

UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

HANSARD

Wednesday, 27th April, 2016

The House Met at 9:30AM

[Mr. Speaker (Hon. Isaac Terer) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Speaker (Hon. Isaac Terer): Hon. Members, I wish to apologize for starting this session late. This was due to the fact that our electronic system was being worked on. Now it is working and the Hansard may be recorded accordingly. I still apologize again for the mishap that we had yesterday.

NOTICES OF MOTION

SUBSIDIZING, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS AND SEEDS TO FARMERS

(Hon. Rebecca Sugut – MCA Kuinet/Kapsuswa Ward)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Pauline.

MCA Tuwei: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to give notice of Motion:

Aware that Uasin Gishu County is endowed with good land resources and varied agro-ecological potential, **Further Aware** that based on the National Bureau of Statistics quoted in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2013-18) our County is bread basket of this country producing about 4.5 million bags of maize and 1 million bags of wheat annually, **Concerned That** despite the efforts of farmers to promote more production, this has not been possible due to high cost of inputs especially fertilizer, seeds, pesticides and farm machinery, **Noting That** according to the County Integrated Development Plan (2013-18) agriculture supports over 80% of the population in terms of Household income and food security, **Further Concerned that** the production of the main food crops such as, maize, wheat and potatoes has generally been below the County's actual potential, **Cognizant That** the supply of subsidized fertilizer has been interfered with by the unscrupulous middlemen who have hijacked the supply and distribution of the same thus causing more suffering to farmers; **This County** Assembly urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries to partner with the National Government in Subsidizing, Supplying and distributing fertilizer and seeds to farmers so that the same are timely and readily availed to farmers before the start of every planting season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. The Motion may be moved.

Hon. Sanga, do you have a notice of Motion?

EMPLOYMENT OF ECDE TEACHERS SERVING IN ALL THE FEEDER ECDE CENTRES IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY

(Hon. Daniel Sanga – MCA Moi's Bridge Ward)

MCA Sanga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

Aware that ECDE is a devolved function, **Further Aware** that the type of education is a crucial programme that lays foundation for a child's holistically integrated education that meets the cognitive and affective psychological domains together with social, moral, spiritual

and spiritual developmental needs, **Concerned That** the introduction of Free Primary Education, FPE policy enticed poor parents to have a tendency of keeping their children at home until they reach entitlement age for free primary education leading to problem of unprepared standard one pupils which ends up affecting the evolution of the child; This County Assembly urges the County Government to revamp the entire subsector of the early childhood education, through employment of all ECDE teachers, currently serving in all the feeder ECDE centres in this County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Motion also may be moved as earliest as possible.

MOTION

SUBSIDIZING, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS AND SEEDS TO FARMERS

(Hon. Rebecca Sugut – MCA Kuinet/Kapsuswa Ward)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member for Kapseret, you may now move your Motion.

MCA Tuwei: Mr. Speaker, allow me to move the Motion:

Aware that Uasin Gishu County is endowed with good land resources and varied agro-ecological potential, **Further Aware** that based on the National Bureau of Statistics quoted in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2013-18) our County is bread basket of this country producing about 4.5 million bags of maize and one million bags of wheat annually, **Concerned That** despite the efforts of farmers to promote more production, this has not been possible due to high cost of inputs especially fertilizer, seeds, pesticides and farm machinery, **Noting That** according to the County Integrated Development Plan (2013-18) agriculture supports over 80% of the population in terms of Household income and food security, **Further Concerned that** the production of the main food crops such as maize, wheat and potatoes has generally been below the County's actual potential, **Cognizant That** the supply of subsidized fertilizer has been interfered with by the unscrupulous middlemen who have hijacked the supply and distribution of the same thus causing more suffering to farmers; **This County** Assembly urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries to partner with the National Government in Subsidizing, Supplying and distributing fertilizer and seeds to farmers so that the same are timely and readily availed to farmers before the start of every planting season.

Mr Speaker, you realize that Uasin Gishu County is well known to be producing maize, wheat and potatoes in large quantities. Mr Speaker, I would want to say that, the production that is made by this County has actually supported this country because the government of this country relies on the production that is made within our County in terms of food production.

Mr. Speaker Sir, if I can take you back, you realize that our farmers experience challenges in terms of receiving farm inputs on time. Agriculture production, educated some of us. I am an example. My parents are real farmers and I got my education through maize and wheat production. Most of the residents in Uasin Gishu majorly depend on agriculture as a source of income and food.

Of late middlemen have exploited farmers, for example, when the government transfers farm inputs to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), with subsidised prices like for example sh2, 000 per bag, farmers are exploited by middlemen by maybe selling the fertiliser at sh2, 500. So this is the time for the County Government to partner with the National Government, so that our farmers are never exploited.

Mr. Speaker, there is danger if this farm inputs are not delivered on time; the Nation will have real problem because if planting is not done at the right time, yields will also be affected because it goes in line with the rain patterns of the region. Mr Speaker, I would like to cite an example of what Trans Nzoia County did. The National Government supplied farm inputs, that is, seeds at ksh. 2000, the County Government sold it to Farmers at Ksh 1, 800 further subsidizing the Price. So I would like to urge the County Government of Uasin-Gishu to borrow that idea so that our farmers can get the inputs on time and also they can be guarded from exploitation perpetrated by the middlemen. I urge this Hon. House to pass this Motion because almost all of us are farmers, Mr. Speaker. I Urge Hon. Chelule to second this Motion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Chelule!

MCA Chelule: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this Motion that has been moved by Hon. Pauline, Member for Kapseret. This is a timely Motion in the sense that our farmers even as we speak are still going round looking for fertilisers. In fact most of them have not planted for this season and they are looking for fertilisers. Whatever is available now was subsidised by the national Government but along the way, the middlemen hijacked, repackaged and sold it at a higher price. In fact as we approach this season, there is shortage of DAP (Diammonium Phosphate). Nonetheless, as we are speaking now, we want to come up with fertiliser-manufacturing plant in Uasin-Gishu, but we want to put up measures so that it benefits the farmers. Our parents, electorates are farmers, hence we are urging that we come up with a policy so that we can subsidize. This subsidy should go down to the farmer. You find that even though we have subsidised, most of the farmers cannot access these facilities that we have like the NCPB depots and because most of them normally purchase in low quantities they end up purchasing from the middlemen and in the process they lose the meaning of the subsidy.

We also want to come up with a way in which farmers can pay for this product from the rural areas without incurring transportation costs or bank charges. As at now to acquire the subsidised farm inputs one goes through long processes, such that you must go to the person in charge of agriculture from the location you come from, then to the Chief, then the Manager and finally to the bank then you wait for another longer period. We would like to reduce such that a farmer can transact everything just at the tap of a phone and get to access the subsidised material at the doorstep. We have several ways to reach the farmers such as, cooperative societies, cereals and more stores which are partnering with the County and National government, Mr. Speaker. We want the fertilisers to be readily available throughout the year Mr. Speaker and in the quantities the farmers would like to get the fertilisers; we should not limit the farmer as to what to get. As of now they are being told they should not take more than 20 bags and maybe the land is more than 100 acres, you find that the farmer may be forced to reduce the number of acres he/she will plant Mr. Speaker. Again we need to get the facilities so that we can get loans to facilitate this Mr Speaker. Those people who will resell these subsidized inputs should be prosecuted. Laws and regulation should be put in place to guard farmers.

I support this Motion, Mr. Speaker. It is timely and we can see this year we have reduced the acreage in which we plant maize, wheat and potatoes. I urge this County Assembly to support and pass the Motion. I call upon the National Government to give more responsibility to County governments because they have the capability because they know the vast region of the County and they can reach the farmers and they know which parts produce what and they require what amount. Upon getting all this, we need to get ready market for the farm produce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the Motion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member for that submission. Members, this is a Motion that comes timely. you must have witnessed the uproar by farmers who are lining up to get these

subsidised products for farming and also the fact that the County government had to make intervention also by giving up its trucks to go and support the delivery of this fertiliser. So, members, I think most of you are farmers; I am one myself. I think this is a timely Motion and I will now propose the question.

(Question proposed)

Mr Speaker: And so we debate. Yes, Hon. Hillary Rono, Member for Kipkenyo!

MCA Rono: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa kuniruhusu ili nami niweze kuchangia hoja ambayo tunaijadili siku ya leo. Naunga mkono hoja hii. Mheshimiwa Spika, walivyosema watangulizi, kwamba hoja hii ingekuwa kwa wakati wa hapo awali. Kama kaunti ambayo inategemea mambo ya ukulima, hii hoja tungekuwa tumefanya hapo awali. Tunaposema tuwasaidie wakulima kwa mambo ya kuwapunguzia bei kwa kuweka hela zetu pale ndani, pia hatuwezi kupunguza bei kwa zile mbolea zote ambazo zinatumiwa katika kaunti nzima ya Uasin Gishu. Hapa kaunti ya Uasin Gishu tunatumia zaidi ya magunia milioni moja, Mheshimiwa Spika.

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is out of order, Hon. Member?

MCA Tuwei: Mr. Speaker, it is out of order for the Hon. Member to mislead this House by saying that the County government is not in a position to subsidise. I want to inform him that we have cooperatives and that is one of the ways that this can be made possible, Mr Speaker. If we view it as impossible, then it will not be possible but if we are willing, everything will be possible---

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: Okay, I think that was more of point of information. What is point of order, Hon. Chelule?

Mr. Chelule: Mr. Speaker Sir, I find the Hon. Member on the Floor to be out of order that he is supporting the Motion and at the same time, he is saying that the County is not able to subsidize. He should tell us whether he is supporting or opposing the Motion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member for Kipkenyo, can you please proceed with your submission and state your position.

MCA Rono: Mheshimiwa Spika, wajua kukosa kusikia vizuri ni shida kubwa sana. Hata nami nimezidi kushangaa na wacha ni wache mashangao. Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi nimesema hivi- na isikike vizuri sana - ile kazi inastahili kufanywa. Lazima kwanza tuchukue hesabu tujue hao wakulima wetu ambao wako hapa Kaunti ya Uasin-Gishu ni wakulima wangapi na wanatumia mbolea kiasi gani?

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: Yes, what is out of order, Hon. Member, Hon. Minority Leader? Or you have withdrawn? Proceed.

MCA Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the member on the Floor in order to mix the languages? If it is Kiswahili, let it be Kiswahili for us to understand better. If it is English, let it go in English but mixing, Mr. Speaker is confusing. We understand it differently from the way he is explaining. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member for Kipkenyo, kindly observe the provisions of the Standing Order; you choose to start in Swahili you have to keep it in Swahili until you are through with your submission.

Mr. Speaker: Do you need that information, Hon. Member?

MCA Rono: Yes!

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he wants to raise a point of information. He can only inform you. Yes you can proceed.

MCA Chelule: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the Hon. Member that the data is already in the County's department of Agriculture. It is only that we want to avail them on the Floor of this House. We have the data of farmers; the quantities used per year even the production in Uasin Gishu, Mr. Speaker. We have the figures. It is a matter of --- you give me time, I will table the report here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, I thought that would not even be an issue to go under contention. It was a policy of the National Government to avail subsidised farm inputs to all farmers and definitely, while doing the budgeting, that is a process that must have been covered. The issue that this Motion seeks to address, is making sure that actually the subsidised farm inputs get into the person that is intended and do away with anyone who may want to come in between, interfere with the process and also nothing bars the County Government from subsidising further whatever has been subsidised by the national Government. I think if we understand the content of the Motion that way we should be able to proceed more or less in tandem. Proceed, Hon. Member.

MCA Rono: Sasa wacha niendelee, Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa sababu naona wametulia. Mheshimiwa Spika, hoja hii, hayo maneno ni mambo mazuri tunastahili kutekeleza kama Kaunti na nataka nieleze mwenye Kiti wa Mambo ya ukulima kwamba hata naye ako sawa. Kwa hivyo, Mheshimiwa Spika, wacha kaunti watekeleze mambo hayo na wakulima wetu watafurahi. Asante sana.

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Yes, what is out of order?

MCA Rosebella: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. In view of time, and given that none has requested for the extension of time, according to our standing order, I think we cannot carry on with the business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Members, you can note from the clock and thank you Honourable Rosebella for raising that issue. I still continue apologising for starting this particular sitting late, it wasn't our wish; it was due to factors beyond our control.

In view of time order and the provisions of the Standing orders, it is exactly 12: 30pm and it therefore follows that this morning sitting will have to be discontinued. There is no Motion for extension therefore this sitting stands adjourned until today 2:30 pm when we will have resumption of this House business which has been interrupted and discontinued in view of time.

The House rose at 12:32PM