also help in building, maybe, subways or tunnels and also the people who are running restaurants there, I know they are not run by the Government because the Government is not supposed to run business entities which make profits, but how are we charging them, what is the County Government earning from the people who are running these businesses in our park? We can charge more and make sure that the people entering the Park do not behave any edibles and drinks so as to increase revenue. Mr. Speaker, with that, I fully support this report. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. May be Hon. Members we need to understand the purpose of report. Once a report is made, discussed and approved it is the duty of the members who now have copies of those report to generate specific motions and have them passed. I think we need to understand that. Thank you for those contributions. Yes.

Hon. Alex Kamitu: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to be very brief and as you have also mentioned, that reports are supposed to be made into the Assembly then the respective legislative motion should be brought in relationship to what the Committees had observed during their benchmarking. For example, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this report, we have gotten a very good report in regard to what.....(inaudible) whereby such report should come to the committee for tourism for us to be seen to be effective. A good example is also in regard to, we have got some facilities like the Masinga Dam, it can be a local and international tourist attraction in regard to motorboat racing, locally boat rowing and all this things. As I normally tell my Members that through experience and even before I came here, I have also travelled into some areas.

(Applause)

On a very sincere note and some of this report that we are getting like this trip that was made in Hong Kong, practically if most of this things are put into practice, it is going to attract the locals and the international tourist because we have got very beautiful sites like I said Masinga and a good example, there are also some dams within our localities, within our wards that if they can be promoted as a boat racing and boat rowing, it can also attract local and international and even during and if such areas are promoted to such level, they will also promote our local people because in such activities, you will find that there are some economical growth in regard to selling of clothes, restaurants within those areas.

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So I stand here to support this report so that the respective committees can take up, those that belong to them, so that we may pass the legislative and again as we said and as our Majority Leader has said, and also Hon. Dominic has also mentioned that, it is through the early reports that we should be making so that we can also have an early budget for whatever we want to make as a move. Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Yes Hon. Nzoka.

Hon. Nzoka Munywoki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to appreciate the Chairman of this committee for bringing such a motion. I shall tackle some two issues; one, as we can see, that Country has a square kilometers of a 1,100 which we can say is far less than Machakos. It has a population of 7.3 million. It has a square population of 6,600. It has much population, I think more than Nairobi. We have a problem here. It is something wonderful and bad if we cannot manage our waste. You hear in paragraph, I think, item 3.1, second paragraph from the last, it says ‘they were able to observe how residents, not Government, residents took great care of the environment by collecting any floating litter in the ocean.’ We are here; we need to educate our community about garbage. They should not leave garbage to the Government and when I rise here, I stand here I want to say it is unfortunate if the river Athi water, even cattle cannot take that water because it is badly contaminated and I am talking like that because I share a big area and it passes like what Ngilu says ‘between our legs.’

That said in Machakos County, this is Machakos County, all the dirt is passing between our legs and there is nobody who is raising a finger. We have tried to see how we can tackle that one, I have brought NEMA people, it means this Government of Machakos, this Assembly to come up with a legislation whereby we shall force the Nairobi County to see how we can tame this problem. And again, my environment Chairperson is here, see this one, you have to move to Hong Kong and you call your counterpart in Nairobi so as you come and tame the situation.

(Applause)

Otherwise, in fact, the cattle now cannot take that water now. The hippopotamus cannot stay long there. It is lifting its head from the water because if it cannot, it will suffocate there. I have those in my area. Go to the Athi River Bridge you shall see the hippopotamus there, getting a bit down coming out again. So are we, even that animal, it has a right to stay and it is we who have polluted that river. So what I can say is can we think, you call us, then we meet in Nairobi then we talk. We start talking from somewhere and then because we are not technical, we consult the people who have the technology of dealing with that issue to see how we can implement it together as Machakos County and Nairobi County and also Kiambu County and three of us cannot be unable to tame problem in that water. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Nzoka. Those are very powerful remarks and before the house is informed, why can we not hear the Chairperson. The Chairperson, serious issues have been raised, what is your inability?

Hon. Nzoka: I think, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a bit, the Chairperson does not know even Athi River, I think---

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the Chairperson.

Hon. Edrick Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have actually caught the concerns of Hon. Nzoka, and as a committee, we will be meeting and we have been consulting with the NEMA people but there seems to be a problem that it is like Kenyans are used to the kind of life that we are witnessing river although they know that the river is polluted and it is getting contaminated, there seems to be very little that the Central Government and the County Government, Nairobi and Machakos are doing.

We have had a series of meetings at Le Technish hotel in Machakos and we are seriously addressing the issue but there are brakes that have kept coming in between but at least I am happy something is being done we have had samples collected from the river, water samples because a farm that is in Mbiuni had to close shop because the farm produce could not get into the European market. They said the product is contaminated. So something is being done, we are addressing the concerns and maybe very soon we will be able to table a report here on the same.

So as my colleague proposes that we sit with County of Nairobi to address the problem as one because if we dealt with the problem here at the County Assembly of Machakos, maybe we would do very little. I am happy that you are seeing that and we will consider that---

Hon. Speaker: The Chairperson is addressing the House on the invitation of the Speaker.

Hon. Ngunzi: So Mr. Speaker, we will have a report here we will make all efforts to make sure that we address the issue once and for all. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Then you have not told the House that Hon. Nzoka had fears that you do not know river Athi.

Hon. Ngunzi: Mr. Speaker, maybe Hon. Nzoka may not even understand river Athi better than I do because I live along river Athi. I live along river Athi and my animals' water

there. Maybe it is worse upstream. Downstream we are still using the water for our animals. I do not know. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the point of information only.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, I think we need to take the business of this house seriously. Where was my point of information coming to? We sat in this house under a motion which was brought by Hon. Mutuku from Athi River about the issue of environmental pollution of river Athi, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Personally and that can be retrieved from the HANSARD, I said and I requested the Chairperson, my able Chairperson that we team up with Nairobi County and discuss about the issue of pollution. That is more than five or six months ago, Mr. Speaker, and you directed that it should be done. Up to date, my able Chairperson, where I am a committee member in that committee, I can say nothing has been done about that. So already whatever issues the Hon. Nzoka is raising was discussed in this House, you directed that the committee handle the matter to meet with Nairobi County, but so far nothing happened.

So we are repeating and that is why I was saying Mr. Speaker, we need to take the deliberations of this House and the resolutions of this House seriously and move them to the next level because now we are repeating what was agreed six months ago. To date, my able Chairperson should now be tabling a report in the floor of this house to tell us after we met with Nairobi County and discussed of the same, what the outcome is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think we still hear the same Chairperson on that point. I also now remember.

Hon. Ngunzi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that Hon. Dominic Maitha must also learn that Rome was not put up in a day. It is a process. We cannot wake up and say, the mess that we have witnessed for over 50 years is solved in a day. We will and I am happy that he is also a member of the committee meet the Nairobians but he must also note that the problem will not be solved overnight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: So you are telling the House that there is work in progress?

Hon. Ngunzi: Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Magdalene Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, concerning the issue of the pollution on river Athi, I think it is bigger than Nairobi and Machakos County because Athi River passes through Kajiado, Machakos County, Nairobi County, Makueni County, Kiambu County. All these counties have to come together. I think it is bigger than what we are trying to handle here in Machakos County and we need to sensitize our electorates because without the residents' sensitization, we will not be able to clean river Athi. Most of the pollution is done by our citizens, the biggest part because those who own those companies are our citizens and Mr. Speaker, if I tell you, I live in Athi River and Athi River it is seriously polluted.

All the way from Athi River to Daystar to Kyumbi, you can smell the pollution; you can smell the pollution all the way to somewhere like Ole Sereni. So this issue needs to be handled in a bigger level than just Machakos and Nairobi because it is really serious and it is messing up. I wonder in 20 years to come, the kids born in Athi River how they will look. If you can remember back in 1994 after the Rwanda, Burundi and Congo war which was going through and I think part of Uganda which was going through the East Africa, after a while the kids who were born had some abnormalities and I fear, we might end up facing that in some years to come. So this is something that needs to be taken seriously and the National Government needs to be involved for us to end this pollution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear Hon. Manyolo at the back.

Hon. David Manyolo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. I thank members who have contributed earlier and also applaud what Hon. Ndawa has said. It is lack of seriousness that has led our country and also our county to fail. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not poor because we are poor. It is lack of seriousness that has made us poor and I understand also the House can agree with us. Within the report Mr. Speaker, Sir, if these people were not serious, China could not be as it is today but because they were serious and cared for their country and love the country, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is why you see China being one of the wealthiest countries and developed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I wish to lay this motion as you had said that the House approves, we be serious and also the county to be serious on the matters that pertain our livelihood because if we are all serious about ourselves and also trust yourself within whatever you are doing, I understand we could be talking of Machakos County as another developed, another changed county within Africa. Everything is possible, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The wise says 'do not wait until the iron is hot to strike it but make it hot by striking it.' If we change ourselves, I understand, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will go far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us hear Hon. Phillip Ndolo, at the back.

Hon. Philip Ndolo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, I happen to be one of the members who went there and what I saw is that, the country has already invested a lot in tourist attractions compared to us. As we are talking about the Ocean Park, we entered there around 10 a.m and Mr. Speaker, Sir, we left there around 6 p.m. and by the time we left, we really wanted to stay there for a longer time because what was there was a lot of entertainment and also a lot has been invested there. Comparing this place with our People's Park, a lot has to be done to our People's Park so that we can start charging people there. For example, our Maruba Dam, now it is like it is dry. Something has to be done so that we have a lot of water there and which can be used. In Ocean Park, there are so many animals which are there which can attract a lot of tourists.

Another thing Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the high time we invest a lot in our tourism attraction places in Machakos County. An example is like Mutituni, where water flows uphill and most people, tourists are there. What are we supposed to do as a County Mr. Speaker? Another place is like Hon. Nzoka's area where we waterfalls. The people who are charging that area are the people of Kiambu and we are just neighboring them. What can we do as the people of Machakos County? We find an entrance so that we can also be charging people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, now those are the points that they need to come up as specific motions. Let us hear a member who has not spoken.

Hon. Alice Nzioka: Asante sana Bw. Spika. Ninasimama kuunga mkono hio ripoti ambayo waliosafiri kuenda nje, Hong Kong, wameleta ripoti ambayo inaweza kusaidia kaunti yetu. Bw. Spika, katika mazingara katika kauni yetu, hasa sehemu tuseme kama Yatta, Masinga ukitembea soko zingine utakuta makaratasi ya nylon yametapakaa kila mahali na imekuwa ni hatari kubwa hasa kwa mifugo yetu. Kama ng'ombe akila hio karatasi, unakuta wafugaji ambao tuko na hao wanafuga ng'ombe ambazo hazina faida. Mtu akipeleka sokoni unakuta huyo mtu amefanya kazi ya bure miaka karibu tano ukipeleka ng'ombe sokoni, unauza kitu kama elfu kumi.

Kwenye hizo soko, kamati ya mazingara ikitembea, utakuta soko nyingi sana makaratasi yametapakaa kila mahali ilhali sisi kama kaunti tunatakiwa kuwa na mpango. Sio eti tu wafanyakazi wa kaunti wameajiriwa kukusanya makaratasi, utakuta soko ni chafu kabisa. Tukiangalia hiyo ripoti ambayo wameleta, wamesema mazingara sehemu ambazo walitembea walikuta ni sehemu ambayo ni safi na kaunti yetu ni, sio pana vile ambavyo hatuwezi kuangalia mazingara na usafi. Pia ukiangalia sehemu kama Athi River unakuta ni mshtuko sana utatembea sehemu kama Kinanie, unakuta mto, samaki zimetapakaa, hizo viwanda

ambazo ziko karibu wanaweka madawa, sumu ndani ya maji na wajali tu wanaendelea na kazi yao na unakuta kuna wale ambao wanatoa samaki kuenda kuuza.

Hiyo inafanya kaunti yetu kupata pesa, Bw. Spika, hiyo ripoti ambayo imeletwa itekelezwe na pia sisi kama bunge tuone kama usafi na mazingara katika kaunti yetu tumeichukua kwa hali ya juu maana mazingara pia ni lazima tayaangalie sisi kama kauni tuone usafi umetekelezwa. Asante.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, yes Hon. Anne.

Hon. Anne Musyoki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I just want to applaud the Hon. Kavuu for bringing this good report to us and just tell him congratulations. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to talk about the Kamba artifacts at the Park. Mr. Speaker, Machakos is known for Wamunyu artifacts, the carvings. I happen to be married in Wamunyu and that is where we do this work. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we come to Nairobi, you go to the curio shops which are near Hilton Hotel, New Stanley, you get all the carvings which are as big as a human being which are worthy more than Kshs. 30,000, Kshs. 40,000 and they are done down here in Wamunyu.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we have a section which can be set aside for those curios, it will be good for our people and actually most of our kids have never seen the Wamunyu people carving. So, if we would have that, we will also educate our children and even the outsiders at the same time earning money for this County. I believe we will have tourists instead of going to town buying those ones, coming all the way to the Park and buying the artifacts. So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge that they set aside a place for the carvings sale at the People's Park where even our own children, even the schools can come and pay little funds for them to be shown how the carvings are done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us hear Hon. Mueni the Kanui after that.

Hon. Benedetta Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mine is to thank the mover of the motion and also I want to know what happened to Konza City because it could also be bringing money to our County. I want to know from this House because everything has become dull about the Konza City and it is a place where it is started---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mueni, you need to bring a specific motion on that. You are stealing the motion of Hon. Kavuu.

Hon. Mueni: Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kanui.

Hon. Winton Kanui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am very happy about this report. It has touched much on the tourism and it is an eye-opener but one thing we should remember is Members of this Assembly and also as Kenyans. Hong Kong is a City State. Some of the oldest civilization started in Hong Kong. As we also look at the Machakos County Government what it has done, let us see Hong Kong as a first economy which has taken years to grow as it is today. Where you visited, it is those places that were started long time ago. Machakos County started the People's Park the other day. It has two and half years since it was founded. We have a lot to improve and I am wondering, why was the committee on culture and tourism not invited in that trip because it has much to learn from Hong Kong and other City States like Singapore so as to come back to Machakos and also expand our People's Park and other tourists' attraction centres. The other thing I am requesting this house, I requested for funds to employ a director for revenue collection---

Hon. Speaker: Order, Hon. Kanui, you are getting off the topic.

Hon. Kaniu: Thank you, I withdraw. I would support the report and I will want also the members of the tourism and culture committee to go and see there and see how tourism has grown in the East and how Hong Kong has attracted so many tourists being just a City State and us here in Machakos with all that potential, we have not done much although we are a newly founded county and we are on our way to reach the status of Hong Kong. Thank you very much.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Speaker: Let us take the point of information.

Hon. Francis Matheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Hon. Chairperson for Culture can read the members who were in Hong Kong, Hon. Mary Ndinda is there and I do understand she is a member of culture and tourism committee. So, I think they were adequately represented there.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, the point is taken. Let us hear Hon. Kyalo Kyuli.

Hon. Kyalo Kyuli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You will excuse my voice, I have a old but I want to applaud the team that went to Hong Kong because there are so many points that, if we pick on them and advance, Mr. Speaker, we will do a lot of service to our community. One, Mr. Speaker, is that what the team that went to Hong Kong found or saw or brought back to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, it will only be good for us to pick from there and advance it. So my

request, Mr. Speaker, as I contribute is that, those issues that have been pointed out by Members here, if Mr. Speaker, we could follow your directives and come up with substantive motions and advance the issues to the next level, then Mr. Speaker, we will be doing good service.

Like for example, Mr. Speaker, on the part of tourism. I can remember very well our CEC member for tourism, when she was sometimes back presenting to a committee, Mr. Speaker, she had good plans those some of which it is like she had gone to Hong Kong and seen what they are doing because I remember she was talking about having stop shops. A stop shop, Mr. Speaker, like for example she was talking of border of Athi River and Kitengela, somewhere, she was talking of having a stop shop where, our stolen name that for example carvings from our county are being sold in other counties and they are even putting names as if the carvings are from their area.

So, she had an idea Mr. Speaker, if I can remember well that, we have a stop shop at the border because we are having visitors taking the Namanga route and going to Tanzania and therefore we could tap on them if we have a stop shop somewhere in between and we exhibit our wares. *Kiondos* come from this county, carvings Mr. Speaker, come from this county and of late, I found out that the mazeras stones that come from this county are being ferried from our county, taken for example to Nairobi and refined and dressed in another manner and they sell very expensively. So, Mr. Speaker, if we can have this report move to the next level, I tell you, we will have one, a lot of revenue collected from this particular report, two, we will have tourism advanced to a next level within our County and thirdly, even environment because I have seen when they visited the fishing village, they even found people collecting litter from the ocean, collecting by themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is also the change of attitude that Mr. Speaker we must instill into our people because, for example, even in this Assembly that we are seated today, we are having bottles of water but after we have left this place, you will find that, I have opened the bottle and I have even thrown away the lid for example. Mr. Speaker, we need even change of attitude within us and then we can now remove it from within us to without us Mr. Speaker. So, therefore Mr. Speaker, this is a beautiful report. If we can pick on things that just as you have directed and advance them to the next level and thank you, Mr. Speaker, because actually this is a great eye opener.

We have been having our People's Park. When we constructed it, I remember, I used to go there and be charged Ksh. 300 Mr. Speaker. Nowadays, we go there and it is free. Mr. Speaker, at first we were paying Ksh. 300 now it is free. There is a lot of revenue collection we can get from that place even as it is even without making any other improvements because I have taken a choir for example, a Church choir, to that place to shoot a video. We were charged. Mr. Speaker, as it is, we can get a lot of revenue and even making some slight improvements that place can be a catchment area for revenue for this particular County. So, Mr. Speaker, I stand to

support this report and say like the Majority Leader, some of these reports, let them have little time after they have come back so that we can now deliberate.

(Applause)

For example, we should have budgeted for some of these things in our last budget but now that we have the report right here right now, we can do something. It is not lost. We can advance this report and for sure it can even give this Assembly a lot of work, a lot of business in this floor of our Assembly. So, therefore, Mr. Speaker, thank you so much and bless the people that have brought this report and I commend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us hear Hon. Jacqueline Nziva.

Hon. Jacqueline Nziva: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the House at large. Let me applaud the committee members who went to Hong Kong. In fact, they have brought a very good report. If only we can walk the talk of what we are saying here, I think we can bring Machakos County, we can take it from the step it is to a higher level. So, members, I urge you, what we pass in the Assembly please let us put it into practice and I am very sure at the end of it all, Machakos can be Hong Kong, can be, you know, among the big cities in this country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Yes, did I see the hand of Hon. Collins?

Hon. Collins Mbithi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I stand up, I cannot fail to have something to say. Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that I did not have the opportunity to go to Hong Kong and being a member for the committee for planning, I have to admit that it was a good experience and only one thing to add; there is the Victoria Peak. I want to say that, when I was going through the report, there is what we call, and maybe those developed countries of Germany and(inaudible) those countries which make the high course, there are the bazaars, the car bazaars and I was thinking because Machakos County does not make the high course, and I was thinking because we have a heritage, we have a specific day, maybe in a year, maybe in a month where we can display our artifacts and maybe people from Hong Kong will be coming to Machakos. People within the Country will be coming to Machakos to see the Kamba kind of heritage and that is what is happening in Kenya with the Maasai artifacts. What if we do that one in Machakos and display the Kamba culture of *kiondoo*, (baskets) of *muthokoi* (traditional food) and some stuff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. If I remember well, I think a motion of that kind was passed in this house. Let us hear Hon. Mutuku.

Hon. Michael Mutuku: Thank you. Let me also applaud the committee for the good report. Mine is actually to request, because I can see there are recommendations which have been given, if this Hon. House can really talk to the Executive to see how they can act on the recommendations. Over and above that, we have learnt a lesson and we have seen benchmarking tours are very important for the committees and for the Hon. Members. So I wish to urge the House to see how the committees can really, can go for as many benchmarking tours as they can because it is out of those benchmarking tours, we can bring a report like this. Over and above, in line with the report, we are seeing Hong Kong, has developed some standards when they are doing their things.

For example like in Machakos, the town we are in, we need to have some controls of the buildings because if we have to have a city, we must have some standards. A city cannot develop like Hong Kong when we do not have controls in terms of the buildings that are being built and I think that is very important. More so, we have seen in the report, Hong Kong is more like tourists destination centre and I think also in Machakos we can have Kamba cultural week whereby we can promote tourists attraction centre and then we can benefit a lot from that. It happens I am a member of the committee of public accounts and investments and I think soon we shall be bringing our report and when we went to Brazil, we realized they have a week for their culture. Just one complete week whereby they promote their culture, other communities come and other tourists come from all over the world to enjoy that particular week. Then with this few remarks once again let me applaud the committee for the good report. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Can we hear the Deputy Majority Leader and I think we conclude with the mover of the motion. Point of information? Alright.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Nzoka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and I want to inform the house through my Chairperson of environment committee. I met cabinet minister of national government, Judi Wakhungu of Environment and she has Ksh. 2 billion for river Athi. The National Government has allocated Ksh. 2 billion to clean Rive Athi so if we make it quick and we meet as we said, the three counties; Kiambu, Nairobi and Machakos, we shall move to her, and there is what they are doing. So we need to be involved in the system thank you---

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Nzoka. That is the input you need to give to your committee in your committee sittings. Let us hear the Deputy Majority Leader.

Hon. Wilson Kasimu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was invited by the Majority Leader to join the committee to the trip to Hong Kong. I want to thank him for that gesture and I also want to make some very few comments about the trip that Hong Kong, I realized that they are very serious people about investments and also about their environment but Hong Kong, being a very strong economy, has embraced the 24 hour economy and unlike what we are doing now in Machakos and in Hong Kong, there is nothing for free. Everything you have to pay for it and in their payment, they have separated the foreigners and their people. So whatever you are paying you have to show that you are one of them or you are a foreigner. So there is a difference in their payment unlike what we are doing in the People's Park. People's Park, if you go there on Monday, there is no business, on Tuesday, no business, Wednesday and on Thursday people are getting in for free.

I was bringing to the attention of this house that we take the People's Park as our only tourist attraction for now as we look and get into the business of investing in tourism. So the Hon. House, must come up with a motion that we pass a motion that the days that the citizens of Machakos are invited in the People's Park should be increased. Maybe we give Monday for the cleaning process then from Tuesday we start collecting revenue for the people of Machakos. The other thing is that we have to embrace what Hon. Kyalo Kyuli has said that there is a time we used to pay Kshs.300. Hon. Kyuli, I thought you never knew that we have a Park but now you have recognized that we have a Park that we can invest a lot in and do a lot of business. I am not for the point of we increase the rent that we are charging the people there because at the moment we have only three days in the Park. If we increase the days of the business in the Park, well and good we can increase the rent but at the moment, let us concentrate on charging whatever amount we are going to charge and then we see if we can improve our economy and at that juncture, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can see the mood of the House is that they have supported the report and it is the high time we adopt it and move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I agree with you. Finally, yes.

Hon. Kyuli: Yes, Mr. Speaker, while we acknowledge that this is a good report, Mr. Speaker, we also need to check on the committee of trade, planning and industrialization. Mr. Speaker, you will find that they went on a tour to Hong Kong but there is little about planning they are telling us, very little about trade they are telling us and very little on planning they are telling us. Only much they are telling us is about tourism and heritage, Mr. Speaker, and the other part they are touching is on environment. Mr. Speaker, so therefore, while we are also

supporting just wanted to inform the house that, we also need to check on what they learnt about planning because we also need a lot of planning to emulate Hong Kong, maybe.

I have never been there but from the talks around the Hong Kong City maybe well planned than ours. We also need to hear about trade, how we can improve trade in Machakos from what they learnt from Hong Kong. Mr. Speaker, we also need to learn we need to know about what they learnt about industrialization because those are very important issues that the report, Mr. Speaker, is opening a lot of eyes within the Assembly and within us, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: What is the point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, in the recommendation, point No. 5, the Hon. Chairperson and his committee are saying that the Government of Machakos plans its own city or town carefully taking into consideration the future growth and scarcity of land. About the trade point, No. 6, the day set for exhibiting Kamba artifacts at the People's Park to enable visitors to know about our culture. So Hon. Kyalo Kyuli, I think the recommendation has given a clear guideline on what the committee went there to do and what they would like to be done by the Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I agree with you, Hon. Kyalo Kyuli ought to re-read his report. Let us hear the mover.

Hon. Kavuu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the members to preserve some of the questions because I am not the Chairman. The report was prepared by the Chairman, although I am a member, so some questions should be answered by the Chairman. So, Hon. Kyuli, you can preserve your questions and then when the Chairman comes, he will answer all those questions. Mr. Speaker, I remember some times last year, I brought a motion here and was rejected and also this year also, I brought another motion and also was referred to the committee of environment but today Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a very happy man because I also told the Chairman how to present the report but I appreciate the members so much for supporting this report, Mr. Speaker, Sir. So, on behalf of my Chairman, once again, I want now to thank the members who have contributed and supported this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. After hearing those remarks I proceed to put a question as presented by Hon. Kavuu on behalf of Hon. Sammy Nduva, chairperson of trade, planning and industrialization committee.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: There being no other business, the House will adjourn until this afternoon.

The House rose at 11.30 a.m.