

Wednesday, 7th March, 2018 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly - Second Session

Wednesday, 7th March, 2018

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

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga) in the Chair]

PRAYER

MOTION

STATUS OF THE COUNTY DAIRY FARMING PROJECT

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Members, you are aware that in our earlier engagement, we deferred our morning sitting to 2.30 p.m. to give Members ample time to go through the report. We are just continuing with that report from where we left. So I will invite the chair for Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries on the Floor.

Hon. Ochieng': Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had submitted my report and it was on the Floor, and Hon. Edwin was cut short on his speech. So I think you can kindly give him a chance to submit his input on the report.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): The report is open for debate.

Hon. Odhiambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I was interrupted by some Members because they were not and now I know that everybody is okay and I have been given another chance to proceed with my contribution.

I was almost giving my final submissions, and I said that ATC is the only of its kind within Siaya County and as the Siaya County government; that is the Executive and us the Assembly, I would rather request that this facility be looked at and be given priority among those projects by the executive on things like equipment as well as stocking this facility with equipment which may improve its status.

If you can refer to the last page that is the picture which I think is a sample from a German organization, and it's reported that this is a zero grazing and feeding animal shade at

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ATC done by PIZ. As much as these people spend much of their money in this construction, the Agriculture Committee found that it is non-functional.

It is very clear that if what you have been offered is non-functional then it means that what you can offer will not function. So I want to bring the attention of this House that ATC should act as our experimental facility within the County. So that the animals there can be looked at properly because we know that if they are not looked at properly they will not produce enough milk.

The production of the animals at ATC is even less compared to animals under the care of individuals. So I would request the Hon. Members that whatever resolution has been given in this report be backed up and allow for implementation to take place, thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Ayika.

Hon. Ayika: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to complement the chair, Hon. Willis and the Committee that has done a very good job. As we go through the report we have all noticed that it is well covered in all the areas and in all constituencies, which is a job well done. But, what I can also notice is that some groups were given heifers but were not tutored on how to take care of them.

So probably that has come to our attention and therefore next time before we do that they should be tutored or be given a little bit of education so that they don't lose their heifers. If this kind of report is supported, I think we will have products like yoghurt and ice cream just as somebody here said. So I would say that it's a good report and a good cause as well as congratulate them.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Audi.

Hon. Audi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have actually stood to support this report which looks more substantive, and given that I am one of the Siaya Agriculturists, I know how it really affects farmers. This is an item that Siaya County Government spent a lot of money on. Group of farmers were given these heifers without proper technical knowledge.

Look, at one time I was walking around my Ward and I found one of the farmers who had been given a heifer had tied the animal on the house roof and covered it with a mat. So, I have just one reservation that maybe the chair will follow up on. It is the issue of the some money being put aside for structures. I don't know whether the Committee has knowledge of the monies which were set aside for the structures. Is the money still there or was it re-allocated?

On the Siaya Agricultural Training Centre, we all know that this is one of the model centres of agriculture. If well utilized, Siaya can change into a more productive county. The Siaya ATC was given some heifers by the County government. If you come to South Gem you will find a school called Ndori which also received the same heifers and one is producing 16 litres a day while the one at Siaya ATC is producing only 2.5 litres a day. So, we don't know which one is now a model centre to Siaya County government.

What is the problem at Siaya ATC that cannot be solved? Is there a way of following up these monies that are ploughed back to the County Government revenue account? How can we make sure that these monies are used to maintain the Siaya ATC? This is a very important item

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and probably somebody has taken advantage of these monies collected from seminars and trainings. That's another task that the Committee needs to follow up on.

Bwana chair, you have done a very good job and probably this is a report whose recommendations can move Siaya County to a better state if they are well implemented.

Thank you. I support.

Hon. Winga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. First, I want to appreciate the Committee for a job well done. When we went out, we noticed that there are areas where the public was not properly inducted on. These cows are not like the ordinary cows and as we continue with this program, we are going to get somewhere.

Agriculture contains livestock and also fisheries. So, we still have a lot of thing to work on in this department. In the schools we visited, the students were very happy because the agriculture part of it was helping them. Let us see what we can continue doing to the schools.

Finally, if Siaya is to move to the next level as a county, then the ATC must be improved. I support.

Hon. Olasi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I stand to support this Report, but with some few recommendations. First, I am attracted to the background of this document. In line four it says; the county government has supported the rapid expansion of dairy farming by economically empowering the community with an aim of improving the economic status of the people and eventually introducing school milk feeding program for ECDE children in Siaya Count supported by locally produced milk.

The third last line says; the farmers were then expected to properly rare the dairy cattle and eventually cultivate into the milk produced for purposes of acquisition by the County Government in order to support the school milk program.

So, apart from creating jobs to our people, this program was supposed to support another program called the ECDE school milk program. The big question is; have we really succeeded in this? If you look at the previous budget allocations, you will find that this was factored in at a cost of Ksh. 30 million. I want to challenge the Education Committee to find out where the Ksh. 30 million allocated for ECDE school milk program went to.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I wonder how a heifer bought for Sirawongo Secondary School is reared by Nyang'oma Boys Secondary. Nyang'oma is also an institution and should have its own heifer. Why do we give Sirawongo a heifer yet they don't have pasture for it?

Thirdly, I have realised that as far as dairy farming is concerned, apart from Siaya ATC, there is nothing completely mentioned in Alego Usonga and Rarieda sub counties. Are we saying that this program was not meant for other sub-counties?

The Agriculture Committee have a mandate up to and including fish farming and I know that when they touch there they will touch Rarieda directly. All said and done, I am not happy that it is not covered here completely. If it was a project meant to uplift the standard of living of the people of Siaya, then why would you leave some Sub counties? Last but not least, Siaya training center---

Hon. Ousa: Point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir!

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The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Yes, Mheshimiwa Ousa.

Hon. Ousa: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker for having given me time. I have a concern that the Honorable Member of West Uyoma questioning why the heifers were given to some Constituencies while Rarieda was not given. I would like to know why the Honorable Member was not in the Assembly when this project was being initiated.

(Applause)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Ousa, take your seat. You are out of order because in the first place, that is a caution you are putting across to another Honorable Member. I think let us give Hon. Olasi time,

Hon. Olasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not ask for protection because my name itself is enough security for myself.

(Laughter)

I don't know how many times we will be taken to Mombasa to learn when to stand for a point of order. We will not get into that.

The Temporary Speaker: Hon. Olasi, can you go on with your contribution on the Report.

Hon. Olasi: Mr. Speaker, at times we differ in class and caliber. We are the same but not equal in nature. So allow me to continue. When we were told that the cow at ATC, a place where even our farmers can go to learn, is producing 2.5 litres a day. These are people who are supposed to train others, even the farmers that are producing 16 litres are supposed to be trained by ATC. It's the love for money and not the love of Siaya County.

The ATC people are the right ones to be engaged when procuring the animals for Siaya given their background. Get it from me; some of these people are even more qualified than even the CECMs and the CS that we have around.

(Applause)

The CS, you know as much as I know, that most of them are political employees, but if you want to drive Siaya to somewhere, I would request that let us fully use ATC. These are some of the institutions that when empowered and used properly, at least we can get Siaya somewhere. Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, allow me to commend part of this recommendation. It was a good one. Last recommendation is very important. I believe that the Committee did a good job, and I ask the Members to help them support this document. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Yes, Mheshimiwa Fred Omoro!

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this Report and I am privileged to be one of the Members. I participated in the fact finding mission. We went round to various Wards, to at least get the facts on the status of the dairy farming in Siaya.

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I also stand to thank the Siaya County Government for having supported such a project which has created jobs, both casual and permanent employment, because you find many people who keep dairy animals, from there they can sell their milk, and earn their livelihoods. Same time they can also employ casual workers in the dairy shades.

At the same time we went round and found that the dairy farming was quite beneficial to our schools, more so for those doing Agriculture as a subject. They use the dairy cattle in the school for their practicals. There is so much they could learn at a closer range.

We also found that the dairy farming in Siaya was meant to subsidize the school feeding programs, to supplement the milk that would be used in nursery school for our children. The system that was designed was good, only that it was not followed to the latter. It was planned that once you are given a heifer and it brings forth a calf, the cow was to be passed on to the next farmer, and that is how the succession would be until every farmer in Siaya County would at least get fit in the system of dairy farming.

As we went round, we found that there were lots of challenges. One was about the high cost of treatment. Treating the dairy cattle was a bother to the farmer because you find that most of the dairy cows, the amount of milk produced was not enough to subsidize the treatment for the animals. Some of the dairy cattle would produce only up to two litres and then you find that in the event that the animal is sick, you use up to Kshs.5, 000 for treatment.

In terms of the construction of the animal shade, the farmers were never equipped with the knowledge of how to do it; in fact most of the animals were kept carelessly. There is an area we went and found a calf whose mother had died and it was left behind in some earthened structure. Also, there were no proper storage facilities, because the moment the farmers get their milk, they do not get proper storage facilities at least to help them store their milk, for a longer time as they look for market.

The farmers were also prompted to use Artificial Insemination (AI) to serve their animals, but you find that most of this was never brought, and the farmer is prompted to do several AIs before the heifer gets at its peak. The farmers were never enlightened on the issues of record keeping, and as we went round on numerous Wards and groups, we came across only one group where we found a retired officer as the only person with farm records showing how he was carrying out his duties on a daily basis.

As we concluded, we recommended that a procurement committee be formed because through our experience we found out that the breeds that were bought were not the quality that the farmers required at least to subsidize their income.

We recommended that the procurement committee be formed and people with vast knowledge on dairy farming be picked to get us the right quality. The next recommendation is that more veterinary officers be engaged so that at least we get adequate services. Otherwise, I stand to support the document, thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Omwende!

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Hon. Omwende: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker. You can see from the mood of the House---. I would kindly request before I speak, let the Agriculture Committee give other Members opportunity also to support or disagree with their report.

(Applause)

On that note, I have some observations that are key to this report. First, the report itself on the picture part of it, how I wish other reports would also come with pictures so that we can see ourselves from what the Committee has done. There were a lot of repetitions in this report and in future this should also be observed.

If I can start, I know right now Hon. Members of this County Assembly know where they can bank their money when making our budget. From this report I conclude that it is better to give money to schools and maybe the colleges that can make use of that money and make use of technical knowhow on how they are going to support this programme. From the so called Wards that have been mentioned, it has come true that the County Government has failed totally and the money that was given to those Wards has not been used properly.

For that reason, when I believe on the so called County Government, the Executive part, when you want to construct a house there are key things that you need to put in place. I was thinking that the first thing the County Government could have done was to invest in training awareness and capacity building so that the farmers that are going to use dairy farms should be aware of how they are going to protect, secure and do the housing itself. From this report it is clear that even the farmers themselves don't know how they are going to safe guard these animals.

I am supporting but with a recommendation on the issue of technical knowhow and even the training itself was also key; it should be part of the recommendation. Otherwise may I support the report, thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Odawa Zephaniah!

Hon. E. Odawa: Mr. Temporary Speaker, I would like to make a few observations from report. First and foremost you realize that there is a problem with the cow sheds. I think Siaya County Agriculture Department need to have their priorities in order. We need to have proper constructed cow sheds and must be inspected before heifers are delivered. Second, it is important for the department to check on availability of fodder before they proceed again to deliver the heifers.

Third, it is important that the County Government should subsidize hay for the heifers, dairy meal to encourage these farmers to continue keeping these cows. I also observed that the quality of the heifers was wanting and thereby suggest that ATC should be made to be the sole procuring authority of heifers because they know what is supposed to be purchased, the know the kind of heifers that can survive in this climate.

We also realized that there is a direct relationship between annual fee and gratitude. I hereby suggest to the Siaya Agriculture Committee to consider in investing in rice grown from

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Nyadorera. We have rice stalks, we can use them to make hay and avail that hay at subsidized rate to the farmers who are supposed to be taking care of those cows otherwise at the end of the day it is going to be an exercise in futility. The other thing is that we need to add more extension officers and they should be readily available in the various areas.

Otherwise I think the Committee has done a commendable job. I would like them to come with a more detailed report which can give us estimated volume of milk per heifer and what input is supposed to be put in for us to be able to attain the threshold of heifer. There is no need of having heifers for the sake of having heifers that are not economically adding any value. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Thank you, I now call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Ochieng: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker. First I want to thank all the Hon. Members that have contributed towards this report. I want to say that their input has been considered and to be brief some of the Members were asking why other sub counties or other Wards were not considered; I want to make it clear that this was a Ward based project whereby communities at Ward level were prioritizing the project that they wanted done in their Wards and that's why some of the Wards benefitted and others didn't.

Those that didn't benefit, I want to put it clear that the respective Wards budget for the cows and that's why they were not considered and I would kindly request Hon. Members that at least we give it a trial. It can work and let us also consider buying dairy cattle in our Wards for the community so that they can be introduced.

For the Wards that benefitted in this we should put together all the challenges in our findings and come up with solutions to help curb them. Secondly, Hon. Members were asking why we only Table a Report based on livestock. I want to say that Agriculture consists of crop production, livestock rearing and fishing farming. We will Table another Report majoring on something else but this one was for Dairy farming project in the Wards.

On the A.T.C. case, I think we have managed to plan a meeting with the CECM Finance and CECM Agriculture to chat on a way forward on how we can make sure that the A.T.C. is equipped and provided with the funds that can make it move. It will be a model farm within the County; we are seriously working and determined to make sure that we achieve the intended purpose of the A.T.C. so that the entire community of Siaya benefits on this.

On trainings, I think this is part of our recommendations. As we speak right now there are Wards that cows have not been supplied but they were included in the budget. I want to work very closely with the department so that before we identify the groups early enough and train them before the cows are procured and even the preparedness of the feeds and cattle dips constructed in advance so that we avoid the kind of challenges our first groups encountered.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir; on funds for constructing the structures, there was a case in South Gem and in all the groups that we visited there were too that there monies were allocated and we wrote a letter to the department awaiting their response so that we can know whether it was also in the budget and if so a follow be made.

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I want to assure the representative for South Gem that in a week's time we will give him a ... on the status of the structure for their cows. And for the case of Serafuongo and Nyang'oma; I think these are schools that are in one Ward and how the cow was given to Serafuongo and not Nyang'oma we can't explain here because this was a local arrangement at the Ward level and the Committee wasn't involved but we did report the status of the ground.

I want to thank the entire House for having accepted this Report and I will call upon the implementation Committee to do a follow up on this Report so that the recommendations are put in place and the entire County communities benefit. May God bless you all!

(Question Put and agreed to)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Members as you are aware yesterday the Speaker Hon. Okode during his communication informed the House that tomorrow Thursday, 8th March, 2018 there will be training in Kisumu organized by G.I.Z which Members will be attending including Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries and the Assembly leadership.

We are also aware that the Committee on Health services traveled to Naivasha County for training while the Budget Committee should be meeting in Kisumu on budget preparation. It therefore indicates that we will lack quorum tomorrow. Therefore we won't have our Thursday session.

Hon. Members, there being no other business would you be up standing for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Members, this House therefore directs that pursuant to Standing Order no. 25 (4) this House adjourns until Tuesday, 13th March, 2018 at the Chamber.

The House rose at 3.14 p.m.