

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 30th August, 2016

The House met at 2.39 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Good afternoon Hon. Members. Clerk, you may proceed.

PAPER LAID

BENCHMARKING WITH KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Muli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the floor of the House today, Tuesday, 30th August, 2016; report of Agriculture and Cooperative Development Committee on benchmarking study visit with Kisumu County Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Paper laid. Proceed, clerk.

NOTICE OF MOTION

BENCHMARKING WITH KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Muli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 44, I wish to lay the following motion; that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of Agriculture and Cooperative Development Committee on benchmarking study visit with Kisumu County Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Proceed, clerk.

MOTION

BENCHMARKING WITH KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Muli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware THAT benchmarking is the process of comparing ones processes and performance matrix to industries and best practices from other companies, aware that the Agriculture and Co-operative Development Committee is mandated under the

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

Standing Orders of the County Assembly to deal with all matters relating to agriculture, including crops 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).

Noting that the committee benchmarked with the Kisumu County Assembly to address key issues that relate to the Agricultural sector, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the agriculture and cooperative development committee report on the benchmarking study visit with Kisumu County Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I call upon Hon. Charles Mutisya from Masii Ward to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mutisya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I second the motion that this House discusses the Agriculture and Co-operative Development Committee report on the benchmarking visit with the Kisumu County Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, the Chairperson can proceed with the report.

Hon. Muli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, members of the Agriculture and Co-operative development committee visited Kisumu County in an endeavor to benchmark on the opportunities and challenges experienced in the Agriculture sector. The event took place on 29th July, 2016 and 30th July, 2016.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the members found the visit to be beneficial and also served as an eye opener. The committee felt much challenged and promised to implement the same in Machakos County. The committee appreciates the County Assembly management for facilitating the trip.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee on Agriculture and Co-operative was established pursuant to Standing Order 190 and Second Schedule of the Standing Orders with specific mandate on to 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)

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

1. Hon. Joseph Muli Musyoka - Chairman
2. Hon. Phillip Ndolo - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Isaac Muinde
4. Hon. Gideon Kavuu
5. Hon. Kyalo Kyuli
6. Hon. Charles Mutisya
7. Hon. Wilson Mutiso Kasimu
8. Hon. Geoffrey Munyao
9. Hon. Joshua Mwonga

10. Hon. (Ms.) Ruth Ndumi
11. Hon. Festus Ndeto
12. Hon. (Ms.) Benedette Mueni
13. Hon. John Sila

Kisumu County is one of the new devolved counties of Kenya. Its borders follow those of the original Kisumu district, one of the former administrative districts of the former Nyanza Province in western Kenya. Its headquarters is Kisumu City. It has a population of 968,909 according to the 2009 National Census. The land area of Kisumu County totals 2085.9 km². Kisumu County's neighbors are Siaya County to the West Vihiga County to the North, Nandi County to the North East and Kericho County to the East.

Its neighbor to the South is Nyamira County and Homa Bay County is to the South West. The county has a shoreline on Lake Victoria, occupying northern, western part of the southern shores of the Winam Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee received a very warm welcome from the administration of the Kisumu County Assembly specifically from the Deputy Clerk, Mr. Sagwe. Members were indulged in an open discussion on the history of Kisumu and issues that related to agriculture within Kisumu County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee noted that fish farming in Kisumu was an important economic activity and thus the County Government had put in place policies that fostered the activity such as seasonal fishing which entails harvesting fish only when they are mature, use of special nets that do not catch the fingerlings. The Kisumu agricultural committee informed the members that hyacinth was a great challenge in the fishing industry and that consultations were ongoing on how best to get rid of the lake weed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was also observed that Kisumu County Government had a good working tractor program. Kisumu County has seven sub-counties and has a total of eight (8) tractors which operate at a subsidized rate of Kshs. 1,800 per acre. The agricultural extension officers are tasked with measuring the acreage to be worked on then the payments are done at the Ward administrator's office.

The members were informed that the funds collected are used in the day to day servicing of the tractors. The challenge that faced the tractor program was that farmers had to wait for a long time before their land was ploughed because of the small number of tractors. The Kisumu County Government had set aside funds to purchase eight more tractors this financial year.

Further, it was observed that the tractor operators were employed on contract basis and were busy every month since the tractors worked in the maize fields, rice fields and sugar fields. Mr. Speaker, Sir, members were informed that the sugar industry in Kisumu was facing major challenges considering that the sugar factories were not devolved yet agriculture as an industry is devolved.

The County Government did not have much control over the factories making it difficult to support them. The farmers were unhappy with private sugar companies in Kisumu which were exploiting them by using inaccurate weigh scales.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that regulations and policies that will improve fish farming should be created by the County Government. Masinga dam specifically has a great potential for fish farming; cold rooms should be constructed to ensure that fish is well preserved and also the wasteful nets that catch the fingerlings (rimba) should be banned and better fishing nets provided to the fishermen.

The Committee further recommends that the County Government should create awareness on fish farming and the nutritional value of fish so as to encourage its production and consumption. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that in order to create food sustainability in the County, the County Government should construct silos that will be used to store cereals when in plenty then resell them at subsidized rate then there is a shortfall.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker Sir, borrowing from the operationalization of tractors in Kisumu County, the committee recommends that our tractor programme should be revised and a subsidized fee be attached the services provided by the tractors.

Lastly, the committee recommended that the department of agriculture should actively consult and involve the members of the county assembly in the tractors programme and any other agricultural projects.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the trip was very educative and the committee urges the Assembly to approve the report tabled. Further, we urge the County Government to ensure that consultations with the areas MCAs are conducted before operationalization of various agricultural projects and programmes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the report is now before the House and I hereby proceed to invite the contributions on the same. Yes, Hon. Oliver Nzeki.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the committee for the good report that they brought to this Hon. House. What I...there are some recommendations that I would like this county to emulate from. First, they said that the land that is supposed to be cultivated is measured by the extension officers and it is subsidized and the amount that is supposed to be paid is subsidized unlike in Machakos where we just go to the *shamba*, cultivate and then we leave that place.

We don't know what measurement we have cultivated and again we heard that there are too small pieces where when the tractors go to cultivate it is just too...in Kikamba we say *kuanga*. Instead of cultivating, it is just presses the soil inside because it is just rotating in one place.

So, what they said that the county government of Kisumu subsidized to Ksh. 1,800 and if we happen to do it here as Kisumu County, we will be far much better. They have also talked of operators of the tractors. In Machakos County, I think we are far behind. You will find that when the places for cultivation and when bought the tractors is when we employed the operators.

When it comes to the times of rainy seasons, the operators sit down and wait for their salaries. In Kisumu county, they are employed on contract basis so if we happen to emulate Kisumu County, we will do better. So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Chairman, MCA for Ndithini for the job well-done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mary Ndinda.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like, first, to congratulate the committee and I also want to comment and say that we should adopt what they discovered in Kisumu of which I can say the issue of constructing silos is very important especially now we are coming to the month of October when we are expecting the rains. If we can plan and have silos in almost every ward it can be good so that we can store our food because if we don't have silos, that one can bring an issue of people selling their food and at the end of the year having shortage of food in our county.

Also the issue of having the tractors, that one is very important and also I support the issue of subsidized fertilizer and seeds to be provided. So, I congratulate and commend and say that is good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to start by applauding the committee on agriculture for that report they have tabled in this House. I am also a member of that committee and that committee on agriculture has done a good job. In the recommendations, I think they have done what is deserved in this Machakos government to learn in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, in the recommendations, the committee observed that, it recommends that our tractor programme should be revised and a subsidized fee be attached to the services provided by the tractors. I think that was the first thing we ought to do as a government because with these free things, we are not on the right track.

So, I support the report as one of the best. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Bibiana Nduku.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nduku: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I support the committee report. When you look at the recommendations, the County Government should create awareness on

fish farming and the nutritional value of fish so as to encourage its production and consumption. So, I stand to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Do we have any more contributions? Any voice in opposition? Hon. David Manyolo.

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the House at large. I do congratulate the committee for the good work they have done and bring a report to the House and also much of what we have been talking is within their report because I understand there is a time when we said about our tractors and I can see in Kisumu they have applied and it has worked.

Why is Machakos count not doing the same? I support the document and I can read the mood of the House, they are all compliant to the report. So, Mr. Speaker, can you put the question?

(Applause)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: In the absence of any voice in opposition, Hon. Members, I proceed to put the question.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, in the absence any business, the House adjourns until tomorrow.

The House rose at 3.02 p.m.