

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

HANSARD

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2015

MORNING SESSION

(SPEAKER'S PROCESSION)

(PRAYERS BY SPEAKER - HON. ELIJAH OMONDI)

NOTICES OF MOTION

Hon. Aloo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to give a notice of motion on a report of the Trade and Enterprise Development Committee on the Educational Tour to Jinja Uganda on 12th December 2014. Thank you.

COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS

MOTION: REPORT ON THE EDUCATIONAL TOUR TO JINJA UGANDA

Hon. Aloo: It is my humble request to inform this house to listen keenly because we share a lot of challenges with this Country and I would start with Preamble.

I would request my vice Chair to second Hon. Bob Ndolo.

Hon. Bob: I second

Speaker (Hon. Elijah): Hon. Members, a motion on Educational Tour in Jinja Uganda by Committee of Trade and Enterprise Development has been moved and seconded, I therefore propose a question that it be discussed.

Hon. Isaya: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the chair of this Committee and as the Chief whip of this house, I want to say that Hon. Ochele, Hon. Opepo and Hon. Aloo has made my work easier because whenever they bring their reports in the house, it is a report you would want to contribute towards; not like other chairmen who would want to bring a report of one or two pages to be discussed in this house.

Hon. Anayo: Mr. Speaker, that is a very serious allegations, I believe we have very able chairs and most often I know they have not been given the opportunity to travel abroad to do their reports. You see this report was done abroad and it is why chief whip things it is a good report.

(Applause)

Speaker (Hon. Elijah): Continue Hon. Isaya

Hon. Isaya: Mr. Speaker, you are aware that this report is indeed well brought and look at our County, you will see indeed we need some rehabilitations here and there. I was also in Jinja and we went to their dump site and saw how it is being managed. The report is talking about how we can manage our County and if you go through the markets in Kisumu County,

you will realize that there is need to plan our markets. I want to urge the Kisumu County Government to start planning their markets so that we do not have to destroy structures erected along the roads because they would not be there if we plan Mr. Speaker. When we are talking about markets, we have Kibuye market which is the largest. If you go to Kibuye, you will realize that the County is only interested with the collection they make out of the market not the welfare of traders. On the buildings, if you go to places like Lolwe, we are told they want to build storey building yet there are people who have already put their structures and do not have money again to demolish and build what is required. It is better we have plans before we start constructions so that you are not caught unaware. For those committees who will be selected to go round to investigate on the matter kindly come up with a plan which is going to change the face of our County. I want to commend the committee for the good report and we need to copy the example of Uganda People. Thank you.

Hon. Prisca: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to commend the chair for Trade and also to say that it would have been so elaborate if the pictures were there because we could loudly say we wish to have this kind of style in our markets. I would wish that the chair of trade shares this with the Minister of Trade and those who are involved so that they can see on what to borrow from this report.

Hon. Kadede: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to commend this committee for a well-researched document. This is not just a lesson for Kisumu County alone. I am not ashamed to say that in our Country, even in the city of Nairobi, the markets are bad, there are old markets and nothing is being done. There was only one market which was improved. All the markets within the city centres were done by colonists. It is true when we go to Uganda and see the city market, you can be ashamed. While here we are proud that we have the largest market in East Africa called Kibuye. Kibuye can only qualify as a slam market. I wonder why Kibuye is called a market. I am happy that if you go through this page from page one to the end, there is one particular word being captured severally 'corruption'. What we need to tore down is what is making us fail. Whenever a project is being implemented, you will hear people talking of their cut. I therefore request that this report should be implemented if not, at least 60% of it. We are actually good in reports but implementation has failed this County. Thank you.

Hon. Khan: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to support this report which is very elaborative. I want to thank the Committee for the report because it is an eye opener for most of us. It becomes a reality when such reports are presented in this house so that we can compare ourselves and see whether we are on the right direction or we need to learn from our opponents. For the very period of time Kenya being independent for 52 years, and Uganda inherited all those problems but we find they are well organized, well informed and they do business as required. The way we saw it in Jinja, soon they are reaching the 24 hr economy we are talking about. Security is up to date and there is no corruption between small scale traders and big traders. We can give them some value so that they add their trade input. On the same note, it would be prudent if we can integrate our youth and women to go such places so that they can see how they can achieve the results by realizing that a small town like Jinja can obtain goods from their Country and make good business out of it. This also involves the clean environment that we saw and as a County, we need to do something to make sure we match the clean environment there. Even their lake shores are clean and organized. Regarding the Sugar Industry, we had the same agricultural environment because Jinja is

based on the same Lake Victoria Shore like Kisumu and you find all sugar factories there. It is the government improving the economy by helping the local farmers and we expect the same to apply to our Country which is endowed with sugar.

Mr. Speaker, same Akira family, Mavanigu and the rest who were as a result came here and went back to Uganda. Then, white sugar was being produced specifically in Africa and exported for purposes of producing sweets and other confections but it has reached a time where we are not importing the same denying farmers their rights.

Mr. Speaker, immediately you leave Busia border, on both sides of the road, you will see an agricultural environment whereby we can see casavas, fruit trees, bananas and the rest and this shows how really these people are committed to Agriculture. We actually need to go to the drawing board because we find most of our industries have collapsed and they have gone to Jinja and even in Tanzania. Ship industry would go a long way if we had ferries but we only have them in Mombasa. We can have them in Kisumu so that the locals can be employed. We have technicians and it is believed technicians come from Nyanza. We need business to run hygienically and with those few remarks I beg to support.

Hon. Ongow: I rise to support this report of Trade and Enterprise Development. If you look at this report, I do not think there is anything that make Kisumu do more than what it has done. If you go through this report, there is an urgent and serious need to change mind. The reason is that many of these things which are done in Jinja- Uganda can still be done in Kisumu – Kenya but at it stands we realize that politics is taking centre stage. If you try to organize traders, the same politicians who want to protect their votes will protect same traders for the sake of votes therefore it is really going to be difficult. If you look at the Agricultural Sector which is fully devolved, there is a lot of essence of corruption which is also mentioned in this report which is happening in Kenya. Example, if you go to National Government, you will find that in many occasions, they subsidise fertilizers to farmers but you still find that these fertilizers find their ways elsewhere. The same applies to fish industry, the lakes are polluted but if you go to Jinja you will see a difference yet it is the same Lake Victoria on the other side. It is high time we differentiate whether we need to protect the votes or we need to bring changes for the betterment of the County.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good report that if implemented, I think every citizen in this County who has been complaining for unnecessary trips will see indeed there is need for different committees which are in this house to go for these trips. The only reason why people have been complaining is because they do not see any difference. It is important that as we adopt this good report, it should also be implemented. I believe those who are outside there will support. Thank you.

Hon. Dianga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am supporting the work of the Trade Committee because they have done a good report and I want to really support. I am also supporting what Hon. Ongow had said that it is us who is dragging change by dragging in our voters. We should desist ourselves from bad politics. We all saw what was in Jinja, very clean environment, organized that you cannot compare with our Country. Let us work together as a County and make our environment clean.

Hon. Opepo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to support this report and say what is done in Jinja can as well be done here in Kisumu because it is a big city and as one of the speaker had

said, our attitude sometimes fail us. When you look at our Market, especially Kibuye which is an international market, you would wonder to see how people flock there as if it is the only market in the City. We have other markets and we should make them available for business.

We had already suggested in our Committee that every sub-county should have a market like Kibuye so that people do not just come from far chasing after one market. We need to have a modern market with a parking bay, and even a dispensary within the market. This will give job opportunity to our people. This is a good report and I support it. Jinja is a small town but the way it is planned you would admire. When we visited the dump site, which is just within the town, you would like it the way waste is being recycled. When you come to Kisumu, we are lacking where to recycle the solid waste because all the lands have been sold. Planning is key that should be implemented in our County because it is what is letting us down. I support.

Hon. Ayim: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to commend my chairperson and my friend Hon. Aloo for coming up with a good report and at the same time I also want to distance myself with another friend of mine (Chief Whip) for saying that there are only three chairmen who can write good reports in this house. It is not true. If you look at this report, it is well researched and touching vital areas like security. They have recommended that we can outsource for security from other regions and I think that is true because there is a big question mark on how we handle our security but as you know, it was not fully devolved but it has become a big issue in our County. The security is rotten. Just the other day, in my ward at Awasi market, in petrol station, a watchman was killed and nobody was seen around coming to assist and if you look at where the robbery took place and the Awasi Police Station is less than ½ kilometre and upto now I am not sure if these people have been apprehended. If you go into details you realize that those who were involved were not coming from far, they are just the people staying within the area. Something should be done about security because as it stands, we are going to lose our good investors and something should be done to our economy. Thank you.

Speaker (Hon. Elijah): I can see our Minority Leader is on his feet.

Leader of Minority (Hon. Auko): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker sir for giving me this opportunity and also to register my support on this very important report from Trade. This is of course one of the important reports that has ever come in this house. Until we shall do something to reduce corruption and impunity, there would be no order. Even if you will have good planners in this County it would not work. Where there is no order there is no security and I pray that this County will come up with measures that will reduce corruption and impunity that is the time we will pick up as a county and I want to say thank you and I support.

Hon. Koko: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to support all the explanations that have been given here. When I look at Kisumu as a County and with the policy that we have adopted in my impression, is a policy of grabbing. Kisumu started from a very good note and we cannot compare ourselves with places like Turkana, we are developed. The purpose for going to trade is to increase income and provide basic needs to people and hence improve their lives and also to earn revenue for the County. We really need to improve our markets. In china, if you go to the market, different items are categorized. If you want utensils, electricals e.t.c there is a particular market for it. That is something that we can do here I only recommend that we acquire piece of land that has been grabbed by the rich and decongesting Kisumu

markets will be very easy. In my area, I have talked to the railway people that the markets can be put in those areas for people to do business. Places like Onywongo are good places for cattle business. I want the chair of this committee to help me so that these markets are opened. I beg to support.

Hon. Aguko: I rise to support the report of this committee and recommendations made are very viable. Mr. Speaker, you witnessed the challenges of the Oile Market which was faced by the City Manager and the planning committee. The recommendations made by this committee on political interference, resistance of traders to stop constructions, e.t.c was manageable and as you can see, the park is now very beautiful and speaking in my position as Chair of planning, there are very good plans that if implemented, it would be a good city; example is the donor projects of improving Kibuye market and Otonglo markets and by extension some markets in the sub county. If respective markets in the Sub-Counties are identified for improvement like we have them in planning, this County will have markets that will generate revenue. Like the committee has recommended, we can borrow a leaf from other Countries.

I am aware of the upcoming improvement of Kibuye Market where a leaf was borrowed from Bankoc City. It should be encouraged not to be interfered with and I therefore support the idea of members going to borrow a leaf in other countries. Thank you.

Hon. Farida: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support this report and more specifically of the market infrastructure. Many women suffer when going about their business in the market and I remember sometime back there was a woman in Kibuye who could not afford to pay somebody to be guarding her stall so she used to go there and guard her stall, go back to the house to prepare and come back again to make a living so you can imagine how difficult it is. One day this woman was found raped and murdered in her stall. There are many other cases of women suffering in our markets. I really admire the Jinja central market facilities and even security within the market. The businesses are secure and comfortable and they ensure they get profit margin. We cannot adopt this when we are still analogue. However, my concern is, we have passed very many brilliant ideas in this house which go unimplemented and I feel demoralized. I do not know what miracles can be done to ensure that what we are saying here are implemented. We want to know what you are going to do for us so that our energy is not wasted.

The idea of the County Government giving credit facilities at a fair rate is a noble idea and it reminds me, there was a time I heard executive member for gender talking about the trade fund being negotiated with financial institutions but there was protest from people because financial instructions will always capitalize on this and make a kill. If we are not going the financial institution way, how would we go about it and get the fair rates?

Lastly, I want to echo my concern on the last recommendation on credit facilities touching on county trade policies. We have never passed any policy as an assembly and it is high time we compel the executive to generate this policy. They are very good they will help us but if we just leave as open cheque, it will be another song. Otherwise I commend the committee for this good report.

Hon. Ogesi: I also rise to support the report. I join my colleagues by saying that all is not well in Kisumu. The reason we went to Jinja was benchmark and I want to say that an

organization is as good as leadership and if you see an organization which is failing, then the leadership is also failing. I cannot agree also that Kisumu County has not done well because it also means the leadership has not done well. A number of things have been said including negative politics that whenever the executive sets to do something, the representative of the people incites the people such that the project is not done. A lot of the things we are saying, the underlined factor is resources which is the availability of money which will mean we build a modern market in every sub county and I have looked at this report, that if we want to build these market we must spend 7 billion. Do we have that much? It is almost impossible given what we have. We have passed finance bills in this house which allows the government to collect revenue and remember in 2014/2015, there was element of taxation to boda boda industry and tuk tuk, what happened? These traders protested and the next thing you ran away from discussing the matter. If we are serious that we really want Kisumu County to change then we must take painful decisions.

We went and visited the shores of Lake Victoria in Jinja and it was beautiful. The same Lake Victoria in our side, if you come to Lwangni Beach, it is pathetic. These are the things that must be taken by any serious leadership. We are in the third year and I have not seen any serious action to take Kisumu where it should be. We are leading Kisumu residence by heart, it is like we came here without a plan. The Governor must put a policy in place to collect revenue to move the County forward. And may be, it is not probably because people are not paying revenue, it could be going in other people's pocket. These are the things we must address. I support this report and I believe the committee concerned will meet the executive head on because that is our work. Thank you.

Hon. Otiende: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion. Before I contribute I want to tell Hon. Ogosi that he is becoming monotonous. I can say the way I am providing leadership is the best in my opinion and you should stand and apologise to Hon. Members. It is true that we went to Jinja and saw many things and I want to urge Members of this House that if you go outside the County kindly take your time and bring back something for us to implement. I have heard members talk of investors, I want to put this directly that we have discussed a lot on land and I want to assure this house that there is no land which has been grabbed in this City. I want to inform the house that we do not even have land to expand these markets we are talking about. I want to remind the house that we should come up with proper legislation that can guide us to tackle these issues. Thank you.

Hon. Isaya: There is something I want to share with you, a member has just talked about proper management and I want to say that when we were in Kisumu Municipal, this issue of dump site, the Council got a land somewhere in Obambo Otonglo road, after a full consultation with the people around that place and the management then agreed but the politicians around that place went and incited the people and when the actual time came the people again refused. If the people can turn down development in the area, what can you do? I want to remind Hon. Ogosi that people can always say no because of bad politics.

Hon. Agwanda: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I therefore request the chair for trade to reply.

Speaker: The mover, Hon. Aloo

Hon. Aloo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me start by thanking Hon. Members for their inputs in this important report especial Hon. Ongow when he said all that is required is change of

attitude and Mr. Speaker, while our key mandate is to make law, we are always the first to break the law by inciting the public. This report has covered a lot of areas and as a county we are faced with same challenges. I want to take an example of Kibuye Market, what you see there is confusion to the extent that we are unable to collect revenue. If we could copy what we saw in Uganda, an organized way of collecting revenue, we would move far. They do not even handle cash and if Kisumu would do the same, and this require a lot of consultations with the authority. As one Hon. Member was concerned about if what we discuss here are really implemented, I would not be able to say and I want to challenge the chair for implementation to tell us if implementation is done. With those very few remarks I request that the report be adopted.

Speaker (Hon. Elijah): Hon. Members, I now want to put a question that the report of Trade be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to).

The report is adopted and it is now committed to the committee of implementation. The committee will now engage relevant committees and give report back within two weeks. Implementation committee should also liaise with liaison committee. You will engage the City manager and the Committee of Planning. I want to congratulate the committee of trade because this could have been a report from the Committee of the Whole House but they have taken their initiative to bring this report.

Adjournment:

The house stands adjourned until 2.30 p.m

(All rise)

(Speaker's procession)

(End)