COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – SECOND SESSION

Wednesday 25th October, 2023

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

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

PRAYER

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Mr. Clerk, please take us through the Order Paper of today.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I want to bring to your attention on a Memo from Director Human Resource and Administration, Madam Linet Ochieng. To all Members of the County Assembly, County Assembly Service Board, All Members of Staff and All Ward Staff on the submission of every two year Declaration of Income, Assets and Liabilities 2023. I want to request you to comply with the same and bring to your attention that this years' exercise will commence on 1st November 2023 and close on 31st December, 2023. You can liaise with the Department of Human Resource and Management to get the forms on the same.

Honourable Members, may I also bring to your attention that with us in the gallery are teachers and students of Sigiria Secondary School in Rongo Sub County in Migori County. The teachers

accompanying the students are Mr. Ochieng Oduor, Mr. Omondi Masawa and Madam Omiti Mereah. We welcome you to Kisumu County Assembly and I believe you have been taken around by the Serjeant-at-Arms. If not, they will do so. Who comes next to Migori County? I can see a lady from Migori then I will give Hon. James Omollo a chance.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Mickey!

Hon. Mickey (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the students from Migori County. I come from Migori County and it's a pleasure to welcome you in this House. Feel most welcomed. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. James Omollo. Your Ward West Nyakach is bordering Homa Bay and from Homa Bay you go to Migori County.

Hon Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker; I am the person bordering South Nyanza from Nyakwere all the way to Migori County. Students, we welcome you to this Assembly. It is a pleasure having you here. Mr. Speaker, this is a session which provides students with an opportunity to have a glimpse of what happens in the County Assembly. Here we legislative, that is, make laws that govern Kisumu County. We also approve budgets so that we can do development projects for the devolved functions like Water, Roads, among others and as Members, we equally represent our constituents in matters affecting the Wards.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to bring to their attention that we are the watchdog of citizens, with respect to what the County government is doing. We guide the County government on what to do especially with regards to development. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Thank you very much. Students, feel most welcome.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Next order!!

MOTION

(CONTINUATION OF INTERRUPTED BUSINESS OF WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.)

ADOPTION OF A REPORT BY AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE ON THE STUDY TOUR TO NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR.

BY

HON DEDE, MCA, NORTH KISUMU WARD.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Honourable Members, I want to bring to your attention that this was a business that was interrupted during the morning session. However, there was a call for quorum hitch when the Mover had just been called to reply. Therefore, as per our Standing Order, we had to adjourn without putting a question. Hon Dede, you are not sitting in your place. And it becomes very difficult to locate where you are seated. Remember you been called to reply. However, I want to give opportunity to any Member who had not contributed and would wish to contribute on that Motion before I give Hon Dede an opportunity to reply.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Yes, Hon Oiko, Member representing Kabonyo/Kanyagwal Ward.

Hon Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo-Kanyagwal Ward): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this report is very informative. It is a report that can open our eyes on matters of Agriculture in Kisumu County. Mr. Speaker, on page 8 of the Report, the committee learnt of some Drought Resistant Crop varieties, which are useful or planted during drought. What is missing, are the names of the specific seeds that are drought resistant. Quite a number of companies produce them; and if we could be informed the ones have been tried and tested in Kisumu County, it would be of great help to us. You know that a larger part of Kisumu County, we miss rains for six to eight months every year. So, these crops that are drought resistant would be very good to our farmers.

Mr. Speaker, on page 10 of the report, we are also informed about Capacity Building and Farmer Training, which is very important to our farmers. Maseno Agricultural Training Center (ATC) used to offer this, but it looks like the program is on longer there. This House Committee is urging that this continues and this should be very important to our farmers. If this program would be re-activated at Maseno so that our farmers are taken there for training on intervals, then they would improve in their farming activities and the yields would be remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, still on page 10, we are being informed of Organic Farming. Mr. Speaker, it is coming out that the fertilizers that are being used by farmers have become unproductive in some areas because they cause damage to the soil. When there is little water in some areas, the soil becomes too hot and the crops don't do well. However, it is being learnt that the Organic Fertilizers improves the texture of the soil and does no damage to the soil. So, if much is done to our farmers by enlightening and sensitizing them on the use of organic farming, then damage to our soil will be minimized. Though, I know of places with a lot of rain like Nyahera, and would have much problem than our place which would prefer organic fertilizers because they hardly destroy the structure of the soil.

Mr. Speaker, another matter that is also raised here on page 11 number 3, of the report, is the Extension of Agricultural Areas that needs to be improved for crop farming. Namthoe area is mentioned, which is okay. However, we need to get down to know from the Department of Agriculture and National Irrigation Authority, what they want to do on this because there are areas that need a lot of Agricultural Extension for Rice Farming and other crops. Places such as Kobura and Kabonyo-Kanyagwal Wards, which have vast lands that should be expanded for

irrigation purposes. So, if this matter would seriously be taken up by the department in order for us to know the plan that both the National Irrigation Authority and the Department of Agriculture and Irrigation have on this. This will be of good use to our people because as we speak now, the National Government is talking of Food Security, expanding areas that are irrigable that irrigation can be extended for the benefit of our people. This will economically empower our people and there would be sufficient food in the country. I beg to so submit on this report Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. James Omollo, Member representing West Nyakach Ward.

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, allow me to commend on this report. I have seen the recommendation of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development and Irrigation Committee which is so elaborate and precise and would really want to make agriculture as a backbone of this County. Mr. Speaker, when we have food, everyone will be very comfortable in their homes. So, this department should take these recommendations seriously so that we move far. Mr. Speaker, this County has a very huge resource called Sang'oro Marine Fisheries Department. It is a huge resource which does so much in terms of research. It is a Research Station in terms of Aquaculture and I have a feeling that the County Government of Kisumu has not adequately made good use of this research facility

Mr. Speaker, we have a very big lake here which the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Center at Sang'oro can really help even in terms of bringing Fingerlings to farmers and to restock the lake also. So, this is a very huge investment which is done by the National Government. But, as a County, we have not utilized it properly.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we have a menace in Nyakach in terms of Livestock and I have seen the recommendation of Global Positioning System (GPS) enabled for farming in terms of irrigation or any other. However, I want to recommend that we can have a Monitoring Tool/Tagging of our livestock across the border with Kericho County. The clashes that we are witnessing in Nyakach Sub-county, some of them are instigated by movement of livestock from one County to the other which in most cases, we are the one loosing cattle to Kericho County.

Mr. Speaker, if we can have a GPS enabled gadgets installed in these livestock; we will be able to monitor our animals when they are crossing the border to the other side. In fact, that one can help us to recover as many as we can and also bring to and end that menace at the border with Kericho County. So, I request the department to also look into that. We only have South East and North Nyakach Wards which borders the neighbouring Kericho County on the other side. If we can enable to install that in our livestock which they steal every now and again, we will be able to curb this menace once and for all. Thank you and that was my contribution, I support the report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Bill, Member representing Kobura Ward.

Hon. Bill (MCA, Kobura Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am one of the Members who went to the Nairobi International Trade Fair and Show and it was very informative. I want to say that what we gathered from the show, we realized that the Assembly plays a very big role that as Members; we should give a lot of focus on agriculture and even during our budgetary allocations. That is because; it is the agriculture that feeds us. So, I believe and as we can see from the report how much agricultural technology is moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, we learnt a lot and even realized that we have rice that can be grown without flooding system. That it can be grown in other areas not only on Kano plains where that type of soil is. In other words, we learnt a lot and I believe that if we take the report seriously and even the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development and Irrigation will also take the report seriously this will help empower our people to even learn more. Because if you look at the Agricultural Shows that normally happens, they have a timetable of how they operate around the country. If we can also have that within Kisumu County in our wards, so that we don't put people in great pressure looking for such shows, so that if it is in Nyakach in a particular ward they know that after this it will be in this ward so that they get informed and get to have the knowledge that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support and I believe that as Members we will also be an example in our wards so that other can follow because we realize that we act as example in our Wards. Let us practice agriculture, modern system of farming to improve food production in our county.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that in Kisumu County, as much as some of the things that we are talking about here have not been done but I am happy that the Zip-line which I am informed are about to start the Artificial Insemination so that we also improve our breeds in the County and increase milk production I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, please switch of your microphones. I want to call up on the mover of the motion Hon. Dede to reply, I hope you had noted all the questions that were raised in the morning and any other that have been raised during this afternoon session. Please the floor is yours.

Hon. Dede (MCA, Kisumu North Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for according me this opportunity to respond to the matters raised by the Members. In the morning session, a Member raised an issue concerning the Kisumu Agricultural Show and lamenting that we are having a report on the Nairobi National Show yet we do not have one for Kisumu and we never attended. I am kindly informing the member that the Agriculture Committee attended the Kisumu Regional Show and even though the report has not been brought, it will be because it is in progress and Members attended the Kisumu Regional Show.

Mr. Speaker, a Member also raised an issue concerning the goodwill by the National Government concerning agriculture, a majority of us doesn't access this information since the National Government does its activities in isolation. That is why this House Committee and Department of Agriculture and Livestock are now working together to come up with the idea of formation and establishment of the Co-operative Societies whereby if we group ourselves, we can get the resources from the National Government.

Mr. Speaker, a member also brought up an issue that we do import rice from other counties, yes we do import but we also produce a lot from the Mwea Irrigation Scheme and Ahero and we have surplus that we even export to Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr. Speaker, concerning the issue of companies that they are not based in Kisumu. Not all companies must be situated in a place So long as we have the depots that we can get the seed from not that we must have the company within us so that we can provide the seedlings.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue raise was concerning the Drought Resistant Crops. This has already been tackled in the report. If you look at page 8 of the report which touched on this, then you will realize that there are samples of drought resistant crops which the Member was talking about like Sorghum and Millet which are dominantly used in Kisumu.

Mr. Speaker, onto the issue of GPS; It is my considered opinion that, this technology can boost what happens in the neighborhood but, I am urging Members that we should not just have the GPS but we must also learn to stay with our neighbors. I think we should have a working relationship so that peace can be maintained.

Mr. Speaker, finally, the issue of new crops and Capacity Building of our farmers by resuscitating the Maseno ATC. This has also been raised and I would like to say that the budget committee worked tirelessly this FY to revamp the Maseno ATC which used to provide better crops. Currently it is by belief that most of the training that we have been sourcing from outside we are going to get them from Maseno ATC whereby we will get Organic Fertilizers from there once the ATC has been revamped and fully operational. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, a report by Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries Development and Irrigation Committee on the House Committee Study Tour to Nairobi International Trade Fair has been moved, seconded and debated upon. I want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the report by Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Irrigation Committee on the House Committee Study Tour to

Nairobi International Trade Fair is hereby adopted today Wednesday, 25th October, 2023 at 15:02 hours. I therefore want to direct that the recommendations therein be communicated to the relevant Department for implementation as appropriate. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next Order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, there being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to Thursday, 26th October, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 3.03 p.m.)

Addendum

The Hansard Team

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