

Kitui County Assembly

THE OFFICIAL REPORT {HANSARD}

First County Assembly - Second Session

Wednesday, 28th May, 2014

The County Assembly met at 9:35 am

The Speaker {Hon George Mutua Ndotto} entered the chamber at Thirty Five minutes past nine O'clock accompanied by the mace

The Mace was placed on the Table

PRAYERS

{The Speaker recited the prayer and proceed to the Chair}

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next Order.

The Deputy Clerk of the County Assembly (Ms. Lucy Waema): Order No. 1, Administration of Oath.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order.

The Deputy Clerk of the County Assembly (Ms. Lucy Waema): Order No. 2, Communication from the Chair.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order.

The Deputy Clerk of the County Assembly (Ms. Lucy Waema): Order No. 3, Messages.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order.

The Deputy Clerk of the County Assembly (Ms. Lucy Waema): Order No. 4, Petitions.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order.

The Deputy Clerk of the County Assembly (Ms. Lucy Waema): Order No. 5, Papers

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): The Chairperson of the committee on Budget and appropriation, Are you laying any paper?

Hon. Muthui (The Member for Matinyani ward and the Chairman of the Budget and Appropriation Committee): Thank you much Mr Speaker. Pursuant to the Standing Order No. 180 (6), I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of Assembly today on Wednesday 28th May, 2014-The report on consideration by the Budget and Appropriation Committee of the Kitui County Government Supplementary Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2013/2014 for adoption by this Assembly. Mr Speaker, I beg to lay.

{Hon Muthui placed the Paper on the Table}

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Now, hon. Members; this paper (report) is very important. It contains adjustments made to the budget since the beginning of this financial year. Whatever adjustments made by the Executive and the Assembly on the budget are contained in this Paper and they are not valid or legal until they are approved by this House matter how important or urgent they are. I believe everybody has got a copy of the report. Is that right Mr Chairman? Or they were not issued with copies?

Hon. Muthui (The Member for Matinyani ward): The copies have not yet been supplied to the Members.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): I think the Committee was working on a crush programme. They retreated to Machakos to compile the report and they were still doing final touches on it the whole of this morning. It is commendable that they have been able to finalise it. I will request the Clerk to ensure every member gets a copy of the report so that we start discussing it formally this afternoon. Is that agreeable Members? This is because you can't discuss the report for you don't know its contents. Ensure everybody gets a copy of the study tour of Israel report which we shall start debating right now and after we are done with it focus on the report on the supplementary estimates this afternoon which I know won't take long because it is very short. I therefore direct that the budget report should be in the Order Paper this afternoon for discussion. Next order.

The Deputy Clerk of the County Assembly (Ms. Lucy Waema): Order No.6, Notices of Motions.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order.

County Assembly Clerk: Order No.7, Statements.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order.

County Assembly Clerk: Order No. 8, Motion and Bills.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon. Ngwele.

Hon. Ngwele (The Member for Ngomeni ward): Thank you Mr Speaker sir. I rise to move **THAT**, pursuant to the provisions of the Interim Standing Order No. 180(6), this Assembly hereby adopts the County Assembly report on the educational tour to Israel.

Mr Speaker I did lay the report on the Table of assembly last week and I am reliably informed that it was circulated to the Members who had good number of days to go through it since then. I will be as brief as possible in moving the report so that as many members as possible will get a chance to contribute within the allotted time. Mr Speaker, you recall that it is now four months since the Assembly travelled to Israel and I think the Members greatly appreciated that experience which was very exciting for all of us and more so for those who were visiting Israel for the first time. But for all of us it was the most appropriate place to visit because of the daunting experience which the country had managed to overcome to transform itself into a modern state.

The trip was also very rewarding for all of us in terms of the knowledge and experiences we gathered. All of us are aware of the looming question by county residents on how the trip which cost the assembly a lot of money belonging to taxpayers would benefit them. Thus we need to answer their concern appropriately as to how they stand to gain from the visit.

Mr Speaker, this report I am tabling today provides answer to that question. The report captures the experiences/lessons we learnt in Israel and the recommendations we came up with which we feel should be adopted to help to transform our county. Mr Speaker. We all remember the objectives/purposes of the study tour which are well documented in this report.

Firstly, we witnessed and studied about drip-irrigation systems which had turned Israel into a world leader in agricultural production despite a big portion of the country being a desert. We want the same practices started in Kitui County.

Secondly, we learned about water harnessing technologies which is the driving force of Israel's thriving agricultural sector in the face of adverse climatic conditions.

Thirdly, we gathered information on the country's education system which has contributed largely to its breakthrough scientific and technological innovations. We learned how training for the young people on ICT and innovations is taken serious in Israel; technology incubation centres earns Israel a lot in terms of foreign income through technological copyrights sold to global companies like Google.

Fourthly Mr Speaker, we studied about the country's infrastructural development and management especially public private partnerships in the transport and the communications sector and we were also inducted on how Israel had managed to stem the tide of desertification through extensive afforestation and conservation efforts and that is particularly relevant to us as a county knowing the challenges we have in the forestry and environment sectors with the notoriety it has gained ground in this county of cutting trees for charcoal and firewood.

Fifthly Mr Speaker the trip enabled members of the assembly to establish contact with Israeli agribusiness farms for future engagement and transfer on technology. We also went there to learn about the kibbutz (the clustered settlements) which promotes the social and economic welfare of many Israeli families through joint investments and collective responsibility for community life. Finally to share the lessons learned and experiences gained in the visit to catalyse the social and economic transformation of Kitui County.

Mr Speaker, the study tour which took members of this assembly to the far land of Israel was centred on those noble objectives. Hence the people of Kitui County should judge us in the fullness of time whether we were able to achieve something regarding the cited objectives. We tried to capture in this report the lessons we learned in relation to the stated objectives which is aggregated into seven areas namely agriculture and food processing, livestock production and fisheries, water resources management, afforestation, tourism and conservation of cultural heritage, education and training, land management, infrastructure and ICTs, and Energy. All these areas of study are presented in terms of the best practices, lessons learned and the very concrete recommendations made by the assembly with a view to benefitting residents of Kitui County.

Mr Speaker I want to take this opportunity to appreciate the various institutions and people who supported us or made contributions in various ways; big or small, which made the educational tour a success and also made it possible for this report to be compiled and the impact it made to members of this House and the people of Kitui county.

Mr Speaker we appreciate the Chairman of the County Assembly Service Board, as well as the other members of Board for considering it to be prudent for Members of this assembly to travel to Israel. We really appreciate the leadership for organising and approving the trip. We also appreciate the Kenyan diplomatic mission in Israel and charge de affairs and the staff for availing themselves to receive the delegations and also for maintaining very good relations with the state of Israel because if Kenya did not have excellent relations with Israel, then it would have not been considerable for us to travel there.

Mr. Speaker sir, we also appreciate Kenfam International for the contribution and support accorded to the delegations and their Israeli contact **Mr Avi Levi** who guided the teams

during the visit. We appreciated his sociable nature, understanding of issues and ability to communicate effectively. Mr. Speaker we also appreciate the government and citizens of Israel for the hospitality accorded to us at the various projects/ institutions we visited including the Kibbutz establishments, the Israeli parliament, and the natural agricultural organisation. We really are obliged to the Israeli government for facilitating our visit to its agencies.

Mr. Speaker, this House is also indebted to the five members who compiled this report namely hon. Peter Kilonzo, hon. James Munuve, hon. Angeline Mbula, hon Joyce Mwendu, and myself. If this report was not written, then the study tour would have been in vain. So on behalf of the assembly I want to appreciate them and also the excellent performance rendered by Mr Teddy Matuku-a members of staff-who largely helped the secretariat to piece this report together and actually did most of the writing culminating in production of this document which is before. We greatly acknowledge his commitment to deliver excellence work. There are other people who also contributed the success of the tour and production and tabling of this report in the assembly whom we acknowledge as well.

As I wind up, there is one plea I want to make to the House and the people of Kitui County at large which is that this report should not be in vain. I am saying this because there is a culture in this country where good reports are written and shelved. This being our first comprehensive report on a benchmarking mission, we must as an assembly be determined to ensure it is not shelved or forgotten as it generally happens. There are very good recommendations in this report which can help in transforming Kitui county if implemented. We should act as agents in propagating the knowledge acquired far and wide. We should be able to share the learning experience everywhere we attend public forums as individuals and through the sectoral committees.

Finally I want to term this assembly report as actually “work in progress” tabled today for debate and adoption. While compiling the report, the secretariat talked of the need for preparation of simplified versions to make it easier for members of the public to read and understand the contents. The report that we will sent to the executive, community leaders and organisations should be easily understood for the people to have within their reach easily translatable documents from where they can pick the lessons and recommendations and try to implement them. Mr Speaker, I want to stop there and kindly request the hon. Felix Kinuva to second the adoption of the report. I beg to move.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon. Kinuva.

Hon. Kinuva (The Member for Miambani ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to second the Motion on adoption of the elaborate report on trip to Israel by the members of this House moved by hon. Ngwele on behalf of the secretariat. In seconding the report, I urge the hon. Members to read between the lines on its contents. I have read the report and I must say that it is very elaborate document which might make history in Kitui County with regard to assisting our people to adopt best practices on land management and agricultural production among other issues. With those remarks, I beg to second the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Thank you Hon. Ngwele and hon. Kinuva. I will now propose the question which is **that**, pursuant to the provisions of the Interim County assembly Standing Order No. 180(6) this assembly hereby adopts the county assembly report on the study tour of Israel.

{The Speaker signalled hon Ngwele to lay the Paper on the Table}

{Silence prevailed briefly as the Speaker, Clerk and hon. Ngwele consulted}

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon. Members, you have been waiting for this report. Hon. Ngwele has done the honourable thing of laying it on the Table. I want you now to discuss it with a view to agreeing or disagreeing with the document. If you adopt it, it will become a property of the House which will follow up on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. The floor is now open for debate for those who want to contribute. The first opportunity goes to hon. Kasimu.

Hon. Catherine Kasimu (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute. I rise to support adoption of the report and point out a few errors I came across while reading the report which should be corrected. The names of hon Joanna and hon Jennifer Munuve are missing from the listing of members who went for the tour. Further, there is inclusion of one hon Juliet Katende in the same list yet she is not a member of this House. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Point noted. We will check on those omissions and the Chairman will respond accordingly. I hope Mr Chairman you have noted what the hon. Member has put across. I want this debate to be lively, this is your report and you have been crying for it.

{Hon Kasinga stood up in his place}

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon Kasinga.

Hon. Kasinga (The Member for Muumoni ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I want to seek the indulgence of the Chair on something relating to procedure. I thank hon. Ngwele for his commitment in compiling this report. I know it has taken him and the other members of the secretariat time and we appreciate their effort. However, Mr. Speaker Sir, after moving the motion, hon Ngwele has only given an overview of the report and I deem that to be out of procedure because proper presentation of the document needs to be recorded in the Hansard report. I believe it would have been better if the whole report was read for the sake of the Hansard and for us to contribute effectively. We now have the report on the table but nothing has been recorded for production in the Hansard report I seek the indulgence of the chair on that.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon. Kasinga this report was laid on the table a week ago and thereafter circulated to all members whom I believe have gone through it and they understand its contents. It is during plenary debate that the matter will be captured by the Hansard. The Chairman cannot read the whole report now. It is against the rules. Perhaps, he did the best by introducing the report to the House and left the matter to be discussed by the House. It is the members who should chose the areas they want to be discussed. So the Hansard will capture what you are saying about the report once it starts being debated now. The most important thing is the contribution of the members on the contents of the report and if they will agree to adopt it because the document is meant for implementation mainly by the

county executive and also for the people of Kitui County to know how they can benefit from Israel. I rest that matter at that point. The report is now properly before the house and open for discussion. Anybody who wants to contribute. It is through debate that the assembly will make the people understand what the report is all about.

(Hon Mbiti stood up)

Hon. Mbiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to comment briefly about this report. I will start by thanking hon. Ngwele and his team for preparing a good report. As you know Mr Speaker, it had become a concern in this house why the report had taken too long to be tabled but I was very sure that the committee would come up with something good and true to my words as the hon. Members can see, it is like that. I want to say that the report captures very well what we learned in Israel and as you know some people questioned what we went to do in Israel and unless we have this report, people of this county will not be informed or understand that that we went to do something good. When I look at this report, I see everything we learned during the visit including water management. As you know Mr. Speaker, Kitui County is troubled by scarcity of water and the issue is very well documented in the report. We learned that if we manage our water resources well, we will be able to eradicate hunger in this region. The report outlines policies on land management in Israel some of which relate to what we can do here. It is also good that the report highlights issues on tourism and we are aware that what we learned in Israel can be replicated locally to improve earnings from the tourism industry. As you know Mr Speaker, our country has a problem of insecurity posed by Al-Shabaab militants. When we look at this report we find that it says something about some of the approaches employed by Israelites to maintain security which if we adhere to insecurity will not be an issue in this country. Although hon. Ngwele and his team have taken long to present this report we should congratulate them for the work done. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon. Members, this report is very crucial and it has taken the secretariat time to prepare it. I am beginning to wonder whether you have read it. Why did we assign the secretariat the task of compiling such a beautiful report which cost them sleepless nights yet you are not contributing? You should seek to either support or criticising it because there are areas which may need to be faulted. Failure to participate in the debate implies that you either did not read or you are not interested in it. It is unfortunate to ask the person who guided compilation of the report to present it in details for the members to endorse it without contributing. It is better to point out any omissions before the report is adopted because you are part of the document.

(Hon Kasinga stood up in his place)

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Hon. Kasinga.

Hon. Kasinga (The Member for Muumoni ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Indeed, it will be sad for us if we sit in this assembly staring at this report hence squandering the chance to contribute to this worthwhile course. First and foremost, I am personally excited because of this report not because it is before us today but because we can officially respond to those who said that we went to Israel just to have fun. Joy is definitely part of any trip Mr Speaker. You get time to relax but it should be on record that we went to Israel to work regardless of

the big delegation. I also think that it was an opportunity to accord each and every member of this assembly exposure in a different country and see how things work out there. We now have a report whose recommendations is going to form the basis on implementation of development projects by the County Government of Kitui.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my area of interest is agriculture, water and irrigation. But I find it fit to touch on other areas that are of uttermost interest to all of us. We visited Kibbutz and other agricultural projects and the recommendations that we have given here are some of the best that the County Government should implement in an effort to rejuvenate the important agricultural sector so that we are able to feed our people. We witnessed and were inducted on irrigation farming in Israel and indeed those people don't have rains and the soil is not arable but at they usually have food. We established that they normally sell bananas to Jordan which they produce in plenty. I believe that this county can also produce bananas and should be able to set up a banana farming scheme somewhere because it is something we can do. One of the most important things we saw was drip irrigation which doesn't use plenty of water. Indeed Kitui County has a lot of water in circulation. Drip irrigation uses very little water in circulation form. Thus Israel uses very little water in its farming activities. This county has a lot of water which goes to waste when it rains. Mr speaker Sir, if we are to tap the water which goes to ocean and store in dams, then we can use it for irrigation farming without looking at Tana and Athi rivers to support such projects and the same point is cited by the committee in this report. In that regard we can be able to feed our people as the committee deems.

As things stand now, starvation will continue to be a problem for us but for how long shall we keep on with the challenge? I find it right to comment that the County Government should to take measures in line with the recommendations captured in this report to boost the agriculture sector. We should not continue giving the problem of starvation in our county lip service as it has been the case over the years and that is why I strongly recommend that this report should urgently be forwarded to the executive to start implementing the recommendations. We need to focus on harvesting of rain water and initiate measures to achieve that. This point is also adequately highlighted in this report and for instance suggests installation of rain-water harvesting structures in all schools to ensure they have enough of the commodity and that the same can be used for watering small irrigation projects in the institutions.

Mr Speaker, today I want to say that we will be judged harshly by the history of this county and the people of Kitui. We may not be forgiven including the previous governments which have just been watching as the water from rivers Tana and Athi flows to Indian Ocean instead of it being tapped for use by the residents in irrigation farming and other needs.

I urge my colleagues in this House to stand with us (the Agriculture, Water and Irrigation Committee) on issues of budgetary allocations because we don't want to be underfunded yet majority of our people are forced to walk for long distances in search of the water. I urge this House to be sensitive enough on funding to the agricultural and water sectors because those two areas require adequate funding to cater for implementation projects which this assembly has recommended to the executive through this report.

Mr Speaker, the report also touches on the livestock sub-sector which is also very important. We will also be able to manage it effectively in view of the recommendations contained in this report. We have very good cows in this county. The topographical features in this country makes it to be one the best areas where rearing of livestock for commercial

purposes can really thrive. I think that is something we should really talk about. We want to see the County Government doing something on that in the near future, for instance establishing a meat processing factory so that we can be able sell meat to the other counties and even export.

On fish farming, this has been a challenge in the county. We know the central government introduced tried to spur this sector by introducing the economic stimulus package which did not take off well in this region as affirmed by some fish farms visited by the committee on agriculture. It was a challenge the way the projects were implemented but there is hope now since some functions under the ministry of agriculture had fully been devolved to the counties and the County Government should embrace deliberate effort to ensure the venture succeeds in line with the recommendations we have.

Regarding the sector Mr Speaker, I say what we saw in Israel and recommendation captured in this are interesting and I am wondering why previous governments failed to invest heavily in exploitation of solar power and other forms of renewable energy. I want the County Government to abide by the recommendations of this report and implement measures aimed at exploiting the huge potential of solar energy in the county. The report talks of free solar powered water heating systems for instance, which relieves pressure on use of hydro-electric power. Our county is blessed with adequate sunshine which can be exploited to generate solar power for free. Perhaps, we will talk of the implementation materials being expensive but still we can invest by seeking subsidies from the national government for example through waiver of taxes imposed on imported materials to enable this county to benefit. We are aware that the national government is our partner on development issues. The other day our Governor signed a pact with them (through Rural Electrification Authority-REA) to light our county but that will come with additional expenses for at the end of the day the people must pay electricity bills. The people must pay Kenya Power & Lighting Company. We need to examine the areas we can exploit to minimize expenses on use of electricity. I know that setting up infrastructure for exploitation of solar power is a costly affair at the beginning but it is better for at the end of the day it is much cheaper than relying on electricity from KPLC. So, there is need for the County Government to seriously invest in exploitation of solar energy as recommended in this report.

Mr Speaker, the issues of afforestation and environment conservation are very dear to all of us. We have a related Bill crafted by the relevant department of environment which is pending. The Bill falls under the committee on environment chaired by our colleague hon Mulongo. We witnessed that Israel is actually a land without trees but the authorities have been able to control desertification through serious afforestation. I also believe that through deliberate effort we can do the same here by investing in tree planting projects. I actually support all the recommendation contained in this report.

I want to allow opportunity for other members to contribute, thus I want to finalize by saying that issues on tourism are also mentioned in this report. Tourism is the backbone of Israel. The Israelites reap a lot from the tourism industry as a result of its historical background (biblical history) which Kitui County doesn't have. People wonder what tourists attractions are there in Kitui County but we have some unique attractions which we can develop. I was joking with some friends about the bizarre myth about Nzambani rock that you become the opposite sex if you go round it seven times. Hence measures should be put in place to develop the tourism industry in our county in line with these recommendations. I

know at times people buy air tickets to come and see such unique features and a story is created. While in Israel, we were shown the structure said to be Lot's wife for which tourists pay to go and see it. Thus as an assembly we must see to it that local tourist sites are developed to attract tourists in our county.

Finally, Israel benefits a lot economically from its technological innovations. As we know, much of what is used today in terms of technological discoveries is in most cases pioneered in Israel. This is the case even in the United States of America and Singapore. Mr Speaker, we were with you and you heard the story that Singapore which produces some of the best electronics in the world had to rely on some of the technological discoveries pioneered by Israel. Hence, the County Government should seek partnership with Israel on technological issues. We should also consider establishing ICT centres to boost innovations as recommended in this report. Hence the report is good and has very good recommendations. However, in my final words Mr Speaker I want to disagree with only one recommendation which supports the application of traditional practises (African magic) on security matters.

{Laughter}

Because of the threat of insecurity, the secretariat is telling us that the County Government should allow the application of black magic to deal with insecurity. Mr Speaker Sir, that part should be deleted from this report because it is not for us ...

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! You cannot propose an amendment just like that without following the laid down procedures. However, we have taken note of your point. So, continue.

Hon Kasinga (The Member for Muumoni ward): Mr Speaker Sir, in my opinion and as one with Christian background. I will not support something which goes against Christian values. We are proposing measures that are able to help us in arresting insecurity and so I don't want to go on record saying we should invoke African magic in fighting insecurity. It's impractical and it has not been used elsewhere. With those remarks, Mr Speaker Sir, I thank the secretariat for the work they did. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Well.

{Hon Mbandi stood up in her place}

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mbandi.

Hon Mbandi (nominated Member): Thank Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity. I have few comments. One is to support the points raised by the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture hon Kasinga and I also want to say that in this county we are blessed with some resources which we can exploit. This county is home to the former Director of Agriculture who has a lot of information on projects he has written about. Hence, I request the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture to consult the former Director if he has time to do so. The man is even in Kitui and he has a lot of information which can help our county. His is called Dr Mbandi. The other thing

{The Deputy Speaker interjected}

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Mbandi; you're communicating with the Chair Order! Order!

Hon Mbandi: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: You should direct your remarks to the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture through the Chair but not to communicate directly to him. That is what I am saying.

Hon Mbandi: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I was saying that we have resources which we can exploit in this county and if possible the Chairman for the Agricultural Committee hon Kasinga can if he finds time, consult and sit with that gentleman with a view to sourcing for pertinent information which can assist in boosting the agricultural sector in our county.

The Deputy Speaker: I understand Chair is not in the Chamber but the Vice Chair hon. Kilonzo is around. Hon. Mbandi is communicating a very important issue and I understand the Chair who is hon Ngwele is not around. You are Vice- Chair of the Agriculture Committee?

{Hon Kilonzo stood up}

The Deputy Speaker: Order, Order, *mheshimiwa* Kilonzo! Order, *mheshimiwa* Kilonzo! You should sit first. Yeah, it is good hon. Members to be alert on information provided by your colleagues. Hon. Mbandi was communicating to the Chair of selection Committee who is not around. So I expected hon. Kilonzo who is the Vice-Chair of that Committee to be attentive so that he can give us the required answers.

Hon Kilonzo (The Member for Athi ward): The hon. Member was addressing the Chair of Agriculture and not the Chair of the secretariat which was drafting this report. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mbandi can you come up clearly on the matter?

Hon. Mbandi: Mr Chairman I was addressing...

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! This is Mr Speaker.

Hon Mbandi: Sorry Mr Speaker Sir... (*She laughed*) I was addressing the Chairman of the Sub-committee which drafted this report.

The Deputy Speaker: Yeah, I was right hon. Kilonzo you've got it?

Hon Mbandi: So can I continue Mr Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker: Yeah continue.

Hon. Mbandi: Yeah, I was supporting the contribution made by the Chair of the agriculture committee (hon Kasinga). I was saying that this county has resources which can be exploited. I in addition want to talk about fish farming. The County Government should consider doing piloting on fish farming as recommended in this report, Mr Chairman I think there has been some.....

Hon Mbandi: Sorry...Mr Speaker. I wanted to say that some fish farming activities have been taking place in the county. Hence I suggest that strengths and weaknesses regarding the projects carried out should be highlighted to act as a learning point for farmers eyeing the venture. This is because some of the entities never succeeded and it is important for what went wrong to be known. Some of the challenges cited by the farmers were lack of water and the size of ponds recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture. Thus if fish farming has to thrive in this county the reasons which undermined the piloting projects should be made known. This recommendation to promote fish farming in the county is very good. It is important that we do fish farming. I think Kitui residents have started eating fish. Infact, quite a number of them but

the delicacy is sourced from very far. Thus efforts should be put in place to produce fish locally as a way of encouraging more people to feed on the nutritious food.

{Hon Mulongo stood up}

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mulongo.

Hon Mulongo (The member for Mui ward): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute towards this very important report. Hon. Members you will agree with me that this report had become out-dated but only to the residents of this County. You remember very well that we our trip to Israel was criticised by some people. This is a nice report whose recommendations will transform our county if implemented. This is terms of the way we do farming, conservation of the environment, management of the tourism sector and other activities. I appeal that the report is uploaded in our website to make it accessible to the people. It can also be published in the media for the residents to read so that they understand that we did not go to Israel for leisure but to learn and the knowledge we acquired forms the basis of this report which should be implemented to change the entire county.

Lastly, it is an effort worth congratulating for the Sub-committee which did final touches on this report. However, it should be remembered that when we returned from Israel we retreated to Mwingi to put our ideas together on compilation of the report. Thank you the Chair has arrived just as I was about to make the following point which is very appropriate. I wanted to say that much as we are commenting on this report, I would like the Chair to understand that our report writing mission in Mwingi comprised the two groups of members just the way the delegations travelled to Israel. The group which travelled first was led by hon. Kasinga-the Member for Muumoni ward and the second group by myself-the Member for Mui ward. But in this report the Chairman of the secretariat Mr Ngwele has not acknowledged our contribution. I think it is important for the two of us to be acknowledged in the report for the role we played during the trip. Thank you Mr Speaker. The report is nice.

{Hon Mwendwa stood up}

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mwendwa.

Hon Mwendwa (The member for Mulango ward and the Chief Whip): Thank you Mr Speaker sir for giving me this opportunity. First and foremost is to thank the ad-hoc-committee chaired by hon. Ngwele for coming up with a good report. I have gone through the report and found that it is well elaborated and collectively done. I really want to thank the secretariat for that excellent work which justifies the money we spend. It shows that we did not misuse public funds.

Mr Speaker, this report touches on nearly all the sectors including environment, education and others and it is well written, well researched and documented in line with what we learned and witnessed in Israel and I want to urge the members and especially the chairpersons of the various sectoral committees to use it to enact relevant legislation on development matters in our county. We should apply the learning experience to boost food production including fruits. We saw that agricultural production in Israel is well managed. We will be able to transform this county which is prone to drought and hunger if these recommendations are implemented. We have heard a case of a local resident eating meat of a

dog as a result of hunger which is a shame to us. We now have a good which roots for irrigation farming. We have a lot of water in our County hence we should utilize the opportunity presented by this report to help our people and free them from the burden of hunger. So I once again urge the members of this House to rely on this report in enacting enabling laws on development issues affecting our county. We should ensure the report is implemented because it has very good recommendations.

Lastly Mr Speaker Sir, I really support the use of traditional means (black magic) in fighting insecurity in our county although my brother hon. Kasinga is against the recommendation. I remember when the Chief Justice Willy Mutunga made a similar suggestion I think a month ago. What we need is peace and whatever methods used to curb insecurity should not be an issue. Mr Speaker Sir, with those.....

The Deputy Speaker: Order, Order, hon...I don't want to be tempted to go that direction but I want to say that this is just a recommendation. The secretariat is very specific-it is talking about petty crimes. I don't want to go that direction but you are in order. Continue.

Hon Mwendwa: Okay. With that Mr Speaker, I want to support what ...

The Deputy Speaker: Order, Order, hon. Mwandia. Hon. Jemimah there is a Member on the floor and you cannot

Hon Mwendwa: The Committee did a commendable job. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Well. Hon. Jemimah.

Hon Jemimah: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I want to thank the members who came up with these recommendations. I support all the recommendations in this report but I disagree with the one on application of African magic which my colleague (hon Mwendwa) has supported. This is because as a Christian I cannot support what goes against the Bible.

The Deputy Speaker: There is a Point of Order hon... What is your Point of Order hon. Ngwele?

Hon Ngwele: Mr Speaker Sir, is it in order for hon. Jemimah to introduce issues of religion to official business? We know our Constitution allows freedom of worship for all religions but it clearly separates matters of religion with state affairs. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jemimah, I think you're out of order. Stick to what is in the report.

Hon Jemimah: Thank you Mr Speaker. Yeah I withdraw that one but we should remember that in Kitui we are known by this type of..., we are known for "kamuti" (juju) and it's not good to continue attracting negative perception. We should cultivate a positive Image by appearing like learned and advanced people with no leaning on superstition. Thank you.

{Hon Kilonzo on a Point of Order}

The Deputy Speaker: What's your Point of Order hon. Kilonzo?

Hon Kilonzo: Mr Speaker.....(*technical hitch*) if we are known for that, what is wrong with that?

Hon Mbandi: Thank you Mr Speaker, I stand once again to reiterate my position that "kamuti" does not help.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jemimah I don't understand the term you have used. Who can help me? Address the Chair hon. Member because you need to be helped. I am forced to say that you are out of order hon Jemimah.

{Hon Mwandia sought to contribute}

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Mwandia.

Hon Mwandia: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am hon. Hussein Mwandia. Thank you Mr Speaker for using your discretion to correct those who are out of order. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mwandia, why are you trying to direct the Chair? The Chair is able and capable of doing his work hence you're out of order.

Hon Mwandia: I apologize and withdraw.

The Deputy Speaker: Ok continue.

Hon Mwandia: Mr Speaker I stand to support this report culminating from the benchmarking mission in Israel by members of this House. I think it is prudent that we support the motion and as an assembly direct that the County executive do implement it. Israel is far much ahead of us in terms of development and it is very important that the report is implemented. Thank you, I beg to support report.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you hon. Kililiku

Hon Kililiku: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Mr Speaker I rise to support the report and I will be brief because much has been spoken. I don't want to repeat myself. Mr Speaker when we went to the Promised Land we found that it is a desert which raised the question....

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kililiku, what do you mean by saying we went to the Promised Land? Which land is that?

Hon Kililiku: Yeah, it is Israel Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Continue.

Hon Kililiku: When we went there, we discovered that Israel is a land of great brains. We found that Israelites survive because of their brains. Mr Speaker we have a lot of water compared to Israel and the little they have is salty but it is a land of plenty due to proper use of their brains. Mr Speaker the County Executive should consider implementing the recommendations contained in this report. The report is comprehensive and touches on all sectors. The report can help us in coming up with right policies and legislation on development. With that Mr speaker I support adoption of the report. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Munyithya.

Hon Munyithya: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to say a few things about our wonderful trip to Israel. I will start by thanking hon. Ngwele and his team for coming up with very good and well organised report that will help in transforming our county. We should help the County Government to implement.

{Hon Mwandia on a Point of Order}

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon..., what is your Point of Order?

Hon Mwandia: Mr Speaker, is it in order for the debate to continue when there is no quorum?.

The Deputy Speaker: Order hon. Munyithya! Hon. Members..., Order, Order *Mheshimiwa*....Hon. Members, I can read the mood of the House, I can see you have exhausted what you wanted to say and that's probably why..., Order hon Mwendu and Kilonzo.

Hon Kilonzo: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. Can the hon. Member for Ikutha ward cite the Standing Order backing his Point of Order? He has said that we are not in order and he should let us know the basis of his statement. This House started debating this report when there was quorum Mr Speaker and I think we should be allowed to continue airing our views and those who feel that they are satisfied with what they have said like hon. Mwandia, you can allow them to move out. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, Order hon. Members. Hon. Kilonzo, the Speaker cannot allow Members to move out when the debate is on. That is out of order. The debate should continue. Hon Mwende wanted to say something but hon Munyithya was on floor, so continue hon Munyithya.

Hon Munyithya: Okay, thank you Mr Speaker. I was saying that the County Government of Kitui should implement what we found to be necessary. We had an educative trip and good exposure in holy land of Israel. I discovered that people of Israel are always busy and disciplined and also they value whatever God gave them may it be mountains, seas, desert and even sand and they make use of it. When I compare Israel and Kitui County, I find that we have been blessed with so many things which are not properly utilised. We have valleys and rivers and when we were in school long time ago, we used to learn about rivers Euphrates and Tigris in Israel and here in Kitui County we have two namely rivers Athi and Tana. Hence it is up to us to make use of them. We saw in Israel that whatever they have been given by God is put in good use. We have land which is not used properly. We should make sure that our County Government comes up with good policies on utilization of land. We are also endowed with other resources including pastures and forests. In Israel forests are man-made while ours are natural.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, Order, *Mheshimiwa* Munyithya! Hon. Members, I can read the mood of the House. I request that you be upstanding so that we can adjourn the House.

{The Members stoop up in their places}

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2:30 PM.

The County Assembly rose at 10:57 AM.