REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 29th September, 2020

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

LAIKIPIA COUNTY STIMULUS FUND REGULATIONS, 2020

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. On behalf of the majority party leader, I beg to lay the following paper;

The Public Finance Management (Laikipia County Stimulus Fund) Regulations, 2020.

(Hon. Mutahi Muritu laid the paper on the Table)

Speaker: The paper is committed to the Committee on Delegated County Legislation.

MOTION

EXTENSION WORKERS POLICY

(Resumption of Previous Motion deferred on 23rd September, 2020 p.m.)

Speaker: This is a motion that was moved and seconded. It is time for the Members to make their contribution.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nasimama kutoa mchango wangu kuhusu mswada ulio katika hili Bunge kuhusu maafisa wa ugani. Maafisa hawa ni muhimu sana katika sekta ya kilimo. Nchi yoyote inayotegemea kilimo husema ndio uti wa mgongo wa uchumi wao. Baada ya ugatuzi zaidi ya 65%-70% ya Wizara ya Kilimo iligatuliwa kwa kaunti. Sasa hivi inakuwa ni jukumu letu.

Nimeomba sana nitoe mchango wangu kwa sababu Serikali za Kaunti zinaweza kuwezeshwa na bajeti kubwa. Hapa Laikipia tumebahatika sana kwa sababu katika Laikipia Magharibi na majirani zetu kilimo kinaridhisha. Katika halmashauri tunazounda unapata ya kwamba kilimo kinaweza kuleta kodi kubwa.

Zamani kulikuwa na maafisa wa ugani. Walikuwa kiungo muhimu sana kwa sababu wao hushauri wananchi wetu jinsi ya kilimo. Teknologia imekuja kwa sasa hivi. Zamani kila kijiji kilitengeneza sheria za mambo makubwa. Sasa hivi tunasahau ya kwamba tunahitaji maafisa wa kilimo kama tunavyohitaji daktari.

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Ukiangalia katika bajeti zetu zote sisi hujielekeza zaidi kwa afya lakini tunasahau kiungo muhimu sana cha kilimo. Baada ya ugatuzi kuingia Kenya, kilimo sio tu mahindi na maharagwe bali pia wakulima na mifugo. Sisi hapa Laikipia tuko na mifugo na wakulima. Mheshimiwa Spika, unakuta ya kwamba ni vigumu sana kumtafuta afisa kule vijijini anayeweza kushauri ama kusaidia.

Zamani katika nchi yetu tulikuwa tunapatiwa mbegu. Saa hivi hamna. Landrover ilikuwa inapita kila siku. Kwa sababu tunataka kukuza uchumi wetu, kama hatutakuza uchumi wetu kupitia kilimo hatutajisaidia kwenye nchi hii. Leo asubuhi katika vyombo vya habari wakulima wanapiga kelele kwa sababu ya chai. Kwa mfano ukiangalia hapa kwetu mwaka jana katika wadi yangu kulikuwa na siku ya wakulima. Tulienda tu kwa mkulima wa kawaida na tukiangalia huyu mtu akiwezeshwa zaidi kwa kupatiwa utaalamu itasaidia.

Tulipoingia kwenye hii serikali kuna malambo ambayo yamechimbwa na serikali. Ukiangalia yule mtu ambaye amepatiwa ushauri awe mfugaji ama nini tunaweza saidia. Hili ni swala ambalo namshukuru ambaye ametoa hoja hii ama aliyekuja na hili wazo kwamba tukiweza kuwasaidia wananchi wetu kwa kilimo tutajisaidia na tutafanya mambo makubwa sana. Tuwache kujielekeza zaidi kuhusu afya na vitu vingine lakini tujue afya inatokana na lishe bora.

Tukipata maofisa wa ugani wazuri katika kilimo tutapata chakula kwa sababu binadamu yeyote ni chakula. Tukipata hili hata afya tutapata. Bajeti ya Kilimo katika Laikipia inazuzua. Ukiangalia elimu na kilimo unakuta unapata hatujielekezi zaidi ikikumbukwa serikali yetu inakusanya kodi kila siku ya mifugo. Tuko na soko nyingi sana za mifugo. Katika Magharibi mwa Laikipia chakula kimeiva lakini hatujajiwekea mikakati ambaye iko na uwezo wa kuwezesha wananchi wetu na kuweza kuwafikia zaidi.

Maofisa wa ugani watakuwa kiungo muhimu sana mashinani kuhusiana na wananchi wetu kujua jinsi ya kilimo cha kisasa na kutumia ardhi vile inavyostahili. Kwa hivyo naunga mkono na ikibidi tusiajiri tu maofisa wakubwa kwa sababu katika uajiri kunaleta shida. Tunatafuta mambo makubwa lakini tunasahau wananchi wetu. Kwa hivyo tuliangalie hili Mheshimiwa Spika na ninaunga asilimia mia kwa mia mtoa hoja ya kwamba tunahitaji maofisa wa ugani kama madaktari katika majimbo yetu na katika maeneo yetu vijijini. Kwa hayo mengi ama machache, asante.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nasimama hapa kuunga mkono mswada ambao uko mbele ya Bunge hili. Pia nampongeza Mheshimiwa Matunge kwa kufikiria jambo kama hili. Kwa ukweli ni kama hili lilisahaulika kitambo. Katika Nchi ya Kenya na Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia, ukulima ni uti wa mgongo. Kama tunahitaji wananchi wetu wawe na ujuzi na uwezo wa kupata mazao zaidi tunahitaji wataalam ambao wataweza kutusaidia kufahamisha wakulima wetu wote vile watafanyia kilimo ili wawe na faida.

Bwana Spika, wakati tulikuwa wadogo kuna maofisa ambao walikuwa wanatembea na kuingia kwa mashamba kuangalia mimea ambayo watu wanapanda. Pia walikuwa wanapatiana ushauri kwa wakulima. Ningetaka Kaunti ya Laikipia ifikirie mambo kama hayo ili tuweze kupatia mwananchi maofisa ambao watasaidia ikilinganishwa katika Kaunti ya Laikipia kuna

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wakulima wa mahindi na viazi. Pia kuna wafugaji ambao wako Kaskazini mwa Laikipia ambao watasaidiwa na maofisa ili biashara ambayo tunafanya iwe na faidi.

Bwana Spika, tunaweza kuwa tukiwakilisha wananchi lakini kama hatujawapatia ujuzi ambao wataweza kufanya ukulima nao, hakuna kitu tutakuwa tunafanya. Huu muswada ni wa maana na utasaidia ili wananchi wetu wawe na jambo la kujivunia na waweze kuona serikali inawaangalia kwa njia ambayo inafaa. Kwa hayo machache nampongeza Mheshimiwa Matunge kwa kuja na wazo hili. Juzi tulikuwa tujadilie huu muswada lakini hatukuwa na huo muda lakini kwa sasa naomba Bunge iweze kujadili ili tuweze kupitisha ili Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia inayoongozwa na Ndiritu Muriithi itatekeleza. Kwa hayo machache naunga mkono.

Speaker: May I now call upon the mover to give a reply?

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Hon. Members who have contributed towards the motion. I know that this motion was supposed to be debated in our last sitting and most of the Members have not gotten a chance to interact with the motion since then. So going with the contribution of the Members, it shows that the extension officers are important organs in agriculture and we need to revive these officers so that they can continue providing services to the people of Laikipia.

Agriculture extension services is the main conduct of addressing rural poverty and food security because these officers are the facilitators and are also the communicators because they are the intermediary between the research and the farmer. Through this, these people are able to help the farmers to make the right decisions and are also able to help solve problems in their farms.

So without these people we continue to produce less in our lands because through research and new technologies, a farmer is able to maximally utilize the land for highest productivity just because of technology transfer to the Farmers through these officers. Again we continue to depend on rain fed agriculture and we can be able to use these officers to transfer the best irrigation schemes and put maximum of our lands to productivity.

Our farmers are being disturbed with diseases and therefore these officers are able to help the farmers to combat and control diseases in animals and crops by providing information and by linking them to the veterinary services who will be able to support them. Through this the farmers will be able to save on the cost of production and loss during the process of harvesting and also during the process of storage because lack of information can cause these farmers to lose a lot.

Mr. Speaker, properly promulgating new farming methods again increases productivity. We know that research is a way of continuing to come up with new ideas and technologies and farmers can only get this through the extension officers. So without them we are doing too little on agriculture. The situation on the ground is that we don't have these officers and we need to revive this important programme to support our farmers. So with that little additional contribution, I urge the Hon. Members to support the motion. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

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ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 30th September, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 2.50 p.m.

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