REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 18th October, 2023

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.00 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we do have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum, I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for six minutes)

Speaker: Hon. Anthony?

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I think we are good to go.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we indeed have got quorum now.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum).

Speaker: Thank you, very much, then we move into the order of the day.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOMATO PROCESSING PLANT IN LAIKIPIA

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion:

THAT, AWARE THAT Agriculture industry is the backbone of Kenya's economy;

FURTHER AWARE that In Kenya, tomato plays a critical role in meeting domestic and nutritional food requirement, generation of income, foreign exchange earnings and creation of employment;

NOTING THAT Tomato processing involves the transformation of fresh tomato produce into the tomato end products like tomato paste, tomato juice, tomato sauce inter alia;

CONCERNED THAT during the peak harvest season, most of the farmers face the post-harvest challenges;

This House URGES the County Government to establish tomato processing plants within the major growing areas in the County.

Bwana Spika, huu mswada ambao nimeleta leo unahusu mambo ya ukulima. Ukulima ndio uti wa mgongo wa taifa letu la Kenya. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri sisi kama viongozi tushirikiane na tuungane na tuje na mbinu ya kusaidia wakulima. Huu mswada unahusu mambo ya nyanya. Nyanya hukuzwa sehemu nyingi katika Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia kama Laikipia Mashariki,

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Magharibi na Laikipia Kaskazini kama pande za Ngenia, Chumvi na Sosian. Ukija pande za Mashariki, nyanya hukuzwa pande za Umande, Ngobit na Tigithi. Kama wadi yetu ya Thingithu na Nanyuki huwa tunanunua na kuuza.

Ukienda pande za Magharibi, nyanya hukuuzwa pande za Marmanet, Olmoran, Rumuruti na Githiga. Hizo sehemu nyingi ndizo hukuza nyanya kwa wingi. Kwa hivyo, mimi nikaona ni vizuri kama kiongozi aliyepewa kazi na wananchi nje niwatetee. Kiongozi hana mipaka na huenda katika sehemu zote za Kenya kuhakikisha ya kwamba ameongoza wananchi wake.

Bwana Spika, ni juzi ambapo tuliona kwa televisheni upande wa Rumuruti na Maran ya kwamba nyanya zimeiva na kutupwa. Hiyo ni hasara kwa mkulima ambaye amejitoa mhanga kuhakikisha ya kwamba amelima hizo nyanya ndio baadaye aweze kupata pesa ya kulipia watoto karo na pia kujimudu katika maisha yake ya kila siku. Kwa hivyo, mimi nilisikia huzuni sana kuona hizo nyanya zikitupwa.

Sasa hivi nikiwa nimesimama hapa kuna mashamba ambazo zinagawanywa ambazo ziko na sehemu za kuweka viwanda. Katika hizo sehemu ikiwa imewekwa upande wa Rumuruti, itasaidia wakulima wengi kupeleka hizo nyanya hapo na kuzitengeneza ndipo tuweze kupata *tomato paste, tomato juice* na *tomato sauce.*

Bwana Spika, *tomato sauce* hutumika sana katika miji zetu na nyumbani zetu kwa maana kila mwananchi akiingia hapa apate kupewa chakula kama *chips*, lazima aweke *tomato sauce.* Kwa hivyo, sisi pia sehemu zingine hukuza viazi. Kwa hivyo, tukishatengeneza hiyo *tomato sauce,* itatumika sana na wananchi wa Laikipia na itasaidia mkulima ambaye anafanya ukulima. Kama viongozi, ni vizuri tuweze kuungana kusaidia wananchi ili wasije wakapata hasara.

Bwana Spika, kiwanda ni njia moja ya kuonyesha ya kwamba Kaunti au taifa inakua. Katika uwanja ambao tuko nayo Rumuruti, kama tutaweza kuweka viwanda vingi iwezekanavyo, tutakuwa tumeinua vijana wengi na kina mama ambao hawana kazi na pia jamii ambazo zimezunguka eneo hizo. Ukulima ambao wanafanya wa nyanya utaweza kuchukuliwa na kununuliwa kwa bei inayofaa.

Tusipokuwa na njia ya kusaidia wananchi wetu, huenda tukawa tumejiwekelea vilipuzi ya vijana ambao wanaendelea huku ana hakuna kazi. Sisi ndio tuko na jukumu ya kuhakikisha ya kwamba tumepata nafasi ya kuweza kuunda hizo nafasi za vijana kufanya kazi maana wao wanatutegemea. Mimi nimeonelea ya kwamba huu mswada uwe wa kwanza kumaanisha nimeleta miswada mengine mengi ambayo iko kwa mifereji ikija kwa maana mimi ninataka tuwe na kiwanda. Leo nazungumza kuhusu kiwanda cha nyanya lakini siku nyingine nitakuja hapa na mswada mwingine ili tuwezwe kutengeneza kiwanda cha nyama.

Katika Laikipia kaskazini, wakaaji wa eneo hizo wanafanya ufugaji wa ng'ombe. Kwa hivyo, hizo ng'ombe wakati mwingine zinakuwa nyingi mpaka yule mkulima anahitaji kuuza na wale ambao wanakuja kununua hizo ng'ombe wananunua kwa bei rahisi. Kama tutakuwa na kiwanda hapa ambapo tutachukua hizo Ngozi, mifupa tusiage za kutengeneza sahani za *melamine,* tuchukue nyama tusiage na tuweke kwa mikebe. Yule mkulima ambaye anafuga ng'ombe na mbuzi atakuwa na faida. Kwa hivyo, huu ni mswada ambao ningetaka sisi kama Kaunti ya Laikipia tuwe kipao mbele katika kuhakikisha ya kwamba tunalinda wakulima wetu ili waweze kupata mapato kulingana na vile wanavyofanya kazi.

Serikali imepeana mbolea na hiyo ni kumaanisha ya kwamba wakulima wengi wataingia mashambani kulima. Mimi ningetaka tuungane, tushikane na tuongee ukweli.

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Serikali imetoa mbolea ili watu waende kulima. Juzi pia, nitalaumu serikali kwa sababu walituambia twende tupande na wakatupatia mbolea na mambo mengi na ahadi ya kwamba sisi katika Kaunti, yetu mvua ya El-Nino itaanza mwezi wa tisa. Sasa tuko katika mwezi wa kumi na bado hatujaona El-Nino isipokuwa manyunyu iliyoanza juzi. Wakulima wamelima na sasa hivi mahindi na maharagwe inakauka na kwa hivyo, serikali inafaa kuchukua huo mzigo kwa sababu ilidanganya Wakenya.

Walisema ya kwamba Elnino itakuja mwezi wa tisa. Nikienda hapa Umande au Matanya, mahindi imekauka kwa sababu tuliambiwa tupande mapema na kukanyesha mara moja tu. Nikimalizia, nitachukua jukumu ya kuhakikisha ya kwamba nitashtaki serikali kwa kudanganya wananchi ya kwamba El-Nino inakuja na tupande. Ni lazima tuwe watu wa kuongea ukweli. Ninasimama nikiwa upande wa serikali lakini wale ambao wako upande wa upinzani wanafaa kuwa upande wa mbele kukosoa serikali kwa maana serikali haiwezi kuja hapa na kudanganya watu kiholela. Sijui kama ni pesa inataka kuporwa. Juzi nilisema hapa tuongeze pesa ya kukabidhi El-Nino na kupea serikali nafasi iweke pesa na sasa hivi sijui kama hiyo pesa itatumika kwa njia inayofaa.

Bwana Spika, mimi nataka sisi kama viongozi tuwe mstari wa mbele kutetea mwananchi. Tunajua ya kwamba katika hii serikali yetu ya UDA kuna makosa kidogo na lazima tukubali. Mgala muue lakini haki umpe. Hata kama sisi tulikuwa tunaomba kura na tuliomba kabisa tukaambia watu waingie kwa *wheelbarrow* lakini sasa hivi, *wheelbarrow* imepoteza mguu na haiendi. Mambo mengi ambayo tulisema imekuwa ngumu kutimiza na kwa hivyo, ni lazima tuseme ukweli ili kama kuna mahali tulikosea tusimame kama viongozi na tuambie wananchi watusamehe mahali tulipokosea na watatusamehe.

Vile vile, kama serikali itasimama na kusema ya kwamba ilitukosea kwa kusema ya kwamba El-Nino itakuja, wasimame na kuomba msamaha na tutawasamehe kwa maana sisi ni wapita njia. Haya ni mambo ambayo nataka iangaliwe na ushughulikiwe ili tuhakikishe ya kwamba tunapoambia wakulima walime, tuko na suluhisho. Tukiwaambia wafanye kazi, tunahakikisha ya kwamba hiyo kazi iko na malipo.

Ndio maana tumesema ya kwamba tulete huu mswada kwa sababu hata hatutategemea hiyo El-Nino. Siku hizi tunaweza kuchimba kisima. Tukichimba kisima huko Mukogodo Mashariki, kwa sababu huko kuna jua, ukilima nyanya na kitunguu huko zitafanya vizuri. Mimi ninajua ya kwamba Mheshimiwa kutoka hiyo sehemu anaweza kuniunga mkono. Kuna sehemu ambayo inaitwa Wangwaci upande wa Olmoran ambapo kuna joto na pia upande wa Sosian. Ukiweka kisima hapo, hao wakulima wako huko watabahatika na mazao yao itazaa na watavuna kwa wingi.

Juzi nilibahatika kutembelea Mheshimiwa wa Olmoran wakati alikuwa anafungua maskani yake. Sijui ni *bungalow* ama ilikuwa inaitwa vipi ambapo ni nyumba nzuri sana na tulifurahia. Nilishangaa ni mahali ambapo ni kama jangwa kwa sababu ukiangalia pande zote ni milima na hiyo siku ndiyo niliona mahali wezi huteremkia wakija kwake. Kuingia kwa shamba nikakuta mananasi na mimi ninajua ya kwamba mananasi ni Delmonte lakini ukienda kwake, utapata hizo. Utapata pia *avocado* ya *hass* na matunda ingine mengi. Kama wakulima watakuwa wakitembea kwake na kuona vile anafanya kazi, tutakuwa tumewasaidia.

Yeye amebahatika kwa sababu amechimba kisima maji kwa mikono. Kama tunaweza kumsaidia kuchimba kwa mashine, ataweza kusaidia hata jamii ambayo iko huko. Ndio maana naomba serikali kwa sababu tumeleta ile mashini ya kuchimba kisima, mahali ambapo kuna maji ambayo inatoka kwa haraka kama hapo kwa Mheshimiwa wa Olmoran, iwekwe kisima na yeye atakuwa kama mtu wa kuangalia. Wale wananchi ambao wako katika hiyo sehemu wapate maji ya kulima na kukunywa bure.

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Kwa hayo machache, mimi naomba hili Bunge kwa heshima kwa sababu nyinyi mnapenda wananchi na mlikuja hapa kwa kuchaguliwa, ni watu walipanga laini na kupiga kura na wengine wenu wametoka kwa wakulima, mimi nawaomba kwa maana hapa wakulima ndio wengi na wafugaji ni wawili tu kwa hawa wote. Hao wengine wote pamoja na wafugaji, nawaomba tuungane ili huu mswada uweze kupita ili tusaidie wananchi. Ninaomba kijana baru baru, mtu wa Mungu; kwa Kikuyu huwa tunamuita '*njamba ya ruriri'*. Mpenda watu, mtu wa kuongea Kiswahili sanifu, Mheshimiwa sanifu aweze kuafiki huu mswada. Asante.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Asante sana Bwana Spika kwa hii nafasi. Huu ni mswada ambao ni uti wa mgongo katika jimbo la laikipia. Jambo lolote ambalo linaingia katika Bunge hili najua ya kwamba mimi ni ishara ya kuonyesha kwamba lile ninalotamka ni sauti ya Mungu kwa sababu ni sauti ya jimbo la Laikipia.

Mheshimiwa Spika, nikiunga huu mswada kwa undani nikiangalia uti wa mgongo katika jimbo letu hasa mambo ya ukulima kuna watu wengi wataweza kusaidika kwa jia moja au nyingine. Wakati kuna mvuno wa nyanya, kuna zaidi ya wafanyakazi 1,000. Akina mama na vijana hukaa pale wakingoja Lori ndio wakavune. Hio ni kumaanisha wakulima zaidi ya 1,000 katika Laikipia wanaweza kuajiri zaidi ya wafanyakazi 200,000. Wakati nimelima ekari mbili za nyanya, hua kila siku lazima niwe na wafanyakazi zaidi ya 20 na ni miezi nne. Kumaanisha nimebadilisha kile kijiji.

Sasa hii nikiangalia wadi ya Olmoran ambayo inawakilishwa na Mheshimiwa George Karuiru, kuna bwawa linaitwa wangwaci. Wakulima huwa wanategemea kwa sababu ya uhaba wa maji mahali pale. Lazima wapande mmea wao wakijua kuna maji mahali pale. Kama kungekuwa na bwawa kubwa mahali pale, serikali iweze kufanya kazi kwamba kila wadi iwe na bwawa kubwa ndio kuwe na ukuuzi wa huu mmea.

Mheshimiwa Ndiritu, alikuwa ameona bali sana. Wadi ya Sosian wakipata bwawa, iwekwe Rumuruti na ingine Sosian, baada ya miaka tatu watu watakuwa na pesa kwa mfuko katika jimbo la Laikipia. Wengi wanataka kulima na wako na pesa lakini wakiangalia yale maji yako, kisha wanaona watawekelea pesa katika huu mmea, bila shaka maji yataishia katikati. Kuna mifugo, wakulima na wafugaji wa samaki wote wakitegemea yale maji. Naunga mkono huu mswada.

Kuna jambo ningetaka kutoka kwa Mheshimiwa Ndiritu kama mjeledi mkuu wa chama chetu cha UDA kwa sababu tulimchagua awe anatuweka kwa mpango mzuri. Nashindwa huu ni msimamo wake ama wa chama ya kwamba serikali haifanyi kazi. Aliyeleta mjadala katika Bunge hili kwamba tuende tutangazie wananchi wa Laikipia kwamba kuna El-Nino. Ningelitaka kujua huo mswada alileta katika Bunge, nani alimwelezea? Sisi kama Waheshimiwa tukaenda tukaambia jamii ya wafuganji wasiwe na shaka, kuna mvua. Wasiwe na shaka wapande. Leo hii, kwetu zaidi ya watu 100 wamepanda.

Mheshimiwa Karuiru yuko na zaidi ya ekari 10 ya ngano na yote imekauka. Yangu ni ekari 10 za maharagwe na zimekauka. Yule alileta huo mswada katika Bunge hii sio manachama wa UDA bali ni Mheshimiwa wa Thingithu. Yeye mwenyewe alituletea mdahalo wa uongo. Ningependa aombe radhi kwa jimbo la laikipia. Mimi nitakustaki na nikupeleke kortini kwa sababu nimewekelea pesa na sitapata. Na ni wengi. Tutakustaki ndio uweze kutujibu. Ni wewe ulileta mswada katika Bunge.

Mheshimiwa Spika, nimefurahi kwa sababu ya hio wakati. Mimi ni wa Chama na nimetueliwa na chama. Mimi lazima nisimame na chama na mimi ni mtu wa *wheelbarrow*. Inafanya kazi na ndio inatuongoza. Asante Bwana Spika.

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(Question proposed)

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion. This is a very good motion. It talks about value addition. That gives the farmers market because the challenge we have as farmers is about market availability. The moment we have a processing plant in the area, definitely we will get a good market. We must have a policy that guides between the processor and the farmers.

If you look at the milk today, the farmers sell their milk at Kshs. 55. When you go to shop to buy yoghurt, you know the prices of a half a litre. We must have a connection between the value addition and the farmers so that we do not give platforms to the business people and leave the farmers as before. Mr. Speaker, I agree that as a County Government, we must have value addition to all our products and produce.

We want also to have value addition on issues of meat because we have challenges in the meat market. These are the things we need to improve so that we can be bale to sell our meat abroad and other markets in Africa. I totally agree with the majority whip even though he is challenging the government. He wants to confirm that we don't have opposition in this House. That is what he demonstrated and I agree with him. I have never heard in this House the opposition challenging the government. We can have people, just the names but their actions do not match with the names. I agree and I want to say I support the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not standing to support the motion but on a point of information because the Hon. Member, Shuel just said there is no opposition in this House. I presume and don't know if the government is tired because he is also an independent Member. I don't know if he is making sense in his statement that there is no opposition in this House. Is he with the government or opposition? Thank you.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I just wanted you to confirm that this is my height. I wanted everyone to see how good this one shall be if done soonest next week or the week we are going for recess. I rise in support of the motion by Hon. Stephen on value addition on tomatoes. This will be the best thing that will happen to the people of Laikipia. I have realized today that there is something called tomato juice. I have never taken one and I will be happy if I get juice, at least I give it to Hon. Kamara who had gone to announce it and almost forgot his work of representation, legislation and oversight.

Hon. Speaker, as the mover of the motion has stated, it is the high time as Laikipians we embrace value addition and other products that we get from this County. We are going to Rumuruti which is the highest producer of tomatoes yet we don't have a value addition plant. They have high harvest and in the peak season, you find them stocking tomatoes in open lands which go to a waste yet in Nanyuki, Thingithu and Nyahururu people are waiting to use it or the juice I've just heard of today.

Mr. Speaker, farming is good and farmers in Laikipia are very active. If you go to farmers in Rumuruti, you will find most of them doing 20 acres and above. Others 100 acres. When the peak season is there, you find majority harvesting a lot of tomatoes only going to a waste. It is the high time we start adding value to tomatoes. Also, we should have a store for future use. When we get tomatoes from the land directly, you can only use in three or four days. When we have an industry that will add value, we will be able to help our farmers to use them even in future after the storage.

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Hon. Speaker, we invest and use a lot of money on our business people, we give them money and invest in SACCO's. We say that we are improving trade. It is the high time we move from that direction of giving out money to business people. We can have like this one of having industries that can help farmers. We have invested heavily on businessmen in this town.

Every year we invest over Kshs. 60,000,000 on business people. Today, we are having something that will last forever. If we have an industry and use the same amount of money that we invest with the business community and now agree that we will invest with farmers. This will help us today and forever. It will also encourage the Hon. Members from pastoral communities. This motion is not good to them. They are all gone. This will encourage them to become farmers. You cannot live wherever you started and remain there.

If we started an industry at a place like Sosian, Mukogodo East and West, it will encourage them on the importance of farming. They have good land with good soil. They only need to time the rainy season. During the rainy season, they can do farming and also be assured of having their tomatoes being taken for value addition and can be used for a whole year.

Mr. Speaker, as government we need to encourage the few who are doing something so that others can be motivated to come and do the same. I support this motion and call upon Hon. Members so that in the near future, I will be able to take the tomato juice. Thank you.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion. On the same, I have a concern where I am contemplating that we might have a teacher here of languages. I cannot stand the Majority Whip being called *Mjeledi Mkuu*. I may not be very good in Kiswahili but I know this doesn't mean well. I understand that most of us did not attend the group of schools. Majority of us went to polling stations as school.

I urge Hon. Kamara to look for a better name. I am a Kikuyu and before I think of anything, I first translate it to Kikuyu so that I know what I want to say. I can only imagine translating *Mjeledi Mkuu* which will mean something different from what we are saying. Far from that Mr. Speaker, I support the motion It is good to note that Kenyans are good at wasting. Mr. Speaker, when I was drinking water here which is a product of Nanyuki, if you buy this water it will not cost less than Kshs 30.

Mr. Speaker, it is good to note that it is the same water from the rain. This is the same water we are trying to manage especially now that El-Nino is coming. Mr. Speaking, we are not only concentrating in doing tomatoes. Today it will be tomatoes but Mr. Speaker, protect me because I know he is not into a good thing…

Hon. Benson Kuria: Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa sababu ya Kiswahili mufti, ningependa kusema kwamba hatuko hapa kwa sababu ya lugha ya mama. Tuko hapa kwa sababu ya Lugha ya Taifa. Najua kwamba *Chief Whip* kwa Lugha ya Kiswahili sanifu ni Mjeledi Mkuu, sio Mjeledi wa mama. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you. Continue Hon. Anthony.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Mr. Speaker, by the look of his eyes, I knew he was not going to say something good but I am proud to be a native of this country. Sometimes, I think I am speaking the colonial language. If I was to be asked, I would like everyone in this House to be expressing themselves in a language that he or she understands. We have the best engineers that are doing our roads in Kenya who are Chinese and they hardly know English.

I have no problem in what he is saying but I have a problem in trying to translate Kiswahili. Mr. Speaker, when we go out of this Assembly, I will speak to him. My apologies

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although I am thinking better because I am thinking of how we are going to progress. Mr. Speaker, we need to invest in value addition. As Hon. Mugweru from Umande Ward has said, we have invested in businesses for long. We are not proud of the proceeds. My proposal is that we invest.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Leila has a different parliament. I am a Man and we are created to think of one thing at a time. Whatever she is speaking here is something that I am interested in. So, protect me so that I can be able to express myself. She is speaking of food yet I am hungry because I did not take breakfast. Protect me from this side of the House.

Speaker: You are protected. Continue Honourable Member.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge that we invest in value addition and not only in tomatoes. As we are speaking here, in the fifteen wards we have in Laikipia, it is only one ward where we cannot say we have an arable land which is Mukogodo West. Mr. Speaker, our God is a God of balance. We cannot cultivate and plant tomatoes in Mukogodo West because we have sand there. Mr. Speaker, we have cows there which give meat. Apart from value addition on tomatoes, you cannot eat meat without *kachumbari*.

On the same, all of us are wearing leather shoes. We can have a tannery factory there. It is the high time we look at things in a different angle. Soon we are going to have rains. I am ashamed that in the next five months, we shall be crying that we want the government to interject and bring more money so that we can feed or people. We are not making good use of water. Mr. Speaker, we are not building gas and we are not providing good quality seeds for our farmers to plant.

If we are doing so, we don't have the storage. Mr. Speaker, it is only good when you take advantage of the season. Right now, I can tell you that by December, flour will be less than Kshs. 200. It will cost between Kshs. 140 and Kshs. 160. I can tell you that by March, 2024, it will be Kshs 300 yet we shall be here cursing and calling all sort of names to our government. On the same, I would like to commend Hon. Stephen that we do not need the opposition here.

We are not here to oppose on anything. I can oppose the government that I am in if it is not doing the right thing. The opposition leaders who are Hon. Lempaira, Hon. Umija and Hon. Lekopien who will also join us when we have something noble for our people. Being in the government opposition, is neither here nor there. We are in the same government. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say something bad but I remembered that we are in an Honourable House but when things go bad, they go bad to all of us.

Hon. Speaker, I am urging the government to take the advantage. Right now, tomatoes in the next two weeks will be less than Kshs. 20 per kg. By March, it will be more than Kshs. 200. If we can have space and a good storage, when the demand is too high and the supply will be low, our farmers are going to take advantage and they are going to make profit. We have good weather and our God is gracious to us, so if we do not take the advantage, we will have enough rainfall for not only to cultivate onions and tomatoes but food that is going to sustain our people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we widen our scope on all issues so that we use our money well. I stated earlier that we are wasters. We waste money in the things that do not make sense. We waste our money in the areas that do not produce. I urge this House to support our farmers without looking at the regions they come from because at the end of the day, we all are all

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dependent on each other. Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker. I urge this House to support this motion wholeheartedly.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the noble motion from Hon. Stephen Ndiritu Kamau A.K.A, Kagondu. Mr. Speaker, I felt touched when the mover was moving this motion. Part of what is being raised, Ol Moran Ward has horticulture crops such as potatoes. Mr. Speaker, three years ago during the COVID times, Ol Moran and specifically Wangwachi Dam was in the limelight of the daily newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, if you remember there was always a pile of potatoes that was put into waste and cows were eating them. Mr. Speaker, I have said that this is noble because if we supply everywhere with sufficient water, farmers will be doing horticulture because Laikipia is a food basket to our country. I think we should add value to any good thing. Anything that goes to selection, tomato is as well noble.

When the buyers come to our farms, they lose quality things because they require the best quality to make profits from them. I think we should adopt the motion and put-up industries so that we go for the best value addition. We should put cold rooms because tomatoes cannot be kept for long. Mr. Speaker, the agricultural officers need to go to our farmers and advise them on how to put up their soils and how to do irrigation.

In 2022, I was tasked when I was sourcing for votes. By then, there was the famous disease that attacks potatoes called *Karuiru*. At one point, I went to women and the information they had is that *Karuiru* is exploiting potato farmers. Mr. Speaker, there are insects that attacks them and we need our extension officers to keep on going around and advise on soil testing. Potatoes are very delicate and there are chemicals that are used in our soils that requires us to do soil testing.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the National and the County Government because of the improvement of dams, water pans and boreholes. Mr. Speaker, if we think of putting up an industry, I am happy Hon. Ndiritu was not selfish of requesting a factory to be put up in Laikipia East. Mr. Speaker, our three constituencies are very good in producing potatoes. We can put up one in Laikipia West, Laikipia East and Laikipia North. We can also try to substantiate whatever we have.

In Laikipia West all the wards and mostly the one that is not covering well is Igwamiti Ward. Githiga, Ol Moran, Rumuruti, Marmanet and Salama Wards are prime land for tomato growing. Mr. Speaker, we need to unite as MCAs because we are leaders. What we have currently is what we had from the National Government which is the CAIP (County Aggregation and Industrial Parks). We need a lot to lobby.

Mr. Speaker, we need to sit down with the Leadership from the Governor to the MCAs not forgetting the women reps, MPs and the Senator and lobby the National Government. The County Government might not be able to put up industries in the three constituencies. I have heard Members talk about value addition in terms of leather and meat industry. Last weekend, I saw the Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua in Nyandarua. In a time frame of two months, he has been there four or five times.

We are hearing what the vocal leaders are advocating for and they have started putting up potato industry and milk coolers. I feel like in Laikipia we have been left out because as you can see during the launches of our leaders, it makes me wonder whether we are in Rift valley or Mt. Kenya. Mr. Speaker, I know from where you sit, you can also be an advocate of the same. We need to be included somewhere in Rift valley or Mt. Kenya region.

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We should invite these leaders so that we tell them what we need. For example, we need a leather industry, a tomato industry and milk coolants sufficiently so that we have additional value for the products we make. With that Mr. Speaker, I join hands and I urge Hon. Members to support. Thank you.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. My name is Mugambi Gatati. I am the Member of Salama Ward. I stand in support of the said motion. I come from Salama Ward where tomato farming is a big business there. I am very happy that Hon. Stephen has brought the best motion today. It is also important to note that as we are talking, we need to add value in tomatoes. We need to engage in other areas. We have Plantech Company in Naivasha where Farmers take their tomato seeds to be propagated there. This is another thing that needs to be incorporated in Laikipia.

I understand in Rumuruti we have a company called AA doing that job. If you talk to the farmers, they incur a lot of cost in propagating those seeds in Plantech and in Transportation. This is a timely motion and I think the previous launched CAIP (County Aggregation and Industrial Park) will also take care of the agro-processing plants there. I think Laikipia is ahead because last week, I visited the CAIP and it is still going very well. I will also echo some comments by our Chief Whip on the failure of the government.

In my opinion, the government is on track because I can see that the UDA government or Kenya Kwanza administration is making some good moves such as the CAIP in the 47 counties. Right now, we are talking of housing projects and the universal healthcare. I think we are all good. The only problem is that there may be some challenges here and there which are normal, but the government will stabilize. In my opinion, the government is on track, Hon. Ndiritu, and it is very unfortunate that you being the Chief Whip of the UDA party are criticizing the same government which you represent here. So, I think that is something you probably need to check or migrate to the opposition and talk as an opposition Member. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member representing Salama Ward. I want to give an opportunity to the Mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Kwanza, nasimama hapa kuwapongeza Wajumbe ambao wametoa maoni yao na kuungana kuhakikisha ya kwamba mswada ambao uko mbele ya Bunge hili umepita, na tumeweza kuwasaidia wananchi. Kuna mambo mawili ambayo yamejitokeza wakati wa mazungumzo kuhusu huu mswada. Kuna Wajumbe ambao wamesema hawajapata juisi ya nyanya. Wacha niwaeleze ya kwamba kama wananiona nimenyooka hivi ni kwa sababu ya kukunywa juisi ya nyanya. Inatengeneza ngozi. Nimeongea na Bi Leila ambaye nimempakana naye hapa, hata ukimwangalia tayari anafanana na nyanya.

Kwa hivyo, haya ni mambo ambayo tumeyazungumza na ningewaomba wale wengine ambao hawajaonja hiyo juisi, ni nzuri kwa kutengeneza ngozi. Pili, inaipa mifupa nguvu, mifupa yote kuanzia ile ngumu hadi mishipa. Inatengeneza kila kitu na ni vizuri watu waitumie kwa sababu iko. Pili, inaondoa uvimbe wa damu, yaani *clots*. Kwa hivyo, hiyo ni juisi yenye manufaa mengi. Tunaposema tunataka hiki kiwanda kiwe katika Kaunti ya Laikipia, itatusaidia hata sisi wenyewe tulio hapa kufurahia hayo matunda ambayo yanakuzwa kwa wingi katika Kaunti yetu.

Ningewaomba hawa Waheshimiwa, tukimaliza hapa wanifuate unyo kwa unyo twende hadi dukani kuhakikisha ya kwamba wamepata. Kile kitu kinachoshangaza ni kuwa hiyo juisi

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ya nyanya iliyo madukani sio ya Laikipia. Imetoka mbali, pengine hata nchi za nje, ilhali sisi hapa tunatupa nyanya. Kwa hivyo, hayo ni mambo ambayo yako.

Jambo la pili ni kuhusu jinsi ambavyo nimekosoa serikali. Kama alivyosema, mimi ni Mjeledi Mkuu na niko ndani ya serikali, ndani, ndani, ndani kabisa. Hio siyo kusema kuwa serikali ikikosea, niipake mafuta. Hapana, serikali ni kubwa na hata ukisimama hapa huwezi kusema serikali ni nani. Serikali ni kama hewa, ni kama kitu kinachoenea kila mahali. Huwezi sema serikali ni Kamara, Mugweru, Ruto ama jeshi.

Serikali ni hivyo vitu vyote vikiunganishwa. Kila mtu ni serikali, hata hawa wapinzani kwa sababu wao ni wananchi wa Kenya na serikali ni ya wananchi wa Kenya. Namweleza Mheshimiwa Gatati kuwa mimi si wa upinzani na sivuki, bado niko ndani na nitaendelea kukaa ndani ya serikali, bali ikikosea nitasema imekosea.

Mheshimiwa Kamara ameteuliwa. Serikali ikifanya vibaya ataipaka mafuta, na hiyo ni haki yake. Asipoipaka mafuta, atafutwa. Mimi niliwekewa kura kwenye debe. Kunifuta, lazima kwanza twende kwenye debe zihesabiwe. Kwa hivyo ni utaratibu. Ndio maana naongea hapa kwa nguvu. Mimi nimetumwa hapa na wananchi, na nikisoma Katiba ya Kenya inasema kuwa nguvu zinamilikiwa na wananchi, na hao wananchi ndio wamenichagua.

Ndio maana naongea hapa nikiwa na mamlaka. Kwa hivyo, nimefafanua na Mheshimiwa Kamara ameelewa. Mimi sina chuki wala shida na serikali. Hata kwangu nakosolewa na kijana yangu. Ananiambia kuwa hapa sijafanya vyema ama leo sijaleta mkate. Naulizwa maswali, kwa hivyo nami pia nitaiuliza serikali kwa nini ilituambia yaja.

Mheshimiwa Spika, nilipoleta mswada kila mtu alikuwa anaona kwenye runinga kuwa El-Nino yaja. Tuliona hata viongozi wa serikali waliketi mahali wakizungumza kuhusu jinsi ambavyo watapigana na hili janga la El-Nino. Nami nikaona ni vizuri kuleta hapa ili nao wananchi walio hapa wajue kuna El-Nino. Sasa sikujua kama pengine ni pesa inatakikana ipotee ama ni nini, kwa hivyo Kamara usinishtaki.

Huna cha kunishtakia kwa sababu mimi nilisema yale yaliyosemwa na serikali. Mimi sipimi mvua, wanaopima ni watu wa kupima hewa. Ndio walileta hayo mambo ya kusema kuna El-Nino. Mimi hata sijui El-Nino, ni kuambiwa tu, na nikiambiwa napeleka habari. Sasa mimi na Kamara tuungane kushtaki waliotangaza eti kuna El-Nino. Atayarishe mashtaka yake nami nitayarishe yangu tushtaki idara ya serikali inayopaswa kutuambia mambo ya ukweli kuhusu hewa.

Kwa hivyo, naunga mkono na kuwashukuru Wajumbe wote kwa kuunga mkono. Tuendelee hivyo ili tuweze kuwajali wananchi wetu. Kesho vilevile, kama mtu ana mswada ambao anafikiria utasaidia wananchi, utuletee ili tuweke kwenye shughuli za Bunge. Wakati mwingine tunapata ya kwamba biashara ambayo iko ni ya wale watu walio karibu. Kwa hivyo, ningewaomba Wajumbe wote, hata wasio kwenye Kamati ya Shughuli za Bunge kama akina Kamara aje na mswada kuhusu watu wanaofanya mambo ya ngano na mahindi.

Moile yuko pale, alete miswada kama mitatu kuhusu akina mama wa sehemu ile na shanga wanazotengeneza. Sisi tumefungua kila kitu. Mheshimiwa Leila naye alete miswada kuhusu wale anaowawakilisha. Ningewaomba Wajumbe wote kila mahali walipo kuhakikisha ya kwamba wameleta miswada ndio tupate kuiweka kwenye shughuli za Bunge ili shughuli za kutosha zipatikane. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen Ndiritu.

(Question put and agreed to)

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ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today, Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.06 a.m.

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