

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Thursday, 23rd June, 2016**

The House met at 2.32 p.m.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. R. Mutuku) in the Chair]***PRAYERS**

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to bring to your attention that we have visitors; Kithimani Secondary School and I wish we can applaud them.

*(Applause)***COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
MAVOKO INSPECTORATE OFFICERS PETITION**

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, a petition by Mavoko Inspectorate Officers on several issues including salary arrears, not being issued with appointment letters, poor working conditions and discrimination was received at the County Assembly on the 22nd February, 2016 and was tabled in the Assembly on 24th of the same month. The petition was committed to the committee on Labour, Public Service and ICT. On 14th June, 2016, the committee tabled a report in the House on a petition by the Mavoko Inspectorate Officers. The Chair directed that the petition be referred back to an *ad hoc* Committee on several Members to be appointed by the Majority and the Minority Leadership. In that regard, I am in receipt of correspondence from the Majority and Minority Leaders nominating the following Members to sit in the *ad hoc* committee on the petition by the Mavoko Inspectorate Officers. The following Members have been nominated:-

1. Hon. Justus Kimata
2. Hon. (Ms.) Mary Ndinda
3. Hon. (Ms.) Jacqueline Nziva
4. Hon. Leonard Katela
5. Hon. (Ms.) Veronica Mbithe
6. Hon. Joseph Itumo
7. Hon. (Ms.) Catherine Nguluku

Hon. Members, Standing Order 201 (2) states ‘whenever a petition is committed to a sectoral committee, the committee will not more than sixty calendar days from the time of reading the prayer, respond to the petitioner by way of a report addressed to the petitioner or petitioners and laid on the table of the assembly and no debate on or in relation to the report shall be allowed, but the speaker may, in exceptional circumstances, allow comments or observations in relation to the petitions for not more than twenty minutes.

Hon. Members, the petition should have been disposed of by 24th April, 2016. However, the same was tabled on 14th of this month but Members thought the report was inconclusive. Hon. Members, I therefore direct that an *ad hoc* Committee files a convincing report and a petition in the House within the first week after resumption from recess since a response on the petition is long overdue. Thank you. You can proceed.

STATEMENTS

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I issue the statement, I want to draw to the attention of the Chair, that we have a Member in the House who is not properly dressed. That is Hon. Benson Kasyoka, Member for Kyeleni Ward, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: You can proceed as I consult. Hon. Benson Kasyoka, you know the Standing Orders, comply with them.

(Applause)

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, once more, as you have said, we have visitors in our gallery, I understand these are students of Kithimani Secondary School, if I am not wrong, and I would like to start by congratulating and appreciating there MCA, that is Chairman, Planning and Trade, Hon. Sammy Nduva---

(Applause)

To the Principal of the school and the students for coming to witness the business of this Assembly, welcome once more.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE FROM 28TH TO 30TH JUNE, 2016

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand under Standing Order 41 (2) (a) where ‘during the statement hour, a Member of the House Business Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall, every Thursday or on the last sitting day, for not more than ten minutes, present and lay on the table, a statement informing the House of the Business coming before the House in the following week.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House business committee met today, Thursday 23rd, June 2016 and pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order number 151, balloted business for the next week as follows:-

Tuesday afternoon

- Report of Transport, Roads, Public Works and Housing on phase 2 roads project implementation.
- Report of Justice and Legal Affairs Committee in working conditions of industrial employees.

Wednesday Morning

- Report of *ad hoc* Committee on the conduct of County Public Service Board Secretary which will be a continuation of debate.

Wednesday afternoon

- Report of Culture and Tourism Committee on benchmarking to Kilifi County Assembly.

Thursday afternoon.

- Report of Labour, Public Service and ICT committee on benchmarking with Kisumu County Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Next.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2) (c), I wish to seek statement on the following matters:-

PROCUREMENT OF DESILTING MARUBA DAM

Mr. Speaker, I want to know how Maruba dam de-silting contract was procured and awarded and whether it was advertised and who were the pre-qualified contractors.

PAYMENT OF MARUBA DAM CONTRACT

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know why on 8th February, 2016 and on 15th March, 2016, the payment of Kshs. 70 million was made before the completion of the work and even before the work started.

TRANSFER OF WORKERS

I still want to know why the employees who objected the non-procedural payment were transferred or either their employment terminated due to the issue at hand.

TEMPORARY STRUCTURES IN CBD

Mr. Speaker, I would like also want to know why temporary structures have been put up in the Central Business District opposite the Equity Bank, Mbolu Malu road and who is involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Alex Kamitu.

CLEARANCE OF WASTE IN CLOSED TALA DUMPSITE

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, very much. Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2) (c), I wish to seek a statement on the following matter that on 17th September, 2015, a motion to close Tala dump site was tabled in the House, debated and approved. The committee on Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources together with the area MCA, that is myself, visited the site and tabled a report on the closure of the dumpsite. The site was closed but the garbage was never cleared. Traders in Tala town have protested on the closed dumpsite because the dirty water trickles from the dumpsite to the pathways exposing a health hazard to the residents. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to know;

1. What the County Government was doing to clear the waste at the closed dumpsite.
2. Whether a new dumpsite has been identified, its location and if it has been gazetted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SAND HARVESTING IN NDALANI

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Before I direct those two statements, I would urge the following Members to proceed, Hon. Edrick Ngunzi, there was a statement that was sought, you can respond to the same. There was a statement which was sought by Hon. Stephen Muthuka on implementation of the motion regarding the suspension of sand harvesting in Ndalani Ward.

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 41, I raise to respond to statements sought by some Hon. Members on some specified matters affecting the departments of water and that of energy and natural resources. Mr. Speaker, I would want to begin by responding to statements that were sought by Hon. Muthuka of Ndalani on implementation of the motion regarding suspension of sand harvesting in Ndalani Ward.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in December 2014, the Machakos County Assembly enacted the Machakos County Sand Harvesting Act 2014. The aim, Mr. Speaker, was to regulate sand harvesting and related activities and to ensure sustainable exploitation and utilization of sand and to provide for equitable sharing of the accruing benefits and to operationalize the Act, two critical provisions of the Act must be fulfilled first.

Mr. Speaker, Section 4 (1) which requires the establishment of County Sand Harvesting and Management Committee and section 35 (1) which requires making of regulations generally

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for carrying out the provisions of this Act are requisite. The above two provisions, Mr. Speaker, have not been fully attained thus affecting the stoppage of sand harvesting in Ndalani and other areas. Mr. Speaker, the department of Energy and Natural Resources has, however, put in place mechanisms to fast track the two provisions by;

1. Requesting the Sub-County administrators to forward updated list of some dealers, special interest groups and sand harvesting associations in their respective sub-counties for consideration to be appointed as Members of the Sub county sand harvesting committees.
2. Formation of a technical committee to prepare regulations as provided under section 35 (2).

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF MLOLONGO SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Mr. Speaker, I still have another statement that was sought by Hon. Rachel Nduku and with your leave, I wish to go through it. Mr. Speaker, I have a response to a statement that was sought by Hon. Rachel Nduku on the status of feasibility study of sewerage and drainage system in Mlolongo which was allocated Kshs. 50 million. Mr. Speaker, this study had been envisaged in the year 2015/2016 financial year among other researches, feasibility, design plans and appraisal studies at an approved budget of Kshs. 42,839,352 million.

Mr. Speaker, the procurement process was discontinued due to unforeseen procurement and logistical challenges. Mr. Speaker, Sir, sewerage and sanitation function currently falls under the department of Environment, Sanitation and solid waste management. The concerned department has been advised to lobby for inclusion of the project in the budget for the coming financial year 2016/2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Do we have Hon. Stephen Muthuka in the House? Hon. Rachel Nduku, maybe you can respond, this was a statement which you sought in the House, are you satisfied? So, next week on Tuesday I will give the two Members time, maybe to react on the same. Next statement. If you have a statement you can proceed.

STATUS OF GOSSIP-MLOLONGO ROAD

Hon. (Ms.) Kaluki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. I hereby respond to statement sought by Hon. Members, one from the Hon. Member from Mlolongo Ward that is Hon. Rachel Nduku, on the status of Gossip-Mlolongo Road allocated Kshs. 5 million for phase 2 and 3 projects. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the said road was awarded to Sinai Construction Company Limited who only did five percent of the works and disappeared from the site. The valuation of the works was done by the roads inspection team who confirmed that the contractor was unable to meet the given timelines and therefore recommended termination of the road. Mr. Speaker, the works have been planned for tendering in the next financial year.

CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER ROADS IN MLOLONGO WARD

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She had also sought statement on the status of construction of feeder roads in Mlolongo Ward. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this contract was awarded to Waylin Contractors who did not show up at the site. The contract was also terminated and given priority for tendering in the next financial year.

EXCAVATORS WORK IN KANGUNDO NORTH

I also respond to a statement sought by Hon. Francis Matheka, the Hon. Member for Kangundo North Ward concerning why graders and excavators have never worked in Kangundo North. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was no excavator assigned to Kangundo Sub-County. The excavator is assigned Kathiani-Kakuyuni-Kangundo projects and it has been on the site.

Mr. Speaker, the grader for ward roads follow a schedule which is drawn and circulated to all MCAs, that is the Members for County Assemblies and whose co-operation is required to enable the department to serve all wards equally. The concerned parties, that is the MCAs only need to go by the schedule. However, the grader developed a mechanical problem which is being addressed and it will be in Kangundo this month on June, hopefully.

STATUS OF KATHITHYAMAA-MBILINI-MAIUNI ROAD

He also sought to know the status of Kathithyamaa-Mbilini-Maiuni road which was done poorly and it is not completed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the road is 20 kilometres long and is graded 80 per cent, a width of 4 to 5 meters and has recently potholes in some sections which is attributed to normal service wear and drainage failure. Mr. Speaker, the sub-county engineer will be visiting the site and the works will commence in mid-June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Before I give directions, we can have response from the Chairman, Labour, Public Services and ICT, Hon. Leonard Katela.

BREACH OF LEADERSHIP AND INTEGRITY CODE BY AN OFFICER

Hon. Katela: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 41, I would like to respond to two statements sought by one Hon. Member on some specified matters affecting the department of Labour, Public Service and ICT in our County. Statement sought by Hon. Alexander Kathinzi on what led Lazarus Kivuva, an officer in the office of the Governor to assault a junior officer contrary to Leadership and Integrity Code. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this case is still under investigations with a view of taking the appropriate action on the said officer.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICERS WITHOUT COUNTY ASSEMBLY APPROVAL

The same Member also sought a statement on the issue of County Administration Officers appointed to chief officers without approval of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the

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appointment of the chief officers is in acting capacity and in accordance with the provisions of section J4 and J5 of the Code of Regulations and sections 72 (1) and (2) and 45 (1) (a) of the County Government Act, 2012. These temporary appointments are meant to ensure continuity of service delivery to the citizens. The vacancies will be substantively filled by and in accordance to section 45 (1) (b) of the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, on a statement that was sought by Hon. Alexander Kamitu, I direct that the Committee on Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources to check up the matter and file a response within the shortest time possible. Maybe we have the Chairman in the House, you can give an undertaking when we can expect response.

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be consulting with the MCA, Tala Ward and I am sure we will fast track the assignment before us in less than a month, Mr. Speaker. So, we will be here with a report in July, if we will be in the House.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Okay, but I would urge that the response be filed the soonest possible. There was a statement which was sought by Hon. Cornelius Kitheka, the first statement concerning the Maruba Dam de-silting contract, I direct the committee on decentralized unit to take up the matter and file a response in this House the soonest possible. On the second statement, why on 8th February, 2016 and 15th March, 2016, the payment of Kshs. 70 million was made before completion of work. I direct committee on Finance and Revenue Collection to take up that matter.

On why the employees who objected the non-procedural payments were transferred or terminated, the committee on Labour, Public Service and ICT, to take up the matter. On the fourth statement, on why we have temporary structures which has been put up in the Central Business District, opposite Equity Bank, that is Mbolu Malu road, I direct also Committee on Decentralized unit to take up the matter.

Do we have the Chairperson, Decentralized unit? Vice Chairperson, take up the matter you can convey the same. Finance, Revenue Collection committee, is the Vice Chairperson in the House? Clerks, ensure that the Chairperson is notified accordingly. Then concerning the employees, Labour and ICT, you can give an undertaking within two months' time. Maybe you can use the microphone for the purpose of HANSARD.

Hon. Katela: Thank you. In one month.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Okay. You also have the other one concerning temporary structures, still going to decentralized. Vice Chairperson, ensure that you communicate accordingly to the committee to do the necessary. Then on the response that has been responded by various Chairpersons, I will give Members, those who had sought statements time, next week on Tuesday, to respond or even to react on the response. Clerk, you can proceed.

MOTION
ESTABLISHMENT OF PASTEURIZER AND MILK CHILLERS

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Sir, THAT aware that the Agriculture and Co-operative Development Committee among other roles, is mandated to deal with all matters related to agriculture, including crops and animal husbandry, livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control, irrigation, fisheries, co-operative societies and veterinary services.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the committee visited Muranga County Government to benchmark on issues related to milk production, processing and market development on 15th and 16th April, 2016 and aware that the committee carried out a ground survey in Mwala Sub-County especially in Masii and Wamunyu on 6th, 7th and 9th May, 2016 to establish the current status of dairy farming in Machakos County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the dairy farmers informed the committee that the pasteurizer machines were more essential than the milk chillers, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves that the County Government establishes the pasteurizer machine and milk chillers for dairy farmers in the key milk producing areas in the next financial year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I therefore, ask Hon. Ngunzi to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ngunzi.

Hon. Manyolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Ngunzi---

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: You are out of order.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, actually I had arranged with Hon. Ngunzi that he seconds the motion, and before I stepped forward into the House, he was in the House and he has moved out so, I therefore call Hon. Joshua Mwonga to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am a Member of the Agriculture Committee and I do second that motion. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, the motion is properly laid. You can proceed with the report.

Hon. Kavuu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I looked around the House, it seems as if the Members have gone out and, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to defer the report to be tabled next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Gideon Kavuu, can you kindly convince the House why you think that we should defer the report.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Member: Point of order.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Allow the Member to complete. Hon. Gideon Kavuu.

Hon. Member: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: You are out of order. Hon. Gideon Kavuu. Allow he member to respond.

Hon. Kavuu: Mr. Speaker, protect me please.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Kavuu: Mr. Speaker, the reason why I wanted to defer the report to the next time, it is because I do not think that the House has quorum, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Yes, what is the point of order, Hon. Joshua Mwonga?

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, I think we have been in this House now for three years and some months. Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that a Member cannot understand the procedures and Standing Orders of this House. Mr. Speaker, you cannot be presenting a report and at the same time defer it on the pretext that there is no quorum in the House. Mr. Speaker, the matter of quorum should have been raised by another Member and not the Member who is moving his own report. So, Mr. Speaker, the only prudent thing that, the Member can do, is to continue with the report unless another Member raises the issue of quorum, he has no other alternative, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Sir.

Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kavuu, point of order is sustained. You can proceed. Yes, what is the point of order, Hon. Cecilia Sereka?

Hon. (Ms) Sereka: *(On a point of order)*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. As you can see and I request you kindly to see, there are no members of the agriculture committee. Mr. Speaker, I think Hon. Kavuu fears that this good motion can be thrown outside

the window. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you kindly and I request the Hon. House, to let the mover of the motion move the motion next week to allow quorum.

Hon. Kitheka: Point of order

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: What is the other point of order Hon. Kitheka?

Hon. Kitheka: *(on a point of order)* Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member had a very smart idea but she has misused. She had the chance to tell the Speaker ‘Mr. Speaker, I wish to notify you that there is no quorum for the Speaker to see.’ If you cannot see, then we continue. Mr. Speaker, I want to take that opportunity to inform you that we don’t have quorum in the House.

(Applause)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm.

(Clerk undertook physical count)

Hon. Members, in the view of the matter that has been raised by Hon. Kitheka, I wish to guide the House that I am informed that we do not have quorum and I order the bell to be rung for eight minutes and no member is supposed to leave the chamber.

(Quorum Bell rung)

Hon. Members, I am advised that we have attained quorum, we can proceed. Hon. Kavuu, proceed.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Machakos County, the agricultural sector is made up of four major sub-sectors, namely industrial crops, food crops, horticulture, livestock and fisheries. Agriculture productivity is generally constrained by a number of factors which include high cost of inputs especially price of fertilizer and seeds, poor livestock husbandry, limited extension services, over dependence on rain fed agriculture, lack of markets and limited application of agricultural technology and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the dairy industry is the single largest agricultural sub- sector in Kenya which plays a major role in food security, creating employment, generating income and enhancing the livelihood of dairy farmers and all participants in the entire milk supply chain.

Mr. Speaker, the committee on Agriculture visited Murang’a County Government to benchmark on issues related to milk production, processing and market development on 15th and 16th April, 2016 and also carried out a ground survey in Mwala sub-county especially in Masii

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and Wamunyu on 6th, 7th and 9th May, 2016 to establish the current status of dairy farming in Machakos County.

Mr. Speaker, the exercise was occasioned by a motion which was tabled on the floor of the house by Hon. Alexander Kathinzi on the purchase of milk chillers for dairy farmers in the next financial year after which it was committed to the committee on Agriculture to do further research and table a report of the committee's findings.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agriculture committee is established as per the Standing Order No. 190 under Second Schedule that mandates the committee to deal with all matters related to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control, irrigation, fisheries, cooperative societies and veterinary services, excluding regulation of the profession.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Agriculture and Co-operative Development Committee as currently constituted comprises of the following Honorable members:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hon. Joseph Musyoka | -Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Phillip Ndolo | -V/Chairman |
| 3. Hon. Gideon Kavuu | -Member |
| 4. Hon. Charles Mutisya | “ |
| 5. Hon. Joshua Mwonga | “ |
| 6. Hon. (Ms.) Ruth Ndumi | “ |
| 7. Hon. Geoffrey Munyao | “ |
| 8. Hon. Wilson Kasimu | “ |
| 9. Hon. John Sila | “ |
| 10. Hon. (Ms.) Benedette Mueni | “ |
| 11. Hon. Festus Ndeto | “ |
| 12. Hon. Isaac Muinde | “ |
| 13. Hon. Peter Kyuli | “ |

BENCHMARKING WITH MURANGA COUNTY

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee members were informed that the dairy farming project in Murang'a County has been sustainable due to the following factors:-

1. That the County Government has facilitated dairy farming through purchase and installation of milk processing plant, feed plant, milk coolers, digitalization, market research, transport services and also set up a revolving fund to assist in stabilizing milk price and farm input.

2. Feed plant: in order to boost the quality of milk produced, the County Government of Murang'a has set up a feed plant in the county to give farmers reliable and affordable access to quality feed.
3. Cow breeding programme: The initiative is aimed at economically empowering the dairy farmers of Murang'a by availing to them grade cows with high potential to produce milk.
4. Milk processing plant: The County Government has established county creameries where by a Sub-committee purchases milk from farmers through cooperatives, process into high value product, pasteurize, package in a branded trade name and market the same.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Let us give the member time to complete then I will give you time.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

5. Milk coolers: To have a successful dairy sector, an efficient cold chain is essential. It was estimated that lack of proper cooling and bulking facilities results in 40 per cent waste of raw milk produced and in this case, the county government of Murang'a has bought 35 bulk milk coolers with a capacity of 5000 liters.
6. Dairy cooperative societies: Cooler management committee, identify milk collection center, cow ownership, storage services, extension services, training and capacity building.
7. Farmers/ cooperative members: To produce and deliver raw quality, clean milk and access affordable credit facilities, farmers enter into a contract with the cooperative society.
8. The artificial insemination (AI) services have been subsidized to Kshs. 500 when cows are taken to the clutches and Kshs. 600 when it is done in the farm down from Kshs. 1500-2500.
9. The topographical and climate conditions in Murang'a County are ideal for dairy production.

VISIT TO MWALA SUB-COUNTY

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the dairy milk society was established in the year 1972 in Masii and Wamunyu a time when cotton planting was the major activity. A few years later cotton production fell due to its low profitability and the long duration it takes to reach maturity and thus the co-operative opted to concentrate more on dairy sub-sector which holds high promise as a dependable sources of livelihood for the vast majority of the rural poor.

Mr. Speaker, the market oriented dairy production seems to have partially filled the needs of smallholder producers in the marginal zones, however the performance of the established milk enterprise face a great challenge because the marginal zone environment is relatively hot, dry and potentially hostile to exotic breeds which are only familiar with temperate climate.

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In such dynamic system, farmers find it difficult to adjust allocation decisions to keep pace with changes in their environment and at the same time to maintain the production structure and supply response performance expected of the exotic dairy breeds.

In 2008, the society almost fell owing to a loan of Ksh. 5.5 million financed by Co-operative bank as a result of the above mentioned challenge.

Currently, the society has 218 active members and 387 less active members making a total of 605 members. The co-operative produces milk that it sells locally and to neighboring towns and sometimes the society makes yoghurt on order as a way of milk value addition.

CHALLENGES FACING THE SOCIETY

The management cited the following challenges that affect the growth of the society as listed below:-

- ✓ Lack of pasteurizer machines/modern equipment.
- ✓ Low productivity due to poor breeds.
- ✓ Poor livestock husbandry practices.
- ✓ Lack of proper cooling and bulking facilities.
- ✓ Poor milk handling at the farm level.
- ✓ Market flooded with cheap low quality milk and milk products.
- ✓ Inadequate sensitization/ training of the local community on dairy farming.
- ✓ Expensive artificial insemination.
- ✓ Lack of vehicles to transport the milk to neighboring towns.
- ✓ Less active members.
- ✓ Marketing of the milk.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following were the observations made by the committee during the visit:-

- That the milk pasteurizer machines were more essential to cooperative societies as compared to milk chillers.
- The experience with farmers was that milk production in the county is not consisted throughout the year.
- The collection of the milk was also said to be inconsistent throughout the year that is during the rainy season, there is surplus while during the dry period there is low production.
- It was noted that, most of farmers produce less than 10 liters of milk during the dry season and between 5 to 15 liters during the wet season.
- That average total daily milk output is 10 kg per farm of which, a quarter is for home consumption and the rest is sold.

- It was clear that weather patterns influences milk production as more milk is produced during the wet season than during dry season and was due to availability of feed and water.
- Most of dairy cattle are kept by smallholders in crop- livestock systems in areas of high and medium cropping potential.
- The cattle breed mostly kept by farmers was Friesian, however farmers kept more than one breed including cross breed, Ayshire, Guernsey and Jersey.
- Most farmers use artificial insemination in breeding and the breed preferred when using the method was the Friesian due to its high milk production.
- Some farmers don't use artificial insemination method because it was expensive and they had difficulties in detecting heat signs.
- That the quality of the purchased feed was not good and to some extend was very expensive and thus, farmers prefer growing fodder especially natural pasture and Napier grass.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee made their recommendations as follows:-

1. That the County Government to make dairy farming a profitable enterprise that will give good returns to farmers by improving milk quality and quantity, reduce post-handling loss through the purchase of pasteurizer machine which was quoted as the main challenge facing the cooperative societies in the county, meet market demand and strengthen market linkages with exporters and local traders.
2. To transform the lives of people in dairy sector, the County Government should promote sustainable improvement in milk productivity and sustainable improvements in dairy income by facilitating increased public- private sector participation and investment in milk production, processing and market development.
3. That the County Government to continue sensitizing farmers on new technology and methods that can be adopted to improve dairy productivity and mitigate the effects of climate change.
4. Farmers should be encouraged and motivated to make silage during the wet seasons to ensure that they have adequate nutritional feeds for their animals during the dry season. This will reduce fluctuation in milk production between the wet and dry seasons.
5. The County Government to exempt silage making materials and other agricultural inputs and also increase the number of extension officers to increase their outreach.
6. The County Government to look for ways of subsidizing the cost of artificial insemination services to Kshs. 500 when the cows are taken to the clutches and Kshs. 600 when it is done in the farm.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Sir, dairy farming is an income generating activity that need to be developed and the farmers need to be empowered and trained to increase productivity as it would lead to generation of income. In this case, Mr. Speaker, the County Government should pay more attention to enhance farmer's accessibility to financial resources which will lead to adoption of modern technology to improve herd quality and quantity hence increase dairy production.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee of agriculture is grateful to the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the county assembly for the support accorded during the exercise. I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of the committee who sacrificed their time to participate in the activities of the committee and in preparation of the report.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the agriculture and cooperative development committee, I therefore table this report on establishment of milk chillers and pasteurizer machine for dairy farmers in the key milk producing areas in the next financial year to this Hon. House for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I can give this chance to Hon. Nduva, member for Kithimani ward.

Hon. Nduva: Mr. Speaker, I think my concern was taken and I think I had made a note so I appreciate.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jacqueline Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the members present. Let me applaud the committee for good observations and recommendations and as you can see, because you have read, the report is in black and white, it is self-explanatory. On the committee recommendations, I would like to read number two, it is not numbered, so I would like to---

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Yes, what is the point of order?

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): *(On a point of order)* Mr. Speaker, the report before this House which has just been tabled by Hon. Kavuu, is a very important report to this county and I want to draw to your attention that the House is almost empty, with less than 10 members in the House. I want to move that this House adjourns and this report be deferred to next week any day of your choice, Mr. Speaker, so that members can be in the House.

I know they are out because of other duties which they had to attend to and it is unfortunate that today members had to attend to other duties when we had visitors who were

ready to listen to the debate of the day but, Mr. Speaker, we have no alternative. So I move that this House adjourns until next week.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: With the concerns raised by the Majority Leader, Hon. Joshua Mwonga, are we in agreement unless we have a point of opposition for that idea.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, I have not called for a seconder for my proposal. I call upon Hon. Veronica Mbithe to support my adjournment motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Yes, proceed.

Hon. (Ms.) V. Mbithe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the proposals forwarded to your chair by the Hon. Joshua Mwonga, basing the fact that it is against the Standing Orders for us to continue debating on a serious matter like this which concerns the entire county when members are absent. I believe that many members will give a lot of support to this motion when it is moved to next week.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Any point of opposition to that idea? In the absence of any, I direct clerk to circulate the report to members, they go through it, the House business committee to re-ballot for continuation of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: The House adjourns until next week.

The House rose at 3.36 p.m.