

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

The House met at 2:40 p.m.

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

STATEMENTS

REQUEST ON USE OF WOOD FUEL IN TEA PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Flasia Nduta: Thank you Madam Speaker, on behalf of Caroline Njoroge, I wish to request for the following Statement;

Pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on the following;

1. Is the Chairperson aware that tea factories use up to 70% of wood energy for their tea production activities?
2. Is the Chairperson also aware that the National Government had issued a ban on logging aimed at stopping the rampant destruction of forests and the near depletion---

(Hon. Peter Mweri rose on a point of order)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Allow him.

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you Madam Speaker, is it in order for Hon. Murigi who is going out to come dressed not in a decorum manner?

Two, is it also in order for Hon. Wangari Kigo not to bow before the mace. Please advise.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Thank you Honourable Member point noted and Hon. Wangari please remember to respect the mace. Next

Hon. Flasia Nduta: Thank you Madam Speaker -----

(Hon. Simon Wamwea rose on a point of order)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Yes, point of order.

Hon. Simon Wamwea: Thank you Madam Speaker, is it in order for this Assembly to continue without quorum?

(It was established there was no quorum)

(Loud consultations)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Honourable members, let us have some order.

Let the division bell be rung for ten minutes. Members we have the bell rung starting now for ten minutes.

(Division bell rung)

(Loud Consultations)

(Several members walked in)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Members, Hon. Flasia and Hon. Wambui we are still in the House please show some respect for the House. Thank you.

(More members walked in)
(Quorum achieved)
(Quorum bell stopped ringing)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Let the business continue.

Hon. Flasia Nduta: Thank you Madam Speaker, I think I am going to start again. This is a statement.

Pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (c), I hereby request for a Statement from the Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on the following;

1. Is the Chairperson aware that tea factories use up to 70% of wood energy for their tea production activities?
2. Is the Chairperson also aware that the National Government had issued a ban on logging aimed at stopping the rampant destruction of forests and the near depletion of natural ecosystems?
3. Can the Chairperson establish the number of tea factories in the County and the source of their fuel for tea production?
4. Finally can the Chairperson inform this House, the level of compliance by these tea factories in adopting alternative sources of energy apart from wood fuel?

Thank you Madam Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Thank you Hon. Member, I wish to recognize the presence of children from Kiangate primary school. Kiangate primary school children and your teachers you are most welcome and we wish you a happy learning.

Now Hon. Member and chairperson Agriculture committee please respond.

Hon. Charles Kahoro: Thank you Madam Speaker, I request the committee to be given 14 days to respond. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Flasia are you okay with the response?

Hon. Flasia Nduta: It is in order Madam Speaker, thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON MEMBERS VISIT TO THE CHRISTIAN IMPACT MISSION (CIM) IN YATTA FOR A SEMINAR ON MIND SET CHANGE FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Hon. Charles Kahoro: Thank you Madam Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion;

That, this House adopts the report of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on Members visit to the Christian Impact Mission (CIM) in Yatta for a seminar on mind set change for community transformation through sustainable agriculture laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday July 17, 2018.

Madam Speaker, we undertook a visit to Yatta on a mission to see and change the mind set of our people as pertains to agriculture. The Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee is mandated under Standing Order 195 (5) to undertake what we did in Yatta. We did a very good visit and learned a lot. Yatta is in Machakos County in Ukambani region.

Members were taken through learning on many ways of bringing up the community from the dry area to have something on their table. This was done through an operation which the community called 'Operation molyo out' having in mind that region is a bit dry and they had to do a lot of change to the community through Dr. Titus Masika.

Interestingly, the model that they adopted changed the livelihood of the community around and in the Counties around, like Makueni, to an extent that 'Operation molyo out' was adopted in Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia. This model was a people driven transformative

model and mind set change. More so, it tried to instil the philosophy that wealth creation is about development of the mind-set. The Community highlighted the following challenges which plunged them into pauper hood and hopelessness and which they purposed to tackle: water insecurity, food insecurity, illiteracy, witchcraft.

Madam Speaker, having gone through the whole process, the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries had recommendations and findings. Some of the findings we found is that development is not about the projects which leaders give to their people, rather, it is about people identifying the issue that affects them and providing solution to the problems through government planning and support. Also, poverty and dependency cannot be overcome without changing the mind-set of the people. Practicing calendar farming has ensured that farmers make money from their produce throughout the year. Many other findings are contained in this report. After that, the Committee had some recommendations as follows:-

1. That, the County Government should establish development committees at the grassroots to design local priority projects which should be included in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and annual Budget and assist in implementing them.
2. That, the County Government should empower communities by investing in civic education; community capacity building and mind- set change programs to reduce dependency on free provisions by the government.

We had many recommendations which are contained in this Report. The Committee has 14 Members and I will request Madam Anne Kigo to second the Report.

Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Wangari Kigo: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am the Vice- Chair of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee. I would wish to acknowledge that our visit to Yatta was quite informative; it was a great eye opener in our County whereby we learnt a lot of things from a very dry area. Our area is not as dry as where we were and a lot of things are happening in that place.

Madam Speaker, according to what our Chair has told us and the brief he has given us, I urge the Members of this House to adopt this Report so that our people can be empowered. When we harvest water, we do farming and, especially when we do through the water pans. I also wish that the County Government allocates funds so that our members and farmers will be able to harvest water and do farming. I am also calling upon the County Government to provide seedlings of high value so that the crops we do farming with will be beneficial to our farmers.

Finally, I urge the County Government to sensitize on the benefits of crop rotation and diversification because when we were in Yatta, we realised that most of us here/farmers maybe do one crop. If it is maize we do maize and if it is beans we do beans. However, it is good that we have crop rotation and that will help our farmers, the youth and everybody who is doing farming. I second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Lucy Ngugi: Hon. Members, the Floor is open for contribution. Yes Hon. Amos.

Hon. Murigi Amos: Thank you Madam Speaker, I represent Kimorori/ Wempa. First and foremost is to thank the Chair, the Committee and the Secretariat of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee for coming up with such a wonderful Report. It is true that we got very challenged when we visited Yatta. Sometimes, we keep on asking ourselves

if it was just that one individual, Dr. Titus Masika, who was able to transform that entire area. Dr. Titus Masika started as a preacher.

He however told us one thing; that you cannot always preach for people just to enjoy when they get to heaven; one thing is to make sure that those people are properly fed. In that entire encounter of about four hours, Dr. Masika never mentioned anything to do with assistance from the County Government of Machakos where he was.

(Applause)

Hon. Murigi Amos: It was through his own initiative, he never got any support. He was able to mobilise the community. That is a very big challenge to us; that we can be able to do a lot for our community without overlying from the National Government or the County Government. Dr. Masika is not elected, he is just a preacher.

Madam Speaker, I think the problem we are getting here is that the leadership has also contributed to this whereby you want to give everything for free. Today, when our kids get into primary school, pencils and everything is for free. That culture is going to destroy this community because when we rely on free things, our people do not have any responsibility and we are not assisting them. I am not saying the County Government should not also come in but the County Government should also come in-- just for facilitation. We know our people we have structures in here as opposed to Machakos and I know we can do wonders. What we require is only good leadership and we can only, Murang'a can become a very good example.

Madam Speaker, let me also say through our encounter and we went to several model farms and we hope because this recommendations will go to the Executive arm of the Government so that we can be able to execute but we also encourage them because we know there are some like Meru, like Makueni, the Governor was also able to visit that farmer.

I do recommend even the County Government of Murang'a and especially the docket on Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock they should also pay a visit so that they can also feel challenged because as we are recommending they should put more money in that because I think within Murang'a, I don't think we have models. So one of the issues I would wish we recommend as part of the recommendations is also to encourage also the County Government of Murang'a to go so that they can also go and learn something so that they can come also and assist our farmers.

Finally when we come also to what we went through during that encounter about four hours, I still believe it was not enough and I believe we require to make some more visits because the issue of molyo out they were able, those people from Western Pokot they have been able to adopt it. It was also adopted in Tanzania. Dr. Masika told us I think it is important so that if we can go and visit either West Pokot or Tanzania so that we can know the effects of what has happened because around this area he never mentioned whereby it has been implemented and it is indeed very effective.

Lastly, I just want as I thank the chairman, it is important and because we may also lack enough finances to go for this issue of benchmarking, I think it is important we enjoy very good relationship as a Committee with the Executive. I think it is important you also talk so that they can see the Assembly so that we can go to more areas so that we can come with more recommendations so that the work of the Executive is just implement and if they can also join us, I think it will be good for this County. With that Madam Speaker. I stand to support.

Hon. Cathryn Mwangi: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand to support but I also want to sensitize on the last recommendation which is the County Assembly should pursue a community mindset transformation agenda through public engagements. Because the first

thing before even the County Government could come in, I concur with Hon. Murigi, we first need to change the mindset of the people of Murang'a because if you don't do that whatever which is going to be done by the County Government will be null and void. So I stand to support Madam Speaker.

Hon. Ruth Wambui: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand to support the Motion on the visit and I feel that this Motion is long overdue keeping in mind that Murang'a is one of the fertile places. Compared to Makueni we are very much far and I think we have been doing what is not supposed to be done. Reliance on one crop especially for the tea farmers, they really rely on tea and as time goes by, like now this year the prices are not that good and it means our farmers will be suffering. But if they can diversify to farming and do it very well it will be very much in order.

The recommendation number three, that the County Government should identify ready markets. I feel this is something that needs to be done. For example the people in Nakuru County they were farming carrots and they could not get market but due to what was done in their Government they are able to market their produce even internationally. If our County can work hand in hand and we make sure we identify markets for our farmers, our farmers might be willing to farm but the challenge that they have, they lack the markets and they feel it is not worth for them to do it but if we specialize on a market they will be able to farm and fetch good monies.

Recommendation number six, the County Government in consultations with the ward representatives should plan and organize a group of youth-women. I feel this is very much in order especially for the members who represent the wards. There are people, the youth are knocking their door day in day out asking for jobs and one challenge that we have with our youths they are only looking for white collar jobs but if we assist them by training them, we change their mindsets. They will be able to farm, by the end of the day may be we will have created a lot of employment and this issue about drugs it will not happen within our society. I think it will be so much in order if this Motion is implemented not only in papers but we implement it on the ground. We keep in touch with the ward representative because they understand the youth who are capable of doing this. They understand the women who have the challenge of getting an income and if this is done it will be so much, I stand to support.

Hon. Stanley Muhia: Thank you Madam Speaker. As I rise to support this Motion I also want to comment on a comment by one of the members that, this County can move ahead if we are provided for with the hybrid or high grade seedlings. I want to actually differ with that, I do believe that out of the workshop that all the---- and the visit that we had to Yatta--- these people as Honorable Murigi has well put it were not provided for with any seedlings. I think the lesson that we learnt from Yatta is actually a mindset change of the residents of Yatta to know that they can actually make it if they can have a mindset and if they are provided for with harvesting water, the County can move forward and make an income for themselves.

What we need to recommend to the County Government is to change the model of providing seedlings and manure to this County and instead provide infrastructure to the farmer so that if they can have water they are able to farm by themselves because even if it means going out there, they know what seedlings do well in the County.

I come from the lower side of Murang'a where water is very scarce and therefore I know it very well. If the people of the lower Murang'a are provided for with enough water maybe through drilling or harvesting the water during the rainy seasons, these farmers are able to provide for themselves and improve their livelihood therefore my recommendation is that the people of lower Murang'a that is very hot--- if the County can take the women leaders especially since the community have organized themselves into groups especially women group who respect their leaders very much. If the County can take for benchmarking the

women and the youth leaders to Yatta they can come up with a mindset like the one that we the members of the Assembly have. My humble recommendation is that the women and the youth leaders from the lower Murang'a be taken to Yatta.

Secondly Murang'a County Government provide water for farming to the County instead of providing the incentives that we always do; the one cow one family this is because we are going to spend a lot of money with one cow one family thing. These cows may not even get water to drink during the dry spell because in the lower Murang'a water is very scarce and we are not having enough water for ourselves before we can get enough water for the animal therefore before we give them the cows may we give them the water they need so much more than the cow. Thank you, I rise to support.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Lilian Kabaya

Hon. Lilian Kabaya: Thank you Temporary Speaker I would like to agree with all the committee recommendations which if implemented will go a long way in facilitating agriculture and trade in this County.

I wish to echo the sentiments of Hon. Stanley on us not relying on giving out hand outs. The main lesson was "no mbogisi no molyo"----- that means that we need to change our mind set in giving hand outs to the community and instead enable them.

While I agree Hon. Stanley Muhia comments I wish to differ with one point, the people in Yatta are not given water by the County Government neither the irrigation water to them, in fact the community have come together and they have agreed to build water pans in each and every home. Indeed you cannot task the County Government to do that, it will take a long time however if we provide the necessary training and mindset---

(Hon. Stanley Muhia rose on a point of order)

Hon. Stanley Muhia: I kindly want to inform Hon. Lilian Kabaya that the lower Murang'a is only requesting that because the County has got a lot of money that it wastes giving hand outs, the same money can be diverted to creating like dams because the terrain of our region is conducive for dams if they can divert the money---

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Stanley Muhia, you stood on a point of information, I think you are done. Let us go on.

Hon. Lilian Kabaya: Thank you Temporary Speaker, as I was saying the challenge is to all of us as leaders in all of our community whether from lower or upper Murang'a as Hon. Murigi Amos said, if we can show the community how to do it, how to harvest water and have a few people trained on that, have agricultural extensions officer trained on this the they can show people how to do it. When each household will have water then we will have solved the problem I stand to support the Motion.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Kibe Githuka

Hon. Kibe Githuka: Thank you Temporary Speaker, first is to commend what the committee has done, they have gone an extra mile putting into mind Agriculture is a fully devolved function. There is a lot that the committee needs to do. I do not know whether you know that the committee was not involved in visiting that farm because if they were involved maybe they could have given another option and maybe not that farm.

This is because Murang'a is not like Yatta; Murang'a has a diverse environmental condition whereby only seven percent of it is like Yatta. When we were in Yatta we were seeing Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri, Makuyu and other areas. Those other regions that is 90% plus were not factored though the major problem that we have in Murang'a, is information. We got information from Dr Masika but this information might be was going to the wrong people because we have the people who are concerned that is the agricultural extension officers like

what Hon. Lilian Kabaya was talking about. These are the people who are in the ground as agriculturalists; we also have areas that are totally different from those areas.

We could also have a visit to areas where they have improved Agriculture and they are in higher altitude so that we can compare what we have and what we do not have but again we had not visited our Murang'a because me I only know about my Kihumbu-ini ward. What about those areas with farms and have a poor mindset they cannot be able to do farming we had not done local visit so that we can know that we are going from this problem and we are heading to this solution thus we did not have that visit.

It is therefore a challenge to the chairman and the committee that before we make any visit to have an improvement in any of the farming activities we first go to where we are because you start from what you have you go to what you do not have. We do not know what we have we are going to what we do not have before we get what we have. I stand to support and we encourage the committee to continue with that good work.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Passy Kang'atu

Hon. Passy Njeri: Thank you Temporary Speaker, I rise to support the Motion but I would not wish away the help of the County Government. Like the place I have come from the lower Murang'a we do coffee farming. The County Government should come and help the farmers in places that the farmer would not be able to help himself or herself like repairing the factories that are in very poor condition. Before we even get to marketing we should consider the places those who are doing cash crops and how they can be helped. I support

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): There being no other contributions, I now call upon the Mover to respond.

Hon. Charles Kahoro: Thank you madam Speaker, I first of all congratulate the Hon. Members for contributing on this Motion on Yatta.

I will first start by responding to what Hon Murigi Amos was talking about on over reliance on hand-outs. When we were in Yatta it is true that the community in that place was not given those seedlings and whatever they are farming did not come from the County Government, it was a way of us learning that we can even do without waiting for the County or National Government to assist in those kind of hand-outs.

Also Mr Murigi was talking about the executive visiting the Yatta demonstration farm, I believe some of them have gone and maybe there are others who will be going.

To respond on what Hon. Cathryn has talked about, on the public to be engaged, I believe when this report will get to the executive, we will be able together with the committee to liaise so that we can organize public engagement to sensitive them on the profitability of diversification in Agriculture.

On marketing which was touched by Hon. Ruth, we found that the Yatta people had set certain areas where they were taking their produce, the same way it has a recommendation that we have a selection point for all the produce from our gardens so that we enhance the market for our produce and also we need to organize the youth and women to visit Yatta and we were told on how to organize the visit and how you can choose different people from certain areas and locations, the model that we are supposed to use when choosing the people to go there.

For Hon. Stanley, one, I think that using the word waste of money and if he was here I could have asked him to apologize or withdraw that word. Madam Speaker, by giving our people seedlings, it is in the Agriculture docket where the farmers can be assisted with seedlings because some of the seedlings given are hybrid, it is not the kind of seedlings that they used to have and us as the Committee on Agriculture with consultation with the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Agriculture we will try to query where they give the

seeds to farmers, we were told that these seeds are hybrid and whenever they are harvesting, they have high yield because the given seedlings are of high quality.

On Water, Madam Speaker, though those people from Yatta farm by collecting water in pans, we sufficiently have water in some areas of Murang'a as it have been stated, but you see the farmers, though they have water, they mind sets have not changed. We learnt how they can farm during the rainy seasons and in the hot seasons so even whenever they have water or not they can learn the ideas they learnt from that place to get yield all the seasons.

For Hon. Kabaya, I thank you for the support. Hon. Kibe addressed the issue of dry areas, all this was that members went there to have a mind-set change on farming even in dry areas, even in the wet areas we need to have diversity in production. For Hon Passy, I believe that factories can be refurbished as we go on and we will follow it up

(Question put and agreed to)

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER STATEMENTS

TENTATIVE ASSEMBLY BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING TUESDAY JULY 24 TO THURSDAY JULY 26, 2018

Hon. Elizabeth Mwangi: I stand to give Statement on tentative business of the Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday July 24 to Thursday July 26, 2018.

Madam Speaker, I beg to issue Statement pursuant to Standing Order 46 (2) (a), it is notified that the House Business Committee at their last meeting, approved the following tentative business that will come before the Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday July 24 to Thursday July 26, 2018. Thank you

Still we have programme for the County Assembly for the period 24th July morning session: Paper, report on mainstreaming, child protection on the devolved system of governance.

Motion on goat milk rearing program,

Tuesday afternoon sitting: we have notice of Motion, adoption on the report on mainstreaming, child protection on the devolved system of governance. Motion on formation of an industrialization policy.

Wednesday July 25th afternoon sitting: It is notified that pursuant to standing order 46 (2a) and (c) that The Speaker has approved the following requests on statements: Request for the Statement on the Murang'a county Musician Sacco society. Motion on establishment of greenhouse village in the County.

We have Thursday afternoon: Request on Statement for the sub- county alcoholic drinks regulation committee. Statement on tentative business of the Assembly from the week commencing Tuesday July 31 to Thursday August 2, 2018. Report on mainstreaming, child protection on the devolved system of governance.

Thank you Madam Speaker.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Ruoho Wangechi: I want to move the following Motion that pursuant to standing order 54 (b)-----

([Hon. James Karanja rose on a point of order])

Hon. James Karanja: Madam Speaker, can the Hon. Member introduce himself and not just to move the Motion.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Ruoho can you please introduce yourself.

(Hon. Morris Thuku rose on a point of order)

Hon. Morris Thuku: I am asking that whoever is asking Hon. Ruoho to introduce himself should introduce himself first.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): Hon. Ruoho let us continue, people have a problem they are not introducing themselves, including the last Hon. Member to talk.

Hon. Ruoho Wangechi: Madam Speaker, I would like to move the following Motion;- That pursuant to standing order 54(b) and 33, this Assembly adjourns today Wednesday July 18 to allow members to attend a sensitization for Members of County Assembly convened by the ministry of East Africa Community (EAC), and regional development on regional integration ; that is harmonization of rules and regulations to be held from tomorrow Thursday 19 to Friday 20 July 2018 at Laico Regency Hotel Nairobi. The Assembly sittings will resume on Tuesday 24 July 2018 at 9:30a.m.

Madam Speaker, Murang'a County is in Kenya and Kenya being a country cannot stand in isolation from the East Africa Community. As a County also based on the fact that we also have other Counties that are going to be in this forum, it wouldn't be okay if this House stands out of that meeting. It could be assumed that we are operating in isolation. I therefore ask this House to support this Motion that we adjourn that we can attend that honourable meeting that is convened by the EAC for regional development where all other Members of County Assemblies shall be going. I therefore request Hon. Sarah to second this Motion, thank you.

Hon. Sarah Njoroge: Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to second the Motion to allow members to attend the said event that is on Thursday to Friday. I stand to second.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): I will now put the question.

(Question Proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): If there are no contributions, Hon. Members pursuant to Standing Order 33 a Motion for the adjournment of the Assembly to a day other than the other sitting day does not require putting of the question hence in this case I will not put the question.

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lucy Ngugi): This House stands adjourned until Tuesday at 9.30a.m.

The House rose at: 3:35 p.m.