

Wednesday, 11th March, 2020 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly – Fourth Session

Wednesday, 11th March, 2020

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 9.30 a.m.

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

PRAYER

MOTION

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE TRAINING

Hon. Odhiambo: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I wish to move a Motion: **THAT** this House adopts the report of Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on Champion for Change Leadership Course for MCAs in Agriculture Sector laid on the Table of the House on Thursday 5th March, 2020 at 2.30.p.m.

I hope each and every Member in this House has been supplied with the report and there are sections which I need not to go through. I wish to start from the Executive Summary. The Kenya Crops and Dairy Markets System under the Hospice of The USAID and feed the future projects, trained the Committee Members on various aspects and the importance of agriculture in food and nutritional security in Kenya. The training focused on;

1. The importance of agriculture for economy and for food security
2. Challenges and opportunities in agricultural transformation
3. Status of food nutritional security in Kenya
4. County planning, budgeting and implementation and policies and legislation in agriculture

The training took place at the Grand Royal Swiss Hotel in Kisumu on 22nd and 23rd January, 2020 and it brought together MCAs and Secretariat of Agriculture Committee in Migori and Siaya County Assemblies.

This was justified by the fact that decision with significant impact on the agriculture sector at the County level are made by the legislature comprising of Members of the County

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Assembly and more specifically the Members of the Agriculture Committee. The programmed is conducted in 12 Counties, in Eastern, Nyanza and Western region.

Summary of the resolutions of the learning points included:

1. Resolved to champion and enhancement of agricultural budget in line with existing policy and legislative recommendations.
2. Concern review of implementation frameworks of agricultural projects and
3. Legislation and formulation of requisite policies and laws effective agricultural transformation.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that the House adopts the report in order to own and champion the implementation of the resolution of the training. I wish to acknowledge the following; The wishes to thank the office of the Speaker as well as the office of the Clerk and its secretariat for the support extended to the Committee in execution of its mandate.

The Committee further extends its appreciation to the KCDMS, USAID and Feed the Future. It is my pleasant duty pursuant to Standing Order 196, to Table this report for consideration and adoption for the Hon. House.

The Kenya Crops and Diary Market system activity is a component of the USAID funded Feed the Future project implemented by the RTI international. The project is implemented in selected Counties in Eastern and Western region of Kenya to facilitate improved productivity and development of competitive, resilient and sustainable market system in dairy feed, fodder and horticulture values change.

KCDMS works through a facilitative approach through public and private sector positioned to drive positive change in agriculture. At the County Government level, the programme has selected 12 County Government in Eastern, Western and Nyanza region in which the MCAs and County Executive Committee Members of agriculture are targeted to champion agricultural transformation through such initiatives as trainings.

The Counties include Kitui, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Homabay, Migori, Kisii, Kisumu, Siaya, Kakamega, Bungoma and Vihiga.

The super champions for change course is therefore a training meant to create a cadre of super champions among the agriculture committee Members. The specific objective of the course was to train the Agriculture Committee on the following;

1. Key continental food security initiative and the CADP/MALABO and commitments.
2. The big 4 agenda on agriculture, food and nutrition security and on the agriculture sector transformation and growth strategy and their implication for counties.
3. Food and nutrition security in specific Counties include challenges and opportunities to achieve food security targets.
4. Kenya budgeting process
5. Leading and managing change with focus on agriculture sector.
6. Transformational leadership for managing championing change in food and nutrition security.
7. Considering the important role of the MCAs in the agriculture sector

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8. The focus of training underscored the urgent need to build the capacity of MCAs in the Agriculture Committee through a super champion for change training on specific aspect of the agriculture sector including the continental food security initiative.
9. CADP and MALABO commitments, the big 4 agenda on agriculture, food and nutrition security policy that governs Kenya agricultural sector.
10. Kenya budgeting process, governance, leading and managing change and transformational leadership.

Importance of agriculture for the economic and food security, the report is much detailed and I would rather request that we go towards the end where we have policy change in Kenya and Committee resolutions and recommendations.

The following were identified during the training as main challenges: The ownership of existing National policy at County level is weak as most County staff never participated in the development. This leads to weak buying and implementations. Policy takes a long time in draft form before adoption.

There is a disconnect between National and County Government on policy development especially at the implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. Once policies have been adopted the momentum seems to slow down with little resources allocated to ensure implementation of those policies.

Lack of communication strategy to popularize, simplify and enhance ownership of developed policies. Monitoring and evaluation of the existing policy to gauge what is working or what is weak.

I wish to go through the Committee resolutions during the training. Following the skills and knowledge gained from the training, Siaya and Migori were each tasked to make resolutions that would ensure agricultural development and transformation in their Counties. The Committee therefore made the following resolutions;

1. To champion for enhance budgetary allocation for the County Agriculture function to be in line with the MALABO commitment.
2. To champion for aspirated mapping of un development of or domestication of all relevant agricultural policies, laws at the County level.
3. To champion for periodical submission of quarterly implementation report by all departments to the Assembly for constant oversight for enhance monitoring and evaluation.

In order to achieve, now that is the Committee recommendations. In order to achieve the contributions in agriculture to achieve the big 4 presidential agenda, the County Government of Siaya must be at the forefront in championing agricultural transformation and development. The County Assembly must therefore equally play an important role in ensuring that the implementation of the projects and policies are on course. In doing this, the Committee on Agriculture makes the following recommendations to the House.

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1. The CECM Agriculture makes appropriate steps to enhance the budgetary allocation for the agriculture function in the budget allocation for the FY20/21 in line with the MALABO commitment of 10% of the entire County budget.
2. The CECM Agriculture, immediately commission the mapping of development of or domestication of all relevant agricultural policies to close and report to the Assembly by June 30th 2020.
3. The CECM Agriculture immediately submit to the House a comprehensive quarterly projects implementation report for 1st and 2nd quarter of the FY19/20.

I hope the rest of the documents, each and every Member will have time to go through and therefore I would kindly take this opportunity to ask the Chair Agriculture, Hon. Willis, to second.

(Seconded)

(Question proposed)

REPORT

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR MCAS

Hon. Ochieng: I want to believe everyone has this Report and that you have gone through it. Let me start by really thanking the Committee for Agriculture which I Chair for having brought this wonderful Report in this Hon. House.

We are not the first Committee that were taken through a training by a partner and this really shows how serious this Committee is whereby after every serious training we must bring a Report to this Hon. House for adoption. Just as been read by the Mover of the Motion; it was a very serious training that we were taken through.

We were really looking into the challenges affecting Agriculture in the Country and mostly in Siaya County. We came to realize that as we were looking into the challenges that were affecting our County that we were managing this department minus any serious policy that gives guidelines.

That's the reason we don't have clear guidelines for the department to implement. For example; when we talk of the subsidies; it has never been systematic whereby everyone knows that within a specific time the County will be giving these subsidies to the Members of the public and how do they identify the beneficiaries?

There is no any clear policy that is directing or giving direction to how this should be implemented. This has really created problems and even right now we are in a long rainy season and there are no any clear plans by the County Government to provide the tractors for subsidies ploughing services to our farmers and same to the seeds and fertilizers.

We all know the level of poverty that we are experiencing in Siaya County where we can't just leave the common 'Mwananchi' to do the ploughing for themselves, buy the certified seeds for themselves and buy fertilizers for themselves.

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This is the reason why we are calling the Executive to come with the policies to guide this sector because right now there is no one whom we can blame for not having provided as per the policy. This is because we don't have that policy that dictates or advises the Government on what to do and what not to do. Last week, I was in the office of the director in-charge of livestock and I asked them how our dairy programme was moving on. I was surprised when the director told me that they even don't have facilitation to make them visit to the farmers and help solve the problems that have been affecting them.

That is only happening because the department is being under funded and that's the reason in our recommendation we have tried to push the CECM Agriculture to make appropriate steps to enhance the Budget allocation. We all know in a County or in a Country where there is enough food and safe food for its people I want to believe that these sicknesses like cancer, malnutrition will not be there.

We won't spend a lot of money in health department; it is better we spend more money in food production and the community will be very healthy and no one will be going to hospitals. The problems people are facing are like malnutrition; people have resorted to one meal a day which is never like before when we were still young there were variety of food stuffs and you could choose what to eat.

I want to really plead with the Hon. House to support this Report so that we take it to the Executive for implementation. I want to urge Hon. Edwin who is the Vice Chairman of Implementation Committee; if this Report is passed in this Hon. House I want to believe it will be forwarded to the Executive for implementation.

I want them to take charge and ensure it is implemented to the letter because it is something that we have given timeframe due to the fact that we know we are in the Budget process. There are some issues that can be addressed at a specific time and that is why I am calling upon the Implementation Committee to really do follow up.

Hon. Mboha: I want to support the Report that has been laid before us. Allow me to commend the Members led by the Hon. Chair, Hon. Madialo for the good work they did for this particular Report. I have been able to see the recommendation made by the Committee and I would urge them to probably look at other aspects of this Report that deals with their data.

We have realized that for a very long time the Executive has not appreciated the essence of data. When we make budgetary allocations, it's based on something for instance the Committee needs to look at the impact of subsidies that have been there in regards to seeds and even ploughing.

For the past 6 or 7years the department of Agriculture has been offering subsidies services to the farms but then it has not always been informed. Right now if you ask the department the amount of acreage they ploughed in FY-2018/19 and how it impacted the activity to the farmer and even to the County; do they even have the records?

I urge fellow Members to call in the department on matters of subsidies so that they know the impact of the subsidies that they have been providing to the respective farmers and this will

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in turn inform the next Budget and what needs to be increased be it the number of seeds or acreage of land that can be cultivated.

In regards to this it will be good that Hon. Chair takes keen notes on this particular aspect. We don't have figures as we speak for today. Secondly, we had issues of millet and sorghum farming that was introduced here.

The Committee needs to interrogate this particular aspect. Kenya Breweries Company gave us seedlings but we haven't asked what the County is doing to make sure that whatever was provided for by the people from the breweries they were able to supplement so that more farmers are into agribusiness.

The Agriculture department also needs to look at cotton farming; just the other day we saw the C.S. for Agriculture had meetings with 14 Counties within this region in regards to cotton farming. The Committee needs to ask the County Government of Siaya department of Agriculture what they are doing in regards to this new type of farming.

We have heard there are new seedlings that are generic; are they putting money towards cotton farming and if so what other incentives are they giving to the farmers from the Government? Lastly, the County Government needs to come up with a good strategic plan on matters Agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of this County but little amount of money is put towards the same. It doesn't reflect in terms of budgetary allocation.

Finally, they also need to look at what we proposed in terms of extension officers. We do not see them, we do not know what plans are there because the farmers need this information yet the person who is supposed to give the information that is the County Government, which says nothing.

What are they putting in place regarding the extension officers such that whenever there are new farming techniques, the information gets to the farmer?

I wish to support the Motion but then some of the issues that we have raised need to be looked into, otherwise, thank you.

Hon. Winga: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise to support the Motion and why am I supporting the Motion? The reason is Agriculture is the backbone of our County and if action can be taken in all the issues raised then we might have good food production because if farmers can plant in good time like now because it is time for ploughing and plant seeds in good time.

I think, our food production would increase given that we have things like water for irrigation readily available. Therefore, it is up to the CECM Agriculture to implement all the recommendations and provide quarterly report hence helping in the progression of food production. Thank you.

Hon. C. Andiego: I rise to support the report, but before I do so we need to know that this a very good report and Agriculture being the backbone of the County and as a Member I would request that we discuss this report when we have a full House and as it is now I don't think we ...

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Hon. Adala: Madam Temporary Speaker, you know sometimes when you go to bed and wake up late you may not think well. The rules of the House say we should be a minimum of 14 and you do not need spectacle to see that we have superseded that number. Therefore, I suggest that we move on with the debate and my colleague should learn to wake early so that he does not see things upside down.

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: Hon. Andiego.

Hon. C. Andiego: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. It really pains me that Hon. Adala was in Maranda High school and cannot count that we are 11 in the House.

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: Hon. Andiego, can you continue with your contribution.

Hon. Mboha: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise on a point of Order to say that some of these Members... Chair, I need your ears and eyes! Allow me to say that if some of these Members do not have anything to say they can just stand up and wave to the House so that we move on.

(Applause)

Hon. C. Andiego: Thank you, I would like to proceed by saying that this is a good report and if the recommendations are put into practice, it will really help the County. My initial request that the report should be discussed when the House is full still stands, thank you.

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: Hon. Audi.

Hon. Audi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. Mine was on a point of Order but it has been overtaken by events.

Hon. Adala: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise to support the report and in so doing first, thank the Committee for Agriculture under the able leadership of Hon. Willis. In its observation, the Committee has rightly observed that resource allocation that goes towards Agriculture does not meet the needs of Siaya County while this is an area that we really need to give keen attention and we all know that Agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

Yesterday we were listening to news that a County like Nyeri is giving millions to farmers in support to restock fingerlings while over and over again we are always aware that the source of fish in these parts of the World is Nyanza.

We are blessed to have a very good resource in terms of Lake Victoria and all the beaches around that can make us raise more revenue as a County, but the question is, what are we doing in terms of fish farming?

Time and again, we have had issues with our lands and that farmers expect that at such a time they need facilities to help them until their lands. However, you find out that even the tractors available become difficult to access.

Even as I support the report, it comes at a good time when we are also discussing the Budget for 2020/2021. It would be my request that in as much as we know the constrains in terms of resource envelope that we are having, but in the budgeting of Siaya County a lot of consideration should be put in place so that much fund is accorded this sector.

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In resolution No. 1, to champion for enhanced budgetary allocation for the County Agriculture function to be in line with the MALABA commitments, I think this takes care of my concerns, however, to note that Madam Temporary Speaker when you are making references can we also really highlight them so that those of us who might not be aware of commitments of the MALABA are made aware. Because if I also stand and say ABUJA declaration in terms of health then I know, just one or two will be able to understand.

So when the Mover will be making his responses for the sake of the rest of the House, which is a full House who may not understand the Commitment of MALABA, you may also want to help them understand that. Of course, I know, but I am only asking for the sake of my friends especially those who woke up late and cannot see that we are a full House. Thank you.

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: I think I will allow the Mover to respond.

Hon. Otieno: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. First, I would like to thank the Hon. Members for the contributions they have made in this House. When you check on the acknowledgement, we started by thanking the office of Speaker and we extend the same to KCDMS to say and feed the future.

That means that the training was sponsored by those organizations, that is why we got it right, and we are here today. It is because of the challenges the sector has been facing in this Country not as a County but as a Country and that has been extended to Siaya which is also facing the same problem. The problem has been also devolved so to say.

Therefore, those organizations saw it fit that we have training for the Counties, which I mentioned earlier. The challenges mentioned are many and this training was just trying to ensure that they are solved and the only way they can be solved is by training the Hon. Members so that they be leaders as we focus on our problems.

The Members have talked of policies which are making things not to move in good time because we do not have enough policies to guide the County Government to champion for food production in this County.

So the Committee was stressing on the policies and I am happy that when we met the CECM Agriculture and her team she talked of a number of policies is in place which are almost being brought to this House so that Agriculture as a sector could carry the day.

A Member talked of MALABA declaration while this is one of the recommendations that a number of Counties deliberated on and this was talking about 10% of the County Budget to be given to Agriculture as a sector.

That has not been implemented and therefore, I would request the Members here that whenever you are going to pass this 2020/2021 Budget, kindly insist on the MALABO declaration should be implemented so that Siaya people cannot go without food if this is done and I request that you insist that the MALABA declaration should be implemented.

Hon. Adala: Point of Order!

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Adala.

Hon. Adala Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. The Mover of the Motion is doing well so far, however, in replying he could have told the House what he means by MALABA

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declaration because I think he is repeatedly using it with impunity and majority of us are not aware what is in this MALABA commitment. What is it now that you want us to support it, is it the vaccine for Corona virus or what is it?

Hon. Otieno: It is true, just as Hon. Adala has put it that those people who may not be privy to some information, which needs clarification. I want to say that when we say MALABA declaration we mean to Empower Africans to Grow more and Better crops, Process food, and Nourish both people and economy.

That is what we were trying to address and we kindly request that the County Government look into it. By the way in your document, Hon. Adala and anyone else who may not be privy to what I am talking about, look at page 12 and 13 where you will see what is required. Therefore, MALABA declaration should be looked into for this County to achieve what we want.

We also talked of budgetary allocation, which is also going to be addressed by the MALABO declaration. As the oversight team, it is very important that we play our role and we can only do this by checking on the implementation status of the project proposed by the people.

It is important that when you are doing the oversight you do it within a period. You cannot just leave it open. We were told and trained that the Executive should be providing us with the quarterly implementation report so that we check on what was proposed and if it was done at the right time and that, the right procedures were followed.

Apart from just producing food and for instance I always see Hon. Omwende take something different from what we take during lunchtime because he is checking on his health by eating vegetables most of the time. Therefore, we were trained that you do not just eat because food is there and if you go to page 15 you will see that food security has all to do with 4 dimensions and the dimensions are there.

So as much as you are cultivating and planting you also do what is helpful to your body; don't just eat starch the rest of the week because that will affect the health of this County.

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Omwende.

Hon. Omwende: Point of Order! Madam Temporary Speaker. I agree with the Member that I understand matters to do with nutrition, which is good, but I thought that the Mover would just give us those responses that were given by Members.

Is it in Order for the Member to start giving us lectures as if this report has not been introduced to this House? Why give us unnecessary information while we all have the report instead of giving us the summary and respond to the Nitti gritty that was there.

Hon. Madam Temporary Speaker: Can you be precise, Hon. Member with your answer!

Hon. Otieno: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. You know when you know something you need to do further explanation and that is why Hon. Adala said so because there are people who didn't understand therefore, I need to clarify. So when I do so it does not mean I am wasting time but still within time

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Lastly, I want to say that as much as it is not in the report but Hon. Member for South East Alego mentioned subsidy and the database, which is very important for this County. Therefore, what is going to address this is the budgetary allocation then we follow up.

I think and know that the conscience of the Members in this House is very much important and I want to thank them for giving out their contribution pertaining our training at Royal swiz. Otherwise, thank you and may God bless you.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Members would we be upstanding for adjournment. Hon. Members, there being no other business this House stands adjourned until today Wednesday, 11th March, 2020 at 2.30 p.m. in the chamber.

The House rose at 10.22 a.m.