

Wednesday, 11th September, 2019 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly-Third session

Wednesday, 11th September, 2019

The House met at the Committee Boardroom 4 at 9.30 p.m.

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

PRAYER

PAPER

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT REQUEST ON CERTIFIED MAIZE SEEDS

Hon. Ochieng: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to lay the Statement request by Hon. Audi on the procurement of sales of certified maize seeds by County Government of Siaya to the farmers on South Gem Ward.

NOTICE OF MOTION

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT REQUEST ON CERTIFIED MAIZE SEEDS

Hon. Ochieng: Thank you Madam Chair. I wish to give a Notice of Motion that this House adopts the Report on the Sectorial Committee on Agriculture on procurement and sales of certified seeds by the County Government to the farmers of the South Gem Ward laid on the table of the House today Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 9.30 am.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

Hon. Ochieng: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to move the Motion:
THAT this House adopts the report on the Sectorial Committee on Agriculture on procurement and sales of certified maize seeds by the County Government to the farmers of the

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South Gem Ward laid on the table of the House today Wednesday, 11th September, 2019 at 9.30 am.

Madam Chair, I would go direct to page 4,

1. Statement requested by Hon. David Audi, MCA of South Gem, and dated 4th April. 2nd Statement sought
2. Statement sought response from the CECM –Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the Procurement of and sale of certified maize seeds by the County Agriculture department and had reportedly been selling the said seeds to the farmers in South Gem ward
3. Specific objectives of the statement included to seek responses on;
 - a. Why the County Government of Siaya procured only 2,760 packets of certified maize seeds for the farmers of South Gem despite a ward-project-budget allocation of Kshs.1million meant for the same in the FY2018/19 budget
 - b. Why the County Government is selling the procured certified maize seeds to the farmers at Kshs.200 per packet –despite this being a budgeted ward-based project that was funded through the South Gem ward-budget allocation of ksh.1million provided for and approved in FY2018/19 budget
 - c. The fate of the collections made from the sale of the said seeds despite the funding not being a revolving fund but a budgeted ward allocation
 - d. Provide;
 - i. copies of the tender documents used in the procurement of the said certified seeds
 - ii. The policy document guiding the procurement of and sale of certified seeds to farmers in the County.

Contributions by the Area MCA (Hon. David Audi –MCA, South Gem)

1. The area MCA indicated that the people of South Gem proposed various projects for implementation in the ward during the budget for the fy2018/19
2. That the purchase of the seeds were at a ward-project-budget allocation of Ksh.1million meant for the same in the FY2018/19 budget
3. That the County Government had gone ahead and procured the seeds and were reportedly selling the seeds to the people at a cost of ksh.200 per packet
4. This is despite the assertions by the MCA that the seeds were budgeted for under the ward development fund budgetary allocations

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5. And that just like all the other ward based development projects procured or implemented using the ward based budgetary allocations, the seeds ought not to be sold to the farmers
6. And that the farmers proposed the seeds as a project to be implemented in their ward like any other development project.

County Executive Response on the statement

In a response dated 29th April, 2019, the CECM Agriculture responded thus;

1. That the department of Agriculture, Food, Irrigation and Fisheries Development did indeed procure 2,777 packets of certified seeds. That the number of packets were arrived at based on the prevailing price of Kenya Seed Company certified seed of kshs.360 per packet –thus a budget of kshs.1 million procured a total of 2,777
2. That the seeds are under the custody of the South Gem Ward manager's office at Akala and that the sale of the said seeds are done by the agriculture departmental staff on the ground
3. That the seeds so delivered to South Gem ward are considered seed subsidies by the Agriculture department and the farmers are compelled to pay for the seeds for various reasons including; to avoid reselling for cash; to achieve the purpose of a subsidy; to instill a sense of ownership; and to help the department in establishing a revolving fund for such purposes
4. The sale of the seeds also helps in the generation of revenue to the dwindling County revenue basket
5. That the procurement of the seeds was done in line with the Public Procurement and Asset disposal act (a delivery note provided –attached)
6. That the department does not yet have a specific policy on procurement of and distribution of various agricultural subsidies to farmers across the county.
7. The seeds were being sold at half the purchase price

Review of the statement response

In a meeting dated 7th May 2019, the committee met and diagnosed the executive response on a foregoing statement and made the following review notes;

1. The committee noted that indeed the people of South Gem made a provision for purchase of certified seeds in their ward development budget for the FY2018/19 at a cost of kshs.1million

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2. The agriculture department agreed that indeed they used the ksh.1m provided for the South Gem ward development budget for the purchase of the said certified seeds
3. That the project was indeed a ward based project and that the County Department of Agriculture did not by themselves make any provisions for the same in their departmental nor executive budget in the fy2018/19
4. The committee agreed that indeed the number of packets purchased were in line with the budgetary allocation of ksh.1m and the current market price per packet of the certified seeds from the Kenya Seed Company
5. That in attempt to subsidize the cost of the seeds to the farmers, the County department of Agriculture were selling the seeds at half the purchase price
6. That the cost of selling the seeds was arbitrarily set at half the purchase price without any consultations as required by law
7. That the rate at which the seeds were being sold to the people were not provided for in the overriding Finance Act 2018 as required by the relevant regulations on levying of taxes and revenues by the County by all means subsidy or otherwise

Conclusion

The committee therefore makes the following conclusions on the matter;

1. That the tax levied on the purported subsidized sale of certified seeds to the people of South Gem ward and any other ward is currently unlawful as the said rates are arbitrarily set and were not provided for in the overriding Siaya County Finance Act 2018/19 that set all taxes, rates and or revenues levied for all government goods and services, subsidized or otherwise for the period of FY2018/19.
2. Selling the certified seeds purchased using funds provided for by the people –in their ward-based-budget-provision- deprives the residents of the opportunity cost for the project forgone in procuring the said seeds. The seeds should therefore be considered ‘a development project proposed by the people’ thus distributed freely and structurally as intended.
3. Without the tax levied from such sales being provided for in the in the finance act as a revenue stream, the proceeds from such sales shall not be accounted for since it does not inform the budget. Such incomes are most likely to be misappropriated

4. Without the establishment of good structures and organization of the farmers, distributing the seeds, might not achieve the intended purpose of empowering the farmers as the process might end up being abused and the seeds misused.

Recommendations

1. That the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture to immediately formulate and submit to the Assembly for considerations a policy on the management of County Agricultural subsidies and farm mechanization programs –in order to inform a bill on the same from which new revenue streams can be deduced and taxes set for subsequent inclusion in the Annual Finance Acts.
2. The CECM to make provisions for new revenue streams in the Finance Bill 2019/20 -for the subsidy rates for all intended subsidies including but not limited to the certified seeds- and farm mechanization program - failure to which such rates for sale of/ charges on any subsidies shall be/ are considered unlawful.
3. Being that the said rates levied on the certified seeds were/ are not provided for in the Finance Act, the rates were therefore arbitrarily set and as such sale of or any pricing on the certified seeds subsidized or otherwise are an illegality and cannot be approved by the Assembly. The Committee therefore directs that the County Department of Agriculture should immediately liaise with the office of the area MCA (South Gem) and immediately distribute the remaining seeds to registered farmers' groups in the ward free of charge. However, any funds collected from previous sale of the seeds before the process was halted must be deposited into the County Revenue account nonetheless and prove of the same provided to the County revenue office and the Committee on Agric.
4. The Cooperatives department to sensitize the farmers on the benefits of SACCO movements and facilitate the organization of the farmers into SACCOs for ease of distribution of, access of and accounting for such subsidies
5. That the current/ ongoing sale of seeds by the County Department of Agriculture in South Gem ward and or any other ward be halted forthwith until and unless such rates are expressly provided for in the Finance Act for compliance
6. That the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture to kick start the formulation of a legislation to establish a revolving fund for the sustainability of the agricultural subsidies and farm mechanization programs
7. Being that the said rates levied on the certified seeds were/ are not provided for in the Finance Act, the rates were therefore arbitrarily set and as such sale of or any pricing on the certified seeds subsidized or otherwise are an illegality and cannot be approved by the Assembly. The Committee therefore directs that the County Department of Agriculture should immediately liaise with the office of the area MCA (South Gem) and immediately distribute the remaining seeds to registered farmers' groups in the ward free of charge. However, any funds collected from previous sale of the seeds before the process was

halted must be deposited into the County Revenue account nonetheless and prove of the same provided to the County revenue office and the Committee on Agric.

8. The Cooperatives department to sensitize the farmers on the benefits of SACCO movements and facilitate the organization of the farmers into SACCOs for ease of distribution of, access of and accounting for such subsidies
9. That the current/ ongoing sale of seeds by the County Department of Agriculture in South Gem ward and or any other ward be halted forthwith until and unless such rates are expressly provided for in the Finance Act for compliance
10. That the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture to kick start the formulation of a legislation to establish a revolving fund for the sustainability of the agricultural subsidies and farm mechanization programs

Madam Speaker, having looked at the Statement that was brought by the MCA for South Gem, Hon. David Audi, as a Committee we communicated to the Executive department and when they brought to us the response, just as I have read, there is a loophole whereby the department were collecting money from the farmers but there were no any guidelines as to how much they were supposed to be charging these farmers.

We all know just as the concern of the Hon. Members, the Ward Development funds that were allocated by those residents of respective Wards and when County Government want to levy them taxes on the Ward based projects, then it was as if the County Government, the Executive were under looking the residents of South Gem. That is why we have requested them that these seeds be given to registered Farmers groups so that the Members can realized the intended objective of the procured seeds.

Like any other development project in other Wards, this is also part of developing farmers in other Wards that considered the purchase of such seeds. I wouldn't want to give more input on this report because it is self-explanatory, allow me call Hon. Wandera to second.

(Hon. Wandera Seconded)

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Audi: Madam Speaker, you are aware that Agriculture is one of the major back bone of economy of our Country, and what made me to be in this Assembly is advocacy on food security. Advocacy and distribution of seeds to the people of South Gem. My main concerns are well spelt in the overview of the statement. I generally urge the Members of this Assembly to support this report because I know in a way or the other I know Members have really been interested in the same.

Another thing that really remains is the legislation that defines clearly a grant, to actually stop such issues. You are also aware that there are politicians who also at times, use this grant especially bought with the public funds during campaigns periods.

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I seriously urge Members to support this report because I am aware that there are Members who have been finding it so rough putting a budget on the same. This time round we will have to do and put a lot of money on the same. I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abigael): Hon. Wandera

Hon. Wandera: Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to support this report with a lot of concern, like if for example the Ward like other Wards was allocated 30 million, it is really for the Ward like a grant, and if 1 million was allocated for the seed subsidy, it is meant for the people of South Gem.

So I wonder why the money is ploughed back in terms of the sales of the seeds, that the amount is ploughed back to the County Treasury then the said Ward remains with 29 million other than 30 million which is unfair.

This actually discourages us from allocating moneys towards such projects. I remember in the Sidindi Ward we allocated Kshs.2.6 million towards poultry keeping and when the chicks were brought, they are automatically to be distributed to the people of Sidindi Ward and there is no day we expect the proceeds to be ploughed back to the County Treasury again.

This is not a revolving fund, like the other year I think there was an Executive allocation of fertilizer subsidy which were actually sold at any suitable rate and then ploughed back as revenue. So these are not meant for Business.

You know, just like if the money was allocated for a project like road, do you expect any proceeds from there? So it is really unfair anyway and it was mentioned in one of the recommendations that the funds realized from the sales realized should not really serve as revenue to the County but a method should be sought whereby the funds can be ploughed back to the Ward.

It was their grant and we all know that grants are not refundable, and to be fair to the people of South Gem, by the way South Gem is my neighbor, what is flowing into south Gem passes through my Ward. You remember the water project hailing from River Yala, and come through into Sidindi, and you know when it does not work well in Sidindi then it affects me greatly.

(Inaudible)

So I would have loved for this subsidy to have been properly used in South Gem, being an agricultural region

Hon. Oor: Hon. Wandera, be specific to the Agriculture topic, not water.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abigael): Hon. Wandera, is it that you don't know what you want to talk about?

Hon. Wandera: Actually I just wanted to emphasize on usage of the allocations to the Wards. Let us be respectful in our various departments and what is meant for the wards should be used in the wards only and the Wards people should benefit from it, Thank you Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abigael): Yes, Hon. Otiato.

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Hon. Otiato: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was still laughing; you know Hon. Wandera is funny. He was saying that he doesn't know that *urombo* means what. That he wanted to compare *Semberombo* and another

(Laughter)

Thank you, madam Temporary Speaker, allow me to support and make some comments about this report. It's true that this has been an ongoing project and there is one thing that is not coming out clearly and we are suffering as Assembly on possibly ignorance of some of our constituents and from this we need the matter to come out clear.

From this report it is evident that we were having a budget which is Ward based and there has been a confusion where the Executive fails to do their work using the billions of monies left for their development and start pumping their energy in launching projects and doing things with monies only meant for the Wards. Which is about 35% the 65% percent is not known where it is; it is paining that an MCA having some only little amount meant for his Ward puts money and others want to use it to get more monies.

Take a case that Yimbo East has decided to instead use that money in doing a road but you will find that Yimbo residents will not be paying to use that road. Hon. Audi has decided to use that to purchase seeds but the County is now charging the Gem people in terms of subsidies. They are buying their own products; the product brought for them is being sold now.

We are asking, at what point did they decide to start selling these items? If it was Ward based project under the Ward and Mheshimiwa has talked to his people and have identified the need for the seeds; at what point do you want to start selling?

This matter should not end at this; I am even wondering who made this decision to sell these seeds and where is the money? Is it a revenue stream? Has it ever been declared a revenue stream for our budgeting purposes? I was expecting the Agriculture department to tell us that this is the amount which has already been collected but because we were doing it illegally we are buying more seeds and going to distribute in Gem for free.

The same has been in this so called tractor hire services; we allocate up to Kshs. 35million for tractor hire in which if we do the Kshs. 35million that we have been giving out it literally means at least each Ward is having Kshs. 1million for ploughing. Do we have a value for that Kshs.1million? Can you tell me the acreage that was ploughed in your Ward? Assuming that the ploughing is Kshs. 3,500 per acre; so you think that the acreage that has been ploughed amounts to Kshs.1million? Where is our money?

It is not ploughed to the tune of the amount budgeted for and still people are also taxed; they are paying around Kshs. 1,500 per acre. The Agriculture department has a lot of work to do now and give us more details on this. I am even aware that you go to the Education department; today you are going to get motorbikes still parked there meant for some of the Wards.

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I decided to purchase a motorbike to give it as a grant to boda boda sector; some were bought with monies meant for particular Wards up to date they have never been delivered. They are now being sold in parts at the Education department and nothing is being done about it.

What is the justice to the people or the MCAs who had that money to purchase those motorcycles for their boda boda? In summary what I am saying is that we have done a lot of arbitrary issues here deciding to charge what is not chargeable.

Somebody sits in his bedroom and comes up with a figure; it was never there even in our Financial Bill. It was never declared as one of the areas where we will get these services. Conclusively we have agreed to support this but the report is not capturing on where the money collected is going to be. This money belongs to South Gem; where is the money and when will South Gem get their money, that need to be clear in the report. The Committee on Agriculture is an investigative unit then now they need to move and realize that other than this as they give us a direction on this then what about these other monies that have been collected on the other front.

The other year seeds were sold even the ones being given as subsidies and the proceeds of selling those seeds have never been told to us what they have been used to do. It is my humble plea that we need to move with speed as a department so that this matter doesn't only involve some few people asking questions. It should remain an activity of the Committee.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abigael): Yes, Hon. Judy.

Hon. Oyugi: I also stand to support the Report; first I would like to appreciate the recommendations by the Committee and the Chair of Agriculture. It is very clear that the Executive wanted to take advantage of the good initiative by the Hon. Member for South Gem who intended that these seeds go to the people free of charge.

They wanted to make a revolving fund and make money out of it; I don't know what purpose they were intending to use the money for without any policy guidelines to guide on how to use the money.

Secondly, the least the Executive would have done would have been to consult the Hon. Member; this shows how there is a disconnect between the Executive and also the leadership on the ground in the Wards. They could have consulted the Hon. Member and even informed that these things have come to the ground and how they intended to distribute it so that they come to an agreement how it was to be done.

Lastly, to the Agriculture Committee in the same breath that they have recommended that the seeds be given free of charge to the residents of South Gem wherever the money is that was collected it would only be fair that it is refunded to the people who bought it. This is because there are residents who actually paid money and were given these seeds yet they were to be given these seeds free of charge.

It would be very unfair for people to have bought it and their money is also being used to buy more seeds to distribute. The only right thing would be to refund this money back to the people and the people to get the seeds free of charge as the Hon. Member had intended them to get, thank you.

Hon. Oriaro: Thank you, for this opportunity; I want to applaud the Committee for the work they have done. I don't know whether the terms of reference are what was conflicting; I

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would accept it so but the one thing which is glaring is when Wandera Mayieng'a stood to speak he supported it.

What he was saying; I learnt was misplaced; maybe the person who made those complications I would say is my colleague, Hon. Audi because he also supported the Report but the bottom-line taking precedents from the former speakers Hon. Otiato and the deputy Majority leader we learnt that there was a problem.

The letter of the report was all about essay writing but the spirit would remotely address what my brother had wanted to be achieved because we were talking about a program which is all about purchase of seeds not subsidies for seeds. Therefore, it means that the Report is not helping us.

A crime remains a crime when we are talking about good governance backed by our Constitution the corollary status that the County should not be getting unauthorized revenue. This one should be an eye opener; we should be asking ourselves and on a legislative basis on the grounds of oversight as well. Where are they taking this money? Who is receiving it? Hon. Mayienga is talking about subsidies; this was not a subsidy and even if it was to be one, the finance law ought to have directed that.

Where is this amount being taken? Is it an illegal revenue? How will it be accounted for but above all the spirit of this report reflects on what Prof. Mbigu Mutharika had thought of when he was a world bank official and when he became the president for Malawi. He decided that in-puts are provided to farmers and within few years when he was president---

That one is even comparable to the famous revolutionary of Burkina Faso; Thomas Sankara who made that within his first two years into the office; Burkina Faso a land of honest people was food sufficient and that's what Mbigu Mutharika did. He did not care whether somebody would get the free seeds and sell it even if its old.

The person who buys such products obviously will use it for food production. That is the path maybe my colleague may have aimed at. Another thing which should be investigated; we know the products of Kenya seeds like the 6,5 and all that. We are not told that which seeds they went for because when we are talking about pana maize the prize is different from the duma and these are market varieties not merely for subsistence but for agribusiness.

Which seeds did they arrive at and bought? These ones should be investigated so that we know if our officials at the other side are just doing us a lip service. My prayer is the Committee picks up this matter; we want to know where such amounts were taken. Who arrived at the decision to pursuing what kind of seeds /hybrids? Were they the seeds requested for by the locals? Maybe I support the spirit but not the ---.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abigaël): Hon. Members may you be advised that in the course of interaction; use official names because we don't have any Hon. Member known as Mayeinga in the House. For further debate we use official names.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Madam Speaker; I rise to support the Report by the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. I think it was in order for the Hon. Member for South Gem to place in the Budget for FY-2018/2019 his Ward over the procurement of the said seeds.

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As we all know Agriculture is the backbone of any economy and is the backbone of Siaya because our economy is controlled by agriculture. This is because the vast majority depends on Agriculture as a livelihood therefore is a Hon. Member deemed it fit to do an allocation for the purchase of the certified seeds for his constituency it was in good taste but its only that the Executive led by the CECM for Agriculture went contrary and resorted to selling the said seeds to the South Gem people.

The notion behind doing a budget appropriation for the said certified seeds was that the people of South Gem could access the seeds if not free but at a subsidized rate but the amount subsidized that accrued from the subsidies sales was supposed to be ploughed back into any of the accounts of South Gem if I get it right.

I think the department of Agriculture never got it right when they ventured into the sales of the said seeds in fact as we went round consulting because I also happen to be the vice chairman of Agriculture we found out that they never indicated clearly where the money that accrued from the sales was taken to and therefore just like my other colleagues have said that this is a crime committed and further investigations should ensue so that we make sure that justice is brought back.

Siaya County has invested infrastructural developments like opening up roads and maintaining them and also putting up box culverts and bridges. The County Government has enormously invested in outing up ECDE centers, erecting solar lights in our various markets, erecting dispensaries.

I think it's high time the Hon. House thought it wise and with a legislation in place or a policy to make sure that in our yearly Budget we embrace the agricultural spirit by making sure we do a budget allocation which should be Ward based so that we can get a way of procuring seeds at subsidized rates from any authority that may be selling seeds at subsidized rates so that our people can cheaply get farm inputs.

I was of the opinion that with a law in place or policy then if we buy the seeds they should be placed in the hands of formulated SACCOs. There should be SACCOs in our Wards to be controlling this whenever the seeds are purchased then they will be handed over to the established SACCO within the Ward.

The SACCO that later on would sell this to the farmers at subsidized rate; the money that is accrued from the sales can later on be added again in the subsequent Financial Year so that it becomes a revolving seed subsidy buying process in the Ward and this I think will enhance our agricultural productivity and even our economic capability will be enhanced.

You find that a very established farmer is able to make sure that his children go to school just by getting the produce from the farm and selling and at least getting money to pay for school fees. I therefore support this report and with a policy in place which I would request the department of agriculture to work with speed to formulate that will help us in the subsequent budgeting years so that all Hon. Members would be able to get space of factoring in budgetary allocation for the purchase of seeds and fertilizers so that at least we get a way of helping our people.

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I think these are the people who stand with us during the tough period of election, therefore, we should reciprocate the same by giving them a breathing space. Because now if you go to the Agrovets we find that a packet of fertilizer goes at Kshs. 3,500, but subsidized I think we can sell it at Kshs. 1500. While the certified seed we can sell to them at Kshs. 150. So in general, I support, thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Aringo.

Hon. Aringo: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I want to support the report, but as I do that, I totally disagree with the CECM Agriculture and Fisheries response. Because in the report if I got it right I heard that they stated that the fertilizers were in the custody of the Ward manager of South Gem, which to me I think is a lie. What takes me by surprise is that these people just decided to sell the fertilizers without any reason whatsoever.

My question is, how do you sell what is not yours? Moreover, how safe is our roads and the ECDEs? We may wake up one day and find that they have been sold at a subsidized price! That is my worry. How do these people account for these monies?

You may find that in their record it has indicated that they purchased the fertilizers from their side where as the money had been released from the particular Ward to purchase the fertilizer which is a double entry. If that is not robbery, then I do not know what robbery is!

What is the difference then if they say that they have been distributing fertilizers at subsidized prices and in other Wards? What is the difference between the Ward that allocated funds for that particular purpose and that which did not? The difference is the same.

I want to contribute to what has been said that these monies to be returned to that particular Ward because it was Ward based. Otherwise, the people of South Gem are going to lose, in fact, they have lost.

I am sure and I want to thank my colleague MCA South Gem for coming up with this because I know some of us also allocated funds for the same purpose. Like in my Ward, I had to collapse it because it was not forthcoming and when I heard it from South Gem I had to collapse it and put it into some other use in the same department.

Otherwise, let me rest my case by saying that I support the report.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Oor: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I have a few points to raise, but first let me support the Committee that made the report and stand with the Agriculture Committee.

I want to know;

1. Did they constitute a committee before selling the seeds?
2. Did they inform the area MCA before selling the seeds? The MCA is around and I think that he will tell us if he was informed or not.
3. The money which has been taken to the revenue account should be returned to the people of Gem.
4. If at all, someone was planning to steal the money he should find a way to apologize to the South Gem MCA because it was his idea to buy people of Gem seeds.

Therefore, I want to thank all Members who have contributed because it is a sign to the people of South Gem that we care as Members. Thank you and God bless you.

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Hon. Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Andiego Charlton.

Hon. C. Andiego: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I also stand to support this report by saying that if we go to our dictionary; the word subsidy means a sum of money granted by the State, public or body to help an industry or business keep the price of a commodity or service low.

According to the statement by Hon. Audi, he and the people of Gem had put this in the Budget that the department of Agriculture was supposed to procure and give the seeds then give them to farmers with the normal idea of increasing the yields. At the same time, the department of Agriculture comes up with certified or good seeds that could improve the yields as well as Agriculture and food security in the Ward.

This was a noble idea from Hon. Audi that ought to have been emulated by other Hon. Members, but the Members now fear to allocate money into such ideas because if seeds can be procured yet the same department goes to sell it to the farmers when they had been informed by their Hon. Member that they will not need to pay for it.

I also wasn't to say that I am not in support of the reply being given by the department of Agriculture because I want to give a scenario in 2015/2016 where in Central Sakwa where I represent they put Kshs.3 Million for the purchase of 2 patrol boats and engines.

The boats were delivered without engines and later on the supplier came even for the boats because he had not been paid for his services. So up to now the boats are nowhere to be seen. However, when I put a Statement request here and asked the CECM Agriculture what the department did when I went to....

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Andiego, stick to what we are discussing at the moment!

Hon. C. Andiego: Okay, I was just trying to relate the two. I therefore support, thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: I therefore call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Ochieng: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I want to first appreciate all the Hon. Members who have contributed to support the report. As I was listening keenly, Hon. Oriaro started as if he was opposing the report, but he ended up supporting it due to the weight of the matter at hand plus our recommendations.

Actually, I want to put it very clear that one of our recommendations is the formation of SACCOs and Cooperatives within our Wards. If this is handled well and I want to urge fellow Members to kindly put your effort to it.

This is where we will get an alternative and one, I know we will not be budgeting for subsidies in each and every Financial Year, but if we have these organized groups there are Hon. Members here who have been asking if they can procure tractors for their Wards.

You cannot just procure tractor if there is no any official entity that you are taking this tractor to, but when we have such organized SACCOs or cooperatives within our Wards who are purely advocating for agricultural activities it would be easier for procurement of such tractors to farmers for ease of management.

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I want to tell the Hon. Members who have just debated that the maize that has been sold and I know that one of our recommendations here was that this money be deposited to the finance department and even the Committee for Agriculture.

We will do more follow up and I would kind request the Implementation Committee after we shall have passed this report to kindly fast track the implementation because we are in another new financial year where by implementation of such an activity would be implemented, and failure to rectify this first mistake we will repeat the mistake again. Otherwise, I thank you and rest my case.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Members may we be upstanding for adjournment. Hon. Members, there being no other business this House stands adjourned until today Wednesday, 11th September, 2019 at 2.30 p.m. in the chamber.

The House rose at 4.10 p.m.