

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 22nd September, 2021

The House met at 10.23 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Museku) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
IEBC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we have one communication an invitation for stakeholder engagement between the Hon. Members and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). IEBC invites all the MCAs for a stakeholder engagement meeting today 22nd September, 2021 at 12.30 p.m. at Machakos Social Hall. IEBC would like to have a discussion with you Hon. Members on issues to do with preparations for next year's general elections slated for 9th August, 2022. In particular will be the discussion of the existing polling stations and decongestion of the congested polling stations among other matters.

Members are therefore urged to attend the meeting and participate in ensuring a smooth preparation for the next general elections. IEBC has intimated that this meeting will take about 30 minutes to one hour and therefore you are expected to go by 12.30 p.m. we should be back for the afternoon plenary in readiness for reading of the SEKEB report which is being tabled in the afternoon in all the three County Assemblies of Machakos, Kitui and Makueni. So we are urged to go and listen to what IEBC have to say and participate in this effort.

MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON HALF YEAR STATUS
REPORT FOR THE FISHERIES SUB-SECTOR FOR 2020/2021

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members under this Order, we have business to be transacted by Hon. Moses Mitaa, Chairperson of Agriculture Committee.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Chair.

Hon. Chair, that aware that the Mission for the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Machakos County is to promote innovative, commercially oriented and modern Agriculture through development and enactment of enabling legal framework;

Aware that Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya provides that, the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County;

Informed that in exercise of the functions vested on County Assembly in Article 185(3) of the Constitution, the County Assembly through the Committee of Agriculture, requested for the half year performance report for the fisheries sub-sector, Department of Agriculture for the FY 2020/2021;

Cognizant that pursuant to Standing Order 190(5) the committee analyzed the report, conducted site visits and consequently compiled a report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the committee on Agriculture on the half year status report for the Fisheries Sub-sector for FY 2020/2021.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker and I want to request Hon. Paul Nyanzi to second my motion. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Nyanzi.

Hon. Nyanzi: I second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Moses Mitaa, you may read the report.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. The report on the committee on agriculture on half-year status report for the fisheries sub-sector 2020/2021.

Introduction

The mission for the Fisheries subsector is to maximize the contribution of fisheries to the achievement of county development objectives especially poverty reduction, food security, improved nutrition, employment creation and improved farm inputs. The Directorate of Fisheries is one of the four Directorates in the Department of Agriculture and Food Security.

The main goal of this Directorate is to ensure that Aquaculture or Fish farming is developed sustainably so as to improve nutritional levels and incomes of the people of Machakos. Machakos County is one of the 15 Counties selected to implement the IFAD Program dubbed Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDB). ABDB overall goal is to improve smallholder livelihoods through increased incomes, food security and nutritional status of wider communities of poor rural households involved in aquaculture.

The Directorate of Fisheries is overseeing fishing activities in Masinga Dam. The fish from Masinga Dam is landed in at least four gazetted fish landing sites or beaches. Through the Beach Management Units in the four beaches, the aspect of fisheries management of the fishery is addressed where community participation is attained.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hon. Speaker, the report on half year status report for the fisheries subsector in the Department of Agriculture was forwarded to the Assembly pursuant to Article 183(3) of the Constitution. The committee on Agriculture as provided in Standing Order 190(5) scrutinized the report, investigated on the implementation status and subsequently compiled a report.

Hon. Speaker, upon investigation and inquiry into the implementation, some of the key observations noted include benefits acquired from Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP) in 11 Wards, 110,000 fingerlings were stocked in various dams, low hatchery capacity within the County, poor monitoring after stocking, lack of proper plan to maintain water level in the dams, unsustainable method of fish production and low staffing of fisheries technical officers among other observations.

Hon. Speaker, the committee recommends increase in the capacity of Machakos ATC hatchery through budgetary allocation, facilitation of community groups with fish ponds and pod liners, training community groups on fish feed formulation, incorporation of intensive method of fish farming, alternate ways of acquiring crude protein, recruitment of extension officers in the fisheries subsector and de-silting of dams to increase water capacity.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture is established pursuant to the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders with specific mandate to deal with all matters related to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, cooperatives, livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control, irrigation, fisheries, cooperative societies and veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession).

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Hon. Speaker, the committee on Agriculture comprises of the following Honorable Members:

1. Hon. Moses Mitaa	- Chairperson
2. Hon. Michael Mutiso	- V/Chairperson
3. Hon. Benedette Musyoka	Member
4. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu	“
5. Hon. Joshua Nzuki Muli	“
6. Hon. Constance Nzioki	“
7. Hon. Antony Mulu	“
8. Hon. Nicholas Mutuku	“
9. Hon. Paul Nyanzi	“
10. Hon. Rozina Kanini	“
11. Hon. Tariq Mulatya	“
12. Hon. Mark Muendo	“
13. Hon. Ikusya Kaloki	“

SECRETARIAT

1. Luke Maingi, Clerk Assistant
2. Loise Kithuka, Clerk assistant
3. Mary Nzembi, Clerk assistant

RELEVANT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Hon. Speaker, the committee was guided by the following legal provisions among others:

The Constitution of Kenya

Article 179(1) provides that the executive authority of the County is vested in, and exercised by a county executive committee Article 183(3) further provides that the county executive committee shall provide the county assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the county.

The County Governments Act, 2012

Section 39(2) of the County Governments Act 2012 states that a committee of the County Assembly may require a member of the executive committee to

- (a) Attend or appear before the committee; and
- (b) Answer any question relating to the member's responsibilities.

The County Assembly of Machakos Standing Orders

Standing Order 190(5)(a) provides for functions of a Sectoral Committee as to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;

Standing Order 171 further states that Committees shall enjoy and exercise all the powers and privileges bestowed on Assembly by the Constitution and Statute, including the power to summon witnesses, receive evidence, and to request for and receive papers and documents from the Government and the public.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hon. Speaker, among the Big Four Agenda, food security is one of the key agenda. The Department of Agriculture in Machakos County in its mission is focused to ensure food security and income, advance agro-based industries and agricultural exports; and enhance sustainable use of land and water resources as a basis for agricultural enterprises.

Provision of cheap and affordable Health care is the other agenda. Fish owing to its good nutritional content is relied on very much as a game changer in many health issues that are affecting the citizens. Fish is filled with omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins such as Vitamin D and B2 (riboflavin) and is rich in iron, calcium and phosphorus minerals.

Fish production which the Department is now promoting is a key contributor in ensuring food security, creation of incomes with resultant effect of reducing poverty level. Machakos County Government intends to reduce poverty level from 42.6 per cent to 30 per cent in 10 years.

On the other hand, nutritionists are encouraging consumption of white meat of which fish is one of them as opposed to red meat which recently has been reported to provoke health problems. On this basis the committee on Agriculture sought to investigate what the County Government of Machakos has done to promote fish sector which happens to be one of the industries that have a future as far as contribution in food security is concerned.

COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING

Hon. Speaker, during a meeting held 14th May, 2021 (Min. 5/AGR/14.4.21), the committee discussed on the performance of the fisheries subsector in Machakos County and its effect in contributing to food security. The committee also reviewed on the budget implementation of the subsector for 2020/2021. In view of the above the committee resolved as a way forward to enquire into the performance of the fisheries subsector for 2020/2021.

The committee came up with the following terms of reference:

1. To analyze the performance report for the Fisheries subsector for 2020/2021
2. To conduct site visit to some sampled places to ascertain the level of budget implementation on the fish subsector
3. Find out the progress of the 110 thousand fingerlings stocked during 2020/2021
4. To find out the level of monitoring of the implemented fish program
5. Recommend appropriate interventions for better performance of the fisheries subsector.

THE AQUACULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Hon. Speaker, in the half year performance report for the Department of Agriculture for 2020/2021, aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) was reported as one of the donor programs that is currently promoting fish farming in some selected sub-counties in Machakos County.

The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) in conjunction with the Government of Kenya (GoK) initiated an eight-year Programme dubbed the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP). The Lead Implementing Agency is the State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is the point of information Hon. Judas Ndawa?

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the Speaker that the House lacks quorum and from the extended chamber and there are no Members there. So if we assume we have quorum we will be cheating ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mulatya: Point of information.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes go ahead.

Hon. Mulatya: Good morning everyone and I have called the Serjeant at Arms to go and confirm before you make your decision, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. When I started there was quorum and I believe Hon. Members should be within the premises so we will be able to continue and we will be requesting for Members to go and find if Members within the premises can come back and continue with the process. Continue Hon. Mitaa with the report.

Hon. Mitaa: The lead implementing agency is the State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Blue Economy. The program will be implemented in 15 Counties with high potential for Aquaculture, Machakos County being one of them. The programme will provide technical support, sectoral linkages and select interventions that will focus on increasing aquaculture production in the implementing counties as well as develop the aquaculture value chain. The objectives are to increase the income, food security and nutritional status of the wider communities of poor rural households involved in aquaculture in the targeted Counties.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County Government of Machakos and ABDP on 12th October, 2020, the programme is being

implemented in the four Sub-counties in 11 Wards. (*See appendix 1 and 2*)

OBSERVATIONS FROM APPENDIX 1 AND 2

Hon. Speaker, from the programs the committee observed that:

1. Machakos County Government has benefited from Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) which has assisted in mobilization of residents of Machakos into becoming players in the fish industry.
2. The building of publicity in this sector will contribute widely in attracting residents to practice aquaculture which will in turn contribute into realizing food security which is one of the Big 4 Agenda of Kenyan Government.
3. The program has factored the needs of the youth in their participation in fisheries sector which will be a guarantee of employment hence economic growth.
4. In building of capacity which is a key driver into the success of fish industry, the program has to a great extent undertaken training of community groups and the youth.
5. The County Government of Machakos from the previous reports has not been doing well in the provision of pond liners which by a great extent helps to conserve water in the fish pods. This program has played a key task by providing pond liners to community groups.
6. The Department of Agriculture has currently suffered understaffing hence affecting extension services. This program has complemented the few extension officers available by providing extension services to offer technical support.
7. The Machakos ATC hatchery is the only source of fingerlings in the County upto date. The program has assisted the County by stocking fingerlings in Kangundo, Kathiani and Mavoko Sub-Counties.
8. The program has contributed in promotion of fruit industry specifically avocados and oranges which form part of the fruits that are promising and fetching good prices within and outside the country.

9.0 THE HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT FY 2020/2021

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County. The committee requested for half year report from the Department of Agriculture, fisheries subsector and the report was provided. See appendix 3 on stocking programs and major public engagement forums held for stocking of fingerlings in various Wards.

9.1 ANALYSIS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM THE REPORT

Hon. Speaker, upon analysis of the above performance report, the committee noted the following:

1. The fingerlings stocked in the various dams were sourced from both the Machakos Hatchery at ATC and Sagana fish farms in Kirinyaga County. The hatchery at ATC has a small capacity hence the greater numbers of the fingerlings were sourced from Sagana.
2. Pursuant to Article 10 of the Constitution and Section 87 of the County Governments Act, 2012, the department involved public participation in the exercise of stocking

fingerlings in the various dams across the County. See appendix 4 on photos of public forums conducted during the stocking exercise.

3. The stocking exercise was carried out in all the sub-counties except in Kangundo Sub County which had the advantage of benefiting from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) that is focusing on increasing aquaculture production in the implementing counties as well as developing the aquaculture value chain.
4. The method used for production is extensive method of fish production where fingerlings are stocked in natural environment from where they derive food and oxygen.
5. The stocked dams besides acting as experimental sites for aquaculture development serve as provision of water for domestic animals and the community at large. The committee confirmed from site visits that this to a large extent has affected the amount of water available in the dam hence lowering the survival rate of the fingerlings.
6. The stocked dams had not been de-silted when stocking of the fingerlings was done. Most of the said dams are seasonal and could not sustain water for a whole year.
7. That Masinga dam currently is one the largest supplier of fish. The committee confirmed the following tonnage of fish and corresponding selling price in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

Financial Year	Total Kgs of fish harvested	Total Earnings (Ksh)
2019/2020	103,890	18,488,000
2020/2021	82,100	14,983,000

The operations in Masinga dam is managed by Masinga dam Beach management unit (MBMU) usually collects fish landing data as shown below.

8. The Department did not make a follow up to monitor the development of the fingerlings after the stocking exercise. For instance very low traces of medium aged fish were identified in Kwakamelo dam in Mwala, Mathatani dam in Kinanie, Ilumya dam in Mutituni among others.
9. That there was no guidance to the community on the procedure of harvesting the fish which led to uncontrolled harvesting of immature fish. This has led to some dams like Kathini dam in Ekalakala, Kwakavuo dam in Kalama and Mathunya dam in Mitaboni Ward to have no fish at all by the time the committee conducted fact finding.
10. That the community lack fishing equipment to harvest the fish. The public use the locally available materials like some use of mosquito nets to harvest fish.
11. After interrogating the Chief Officer, the committee noted that the Department could not account for the status of maturity of the fingerlings stocked in many of the dams indicated in the report implying that there is no proper follow up on the development of the fingerlings.
12. On inquiring on how the feeding program for the fingerlings is conducted, the committee confirmed that the Department only supplied the fingerlings with feeds only during the first few weeks after stocking. The Chief Officer cited high cost of fish feeds as the reason why the Department could not sustain the feeding program.

13. The committee observed that the stocking of the dams is being done without first harvesting the mature fish which in turn feed on the fingerlings.
14. The committee also noted with concern that there was inadequate sensitization of the public and involvement local leadership while stocking of the dams with fingerlings.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, considering all the above observations the committee recommends as follows:

1. Increase the capacity of Machakos ATC hatchery through budgetary allocation. This hatchery has a very low hatching capacity and this has made the County to pay a lot of money to Kirinyaga County like from Sagana Fish pods to get fingerlings. The move of increasing ATC capacity will promote county resources and create business opportunities for residents of Machakos County.
2. Increase staffing in the Department. There is inadequate members of staff to run the fisheries directorate efficiently since currently, it has 8 technical officers whereby 5 are manning the 8 sub-counties, 2 are at the headquarters office while one (1) is running the fish hatchery at the Machakos ATC. The committee therefore recommends that in the next financial year, new officers with fisheries expertise should be recruited.
3. Promotion of Community groups fish pods. The Department of Agriculture should organize to put together willing entrepreneurs of fish industry and provide them with technical skills on how to invest in fish industry which is a promising industry in income generation and provision of employment. A good example is the Kamuthanga Fish Farm which is very popular even outside Kenya in terms of provision of both processed and unprocessed fish.
4. Facilitation of community groups with pod liners. Due to scarcity of water the Department should provide enough pod liners to all established fish farming groups so that the available water in the fish pods is well conserved.
5. Change from extensive farming method to intensive farming method. The method used by the Department to stock community dams is extensive method where fingerlings depend on natural foods and the water, because of being stagnant lacks enough oxygen and no assured security to the fingerlings stocked. Further monitoring of the progress of growth is a challenge due to staffing shortage. In intensive method, fish is well managed in flowing water where oxygen is well supplied, artificial feeds are given to complement the natural foods and daily monitoring on the progress of growth is assured.
6. Training on feed formulation. The County Government of Machakos should facilitate training of farmers on use of technology and farm feeds formulation. This will be a move to innovativeness in the use of available farm materials in production process and avoid overdependence on costly commercial feeds from Unga Industry that has enjoyed monopoly in production and selling of livestock feeds.
7. Promoting use of alternative sources of crude protein for fish like the Black soldier fly larvae which is good food for fingerlings. This will act as alternative to the costly commercial fish feeds.

8. De-siltation of dams. The Department of Agriculture when carrying out the exercise of stocking the dams with fingerlings to involve the Department of water to ensure that the targeted dams are de-silted in order to increase the capacity of water.
9. Fencing of the stocked public dams. The Department of Agriculture should endeavor to fence off the perimeter of the public dams to control harvesting of the fish when they are not mature and also as a safety measure for the locals.
10. Proper record keeping. The Department of Agriculture should keep proper records of the stocked dams within the county, the type of fingerlings stocked, time of stocking and expected date of maturity so as to keep track of the program and ascertain its viability.

11.0 CONCLUSION

Hon. Speaker, the fisheries sector is currently generating substantial interest in both the private and public sectors and the policy-makers and potential investors are slowly appreciating its potential. County Governments should take cognizance of the fisheries potential in its ability to contribute to the mainstream economy. There is need for effective management of the fisheries to ensure the sustainability of the fishery resource and also ensure the well-being of the human communities that depend on it. If managed sustainably, the fisheries sector can be a window of opportunity to enable Kenya to achieve all the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), starting with poverty eradication to global partnership.

Hon. Speaker, it is therefore my privilege and pleasure on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture to table before this Hon House the Half year status report for the Fisheries Subsector for FY 2020/2021 for discussion and adoption. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. We have appendices, Hon. Speaker, to support what we have read through. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mitaa, for that report well-read on fisheries sub-sector.

(Question proposed)

You may comment on the report, Hon. Members. Hon. Ndeti.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here to congratulate the committee on agriculture for a very well written report; at least they have given us their recommendations, we have heard the challenges the agriculture department has and especially with de-silting of the dams that will be able to hold as many fish as we can. I think even as a county we have challenges of some quality of water because I understand fish do not do well in areas where the water is salty. The only thing I can say is that agriculture is life and as a county we only live on agriculture so whatever can be done to ensure that we utilize our land to come up with agricultural products would be the best thing that the county can do.

However, I would request the same committee to ensure that the next time we are doing a budget, the Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) is properly given enough budget to do more research, to train our farmers and to ensure that whatever is grown in various areas because the climatic condition within the county is not the same; they do enough research to ensure that they know where to do fish farming and where to do other products and especially also chicken feeding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I begin to congratulate and applaud this committee for continuous good working terms of bringing reports that have substance to this House and to the entire County and so especially now to this fisheries sub sector which is a key indicator of the progress that we need to make in Machakos County in terms of trying to bridge the issue of food security. However, when I go through the report and as the Chair was reading it so well there was a conclusion that I was making when you look at the challenges especially the observations and the recommendations that are being made here.

There is the issue of poor planning and also management in terms of trying to make this sub-sector succeed. One of the challenges I have seen is when you read you find that there are lack of staff actually trained, skilled staff. We know, from the previous reports that we have received in this County Assembly, we have a bloated workforce but when it comes to the expertise in the areas that we need then we find that we are lacking men and women to work on this sub-sector.

I have also looked at the appendix; you also find that they are giving us activities that have been undertaken, program rollout or performance indicators or success indicators and you find that the activities that they have undertaken or they wish to undertake do not give us good success indicators or performance because you find that they are doing very little in terms of trying to make this sub-sector succeed and perform as anticipated.

I would wish to say that when I looked at what has been happening in Masinga, we have that chart that has been giving us....yes on page 10 where you find that in Masinga dam becomes one of the largest supplier of fish and you look at two financial years where there are some figures and you find that in 2019/2020 we were able to get more than Ksh. 18million then the following year this 2020/2021 this year you find that it is Ksh. 14 million. This means that if well managed in other areas then this can be a very good income earner for the county.

Therefore, I would wish to say that the challenges that I have seen here are the same challenges that we have seen in other sectors especially when we have hatchery in ATC. ATC has continued be underfunded and understaffed and therefore there is need to increase that budget and then this department should be able to give us good indicators that they are willing to do that because if, from the report you find that they are stocking fingerlings in dams that are not well supplied with water and at the same time they are not de-silted regularly, it means that they are just doing the work but we cannot sustain that momentum. Therefore, I support this report that we should look at this sub-sector and make sure that it succeeds for the benefit of Machakos County. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, it is obvious that this report from the Hon. Moses Mitaa and from the committee of agriculture is quite an elaborate report that in fact, it should be followed and I have gone through the report and it is highlighting things that are supposed to be done; issues that are within our fingertips because when we are talking about dams, we have got those dams within the county.

When we are talking about the fingerlings they are there at the ATC although in relationship to the report we are getting is that there is inadequate allocation of funds to a very

important institution that I would also ask the whole House if they can make a visit to get the right picture of exactly what would happen at the ATC. This is one of the institutions that if the County Government involves its seriousness in regards to fisheries we can go far.

Again I would also request the agriculture committee to collaborate with the department of environment and the two Chief Officers because when we are talking about the environmental *katibu* or the Chief Officer is the person who is supposed to de-silt the current dams that we have because Hon. Speaker, normally we are normally out on site visits and we have visited dams that in case they are de-silted they can arrest a volume of water not equal the Masinga dam but as you said these are things that are within our fingertips.

So my humble request Hon. Speaker, and my recommendation is that let us identify those dams that are not salty dams that are supposed to be de-silted so that in that collaboration we can now allocate money to the ATC because even if now we allocate money and we do not have those dams where we are supposed to take the fingerlings then we shall be doing a zero job. I am not discouraging because for those and a good example Hon. Speaker, you are also aware there are those dams the major dams that were done during 2019/2020 like the one in Ndalani, the other one in Kyeleni and.....so those are areas that in fact if we can get those hatcheries we would be able to talk about being a supplier of fish in the County. Otherwise, thank you very much, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Tariq Mulatya.

Hon. Mulatya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mine is very simple; I am a member of this committee so I fully support this committee under chairmanship of Hon. Mitaa. Mine is very simple, Mr. Speaker, to this House that we have done a lot regarding this report but the main key is very simple. Most of the time when the executive is implementing these things they are not conducting public participation and this is where the origin of the problem is coming from. Lack of...even in other departments when you look at trade, when you go around Machakos you see a lot of open-air markets which are very idle nobody is there because they never conducted public participation.

Hon. Speaker, even in our area in Masinga, they have not conducted these people to tell...because there are people who do not need fingerlings. There are others who need but they do not know. They just come and hold a small brief then they will put the fingerlings there. So I would request the executive to everything they do let them conduct public participation. Let them also involve County Assembly Members; the elected and also special elect Members. That way the things we are going to implement are going to be beneficial to our people. Look at the laws which we have gone through concerning these fingerlings especially in Ekalakala, in my ward Masinga central nobody knew, I never knew if they came there.

Actually they came all the way to Kangonde dam; I did not know they came there, nobody knew they just came there. We used to hear there is fish and would see birds coming to that dam then later it was a total mess. So I would urge the Executive, once they are implementing anything let them put politics aside. If you are supporting the government or we are not supporting the government let us all work towards helping our people and that is what is key right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Tariq. Hon. Musyimi.

Hon. Musyimi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the report by the committee on agriculture. Hon. Speaker, this is a good report and it has a good intention for our people. It would be a good project if managed well but it seems to have a challenge. Mr. Speaker, on the ground, I heard the report talking of ponds, creating some ponds and providing pond liners. It would be a good report to the youth and mostly at this time we have the challenge of unemployment.

These ponds, Mr. Speaker, will require fresh water from time to time because while feeding the fingerlings or the fish Mr. Speaker, the water will be contaminated and while the water is contaminated, fish cannot survive on contaminated water. So my worry is do we have a plan of supplying the ponds with fresh water from time to time because if we just put the fingerlings in the ponds and assume that the water which is there will rear the fingerlings Mr. Speaker, it will be a total mess, the fingerlings will die and the project will also die. So my request is to find a way to be supplying the ponds with sufficient clean water. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Judas Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, I will start by congratulating the committee and more so our most able chair for this brief and elaborate report. Mr. Speaker, from the report there are some issues and there are some recommendations that we need to give as leaders. Mr. Speaker, the issue of fisheries, we have businesses in different regions. There are areas where issues of fisheries can survive or can be sustained and there are areas where the issue of fisheries may not be sustainable. Mr. Speaker, I do remember very well the last 10 years, we had what we used to call stimulus projects which were fronted by the national government and they tried to come up with these fish ponds. They dug the ponds, they provided the liners and the farmers were supposed to source for water.

Mr. Speaker, I want to report that less than 10 percent of the project is on. It failed and from that we need also to learn from what the other department that is the national government what it is doing if we are failing there no need of us is engaging ourselves into such. Mr. Speaker, we need to do research and good example is when Equity Bank came in. They had to do a research on areas which are viable to establish their branches and instead of incurring much expense to do the research, they just did a very simple thing. They said do we have KCB in that town? If they find that KCB is there then that was enough research. It means if we have customers for KCB if we establish our branch there we are going to survive and that is how Equity Bank prospered in the business.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues why I am saying so is we know we are living on a world of limited resources and water is a scarce resource. The committee is recommending that the issue of scooping or de-silting the dams. As you are aware they require de-silting and I agree with the committee but by the time when the dam is ready for de-silting the rains are on so it may not be able for de-silting to be done. So what I will recommend Mr. Speaker, if we can deal with the issue of the spillway; we raise the spillway and it means now when we raise the spillway and the water level will go up and maybe that water will remain there until the next season because if we talk of de-silting it may not be practically possible.

I have several dams in my area and the moment we try to say now we want to go and de-silt the rain are with us or the water dries just two weeks to the onset of the rains so if it dries two weeks it means the bulldozer cannot go in and it will sink there. So let us concentrate on the

issue of spillway and Mr. Speaker, I request the department of agriculture should also work hand in hand with the department of water because agriculture is not their mandate to go and raise those spillways or de-silt the dams. So we need to have good co-relation between the agriculture department and water department because they are serving the same client.

The other issue I would request Mr. Speaker, is it is also good that we have control of those dams. The moment the department brings the fingerlings and puts them in the water and they go away so members of the public start harvesting those fish just less than one month so they harvest them when they are not ready. So we need to have control on those dams so that we are aware of the time that we are supposed to harvest.

Again Mr. Speaker, I would suggest the department to provide the farmers or the people who are harvesting the fish with recommended fishing equipment so that when you put your net to harvest you do not pick the small ones. We need a net that has big holes so that we just get the big ones and the others get back into the water. If we can provide the farmers or those who are doing the fishing with those nets it means we are going to harvest the ready ones and let the other ones grow.

Lastly, is the issue of fingerlings and we need to have good timing; we do not need to bring the fingerlings when the dam is almost dry so let us put the fingerlings when we have sufficient water. Let us calculate is this water going to take us until the onset of the rains so that we do not waste resources. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am requesting the committee of agriculture to get on and maybe evaluate now we have inserted fingerlings in this dam how many have survived and how can we quantify success of this project so that if it is viable we continue if it is not viable we stop wasting resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Jacqueline Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members present. I wish to applaud my colleague Hon. Moses Mitaa with his committee for a good report and as Hon. Tariq Mulatya said I think we are supposed to do public participation on these issues because the year 2007 to 2012 the national government had several Economic Stimulus Programs for the fisheries and really people didn't own those projects because they didn't there was no public participation done to this people. Really fisheries is a source of food they will also be economic gains because when you sell the fish to the market, money will be ploughed back to the community so I think if we do enough public participation, I believe fisheries will be big opportunity to our people.

I remember most secondary schools had this fisheries and we are doing very well because even they were source of even food to the students they were source of even the economy and people could sell so that the school can be supported in many ways. So if we do these things very well, Chairman Agriculture committee, I believe our people would benefit a lot and really will be a county which will improve even economically. So Mr. Chairman and our Speaker, please let us do public participation to this and even do case studies maybe see where the places are this programme as a failed and where this programme has improved or even brought benefits. So, let us do some case studies I am aware that we shall improve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Moffat Maitha.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to commend the Chairman and his committee a very good report which they have brought here to this House. Hon. Speaker, some of the things which they have mentioned are very good but others cannot be sustained. For example, when we go to recommendation No. 3 on promoting of community groups fish ponds, sometimes when those officers come to the ground, they get the old women and the old men or people who are not financially able to maintain those ponds. It is equally important to ask them if they can also find able people and supply the fingerlings to them so that they can maintain and uplift the fish stock in our country.

Secondly, Hon. Speaker, when they were the committee visited some areas; they not visit Matungulu West Ward. In Matungulu West ward we have very many dams which were dug by the settlers who had bought firms in that area so I would wish to request them the other time they visited them and they asked for them to be the fingerlings to be introduced in those dams. Again, like what Hon. Ndawa said, it is also important for them to check on what is happening instead of introducing the fingerlings there and that is all.

Try and check whether the fingerlings and the people who are harvesting the fish are harvesting when they are not mature enough to lay eggs for prosperity and therefore it is very important to check on those. On public participation, it is very important to let whatever they are doing do public participation. When you go to Kamuthunga Farm, that man should be commended and when you look at the amount of money has put in that area, that is too much. Normally I go through there and buy fish and one fish weighing one kilogram and so you can check, you can see how much money he gets out of the work he has done. Therefore Hon. Members, I would also wish to ask the committee take us there for a site visit. Thank you Hon. Speaker?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, May the mover of the motion respond please?

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I first want to applaud my colleagues for healthy discussion on this report and matters raised by Hon. Members were of great concern to this committee especially when we were going round the select wards. I would want also to assure Hon. Maitha that his concern has being received and as a committee we will engage him and try and identify at least one dam in his ward where we can have the fingerlings dropped.

As it has been said, there is this programme which the County has benefited from and from the onset we have to get matters right especially on the issues or grey areas where we have noticed we have being failing like community involvement, provision of the what is required in the management of this dams, follow up and budgetary matters on staffing because in many areas we went we found young boys using the old ways of hooks and trying to fish. In other areas you go you find the area is not protected. So since there are funds and we have benefited as a county government from donor funds, we want to see great improvement in this sector, Hon. Speaker.

I want to stress much of this programme is more on nutritionally value addition and in fact, Phase 1 we had two schools in Machakos that benefitted and a there were those requirements for the primary schools to benefit. Population of a 1,000 and more pupils and needy and currently the department is coming up with the two fish ponds in those schools because the programme is meant to at least create that provision nutritional value to our children.

So, I want to assure Hon. Members and this House that will ensure that there is success where we need departments to link like Water Department and Agriculture Department; we will

ensure that they link. If is issues to do with de-silting the dams, we will ensure that they is proper planning because as Hon. Ndawa mentioned and even Hon. Musyimi, we find ourselves put in fingerlings in a seasonal dams. So you ask yourself; what is the value because at the end of the day by September that programme or else that project cannot be sustained?

We want to identify dams which can run throughout the year so that first before we invest, we ensure whatever we are investing is has value. So, Hon. Speaker, I want to thank again the House, I want to thank your office, I want to thank my able team Agriculture committee there ever committed to serve this county. I have worked well with my committee and we actually created clusters so that we could reach and get report from the eighty Sub-counties and we have actually managed.

I also want to thank Hon. Members, from the areas where we visited because they created time to be with the committee and those who didn't have time gave us our PAs and we got positive results because they also planned for community to wait for the committee so that we engage them and ensure whatever is coming to this House is the right position. So, Hon. Chair, I want to thank you, I want to thank my committee; I want to thank the whole House for their support thank you. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Moses Mitaa.

(Question put and agreed to)

I just want to make one comment and then we adjourn. This is on the issues which have being raised; one of the things which we have picked especially on the last item which the Hon. Member has talked about that we are putting fingerlings in ponds or dams which are seasonal. Remember I engaged the Chief Officer at some point and I told her there is need for them to go into what the President of this country has of late been insisting on which is private public partnerships. We have people who have got sources of water, we have people who have got adequate sources of water in there private properties.

I hear us complaining that ATC does not produce enough fingerlings and we are being forced to import fingerlings from Sagana. Why is it not possible for the county government to go into partnerships with people who have water and stock fingerlings through those people and have an agreement that when this fingerlings are ready, they are going to get to buy them from that person at a subsidized price than what they are getting from Sagana. That will not only improve on the production on the fingerlings but will also reduce on the course of acquiring them and enhance business. There are people with huge sections of their farms which have got a river passing through there and they have constructed private dams.

We have people who have got high-yield boreholes and they have put ponds in their farms. Those are the people whom we need to into private public partnerships with and ensure they can be able to stock the fingerlings and use them for the rest of the county. We have dams like the ones of Matungulu West alright Hon. Member has talked about which have been there for long which we know do not dry; those are the places we should be stocking those fingerlings. One of the things which has come to me through the things which have being made here is that we seem to have been moving very quickly to get the donor funds and once we have the donor funds with us now it is how to use it.

We have to show we used it so source we just go ahead and arrange for some fingerlings to be bought, some cosmetic shows to be done here; this one's has being stocked here this one

has being stocked here and the money is utilized and there is no structure of even following up to find out we put 20,000 fingerlings in this dam so how many fish have we gotten from it. There is no structure of doing that. So you put 20,000 fingerlings and you sit back you don't go to find out do we managed to harvest 10,000 fish or what did he get out of it.

Now do we expect the donors to continue funding such an enterprise where is just pumping money and nothing is coming out of it. Money being such a scarce resource, whatever little money we get from the donors or we get from anybody needs to be put to it best use so that we can be able to achieve the optimum we can be able to achieve from it.

It is sad to hear a Hon. Member saying that public participation is not being done. You are going to stock a dam in an area and you don't do public participation. If you go to stock a dam in an area, my expectation would be you even create a sub-committee of that area to take care of the fish in that pond; it is a resource you have put there so you even elect a committee of people there who will be able to take care of those fingerlings who would be able to communicate or to get in touch with the department and find out whether there any feeds which are available, drugs which are available so that they can keep on monitoring what is happening in the pond.

But we go like three officials from the department of agriculture and two officials from the local ward administrator and the rest and you go and introduce 20,000 fingerlings in a pond and you walk away then it is like taking money and going to a bush and leaving it there and walking away. We need to do things in a better way, we need to do things in a much more organized and structured manner.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Members. The House at adjourns and to resume.....before I adjourn, remember we are going at 12.30 p.m. there is that engagement with IEBC at Social Hall pertaining to polling stations and they want to review of polling satiations.

If there is a Hon. Member who feels that there is a polling station which needs to be added or there is a polling station which needs to be decongested because there could be some polling stations which have got like 5-6-7 streams and take a very long time during the voting period and they could be another facility nearby where you can be able to split and decongest a polling station. This is the chance we have now to go and engage with the IEBC officials at the Social Hall here in Machakos and I said it would be a one-hour affair.

We should be back again here at 2.30 p.m. to be able to deal with the report on South Eastern Economic Bloc (SEKEB). The House adjourns to resume again on Wednesday, the 22nd day of September, 2021 at 2.30 p.m. Enjoy your lunch.

The House rose at 11.39 a.m.

