

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 5th May, 2018

The House Met at 3:20 PM

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

PRAYER

NOTICES OF MOTION

BAN OF OFF LOADING BY HEAVY VEHICLES IN THE STREETS

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Edwin Korir!

Hon. Korir, E.K: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

Aware that many businesses in Eldoret town use section of streets for loading and off-loading; **Further Aware** that such situation cause a lot of inconveniences to other road users; **Concerned that** this trend is not conducive to orderly development of business; **Noting that** all traffic rules should always be adhered to by all business premises: This County assembly urges the County government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Roads, Transport, Energy and Public Works to ban off loading and loading by heavy commercial vehicles on streets.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Honourable Members, that Notice of Motion will be moved at an appropriate time on the schedule of the Motion to this honourable House.

Leader of Government Business, Notice!

NOTICE OF MOTION

COLLECTION OF FARMERS' VIEWS ON NCPB

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me move Notice of the following Motion:

Aware that Agriculture is the main economic activity in the County; **Further aware that** maize and wheat farmers depend on financial institutions for monies to enable them prepare, plan and harvest their produce; **Concerned that** market for the said produce depends on millers and the national governments through the N.C.P.B ; **Noting that** farmers have been supplying their produce to National Cereals and produce board and have delayed in

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receiving payments and to service their loans this has resulted in economic loss and even farmers being frustrated by the financial institutions: This County assembly resolves to allow the committees on Agriculture, Trade and Industrialization to lead the assembly in collecting views from the farmers in the Sub- Counties that will provide a solution and lead to Legislative framework and a budgetary proposal in the next financial year.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

MOTION

DEVOLUTION OF PHYSICAL PLANNING TO WARD LEVEL

(Hon Gilbert Tenai, MCA Cheptiret/ Kipchamo Ward)

(Resumption of debate interrupted 5.9.2018 morning)

Deputy Speaker: Thank you it is a resumption of the Motion that we had in the morning after the adjournment. It was honourable Muya. Proceed, honourable Muya.

Hon. Muya: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir, for granting again this time to finish my contribution on an amended Motion that had been brought on the Floor of the House by our Deputy Chief Whip.

Mr. Speaker, I was on side of opposing this Motion not because that Motion is not favourable or is not for use for the residents of Uasin Gishu but because of my own reasons. I think we had reached a point, by the look of things, the importance of the originator of the Motion maybe to call it back so that he can hear the views of other Honourable Members so that when it comes back on the Floor of the House, it will be all inclusive. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I still stand by that and still urge the honourable colleague, who was the mover of the original Motion before it was amended, to see the importance of withdrawing the Motion so that Honourable Members can put their heads together and, if possible, be brought back to this House either in form of a Motion and if there is a leeway of making it an Act so that it can be implemented to the letter.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the Motion is good but if passed hurriedly it might be of no use. Those are my comments but I congratulate the member for having this brilliant idea of trying to see the importance of devolving further the services that were devolved to the lowest level.

Having said that and since I just don't want it just be thrown, I am still urging the mover of the Motion to withdraw it and do more consultation and bring it when agreed upon on how it should be brought.

Therefore, I beg to rest my case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Singoei!

Hon Singoei: Thank you, honourable Speaker. I earlier on stood here to oppose the amendment of the original Motion that was before the House before the adjournment in the afternoon but I seek the indulgence of the members of this House because what is before us is not that original Motion and, Honourable Speaker. I don't know the Standing order that has been used to alter the Motion because it has never happened like this. Whenever a Motion has been moved to amend a motion, that amendment is discussed and if it carries the day, then it is actually amended and taken to the implementer of the Motion but what I am seeing here, I want to believe, is unprocedural because the prayer here has been changed and I want to believe this prayer is what was amended by honourable Kiptanui and now we are discussing a new Motion and, honourable Speaker, I want, before we even discuss even further, that you make a ruling or at least we seek the indulgence of the members because I believe there is unprocedural Motion that has actually sneaked into the House and I will not even say that I am opposing it or not because this is unprocedural. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, honourable Chief Whip, for that observation. I have also noted as the Chair there are some changes on the prayer and I have consulted with the office of the Clerk and I have been informed that it was a typing error, Honourable Members, and I will seek your indulgence the substantive Motion still stands because what is being reflected is the amendment. So, Honourable Members, I also seek your indulgence and we continue discussing the substantive motion with that amendment.

Honourable Tenai!

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me this time to give my input over the substantive Motion the way it was originally where the prayer was:

‘This County assembly urges the County government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Physical planning and Urban Development to consider devolving physical planning functions to the Ward level.’

Mr. Speaker Sir, as I sat here today in the morning I have heard a lot of contributions from Honourable Members and I am very much happy today that the Honourable Members had very good intention especially as per the fourth schedule of the Constitution which expressively tells us about the 14 devolved functions. Looking at the County Governments Act, it explicitly explains about the devolved system combining the two Laws, of which the Constitution is the supreme one. I would say that this honourable House is very much privileged and they have all the know-how of what is actually in the Constitution.

I want to say that many contributions today in the morning were geared towards devolving all the County functions - the 14 - and I want to say for purposes of performance, which I also feel that in this County assembly we should feel each and every function at devolved system, not limited only to physical planning department alone, but everything including even making some laws to ensure that the village administrators are also brought in by way of an

Act to create those positions such that when we talk about devolving all the functions to the lowest level which is practically possible, it will be easier.

So, Mr. Speaker Sir, with all those contribution by the Honourable Members, I want to go to the standing orders number 48 and honourably withdraw my Motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

(Motion withdrawn)

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, honourable Tenai. When a Motion has been withdrawn by the mover it can be introduced either by the same member or any other member. So you can as well still refine that Motion, you can reintroduce it either as the mover or you can appoint another member to do it. Thank you. We can as well proceed to another order.

MOTION

COLLECTION OF FARMERS' VIEWS ON NCPB

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Lowoi!

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to move the following Motion:

Aware that Agriculture is the main economic activity in the County; **Further aware that** maize and wheat farmers depends on financial institutions for monies to enable them prepare, plan and harvest their produce; **Concerned that** market for the said produce depends on millers and the national governments through the N.C.P.B; **Noting that** farmers have been supplying their produce to National Cereals and Produce Board and have delayed in receiving payments and to service their loans this has resulted in economic loss and even farmers being frustrated by the financial institutions: This County assembly resolves to allow the committees on Agriculture, Trade and Industrialization to lead the County assembly in collecting views from the farmers in the Sub- Counties that will provide a solution and lead to Legislative framework and a budgetary proposal in the next financial year.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as we are all aware that Uasin Gishu has been called by the name food basket of this country, as we are all aware that in Uasin Gishu County the main activity, 90% of our inhabitants are relying on is agriculture for their livelihoods. It is the only viable economic activity as of now because that is the only thing we depend on.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, In the recent past most of our farmers have been doing their work diligently and with hard work that it involves, but when it reaches time for them to get back what they had put into their farms, what they had planted, during the harvest period, most farmers as we speak the condition is that most farmers have supplied the government with their produce but they have not been paid to date. Some farmers have not been able to take even their kids to school, some farmers have a lot of huge debts with banks because most of the farmers depend on these financial institutions to get the loans so that they can really go on with their farming.

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Most farmers have been rendered helpless. Some farmers did not go back to farming this financial year because nobody paid them their dues.

Mr. Speaker Sir, keeping in mind that agriculture is 90% devolved, agriculture is actually a County function; the only thing remaining with the national government is the issue of disease control and the National Cereals and Produce Board. We cannot sit down and wait and watch our farmers cry every day, we cannot be part of *mandamano* of farmers every day and yet they elected us to find solutions to what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prayer of this Motion is very simple - it is just to ask this House to move out and go and listen to that farmer on the troubles he is going through and what the farmer suggests that we could do. If there are things that we can do as a County, then we go on and implement those things that will help this single farmer in Uasin Gishu not to undergo the same pain they are going in through. Today as we speak most of our farmers are being arrested, most of our farmers are being revetted to be paid, most of our farmers are undergoing a lot of troubles for them to even get the payment of their produce they produce from their farm. Unless you are not a farmer, then you cannot understand the struggle you go through before you start the process of farming.

Mr. Speaker sir, this County assembly all of us, almost all of us - if there is anyone who will remain out - we are farmers and we know the struggle, we know the procedures, we know the problems we face during ploughing, planting at that time maybe you want to spray your plants with the pesticides and all the other till the time you harvest, but sadly, when it reaches the time that you have supplied the government with your produce and nobody wants to pay you and that person turns again and takes you to court or start frustrating you by telling you, 'we need to actually to know where your farm is, where you got this maize.' You know now that is the time that a farmer asks himself twice, 'I am really doing a favour to myself?' Because you don't have any other activity we are working in, in this Uasin Gishu to get money to take our kids to school, to finance our progress, it is only farming because we are in a farming County.

Mr. Speaker, in that prayer we are just asking the County Assembly through the two committees - the committee on trade and the committee on agriculture - to take all of us to this sub-county, we go to Moiben sub-county, we sit in their headquarters of Moiben sub-county, we call the farmers, we listen to them, they tell us, 'yes we are going through the problem but we think if you can do this as a County, then we shall come out of this problem.'

We go to Turbo, we sit down with Turbo farmers; we go to Kesses; we go to Ainabkoi; we go to Kapseret and when we finish going through these sub-counties, we come back here and take the favourable decisions and opinions given by farmers and see if we can, as a county, if we can go by that. Can we build a maize miller using our funds as a county? Can we have some money to start buying this produce from farmers or what are we supposed to do? Can we change the crop? Because we all know that our deputy governor is in the lead pushing and advising our farmers to get out of maize farming and go to avocado and all the other cash

crops. Is it viable? Are we ready for it? Do we have funds even to buy the seedlings for these farmers? Are farmers well educated on this move or our farmers are still on the same clutch of maize and wheat and maybe some dairy? It is a good time that we go sit down and listen to our people, they will have a solution. Yes, we are leaders but we do not have the monopoly of knowledge. We actually need to sit down, listen to them, come up with solutions and these solutions will take us forward. We will never sit down here in this House listening to our... because we do not have any other thing. If we cannot make roads or provide solutions to those farmers who elected all of us, who made all of us to be nominated in this House, then I do not think there is any other duty that is bigger than trying to find a solution to help this farmer.

As I move this Motion and urge my colleagues to support it because it is a resolution of this House, not any other House, we are not urging any other person but it is a resolution that we move out and go to listen to this, I want to call upon Honourable David Singoei the Chief Whip to second.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Ngenyilel.

Hon. Singoei: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I stand here Honourable Speaker to second this Motion that has been moved by Honourable Josphat Lowoi, our Leader of majority and also a Member representing Karuna/Meibeki Ward. The issue of NCPB, national government and the farmers is a very serious matter that I think this direction of us seeking views and the way forward from the farmers is just but a start of actually trying to solve the problems that are affecting our farmers.

Sometimes last year there was a group of young men in Thika that went underground and dug a tunnel to rob a bank and for some time they disappeared until some lady actually took a selfie of the money that was looted and that is how they were found. The bank did not refuse to pay the customers their dues because a bank was robbed, but the national government is taking rounds in giving us stories that there is a man or a farmer called Soiben, there is a farmer called some lady, that there are farmers who are not really farmers and that the reason the national government does not want to pay our farmers is because some people were corrupt. We want to believe that the national government is lying to the people of Kenya because even if we have corrupt dealings - and I want to believe a lot of that is happening in national government, very little is happening within the counties and if it is, there is Law that let those who are actually affected be dealt with and the due process take its course and if there is anything that they are culpable and if there is any Law that they have broken, let the Law take its nature. We cannot allow our farmers not to be paid because a few other people have stolen from National Cereals and Produce Board; it is really an issue that is neither here nor there. We want these farmers to be paid but I think, as Members representing the region that produces a lot of wheat, maize and milk, I think this is a noble idea, this is a diplomatic way and I think this is a sure way of actually letting also the government understand that there are people who represent these people.

So I want to urge all the Honourable Members seated in this Assembly that we approve this Motion and allow the Committee on Agriculture, Trade and Industrialization to lead us in meeting these farmers. Let us hear what the farmers are saying, let us also hear what we think they want the government to do, then from there we can take the appropriate action even if it means surrendering all the money for the roads and all the other activities and paying our farmers let it be. I think these farmers have toiled enough and they deserve to be paid because if the national government has decided to go around and give us run around stories that if you talk about this, you are talking about 2022, I want to make it clear for the record that we have only one president that we elected and that is Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Honourable Deputy President Ruto is just ‘*mtu wa mkono*,’ if I may use the word in quotes and everybody is directing everything to do with maize to Honourable Ruto. Ruto is not our president. We want Uhuru Kenyatta to come out of the State House and address farmers’ issues. The issue of just hiding behind the 2022 issue must come to an end because farmers’ issues must be addressed by the president that we elected.

We want to support our President in dealing with corruption and that is part of his work but there is the other part of the work that he must deliver on the mandate. If you look at what the national government is doing, it has actually thrown away the manifesto of Uhuru and put it into the Four Agenda. During campaign we did not hear the Four Agenda, but he has now said, ‘because I want to go home, I want to do only four things.’ What about all these other things that are affecting our people? It must also be done because I think and I believe it is in the budget and so our farmers must be paid and we must get views from the farmers so that when we go out there and actually present the views of our farmers, we are doing it with the mandate of our people.

I am urging the Honourable Members to support this Motion. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Singoei. A Motion has been moved and seconded and therefore I propose a question

(Question proposed)

Deputy Speaker: Ensuing debate, Honourable Members.

Honourable Member for Simat/Kapseret.

Hon. Korir, E. K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. I stand to support this Motion and first I want to congratulate our Leader of government business, Josphat Arap Chumo, for bringing this Motion to this House this afternoon.

Protect me, Mr. Speaker...

Deputy Speaker: Order! A Member is on a point of... what is out of order, Honourable Member for Kipkenyo?

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Hon. Rono, H: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Honourable Member from Simat/Kapseret Honourable Maraswa Edwin Korir is not in order to give us names, calling the Honourable Leader of Majority whom we know as Josphat Lodeya Lowoi and calling him Arap Chumo. Are we... do we have some other names? He is not in order.

Deputy Speaker: I think you are out of order, Honourable Korir. use the right names. Proceed.

Hon. Korir E. K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I can substantiate.

Deputy Speaker: Proceed, Honourable Member. Do not substantiate just... you know...

Hon. Korir, E. K: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Yes!

Hon. Korir, E. K: Mr. Speaker, this idea is good. As you are aware that we have been on recess for the last 39 days and before we went for sports, I also took time in Kapseret/ Simat to meet with these maize farmers. This is the same as what we have been discussing because when I stand here, I am also doing maize farming in Simat/ Kapseret and we have realized several things that I would also like to share with this House and try to convince them to support this Motion.

We have realized that we do not have a contract in this nation to feed anyone. As maize farmers, we have realized and we have been discussing and we are going to change our way of doing farming. Like my case the 10 acre farm that I have, I am trying to change and plant maybe a half an acre of maize that can only feed my family plus maybe only one relative that might come in but the other large farm we are figuring out a way of planting other crops like wheat and avocado. We have to change because we have seen maize nowadays is no more a cash crop. if you go to the prices at the market right now, you will find that a bag of 90kgs goes for sh1, 400 shillings which, if you try to calculate the input verses output, they does not tally and we are actually requesting and telling the national government that for this year since we have planted several acres of maize, they should set aside the money to buy this one only. From next year - because we have decided in Kapseret/Simat that we are going to plant other crops - then they can now starting next year maybe buy other crops.

The prayer of this Motion also comes in to the county government of Uasin Gishu that, since we have our farmers crying then, we have to go to the ground , that is, the two committees that we are going to allow them to move around . We want to know the views of other farmers and, as a county government right now, we are building the sub county cereal stores and one of the cereal stores is in my place called Tuiyo, which it is near completion and I was wondering how maize will get to that store. So these views that we are going to collect from the residents of Uasin Gishu will assist this county government to know the way forward of assisting the maize farmers. If possible we can set up maybe a milling plant for the county so that we do the maize flour within and we sell to other residents.

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Mr. Speaker, I support this Motion since it is coming in ... if we collect views ... you know if you have identified a problem then it is easy to solve that problem and all of us in this House know that maize farmers are facing a lot of challenges as we speak today.

We are telling the national government that even we are leaders in this government and we are going to differ with the national government. We are telling them that we will tell our people and you know we are very powerful because some of us are leaders and we represent people and we are with them. Every morning they are at our places, every evening we meet with them and they actually listen to us and we want to send this to the national government that beginning next year - because this year we have planted a lot of maize - beginning next year, we are going to do a campaign and we are going to boycott maize farming. We need to see where this government will... let them bring it from Uganda or wherever they want even Mexico. Let them import maybe from next year but we are begging them that since we have done a lot of maize farming this year, kindly buy from us only this year. Set aside money only this year but beginning next year, I think we will not be requesting and actually... I support this Motion that we rescue and save our farmers this year. Thank you. I stand to support.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Tenai. I have seen you, Honourable Members.

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I want also to support this very important Motion. I am also a farmer. At times when the Honourable Whip was talking here about the farmers ... there are some years I was not able to define who is a real farmer. Whether you own an acre piece of land, one point piece of land or a hundred acres of land, you do remain a farmer. Maize is a staple food in Uasin Gishu; maize is also a business to the majority of the farmers in Uasin Gishu County. Come the month of December you will find most farmers would actually draw their budget the way we normally approve our budget in this county Assembly in the month of July. Farmers do approve their budget in the month of December. One, they will factor in money to pay school fees, they will also factor in money to pay for insurance cover, they will factor in money to pay for NHIF and they will also factor in money to make sure that they also change their part of wardrobe. Normally in December there are a lot of activities including even when farmers have their own children who want to marry; they would actually propose to have those ceremonies during the month of December simply because there will be availability of money. That is why they are planting all this maize to make sure that when it comes to the month of December they will do almost everything, but unfortunately with the current trend, the way farmers are being treated most of these farmers, like what the Honourable Member Maraswa has actually said, a lot of farmers in Uasin Gishu are very much disappointed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say in the whole Republic of Kenya we only have seven maize producing counties. To be more specific there are four which produce large scale farming in terms of maize and that is Bungoma, Trans- Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Nakuru. If today we sit as an Assembly and make sure the respective department sits down and discusses the best

ways to ensure that our farmers get market for their produce, it will be for better. Considering what I have told you that we are only seven maize producing counties; CRA was just the other day. They came here under the County Revenue Allocation Fund and I would propose, as we also look for other ways agriculture under the fourth schedule, is a devolved function. National Cereals and Produce Board does buy maize from farmers. if you see the Act created under Section Chapter 338 of the National Cereals and Produce Board that was initially created in 1979 and amalgamated to form the maize and wheat National Cereals and Produce Board to handle these grains, Mr. Speaker Sir, they had very good vision to assist our farmers but currently, that thing has been abused to an extent when you talk of NCPB, you talk of the old KANU, whereas, there are areas, Mr. Speaker Sir, where they do not produce maize. Just the other day, there was this Galana/Kulalu Irrigation Scheme, where a lot of money was factored in just to produce maize. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker Sir, if you calculated the cost of production in that area, it is something which is worth being investigated. Now, a genuine farmer in Uasin Gishu County has a lot of problems now and they produce maize. We talk of strategic grain reserve which is because of a security issue; it is under the national government.

Now, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Constitution of Kenya expressly tells us about Article 187 which allows the transfer of functions between two levels of government. One of the functions I would wish that it should be transferred to the County Government is the function of National Cereals and Produce Board. If we are to take care of the strategic grain reserve, then the county government should be handling the grain, then it transfers now to the national government, which that one is practically possible, Mr. Speaker Sir, because devolution is actually what we need to feel in the ground.

Mr. Speaker Sir, gone are the days when as a County Government we produce a lot of raw materials, and just transfer them elsewhere for purposes of doing value addition. In the near future, I would propose this Honourable House to sit down and make sure that every raw material that is being produced in Uasin Gishu County has to undergo value addition, such that if any other person would think otherwise to say; we are importing raw materials like maize from Mexico to come to Uasin Gishu County, let them be sure that we have our raw materials to make into value addition before we transport it elsewhere.

Otherwise, the issue of importing maize from elsewhere, then we levy in a lot of other taxes to ensure that those maize do not in Uasin Gishu County...

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to support this very important Motion to ensure that our farmers are cautioned; our farmers ensure that they get money to carry out their own programmes. We cannot come and sit down here and say because we have been disadvantaged by the national government by not giving us enough money to buy our maize, then we now start producing other things.

Mr. Speaker Sir, just the other day when I was trying to talk to my people from Cheptiret/Kipchamo Ward, I proposed other ways of diversifying agriculture by not

producing maize to produce may be avocado, and there were a lot of challenges. Currently, traditionally and culturally, you normally know that there are granaries that were built long time ago for purposes of keeping these maize produce. The same granaries cannot hold avocados if we are to produce a lot of avocados in Uasin Gishu County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to support this Motion and ensure that this Honourable House passes the same Motion for the purpose of the committee in charge of Agriculture and Trade, the way it has been put in the prayer, to make sure that they come with very good ways of ensuring that our farmers get profit from their farms.

Otherwise, I support the Motion.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Tenai. Honourable Goretta then, I have seen you, Honourable Pius and Honourable Member for Segero/Barsombe.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to support this Motion hundred and one percent (101%).

One, Mr. Speaker Sir, you are aware that all the activities that we are doing as a Country were aligned by God and therefore farming of maize was not a creation of Uasin Gishu County. Neither was it for Trans-Nzoia, neither was it for Bungoma or the rest of the counties who produce maize.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say that as a country and leadership of this nation, they should be able to consider the creation of God. There are areas which are very dry and we cannot use our resources to irrigate some plants to grow in those areas, for example, the Galana/Kulalu project that really had a lot of money from the government. At the end of the day, they were only able to harvest three bags per acre, which was a very great loss.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, I remember one time, I was preaching in one of our Churches where I worship and I was encouraging people on where they are stepping on, and I said, even the Turkana people who used to refer to themselves as non-Kenyan citizen, because they used to come all the way from Lodwar saying we are going to Kenya, yet they were in Kenya, just because of the dry area that they were in, but I encouraged them and I told them that there must be something very good that God has put down the Earth; you have your own gold, and it was not long when they discovered the oil in Turkana.

Mr. Speaker Sir, what am I saying? I want to say that we, as Uasin Gishu, we are not going to run away from maize planting to other crops because, one, Mr. Speaker Sir, you are aware that we major on cattle keeping and farming of maize and wheat. Remember when we bring our food on the table, as our culture stipulates, we bring milk on the table, and when we bring our milk on the table it has to be accompanied by *ugali*. There is no way you will bring milk and then you bring avocado on the table. That is a fruit that it has to be taken by any other person, but for you to have food, you must have the *ugali* on the table.

Mr. Speaker, I want to support this Motion and say that, as a County, it is like somebody somewhere is having a scheme to frustrate the farmers of this country to run away from what they have been doing as their farming activity to earn a living, so that come some years back they will be like beggars; they will be on streets, maybe their children will not be able to go to school, and you know when you want to rule a nation, Mr. Speaker, it is always in the mind of those leaders that you make them poor so that you can continue sitting on them. This is not the time; this is not the era, this is 21st Century when we are supposed to be improving on our produce at all cost.

Therefore, I want to support this Motion by saying, as a County, we are rethinking. I remember when we were taking our maize to the cereals board last year, most of our farmers were very much frustrated until I was even opting that we encourage our farmers to plant grass so that our animals; our cows can feed well. But I went and rethought again and said if we have only milk, where shall we get the food? Hence, I only want to support this Motion and say we go and take the public opinion from this County, and then from there as leaders, we also make strategies whereby at the end of the day, we as a County, we will buy our own maize. Then from there, we do value addition, then after doing that, let that person or that county or that nation that would want to have food in terms of maize, to come to Uasin Gishu County and buy it when already we have had value addition on it.

Mr. Speaker Sir, again we are disadvantaged: Look at our milk; most of the processing plants that are there and the value addition is not done within the County. We are transporting our maize far away which is actually denying opportunities for our youth for employment. Our industries; the industries that are in Kenya, most of them are not within Uasin Gishu. So, what are we saying? For our youth to have employment, we must ensure that we have those industries within Uasin Gishu so that our own sons and daughters can have employment and benefit from what we are doing as a County.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I have said I support this Motion 101%. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Tembelio!

Hon. Kigen: Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. I stand also to support this Motion. In fact for the first time, I would say this House has taken a serious effort towards the farmers' predicaments.

Honourable Speaker, as the Leader of Majority said, farmers cry. You will also find some of our leaders in the streets, they also cry. I think this Motion will actually address the missing gap and even possibly come up with solutions that will give farmers relief. As Honourable Tenai said, all of us here are farmers. We went to school, our school fees – the whole of it - is through either sale of wheat or maize or milk; this is farming.

Honourable Speaker, I would say over 90 per cent of the population of this County are farmers. Yet, there are no deliberate measures to safeguard the same farmers. We cannot bury

our heads in the sand while all around us we see our farmers crying. Some even come with their combine harvesters to the streets, others with their tractors and nobody listens to them. At times we look far above that maybe our solution will come, as somebody who is praying that at times they look upon the hills that that is where their help comes from.

Honourable Speaker, I think it is out of this that we will start a new chapter and I want also to say that agriculture is devolved. I would say it is devolved even 100 per cent. It is only in the aspect of irrigation that maybe the national government and maybe the grain food reserve aspect. Otherwise the other portion is solely within the county.

Honourable Speaker, I am also impressed by the prayer of this Motion; that the committee of Agriculture and Trade, Industrialization...this makes me happy because dispensation of this Motion is going to be managed by a committee of this same Assembly. We would not need to ask for permission from anyone. The two committees will draw their programme and go round all the sub-counties and meet the farmers' one on one; listen to them, hear them. I know solution is not far away; it is not even as far as where the maize is being imported from Mexico. Our solution will be as near as a distance from our village.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as somebody has said, how can this sector be regulated? What framework or policies are there in place to regulate this sector? You will be surprised, Honourable Speaker, that this sector - and that is why some of our good trades people and farmers are being branded as cartels. Surely, the people branded cartels are people known to us; people who have been doing this business of maize and wheat, and yet they are now branded cartels and taken handcuffed to Nairobi. It is embarrassing even for us not only as leaders but also as the people of Uasin Gishu.

Honourable Speaker, somebody has said we will need to assist our farmers; we need to run the process; we need to be on top of this; we need to be in control and as a County, we have enough resources even to assist our farmers, even to do a budget. We can budget to buy wheat and maize from our farmers through the cooperative societies. What was the point for us improving or actually reviving the Saccos and cooperative societies?

Honourable Speaker, value addition as somebody has said is the way to go. But do we have a framework, do we have policies, do we have regulations? We do not. People say Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) rules; we have free market. What free market, Honourable Speaker, if we know that even today you will still need to produce your passport to go to Tanzania and it is in East Africa? I think people are taking advantage of these world class forums and agreements and statutes but we want to face these things once and for all.

Honourable Speaker, we need to hear our farmers, we need to come up with legislations, and we need to come up with even Acts so that we support and assist our farmers. When we talk of subsidy, to what extent is our subsidy?

(Point of order)

Deputy Speaker: What is out of order, Honourable Chief Whip?

Hon. Singoei: Mr. Speaker, I find the irony of this House. There is a very important Motion that is affecting our farmers and Honourable Members have just excused themselves. I do not know the statement that we are making to the people of Uasin Gishu. Honourable Speaker, I want to seek your indulgence because the quorum is not enough. Though I am the Chief Whip but I think this Motion must be undertaken whichever direction it takes in the absence of all the Honourable Members or at least the quorum that is required, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: What are you suggesting, Honourable Chief Whip?

Hon. Singoei: Honourable Speaker, I thought I had said that there is no quorum in the House.

Deputy Speaker: I want to invoke Standing Order Number 1, Honourable Members, and I seek your indulgence in view of the fact that we are discussing a very important issue that is touching on most of our electorate.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: I want to declare this sitting been adjourned for a continuation tomorrow at 2:30PM, then we will be able to conclude.

The House rose at 4:20PM

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