

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 31st May, 2016**

The House met at 2.33 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****STATEMENTS****LAND GRABBING IN NDALANI WARD**

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the rest of the House. I stand here to..... (*inaudible*) on the responses that were given on the previous statement I had sought. To start with, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am satisfied with the response that I received about the issue of land grabbing in Ndalani and it is my plea that the report that was tabled in this House should be implemented immediately because looking at the report, from the time that the survey was done, from the recommendations, if the implementation report is effected, most of this issue of land grabbing in Ndalani will be something of the past.

INVESTIGATIONS ON LOST WATER TANKS

The other issue is about the tanks that I had sought and mine is just a request since we now know where the tanks went. Maybe it will be ideal for the Committee to investigate if we can reclaim or recover some of the tanks that were lost because they were more than even 60 that were reported to have been lost but from the records, you can see that we have more than 100 tanks which cannot be traced. So, it will be in the interest of the County if we reclaim those or we repossess those tanks and then they can be taken back to the destinations or to the groups or the schools that were intended to get the tanks. Thank you

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think the matter on the land grabbing, then I direct the matter be referred to the Committee on Implementation to ensure implementation is done and the matter of the water tanks will be taken by the relevant committee, that is the Committee headed by Hon. Edrick Ngunzi and we will expect a report(*inaudible*) and debated. Thank you very much. Let us proceed.

BILLS*First Reading*

MACHAKOS COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL No. 6, 2016

Hon. Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Pursuant to Standing Order 119, I wish to present the Machakos County Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2, Bill No. 6 of 2016 for the first reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, proceed

(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time and ordered to be referred to the relevant Budget and Appropriation Committee)

Hon. Speaker: The bill is read for the first time and it is accordingly committed. Proceed.

MACHAKOS COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL No. 7, 2016

Hon. Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to the Standing Order 119, I beg to present the Machakos County Appropriation bill No. 7 of 2016 for the first reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time and ordered to be referred to the relevant Budget and Appropriation Committee)

Hon. Speaker: Again the Bill is accordingly read for the first time and committed. Proceed.

MOTION

ANNUAL TREE PLANTING DAY DURING THE SHORT RAINS

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to beg that I put my house in order. There are things that are not in order and that will take me just a few minutes

(Laughter)

Because I am just arriving, Mr. Speaker

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Maybe I will request the Deputy Speaker, perhaps, as Hon. Ngunzi puts his house in order to welcome the visitors in the gallery, students from Mavoko Secondary school. Maybe you can invite and welcome them to this Chambers.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the opportunity so accorded. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the committee puts his House in order, I believe it is coming to huge glare of every other Member of this House that, that Chairman has had a lot of disorder in the previous week and it appears to be recurring this week. I don't know what could be the problem or maybe the vice-chairperson would be in a position to assist. However, Mr. Speaker that notwithstanding, most obliged, I take this opportunity to recognize the presence of sons and daughters of this County from Mavoko Secondary School.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to applaud in congratulating them for coming to see how we transact our business in this House. It is my deep believe that, amongst these sons and daughters, there are Speakers, the Deputy Speakers and the Members of this Assembly in days to come in the future, Mr. Speaker. It is my believe that before the closure of the day, they will have been able to gather enough reason to be motivated enough, to work hard enough and find their day on the floor of this House, Mr. Speaker. It calls upon them to work hard in their studies and then to also to make sure they are able to know the various departments that are involved in the House business and the transaction of the Parliamentary Business.

In Kenya, when you are doing the informal discussions around tea tables, most people will tell you that I am not a politician 'mimi si mtu wa siasa' because in this Country, Kenyans have been made to tend to believe that being a politician is not a straight forward profession or career. Mr. Speaker, noting that leadership is a core basic culture of human beings, human beings have exhibited that character of sitting in groups and appointing leaders in every other establishment where they have come and in this Country, most people like to complain about the leaders that they elect and that being a politician is not a good thing.

I will say that, the other job that follows the job that Jesus did other than being a Pastor, the other way you can be able to make a significant impact on the life of the people is by participating in leadership. So, I want to take this opportunity to call upon them to work hard and to shape their focus on taking the mantle some days after we are gone. I will close by quoting one President of America, one Abraham Lincoln and he said, that the strength of a Nation depends on the vigor and the power in their youth because they will take over the Churches that we have worked hard to build, they will take over the schools that we have worked so hard to build, they will take over our armies, they will take over our everything, they will take over even our own investments.

The strength of this Nation lies in the power and in the vigor and the brightness of our youth. I take this humble opportunity, being a colleague youth to them, to urge them to work hard ready to seize the leadership of this Country once we are old and retired from the job. May God bless you.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, very much. Now we can hear the Hon. Edrick Ngunzi.

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My house is now in order. I wish to table a motion that is before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that aware the National tree planting day is celebrated in Kenya every year on April 21, aware that trees are important, valuable and necessary for our existence and that without trees, we humans would not exist on this beautiful planet, aware that during the climate change public awareness organized by UNEP in Nairobi on October 2015, Kenya re-affirmed its commitment to combat climate change through tree planting.

Informed that in the Machakos County Integrated Plan, the vision of the environmental sector is to have ‘a County living in a clean, secure and sustainable environment, aware that trees have medicinal remedies and that indigenous trees are adaptive and bear unique characteristics of a place, recognizing that trees act as carbon sinks by locking carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas and a major contributor of global warming, aware that trees attract rainfall, intercept and re-distribute precipitation as well as store water reserves that act as buffer for the ecosystem during drought.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the setting of annual tree planting day during the short rains of October-December every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to call upon Hon. Jacqueline Nziva to second my motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, the motion is properly laid and I open contributions. Maybe before we start up on contributions, I wish to pose a question to the mover that, is this annual tree planting day a National day or a County day?

Hon. Ngunzi: Mr. Speaker, the tree-planting day that is set on April 21st is a National day that has over the years contradicted the rain pattern in Machakos County. Trees that are planted in April are prone to die, actually they do not survive. That is why we are changing the County Tree planting day from April to the short rains of October-December, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Proceed. Let me hear contributions. Yes.

Hon. Ngui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mine is a point of concerning our House. Mr. Speaker, you realize there is a lot of disturbance, while Members are listening to motions and then the Serjant at Arms is moving round with a book. Can they not find a better mechanism of signing the book because we cannot concentrate? He is moving with a book, ‘sign here and sign here.’ Mr. Speaker, I think that system is very bad.

(Applause)

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This is a Hon. House that is supposed to have order when the Chairperson is presenting a motion, we cannot concentrate.

Hon. Speaker: I think the point has reached. I was not aware of that. Let us proceed. Now, Hon. Ngui, contribute to the motion.

(Laughter)

Hon. Ngui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would wish to contribute to the motion and I would like to support the mover of the motion and his motion. It is a good motion intended to help or make the environment of this County look good. Mr. Speaker, as I support the Chairperson for environment committee, it is good to note that the only rains that do well within our region, is the rains that come in October/November. So, it is very important we support this motion that the County Tree Planting day be fixed in October so that whatever we do during that day, can be something sustainable, something that can be seen so that we do not be wasting money planting trees in April and they end up drying. So, I am in support of the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Another contribution?

Hon. Nganga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I would like to know from the Chairperson. Mr. Speaker, we have had an exercise of planting seedlings within this County Mr. Speaker. In 2013 and 2014 financial years' budget, Mr. Speaker, we set aside a lot of money for planting these trees and before he brings a motion to put a certain specific day for planting trees, maybe he should be able to ascertain to the House whether he has proof of one existing tree that was planted during those times and that has been able to survive up to now because Mr. Speaker, this County committed a lot of funds towards that exercise.

Further, maybe you would also want to ascertain, is this in line with the Government Policy because Machakos County Government is known for planting very beautiful flowers. Have we moved from the flowers thing to the trees thing and how in this project going to be manned such that we do not invest public money in a way that the money is going to be lost because if the motion is going to put an act in futility, then we will be acting in vain Mr. Speaker.

So, if the Chairperson could address that because if the County Government Policy is on flowers then he wants to introduce a matter on trees, then we approve this and contradict the intention of the Government events already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The Chairperson, you take that question. You need to answer that question. Let me take.

Hon. Nzoka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we do agree there was a lot of mess up in the tree planting when we did it in 2013/2014. It is in fact like in my area, if you go to the books, I

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planted trees worth Ksh. 300,000 and when we got to the ground, I received I think 179 seedlings. Let me say we were new in the system and there were those who knew what they wanted. So, what we are now trying to do is to put in place a good mechanism. If we say we plant 100 trees in each ward, then it has to be accounted for.

A Hon. Member: Point of order.

Hon. Nzoka: Protect me, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let me take this point of order.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member who has just sat down, Hon. Nzoka, seems to be misleading the House because now he is accounting for the trees which we had planted in his area, and here we are addressing, from what the Deputy Speaker has said, I think the question has not sunk into the mind of the Chairman. We need a policy guideline so that we can move from the flowers policy guideline to the trees policy guideline. That is the policy guideline we want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The point of order is sustained. Let us hear from the Chairperson, is there a policy guideline on the matter?

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a department, we realized where we went wrong. Hon. Deputy Speaker wanted to know how many survived and I would say we almost lost all the seedlings that we planted---

(Laughter)

One reason for losing all seedlings, Mr. Speaker, was that we took three species that do not belong to particular areas and again, Mr. Speaker, the speed at which we planted the seedlings, we did not prepare well in advance to have the seedlings. That is why we stopped the exercise until we had to agree on a few other areas that needed improvement. So, Mr. Speaker, we will soon come up with a policy guideline that will be brought to the House for approval before we actually get into the real exercise. So, Mr. Speaker, this time around we are careful, we will make sure that....because we want to improve the forest cover in Machakos County that stands at 3 per cent we will want to---

Hon. Speaker: Let me take the point of order. Let us hear Hon. Kitheka

Hon. Kitheka: Mr. Speaker, I think the simple question you have asked that Hon. Member, he has not answered. He is just giving us narratives here. You asked him whether there is a policy guideline to this effect. He should have said yes or no and to me it is a 'no' because I am the Vice-Chairman of the delegated legislation committee and I have not seen such a

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document in our committee. So, Mr. Chairman, I think it will sound awkward for us to pass such a document here while we do not have even the guidelines and the same guidelines made us to mess in the past exercise. So, Mr. Speaker, I wish now we finish the business of this House. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let us get the other point of order.

Hon. Ngui: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is directed to the Chairman. Mr. Speaker, the Chairman seems to be answering questions that belong to the Executive. It is like he works with the executive. It is the high time they realized where they went wrong and actually he has told this House, the last tree-planting exercise, it is like we lost everything---

Hon. Speaker: Order! Order! Order Hon. Ngui. The chairman has instructions from the CEC concerned to deliver that response.

Hon. Ngui: Mr. Speaker, he should give that in a report because he is answering questions.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe that.

Hon. Ngui: Maybe you should order the Chairman to bring a report on how the exercise went on 2013/2014. How much money did we lose in this exercise because he has told this House that we lost everything? We need to get a report on that, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ngui you will put that statement at your earliest convenience. I am sure you know the procedure. Let us hear Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think this County has lost a lot of money in this exercise because that money was pocketed by the executive side and now I do not know whether he has taken that report that we have lost a lot of money. So, what he needs, I do not think that exercise can go on because now this House is almost going home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: I think it is of the interest Chairman you tell us, is there a policy guideline in place and should a motion come before a policy guideline? Yes.

Hon. Katela: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I also want to know from the Chairman, Environment committee whether he has some sight of budget like what he expects to spend on the same and the much we spend on the other side because it is like Members want to know how; how much do we lose on revenue when we planted trees and we failed and how much do we

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expect to use because we cannot just pass a blanket statement without even budgeting for it when we are yearning for bursaries for our children who are at the gallery, we are yearning for medical funds. Why should we go on planting trees or passing a statement without a budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you but in my own assessment, I think what is before the House is whether this motion is valid. Is it a valid motion and let me have contributions on that. Yes.

Hon. (Ms.) V. Mbithe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the House at large. According to my school of thought or rather what I can see in the Order Paper, the agenda of the day was the change of the date with it being, already, a National event. So, what we are deliberating here Mr. Speaker, I think it is not in order because what the order paper says is the change of the date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let me have the point of order. Yes, Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Nganga: Mr. Speaker, maybe the Member can refer to us on that specific date that is being changed, Mr. Speaker, because in the reading of the Order Paper Mr. Speaker, on the final paragraph, the Chairman wants this House to discuss and approve the setting of annual tree planting day during the short rains of October and December. So, there is nothing he is changing Mr. Speaker, and the date that has been set aside of April 21st is a National day. Either, what we can do, which is within our jurisdiction and within our mandate, is to set a new County date. Not like we are changing a County. There is already no County date, so he is not changing anything. It is very express not unless the Member wants to mislead the House---

Hon. Speaker: I think I agree with that, that the matter is not a change of date. There is a National day and that the mover appears to find a County day. Let us hear Hon. Kalunde.

Hon. Kalunde: Mr. Speaker, at the first instance, you asked the Chairman whether this is a County date he is trying to change or whether it is a National Planting day and the truth of the matter is that, the date is a National date for planting trees. So, we should discuss the date for the County for planting trees knowing so well that he was right when he said that during the April time in our area, it is the time for the short rains but in the other areas it is long rains. So, it is better that if we have to put a tree planting day for the County, it should fall in October/December but not during April time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I wish the Chairman would save us this time and perhaps take his motion back for reconsideration.

Hon. Nduva: Mr. Speaker, I want to stand to support this motion.

Hon. Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Nduva: Mr. Speaker, the member should take it right that the chairman has not requested for us to set a budget for the exercise but to create a county tree-planting day, which is very important, Mr. Speaker. You know Hon. Members, most of the areas in our county is semi-arid where there are no trees. Other areas where there are trees have all been turned to charcoal. Mr. Speaker, if this house approves and sets a county planting date, it will be very important. On the other hand where the members are referring to the previous exercises where we have planted trees, then, Mr. Speaker, that matter can be brought to this House for the member to see whether they can approve a budget or not. When we say a tree-planting day, it does not mean that we are putting money there. A tree-planting day means, that... Mr. Speaker, protect me.

Hon. Speaker: Let him conclude. Yes, proceed.

Hon. Nduva: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Tree planting day means each and every individual of this county needs to plant a tree and by doing that, we will have averted the desert that is approaching. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you but I am sure you have a copy of the motion, isn't it? You have a copy of the motion?

Hon. Nduva: Yes, Sir, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Take me through the last paragraph, 'Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move the motion---

Hon. Nduva: The last paragraph, 'Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move a motion that the Hon. House discusses and approve the setting of annual tree planting day during short rains.' Mr. Speaker, I think my contribution---

Hon. Speaker: During short rains.

Hon. Nduva: Is in line with that---

Hon. Speaker: You finish up. During short rains---

Hon. Nduva: During the short rains of October and December. Mr. Speaker, I am up for that.

Hon. Speaker: Has a date been suggested?

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Hon. Nduva: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Is there a specific date suggested?

Hon. Nduva: Not date. It is the months of October and December.

Hon. Speaker: Then that says it should a tree-planting month, isn't it?

Hon. Nduva: Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Speaker: If the chairman is told to implement this motion, how will it be implemented?

Hon. Nduva: Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Speaker: Are you finding the problem.

Hon. Speaker: Because it does not set the date because it has said the month of October and December. I think this is where the chairman needs to correct Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Let me take the point of order.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for assisting the member to be able to see the gapes within the motion. Further, Mr. Speaker, when the member says that there is no money that is being committed to this exercise, Mr. Speaker, he is misleading the House. Mr. Speaker, a tree-planting exercise, money requires money for that to be implemented unless this House wants to act in vain. We need to be true to ourselves and like play games. There will be money required to implement the tree-planting exercise and a budget must be set aside for that to be effected. So this will even affect the county budget of the next financial year. I think this matter needs to be interrogated deeper than it is being handled by the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, and further on, this county lost monies in a previous exercise the way the chairman has alluded although he has not provided a reliable report that you can reference to. Mr. Speaker, we do not even know whether those that messed with those funds were apprehended, some of them taken to court and punishments dished out. Mr. Speaker, we are not certain whether re-investing again public resources on a previously failed exercise will still be a wise undertaking to do, Mr. Speaker. I think the chairman needs to respond to the very serious pertinent issues that this motion is gearing to achieve.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Then we will hear Hon. Muli and then and the conclude with Hon Kamitu.

Hon. Muli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the chairman had a good attention with this motion when he was bringing it in this House, Mr. Speaker, but what the chairman has not done is to fine-tune his motion properly. In fact, Mr. Speaker, once bitten, twice shy. When issues of planting appears to this House Mr. Speaker, eyebrows go up because Mr. Speaker, we know what happened with certain budget that we passed on the planting of the trees and it is only that I would like to request the chairman, because true enough, our environment has been greatly affected, we need to improve our environment by planting of trees. But what is there let him bring a proper policy to make sure the trees are being implemented well. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let us take the point here.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Ndithini said the Hon. Chair had a good attention. I want to understand the word attention Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Muli: Order, order! Mr. Speaker

(Laughter)

I want to clarify, Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: I am sure the speaker had good intentions. Let us hear the chairman. I think you can hear how the debate is going. Do you have something to say?

Hon. Ngunzi: I think, Mr. Speaker, the whole thing is getting into the right track and that members should only realize that I wanted them to discuss on a date. One would suggest a date between October and December so that we discuss on that line. Mr. Speaker, I did not want to pick on a particular date and members, as they discuss, they could come up with a date between October and December so that we proceed in that line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I think that is intelligent enough. Let us hear Hon. Kitheka. Sorry, Hon. Kitheka. Allow me to give the opportunity to Hon. Bibiana.

(Laughter)

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nduku: Thank you Mr. Speaker---

(Hon. Nzoka raising his hand seeking attention of the Chair)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Nzoka, the last warning.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nduku: I am Hon. Bibiana Nduku---

Hon. Speaker: This is an assembly that should be honoured and much more at a time when we have our youth in the gallery. I find that a little careless. Yes.

Hon. Katela: *(On a point of Order)* Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have just realized that---

Hon. Speaker: Have your seat.

Hon. Katela: I have just realized that Hon. Nzoka is not dressed for the evening sitting of this House. He is shadily dressed and it is like he is ready for cultivating his shamba but not being in the assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Nzoka you are out of order. It is my last warning to you. Let us hear Hon. Bibiana.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nduku: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wonder why the chairman is giving us a date and there is no budget of planting trees. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think that is the reason why I felt in the beginning this is a matter that the chairman would withdraw and reconsider failing a substantive report.

Hon. Ngunzi: But, Mr. Speaker, I want to make a clarification to the House that we come up with a date whether with a budget.....this will be there in future.

Hon. Speaker: Let me hear the.....okay clarify and then after that we can hear his contribution.

Hon. Kitheka: Mr. Speaker, I think the chairman is misleading this House because there is no way we can come up with a date while first there is no budget. Secondly, there is no policy guideline. So, he is truly misleading the House and we should not even have discussed this motion at this point. It is premature to discuss it. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let me hear the Hon. Kasimu.

Hon. Kasimu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Chairman of the committee has said it very clear that he wishes this Hon. House discusses and approves setting of annual tree planting day during the short rains of October to December.

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The rains begin in October and end in December. So, Members should be coming up with a date. For example 10th of October every year and then from there we give the chairman time to come up with the policy and then he also comes up with a budget because we are moving to the next financial year and we are doing the budget estimates and that is when now we can come up with the estimates of that tree planting day. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I suggest 10th of October of every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe to offer direction to the House deliberation about this motion is whether it should proceed or not and I will take two members in support and two members in opposition and then proceed and put the question. Let us hear Hon. House.

Hon. (Ms.). Nzioka: Asante Bw. Spika kwa kunipa nafasi. Nimesimama kuunga mkono kwamba sisi kama bunge tutenge siku. Siku katikati ya mwezi wa kumi na mweziwa kumi nambili. Bw. Spika kuna wanenaji ama waheshimiwa wengi wameongea juu ya kusema kwamba wakati kulikua na upandaji wa miti, pesa zilitumiwa vibaya, hatukufaulu katika huo mpango. Bw. Spika nikiwa katika hili bunge sijasikia na sijawahi sikia mbunge yeyote ametoa tangazo ama amekuja kuuliza swali kwamba anataka ajue bajeti ilitumiwa aje kupanda miti akieleza kwamba miti haikupandwa sawa sawa.

Mimi naunga mkono kusema kwamba tutenge siku kasha tukishamaliza kuttenga siku sasa tutakuja na sehemu ya bajeti hii miti itapandwa sehemu gani katika kaunti yetu sababu mwenyekiti wa kamati ya mazingira amesema anauliza bunge kuingea na kutenga siku ya upandaji wa miti. Kwa hivyo Bw. Spika mimi naunga mkono huo mswada kwamba tutenge siku na mimi naunga mkono unenaji wa mdogo wa kiongonzi wa walio wengi katika bunge kwamba tutenge tarehe kumi mweziwa kumi kua hio siku.

Hon. Speaker: Tarehe kumi mweziwa kumi. Let me hear the Voice of Lower Kaewa.

Hon. Mbithi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, I want to say that I want to support the motion and secondly, there is a saying which is commonly used and more so by our students that failing to plan is planning to fail. We have members who are trying to say, simply because we do not have a budget, we should not proceed with the motion. Mr. Speaker, I want to say this is the planning stage then after that the rest will follow.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we have gone to school and we know the importance of trees and the planting of trees not to mention but the aspect of bringing rain and that could be the reason why we have unreliable rainfall. Some years back, Mr. Speaker, I am ageing, and some years back when I was young, we used to have some reliable rainfall but nowadays you cannot even predict when to plant and when not to plant simply because our ground cover is running dry so if we proceed and support this motion, maybe in the near future, we are going to have the fruits we have not had before.

Mr. Speaker, as it has been suggested by the chairperson of environment committee, the reason as to why we lost our taxpayers' money in the previous exercises is maybe because the exercise was done haphazardly without prior research to know which trees grow best where

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because we have the low land sand the highlands. Trees which could grow better in Lower Kaewa maybe could not perform in Yatta and parts of Masinga. So maybe when the exercise is taking place such research should be done so that we do not lose such huge amounts of money and maybe regard the exercise as a fail.

Mr. Speaker, I happen to have had the advantage of visiting Rwanda and Rwanda is one of the countries in Africa with the best climate in an environmental aspect. There is a date set by the Rwanda Government whereby even the President and the locals of Rwanda on that particular date, they do not go to work until each and every other person plants even if it is just a single tree and Rwanda is enjoying a very good climate simply because of that kind of an exercise. So, and I want to echo the Hon. Kasimu, if we could buy that second week of October because that is when we expect the rains to fall the better.

Then as I end, Mr. Speaker, I want to make a quote, a wise saying for which the author is anonymous whereby ‘a community which plants trees without knowing whether they will enjoy the fruits of those trees, then that is a blessed community.’ If we discuss and approve this motion that we can proceed with setting a date and we really set up that date and stick to that date and do as per the motion, we plant trees, then even without knowing whether we are going to enjoy the fruits of those trees then Machakos is going to have that kind of a blessed community. I stand for the second week of October. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you let me hear two in opposition. Those who are opposing the motion? Yes Hon. Kitheka.

Hon. Kitheka: I am not opposing this motion simply because---

(Laughter)

I am out to oppose it but simply because I do not want to hear such haphazard exercise taking place in the near future. Mr. Speaker, we had an exercise which was done to plant trees but to my realization all the trees which were planted were not planted in the right order. There was no guideline on how to do it. The procurement, the entire exercise was not in a so dubious way that even you could find trees which have just been uprooted and sold direct without any consideration of whether they are going to survive or not. Mr. Speaker, it is a very good idea which comes up from that committee but Mr. Speaker, I would wish we first come up with a very good structured policy on how to plant these trees in the sense that we will know on how to procure the trees.

Secondly, we will know on how we are going to make a budget for buying the trees and thirdly, the date we are trying to set must be in the policy guidelines to show that at a particular month we will be addressing an issue of tree planting. So, Mr. Speaker, I am not just saying no to the motion simply because it is a no. But I support the motion after we come up with these few ambiguities which are trying to hinder the good performance in our county. Mr. Speaker, I know the chairman had a very good intention with the motion but we cannot put the cart before the

horse. Let us now address the issues per the way they should be addressed. Mr. Speaker, I need some protection.

Hon. Speaker: Let me take the point from Hon. Nzioki.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Nzioki: *(On a point of information)* Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would want to inform the immediate contributor that we need to set a date. After we set the date is when we set the policy guidelines. It is not the policy guidelines before the date. The intention should come first and then the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I think I agree with that speaker. Indeed, even a motion is a policy guideline Hon. Kitheka. So, perhaps now this is the policy guideline that will inform a report that maybe prepared by the chairman. What is your view Hon. Kitheka?

Hon. Kitheka: If we treat it as a policy guideline, I cannot be different. We just have to support the motion because of the good intention of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand here strongly saying that the information on the motion that has been brought in front of the House by our chairman for environment, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very valid. Taking into consideration that through the generals (??) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have seen countries whereby they have been made to be deserts by tree-felling. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a very frank note, tree-planting exercise is very important especially to our county, Machakos County, as you know geographically, we are semi-arid. So it is on this point Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I have stood to say we should not be bringing history or talking of an exercise that was carried out in tree-planting that it never came up so well because as we normally say, it is not bad to make a mistake but it will be bad to repeat the same mistake.

So now that we are aware the importance of tree-planting in Machakos County, the benefit that we are going to reap through the tree-planting, I would stand here strongly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to importantly say that this is a very valid motion that has been brought by our chairman and as per the last paragraph, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard you saying that it should be repeated and it is very clear that what this House is been asked is to discuss and approve the setting of the annual tree planting day.

So the case in question, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is this date. This is to my understanding and it is in black and white as the last paragraph made by the Hon. Chairman so we should stand and go for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The date came up by Hon. Kasimu who proposed a date. So as you know our geographical set up, our rain season that is the best season between October and December and *tarehe kumi* Mr. Speaker, Sir. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let me hear the chairman, in conclusion, and address the issues that have been raised. Let us hear that, one minute.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa: Thank you Mr. Speaker, once again. Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this motion and I am happy that the Hon. Chairman, because I am one of his committee members, he brought this in this House today. Mr. Speaker, these Hon. Members should approve this motion without fear and support it because, as you know, for those of us who have lived in Europe, those countries are very cold but they have made sure that they have trees all over. Trees will change our Machakos, trees will change everything this Machakos is going to be beautiful like Kiambu, Nyeri you know this nice places, Mr. Speaker.

You know while you are walking under a path with nice trees, nice breeze. Mr. Speaker, even you feel love flying in your ears because, you know, because when you are walking in a nice environment you feel it you love everything around you. Mr. Speaker, I urge these members, let us pass this motion. I congratulate the chairman for bringing this motion to this House and I hope the county government, the executive will play its role and make sure there are enough trees for our lovely Machakos County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the chairman in appreciation and then perhaps, I would think that you address this House on the issues that you take it up file a report that will have specifics on the date. Let us proceed, chairman.

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to be happy with the members for supporting the motion although I want to differ with them on the timing of the tree-planting day. They are suggesting 10th of October which used to be Moi Day and in most cases and I have experienced that in Machakos County we do not normally have rains that early.

(Applause)

Rains come a bit later in the month from 25th, 27th October and that I would propose that we fix the tree-planting day for 15th of November every year and that we will soon follow up with another motion on policy guidelines that will oversee the whole exercise, Mr. Speaker, so that we do not repeat what was experienced in the 2013/2014 budget. Mr. Speaker, two wrongs do not make a right. We cannot stop improving forest cover that in Machakos County stands at 3 percent against Makueni's 7 per cent and Kitui's 5 per cent respectively just because we made a mistake.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank members and hope that we look at the benefits rather than the mistakes that we made in earlier times. Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask members to approve 15th of November as the county annual tree-planting day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

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Hon. Speaker: Maybe chairman before, perhaps you conclude, is there anything wrong with having this day varying from season to season as rains begin and then it will be gazetted and published. Sometimes, we are coming from a region where sometimes rain can fail. How do you think about that?

Hon. Ngunzi: That is a bright one, Mr. Speaker, because we could suggest 15th and we get no rains and we suggest another date when we will have no rains, Mr. Speaker. We can fix it for that period between October and December so that, as a department, we will be able to look at the most convenient time when the exercise will be carried out. That will be borne in the policy guidelines that we will come up with.

Hon. Speaker: Very well then I will proceed to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Any other matter?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: That is the end of business today. Enjoy your Madaraka Day. Thank you

The House rose at 3.32 p.m.