

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY
HANSARD

Tuesday, 28th February, 2018

The House Met at 10.00 am

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

A REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS ON WORK PLAN DEADLINE

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Members, I would wish to bring to your attention two issues; one concerns the communication that was done by the Honourable Speaker pertaining various chairs to various Committees. We are expecting your work plans on or before 10th of next month so that you can submit those work plans through the office of the deputy Speaker and later on all Honourable Members will harmonize the work plans.

Kindly Chairs, submit those work plans on or before 10th.

TABLING OF SITE VISIT REPORTS

Honourable Members, I would wish also to bring to your attention that all the Chairs and the various committees that went for various site visits; next week we will give you a tentative date where you will be tabling the various reports. I am aware of one Committee that is ready with its report and we will schedule for them to table that Report next week. So liaise with your Clerk and the Committee to finalize on various Reports.

Otherwise Honourable Members, I wish you a good deliberation for this first session this morning.

Thank you.

Clerk!

NOTICE OF MOTION

DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY THAT WILL ENABLE CEREALS FARMERS TO ACQUIRE MARKETS THAT
WILL OFFER BETTER PRICES FOR MAIZE AND WHEAT FARMERS

(Hon. Alice Rono – Nominated MCA)

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Alice Rono!

Hon. Alice: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to give Notice of the following Motion;

Aware that maize and wheat farmers in our County have been earning low income from their produce due to poor price in cereals markets; **Further aware that** the two crops are the major cash crops grown in our County and thus the major economic contribution to the County's

economy; **Concerned that** for many years farmers in our County have suffered both economically due to low income from their earnings; **Noting that** in order to alleviate the farmers problem the County must address the issue of poor market opportunities for the maize and wheat farmers at most; **Further noting that** collecting centers and National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) have closed their shops leaving farmers wondering where to deliver their produce, instead they deliver to middle men who are exploiting them; This County Assembly urges the County government of Uasin Gishu through the departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industrialization to explore, research and develops a policy that will enable cereals farmers to acquire markets that will offer better price for maize and wheat farmers.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Alice.

Honourable Members, that Motion will be moved at an appropriate time on our Order paper.

Proceed Clerk!

MOTION

DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY THAT WILL ENABLE CEREALS FARMERS TO ACQUIRE MARKETS THAT WILL OFFER BETTER PRICES FOR MAIZE AND WHEAT FARMERS

(Hon. Alice Rono – Nominated MCA)

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Alice Rono.

Hon. Alice: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following Motion;

Aware that maize and wheat farmers in our County have been earning low income from their produce due to poor price in cereals markets; **Further aware that** the two crops are the major cash crops grown in our County and thus the major economic contribution to the County's economy; **Concerned that** for many years farmers in our County have suffered both economically due to low income from their earnings; **Noting that** in order to alleviate the farmers problem the County must address the issue of poor market opportunities for the maize and wheat farmers at most; **Further noting that** collecting centers and National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) have closed their shops leaving farmers wondering where to deliver their produce, instead they deliver to middle men who are exploiting them; This County Assembly urges the County government of Uasin Gishu through the departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industrialization to explore, research and develops a policy that will enable cereals farmers to acquire markets that will offer better price for maize and wheat farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I beg this Assembly to give direction to where farmers can deliver their produce because this is the planting season and farmers have been left wondering where to sell their produce so that they can get money to prepare their lands by buying farm inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. I am requesting this Honourable House to urge the County Government to come up with mechanisms to help farmers. I call upon Honourable Singoei to Second.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Member. It is a good initiative Honourable Members and we have to appreciate. I am requesting Honourable Members to kindly appreciate her.

(Applause)

Thank you, Honourable Whip you can second that and may be expound much.

Hon. Singoei: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Honourable Alice Rono, Nominated MCA for coming up with this very wonderful Motion. This is a very weighty Motion and I think for her to come up with this Motion, is very good and I stand to second this Motion. When you look at the set up of the National Cereals and Produce Board, it was set up by the government actually to buy cereals from the farmers just for the purpose of stocking and waiting for a period when there is drought in maybe areas that do not produce maize or wheat. The function of National Cereals and Produce Board is just to buy what is left out from the real market. In the state in which we are now in Kenya, we are all looking at the National Cereals and Produce Board as a market for our farmers, something which it has done for many years. The function of the National government is not to enrich farmers, the function of National government is to buy produce and put in stock so that whenever there is drought or famine or when there is shortage of food it can release the same. The real function of the County government is to create wealth for the farmers and that is what we want to. So, we need to urge all Counties but in particular our County to create even a County Cereals and Produce Board which is supposed to cushion farmers. When there is a lot of maize, we can sale the same produce to them because the law of supply and demand is what is at play here. If you look at Schedule Four of our Constitution, what the National Cereals and Produce Board is doing is what the County government is supposed to do. We are supposed as a County to create wealth, we are supposed to make farmers rich, we are supposed to make farmers feel that they are appreciated for the work they do but we are all looking at the Cereals Board. What the National Cereals and Produce Board is doing is just doing what the National government does; buy produce wherever. We need the National Cereals and Produce Board to buy maize from County Cereals and Produce Board. We need to go away from this idea that all of us are looking at this entity as a way of a market for us. If all Counties especially those that are called 'the bread baskets' or the Counties that produce these cereals; that is maize and wheat, can come up together and create what is called Counties or County Cereals Board, then all the farmers through their cooperatives can deliver their maize there and we do what the National government is doing. Agriculture is fully devolved but Counties do not have money to buy maize for the farmers; Why? Why? And our responsibility is really to safeguard the interests of our farmers. It is not the responsibility of County governments to feed the nation, we do not have the money to feed the nation and as of now, that is what we do. We are at the mercy of the National Cereals and Produce Board and to our Governors, I want to say without fear of contradiction and fear that they are sleeping on their job. We are supposed to wake up and make our farmers rich through farming, period!

(Applause)

If we cannot create our own Cereals and Produce Board then we are actually allowing the National Government to exploit our farmers. Honourable Members, I always say that we need not to be taking bursaries to these farmers. You find somebody who has fifty acres over a hundred acres lining up for bursaries; we are not supposed actually to be doing that. Bursary is meant for people who do not have land, bursary is meant for people who are not able and cannot make it but our farmers should be able to actually pay their own school fees through farming. If you look at what has been happening in the agricultural sector for many years, the government has taken farmers for a big ride for a long time. I think this is the only opportunity for all of us to wake up and say that we need our own Cereals and Produce Board so that through our cooperatives we buy the produce, stock it up and wait for the market, and then sell it at a good price. We also need to be doing subsidy for our farmers. We have the liberty and yet we are left

at the mercies of the National government and the National government is feeding the whole nation. Here we have Counties that actually can come up together and create a bigger cooperative movement, for example look at the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) which was owned by the farmers, it is no longer there. Even the AFC (Agricultural Finance Corporation) which is supposed to be giving farmers credit is no longer there because it is used by the National government. So I think Honourable Members, let us support this Motion. Let us call upon our County government to wake up and create a County Cereals and Produce Board. When the Honourable Member who was moving this Motion said policies; those are some of the policies that needs to be actually put in this Motion, not necessarily here but when we meet as a Committee of Agriculture. We can call the CEC concerned and see that this County creates a County Cereals and Produce Board then we can now sale our produce to the National Cereals and Produce Board and all the other people who are interested in buying maize and wheat. Honourable Speaker, I stand to second this Motion. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Whip.

A Motion has been moved Honourable Members and seconded, therefore I propose a question.

(Question proposed)

Ensuing debate!

Honourable Member Mary Gorretti!

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. First of all may I appreciate the mover of the Motion because this is actually touching on the umbilical cord of the County. I rise to support the Motion by saying that it has come at the right time, it should have come even before and I want to appreciate the Member who has moved this because for sure our farmers have been suffering a lot because they cannot sell their produce and be paid on time. I want to support this Motion by saying that as a County, if we can have a County's Cereal Board, that is the only way we can save and safeguard our farmers to be able to sell their produce in a better way. By doing so, the County government is supposed to actually buy the maize from the farmers at a good price then store the maize and wait for the price to rise up. If we can have storage and even have value addition as a County, at the end of the day the same County can be able to sell a bag of maize which is currently being sold at 3,000 shillings at even at 6,000 shillings if we can make it a business for our farmers. I want to say that as a County we need to rise up, and we are supporting this so that our farmers are not exploited by the middle men. I know of many farmers that even at the moment have not sold their maize because of the price that is there currently. Many of our farmers have stored their maize in their own stores waiting for that good price to come and as they are waiting for that good price to come, this planting season is at the door and at the end of the day we might have our farmers going back to the farm without enough inputs for cultivating their lands. Therefore we are supporting this Motion by saying as the County Government of Uasin Gishu, we should move with speed to ensure that they have stores whereby they can buy maize from the farmers, pay them some amount and when the market prices rise they can also sell the same maize to the National Cereals Board whereby the National government will now come and buy from them. After buying from them, they can also add something small to the farmer and now that will be business in farming.

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Soy!

Hon. Talam: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this time to contribute on this important Motion. First, I also want to congratulate the mover of the Motion, I think that the Motion is really weighty and it needs our support.

I want to start by saying that; as we are all aware that the climatic changes in the Country has affected most parts that were previously known for cereals growing and by that, the large scale farmers and also the small scale farmers who are doing business have to be protected. In my view, I think that if the House can support this Motion, the County government should provide milling plants to Sub counties so that these farmers can take their produce there to be milled and then sold to the market just like these other millers are doing. By so doing, these farmers will get value for money for their produce and they will get money to support them in their daily activities. As we are all aware, most farmers depend solely on agriculture and there is need for all farmers to be protected, and if these farmers can be given these facilities, they will work, they will produce more and the strategic reserve will also be full. These farmers will not be depending on the National Cereals and Produce Board; the National Cereals Board will only come to beg from the farmers. This is because the Cereals Board wants a strategic food reserve and they will increase the prices and they will come to the farmers begging to buy at a higher price.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I personally beg to support this Motion. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Choge!

I have seen quite a number of Members. I will allow you Honourable Members.

Hon. Choge: Thank you Speaker. I would also want to congratulate the mover of the Motion because the Motion is weighty. I have risen to support the Motion because I am also a farmer and all the Members in this House are farmers. I would want to say that the National Cereals and Produce Board has always exploited the farmers in many ways. One; most of the time, the price that is given to farmers is very low. Again, the National Cereals Board normally closes their shop, they only open their shop once in a year and whenever they open the shop they always open it for just a month. I would want to urge the County Government of Uasin Gishu to come up with a Cereals Board so that this Cereals Board can open shop throughout the year so that whenever the farmers have their produce, they would want to sell then when the market is ready.

Again, I would also want to urge the County Government to come up with a solution and that is adding value to the Cereals so that the farmers can get better prices for their produce. You realize that the County government is the one that is supposed to cushion its farmers so that these farmers cannot be exploited every now and then especially by the middlemen, whereby you find that the middle men always buy their produce just as low as; for a bag of maize that is supposed to be selling above 3,000 shillings, they exploit them by buying a bag of 90kg way below 2,000 shillings; that is approximately 1,800 shillings and the farmers will find it difficult to go back to farming because of that low price. They again fail even to pay school fees for their children because they find it hard. I would want to support the Honourable Member for Ng'enyilel because you find that most of these farmers even though they have big farms, they are unable to pay school fees for their children and hence beg for the bursaries. We want to look for a way on how to cushion these farmers so that they can be able to fend for their lives. As a County Assembly, we need to support this Motion so that farmers can be cushioned from many problems. You find that the National government most of the time delays in payment. In fact, you find a farmer takes the produce to the National Cereals and Produce Board and they take a very long time to pay the farmers. Up to now, you will realize a farmer took produce way back;

let us say at the beginning of December, up to now they have not been paid for their produce. They put the farmers in a difficult situation whereby they cannot progress; they cannot do the farming at the right time. I would want to support this Motion, the County Government of Uasin Gishu should come up with a policy whereby whenever there is a loss especially times when there is drought, sometimes like the other time there was these worms that attacked the maize; I have forgotten the name--- army worms and other worms. So the County Government of Uasin Gishu should come up with a policy whereby whenever a farmer gets a loss then they are able to compensate. If there is a way instead of the National Government paying the farmers, they can release the same money to the County Government so that the County Governments can just organize themselves and do the payments. As the County Assembly of Uasin Gishu, I would want to urge all the Members to support this Motion because it will uplift lives of the farmers. So I do support, thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Kamagut!

Hon. Lelei: Thank you Honourable Speaker. First of all I want to congratulate the Member who has come up with this wonderful Motion. I think this is the first Motion that has really touched me and I know very well that our farmers have really suffered economically for so many years due to low income. I think they have suffered economically which is brought about by the middle men. I remember in the first; let us say January, where I witnessed middle men who were buying maize at a very low price. They were buying maize actually at a price of 2,200 shillings and when the Cereals Board was opened, it assisted our farmers and they bought the maize at a price of 3,200 shillings. I would urge this Honourable House that let it come up with a very wonderful policy that is going to safeguard our farmers so that our farmers will no longer suffer. So, I want to say that this is a wonderful Motion; we need to take it seriously so that we safeguard our farmers.

Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Ziwa!

I have seen you Honourable Maraswa and Honourable Kemboi. I will give you a chance.

Hon. Korir, J: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also stand to congratulate the mover of this Motion and also the Secunder. I want to say that since we attained independence in this Country, the farmers have been left aside. The issue of our farmers especially those dealing with maize and wheat, and also milk have problems. Up to today the National Government which is still in charge of these Cereals Boards and you find that they still control everything. I believe that when we created these forty seven counties, this department was decentralized to the County level and you find that many issues are still being handled there. Recently; you see now the problem that is there is that farmers have not been paid, when you ask--- The other time we met Members of Parliament and we asked them what is happening and they said that there was a mistake and that the money was paid but actually it did not reach the farmers. I think people who imported maize are the people who were paid and I think now they are still working to pay maybe this week or next week. The farmers' plight has been left aside and actually this is the right time that this Motion has been brought to this Assembly and all of us in this Assembly want to support this Motion and then we want to see and maybe even engage the Minister for Agriculture so that we sit together and form a policy in Uasin Gishu County so as to help these farmers once and for all.

For instance, this issue of importation; you just import maize. Now we have maize that the Government could have bought from our farmers, and then you say that there is maize, it is imported. The only way I see is that we do not want to sell this maize as raw, let us have millers and according to me, can we find a way where we can erect millers in every Sub- County. We have six Sub Counties in Uasin Gishu County; let us have these millers so that when we harvest maize, we take to the millers, we start selling them maybe in packages of two kilograms, 50 kilograms and even in the Bureau of Standards there is no 90 Kilograms in the world. I do not see and I have never seen 90 kilograms. What is the price of 90 kilograms of maize that a farmer sells his maize when they harvest? It is not there! But when you go to the market now, you buy the same same maize in two kilograms, one kilogram and others. If we can have the millers in our County here, then we can help these farmers. We need to build these millers and this is something that can assist our farmers.

Secondly; that is why we have been talking about conservations of dams. If we can have big dams so that we can conserve these rains during the rainy season, farmers can use to irrigate even vegetables and crops that take three months. We can assist our farmers instead of them waiting for six to eight months so that they can harvest and by eight months, the price of the 90 kilograms maize is not there. So we need to see--- and also fertilizer; the issue of middle men has become a problem in this area and I do not know why we can't address this issue of middle men once and for all so that our farmers can realize benefits from their farming. Now we need fertilizers and also maize seeds but you will see--- I think the issue of maize is okay, getting it from the Kenya Seed is not a problem but this fertilizers; even the price of a 50kg bag of fertilizer is not equivalent to that of a 90kg bag of maize. How many bags does someone sell so that they can buy fertilizer at 3,000 shillings?

This is a very good Motion and we need to see how we can handle as an Assembly so that we make a policy so that our farmers cannot be taken for a ride. I stand to support this Motion Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Tenai!

MCA Tenai: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this time to give my input in this proposed Motion by the Honourable Member Alice Ronoh. I want to bring to your attention that the current farmer is not the same same farmer of the 1980s or early 1990s. The farmer of the 1980s could actually sell his produce and buy a new car. You could find a 504; you could find a Massey Ferguson that the farmer of that time used to have after selling his produce. Mostly in Uasin Gishu, our farmers depend on their produce. They stay for a whole twelve months to do their budget; after selling their produce, they will defray education for their children. After selling their produce, they will be able maybe to buy a new dress or a new suit. After selling their produce they would even go further to do developments in their homesteads.

The current farmer is not in a position to do so simply because of the market. I want to support this Motion by saying that it is the function of the Uasin Gishu County Government under Schedule 4 that gives powers to the County Assemblies to take care of agriculture as function number one. So I want to say; it is more prudent that this Motion is passed the way it is because it will assist the same same farmer. I am surprised that even the people who are packaging water, the same same water that is in this Honourable House, you would find a 500ml of this bottled water selling expensively as compared to milk and it gives a different dimension of how the same farmer is treated. How would you expect when disbursing bursary at the villages, saying

that so and so has got a large piece of land whereas the same person is requesting for bursary? It is simply because what he is getting out of the produce does not suffice. What is he supposed to be doing? I want to request this Honourable House that; the other day, the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) was here, and they were trying to find out what is possible and can be added to us as a County in terms of funding. I was telling them Honourable Members, that let us also petition the same CRA because we are maize producers, we are wheat producers, we are agricultural men and women such that when they will be factoring their budget to Uasin Gishu County, we can have some extras may be to buy maize on behalf of the farmers. If the National Government function is to do with strategic grain reserve, let us as a County buy maize from our farmers and we sell it to the National Government under the strategic grain reserve and that is what I can say; that we create such a policy. I want to say, it is of good importance that this Motion came at this time. I was a farmer and I want to tell you that in the year 2008 to 2010, there about, some people managed to get wealth out of the same farmers because the National Cereals and Produce Board created something known as the Warehouse receipt system which was a blow to the farmers. The same farmer used to deliver maize to NCPB and because NCPB were not able to pay, they could tell you that, 'let us have these maize that are in the stores as a collateral that you can get money or finances from some financial institutions', and that was Equity Bank and Family Bank. Upon getting 80% of the money per bag from the financial institutions, then there were some delayed payments by NCPB for another six months. When the money came the same farmer was not able to draw the 20% that was left to NCPB and it ended up going that way.

I want to say that let us actually try as a County to cushion our farmers, to make our farmers actually become productive because there is no other way we can make our farmers become productive unless and until we create some avenues of marketing their produce. I want to request this Honourable House, and I have heard Honourable Korir presenting his views and I am of the same idea that; also as Uasin Gishu, let us think about value addition. I will be very much happy when today, Uasin Gishu, apart from the Jogoo and Hodari flour that we get in the markets; I will be a very happy man if tomorrow we will be having Uasin Gishu maize flour selling in the markets.

(Applause)

That will be my happiness. When we are talking about creating employment, there is no other way we can create employment apart from if we inject a lot of money to the agricultural sector. We got the four agendas by the National Government; President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Deputy President are actually fighting for food security. There is no other way we can make these farmers to cushion the issue to do with food security if the same farmer does not get value for what he is doing and it is the function of the County Government, it is not a national function. I want to request this Honourable House that today; we pass this Motion the way it is simply because we want to enrich our farmers. The best way to do enrichment of these farmers is actually to create this market, to find a way of selling this produce. By so doing, then we will leave a legacy in this Honourable House that there lived an Assembly whose agenda was to think of farmers.

(Point of Order)

Deputy Speaker: Point of order! Honourable Member for Tembelio what is out of order?

Hon. Kigen: I can see some flashes of pictures being taken Honourable Speaker and we would want to have assurance that Standing Order No 2-3 is really observed. You need to give assurance to this House that the pictures that will be taken will not be used against Standing Order No. 2-3 especially 4(5) and more so 6(2). Honourable Speaker, we seek direction from you because we need protection as Members so that things do not go viral and embarrass the Members of the County Assembly.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Member for Tembelio for that concern.

(Applause)

Honourable Members, as per our Standing Orders; One, as an Honourable Member, you are not allowed to record any proceedings of this Honourable House; either to take any photos within the Chambers against your Honourable Member. I want to give direction that in future, any Honourable Member who would wish to take a photo within the Assembly while the proceedings are on is against our Standing Orders. We will only allow the Hansard to record the proceedings of this Honourable House and the office of the Public Relations, which will also not publish or send anything to social media without the directions of the leadership particularly the Honourable Speaker.

(Applause)

No proceedings will be allowed to be posted in any social media or any print media without the consent of the Speaker and the leadership. It is regrettable Honourable Members that last week we had many challenges but administratively that issue will be handled and Honourable Members you will be briefed on that. I want to give the assurance now to the Honourable Members within the Chambers that the pictures that are being taken are taken by an officer who works with us and we hope that they are for posterity Honourable Members and I have already given the direction. Any photo, any message, any deliberation and any clip that will be played against the consent or may demean this House will not be allowed Honourable Members.

(Applause)

To conclude that, I am aware that all of us meet the credentials of being in this Honourable House in terms of academics and the only languages that are allowed to be used in this Honourable House are Kiswahili or English and I am aware all Members can demonstrate the same using the two languages.

(Applause)

Thank you. You can proceed Honourable Member for Kipchamo and be precise in view of time.

Hon. Tenai: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I was almost concluding. So I want to request this Honourable House that we pass this Motion the way it is because it will assist the modern farmer do business in what he is really doing. We heard a speech from our beloved Governor talking about agriculture. I have heard the sentiments by the Honourable Member who was Seconding this Motion and I want to say that really, it is of urgent importance that we pass this Motion by the Honourable Member Alice Rono. I do not have more to add in view of the time, let me just end there for other Members to continue participating by contributing.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Simat/Kapseret!

Hon. Korir, E. K: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am of contrary opinion and I stand to oppose this Motion. This Motion says farmers have been exploited due to poor prices. Mr. Speaker, we can see facts; one bag at Cereals was 3,200 shillings and if you can see the National Government has subsidized fertilizers that a bag is being sold 1,500 shilling and I thank also our County Government since it has come in also to subsidize the seeds. We had no complaints as per the last season when our farmers sold their produce. All along the prices have been low, but as for last year and now, 3,200 shillings was the best experienced price for the season. Also this Motion actually says that Cereals like the one in Eldoret or in Uasin Gishu has been closed, closure of that NCPB shop is justified. It is justified because these brokers go to Uganda buy maize and deliver in our cereals and that is why it is closed since it is an affected area. If you go to Kisumu and other parts which are far from the boarder or entrance from Uganda, the Cereals shops are still open but this one was closed because brokers buy maize and deliver at our Cereals.

I oppose this Motion. Also, the Honourable Members that have supported this Motion have been going out of it and as a County we are working very hard. In every Sub-County a store is being constructed now, such that by the end of this planting season we will have collection centers for farmers' maize in each Sub-County of which will be good. An Honourable Member stood there and said that governors are sleeping on their job but maybe the other Governors belonging to other counties; but our Governor is working very hard.

(Applause)

Even if you go through his speech, he actually said that he will make agriculture the best and we are moving. This Motion actually is like teaching us on how to wear clothes and we already know. I oppose this Motion. If it could be talking of maybe delays in payment I could support, most of the Members are supporting this Motion while going out of it by saying that NCPB delays in payment which is not here. Mr. Speaker, I stand to oppose. Thank you.

(Applause)

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Langas!

Honourable Member for Ziwa, we cannot have a Point of Order when a Member has concluded. Proceed Honourable Member for Langas!

Hon. Muya: Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Kwanza, nataka ijulikane kwamba nimesimama kuunga mkono mswada ambao umeletwa mbele ya kikao hiki na Mheshimiwa ambaye nimemheshimu sana, Mheshimiwa Alice Rono; mkulima, mwanabiashara na anapotulia kumbe anawaza vizuru kwa sababu ya wakulima wetu. Ninasimama mahali hapa kuiunga mkono mswada ulio mahali hapa. Nataka niseme kwamba ninajaribu kuikuza na kuitukuza Kiswahili kwa sababu mhandishi mmoja akasema, Kiswahili kitukuzwe na ninaona tunataka kukiua katika Jumba hili. Tujaribu wawili au watatu kuona kwamba tunakuza Kiswahili mahali hapa ili hata wanaonena kule nje eti waheshimiwa hawa hawajasoma, wafahamu kwamba watu wamesoma na wanajua na *wanakimanya* Kiswahili. Nataka niseme kwamba hoja iliyo mbele yetu siku ya leo kwa kweli ni hoja ya maana sana kwa sababu unajua kwamba ukulima ni uti wa mgongo kwa watu wengi, kwa mambo mengi na nikitega uchumi kwa wengi. Kama vile mmoja amesimama na akasema, kwa miaka mingi ama kidogo nimeishi mahali hapa Uasin Gishu; kwa sababu mimi ni mzaliwa wa hapa, nimekua hapa; nataka nikubaliane kwamba miaka iliyopita, kama kulikuwa na watu walioheshimika, walioboreshwa, walioheshimika kibinafsi, ni wakulima. Watu ambao

wangeenda katika makampuni yaliyokuwa yakiagiza magari kama kampuni iliyokuwa karibu na sisi hapa wakati ule ilikuwa ni Peugeot Marshalls, ni mkulima pekee yake ambaye ungeona ananunua gari mpya bali si mtu yeyote eti wa kuajiriwa, La! Ninasema nini? Kuna wakati ambao wakulima walipata mapato ya kazi walizokuwa wakifanya. Ukifuatilia utaona kwamba familia zilizojulikana kuwa wakulima waliobobea nyakati zile leo hii unakuta mashamba yao yako na mengi hayalimwi na kama yanalimwa ni sehemu kidogo sana. Hiyo inatueleza nini? Watu wameanza kuiacha kilimo na mahali ambapo tumefika mara nyingi tunasema tu na hatutekelezi; kwamba, tunatakiwa kubadilisha kilimo isiwe kilimo tu bali tuifanye iwe kilimo biashara. Biashara kwa nini? huyu mkulima hana mahali pengine anapotegemea kupata mapato lakini kwa sababu ya kufinyika kiuchumi kwa wakulima hawa; wengi aidha wameacha ukulima, mashamba ya yamebaki bila kutumika. Wengine wameona kwamba waache kulima mahindi na ngano na wengi wameanza ukulima wa nyasi ya ng'ombe kwa jina la *Boma Rhodes*. Hiyo inatambia nini? Kwamba mapato kutokana na mahindi na ngano inaelekea kudidimia na inaelekea kutoweka katika kaunti yetu. Hiyo itamaanisha nini? nchi nzima tunaenda kupoteza kwa sababu ilikuwa ni kaunti kama Trans Nzoia na Uasin Gishu na zingine chache ambazo ndizo zimekuwa mifuko ya chakula ya nchi.

Je tutakapokosa kuwachunga hawa wakulima tunaelekea wapi? Nataka tu niwakumbushe wale ambao wanasema kwamba wakulima wetu walinunuliwa vyakula vyema, niwaletee tu picha. Kuna wakati ambao serikali ilifanya sarakasi yake na ikabadilishwa katika vyombo vya habari kwamba wamesema mahindi iko na kumbe ilikuwa inasemekana kwamba ni mahindi ya Mexico. Wakati ule, serikali ilinunua gunia ya mahindi kwa pesa ngapi? Shilingi elfu nne na zaidi ilhali mkulima wetu ambaye anangojea mapato haya kwa mwaka mzima, eti tukijaribu sana ni elfu mbili mia nane. Tunasema nini? Tunavunja mioyo ya wakulima, ninapooni kama mwenyekiti wa mambo ya kilimo katika kikao hiki, mimi huwa nasikia na sijui; naskia tu kutoka kwa marafiki zake na wenzangu kwamba yeye ni mkulima hodari. Nilitarajia awe wa kwanza hata kuiunga mkono hoja hii kwa sababu yeye kulingana na mambo ambayo wakulima wanapitia, atakuambia kwamba hata yale mahindi ambayo mashamba mengine yanachukuliwa kukuza mahindi ambayo yanapelekwa kwa Kenya Seeds kuwa mbegu imekuwa na hali ya kutofuata sheria, kiwango ya kwamba mkulima mwenye mahindi ambayo hayajaboreshwa inafanywa kuwa mbegu ambayo tunauziwa.

Mimi ninataka kusema nini? ni hoja ilyokuja kwa wakati, ambayo tunatakiwa kuijadili na sio kuijadili na kupitisha tu. Maneno ya kuboresha kilimo tunayaone katika picha kubwa, twaweza kukuza. Soko iko wapi? Mungu ametupa watu wengi, tumezaana tumekuwa wengi? Nyakati zile mahindi yaliweza kukuzwa yakapelekwa katika mahali pa kuweka nafaka na ikakaa miaka na miaka kwa sababu watu walikuwa wachache katika nchi yetu. Lakini leo hii, tuna utajiri wa watu lakini tunatakiwa tuwe na uhusiano; wanaokuza ni akina nani? Wanaohitaji hii ni akina nani?

Hivi majuzi wakati tulikuwa tunasema '*maize iko*' katika vyombo vya habari nilikuwa naona waliokuwa wameumia sana ni watu wakutoka wilaya za Western na Kisumu na kwingineko na ilhali sisi tunatakiwa tuwalete karibu ili wakati ambapo maghala ya serikali inapodhulumu wakulima wetu kwa kuchukua mahindi, kwa kukawia malipo au kukosa kulipa tunaweza kuwa tumezungumza kwa kupitia makaunti tofauti. Sisi tunakuza mahindi, na kwa kufanya hivi tutaweza kuikuza biashara hii ya mahindi na ngano na kuwatoa hawa ambao mnawaita wabepari kwa sababu hatuwezi kuwapiga. Wao wametumia akili zao. Waswahili wanasema kwamba akili ni nywele na kila mtu ana zake. Kama mimi nitaskia kwamba bei ni nzuri hapa na ninaweza kuenda kule Uganda na mipaka yamefunguliwa, basi sijazuiliwa na mtu yeyote. Tunatakiwa

tufikirie zaidi ya wao jinsi tutaweza kuongeza bidhaa zetu. Kuboresha tutaboresha namna gani? Kwa kutoa tu tusiseme tu mahindi, twaweza kuikuza na tusiwachie pale bali tuhakikishe kwamba tumeipeleka kiwango kingine kile kwa kiingereza wanasema 'Value addition'. Juzi nilishangaa kwamba Makueni mahali pakavu wameweza kuenda mbele yetu kwamba wanakiwanda cha kuboresha maziwa yao; nikafikiria gani kati ya Makueni na Uasin Gishu ni nani wanatakiwa kuwa na maziwa mengi?, nikaona kuna mahali tumelala. Hoja hii imekuja wakati unaostahili. Hebu tufikirie; tusifikirie zaidi ya kukuza tu, tuende kiwango kingine, tunaweza kuiboresha namna gani? Baada ya kupata haya mazao tunaiboresha namna gani ili tuwache kusema kwamba wale ambao mnawaita 'brokers' ni akili mungu amewapa, tuwachane na wao lakini tufikirie kama kaunti. Tunaweza kuongeza na kuboresha bidhaa zetu namna gani ili hata kaunti zingine--- Wakati ambapo serikali inafikiria kuenda huko Mexico na kwingine si wafikirie kwamba Uasin Gishu 'twafikiri twaweza kupata hii mali? Tuende kwanza? Nafikiri tungefikiria namna ile, tutaendelea. Kwa hivyo, mimi nataka kusema hongera kwa Mheshimiwa Alice Rono na mungu akubariki. Nimeona wakati mwingi akiongea, anaongea kuhusiana na jambo la kusaidia mkulima siku zote. Mimi nataka kusema hii ni roho ya mama, ni roho ya kiongozi na Mheshimiwa endelea vivyo hivyo, tuko nyuma yako. Tutaweka akili zetu pamoja tuone tutafikisha mambo haya namna gani.

(Applause)

Kwa hivyo Mheshiwa Spika, nataka niwachie hapo kwa kusema ninaiunga mkono hii na imekuja wakati unaostahili.

(Applause)

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Member for Langas.

Honourable Member for Sergoit!

I have seen you Chair, Agriculture. I will give you a chance as we are almost concluding.

Hon. Kemboi, N: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I am the Honourable Member of Moiben, you know we share the same---

(Deputy Speaker interjects)

Deputy Speaker: Sorry, Sorry, Proceed!

Hon. Kemboi, N: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise to support this Motion that has been brought to this Honourable House this morning and I want to echo the sentiments that have been made by my colleagues that this Motion has been brought in time. I want to thank and laud Honourable Alice who in his wisdom has come out with this kind of a Motion.

(Point of Order)

Deputy Speaker: Point of Order! What is out of Order Honourable Member for Kipchamo/Cheptiret?

Hon. Tenai: Honourable Speaker I think Alice is a 'her'.

Hon. Kemboi, N: Thank you for that correction. Mr. Speaker you know I am used to addressing men. Thank you.

(Laughter)

I want to say Mr. Speaker--- Protect me Mr. Speaker so that I can be able to finish this.

(Point of Order)

Deputy Speaker: Order! Order Honourable Member for Moiben! A Member is on a point of order.

What is out of Order Honourable Leader of Majority?

Hon. Lowoi: Mr. Speaker Sir is my neighbor Honourable Member from Moiben promoting male chauvinism?

Hon. Kemboi N: I withdraw Mr. Speaker allow me to move.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah you can proceed.

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) leaves the Chair]

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Jeruto Barbengi) takes the Chair]

Hon Kemboi N: Thank you very much and I want to thank the Members of this House because they have been following what I have been saying. I just wanted to know whether they are following. Allow me to continue and say that looking at this Motion, and I have underlined the area which has been written that; ‘urge the County government of Uasin Gishu through the relevant and requisite department of Agriculture, Trade and Industrialization to explore’ and underline the word ‘explore’, ‘research and develop a policy that will come hand in hand to assist the farmers of Uasin Gishu’. I want to echo the sentiments that have been made by Honourable Members of this House this morning. I want to say that there used to be a time when farmers of this Country used to walk tall nonetheless today, when you look at the same members, they are like paupers.

Today, I was even worried when people were negating, they were diverting from this and yet we have survived for a very long time from farming. I am a farmer and I want to say that I was even thinking that if it is possible, we create an enabling environment so that together with NCPB we can have some kind of a negotiated arrangement where even before we plant the maize we will be able to know that we are going to sell at this particular price so that we are not short changed in the middle. Allow me to say; initially during the year 1984, there used to be something called Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR) which used to cushion farmers. I want to ask, where did that thing go? Because it used to assist the farmers so much in terms of calamities like the way it befell the farmers of Uasin Gishu and more especially Moiben where I come from. Last year, two calamities befell us; one, was that natural calamity of having army worms which made sure that we did not have a harvest and as we are talking--- Am I allowed to continue Mr. Speaker? Thank you. As we are talking right now there are a lot of problems there, people there cannot take their produce to---

(Point of Order)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Jeruto Barbengi): What is the Point of Order?

Hon. Lowoi: As I said earlier, the Honourable Member cannot recognize that we have Madam Speaker on the seat.

(Laughter)

Hon Kemboi, N: Thank you Madam Speaker. I do not know whether this Honourable House knows very well that---Thank you. I never saw the change of guard, I was still addressing--- With due respect welcome.

I want to say that on this very important Motion, we need to come with some kind of policies to ensure that we have done there--- Even during this kind of budget that we have, some money can be set aside so that we can set up a lot of industries which can do some value addition. When we do some value addition, we will be able to change the destiny of these farmers. Two Madam Speaker, I want to say that we need to have so many stores built in the six Sub- Counties so that farmers can put there their crops; so that during the law of demand and supply, as it takes toll, we will be waiting for a favorable time.

Finally, I want to say that if it is possible; because agriculture is fully devolved and the way our Honourable Governor had said that we need to have it as agenda number one, why can't we set most of the funds these time round to ensure that these farmers are getting value for their money. I want also to talk about Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) which is giving farmers some kind of loans. I want to say that recently I visited the AFC and I realized that those farmers are ready to right off the loans but they are not ready to give out loans to the farmers again. I wondered, if other counties are giving out loans even to *miraa* farmers, why not us? The other day in the newspaper, there was something of the tune that the prices of wheat have gone down and now that people were celebrating that the price has gone down, while the real farmer who has been fighting and toiling so hard is getting less value for his money.

Allow me to end by saying that I want to urge this House to come up with some legislation and some policy that from today hence forth will cushion these farmers and to ensure that farming becomes a noble profession again just the way it used to be. As I sum up; up to now, the so called National Cereals and Produce Board has not paid a number of farmers. I am aware that some farmers will take their maize there and they will be rejected. Some unscrupulous businessmen will still buy the same produce using the same lorry and deliver it in the same, same NCPB. I want to urge this House to come up with a regulation, to come up with a policy that will protect our farmers so that they can still stand tall.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity so that I stand to support this Motion, thank you.

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Jeruto Barbengi) leaves the Chair]

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) resumes the Chair]

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you Honourable Member for Moiben.

Honourable Chair – Agriculture, Honourable Rugut.

Hon. Rugut: Asante sana Spika. Ninasimama hapa ili niunge mkono hoja ya leo kuhusu ukulima wa mahindi na ngano. Vile tunavyojuwa katika Kaunti yetu ya Uasin Gishu, wakulima wametegemea sana mahindi na ngano kwa takriban miaka karibu ishirini iliyopita ama wakati wa miaka za themanini wakati wakulima wetu walikuwa wanafurahi sana inapofika msimu wa kuvuna, kwa vile walikuwa wanaingia benki wakitabasamu wakijua kuwa baada ya kupanda anagalau kuna kitu walikuwa wakipata mwaka unapoisha. Lakini kwa sasa, nataka niseme ya kwamba mambo yamebadilika, wakulima wetu wamekuwa na shida chungu nzima na hii labda ni kwa sababu ya vile mipango ya serikali ilivyo. Kwa mfano, mwaka uliopita, 2017; wakulima

wetu wamekuwa na changa moto sana. Juzi kabla ya mavuno, nataka niseme ya kwamba kuna mahindi mengi ambayo yalitolewa nchi ya nje na kuingizwa katika National Cereals and Produce Board wakati mmoja wakulima walikuwa wanavuna. Kwa hivyo nataka niseme hivi; ukulima una changamoto na changamoto kubwa sana ni mtu anaitwa '*cartel*'. Cartel ni mwanabiashara ambaye ako kando. Kama serikali ya Kaunti ya Uasin Gishu, na mimi kama mwenyekiti wa Kilimo ningependa kusema hivi; tungeweka *policy* ya kwamba mambo ya *importation* kutoka nchi zingine iwekwe kando kwanza wakati wa mavuno. *Unless---*

(Point of order)

Deputy Speaker: Order! What is out of Order Honourable Tenai?

Hon. Tenai: Mr. Speaker Sir, I find the Honourable Member out of Order. He has chosen to speak fluent Kiswahili but there is; unless, at least, importation, I do not know what those words are. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I think because we are still at a formative stage, let us allow the Chair to conclude but in future Honourable Chair, if you have decided to use--- Order! Order Honourable Member. I am still giving direction! If you use Kiswahili, you use it till you conclude, English, English to the end but I know we are still learning.

You can proceed.

Hon. Rugut: Asante sana Bwana Spika nimekuwa nikizungumza kuhusu mambo ya biashara na ukulima. Ningependa kusema hivi; hoja hili la leo mimi kama mwenyekiti nimeiunga mkono, asante sana.

Deputy Speaker: There is a concern Honourable Members, Order Honourable Member Belinda! I am giving direction. We are discussing a very important matter and we cannot have other Members leaving for tea before we conclude. I would kindly request that as we proceed to have Honourable *Daktari* contributing, I want to request Honourable Belinda who was also making her way out to whip the Members because we are almost concluding.

Proceed!

Hon. Dr. Barmao: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I have the opinion that this Motion be reverted back to the Committee level because when you talk about the prices of maize and beans, it is because of the economy of scales and the demand and supply. When everybody is planting maize, you will find that the price will go down because automatically everybody has it. So I feel that if the farmers are being educated on the diversification of crops so that they can have dairy, they can have vegetables, then they can get good money. So I feel that this Motion should be taken back to the committee of Trade for further deliberation concerning diversification of crops, thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Leader of Government business!

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand here to support this Motion. In support of the Motion, we are all aware that we are speaking of cereals and these cereals that we are speaking of are the maize and wheat that contributes up to 75% of the economy of this County. While speaking about these cereals, the prayer of the Motion is very clear, they are urging the County government, the department of Agriculture to come up with a policy, to come up with a framework that will help our farmers in future not to enter into the trouble that we are in today. We are not discussing about the current situation. I am also a small scale farmer and for

you to plant successfully an acre of maize, you need not less than 25,000 shillings. If you are leasing that land, you will use 10,000 shillings to lease that land and you will need some money for ploughing, harrowing, for seeds, for fertilizer and they will add up to 25,000 shillings and the current calculations are 25,100 shillings. If you sell this maize at the current NCPB price of 3,000 shillings, that means for you just to break even and not calculating the time, you need more than eight bags, no profit made and no time calculation made.

Currently, farmers are harvesting up to five bags per acre; that means we are going at a loss. In developing these policies, the farmers also should be included on the way they can go and select good yielding seeds and not just any seed. We also reduce this type of planting just any seed because you want to plant just like everybody is planting. Most of us have said what we have said. I read in a business daily magazine last week, the government is already putting in place measures to import maize from April up to August because this country could not produce the 40,000,000 bags required for the year. Why? Because we were affected by the army worms and the drought that we had last year, so the maize produced this year is not enough.

It is an irony that, the same time as we speak that we need to import maize, the current maize is not bought at the market price that is required; the farmer is not given the 3,200 shillings per bag as required by and directed by the government. Most farmers are frustrated by the National Cereals and Produce Board to an extent that a farmer decides to sell his maize at a throw away price of 1,800 or 2,000 shillings. If you are selling your maize at 1,800 shillings per bag, you need 14 bags at the current calculation to break even without any profit. If you are selling it at 2,000 shillings, you need 12 bags to break even. But with the current land, because nobody has even taken statistics of our soil, we are not even getting the ten bags per acre. That means most of our farmers are just doing maize and wheat farming at a loss. Most of us have contributed that; in the policy, we are urging the County Executive and the department of Agriculture to make sure that we have the buying centers in our Sub Counties at least six stores. I am urging this House through the Committee of Agriculture that let us observe the budget when it comes to this House. Let us make sure that we put enough money to build those stores in each Sub-County and let us identify the site if it has not been identified so that we be the ones pushing for implementation of the same buying centers.

My second point; as the government, we can still stand by this; the government of Uasin Gishu today cannot build a miller and run the business, it will just fail in the next two years. The County Government of Uasin Gishu cannot start a miller today in every Sub-county and succeed because this is a government that is supposed to provide a good environment for us to do business. If the government itself goes to business then it will go the style of Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), Rift Valley Textiles (RIVATEX) and all the other government owned companies. What I am calling for--- We are now speaking of a lot of money that has been put into cooperatives, if we are really serious, there are those farmers; one person or two people like another farmer in Kimumu here doing value addition, having a small miller and making money. Our cooperatives; at least one cooperative per Sub-county should be given money and we do something called PPP (Public Private Partnership) so that in every Sub-county the county government can get a good investor to build a milling plant in every Sub-county if possible or two only in the entire County so that we can have competition in our county for farmers to get a place to sell their produce. As long as we are seated here today; if we say one cooperative per Sub-county is given even 200,000,000 shillings to start buying maize and doing value addition for farmers. We will be empowering those farmers and not empowering the same government we

are in. We will be empowering our communities, let us empower the cooperatives to have money to buy maize from their own farmers. After a cooperative has bought maize from the farmers, then that cooperative has a freedom of searching for market. We have something called The North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) in this north rift region; we have a county like Turkana which is in NOREB, we have Samburu which is in NOREB, we have West Pokot which is in NOREB; those three counties can buy maize from Uasin Gishu and make sure that it is sufficient for them to have food for the entire year. It is just a matter of policy and making an agreement so that what we do not have as Uasin Gishu we can buy it from West Pokot, and what West Pokot does not have in West Pokot they can buy it from Uasin Gishu so that we can create our own market. We cannot continually rely on NCPB because they will never give us what we want. Today the NCPB is closed, yes, there are cartels that are bringing maize from somewhere but we cannot say today that the Government cannot stop those cartels. That means the same government is also a cartel.

(Point of Order)

Deputy Speaker: Point of Order! What is out of order Honourable Member for Simat/Kapseret?

Hon. Korir, E.K: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I find the Honourable Member, Leader of government business saying that maybe the government is a cartel. I do not know if he is talking of the national government or our County Government?

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Leader of Government business can you substantiate that?

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much. Today I am happy that my friend Honourable Maraswa is the Leader of Government business and is defending the County Government like no one's business. I meant the Government and when I mean the Government, it is the national government because it is the government which is responsible of our borders. I was just saying this; we cannot continually kill the farmers we have here who are sweating to produce food for this country and the same time doing business which is killing them. We cannot subsidize fertilizer today and at the same time we do not give market to that farmer to go and sell the produce, we need to sit down and think. The Committee of Agriculture and your department, kindly sit down and think; bring us a lasting solution. This House will approve it and make sure that we give the money required for us to improve the lives of these farmers. If what we call giving priority to agriculture is '*Inua mama na kuku*', is '*Kijana na acre*' that is not empowering a farmer, that is not even trying to empower that farmer. The farmers are suffering, this Motion is good, let us now put it into action and make sure that it improves the life of that farmer for the next few years. Let farmers feel that there was a County Assembly that passed something that helped them move on.

I do not want to say much but I support this Motion and I call upon all the other Members to support this Motion hence it is going a long way to providing us with a policy framework that will help us make sure that farmers are not going to suffer again. Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to support.

(Point of Order)

Deputy Speaker: You want to inform who?

Hon. Malel: Or point of Order?

Deputy Speaker: Order! You want to inform who? The House?

(Laughter)

Hon. Malel: That Honourable Speaker, I stand to be---

(Deputy Speaker interjects)

Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! We cannot have a point of order when already a Member is seated. Let me allow you to contribute then. I use my discretion, you can contribute.

Hon. Malel: Honourable Speaker, I did not want to contribute. From the mood of the House, I was seeing that the mover be called to reply because from the mood of the Motion that is going because we---

(Deputy Speaker interjects)

Deputy Speaker: Order Honourable Amos! I find you out of Order by interfering with another Honourable Member and you know the consequences Honourable Member for Racecourse. We still have one member then we can allow Honourable the Member to have a right of reply. So you can consult as Honourable Amos concludes.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to appreciate you for giving an opportunity to make my comments over this Motion. Thank you also for I know that some Members are feeling that they have over stayed here but they should also realize that it is their responsibility to present and represent the views of the people that gave them these responsibility as per the oath that we took and also by the prayer that we always make before we begin our session. I rise to support this Motion and I want just to echo the words of our leader of majority because sometimes it becomes very difficult to understand how this life is; the life that we are operating in is going. As we speak now, there is a UN cry in this country that there is hunger and the National Government; I want to specific and very cautious again because some of the deliberations here are being taken out of context. So I want to be specific that the national government is indeed making a plan to import maize to this country. Sometimes I do ask myself, that it is based on what? I do not know where they do carry the research that there is shortage of maize and wheat in this country. If we can do a practical research bearing in mind that I am one of the large scale farmers, I am not a small scale farmers like Honourable Lowoi. I am one of the large scale farmers; I have a good stock of maize in my store. The prevailing price now they are telling you it 2,000 to 2,100 shillings, you can imagine that! At another point they are saying that there is shortage of maize in this country, so sometimes it becomes very difficult to understand how things happens, but nonetheless because devolution is in place, agriculture is a devolved function. I think we can take up this responsibility and maybe not only developing a policy but also a fund has to be created so that when farmers have harvested their produce during the harvest season their own Government of Uasin Gishu can buy these maize at the prevailing rate, let us say the rate offered at the National Cereals and Produce Board, so that it can be stocked. You know I was trying to do some simple calculations that for example, I was using the bursaries that we give out annually; a total of 135,000,000 shillings; You know I give out bursaries at a flat rate of 5,000 shillings, I gave a total of almost 1,000 beneficiaries; So I am trying to imagine that in Racecourse ward 4.5 million can target a 3,200 price that the National Cereals and Produce Board offers when you divide that one, you will get almost 1,000 bags which I know are not there in Racecourse, Huruma, Langas and some areas. So---

(Point of Order)

Deputy Speaker: Point of Order!

A Member is on a point of order Honourable Member. What is out of order Honourable?

Hon. Keitany: I think Mr. Speaker that the Honourable Member Amos is trying to mislead us by saying that he has been giving out bursary funds at a flat rate of 5,000 shillings. When you mean 5,000 it means 5,000 multiplied by 1000 and that is 5million and yet we know very well that so far, the highest figure that has been given out to the people of Uasin Gishu County per ward is 4.5million.

Deputy Speaker: Maybe you can substantiate that Honourable Member for Racecourse. How you give your bursaries.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you Mr. Speaker. But also listening is very important, it is a skill on its own and it is very important for all of us. I said approximately, when I say approximately, it does not mean that I am exactly at the figure; I want to say that these are simple mathematics that can be done. That if a fund is set aside so that other farmers can be supported by the County Government and in this policy we shall come up with an agreement that we shall target small scale farmers and not large scale farmers like me and a few of us here. We go for the small scale farmers down there and then others. Large scale farmers can go to the National Cereals and Produce Board. Even if we set aside close to 300,000,000 shillings, which I know is nothing to this County; you can imagine the much we are setting aside for the cooperatives and that money attracts a very small interest. Even if this County decides to borrow, we did that for machinery, a whopping 500,000,000 shillings but we were able to repay back. If we can do this for our people, you can imagine how we are going to grow the economy of the small scale farmers and everybody is going to be happy. I want to say that I support this Motion not only in developing the policy but I want to believe that while developing the policy the issue of finances should come in place because there is nothing else we can do to the people of Uasin Gishu; being the bread basket of this Country. Just as the Leader of majority has said; for this County, we can have our own strategic grain reserve. We can even go and build a temporary structure there at the yard and stock our maize and then when that season of need comes, counties like Turkana where some of our grandfathers came from and West Pokot, we can sell to them at a fair price of 3,300 or 3,500 and we take advantage of that organization called NOREB because apparently it has lost focus. We can revive it through such dimensions, even Turkana again can also supply us with oil, we shall be grading everywhere at a low cost, you can imagine that, that we are going to enjoy our relationship both economically, socially and culture wise. I do not support this idea of referring to the Committee, we have the history of referring to the committees but I want to say, let us support this Motion and indeed there is a lot of flesh that has to be added to this Motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I support.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, I had already given direction. Let us allow Honourable Member, the mover a right of reply. I know other Honourable Members wanted to contribute. You can proceed Honourable Alice.

Hon. Alice: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank this Honourable House for supporting this Motion because we are creating a lasting solution facing our farmers. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Before I put the question Honourable Members I have seen the Chair, Trade and there is a County issue that is so pertinent currently. We are expecting the Committee on Trade to handle that situation. You have realized Honourable Members that the retail and the wholesale market

within the county are closed and is also a concern within the County. The direction Honourable Chair is that, in the afternoon, you may respond to a statement over that and brief this House. It is affecting the livelihood of many business men and women and as a County we cannot stay away from that. I would kindly request that immediately after this session, you may call your committee and later in the afternoon give us a brief Report over the same. Honourable Members, we want to be very fair to each and every citizen in this County and even the business community.

I therefore put the question Honourable Members.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The ayes have it Honourable Members and this one is taken and a communication will be done to the relevant committee. Being no any other business on our Order Paper Honourable Members, the House Stands adjourned until 2:30pm.

The House Rose at 11.45am