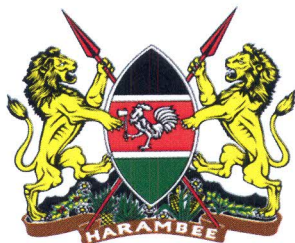


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE FIRST ASSEMBLY
(Third Session, 2015)

*Forwarded
to Hon. Speaker
10/02/15*

February, 2015

The Hon. Speaker

Thro'

The Clerk
Murang'a County Assembly
P.O.Box 731
Murang'a

RE: PAPER LAID

• **Paper Laid:**

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday, February 10, 2015:

The report of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on the Committees visit to Kericho.

Hon. James Kariuki Ngugi, MCA

(Chairperson Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Committee)

Signed: *James Kariuki Ngugi*

Date: *10/02/2015*

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

*Forwarded
KH. Hon. S.
10/2/15*

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY

THIRD SITTING (2015)

SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

REPORT ON

KERICHO COUNTY VISIT

CLERK'S OFFICE
MURANGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

10TH FEBRUARY 2015

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PREFACE.

Hon. Speaker,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee and pursuant to Standing order No.195, 5(g), it is my pleasure and duty to present to the County Assembly, the committee's report on the visit to Kericho County Assembly.

1.1. COMMITTEE'S MANDATE.

The mandate of the committee is outlined in the second schedule of the Murang'a County Assembly Standing Orders.

1.2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

1. Hon. James Kariuki Ngugi	-Chairperson.
2. Hon. Isaac Mwangi Kamote	-Vice Chair
3. Hon. James Njoroge Kariuki.	-Member
4. Hon. Martin Macharia Mwangi.	- "
5. Hon. Joseph Ndung'u Muchina.	- "
6. Hon. Joseph Njoroge Mwangi.	- "
7. Hon. Lucy Wangechi Njoroge.	- "
8. Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi	- "
9. Hon. Charity Rugu	- "
10. Hon. Florence Nyambura	- "

1.4. Acknowledgements.

- a) The Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Hon. Speaker and the Clerk of the Murang'a County Assembly for the necessary support extended to it in the execution of its mandate.
- b) The Chairperson of the Committee takes this opportunity to thank all Members of the delegation for their diligence and commitment to making this exercise successful.
- c) The Committee wishes to record its appreciation for services rendered by the staff of the Murang'a County Assembly attached to the Committee. Their efforts and input made the work of the Committee and production of this Report possible.
- d) It is now my pleasant duty on behalf of the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries Committee to table this report for adoption by this house.

The Committee wishes to sincerely thank His Excellency the Governor Hon. Paul Kiprono Chepkwony , County Senator Hon. Charles Keter, and Hon. members of County Assembly Kericho for their warm welcome and kind treatment to the committee members when we paid them a visit.



.....
Hon. James Kariuki Ngugi
Chairman, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

2.0. INTRODUCTION.

In its quest to fulfill its mandate, the Departmental Committee on Agriculture ,Livestock and Fisheries undertook a visit to Kericho County.

The delegation made its first stop over at the Kericho County Assembly, where they held a meeting with their hosts.

The following committee members embarked on the visit:-

- 1) Hon. James Kariuki Ngugi -Chairperson.
- 2) Hon. Isaac Mwangi Kamote -Vice Chair
- 3) Hon. martin Macharia -Member
- 4) Hon. James Njoroge Kariuki. - "
- 5) Hon .Joseph Ndung'u Muchina. - "
- 6) Hon. Joseph Njoroge Mwangi. - "
- 7) Hon. Lucy Wangechi Njoroge. - "
- 8) Hon. Charity Rugu - "

WHY KERICHO COUNTY?

Kericho County is characterized by undulating topography. The overall slopes of the land is towards the west ,consequently drainage is in that direction. The County forms a hilly self between the Mau escarpments and the lowlands of Kisumu.

The Committee settled on Kericho because the County is endowed with wealth in the following areas in Agriculture;-

- Sweet potato farming.
- Tea farming.
- Sugar cane farming.
- Herbal medicine exploration
- Dairy farming
- Tourism

3.0 BACKGROUND .

The delegation was received by Hon. Andrew Soi the Chairperson, Agriculture Livestock, and Environment Committee.

A meeting between the two committee's took place at the County Assembly's Chambers and the following were the members of the Agriculture committee of Kericho County Assembly at hand to welcome the delegation from Murang'a;-

1. Hon. Andrew Soi -Chairperson
2. Hon. Francis Terer - Vice Chairperson.
3. Hon. Livingstone Kirui - Member
4. Hon. Edward Santos - "
5. Hon . Jackson Kikwai - "

6. Hon. Alice Chepkoech - "
7. Hon. Josephine Yegon -"
8. Hon. Agnes Cheruyoit -"
9. Hon . Geoffery Bii -"
10. Hon . William Kipkuru "
11. Hon. Sammy Rono -"

4.0 In Attendance

- 1) Martin Epus -Clerk to Kericho County Assembly
- 2) David Thiong'o -Hansard reporter (Kericho)
- 3) Susan Chepkemoi -Committee Clerk (Kericho)
- 4) Steve Sikenyi -Hansard Editor (Kericho)
- 5) Sally Bett -Committee Services
- 6) Robert Ng'eno
- 7) Grace Wabocha -Clerk Assistant (Taking Minutes.)(Murang'a)
- 8) Joel Ngugi -Hansard Reporter(Murang'a)

Hon. Soi asked members to introduce themselves before outlining the history of the County Assembly as follows:-

- The Assembly consists of 35 elected and 12 nominated MCA's.

A question and answer session thereafter followed and the two committees agreed to work mutually in the field of Agriculture for the benefit of the two counties.

It was during the meeting that the Kericho Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries Committee expressed interest in the draft Murang'a Tea Bill and requested that the bill be forwarded to them so that they can look into it and probably borrow from it with intention of improving the livelihoods of Tea farmers in both counties.



Members of the two committees inside the Kericho County Assembly chamber

5.0 MUHORONI SUGAR FACTORY

The delegation then proceeded to Muhoroni Sugar Factory where they were received by Anderson Oloo the General Manager and Walter Kiage the production manager.

5.1 Facts about the factory

1. It is the third oldest sugar milling company in Kenya.
2. The factory was formed in 1964 but became operational in 1966.
3. The factory serves the Counties of Kericho, Nandi and Kisumu Counties.
4. The factory currently occupies 16000 acres but has an expansion space of about 28000 acres.
5. The factory mills 2200 tons of cane per day.
6. In 2001 the company was placed under receivership.
7. The factory operates on a 24 hours basis.

5.2 Advantages of the company

1. Access to the main road
2. Easily accessible to the market.

5.3 Challenges facing the company's operations

1. Production of sugar has reduced due to the wet weather conditions.
2. Farmers have not received their payments for some time due to huge bags of unsold sugar lying in the stores.
3. The company is still running on old technology thus making the production costs very high.
4. The company has a deadline up to February 2015 for COMESA Agreements to be effective in the Country hence their fear is that, this may make sugar market flooded with commodity hence affecting the prices negatively.



One of the machines in operation at Muboroni sugar factory

DAY TWO SEPTEMBER 5, 2014.

6.0 SIGOWET/SOIN SWEET POTATOES PROJECT

The delegation proceeded to Sigowet/Soin/Sweet Potatoes project and was received by the Chairman of the project Sammy Koech and the project's treasurer Alice Kemei.

Facts about the project;-

1. Sweet potatoes mature in six months.
2. The sweet farmers have formed a group known as SATUMA where each member is required to own at least half an acre of land.
3. The SATUMA farmers export the Sweet potatoes to the United Kingdom
4. A bag of sweet potatoes goes for Kshs. 2000 unlike there before when a bag was selling at Kshs. 1000.
5. Due to the huge order from the United Kingdom, the farmers had to organize themselves into group in order to meet the needed quantity.
6. The UK market prefers medium sized sweet potatoes due to packaging challenges.
7. The foreign market prefers their produce because they don't use chemicals like fertilizers in their farms.

6.1 Way forward for the project

1. The project is in the process of registering into a co-operative society to incorporate all the sweet potato farmers.
2. Once registered as a Co-operative, the Sacco will construct a processing factory for value addition purposes like production of biscuits and cakes.
3. The group is also constructing a pack house for sorting, grading, packing and labeling



Section of the members in one of the sweet potatoes farms

7.0 CHEBULU CONSERVATIVE /TOURIST SITE

The delegation visited Chebulu Conservative Tourist site.

7.1 Facts about the site;-

1. It started as a community initiative project where the youth used to take care of the forest which covers an area of 600 acres.
2. The County Government fenced off the forest and earmarked it as a conservancy with an aim of bringing in wildlife to attract tourists. The conservancy prides itself in the following among others:
 - Restaurant and shops under construction.
 - Washrooms with bathrooms.
 - 3 types of monkeys i.e. Columbus monkeys
 - Porcupines.
 - Rocks and caves.



Images of the Chebulu Conservation/ Tourist site

8.0 DAIRY FARM (HON. NG'ETICH FARM)

8.1 Facts about the farm

1. The farm has Dairy Cows Consisting of Ayrshire breed which produces 35 litres of milk per cow on daily basis which is sold in the local market, but plans are underway to introduce the Freshian breed .
2. The cows are mainly fed on fodder grown in the farms and nappier grass.
3. Calves that show signs of being good milk producers are selected and reared as a stock for the future.
4. Selling of heifers to dairy farmers at between Kshs. 100,000 and Kshs. 150,000 is a major source of income to the farm.



Members viewing the dairy cows at the farm

9.0 HERBAL MEDICINE EXPLORATION.

Although the Committee expressed interest in learning more about herbal medicine, the hosts were a bit apprehensive saying they were uncomfortable exposing their herbal plants or any information to anyone.

They however said that there was no premises where the delegation could visit to see the extraction of herbal medicine but they are planning to construct one.

10.0 MEETING WITH KERICHO COUNTY GOVERNOR.

The committee was lucky to meet the Governor Prof. Paul Kiprono Chepkwony, an expert in herbal medicine.

The Governor displayed two types of capsules each costing about Kshs. 38 fully processed from herbal plants.

10.1 MEETING WITH KERICHO COUNTY SENATOR

The Committee was also lucky to meet with the County Senator. Hon. Charles Keter where members discussed many issues in regards to devolution.

10.2 PARTNERSHIP WITH MURANG'A COUNTY

The Governor expressed interest in partnering with Murang'a County to explore medicinal plants noting that there is a huge potential in Aberdares forest which is not exploited.

He assured the committee that he was willing to offer his expertise in the field if Murang'a expressed interest in investing in the area of herbal medicine.

11.0 COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATIONS

Sweet potato farming

1. Sweet potatoes farming should be introduced in Murang'a County as the County also looks for market in Europe.
2. Farmer education, especially in ways of curbing moles which affect the growth of the produce should be enhanced.

3. The County should consult KARI on the best sweet potatoes varieties suitable for the upper and lower zones of the county.
4. The County Government of Murang'a should establish a pack house and a processing industry for value addition.
5. Sweet potatoes farming should be modeled along the co-operatives system.
6. Farmers should be encouraged to use organic manure for high quality production and thus attract the best market internationally.

Dairy farming

1. Dairy Farmers in the County should be trained on better and improved farming methods.
2. The County should consider having a bio-gas production program for small scale farmers.
3. The County should partner with KENFARM among other organization and donor for Bio Gas production.

Herbal Medicine

1. The County needs to exploit the Aberdares forest for herbal medicine and seek advice from competent herbal experts like Prof Paul Kiprono Chepkwony among others.

Sugar cane

1. People should be encouraged to take brown sugar since it has no chemical additives. Normally, the raw sugar has a yellow to brown colour and bubbled through sulfur dioxide bleaching the colour, hence the final product is white.

Tourism

The County should exploit all its tourist potential by identifying all the tourism, cultural sites as well as identify areas in the sector that can earn revenue for the county.

General operations

1. The County Assembly should come up with an itemized budget at ward level with each ward having its own vote book as it happens in Kericho County.
2. Kericho County is ahead in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) as the County has constructed two nursery schools in every ward. Our County should emulate the same.


APPENDIX 1 :

COMMITTEE MEMBERS


Names

Signature

1. Hon. James Kariuki Ngugi


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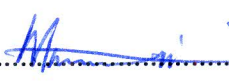
2. Hon. Isaac Mwangi Kamote


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3. Hon. James Njoroge Kariuki


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4. Hon. Martin Mwangi Macharia


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5. Hon. Lucy Wangechi Njoroge


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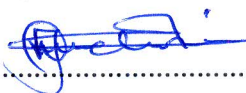
6. Hon. Rebecca Wanjiru Mwicigi

.....

7. Hon. Joseph Njoroge Mwangi


.....

8. Hon. Joseph Ndungu Muchina


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