

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 25th July 2018

The House met at 2:44p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon.Nduati Kariuki) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

STATEMENT

REQUEST ON MURANG'A COUNTY MUSICIANS SACCO SOCIETY

Hon. Wangari Kigo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, request for Statement on Murang'a Musicians Sacco society--

(Hon. Wambui Njoki rose on a point of order)

QUORUM

Hon. Wambui Njoki: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want the clerk to confirm whether we have quorum.

(No quorum)

The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki): Serjeant- At- Arms ring the bell

(Division Bell rung)

(Quorum achieved)

Hon. Wangari Kigo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, request for Statement on Murang'a Musicians Sacco society

Pursuant to Standing Order No. 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Trade, Industrialization, Co-operative Management, Tourism & Wildlife Committee on the following;

1. Is the Chairperson aware that the County Government of Murang'a formed the Murang'a County Musicians Sacco Society Limited whose main objective was to undertake the following
 - a. Collaborate with the Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) to ensure that musicians/artists from Murang'a County are protected against piracy.
 - b. Enable the musicians acquire a lorry that would enable them promote music development in the County.
 - c. Enable establishment of a music studio where upcoming musicians in the County would be assisted in audio and video recording of their music at subsidized costs.
 - d. Collaborate with the Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) to enable the musicians earn returns through uploading of their music in social media forums such as skiza ringtones.

2. Is the Chairperson also aware that on establishment of the Sacco, an office was opened at Kenol town and office bearers for the Co-operative Society elected.
3. Is the Chairperson further aware that Musicians within the County registered and made savings with the Co-operative Society.
4. Following the above mentioned, can the Chairperson establish and inform this House on the following:-
 - a) The current position on the existence and operations of the Co-operative Society.
 - b) The amount of money that has been saved by members of the Co-operative Society
 - c) Provide information on interventions and programs that the Co-operative department intends to undertake in regard to the Musicians Cooperative Society in the financial year 2018/2019.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki): Chairperson Trade, industrialization, Co-operatives, wildlife and Tourism.

Hon. Stephen Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am a member of Trade Industrialization, Co-operatives, Wildlife and Tourism. I am sorry because the chairperson is present although I can see the vice -chairperson standing. Now that I am a member and the music also touches on youth and I chair the Youth Committee, on her behalf I want to request for at least 21 days so that we can give a response to that Statement.

The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki): Is that ok with you Hon Kigo

Hon. Wangari Kigo: 14 days are enough, 21 days are so many

(Applause)

Hon. Stephen Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was requesting for that because I am aware that we will be going for recess, I do not know whether we should include the weeks that we will be on recess, but it is ok, 14 days without counting the days-----

The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki): 14 days it is.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN HOUSE VILLAGES IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Nahashon Gachuhi: I beg to move the following Motion:-

Aware that agriculture is the leading economic activity in the Country contributing to 35.6% of the Gross Domestic Product, further aware that agriculture is a devolved function as stipulated in Part II(1) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, cognizant of the fact that Murang'a County is predominantly an agricultural zone, informed by the fact that greenhouses ensure continuous production of high value horticultural produce and food security, recognizing that processing zones create employment for the youth and enhance value addition, in furtherance of the fact that value added products fetch higher prices translating into increased income and improved livelihoods; this House urges the County Executive Members in charge of Land, Housing and Physical Planning and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to;

1. Identify suitable land for establishment of greenhouse villages in the County.
2. Formulate a policy on establishment of greenhouse villages in the County.

Mr. Speaker, greenhouse farming is a modern way of farming where crops are grown in a controlled environment, it can either be large scale or small scale farming but it also depends with the size of land that a farmer has.

We know in our region we have arid and semi-arid areas and our farms heavily depend on seasonal rainfall. This rainfall may not be enough, it might threaten our crops, it might be heavy to again damage the crops. They are also affected by diseases and some extreme weather patterns also affects the crops. As global temperatures increase and the extended drought periods increase, these crops cultivated outdoors not in greenhouses are affected by many conditions such that they are not able to thrive well and produce maximally. When we use greenhouses in farming, we protect our crops from diseases and drought and even conserve irrigation because when you use drip irrigation in a greenhouse, you are able to conserve water and maximize on water usage.

Crops grown in greenhouses things such as heavy downpour which might be carrying some diseases with them, they are also controlled. These greenhouses are used to trap the heat that comes from sun and once you are able to trap the heat you will be able to regulate the temperature and it remains conducive for plant growing.

The greenhouses are fitted with drip irrigation system where water is dripped to the plants in form of droplets which allows farmers to use amount of water, 90% less water than other means of sprinkling or pouring on the stems. These makes the plants grow fast and the quality and quantity are best realized because the environment is conducive due to the controls applied.

Greenhouses have been in use in Kenya for commercial flowers and vegetable farming but are expensive for the peasant farmers. The crops that do well in green houses include tomatoes, beans, cucumber, eggplant and other perishable vegetables that are used on day to day life of human beings.

Greenhouses can be used in all the seasons because they do not depend on the natural seasons of rainfall, dryness or hot or cold seasons. When our people embrace the greenhouse technologies they will be able to protect diseases that emanates from the soil and direct splashes from rainfall and pests.

It is also a way of doing agri-business whereby farmers grow their produce to earn money as source of income. We can also have crops around the year because greenhouse does not rely on the seasons. For example the tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce, if you go to market currently they are fetching high prices. It is also important to know that the farmers-- like the farm crops that take less period and have high returns on investment. This can only be achieved through the greenhouse technology.

I, therefore, urge members to support this Motion so that our County Executive of Land and Agriculture can establish a parcel of land to establish a greenhouse village which will act as a training centre for our farmers and also a source of produce and to formulate a policy for establishment of such green houses. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I now call upon Hon. Charles Kahoro to second the Motion.

Hon. Charles Kahoro: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion. First, I thank the Mover of the Motion because by establishing the greenhouse village in the County this will serve as an eye opener to the farmers who due to disadvantageous effect of open farming method can now venture into greenhouse farming.

Mr. Speaker I also support because the Mover has touched on the food security which is one of the agendas of national government and by establishing the greenhouse we know that many of the food that is wasted through various reasons he has cited will now be going to the tables of the farmers and also for the foreign and local market.

Mr. Speaker you find that we have ample land in the County and that shows that it is possible to establish greenhouse villages across the County because most of the land lies idle. An example of this, we have the Mariira Farm, a demonstration farm within Murang'a County. We should start by having one of the greenhouses in that area where they have a very large portion of land which is not used and can serve as one of the demonstration units.

Mr. Speaker, we recently had a visit to Yatta where most of those farmers use water pans for harvesting water for farming. You find that the land terrain in most parts of Murang'a County is favourable for greenhouse farming rather than the pans because it is somehow hilly. The weather is favourable for this condition in Murang'a and I believe that we can achieve the goal. Therefore, I rise to second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Sarah Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am nominated to represent gender and I stand to support the Motion. First, I want to thank the Mover of the Motion who has brought a good Motion of greenhouses. It is one way of reducing unemployment because it will keep people busy who will grow those plants and get money. With greenhouses, people will grow throughout the season because we do not have to rely on the traditional farming seasons. It does not also require big sizes of land; hence those people with small sizes of land will be able to implement that. I stand to support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Stephen Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am nominated to represent the interests of the youth of this County and I am also the Chairperson of the Youth, Culture, Gender and Social Services Committee. Mine is to support the Motion because we are aware that sometimes back, we had Mariira farm where our youth and everyone who would like to learn anything to do with agriculture used to go there. Therefore, the greenhouses that Hon. Gachuhi is proposing can be situated somewhere where everybody in the County knows for people to go and learn more on agricultural sector. This being an agricultural County, I stand to support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki): The Mover will respond.

Hon. Nahashon Gachuhi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Honorable members who have supported this Motion because it will go a long way with improving the agriculture and agri-business in our County. If I can respond a bit to what Honorable Sarah has talked about, this will actually reduce unemployment because it involves some hard work so that those crops can be retained and improved in those greenhouses. Even in construction it requires technology and it requires labor and by that way people will get some employment and they and they will earn their livelihoods.

For *mheshimiwa* (honourable) Stephen Chege he has talked of Mariira farm with Honorable Kahoro, Mariira farm has been lying idle for some time now. Mr. Speaker if you go to that farm you will see the potential that lies in that farm yet it not utilized. We pray that one of the centres that should be used for the upper part of our County or the part that receives a lot of rainfall, we should use Mariira farm as one of the centres and we establish another one on the lower side of Murang'a whereby the environmental and climatic conditions are different. When we have some on the upper side we should also have some on the lower side which does not

receive some good climatic conditions. I say thank you to all those members who are supporting it and I would want the House to adopt this motion for the prosperity of our County.

Thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki): Honorable members the House adjourns until tomorrow 2:30p.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 3:00p.m