

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

SECOND ASSEMBLY – FIFTH SESSION

Wednesday, 13th October, 2021

House met in the Main Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

(The Speaker (Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro) in the Chair)

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Good afternoon Hon. Members. I want to request that pursuant to the provisions of County Assembly Standing Order No. 32 (2) that the Serjeant-at-Arms rings the quorum bell for five minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for five minutes)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, Again, I want to request under Standing Order No. 32 (2) that the Sergeant-At-Arms to ring the quorum bell for a further five minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for five minutes)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, I want to refer you to Standing Order No. 32 (2) and I read, *If there is not a quorum present when the Chair is taken at the time appointed for a meeting of the County Assembly, immediately after the saying of the Prayer, the Speaker shall order the bell to be rung for five minutes, and if no quorum is present at the expiration of the five minutes,*

the Speaker may direct that the bell be rung for a further five minutes and if there is still no quorum present, the Speaker shall adjourn the County Assembly forthwith to the next sitting.

Honourable Members, when I was informed that immediately after the prayers there was no quorum, I ordered that the quorum bell be rung and I did not notice any Member coming in apart from the Leader of Majority who went out and came back. I therefore want give a direction. What is it Hon. Hon. Caren Muga?

Hon. Muga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the House that two House Committees are out on official duty. These are the Standing Committees of Welfare and Equal Opportunity Committee and Planning, Industrialization and ICT Committee. Each of the Standing Committees has 15 members. The number that is remaining is enough to constitute a quorum.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, I have heard the concerns of Hon. Muga but remember, I signed for the House Committees that are supposed to go out. In my record, there is only one House Committee that is out. That is the Standing Committee Planning, Industrialization and ICT. Even if you were to give them the benefit of doubt, the Welfare and Equal Opportunity Committee have not arrived, in my records only 21 Members are out.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Muga.

Hon. Muga: Hon. Speaker, each of these House Committees has 15 members.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Muga, I have just explained that I have the records of the Members who are supposed to be outside the Assembly on official duties. Any Member who intends to be outside the Assembly on official duties has to get permission from the Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Judith Ogaga.

Hon. Ogaga: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform you that there is a *kamukunji* meeting held at the lounge being headed by Hon. Steve Owiti and they are done and coming. Could we give them some little time?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Ogaga, I am not aware of any *kamukunji* being held.

Hon. Ogaga: It is an informal meeting. You can see they are coming in. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Otura.

Hon. Otura: Mr. Speaker, going by your records you are very right. A third of the House are supposed be present.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Leader of Majority.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Ordinarily one third rule presupposes that the Assembly does not have any business outside the precincts of the Assembly. In a situation where it can be demonstrated that we have some Members that have an assignment outside the Assembly, then I would indulge to use your discretionary powers under Standing Order No. 1 to allow debate to go on. In any case, I believe that we have hit the quorum already. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you so much Leader of Majority. I have noticed that some Members are in. I believe we now have quorum. Remember, the provision of our Standing Orders is very clear that the quorum is supposed to be 17 but if other Members are out on official duty then we can still have the quorum based on the number that is there because other members are out on official duty. There is no need of Members coming and sitting in the lounge as Hon. Ogaga has stated. Hon. Leader of Minority can you confirm if we have quorum.

Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We have the quorum.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable members, you are aware of the continued existence of Covid-19 pandemic, so, ensure you adhere to the preventive measures as advised by the Ministry of Health. Ensure the microphone is sanitized before using it during submissions.

Consequently, I am reminded of the motion that was tabled here in the morning, on the Payment of CHVs, which was committed to a Joint Committee of Labor and Social Welfare and the Committee on Health. I want to direct that the two House Committees take two weeks to work through an informative report because it is a Matter of Topical Concern that many members are interested in following.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

PAPER LAID

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Steve Owiti

Hon. Owiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders No. 182 (6), allow me to table a paper as provided in the order paper today, the Budget and Appropriations Committee Report on the Post-budget Analysis of FY 2021/2022.

(The Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee lays the paper for consideration)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable members, I want to direct that the County Budget and Appropriations Committee report on the Post-budget Analysis for the FY 2021/2022 be committed to the House Business Committee for scheduling for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Steve Owiti

Hon. Steve Owiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Order No. 45 (1), I wish to give a Notice of Motion on the Select Committee of Budget and Appropriations Report on the Post-budget Analysis for the FY 2021/202. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

STATEMENTS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, it is Statement Hour.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): If there are Statements.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

MOTION

REPORT FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,
FISHERIES AND IRRIGATION ON A STUDY TOUR TO THE MOMBASA
AGRICULTURAL SHOW

BY

HON. VITALIS AUGUSTINE OTURA

CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,
FISHERIES AND IRRIGATION.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Otura.

Hon. Otura: Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members. My Committee during its sitting on 16th August, 2021 while deliberating on the preparation of its work plan for this FY 2021/2022, Prioritized a study tour to Mombasa Agricultural Show to learn and acquire best agricultural practices and technologies suitable for implementation in Kisumu County to enhance Agricultural Productivity and output in the County.

In adherence to the procedures and practices of the Assembly, the Committee invoked the Provisions of Standing order No. 191 and 165 of the Assembly Standing Orders and made a formal request through a Memo to the Liaison Committee to approve its quest to attend the show (see annex i). The Committee also sought the consent and authority of the Speaker to undertake the study.

Consequently, the request was approved and the Committee was cleared to attend the show starting from 31st August, 2021 to 4th September, 2021.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK UNDERPINNING THE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Mandate of the Committee

The Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation Committee derives its mandate from Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, read together with Standing Order No. 193 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders.

Standing Order Number 193 (Second Schedule) of the County Assembly of Kisumu further stipulates as follows.

That the Committee shall inquire into, investigate and report on; All matters relating to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, livestock sale yards, County abattoirs, plant and animal disease control, veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession) and fisheries; animal control and welfare, including licensing of dogs and facilities for their accommodation, care and burial of animals.

Provision of County Assembly Standing Order No. 193

The functions of the Sectoral Committees are to;

1. There shall be select committee to be known as Sectoral committees the Members of which shall be nominated by the County Assembly Business committee in consultation with County Assembly parties at the commencement of every County Assembly.
2. A Member appointed to a Sectoral committee at the commencement of a County Assembly or at any other time during the term of a County Assembly shall, unless the County Assembly otherwise resolves, serve for the term of that County Assembly.
3. Unless the County Assembly otherwise directs, the sectoral committees and the subject matter respectively assigned to them shall be set out in the second schedule.
4. The mandate of Sectoral committees in respect of the subject matter assigned under the second schedule of these Standing Orders shall only be exercised within the limits contemplated under Part 2 of the Fourth schedule to the Constitution.

5. The functions of Sectoral committees shall be;

- a) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned departments;
- b) Study the Programme and policy objectives of departments and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c) Study and review all the County legislation referred to it;
- d) Study, access and analyze the relative success of the departments as measures by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives; e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- f) To vet and report all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order No. 187 (Committee on Appointments).
- g) Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, the composition of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee under the County Assembly Standing Orders No. 193 is constituted as stated; -

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Vitalis Otura | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon Jane Manuche | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Samson Ameso | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Judith Ogaga | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. Pst. David Arao | - | Member |
| 6. Hon. Samuel Dede | - | Member |
| 7. Hon. Aslam Khan | - | Member |
| 8. Hon. Roy Samo | - | Member |
| 9. Hon. Jennipher Obonyo | - | Member |
| 10. Hon. Maurine Otiang' | - | Member |
| 11. Hon. Ken Ooko | - | Member |

12. Hon. John Atieno - Member
13. Hon. Johnson Guya - Member
14. Hon. George Ogutu - Member
15. Hon. Kenneth Onyango - Member

Secretariat

1. Omollo Isaac - Committee Clerk
2. Zablon Otiende - Senior Hansard Reporter/Rapporteur
3. Maximilla Awour - Committee Clerk
4. Risper Auma - Serjeant-at-Arms

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

The Committee in discharging its mandate was guided by the following TORs.

- a) Learn and acquire skills on cutting age technologies in Agriculture
- b) Emerging Opportunities in Agriculture
- c) Agribusiness, Trade and Markets for Agricultural Products
- d) Best Legislation, Policies and Strategies for improving the standards of agriculture, horticulture and Fishing.

SITTING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Committee held two sittings to prepare and generate this report.

BRIEF ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF KENYA

The Agricultural Society of Kenya is the largest and most active (Royal Agricultural Society of the Common Wealth) RASC member in East Africa. Founded in Nairobi in 1901 when Kenya was still a British colony they held their first show in 1902.

The society expanded in the 1920's: with Branches in Nakuru in the Central rift Valley in 1920 and Eldoret in 1925. Further expansion occurred after the Second World War, but the main expansion took place after Kenya obtained independence in 1962 with branches opening across the country.

Today the society hosts over 18 shows across the country attracting almost 2.5 million people. The largest shows in Kenya are the Nairobi International Trade Fair, Mombasa International Trade Fair and the Kisumu International Trade Fair respectively.

In addition to holding of shows and events the society also runs an extensive advisory service on behalf of the government to help farmers improve the standards of agriculture, horticulture, fishing and forestry.

BRIEF ABOUT THE MOMBASA INTERNATIONAL SHOW

The Mombasa International Show (M.I.S) was established in 1903 and is situated on the North Coast of the Coastal Resort City of Mombasa. The show is 20kms from the Moi International Airport. M.I.S and was elevated in 2002 to an International status to attract investors and players in the agriculture, trade and tourism sectors. Potential exhibitors for this Financial Years Show were from the following industries: Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tourism related Enterprises, Fishing Industry, Banking sector, Transport and communication.

However, the general attendance and participation for this year's exhibitions was poor compared to the rest of the years since the Society enforced strict compliance to the COVID 19 Containment Measures and enrolled limited numbers of participants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members, on behalf of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee members, I wish to extend our gratitude for the invaluable support accorded to us by your Office and the Clerk's Office in ensuring that the committee mandate was well executed. The Committee was facilitated to attend the show and given ambient Environment to write this Report. Report on the Study Tour to Mombasa Agricultural Show Ground 7 Further, I wish to thank the members of the Committee for allocating time against their busy schedules guaranteeing the positive results in this course. In extension, I appreciate our capable secretariat who offered both technical and professional support to us throughout the exercise translating into this wonderful Report. Lastly, Hon. Speaker, it is worth noting that during the Committee meetings, Members complied with the Ministry of Health Protocols regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CHAIPERSON EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 193 (Second Schedule) of the County Assembly Standing Orders. The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation is mandated to inquire into, investigate and report on All matters relating to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, livestock sale yards, County abattoirs, plant and animal disease control, veterinary services (excluding regulation of profession) and fisheries; animal control and welfare, including licensing of dogs and facilities for their accommodation, care and burial of animals.

Aware that Agriculture is major contributor to the County Economy in terms of food and nutrition security, employment creation, supply of agro-based industry raw materials and foreign exchange earnings.

Despite the sector being the backbone of this Counties Economy', it still facing myriad challenges ranging from unpredictable weather conditions, poor markets due to low quality produce, low skilled labour, Unsound laws and policies, poor production technologies and the inability to meet the rising demand due low productivity.

There is need to reduce this mitigations where possible, promote sustainably increase in Agricultural productivity and enhance achievement of the County Food Security and the development goals.

Since the legislative authority of a County is vested in and exercised by the Assembly which is further delegated to the House Committees, Productivity of the Agriculture Sector in this County could be scaled through development of appropriate laws, policies or strategies. To achieve this, the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation deemed it fit to conduct this study tour to Mombasa International Show which took place from 29th August, 2021 to 5 th September, 2021. The Committee learnt and acquired best practices, innovations and technology based strategies in Agriculture which are consequently highlighted and recommended in this report for consideration by the House and for onward implementation by line Department for growth and development of this Economic Backbone.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members, the Committee attended this ideal platform for display of technologies and emerging innovations. This trade fairs and exhibitions have been the preferred platform for stakeholders in the Agriculture Sector enhancing technological transformations and production practices, business resource control, operations, Business Models as well linkages to both buyers and suppliers.

Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members, for maximum learning and knowledge gathering while at the show, the committee visited various exhibition stands. At every point there were instructors and trainers who were readily willing to share and pass information to us on the various products which were displayed for the trade fairs. Some of the most critical stands that members visited are as listed below;

1. The Agriculture and Food Authority Stand where we got deeper insights on value added products.
2. Livestock Production Stand
3. The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS).

4. The Mombasa County Department of Agriculture Stand.

5. The Simlaw seed Company Stand.

6. The Agri-Seed Company Stand. The Committee made the following observations on best technologies and farming practices from the Exhibition Stands:

1. Vertical Agriculture and the Agricultural Revolution;

Mr. Speaker sir and Hon. Members, Vertical Agriculture is a method of agriculture that grows produce vertically, either in stacks or on a wall. Examples of this technique include, hydroponics, aeroponics, or geoponic methods, which referring to water-based, mist based, and soil-based agriculture respectively. Vertical farming can grow hundreds of different crops within a limited area- making it ideal for urban environments.

2. Smart sensors;

This is one of the most successful Agri-Tech innovations across the globe. They include Remote sensors, satellites, and UAVs which can gather information 24 hours over an entire field. They monitor plant health, soil condition, temperature, humidity. The sensors can scan an agricultural field from the sky via drones to detect dry patches and nutrient-deficient areas. These enable farmers to collect unprecedented levels of data about their farmland for better farming.

3. Laser Scarecrows;

This innovation projects green laser lighting which is invisible by humans in the sun. However, birds are sensitive to green color. The automated lasers are fired across fields up to 600 feet and effectively startle birds to prevent them from destroying crops. Furthermore, they are less harmful to the environment and not labor-intensive. Also, they claim the device can prevent up to 90% of crop losses.

4. Harvest Quality Vision – HQV;

This is one of the recent Ag-Tech innovations that simplifies the harvesting process of fruits and vegetables. HQV uses computerized scanners to capture and determine the quality and quantity of crops. The software creates alerts whenever there are diseases, defects, and quantity shortages of crops so that corrective measures can be taken in the harvesting process.

5. Members were trained on how to identify certified seeds by Simlaw Seeds and Agriseed. That a certified Seed packet must contain the following information;

a. A Kenya Seed logo on the seed packet with a lot number

b. KEPHIS labels and stickers (scratch sticker and send code to 1393)

6. The two Seed Companies inducted members on the best agricultural practices of producing crops starting from selecting suitable seeds adaptable to various ecological zones to field practices and appropriate harvesting techniques.

7. Members were franchised about the Agricultural Insurance Policy (administered through a Strategy for broader Risk Management Framework) financed by the National Government. The strategy aims at de-risking the sector with focus on smallholder farmers. The Program covers loss due to natural hazards such as weather, pests and diseases.

8. The Committee was given insights on various value addition techniques by Agriculture and Food Authority. The AFA Stand contained displays of value added Commodities processed from various agricultural raw products. The Officials further sighted that value addition is needed for the profitability of the farmers, to empower the farmers, to provide safe, quality and branded food to the Consumers, to reduce post-harvest losses, reduction in import and increase exports and for growth of subsidiary industries.

9. The need to provide agricultural credit facilities to help raise amount of productive investment. The KCB group of Banks who exhibited at the show expressed their willingness to support agriculture through offering such credits. Credits have crucial role for eliminating farmer's financial constraints to invest in activities, therefore increasing productivity and improving technologies.

10. The Committee learnt that structured marketing could be achieved through establishment of strong CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES to help address marketing challenges experienced by smallholder farmers. The Heifer International Kenya shared with the Committee that by building stronger and sustainable Dairy Cooperative Societies, they have managed to address milk marketing challenges.

11. Contribution of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture;

This refers to use of machines e.g. tractors and sprayers combine harvesters to steer automatically through the field and apply fertilizers only where required and to measure real-time harvest yield helping farmers to understand the high yield and low yield areas of the field. The operation of this machines were well demonstrated at the event.

12. Members also learnt about the re-circulating aquaculture systems which combines fish farming with other aquaculture farming techniques. This polyculture approach creates self-sufficient ecosystem. It enhances less pollution generation, less consumption of natural resources and decreased spread of diseases and species invasion.

13. Members were educated on the possibility of improving Livestock Production through crossbreeding of our low producing local breeds with superior breeds for high milk and meet

output for increased incomes. The Heifer International team emphasized on promotion of AIs to farmers to achieve this goal.

A SUCCESS TESTIMONY FROM BEST CHOICES AND PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURE AT THE SHOW

During the testimony hour, the Committees attention was attracted to the success story of Mr. Salim Abdala (a Kilifi Farmer). In his farm what started as a small experiment has blossomed into a thriving enterprise. The farmer had a quarter acre farm and converted it into an apple orchard filled with 315 trees. He recounts that he stumbled upon the idea of growing apple in 2007 when he had accompanied a friend for a function in Nyeri Region.

Out of curiosity he bought 37 seedlings with the aim of growing the fruits for his family. He spent between Kshs. 250 to Kshs. 300 per seedling. After two years, the fruits were ready for harvesting, and the yield was so bumper that he had surplus to sell. He sold 600 pieces of the fruit at Kshs. 60 each.

He grows seven varieties of apples, however, he notes it is the green and red varieties that are fast moving in the market. A mature tree that is well taken care of can give up to 3,000 pieces of apples (an equivalent of 30-40 kgs) in a year.

Currently he has over 200 fully mature trees. In a day, the farmer gets two cartons per day which has about 100 pieces of apple. From each carton the farmer earns Kshs. 6000 after deducting all costs. His annual income is approximately Kshs. 20M.

With the Success, the farmer stopped growing other crops and currently concentrates on apples.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, the Committee in consideration of the above observations and findings' recommends as follows;

1. That, the Department of Business, Cooperatives and Markets to liaise with Kenya Airport Authority to establish a cold room storage facility at Kisumu International Airport to help utilize the Airport for Export of Locally Produced Agricultural Products to help expand the Commodity Market and to prevent perishability and to ensure that quality produce are shipped to the market
2. That, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries to promote growing of demand driven Agricultural Commodities with high market value for high profits to the farmers e.g. Pineapples, Passion Fruit, Avocado, Baby Corn etc.
3. That, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries to encourage farmers to embrace value addition of their raw produce for good prices and added quality.

4. The Line Department to fast track operationalization of the AI plant at Nyangore (Chemelil/Tamu ward) to offer produce semen for breed vigor and high breeding purposes.
5. That, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries to Partner with seed producing companies i.e. Seemlaw Seed Company and Kenya Seed Company to train and advice farmers on best farming practices and choice of seeds suitable and adaptable to Kisumu County Ecological Conditions.
6. That, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with the Department of Business, Cooperatives and Markets to encourage farmers to form farmers' Cooperative Societies and strengthen the existing Cooperatives to create and achieve a structured market for the farmers.
7. The Department to support agricultural production by providing Financial Support to farmers and liaise with Financial Institutions to readily offer credit support to the farmers
8. The Line Department to expedite the creation and introduction of ATC and AMS bill with a clear framework outlining their structures, functions, departments, operations and financial obligations to the Assembly for approval and consequent implementation to help disseminate best agricultural technologies to farmers for increased agricultural output.
9. That, the Line Department to encourage the adoption of the Vertical Agriculture and Agricultural Revolution, Smart Sensors, Laser Scarecrows and the Harvest Quality technologies by our farmers for the fulfillment of their intendment to promote agricultural production.

CONCLUSION

The Committee would like to implore this House to deliberate and consider adopting this report and ensure that the recommendations contained herein are communicated appropriately communicated to the relevant Departments for implementation. Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members, I therefore move the motion and call upon Hon. David Arao to second. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Arao.

Hon. Arao: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As a Member of this Standing Committee and the report that is before this House is comprehensive and informative, knowledgeable by itself and you have heard our Chairperson mention the choices of seeds. Mr. Speaker, the places that we visited in this side of the Country, the type of soil is different. Mr. Speaker, what our farmers will be appropriately sensitized on the type of soil that we have, and choices of seeds, then we will be able to see maximum yields of agricultural produce that our people are engaged in.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that Agriculture is the backbone of any economy and I believe that if we can disseminate the same information contained in this report and cascade it into action, I

am sure that our young people will get employment opportunities and we will equally be able to export our produce from our bumper harvest.

Finally, I am grateful that after the Study Tour, the Chairperson and the Members, I was praying that none of them was drugged by the slay queens. Thank you I second.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, now that the report from the Standing Committee of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation on their Study Tour of Mombasa Agricultural Show has been moved by Hon. Vitalis Augustine Otura, Chairperson of the Standing Committee and seconded by Hon. David Arao. As per the provision of our Standing Orders, I want to propose a question that the report from the Standing Committee of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation on their Study Tour of Mombasa Agricultural Show is open for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Julius Genga.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I arise to support the report as moved before the House by the Chairperson, Agriculture Committee, Hon. Vitalis Otura.

Mr. Speaker, I will be concise, but I want to commend the input by this Standing Committee in regards to agriculture. I represent a ward from and a Sub-county that is considered the bread basket in this County but, I have noticed from the report that, as a Department we have gaps and loops that needs to be filled. Mr. Speaker, how I wish, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries takes seriously the recommendations therein and implement them to the letter.

Mr. Speaker, if you and I can remember at some point before you took over the chairmanship, we really had a problem with this Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries Department and at some point, no single member wanted to allocate any project to this department. I can confidently say that this department has a lot of lethargy and I do not know whether it is out of fatigue. That is because, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the CEC for Agriculture, he looks fatigued and demoralized and he has no passion for work. Coming here, there is a House Committee that has taken its time and travelled all the way and has also made very impressive recommendations. I know that this report will reach the person who is in charge of the County who is our Governor and I know he is your very good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I know you two talk on daily basis. We do not have a CEC for Agriculture. I can confidently say that. In case we have, then, we are just having a figure head. That is because, this is a department that is so much endowed. Imagine the department just setting a side Kshs 1 million per Sub County for seedling purposes. Not the activities carried out after the farmers have planted...

Hon. Ogaga: On a point of information Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Whom do you want to inform?

Hon. Ogaga: I want to inform the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga, let us give her a minute.

Hon. Genga: Okay, thank you.

Hon. Ogaga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. If you look at the recommendation, there is none talking about the CEC for Agriculture? However, the speaker on the floor is busy discussing him. I believe that one is not in order, thank you.

Hon. Arao: On a point of information.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Inform, Hon. David.

Hon. Arao: Hon. Speaker, I want to inform the House as well.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Please proceed.

Hon. Arao: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We are not supposed to be defensive. By the end of the day, this report will be put into action by the CEC. So, he is part of the report even though his name is not appearing. My point of information is that by the time we have dispensed this report, the CEC will be part of it.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Julius Genga.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Hon. Arao, you have shown the eloquence in you and we also want to show our sister that, unfortunately farming is not practiced in the area where she comes from. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is the reason why she has no passion for Agriculture. As my colleague has rightly put it, that, this report will go to this department. I still repeat that this is such a wonderful report. But, are we going to take it to a department where it is going to be kept stored in the cupboard. Mr. Speaker, that one should be the question. We have such a wonderful report; you read it and you get impressed.

As I said, we have sub counties whereby most of these things should be implemented. I even gave an example figuratively about allocating Kshs 1 million per Sub County for high yield seeds to be availed to the farmers as early as on the month of January before the onset of long rains. This is also a department that has a tendency of providing farmers with inputs long after the farmers have planted.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this House has the authority to discuss a report that goes to the department. The report also makes sense when it goes to the department if we clearly know that it will be implemented. Otherwise, our work here is not to shield somebody who is not performing. The CEC is our very good friend and I have no problem with him. However, Mr. Speaker, as I was

saying kindly -and I know you can do that- we really need to do something about this department. It is such a serious Department that given to somebody who has no passion for what he is doing.

Mr. Speaker, imagine irrigation; look at what we are having in the rice fields. Livestock Department; Fisheries, the other day when *Baba* was in Naivasha and they could easily display some very healthy fishes which are grown in fish ponds around Lake Naivasha. Mr. Speaker, if I may ask, and if anybody is aware, we can ask what the Department has done as far as Aquaculture is concerned, you will be stunned.

Mr. Speaker, if I can recall, we were the first to hold a high-powered delegation from the Department of Agriculture through the Cabinet Secretary Mr. Mwangi Kiunjuri. I had the privilege of touring around with the Governor together with the Cabinet Secretary then when we had gone for a fact finding mission at Muhoroni Sugar Company. The CS stated that the Government has plans of donating Avocado Seedlings to all the 47 Counties especially those in the high agricultural areas.

Mr. Speaker, to date, there is no follow-up that has been done by this department. So, we have given such a serious job to a department with wonderful recommendations. Mr. Speaker, these are recommendations that I fear are going to gather dust in their shelves. Mr. Speaker, as a House, we have to put that department on notice. Mr. Speaker, as a follow-up to this report, I am ready and take it upon my responsibility that if the department cannot implement recommendations contained in this report even a tenth of it, then we have no business of putting that department to account.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that, we are not targeting any individual, but, I am sorry to say that, this department is a big let-down to this County.

Mr. Speaker, it is astonishing how to date because I have seen in the report something touching on embracing Technological Farming Techniques. Mr. Speaker, the Department was doing Bills or Legislative Proposals on the Maseno Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) and the Agricultural Mechanization Services (AMS) that will operationalize our ATCs and AMS which we just have as a mere show like the one in Nyando that is serving both Muhoroni and Nyando Sub-counties.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, I hope and pray that, such wonderful reports should be given to serious individual who heads a serious department that is going to implement. Mr. Speaker, I can for sure tell you that, yet there is work that has already been done by the department across the Sub-counties, but there is a lot that is desirable from this department. Mr. Speaker, as I bow out, let the department get to work and make even one of the Sub-counties which I believe is Muhoroni which I say so as a food basket because we don't need to import food or agricultural produce from neighbouring Counties like Vihiga, Kakamega, Kericho and Nandi yet, we are agriculturally endowed. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Ogaga.

Hon. Ogaga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Foremost, by virtue of being a Member of this Committee, I would like to appreciate the Standing Committee for a good job and a good report. Thank you our able Chairperson.

Mr. Speaker, we had a study tour to Mombasa and as you can see what has come out of it. Mr. Speaker, I really support this report but with two reservations.

One, the recommendation that touches on financial support. This is a department that is key to us as a County as has been ably put by Hon. Genga. Mr. Speaker, giving out Credit to our farmers. How is this going to be accounted for if the inputs like seeds and fertilizers that we normally planned for to be given to our farmers does not reach the intended beneficiaries. This normally goes back to the County Executive because it is the staff that end up benefiting from these farm inputs. I am so worried as much as I am a member of this Standing Committee and I would like to be candid and say without fear that there are departments offering financial support which have Revolving Funds in nature.

Mr. Speaker, in the past I have also indicated on this floor that, even today, we don't have a Success Story of beneficiaries of this Revolving Fund. So, I am really apprehensive. Mr. Speaker, as much as I am in support of the CEC for Agriculture because he is not here but, it is true that the department has underperformed and as Hon. Members, we have always had issues with the Department as the representatives of our people. Mr. Speaker, I am really concerned if this is implemented, will it really get to the beneficiaries if need be. Will they be able to do an assessment because, every time we have anything to give to farmers in the community, the department is always talking of we have our farmers, which means that they have their farmers. Mr. Speaker, some of these farmers don't even come from Kisumu County. So, you wonder, these credit will be given to their farmers who are coming out of this County.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who would like to do farming and are not part of their farmers who they talk of. So, I feel like maybe a better arrangement structures should be put in place for these financial support the department of Agriculture is always saying that they have our farmers. Some of these farmers do not even come from Kisumu County. We wonder how this financial support will go to those farmers yet we have farmer who are coming up. We are people who would like to do farming and they are not part of them. I feel like a better arrangement structures should be put in place for this financial support to be able to benefit our people and again because they have their farmers, and an assessment should be done to be able to know who are these farmers that need financial support because not everybody would need the financial support.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the creation and support of Co-operative Societies. I would really stress on the support of the existing Co-operative Societies because we have them and most of them have failed. Why would we even create more while the existing ones are not doing well? I would request that as this is done then, we put more support on the existing Co-operative Societies for them to

be successful and then we can be able to create more. Otherwise I support the report and I am grateful.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Manuche.

Hon. Manuche: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to call the mover to reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Otura.

Hon. Otura: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank Hon. Genga for knowing the value in the recommendations. The CEC as it has been retarriated by Hon. Genga is not that look warm but it is only that we as a House Committee and Hon. Members we should help in oversighting what is not happening in that department. But I want to thank him very much for supporting the report.

Hon. Ogaga is a Member of this Standing Committee but I only want to remind him that Credit Facilities to farmers are always there and KCB is taking the lead. It is only for the department to identify potential farmers and link them to the credit offering institutions. As we speak the department has Customer Care Desk and reports from farmers are always attended to immediately. I want to thank the Hon. Members for the support to the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, now that the Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries Report on the their Study Tour to the Mombasa Agriculture Show has been presented by Hon. Otura, seconded by Hon. Arao and debated by Hon. Members. I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): The Agriculture, livestock, Fisheries Report on their Study Tour to the Mombasa Agriculture Show and the recommendations therein have been adopted today 13th October 2021 at 1549 hours.

Consequently, I direct that the recommendations therein be communicated to the appropriate department for implementation. To conclude, I direct that, the Implementation Committee take over and follow up on the implementation of the same.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next Order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): There being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to 14th October 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 3.52 p.m.)

Addendum

Hansard Team

<i>Zablon Otiende</i>	-	<i>Senior Hansard Report</i>
<i>Edward Odanga</i>	-	<i>Reporter</i>
<i>Fanuel Okode</i>	-	<i>Reporter</i>
<i>Patrick Okoyo</i>	-	<i>Reporter</i>
<i>Jesca Otieno</i>	-	<i>Reporter</i>
<i>Jacklyne Otieno</i>	-	<i>Reporter</i>
<i>Vallery Achieng'</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>