

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Thursday April 16th, 2015

Assembly Building

The House met at 2.50pm

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much honourable Members, I am made aware that the Deputy President would be visiting Nessuit, Mauche and Molo wards so those who will be available may accompany him. For more details, kindly talk to the MCA's representing those areas.

STATEMENTS

HAZARDOUS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ALONG KIBUNJIA ROAD

(Hon. Beatrice Nyawira)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Honorable Beatrice you are now the Chairperson for Environment and it was you who had sought for this Statement.

Hon. Beatrice Nyawira: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I kindly ask for more time since last week we were on recess. I will bring it next week.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): We will give you just one more week because you were given another despite being on recess, so next week on Thursday we expect that Report from your Committee.

Hon. David Malel: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, it is not in order for a Member who belongs to a particular Committee to request for a Statement from that Committee and in this case will it be appropriate that she still gives the Statement yet she belongs to that Committee.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Point of information from honourable Penina.

Hon. Penina Sortum: (On a point of information). Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I would like to inform honourable Malel that honourable Beatrice was not a Member when she sought for that Statement.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much. I still think that Members of that Committee would still do that job and bring us a very comprehensive Report and now that by then honourable Beatrice you did not belong to that Committee you will now do a proper job on what you wanted done together with your Committee Members.

STATEMENT

MEMO BARRING MCAS FROM INSPECTING AND SIGNING SITE VISITS MINUTES

(Hon. Joseph Waithaka)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Honorable Hazel and Vice Chair for Transport Committee are not here. Engineer Sonko is also not in?

Any Member present who belongs to this Committee? Who will take that responsibility of informing them that on Thursday next week we expect that Report? Okay honourable Cheptarus, thank you very much.

STATEMENT

FATE OF UNABSORBED NURSES EMPLOYED UNDER ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROGRAM

(Hon. Joseph Waithaka)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Honorable Peter Muchiri, Chairperson Labour and Social Welfare is not present. Honorable Chebichi

Irene Chebichi: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I request for one more week. We will present it on Thursday next week. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): What I would say is that we have really been waiting for this Report and so far we are not doing very well on this. I do understand we were on recess so on Thursday next week we expect it before this House.

STATEMENT

UNFINISHED ECD CLASSROOMS IN KABAZI

(Hon Joseph Waithaka)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Honourable Hillary or the Vice Chairperson for this Committee? Both are not present but I believe we have Members of the Education Committee so kindly pass the message that on Thursday next week we expect that Report.

MOTION

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICERS BE FACILITATED TO ENABLE THEM CARRY
THEIR DUTIES EFFECTIVELY

Hon. Joel Maina: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I beg to move the Motion;-

THAT aware that Agriculture is a fully devolved function; further aware that residents of Nakuru County largely depend on Agriculture for their livelihood; cognisant that the County Government has employees serving in the capacity of Agricultural Extension Officers; deeply concerned that the said officers have not properly facilitated hence hindering them from discharging their duties properly; appreciating that such officers are very crucial in terms of educating and sensitizing farmers in various areas including crop and animal productivity, research and disease prevention, new farming technologies among other key components of agriculture; noting that in the recent past we experienced crop disease outbreaks which threaten our food security and could not be managed properly; this House resolves that the Agricultural Extension Officers be facilitated to enable them carry out their duties effectively.

Madam Temporary Speaker, it has been said several times and it is also in the public domain that Nakuru County is an agricultural County. But this only goes up to the extent of that statement and it can be termed as a market place statement because when we say that this is an agricultural County it has to go with agriculture is being practiced which is not the case.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the said officers are employees of the County Government under a fully devolved ministry whose Vision is “Food secure, industrialised and Wealthy County” and also have a Mission that says “To Offer Client Oriented Extension Services, Promote Commercial and Sustainable Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Industries.

Madam Temporary Speaker, it is one thing for one to say he has a Vision and another thing to commend on the Mission and even another to write it in bold capital letters. The final part after all is said and written is the actual work. The Agricultural Extension Officers that we are talking about and for some of us who had the opportunity and privilege to grow up in the rural areas, we would occasionally hear that we were going to have ministry of agriculture officers coming to our villages to teach farmers how to farm and employ the best farming practices. But this rarely happens these days which begs the question as to whether we are progressing or regressing.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the County Government of Nakuru in the Year 2013/2014, had a very ambitious project on pyrethrum, fertiliser and maize seeds which cost millions of shillings. But without these Agricultural Extension Officers, nobody can tell where a kilogram of fertiliser or where a seedling of pyrethrum went or whether the desired outcome of the maize seeds was met.

So Madam Temporary Speaker, it is like we had so much invested in the wrong areas because there was no follow up. Even in the year 2014/2015 to be specific, there is a clean Ksh.25 million which is going to go that way, in the area of fertiliser and seeds and as we speak, there is no follow on that.

So Madam Temporary Speaker even as we continue investing so much in agriculture, without follow ups, we will continue losing County resources with no much fruition and even with no much result in that area, as I rest my case I want to present my statistics because numbers do not lie and see whether what we are doing in the agricultural sector is enough. As we talk now the Ministry of Agriculture is divided into four directorates, there is Agriculture, there is Livestock, there is Veterinary and there is Fisheries. At the sub county level we have 44 officers in the area of Agriculture and we have 33 in the livestock and we have 33 in Veterinary and in the Fisheries we have 11 officers; at the Sub Counties level we have a total of 121 officers and when we come to the wards, in that directorate of agriculture we have 165 officers, these are the Agricultural Extension Officers, in Livestock we have 110, in Veterinary 110 and in Fisheries 55.

The extension officers total number is 440, this people or this workforce that is being paid at the end of every month but are seated in the offices and they are not able to move around because per Sub County the monthly amount of cash they receive is ten thousand. The sub county of Kuresoi North and South, Molo and Njoro receive ten thousand and this money is supposed to go to the payment of electricity bills, photocopy and all that.

We have a total number of 561 workers in the ministry of agriculture but then we are not facilitating them so the question we are supposed to ask ourselves is whether we are getting value of the money that is invested there in terms of salaries.

The Motion as it has been read is seeking to compel the County government of Nakuru as they plan they need to plan and add the amount of money in operations to be able to enable this people to move around. If you have a disease now and you go to report they will tell you that they do not have means to move around, so even the diseases that can be prevented can kill a whole herd.

As I end my case, I pray that this House debate this Motion and put across desirable amendments and we pass it so that we can be able to follow it up with the executive so that we can have appropriate and proper measures being taken, I beg to move.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Who is going to second? Honorable Joshua

Disclaimer: The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

Hon. Joshua Muriithi: Thank you, this is a timely Motion that I will plead with the House to pass this Motion so that the extension officers we have trained can do a noble job to our farmers, without these people we cannot do our farming properly and I thank the mover of the Motion for bringing this important Motion, thank you I beg to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much honorable Joshua, the Motion is open for debate. Hon. Karanja Kiarie.

Hon. Stephen Kiarie: Thank you, I rise to support this Motion and in supporting the Motion I would like to mention the plight of these officers as I have witnessed in the field that this are a pathetic lot, people who have been forgotten and when they are forgotten of course it is the farmers that are suffering and it is the country that is losing resources. I have witnessed in the past that these people are expected to write monthly reports, see what is happening in the farms, in the villages and yet they do not have means to move to those villages, so they sit in their offices and write fake reports every month and these reports are forwarded to the ministry of Agriculture.

I have witnessed that because of devolution we have these officers that have been sent to our wards and in my ward I have been given four officers, they do not have office, no money to move around and personally I had to source for an office and paid for this office for four months and towards the end I thought the ministry of Agriculture was to refund my money but nothing happened so I stopped paying for them, the alternative was that they were to be removed from my ward but luckily they are occupying a small office that is being used by the CDA.

I am supporting this Motion saying that unless we put in enough money in the ministry of Agriculture we are not doing anything, officers are there who are trained properly but they do not have money, when you give the Sub County agricultural officer ten thousand shillings and he has more than twenty extension officer in that Sub county, they are expected to move around and see the farmers to give advice, this is a very pathetic situation.

I told them to organize an open day and I was shocked I had to pay for their lunch, I had to pay for the manila paper and other things for the open day to go on, this is a very pathetic situation so I am requesting that the House adopt this Motion, and we ask the Budget Committee to give enough money to the ministry of Agriculture so that we can be seen to be doing what devolution expect us to do in terms of agriculture development, thank you very much

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much, yes honorable Joshua.

Hon. Joshua Muriithi: What is this business in the House, people are moving in and out, is there any order in this House.

Hon. Peninah Sortum: Some of these members are contributing without shoes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): You are out of order; you are contributing while you are sitting down, let everybody be in order, honorable Beatrice.

Hon. Beatrice Wambugu: Asante sana, mimi nasimama kuunga mkono huu hoja na kusema ya kwamba mheshimiwa amefanya vizuri sana. Mimi natoka mahali kuna ukulima mwingi sana na mimi pia ni mkulima wa kutoka upande wa Molo na nikichangia hii hoja mimi ni mmoja wa wale wameadhirika na ukosefu wa pesa mashinani kwa wale wafanyikazi wa serikali.

Hapo awali kabla ugatuzi wa wizara ya kilimo, hii wizara ilikuwa ikipatiwa pesa ya kufanya kazi mashinani na wale wafanyikazi walikuwa wanazunguka sana kwenda kuwaelimisha wakulima, wakati kulikuwepo na magonjwa kama yale za ng'ombe walikuwa wakizunguka wakisaidia wakulima ili kuwajulisha zile dawa ambazo wanastahili kuwa wakitumia.

Tafadhali muonye Mheshimiwa Muriithi anapiga kelele sana

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Mureithi): Order Hon. Muriithi, Whip.

Majority Whip (Hon. Leonard Korir): Madam Temporary Speaker, Hon. Sonko is not in decorum.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Mureithi): Hon. Sonko get out and dress properly.

(Hon. Humphrey (Sonko) withdrew from the House)

Hon. Beatrice Wambugu: wale maafisa wako katika Sub- County ya Molo nimekuwa nikiwatembelea sana maanake hiyo ndiyo kazi mimi hufanya, na wakati kulikua na shida ya mahindi ukienda kwa ile ofisi wanakwambia hawana pesa. Unapata hawana pesa ya kubadilisha gari gurudumu, ya petroli pia pesa ya ofisi hawana.

Wakati kulikua na mkurupuko wa ugonjwa wa miguu na midomo (Foot and Mouth) mwaka jana mwezi wa pili, mimi kama mkulima wa ng'ombe na wengine tuliadhiriwa sana sababau ya kukosa afisa ambaye angetusaidia. Walikua wakisema hawana pesa za kuwapeleka mashinani, ikafika mahali Mbunge wa Molo alifanya jitahada kabaisa akapeana gari la CDF la Molo likatumika kuwapeleka hawa maafisa mashinani.

Naunga pesa zipelekwe mashinani, hakuna haja pesa ziwekwe hapa office kuu (headquarters) kwa watu ambao wanakaa tu kwa ofisi hawasaidii wakulima wetu. Asante sana.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Mureithi): Thank you Hon. Hillary

Hon. Hillary Korir: First and foremost I want to say that I support this Motion and I want to raise more than one issue concerning the Ministry of Agriculture.

The budget that has been allocated to this Ministry is very little, you all know that Agriculture is the back bone of this County and as we are all aware in the last financial year the Ministry

Disclaimer: The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

Agriculture attracted 3 percent instead of the 10 percent recommended by the National Agricultural Standard.

Further I want to say that the Government has not been able to get the value of its money since the extension officers who are in different Sub- County have not been able to carry well their mandate. For example in my Sub-County we have been complaining about this Ministry, The officers have not been able to visit farmers because they are not facilitated for movement and for the last one year in my area we have been experiencing this Maize lethal necrosis and farmers were forced to carry the samples themselves to these officers instead of them visiting the farms.

This financial year we need to allocate this Ministry enough money to run their operations smoothly not forgetting that the same Ministry has been mandated to do disease control in the department of Veterinary.

You remember in the last Government livestock were being vaccinated against diseases like foot and mouth, anthrax and so forth but for the last one year we have had complaints that farmers are not able to meet the cost because the Government has not provided the subsidized drugs for prevention of the diseases. Earlier farmers used to pay Ksh 30 to vaccinate their animals and you realize now in a period of a year they are expected to pay Ksh 160.

This Ministry has been able to give revenue to the Government through sale of livestock and when there is no livestock these families will not be able to manage their economic situations or when these farmers are not able to get anything from their farms it will be a big problem in this County. Thank you.

Hon. Joseph Waithaka: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I support the Motion and I also want to say that this Ministry of Agriculture is wholly devolved, there is nothing other than what we passed from our County Budget that is expected to be gotten from anywhere else unlike in other Ministries that we find some roads are being done by KERRA and others by the County.

It loses meaning to have 561 workers being remunerated on monthly basis by this County Government to do work that is field based while they are sitting in their offices. The work of this Ministry is in the field but due to financial constraints all the field extension officers are left sitting in their offices while they are supposed to be working in the field.

This County is now being faced by imminent famine because of underfunding in this county. There is maize lethal necrosis which would not have spread in the county the way it has done if our officers had been properly facilitated, they just sat in their offices and told farmers to uproot the maize but no follow up was done.

Today we know for sure that we should observe a closed season for us to do away with the disease but now our farmers are still planting maize without knowing that they are not going to harvest anything because the disease is still in the field. This is evidence that as a County

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.*

Government we are doing our people a lot of disservice because we are not educating them and by the end of the day the money we are saving will be used to buy food for them because we cannot afford to watch them die because of hunger.

Agricultural department is the least funded department while it should be having at least 10 percent of the budget but I am surprised when a honorable Member who sits in that Committee says that they would have wished this department be facilitated while she seats in the committee that does the facilitation. I am referring to hon Beatrice who happens to seat in the Budget Committee that allocates money to different ministries and she is now crying like hon Karuri who does not seat in that committee when the budget is being done. We have a whole department called Agricultural Machinery Service...

Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): a Point of information from hon Beatrice

Hon Beatrice Wambugu: I would like to inform this House that when we are giving money to different ministries in the budget, we expect them to come and defend their budget but when they don't, we imagine or assume that they are comfortable. And also with the money they are given may be their priority is different. Maybe through this Motion, we will make sure that their priority is right.

Hon Joseph Waithaka: Thank for the wrong information that I have been given. I want to say this, when the ceiling of the agriculture docket is given at 5 per cent, that money is not enough and I am requesting that the docket be given at least 10 per cent, I can assure you we will put our priorities right. As a committee of agriculture we are never consulted in putting our priority in the budget and whenever budget is laid, we are appealed upon to pass the budget because..

Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): Point of order from hon Warothe

Hon Jonathan Warothe: (on point of information) Madam Speaker I am a member of Budget Committee. Is it in order for a member to cast aspersion knowing that recently ministry of agriculture distributed pyrethrum seedlings during a very dry spell in Naivasha and that is where wastage is coming from. Being the over-sighting committee on behalf of the Assembly, the chairman Agriculture Committee should know where to put his priority right.

Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): Thank you hon Waithaka and I know you are summing it up

Hon Joseph Waithaka: Let me sum it up by saying we have a whole department called Agricultural Machinery Services which offers services at a subsidized fee. But when a grader breaks down, requesting money to repair it is something that has not been forthcoming. Ours is to pump money to government but the returns are minimal. If we are to use the money collected as a revolving fund, we will not be begging the Treasury for money. We would wish as a ministry or as a committee that let us be given an opportunity to give budgetary proposals rather

than getting a document tabled before this House when as a committee we have not deliberated on the issues proposed.

Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): Hon Waithuki, Leader of Majority

Leader of Majority (Hon Samuel Waithuki): Thank you very much, I want to rise in support of this Motion brought about by hon Karuri which I would say is long overdue. It is well known that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Nakuru County is one of the counties that have about two million people that we are supposed to feed. Over 80 per cent of the county's population depends on agriculture. It is very well known that it is mere words or politicking if we do not consider factors that will improve agriculture. Agricultural extension officers are all over and are doing very little to uplift the standards of agriculture and as a county, we have not had enough rain and we have been experiencing a prolonged draught. Every time we get short rains, it is the duty of field officers to walk around and advise farmers bearing in mind that we have to embrace new agriculture technology to reduce unemployment. We have to turn into agri-business so as to create jobs to our youth and this cannot be realized if as a county we shall not channel resources to this noble cause. There is no way we can improve our living standards through agriculture especially improvement of livestock if the field extension officers are not going to enhance proper production especially on AI services. This is why it is a high time the chairman of agriculture committee should bring a Motion to increase budgetary allocation to agriculture docket.

Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much hon Waithuki.

(Hon. Warothe stood in his seat)

I am sorry hon Warothe you had spoken earlier, so kindly I will put this Motion to question but before then, just a few observations, in this House we have Members and chairpersons to various committees. It is the mandate of the chairpersons to ascertain their mandate so that when budget is being done you assert yourself.

(Question put and agreed to)

Thank you very much members. The House stays adjourned until Tuesday 2.30 pm

The House rose at 3.40 pm