

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Wednesday April 1, 2015

Assembly Building

The House met at 9.45 am

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

MEMBERS THANKED FOR ELECTING NEW DEPUTY SPEAKER

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Honourable Members I want to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me a new responsibility in this House to serve as the Deputy Speaker for the County Assembly of Nakuru. It is a case that shows the trust and belief in my capability. I am aware that we are coming from a challenging time but I want to assure this House that through continuous consultation and proper communication we shall move forward. My work is well cut out in the Standing Orders and relevant existing laws. I will strive at all times to discharge my duties diligently and shall be guided by the Constitution, relevant Acts, Standing Orders, Speakers Rules and precedence set by preliminary practices.

I also wish to congratulate Members of this House for their determination in deliberating on Business before this House. I have faith that together we will continue with the good work. My leadership in this House will be characterised with consultation, respect to divergent opinions and adherence to laid down procedures of the House.

As I conclude, I wish to once again reiterate that this House is governed by rules and procedures. It is therefore my hope that while deliberating on issues before this House, honourable Members shall always take this into account. In so doing we will have an organised, orderly and conducive environment for debate. Thank you and God bless you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

STATUS OF CASUAL WORKERS REPORT

Hon. Irene Chebichii: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give a Notice of Motion;-

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THAT this House debates and approves the Report of the Committee on Labour, Gender, Youth and Social Welfare on the status of casual workers in Nakuru County, I beg to give a Notice, thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honourable Irene.

MOTION

COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH FISH PONDS
AND GREEN HOUSES TO BE RUN BY STUDENTS AND YOUTHS

Hon. Joshua Muriithi: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the Motion;

THAT aware that agriculture is a Ministry of our Country and County economies; Further aware that agriculture is critical in tackling poverty and ensuring food security in our County; Deeply concerned that Nakuru County has immense agricultural potential that has not been exploited; Further concerned that our youths are increasingly shunning agriculture for white collar jobs, this House resolves that the County Government comes up with a policy and allocates funds to support every public school in the County to establish at least one green house and a fish pond to be run by students and youths to support employment and creation for the youth and adding more food in the schools, I beg to move, thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honourable Muriithi, let us have a seconder.

Hon. Beatrice Nyawira: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I second.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honourable Muriithi, the Motion is now open for debate. Yes honourable Lang'at.

Hon. Joseph Lang'at: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I stand to support the Motion with amendments. This is a good Motion because the students will benefit from the green houses. But there are some challenges; greenhouses require a lot of water so we may not start in every school because of funding, so I propose that we pick a few schools in every sub county as opposed to every public school. Another one is instead of being run by students and the youth we can just say by students because students are also youth. We also need boreholes in the said schools because we cannot start greenhouses and fish ponds without water.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honourable Lang'at, any other Member? Yes honourable Irene.

Hon. Irene Chebichii: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Motion and I actually embrace the devolved units bearing in mind that agriculture is fully devolved. Mr.

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Deputy Speaker I only have an issue with Public Schools and would propose Youth Polytechnics which are fully devolved; they are actually under the County Government and that is where you will find most of the youth. By considering public schools we will actually be losing focus because the students are busy with school work. By focusing on Youth Polytechnics we will be nurturing the youth's talents like in farming by introducing the said green houses and fish ponds.

Land ownership is a big problem for the youth because most of it belongs to their parents who would rarely if at all allow their children to invest in their land, so such projects would empower the youth to have their own land in future because greenhouses and fish ponds do not require much land.

Once our youth begin to view agriculture as a future and not a fate then Nakuru will have so many youth engaging in farming therefore reducing unemployment.

Hon. Michael Ngeshu: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to congratulate honourable Muriithi for a Motion well thought. In this Country and especially in Nakuru County, our wealth is in farming and as the County stands today we have a lot of problems in open farming and we must go back to greenhouse farming and to start with youth is the best way possible.

Nakuru County we have a huge potential for fish farming because we do not require a lot of water to do that work and on land we do not require a lot of space, I would like to support honorable Chebichi sentiments that we begin with Polytechnics because they are fully devolved and we have a few in this County. If they are going to devolve the Secondary schools and Primary schools to be under county government then we can go forward to do that but for now we cannot because the schools are not devolved to us, actually we shall be doing what is against the law. Remember honorable Deputy Speaker that many times we have been trying to budget any money to go to the Primary schools and Secondary schools our proposal has always been rejected because they do not belong to us.

As a start, I would like to support honorable Muriithi but we start with Polytechnic because in the polytechnics we have students who are ready to earn money and who have cleared form four and some class eight and they are few in the county, it can be a beginning point so that we can learn from the mistakes that we will make. Whenever a vaccine is developed it is not given to everybody but rather to a small sample to see whether it can work, so if we begin this work and do all the Primary schools or all the Secondary schools we may fail and have no time to turn back but if we start with polytechnics we shall learn from those mistakes and then we improve the programme, thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker as I support the Motion with amendments.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honorable Wang'ombe, the leader of minority.

Hon. Daniel Ambale: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also want to contribute to this Motion and to thank honorable Muriithi so much for this Motion, it seems well thought but I have a few

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reservations with an item that is indicated as part of it. I want to say that I will support this Motion but with an amendment to delete the words “allocate funds” so that this House resolves that the County government come up with a policy to support every Public school and of course as another Member said the village polytechnic in the County to establish fish ponds and green houses to be run by students and youths to support employment creations for the youths.

Why I think so Mr. Deputy Speaker is that public school is a very general word and I believe Primary schools and Secondary schools fall under that description of Public schools, the County government does not have any role in the management and manner of operations in running of activities in such kind of schools and therefore what I mean here is that this a function that is not yet devolved to the County government, we are only entitled to support and of course financially support Early childhood education and Village Polytechnics .

Therefore if this Motion has to be passed in this form then it will be a Motion that cannot be implementable by the County government but I think with an amendment that they come up with a policy and within the policy framework will be able to identify to what extend can the County government support this particular schools, because it is within the policy that it will have to define the differences of the function of the County government and the National government.

Allocation of funds will need to follow functions and then these functions as we know now the functions in this Motion is a function that is reserved to the National government so the County funds might be difficult in this place. So what I think is that I support this Motion but with an amendment that the word “allocate funds” be deleted ,another amendment is proposed by one of the Members that publics schools, in front of the word schools we add “and village polytechnics” in the County, thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): thank you, honorable Warothe

Hon. Jonathan Warothe: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, much as I stand to support honorable Muriithi Motion, there are few things that we will not do right. One of the reasons why our young people are not fully engaged in agricultural activities is because as a county we have not been able to mechanize agriculture the way it is supposed to be. Previously in this house and through the fiscal strategy paper we were able to allocate a hundred million towards agricultural development fund and one of the issues that we are supposed to look at as a county is provision of equipment that the farmers can hire at reasonable charges and that is the only way we will be able to enhance food security within the county otherwise if we continue with issue of digging using Jembes it will discourage our young people from engaging in agriculture. The other issue is that we have institutions like KARI, the biggest in East and Central Africa is in Nakuru County that is Naivasha. Where is the linkage between those institutions and farmers so that at least we can be able to have our farmers properly trained and benefit from the research that is happening in the County? We also have one of the biggest Universities in the Country, Egerton

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University, dealing with Agriculture and I am wondering where the link between them is? These are some of the issues that we are supposed to address and as a County which hosts such big institutions we are supposed to be beneficiaries.

Finally I would urge that instead of talking of doing things in all public Schools and polytechnics, why don't we have a demonstration field in each sub county so that our farmers can be trained to enhance productivity, this would also include school children and at that point we would not be saying that we are not engaging institutions whose functions are not within the devolved functions, that is my take and I beg to support.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you Hon. Warothe; can I get you, are you proposing that we have a demonstration field in every sub-county?

Hon Jonathan Warothe: Yes

Deputy Speaker (Hon James Tuei): Thank you. Member for Bahati

Hon. Peter Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I stand to contribute towards this Motion not clearly knowing whether to support or to amend or even to oppose because I like the spirit of the Motion but the inclusion of the public school changes the whole meaning of this Motion and I would like to ask several fundamental questions towards this Motion

- (1) Since the schools are not devolved are we sure any funds allocated to schools will be approved by the County Government
- (2) We already have wrangles between parent, MCAs and teachers in schools with claims of eating money and I think this is another avenue of wrangles we are going to open if we put green houses in the public schools. I would like to know clearly from the mover of the Motion how that will create employment to the youths knowing clearly we have several projects in several schools, for example Kiamaina in Bahati Constituency, they have projects like rabbit rearing, we have some pigs and cows rearing in Rongai and are we very sure they have created employment for the youths? The answer to that question is no because the students do the work, I do not know whether they are paid, they are allocated duties, in some schools they do the work as punishment and I think the mover of the Motion should redraft it. I think it would have sounded better if he said instead of public schools they use self-help groups be facilitated to develop greenhouses...

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Let him finish

Hon. Peter Mwangi: I was saying we have so many self-help groups in the Wards and I think if we really want to create employment, we can urge the County Government to facilitate the groups and if the green Houses have been given to the groups they will:

- (1) Learn about modern Agricultural tactics
- (2) They will regenerate revenue from the green houses and we will have directly created job opportunities. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. James Tuei): Hon. Eunice

Hon. Eunice Muriithi: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute to this Motion, first I would like to commend Hon. Muriithi for bringing this Motion at this time. However I would like to observe that Hon. Peter is saying that he does not know if to support the Motion or to oppose and I think the best thing he would have done is to make an amendment like all of us are doing and I would like to put forth my amendment that this Motion does not give directions to public school but to polytechnics where they are devolved completely. You all remember when we had primary schools most of us at that time were in primary school and we had 4K Clubs, pupils were taught on how to go about farming and it was very educative. After these pupils left primary and proceeded to high schools, they were able to do that in their various homes on small pieces of land. However, this can create employment and with empowerment as far as farming is concerned can promote agri-business. As the youth embrace it, elderly people learn from them and since land is not expanding, we need to utilize it properly so that we can have enough food. My amendment is that we start with polytechnics.

Deputy Speaker (Hon James Tuei): Can we have the mover of the Motion before we put it to question

Hon Joshua Muriithi: I would like to inform the whole house that agriculture is being taught in various levels of education. If we can teach them how to create jobs after primary or secondary education we can go very far. Thank you

Deputy Speaker (Hon James Tuei): Thank you hon Muriithi, can you put of the microphone

Let go to amendments before we put to question the whole Motion

1. By hon Lang'at that the greenhouses to be started in sub counties with at least one. We also have boreholes for greenhouses because quite a number of schools have no water

(Question put and disagreed to)

2. The next amendment by hon Chebichi, hon Warothe and hon Eunice that village polytechnics are devolved and we need to begin with village polytechnics instead of public schools

(Question put and agreed to)

3. Hon Ambale's amendment; that we delete the word 'allocation of funds' and replace it with ' policy to support any youth self-help group'

(Question put and disagreed to)

4. We are moving we have one amendment from Hon Warothe that we have field demonstrations in every sub county. You are all aware about field demonstrations, it is more the same as his proposal by hon Lang'at, instead of having the n public schools, we create field demonstration in every sub county

(Question put and negatived)

Now I put the whole Motion with proposed amendments to question

(Question put and agreed to)

Thank you very much hon Members, the House stands adjourned until 2.30 pm

The House rose at 10.20 am