

# COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

## THE HANSARD

Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Assembly Building*

*The House met at 3.05 pm*

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

### PRAYERS

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

#### WELCOME TO MEMBERS AFTER SHORT RECESS

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you Members; I wish to welcome you back for the continuation of the Assembly session. The brief recess presented an opportunity for Members to attend to other pressing issues at their wards and interact with the electorates.

I am also aware that the Whole House was privileged to attend a bonding session which aimed at encouraging team work and good relationships among Members. We must not forget that we are equal before this House therefore as we deliberate on issues before this House let us be accommodative, respect each other and appreciate divergent opinions.

Since the beginning of this session we have not done much as expected. I therefore challenge Members to remain committed and dispense off pending Business before the House. Going forward, I also want to encourage Members to continue generating Business both at the Committee level and individual initiative. We should not lack Business at any given time. With those few remarks Members, I welcome you back and wish you fruitful deliberations.

### MOTION

#### STANDARDS OF PACKAGING POTATOES TO SAVE FARMERS FROM MIDDLEMEN

**Hon. Joseph Waithaka:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion. THAT aware that tomatoes is a major cash crop in Nakuru County; Further aware that various farmers depend on tomato growing as a means of livelihood; Concerned that there is no standardization in terms of packaging of tomatoes for purposes of selling them to traders; Appreciating that the cost of producing this crop is very high; Noting that the large scale traders and middle men have taken advantage of the situation to exploit farmers hence making them incur loses, this House resolves that the County Government to come up with acceptable

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standard of packaging tomatoes to cushion farmers from incurring losses and save from the wrath of middle men.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is well known that the standard maximum weight that can be carried by a human being is 50 kilograms. But tomato farmers are left at the mercy of traders who come with crates capable of carrying 50 kilograms of tomatoes but end up extending to one crate carrying 100 kilograms and crate of 100 Kgs is bought at the price of 50 Kgs, and for this reason, I move this Motion so that subsequently we will have a law that will govern the packaging of tomatoes in this County as it has been done in all other Counties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when these traders are coming to Nakuru County, more specifically to Subukia Sub – County they normally change the crates because they have crates that they use in other Counties but because this County has no law regulating the packaging of tomatoes and they end up packaging up to 100 kgs as opposed to 50 kgs per crate which is exploitation to our farmers. For this reason therefore, I urge this House to kindly consider cushioning our farmers against this practice by passing this Motion. Thank you, I beg to move.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honorable Waithaka, can we have a seconder?

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

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Peter Njoroge:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I stand to support the Motion and at the same time I want to remind the House that the same Motion was moved by honourable Gicamu and I did an amendment to the same. I therefore seek your clarification on whether the same Motion was moved by honourable Gicamu and an amendment made by I...

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Order! Order! Yes, point of information.

**Hon. Simon Ngigi:** (On a point of information) thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to inform honourable Muchiri that the Motion that was brought by honourable Gicamu was different from this one because it was on potatoes while this one is on tomatoes.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you. Honourable Muchiri, note that the Motion that was brought by honourable Gicamu was on potatoes and this one is on tomatoes.

**Hon. Peter Njoroge:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said earlier, I support the Motion and I have no problem with it but was trying to ask about the amendment that I made on honourable Gicamu Motion that said we also have the weight of tomatoes reduced to 50kgs and I was requesting you to refer to it and see whether it has the same content or it was different but I support the Motion, it is a good Motion because I still come from the same place where the farmers are suffering, thank you so much Mr. Deputy speaker.

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**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): thank you so much, honorable Vitalis

**Hon. Vitalis Okello:** Thank you very much, as much as I would like to support this Motion I tend to think that our people in most cases do not do research, the Motion is well intentioned but how much has the mover of the Motion consulted the farmers, are the farmers supportive of this Motion? I am saying so because such a Motion was moved before this House for potatoes. Please help me use my time because I do not need to be informed.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you honorable Okello let him inform the House

**Hon. Joseph Waithaka:**(On point of information) it is important to realize that whenever someone rises on a point of information we inform the House we do not inform a contributor and is it unfortunate that a Member of the leadership in the Assembly cannot appreciate that, however I want to say that I come from a tomato growing area and this Motion is not meant to benefit an individual MCA like honorable Waithaka from Kabazi, I am moving the Motion on behalf of the farmers and I cannot just come and move a Motion without consulting, remember I am the Chairperson on the Committee on Agriculture and time and again I normally interact with farmers through the Agricultural extension officers, through the farmers representatives and I have widely consulted the farmers and they have recommended that the standard measures they would be comfortable with is fifty kilograms, I also want to dispel fears that this Motion was moved before this House ,it is important to realize that we have records in the form of Hansard and I would challenge the members who have said that this Motion was before this House, because it was not, I am normally keen on matters agriculture when they are being deliberated in this House and for that matter I know the Motion that was moved by honorable Gicamu was standardizing potato packaging to one hundred and ten kilogram's and there was no any time we mentioned of packing tomatoes in fifty kilos, we talked of potatoes being packaged in one hundred and ten kilograms bags and not crates, thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Thank you, honorable Okello can you finish your time.

**Hon. Vitalis Okello:** Mr. Deputy Speaker what I am saying is that a Motion like this on potatoes has been moved in this House and the result was demonstration in some areas by farmers that they were not represented and they were not informed and I can mention Molo where some people were injured. Perhaps the Member has done the consultations, what is the evidence; we need to see the evidence of what the mover of the Motion is trying to put across, Mr. Deputy Speaker you need to protect me under Standing Order number 81(4).

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Order, order honorable Okello, I think we have deliberated on the one on potatoes and nobody came with evidence and the evidence is the area and the mover of the Motion. Honorable Member from Bahati

**Hon. Peter Mwangi:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the honorable Member who was in the floor should leave this chance to people who are from tomato growing areas, I do not think whether we have any tomatoes in Kivumbini, the amendment was not captured Mr. Deputy Speaker, tomatoes farmers are being exploited and this has to stop because we are representatives of people.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): what point of order?

**Hon. Vitalis Okello:** Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, I think the Member stood on a point of information and now it seems like he is contributing.

**Hon. Peter Nderitu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Member is not listening after I informed the House I begged to contribute.

What I was saying is that the potato Motion was implemented and is effective on the ground, the tomato issue has to be implemented and I concur with the Chairman for Agriculture Committee because we both come from tomato producing areas and we need something to be done on this and I do not know the problem Hon. Vitalis has with this unless he does not want the people in Mashinanani wenye wanakuza...

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Order! Hon. Nderitu

**Hon. Peter Nderitu:** I withdraw, Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): Hon. Muriithi,

*(Hon. Okello interjects)*

Order! Order! Hon Okello. You have exhausted your time but I am adding you only one minute

**Hon. Vitalis Okello:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to advice those who are coming from tomato growing areas that the best thing they can do is consult the farmers and have public participation.

Secondly I would like if the Members in this House they could leave...

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. James Tuei): We have a point of information. Hon. Kang'ethe your time is running out.

**Hon. Peter Kang'ethe:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, first and foremost I want to inform the Hon. Member who was on the floor despite that he comes from town I do not think Hon. Waithaka could have brought this Motion without thorough consultation with the Members who grow tomatoes.

I also come from an area that grows tomatoes and to contribute this Motion with your permission I want to say that the Motion is very timely and despite the fact that there has been a public outcry by the cartels in the purchase of tomatoes, it is high time that this House resolves to save farmers who grow these tomatoes because the cost of producing tomatoes is very exorbitant to the farmers and it is a high time that Members adopt an average grading system, like the one that Kabazi Cannery used to operate.

You realize that the crates that were grading the tomatoes were equivalent to 50-55kgs and I think this is what we should go by, at the moment you realize that the grading system is awkward, we can have several grades ranging from the way they are grading them from number one to number six and you wonder how tomatoes from the same piece of land can be graded from number one to six and initially they used to grade them from number one to number three depending on the size of tomato. So it is high time that Members of this Honorable House think positively the way to save these tomato growers so that we may have an economy that is flourishing as far as tomato production is concerned, because at the moment many people are running away from the production of tomatoes because of high cost of production and I beg that Honorable Members do support this Motion for the good of the County

**Hon Peter Mwangi:** and it might not be a problem to his people because they have other issues. Contributing on the same, hon Muchiri has stated that he proposed amendment to previous Motion talking about potatoes. The Potato Motion has already been implemented on standardization of packaging but when it comes to tomatoes, it has not been implemented.

**The Deputy Speaker (Hon James Twei):** thank you hon member; hon Muriithi.

**Hon Joshua Muriithi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I also seek to support this Motion because it is very important for this county. I would like the Members to think of reopening more canning factories for tomatoes in the county so that farmers can get market for their tomatoes and increase production. Thank you

**The Deputy Speaker (Hon James Twei):** Hon Muriithi you are saying...

**Hon Joshua Muriithi:** Factories for canning tomatoes; we can reopen any of them and we should start more canning factories.

**The Deputy Speaker (Hon James Twei):** Hon Cheptarus.

**Hon Ruth Cheptarus:** (on a point of information) I want to inform hon Muriithi that we have Kabaazi and Njoro canning factories. Maybe if we could put up more in the county.

**Hon Joshua Muriithi:** That is good information that is why I am fighting that we have more factories so that at least one in every sub county to encourage them to grow more tomatoes.

Deputy Speaker (Hon James Twei) Thank you hon Janet

**Hon Janet Wamaitha:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Motion and stress that nowadays we have youth doing agro- business and that are in potato growing areas and they been subjected to middlemen who exploit them by packaging at will. As a House, we actually need to protect our youth from any exploitation and the future of our country depends on them. I also want to inform the other Members that in regard to the potato packaging standardization, as Agriculture Committee, the farmers were very receptive and they embraced the idea and it led to the governor picking the idea which he shared with his colleagues in other potato growing areas and the debate became a national issue. If we embrace this system, it can be rolled to other counties and it is important we support this Motion to safeguard the interest of the youth and protect the farmers whom we represent. It is important for hon Members to know when we come here we represent our people. Hon Member cannot bring a Motion without consulting his people. It is important that hon Waithaka consulted Agriculture Committee and farmers. It is a situation we need to arrest.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon James Tuei) Thank you hon Janet Members; it seems we have exhausted the points we were supposed to contribute to this Motion so let me put it to question

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Thank you very much hon Members, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9am

*House rose at 3.30pm*