

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

2ND ASSEMBLY- 2ND SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday 11th April, 2018

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Ndegwa Wahome) in the Chair]

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(The clerk-at-the-table confirms that there is quorum)

Speaker: Very well, Hon. Members, quorum having been recognized we proceed with the business for this sitting.

First order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF LIVING LOVE CHILDREN'S HOME

Hon. Members, I have a brief communication to make and the same is in the following terms;

I wish to notify you that today, Wednesday the 11th day of April, 2018 we have the honour of welcoming teachers and pupils of Living Love Children Home in Karau Ward, Ol'Kalou Sub County in Nyandarua County.

There are a total of forty three (43) students and six (6) teachers/caregivers who are leading the delegation namely;

1. Mr. Elijah Mbugua - Manager
2. Ms. Lydia Mbugua -Assistant Manager
3. Ms. Alice Kuria
4. Ms. Mercy Muthoni
5. Ms. Hannah Njeri
6. Ms. Jane Wairimu

In the delegation, we also have the leadership of the students led by;

1. Joseph Kariuki - Student Leader

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2. Doreen Kari - Student Leader

As an assembly, we have a longstanding tradition of cordially welcoming our visitors especially students who come to learn as we deliberate on vital county matters. I therefore ask you Honourable Members to join me in applauding the previously mentioned teachers/care givers and students from Living Love Children Home.

(Applause)

Finally, I wish to thank the Member of the County Assembly (MCA) for the area (Karau ward), namely, Hon. Kenneth Mukira Mahianyu for ensuring the school is accommodated appropriately at the Assembly during their visit to the County Assembly today. Therefore, *karibuni*.

Next order.

PAPER(S) LAID

REPORT ON THE BENCHMARKING VISIT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY TO YATTA CONSTITUENCY

Very well, the Member for Leshau Pondo and Leader of Majority Party, Hon. Peter Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a report on the benchmarking visit of the elected members of the County Assembly to Yatta Constituency.

The topic was on agriculture, village economy and integrated farming.

Speaker: Leader of Majority Party, I think before you proceed to highlight the main issues in the report, you first table it formally. Then, proceed with the content.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker, I table the report.

Speaker: Very well, the report dated between 1st and 3rd March 2018 is duly table. Proceed member.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker, I would like to make some highlights on the visit. On behalf of the delegation that travelled to Matuu in Yatta Constituency, Machakos County I take this opportunity to thank the Cabinet Secretary for the State Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, for extending his invitation to the elected Members of Nyandarua County Assembly.

Further, I wish to appreciate the efforts of the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for ensuring the visit was successfully undertaken. Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to thank the CIM team, the facilitators, led by Bishop Dr Titus Masika, and, the County Assembly secretariat for the mobilization and a job well done.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the delegation I wish to present this paper to the Honourable House for consideration. The MCA number one, who is the Speaker and all other MCAs, plus the secretariat, formed the delegation.

Executive Summary

Going through the executive summary of the report Mr Speaker, drought is a deficiency in rain, over an extended period usually a season or more, resulting in water shortage, causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals and people. Drought causes...

(Hon. Gathure Wambui rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Kaimbaga, Hon. Gabriel Gathure Wambui?

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Mr Speaker, if the member was not reading the report, I would not have risen on a point of order but now I think he is reading something that is wrong. He has just said that we had MCA number one who happens to be you and all other MCAs. However, you all know that not all the thirty nine (39) members travelled. Only the elected members of the Assembly made the visit to Yatta. I think he should make his point clear that only the elected and not all MCAs visited Yatta.

Speaker: My only concern was on the term 'elected' because all MCAs are elected. All thirty nine (39) of you are elected according to the constitution. What the report would have clarified is that the twenty-five (25) are elected universally through universal suffrage but according to the constitution, all of you are elected and I think what we are required to do in the report is to indicate all the members elected through universal suffrage.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker...

(Hon. Andrew Kamau rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Gathaara, Hon. Andrew Kamau Kariuki?

Hon. Andrew Kamau: Through your guidance Mr Speaker, I would like to know who is supposed to table the issues relating to agriculture. Is it the Leader of the Majority Party or is it the chairperson of the respective committee?

Thank you.

Speaker: Leader of the Majority Party, please resume your seat. Actually, this did not entail the Committee on Agriculture since it is a National Government agenda being operationalized by the Cabinet Secretary for the State Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the members involved are those elected through universal suffrage. Not all of them are members of the Committee on Agriculture. Therefore, the true representative although there are independents, I know Member for Kaimbaga would have wanted to be part of delivering the report but unfortunately we go by the majority which has a high percentage and is represented by the Leader of the Majority Party. That is what informed the position.

Proceed Leader of the Majority.

(Hon. Githinji Mwaniki rises on a point of order)

What is it Member for Geta, Hon. John Githinji Mwaniki?

Hon. Githinji Mwaniki: Thank you Mr Speaker. According to the tradition, the mover was only required to table the document and then give a notice of motion. Then, the House Business Committee allocates time so that it can be dispensed with but going through the nitty-gritty now and probably the members are not acquainted with the document, it would be disadvantageous to them. Therefore, it is important for us to go through it so that we can have it debated on tomorrow or any other day other than today.

Speaker: A good concern but obviously not correct because this document cannot generate a resolution. It is not for implementation by the County Government of Nyandarua but purely for information to the Hon. Members that there is another engagement at another level of government meant to come and assist Nyandarua. It is therefore for information purposes only. Proceed Leader of the Majority.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker once again. I want to clarify to the Member for Kaimbaga that I actually meant the twenty five (25) elected MCAs through universal suffrage as the Hon. Speaker has put it. As I continue...

(Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it County Member from Kiriita, Hon. Milkah Wanjiru Ndirangu?

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Is it in order Mr Speaker for the Leader of the Majority Party to say that he represents only twenty-five (25) elected members on the floor of this House whereas we know we are thirty nine (39) members in this Assembly?

Speaker: I have said, just for the purposes of the report, he is representing the majority against the Member for Kaimbaga who is representing the minority...

(Laughter)

So, the obvious choice to deliver the report is the Leader of Majority and should take up those honours since for this presentation, he is definitely representing the Majority Party in the House.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: I think he needs to withdraw the statement to indicate that he is representing the thirty nine (39).

Speaker: No! No! No! For the purposes of the report, he is representing the twenty five (25) and actually it is on that basis that he talked about the twenty five (25). Otherwise, if he says he representing thirty nine (39) members for the purposes of this report, it would be a lie which would not be right.

Proceed Leader of Majority Leader.

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani rises on a point of order)

What is up? I think Leader of the Majority you will have to abandon this report.

(Laughter)

Yes, Member for Githabai, Hon. Rimui Kaiyani.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am only raising a concern about where the report was generated from. Which committee came up with that report? When was it written? Thank you.

Speaker: For the Hon. Members, I think that we went through the entire process and there was nothing else to add to this report other than what we learned in Yatta. We had carried with us a competent secretariat which after we left Yatta and after taking into consideration the presentations there and sentiments of the members came up with a report. It is a general report on what transpired for the record of this House. So, proceed Leader of Majority Party.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. When reading this report, I am also representing the three independent members of this House. In Africa, most areas classified as arid and semi-arid regions (ASALs) experience drought year in, year out, with unprecedented effects to communities. In return, most of these communities do not think outside the box and hence, develop a dependency syndrome for relief food every time they are hit by drought.

This case is replicated in almost every part of Kenya where rain is the major factor needed for agriculture. Yatta Constituency in Machakos County was once such as place ten (10) years ago. However, this narrative was changed through an initiative dubbed “Operation Molyo Out” (OMO)¹ after the year 2009 drought that left people in Matuu, Makutano village living in very humiliating conditions.

The church-led project through Christian Impact Mission under the leadership of Bishop Dr. Titus Masika brought the households together with an aim of kicking out hunger and eliminating relief food for good through a model that embraced integrated community transformation approach, which further addressed the various problems that had turned the residents of Matuu into beggars.

Yatta Constituency – Food Security

Yatta Constituency is one of the six constituencies that constitute the expansive Machakos County. The area is among the Arid and semi- arid (ASAL) regions of Kenya “yatta means dry area”. The region receives unpredictable rains of less than 500mm annually. The temperatures range from 10°C to 28°C. The altitude of Yatta ranges between 700-800 meters above sea level fitting the characteristic of a hot tropical climate where evaporation exceeds rainfall. In spite of the tough climatic conditions, the constituency plays host to approximately 148,000 people.

Just like other dry lands, the region has previously suffered from severe food shortage forcing the community to rely on food relief locally referred to as “mwolyo” as a survival strategy. The overdependence on relief food did not provide the much needed solution for the continuing food shortage because the aids would always run out or was withheld due to various reasons.

Operation Mwolyo Out

In 2009, Christian Impact Mission (CIM), a Christian led organization initiated a project dubbed “Operation Molyo Out”. The project was started after realization that the community in Yatta needed to be liberated from the dependency syndrome of ‘*serikali saidia*’ to being the drivers of their own lives and destiny. CIM crafted a model known as Community Transformation Model which first, zeros in on mind-set change and an empowered worldview which guarantees success. The mind-set change and worldview approach shifted the community’s mentality from dependency to empowerment and self-sustainability which is a “human resource based development” as compared to the usual failed “project based development approach”.

Water Pans/Water Harvesting

Mr. Speaker Sir, Yatta was a dry and unproductive land and sadly many people thought that nothing good could come out of the place; the greatest problem was water.

¹ Mwolyo means relief in the local Kamba dialect

It is said that women and children would travel 23km to fetch a 20 litre jerry can of water daily. Project OMO addressed this by exploring water harvesting technology to supplement the scanty rain water. To get this done, villagers dug up pans of 20ft deep to collect rainwater in their farms. In fact to date, each homestead has up to two water pans. The villagers were excited about what they had achieved since the water collected in the pans is used to irrigate crops to maturity. Slowly but steadily, this has led to food security in the region.

Chapter 2: Observations and Findings

Mr. Speaker, Sir; this chapter highlights the delegation's learning experience from the training, observations and findings in regard to the field visits conducted in the CIM Centre and the local community.

Training

1. Bishop Dr. Titus Masika educated Members on reasons why there is food insecurity and slow economic development in Africa. He focused on the approach to development being a Human Facility Development methodology. He jogged members' minds on how leaders initiate good projects with good intentions but end up not benefiting the community due to lack of community project ownership. Members hence understood the need to shift development approach to human development for facility development. This approach first focuses on empowering individuals for a holistic community development which further drives the need for development of facilities. He gave an example of a philosophy from Mwalimu Julius Nyerere who said that development means developing people such that, roads, buildings and increase in crops output are not developmental in nature but rather are tools of development, i.e, an increase in potatoes, cabbages, carrots is only developmental if it leads to better nutrition and increased individual income. That is, it is only through the development of people rather than things that people's true freedom and human dignity can be preserved.
2. Members were able to learn that if a people based development approach is used, the communities becomes self-reliant, raises peoples self-esteem and improves self-sufficiency in a self-sustainable way. It was also noted that the communities develop resilience towards challenges since they hold their destiny and not on relief from donors. An example was given on Makeni County that is slowly developing into a First World County given that everybody in the community is producing and there is improvement of the communities' economy.
3. That there was need to change the mindset of the individuals, families, communities, wards, county governments and the national government, from the old-styled belief that crops grow when there is rain to crops need water to grow. Hence, the need to harvest water for farming during the dry seasons. He also retaliated on the need to have a systematic value chain approach mindset. He gave an example of maize farming as follows-

‘...youths can sell maize seed if empowered with the right skills of making certified seeds - people can provide ploughing services – farm inputs – agro chemicals – services on weeding – grow maize sales – maize floor making – animal feeds making–cooking oil extraction e.t.c. the focus was on value addition to our products so as to fetch maximum profits...’

4. That for sustainable transformation and ending unhealthy dependency from the constituents, there is need for farmers to diversify on the types of crops planted in Nyandarua and move away from seasonal farming to agribusiness that will ensure reliable household income throughout the year.
5. A tour of the farms gave Members exposure on how to ensure maximum productivity with minimum resources by ensuring that the ecosystems in the farms have a symbiotic relationship -One Acre Rule. For instance in his farm, he plants vegetables which feeds chicken, chicken waste is fed to pigs. He plants sunflowers that help bees to produce honey and the seeds are fed to chicken. He rears rabbits, uses their urine as organic fertilizer, the waste is fed to fish, water from fish ponds is sprayed to plants in a nearby green house. He has a number of cows that are healthy and demonstrated how to store feeds, cow urine is used as organic fertilizer while the cow dung is first used to produce biogas then the waste is used as organic fertilizer.
Evidently, nothing went to waste from the farm; a clear manifestation of principles of maximum returns from minimum inputs could be evident in all aspects.
6. The committee visited two farmers who were beneficiaries and ambassadors of the CIM project models. Members were mesmerized by how green the farms were despite the climatic conditions and the variety of crops available. Members noted that the area was far much ahead of Nyandarua which is among the food basket areas in the Country. In one of the farms, the farmer was producing paw paws, mangoes, bullet chillies, tomatoes, onions, soya beans, groundnuts, he has also kept cows and sheep. It was hence evident that he could sell something at any given time of the year. The farmers were simply practicing agribusiness as compared to what is practiced in Nyandarua.

Way Forward; members were challenged to forge out a way forward for their communities for sustainable self-reliance. Members came up with some strategies for elevating their economic status and those of their communities. It was agreed that;

1. Members having been trained, there was need for them to be ambassadors of the CIM model by having a model farm in their places that would spark people's mindset change.
2. Secondly, to try out the best method of water harvesting given the soil structure in the County.
3. Thirdly, to shift from the traditional ways of farming to impact farming, that is organized farming that entails studying the farming trends and using the shortcoming to come up with solutions that will ensure high farm yields and high income.
4. Fourthly, identify a village where a number of individuals will be trained and act as champions or ambassadors of the CIM model in the county. This will include promotion of innovative ways for value addition, small agro-processing plants that will elevate the village economies and will achieve the much hyped one product per village.

Mr Speaker Sir, the delegation came up with the following recommendations;

- A. That, the County Assembly does identify areas where the one-acre-rule models will be replicated and act as demonstration centers for easy transfer to the community.
- B. That, as a matter of urgency, the personal assistants to the MCAs be trained by CIM so as to act as champions on behalf of the MCAs who are mostly busy.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker Sir, it is evident that mind set change and worldwide view repositions communities from the realm of slavery and dependency to the realm of empowerment and prosperity. The lives of our people can be transformed and food security can be achieved through such initiatives. It is therefore crucial to implement and adopt new methods of farming within our communities including water harvesting as learnt during the visit.

Mr Speaker this visit was based on the big four agenda of our beloved president and if we practice this in Nyandarua we shall be supporting one of those agenda and in the process making our county richer through agriculture.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: I will use my discretion to allow comments on that report. I will indicate that this was not a public relations exercise. The CECM is very keen on it. He is currently in South Sudan and by Friday he will have given me a tentative date that we should be able to meet him for the next phase, implementation. I now invite any comments on the report.

Yes member for Kaimbaga Hon. Gabriel Gathure Wambui

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to confirm that that the report is the true record of what transpired at Yatta. Those are the observations that we made. I think that visit made us learn how to use available materials and resources to produce what can benefit a person and the community. We learnt much in agri-business.

I represent a ward where most people are languishing in poverty and get hungry. Comparing the climate in Yatta to what we have in Nyandarua, we have an upper hand. When people in Ukambani are crying of hunger and shortage of water that should not be happening in Nyandarua. It is however happening. Our climate is good and we can harvest a lot of water as they have done, by probably digging water pans, they were calling them Silangas. If each home would have a water pan, we can produce vegetables and do fish farming. It would become easier for each homestead to get enough food to cater for the family.

I also saw this as a business opportunity. People in areas such as Kandutura and Mihuti are ignorant. If they can start farming, they would come to sell their products in Ol'Kalou market. In Nyandarua, we have only one source of protein - milk. Due to peasant farming practiced here; all milk produced by farmers is sold to milk processing companies such as KCC, Brookside, Kinangop and Muki. Very little is left for the families. There other source of protein they can find is beans but in Nyandarua, we do not grow beans. I learnt in Bishop Masika's farm that fish farming could be a great source of protein for families. This is can be done in Nyandarua.

It is good that the County Executive appreciates and implements this report. The department of Agriculture can give the farmers fingerlings so that they can start farming. There has been a myth, I do not know whether it is a myth or the truth, that people living at the lakeside mostly the Luos have a higher IQ because of consuming fish. We can do the same here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that in future when your office organises such a trip, we shall be ready to go.

Speaker: Yes county member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity that you have given me to make some few comments and observations on the report on the Benchmarking visit by Elected Members of County Assembly to Yatta constituency.

Indeed, I want to confirm that the content on this report is true even if I never went to Yatta. When I realized that elected members had gone to Yatta, as a representative of gender in this county, I decided to learn what is done in Yatta. I went to the internet and I saw what is done in Yatta. Indeed, what is in the report is what I got from the internet. We, the nominated members

were left out but I do not know whether it was deliberate or not. Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri was among the members of parliament that compiled the Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Review of the Constitution on the Reviewed Harmonized Draft Constitution knows the benefit of Constitution of Kenya 2010, where the nominated members...

(Hon. Andrew Kamau rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Gathaara, Hon. Andrew Kamau Kariuki?

Hon. Andrew Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker sir, she is talking of not being among the members that went to Yatta but she was not invited. One has to be invited for one to be in an occasion.

(Laughter)

Speaker: Member for Gathaara you would have allowed that to pass. Obviously, you attend by invitation. I do not know whether to say that the invitation was meritorious or not, however, as all members are aware, I made it clear because I like doing these things over the table, this was a program of the National Government and it was involving only the elected members of the County Assembly, to help it in ensuring that there is food security in the country starting with the smallest units, the wards.

I know that members have been able to ask around and are aware that the same thing happened in Laikipia, Nyeri and two other counties. I know the same principal would be applied because this was a policy from the National Government. County member from Kiriita proceed.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker, the Hon. Member jumped before the gun because I was just making an observation and I was saying that there are benefits that we have in the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

I do not know what to say but we are not considering the nominated members in moving the Big Four agenda. This is a good initiative. I would like the member for Gathara to listen to what I am saying. There was a similar trip made by Nyeri and Laikipia counties and the nominated members were included. We are not saying that we must be included; I said we got our own ways of learning about Yatta. I went to the ground and people were talking about water pans. I had more information to give to them. We are actually planning on how we are going to start constructing them in our village so that they can harvest water and act in line with one of the four agenda, food production.

This is a good initiative and it would be better if it were introduced in our county. We are now experiencing very heavy rains but I will tell you that not many people are harvesting water. After a month or so, we shall hear people complaining that they do not have water yet there was an opportunity to harvest water to be used for fish farming and other things.

I pray that in future when there is such a trip, it should be remembered that we represent Wanjiku, that woman who walks those many kilometres to fetch water. I represent about 34,000 widows in this county, and they are expected to provide for their families and do other domestic work such as fetching water. For us to reap the benefits of this constitution, it is good that we involve all the leaders in this county assembly because it is known that they are also able to deliver. They can help do one or two things in this county and also push the food security agenda too. I hope that with your leadership, you shall talk to the department concerned and ask them to include your able nominated members of this county assembly because this has happened in other county assemblies.

Speaker: To verify I got that information from no other person other than the CECM himself. I will go back and verify what the member has said. Member for Charagita, Hon. Wairimu Njane.

Hon. Wairimu Njane: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support this report and to confirm that it is true. It was an eye opener. In kikuyu that is a proverb that says, *'utathiaga oigaga no nyina ui kuruga wega'*². We left Yatta knowing that we have great thinkers in Yatta. There was mind change. When most of us think about planting season, we think about the rains. It came out clearly that plants do not need rain but water. I am happy to hear that the CECM is preparing for phase two. I hope it comes soon before the fire about the visit goes off.

While we were there, we talked about many plans and we deliberated a lot. If we do not implement what we learned there, this will be a waste. I hope we shall have more of these and if they are implemented, we shall help our people.

Speaker: member for Githioro Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker, I join the rest in supporting this report. For those that were privileged to attend that training it was an eye opener for them. Looking at the issue of food in Nyandarua and the policies that the County Executive is making we realize that in a short while we shall be dependent on other county economies to feed our own. This has been caused by serious subdivision of land such that we can no longer do any mechanization. In view of this and given the ideas of the water pans the amount of food that can be produced in a small piece of land is significantly higher than what we are currently having people produce on bigger chunks of land.

Looking at the youth who are now disadvantaged because of lack of employment, I think this would be the way to go for them because there are going to enjoy even higher returns than they are doing now. The idea of water pans where we are not going to depend on rain fed agriculture is welcome because it will enable these youths to cultivate during the dry season when the demand for this produce is high. I would like that this report is adopted by this county executive because it is going to be a source of income for them and improve their standards of living.

Speaker: Member for North Kinangop Hon. Edinald Wambugu King'ori

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support this bench marking report that was done by members of this House. The observation that has been made by the county member for Kiriiita is good, it should sink into our mind, and I would like you to react on the same. They are part of us.

Mr Speaker I learnt that it is all about the mindset. Yatta plateau is a dry area and today people there are feeding themselves. Food security is one of the agenda of the president this term. Most of Nyandarua county land is 'virgin' land. We are the ones who leads in feeding Nairobi County. We can implement what we found out there. I believe that this House will be able to follow up on implementation of the same.

Water pans are among the projects in the CIDP that was approved by this House. What we are supposed to be thinking about is where to get the money and policy for doing this. Do we have sound policies that will go *in tandem* with the CIDP so that at least each and every household will be able to get water?

Water is life, I learnt in Yatta that if you have water, you have everything. Call it domestic use or irrigation, all that you would want to do in life comes from water. I am therefore in support of this one and I know this is a stride ahead for Nyandarua County.

² One who does not visit other places says it is only his mother that cooks good food.

I beg to support.

Speaker: Very well the member for Njabini Kiburu, Hon. James Kiiru Gachomba.

Hon. James Gachomba: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support this motion and support the mover of this motion, the Majority Leader. We learnt a lot in Yatta. Dr Masika, alias Bishop who taught us about food security...

(Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu rises on a point of order)

Speaker: Yes what is it County member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu?

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker. Is the member for Njabini/Kiburu in order to say that he is supporting the mover of the motion yet we are discussing a paper Mr Speaker?

Speaker: The member for Njabin/Kiburu is obviously out of order because there is no motion for deliberation or interrogation. We are merely commenting on the report as tabled and moved by the Majority Leader.

Hon. James Gachomba: Thank you Mr Speaker for your wise guidance. I wish to move on. We appreciate what Dr. Masika taught us on food production and food security. We learnt how, as a community, should have community-based projects that will increase food security and improve our economic status. We learnt on how we can harvest water in our areas so that we can increase the yields in our farms.

He spoke of how Dr Nyerere talked about development and empowering people in terms of helping them improve their products. He actually told us how we should be ambassadors when we get back to our place of work and how we can help our community in terms of improving their livelihood. We were taught on how to diversify our crops and do crop rotations so that we can achieve a lot in production. He emphasised on being self-reliant and avoid begging all the time from our neighbours or the National Government by improving our productivity and avoid handouts from different food agencies. We were taught on how we can even engage our youth and increase productivity with the new techniques and skills.

We would also like to thank our Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture who had said that he would provide water pans in each and every ward so that we can increase the yields in our farms. Mr Speaker, in a nutshell, I want to say that it was a wonderful tour because we learnt a lot on how we can improve on food production in our Country.

I wish to support.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Karau Hon. Esther Mwangi.

Hon. Esther Mwangi: Yes Mr Speaker, I rise to support the report by the Majority Leader. I would also wish to welcome our visitors from Living Love Children's Home. They are wonderful people because I know them. They are my neighbours back in the village. I also want to remind the members that there was a post sent by Sergeant Kimeria about the Living Love Children's Home. Here they are. He had requested that we donate anything we felt like donating and it is important that we do so. This is one of the best children's home; the cleanest and with wonderful parents.

I rise to support the report and appreciate all that was seen there. We would also wish to say that the next time you are going, you inform Hon. Kiunjuri that you have nominated members. We would also have wanted to come with such reports and join in sharing the gospel on agribusiness. We feel appreciated and feel part of you by accompanying you people. Thank you Mr Speaker

Speaker: Those are good observations from that report and when the debate is exhausted, we are going to do the necessary to ensure that the Cabinet Secretary is seized of the report and transcript of the Hansard so that he can see that we have embraced the programme and factor in funds for implementation of the same.

Next.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE MOTION ON ADEQUATE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Speaker: Very well, the member for Engineer, Hon. Samuel Njatha Kinyanjui.

Hon. Samuel Njatha: Thank you Mr Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

Aware that Part Two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya mandates the Counties with functions of implementation of specific National Government policies on Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, including soil and water conservation as well as County Public works and services including strong water management systems in built up areas.

Further aware that article 189 of the Constitution requires liaison between the two arms of Government, for the purpose of exchanging information, coordinating policies and administration and enhancing capacity on each level of Government to undertake its mandates.

Concerned of the consistent flooding and clogging of water wastes around the road network in the County during the heavy rainy season. Further concerned of the poor drainage mechanisms in place which render the flow of the storm waters into people's farms causing massive destruction of farms and other utilities.

Noting that the County Government can collaborate with the National Government to ensure adequate storm water management through proper systems to foster water harvesting and irrigation in the County,

Now therefore this House does resolve that:

1. The County Government prepares a blue print on strong water management for the County;
2. That the County Government does consider sinking and building of water pans to harvest storm and rain water from the road reserves for ease of water harvesting and subsequent mitigation of the flooding menace on people's farms; and,
3. That the County Government does seek any intergovernmental assistance to facilitate the successful implementation of the storm water management system and water harvesting techniques from the viable stakeholders.

Mr Speaker, we are all aware that we are in the rainy season. It is my hope that this motion is passed and this County works for its people and maintain our roads. When we travelled for benchmarking in Yatta, we noticed that these people do not even wait for the Government or leaders to come and build drainages. The people in Yatta took the initiative of removing the soil that clogs the waterways. I also observed that their roads were not in bad shape because of this initiative.

In my opinion, if we are going to adopt such an initiative and dig up the water pans for our people, I think we shall be encouraging them to start taking care of the drainages. Some of them barricade the waterways to stop the storm water from entering into their *shambas*. If we are able

to build water pan for our people, I think we will encourage them store water for use when the rains are not so heavy or during the dry spell.

If our people embraced this system, we can engage our youth and employ some of them to maintain these water pans and clear our roads in readiness for the rainy season. It is possible for the County Government to collaborate with the National Government and see to it that even dams are built to control this.

We all know that our region lies on the windward side of the Aberdare ranges. That is the reason we experience long rains. Our water drains as far as Lake Naivasha. It is important that we store some of this water for us instead of letting all the water drain into the lake. I urge this house to support me and let's have these mechanisms put in place. I now call upon *Mheshimiwa* Ngeche to second.

Speaker: Very well. Member for Kipipiri, Hon Paul Ngeche.

Hon. Paul Ngeche: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to second the motion. This motion before us is so important and crucial that if adopted and implemented, it will boost the economy of our people.

I will highlight two scenarios where our people normally suffer during dry spells. They cannot afford clean, consistent and affordable water. This dates back to fifty four (54) years – since independence. When it rains, another menace arises especially the destruction of our infrastructure. Crops are usually destroyed and sometimes, there are outbreaks of diseases. The rain therefore brings more harm to our people than good.

We can change this scenario and actually benefit from it. We can use the water in a more productive way by ensuring that we harvest it. The big question is, how do we go about this? We ought to refer to Article 189 (2) of the Constitution that states:

Government at each level, and different governments at the county level, shall cooperate in the performance of functions and exercise of powers and, for that purpose, may set up joint committees and joint authorities.

For that purpose Mr Speaker, we set a joint committee authority. Further, Article 190 of the Constitution supports the county government by saying that:

Parliament shall by legislation ensure that county governments have adequate support to enable them to perform their functions.

This one Mr Speaker, as I summarize, it will assist us, as a county, to harvest this water and thereafter, we can use it for irrigation so that we can raise the production or the yield of our farmers. Besides, our country and by extension our country will be cleaner.

Thank you Mr Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes, Member for Gathara, Hon. Andrew Kamau Kimani.

Hon. Andrew Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate on this motion. First, it is important that we support this motion because during the rainy season, our roads get damaged. If the county government does all that is necessary to ensure that drainages are well maintained, we can reduce the costs that come with the maintenance of these roads. Mr Speaker, if you visit my ward you can attest that most of the road network is damaged by floods. So, it is important that we support this motion. If drainage is well done, the roads that were done by the previous regime could still be in the right condition.

This flood water can be used for aquafarming and the work for harvesting it be done by our youth. In addition, we can utilize the water for horticultural and greenhouse farming as we saw in Yatta.

Mr Speaker, if you dig up some water pans in our wards, we can help our people. At primary school, we were taught about convectional rainfall. It happens when the sun heats the water surface causing the water to evaporate. The evaporated water then undergoes condensation causing rainfall. Therefore, if we dig up some water pans, we can create another source of rainfall in our area.

Further, we also have the issue of soil fertility. The water that causes floods causes erosion and dissolves the minerals in the soil. When the silt flows into the lakes and oceans, our soils are left bare since they have a deficiency of these nutrients. As a result of water floods eroding the soil poor crop production is experienced in many parts of the county. Actually the reason that there is overgrowth of hyacinth in Lake Naivasha is probably because of the minerals deposited by rivers there having been drained of our farms.

Mr Speaker, water should be harvested during rainy seasons and preserved for use during dry seasons. During dry seasons, for example, residents of my ward suffer lack of water. Accordingly, they travel long distances in search of water. But should water be harvested during rainy season, our people would use the time they consume searching for water during dry seasons to do other economic activities.

I remember of a person in Kiambu who generates power from the water they collect during rainy seasons. In view of this, our youths are innovative enough and, therefore, they can use harvested water to generate domestic power.

I congratulate the Member for Engineer, Hon. Samuel Njatha, for moving the motion at hand. It is the high time that the Executive, in collaboration with the national government, established ways of harvesting and preserving water for purposes of using it in income generating activities as a water of bettering the lives of our people.

A renowned author said, "Use what you have to get what you do not have". We can use water harvested during rainy seasons in various income generating activities. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Gatimu, Hon. Kieru Wambui.

Hon. Kieru Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to support the motion, which is very noble. The author of the motion has done something commendable. We appreciate his efforts. Motions that are moved in the interest of Wanjiku such as the one at hand are the ones that we want to go down in history as having been passed by the County Assembly of Nyandarua.

Before I forget, I wish to observe that most of the things that our Assembly 'pushes' do materialize. That is history that has been set. Some of these things should not be taken for granted.

Recently we passed a motion on the feeding programme. Why was the programme implemented; it is because the Executive was willing to implement it Mr Speaker. I believe we shall pass the motion at hand. I pray the Executive does implement the resolutions emanating from the motion at hand. It is the high time we did real things that tough on the people. I am not saying that the feeding programme is not a real thing. You realise that some of the things the County Executive of Nyandarua is doing are based on populist ideas.

Why is development not taking place in our wards and why was the feeding programme launched so quickly? You fail to understand what is happening.

We passed a budget incorporating development vote heads. The Executive, for example, bought vehicles with the money we appropriated in the budget. Apart from a bus for the youth it procured vehicles for the departments of tourism and roads. But why are the roads not being upgraded in the wards? Why are ECDE classrooms not being constructed? Why are projects in the wards not being implemented?

The motion at hand has come at the right time. Does the County Executive not know that our roads need to be upgraded and drainage systems mended and improved? I remember that during his inauguration and swearing in of the CEC Members, Governor Kimemia promised that within one hundred days of his leadership he would bring to this House a bill on road encroachment and drainage systems. The motion at hand would enrich the bill on road encroachment and drainage systems. I am, and all of us are, waiting for the bill on road encroachment and drainage systems to be brought to this House. Road encroachment has really contributed to narrow road surfaces. Road surfaces should be wide enough to accommodate sewer and drainage systems as well as electricity lines. But how many roads have surfaces wide enough to accommodate all these? But the motion at hand is aimed at improving drainage systems along our roads regardless of the widths of the latter. This includes installation of culverts.

If drainage systems are improved it will be easier for our people to harvest water and store it in their farms. We say in Gikuyu that *kanua karia kariaga mbegu noko koragia kiria gakahanda*. Currently there is a lot of water running to waste. Unfortunately, when the rains subside people will experience water shortage. In view of this, the motion at hand also requires that we come up with a blueprint on storm water management in the county. One step towards this is passing the bill that Governor Kimemia promised.

Sinking and building of water pans will help in addressing water challenges in our county.

Mr Speaker, there has been encroachment of waterways. People have been given parcels of land that lie in waterways. That is why, during heavy rains properties are destroyed by storm water. This is something that should be addressed.

The motion also requires that the county government does seek intergovernmental assistance to facilitate successful implementation of storm water management systems. We are all aware that, during the era of provincial administration, Nyandarua was left behind in implementation of the systems that the motion at hand is focused on. With regard to this, I pray that the President, through CS Kiunjuri, will facilitate sinking of water pans in our county. We shall also be lucky to have the national government helping us to install storm water management systems and come up with water harvesting techniques because as a county we have been left behind.

I pray that the Executive does implement resolutions of this House emanating from the motion at hand. They initiated the feeding programme with forty million shillings; I am waiting to see if they will set aside seventy million shillings for implementation of the resolutions of this House emanating from the motion at hand. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Gathanji, Hon. Ngumo Ngamau.

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this noble motion. Nonetheless, I stand to be guided. When we, a few Members of this House, went to Mombasa, (I think we were seven: the Leader of the Majority, the Mheshimiwa for Njabini Kiburu and others) we happened to have a meeting with CS Kiunjuri. He said he had already dispatched a team of people and machines to Nyandarua to sink water pans. My question is can we form an ad hoc committee...

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau rises on a point of information)

Speaker: The Member for Gathanji, do you require the information from the Member for Leshau Pondo, Hon. Gathungu Kamau?

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Is it really necessary?

Speaker: It is your choice.

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Okay, let me hear from him.

Speaker: Proceed the Leader of the Majority, Hon. Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mine is a rejoinder to what the Member for Gathanji has talked about. CS Kiunjuri told us that he had already released the machines and I can confirm from where I am standing that the machines are already on the ground. Those deployed to Ndaragwa were received by the area MP and the work of sinking water pans has already begun. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Is the information useful the Member for Gathanji?

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Very useful. Now you can see the work has already started. Could we constitute an ad hoc committee of this House comprising Members from the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries, the Committee on Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources and the team that met CS Kiunjuri in Mombasa to engage with the Executive seriously to establish the work plans for the said machines. Hon. Gathungu Kamau has confirmed that the machines are already on the ground, though they are not at work in some wards. Considering that the Executive has emergency funds, let us follow up on this matter.

I request guidance on this matter from you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Murungaru, Hon. Kariuki Muchiri.

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker for granting me the chance to contribute to the motion. It is a very important motion and it has come at the right time, that is, during the rainy season. Effects of storm water are being experienced not only in the county but also across the country.

Storm water management is something that the government should think about seriously. Most of the rain water during both long and short rain seasons goes to waste because it is not harvested. Since provision of water services is a devolved function, it is the high time the county government came up with a policy document of harvesting of rain water. But before implementing this whole programme we must create public awareness.

Many households do not harvest water despite owning houses with iron sheet roofs. So it rains for, for example, three days and thereafter you find women going to the river to fetch water. This is very unfortunate. Our people need to be trained on harvesting rain water. They should, for example, dig small pans like the ones we saw in Yatta. The county government should sensitize the people on how to harvest rain water.

I agree with the Member for Engineer that if water pans are dug along the roadsides they would serve two purposes: they would help reduce the damage caused by running water on our roads and act as water reservoirs. Usage of preserved water during dry seasons is well known to Members; if not fed to cattle, it is usually used in irrigation. This is very important. We need to think of how to harvest water both in the rural and urban areas.

Roads that were upgraded during the last term are now in bad conditions. Not that good works were not done on the roads, but that there has been poor road drainage systems. Good roads go along with good drainage systems. With regard to this, money should be set aside to construct road drainage systems in all the wards.

I saw that the Executive is concentrating on sub county headquarters drainage works. It should not concentrate on that; there are many other upcoming urban areas in the county.

I beg to support.

Speaker: Yes the County Member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion. It, indeed, has come at the right time when we really need to harvest storm water for future usage. We really need this water considering that Nyandarua County is rich agriculturally. If resolutions of this House emanating from this motion are implemented, they will be of great importance to the county.

I want to make an amendment to the recommendations by introducing a sentence. As we construct drainage systems to save our roads and as we preserve rain water, we should look for other likely opportunities. The County Executive will be able to implement resolutions of this House emanating from this motion but management of the water pans preserving water for agricultural use may be difficult. So by looking for possible opportunities for our youth and women following implementation will be killing two birds with one stone.

Therefore, I wish to make an amendment to recommendation numbered 2 to add after the words “people’s farms”, “for agricultural use and agribusiness for women and youth groups”. Thank you.

Speaker: Firstly Hon. Member, you have not sought for leave to move the amendment as is anticipated. You have to do it pursuant to Standing Order 57, where the Speaker may allow in exceptional circumstances. I do not know any exceptional circumstances exist in this particular situation?

Secondly, if it is a normal amendment you are required to give a two-hours’ notice to the Office of the Clerk before the motion comes up for debate.

You have said after the words “people’s farms” in the second paragraph of recommendations?

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: I do not think the amendment can fit there because the paragraph is recommending on destruction.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Recommendation number two reads thus;

The county government does consider sinking and building of water pans to harvest storm and rain water from road reserves for ease of water harvesting and subsequent mitigation of flooding menace.

After the water has been harvested it can be put to agricultural and agribusiness use for the benefit of women and youth groups. That was my concern Mr Speaker. We are in a learning process and we shall continue learning. Thank you for your guidance Mr Speaker.

Speaker: I would have easily allowed the amendment; but, unfortunately, if you add the words that you are proposing after the end of that paragraph, they will not attain flow. If you read: “... *water harvesting and subsequent mitigation of flooding menace..*”, the flooding menace is on people’s farms. So we cannot add “for agricultural use and agribusiness for women and youth groups”. The statement ending in “people’s farms” has a negative connotation; so you cannot introduce a statement with a positive connotation. If the amendment could fit anywhere in the paragraph it would be at the middle, so that eventually the recommendation reads;

The county government does consider sinking and building of water pans to harvest storm and rain water from road reserves, *for agricultural use and agribusiness for women and youth groups*, for ease of water harvesting and subsequent mitigation of flooding menace.

That way it would fit; otherwise it distorts flow if put at the end of the paragraph and, as such, it would not communicate.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Then, Mr Speaker, I will go by your guidance that we include those words in the middle of that sentence. Thank you.

Speaker: So propose a motion to amend, between the words ‘for’ and ‘ease’ to include the words you are proposing and state them.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Mr Speaker, I rise to propose an amendment on recommendation No. 2 - that the County Government does consider sinking and building water pans to harvest storm and rain water from the road reserves for agricultural use in agribusiness for women and youth groups, for ease of water harvesting and subsequent mitigation of the flooding menace on people’s farms.

I beg to move and call upon Hon. Esther to second.

Speaker: Very well. County member from Karau, Hon. Esther Mwangi.

Hon. Esther Mwangi: I second.

(Question on amendment proposed)

(Question on amendment put and agreed to)

Speaker: The amendment will be effected and paragraph two will now read as, the County Government does consider sinking and building water pans to harvest storm and rain water from the road reserves for agricultural use in agribusiness for women and youth groups, for ease of water harvesting and subsequent mitigation of the flooding menace on people’s farms.

(Hon. Zachary Njeru rises on a point of order)

Yes, what is it member for Nyakio?

Hon. Zachary Njeru: The House is not quorate.

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: The county member from Kiriita is still on her feet but I would like the clerk-at-the-table to confirm whether that is the situation.

(There is no quorum as confirmed by the clerk- at- the- table)

Hon. Members, there being no quorum, I now invoke the provisions of order No. 35 (2) and direct that the bell be rung for eight (8) minutes.

(The bell rings for two (2) minutes, Hon. Hussein Kassana)

leaves the chamber)

Speaker: As the bell rings, I think the sergeant-at-arms should call back the whip. He is only allowed to go out to ensure that we acquire quorum, pursuant to Standing Order No. 36 (3) that states:

Except a party whip who may be permitted to leave the chamber to seek the members required to raise a quorum.

*(The bell rings for a further three (3) minutes
and quorum is achieved as confirmed by the clerk-at-the-table)*

Hon. Members, quorum having been achieved, county member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu, you can continue with your contribution.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the Hon. Members for supporting the amendment. It's indeed a step to ensuring that women and the youth have something to do. As we consider other issues, we also look at the opportunity that they can have in this county. With this, I support the motion with amendment and call the mover to respond.

Speaker: Very well. The mover and the member for Engineer, Hon. Samuel Kinyanjui Njatha.

Hon. Samuel Njatha: Thank you Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank this Hon. House for supporting this motion. They have shown that it came at the right moment. I would have liked the chairpersons for roads and agriculture to be in the House because I think this issue should be pushed forward by those two departments. My intention was to urge on the maintenance of roads through water harvesting from road reserves, boost our farmers and use the reserved water during the dry season. So, am pleased that the motion has gone through and I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: The motion is taken and the resolutions thereof shall be communicated to the County Executive. I don't really think that I have to belabour this. It is obvious that without proper drainage systems, we shall continue doing roads year in year out instead of putting the money in other deserving areas. So, I believe that the executive with its wisdom, will look take this motion positively and implement the same to save our infrastructure.

Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, the business for this afternoon sitting having been exhausted, this House will now adjourn to tomorrow, that is, Thursday, the 13th day of April, 2018 at 2.30 pm.

(The House rose at 4.25 pm).