

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 11TH JULY, 2024

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

3rd Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 11TH JULY, 2024

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

(Mr. Speaker [Hon. Emmanuel Situma] in the Chair)

PRAYER

PAPERS

REPORT ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT, CONSOLIDATED FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED THAT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to table a report on the Bungoma County Government, consolidated first and second quarter financial statements for the period ended that 31st December 2023. I table.

(Hon. Martin Chemorion tables the paper)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, a report by the Sector Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, Natural Resources on the Bungoma County Government consolidated first and second quarter financial statements for the period ending 31st of December 2023 is hereby tabled by the committee and the same becomes the property of the House.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST OF DECEMBER 2023

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to issue a notice of motion that this House adopts a report by the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, Natural Resources on the Bungoma County Government consolidated first and second quarter financial statement for the period ended 31st of December 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, a notice of motion has been duly issued by the Sector Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, Natural Resources on its report on Bungoma County Government consolidated first and second quarter financial statements for the period ending 31st of December 2023, I direct that the same be shared to the Hon. MCAs. It will definitely form part of business on the Order Paper once the house resumes from its short recess that commences today after this sitting.

MOTION

REPORT ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOIL MANAGEMENT POLICY 2023, THE BUNGOMA COUNTY FOOD SAFETY POLICY 2023, THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY 2023 AND THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRIBUSINESS POLICY 2023.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: (Chairperson Agriculture): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation, and Cooperative Development, I rise to move a report on the Bungoma County Agricultural Soil Management Policy 2023, the Bungoma County Food Safety Policy 2023, the Bungoma County Agriculture Sector Policy 2023 and the Bungoma County Agribusiness Policy 2023.

PREFACE

Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders No. 217(5) which mandates Sectoral committees to study and review all County Legislations referred to it. The committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development considered and prepared a report on the four policies listed hereunder;

- Bungoma county agricultural soil management policy, 2023
- Bungoma county food safety policy, 2023
- Bungoma county agriculture sector policy, 2023
- Bungoma county agribusiness policy, 2023

The Policies were tabled before this House on 6th December, 2023 and referred to the Committee for consideration and reporting back to this House pursuant to Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and S.O 217(5) (h) of the Bungoma County Assembly Standing Orders.

Consequently, the committee sought for views from the public through the notice on The standard newspaper on Thursday 22nd February 2024 (Annexed) where members of the public were invited to submit written memoranda on the policies listed hereunder on or before Thursday 29th February, 2024.

It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development to table in this House this report and its recommendations for consideration.

Signed by Hon. Wafula Waiti Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development as currently constituted comprises the following Members:

1. Hon. Wafula Waiti	Chairperson
2. Hon. Idd Owongo	V. Chairperson
3. Hon. Busolo Sudi	Member
4. Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu	Member

5. Hon. Simotwo Franklin	Member
6. Hon. Jerusa Aleu	Member
7. Hon. Alfred Mukhanya	Member
8. Hon. Caleb Wanjala	Member
9. Hon. Edwin Opwora	Member
10. Hon. George Tendet	Member
11. Hon. Benard Kikechi	Member
12. Hon. Martin Chemorion	Member
13. Hon. Metrine Wilson	Member
14. Hon. Allan Nyongesa	Member
15. Hon. Alice Kibaba	Member

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In the context of legislation, a policy is a document which outlines what a government aims to achieve for the society as a whole. All policies start off as an idea. It may be the idea of a member of the executive wing of the County Government, a bureaucrat, legislator, stakeholder group or an individual citizen. The provisions of Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 on legislative authority of county assemblies are very clear and the same state that;

1. The Legislative Authority of a county Assembly is vested in, and exercised by, it's County Assembly.
2. A County Assembly may make any laws that are necessary for or incidental to, the effective performance of the functions and exercise of the powers of the County Government under the fourth schedule.
3. A County Assembly, while respecting the principles of separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive Organs.
4. A County Assembly may receive and approve plans and policies for:
 - a. The management and exploitation of the counties resources; and
 - b. The development and management of its infrastructure and institutions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Constitution obligates the State and all State organs to ensure adequate public consultation on all public policies, legislation or any decision that is likely to impact on the people of Kenya. Failure to factor in the mandatory requirement of public participation exposes the legislative instrument or policy framework to constitutional challenges of legitimacy, hence making it actionable for unconstitutionality in a court of law.

The requirement of the Committee to conduct public participation on the policy is a constitutional imperative from Article 196(1) (b) of the constitution which provides that the County Assembly shall;

- b) Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the Assembly and its committees.

In compliance with the above laws, the committee sought for views from the public through a notice on the standard newspaper on Thursday 22nd February 2024 (Annexed) where members of the public were invited to submit written memoranda on the policies on or before Thursday 29th February, 2024. By close of business Thursday 29th February, 2024 the Committee had not received any memoranda from the public.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY SOIL MANAGEMENT POLICY

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the policy are:-

- 1) To promote agriculture development through sustainable soil management practices.
- 2) To promote programs on integrated soil fertility management systems.
- 3) To protect soils and conserve biodiversity.
- 4) To support programs on afforestation and reforestation.
- 5) To promote and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- 6) To enhance knowledge and skills on sustainable land management.

RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY

Soil is the most important resource in agricultural production. It constitutes the foundation of agricultural development and ecological sustainability and the basis for food production. The current rate of soil fertility decline and degradation in Bungoma is not conducive for the projected 7% national growth of the agriculture sector. Despite this scenario, there has been little effort towards the development of policies to address declining soil fertility, soil erosion, deforestation, inappropriate land use and climate change.

Most of the agricultural soils in Bungoma County are affected by key issues such as; declining fertility, soil erosion, deforestation, climate change and inappropriate land use that hinders potential productivity of agricultural produce. The first soil survey in Bungoma County was done between 2010 and 2011. Soil sampling was conducted by KARI (now KALRO) under National Accelerated Agricultural Input Program (NAAIP) soil survey. The results released in 2013 showed that the county soil status is acidic (pH less than 5.5) and therefore recommended non-acidifying fertilizer and liming. The second soil survey in 2015 sampled soils from all the wards where 67% of the results showed depressed Ph. Continuous

testing using county mobile testing labs confirmed that soil is chemically degraded across the county and thus recommended improvement through liming and other sustainable land management practices.

The Kenya Agricultural Soil Management Policy 2023, the National Agriculture Policy 2021 and the Agriculture Sector Transformation Growth Strategy 2019-2029 have been the main documents guiding soil management in the sector which do not adequately address key thematic issues for the Bungoma situation regarding agricultural soil management. Further, weak coordination, implementation and enforcement of existing strategies, policies and legislation is evident. As such policy gaps in the management of agricultural soils have been identified in this policy that requires a comprehensive sector-wide approach that is multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder.

Mr. Speaker, allow me skip narration on policy implementation framework and move to page 12

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee having scrutinized the policy made the following observations

1. The policy has highlighted major issues affecting soil management and suggested possible interventions. Moreover the policy is well tailored and once implemented it will enhance increased crop productivity, sustainable land management and help in environmental conservation.
2. That the policy provides for a clear framework on monitoring and evaluation, however the committee notes with concerns that policies that were previously adopted in the house, monitoring and evaluation reports in respect to the implementation of such policies have never been submitted to the house for considerations.
3. Ease of implementation of the policy depends of how informed the farmers are in respect to the importance of soil management and therefore there is need carry out sensitization of the policy to all residents of County Government of Bungoma.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the scrutiny of the Policy, the committee notes that soil management is a devolved function and thus recommends the House to approve the policy with the following comments:

1. That the department should take deliberate and appropriate steps and strategies to implement this Policy and also take a pro-active approach of mobilizing funds from all stakeholders (donors) to facilitate the implementation of this policy.
2. That the department should prepare and submit to the County Assembly the monitoring and evaluation reports in respect to the implementation of the policies on quarterly basis.
3. That the department should sensitize the farmers on the importance of soil management through field days, public Baraza and one on one visit to the farmers by extension officers.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY FOOD SAFETY POLICY

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the policy are to;—

1. Promote food safety through risk-based control, enhanced awareness and stakeholder participation
2. To enhance coordination and enforcement of existing food laws and regulations.
3. To enhance knowledge and skills in food safety.
4. To strengthen traceability systems in the food chains.
5. To strengthen monitoring & Surveillance Systems.
6. To enhance food safety financing.

7. To enhance mitigation measures on Emerging and Re-Emerging Food Safety issues.

RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY

Food safety is central to public health, poverty reduction and sustainable development. Safe food is a fundamental right as prescribed in Article 43 as read with Article 46 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

The situation surrounding eating habits in Kenya has changed dramatically over the past 20 years. New and evolving technologies have been developed and implemented to generate novel types of foods, including foods derived from modern biotechnology. The distribution systems have become much broader enhancing accessibility to a wider variety of foods from all over the world.

Challenges such as the emergence of new food-borne pathogens, even as known pathogens become more resistant or virulent, hence increasing susceptibility to food-borne infections. Further, several unfortunate events arising from food safety have occurred in the recent past. As a result of increased public awareness of such threats, food safety issues have become a growing concern to many people.

Food safety systems in Bungoma County are faced with various challenges including: inadequate coordination and enforcement of existing food laws and Regulations, weak traceability systems in the food chains, weak monitoring and surveillance systems, emerging and re-emerging issues, weak knowledge and skills in food safety and inadequate food safety financing.

Bungoma County has no published policy on food safety. Therefore, there is a need for the County to develop a Policy to be aligned to the wider National Food and Nutrition Policy and the Draft National Food Safety Policy (2021).

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee having scrutinized the policy made the following observations:

1. That food safety is a devolved function.
2. The policy is not self-executing.
3. That the policy does not address Gender and Social Inclusion in Food Safety. Vulnerable groups for the households headed by women and children, the elderly,

marginalized and minority groups, people living with disabilities and those infected.

4. That the policy implementation requires the involvement of various stakeholders at national Government; County Government and non-state actors.
5. That if the policy is implemented to the latter it will protect and promote consumer health while facilitating orderly development of the food industries as well fair practices in food trade.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the Committee's scrutiny of the Policy, the committee notes that Food safety is a devolved function and therefore recommends the House to approve the policy with the following comments;

1. That further legislation is required to implement the policy and that the County Government should fast-track the enactment of the Bungoma County Public Health Services Act, the Bungoma County disease and animal welfare control Act and Bungoma County Food Security and Nutrition Act.
2. The department should amend the policy to address Gender and Social Inclusion in Food Safety for Vulnerable groups such as households headed by women and children, the elderly, marginalized and minority groups, people living with disabilities and those infected in compliance with Article 27 of the constitution of Kenya 2010.
3. That during implementation of the policy the committee urges the department to mobilize and cooperate with all the stakeholders and offer necessary leadership to the multi-agency team Cooperate with the various stakeholders at national Government; County Government and non-state actor for seamless implementation of the policy.
4. The department should develop a robust strategy for resource mobilization to implement all the interventions as provided in the policy.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the policy are to;—

1. To improve food and nutrition security and maximize incomes through optimal utilization of resources in the agricultural sector
2. To enhance food and nutrition security.
3. To promote sustainable land use practices.
4. To promote diversification in production and utilization of food commodities.
5. To reduce post-harvest losses of agricultural produce and products.
6. To promote efficient distribution and access to inputs along the crop, livestock and fisheries value chains.
7. To support capacity development of agriculture extension for enhanced service delivery.
8. To promote irrigation for agriculture production.

9. To promote development and adoption of modern, appropriate, cost effective and environmentally safe mechanization technologies.
10. To strengthen agriculture sector institutions for effective and efficient delivery of services.
11. To enhance resilience to climate change impacts for sustainable agriculture production.
12. To increase financing and investment in the agricultural sector.
13. To promote food and feed safety.
14. To improve access to markets, strengthen linkages and enhance investment in agribusiness.
15. To empower agricultural value chain actors through effective communication, storage and sharing of information in the county.
16. To develop and strengthen the existing policy environment and improve institutional governance.
17. To mainstream gender and social inclusion in the agricultural sector programmes.

RATIONALE OF THE POLICY

Agriculture remains a central contributor to overall County economic growth and development. An effective and efficient agricultural extension is vital for steering and directing agricultural growth on a sustained development trajectory. The Sector has recorded impressive growth since devolution though many challenges still persist in achieving food and nutrition security, food safety, increased attention to environmentally sustainable and good agricultural practices, transforming agriculture from subsistence to commercial production, improving access to markets, efficient use of inputs and accessing agricultural credit among others.

Furthermore, weak stakeholder engagement; low investment in extension services, irrigation and agriculture mechanization; increased urbanization and land fragmentation; low digitization of processes, information and data management; poor governance in producer groups, climate change and low social inclusivity have contributed to reduced production and productivity.

Additionally, over the past years, the County agricultural sector resource allocation has not adhered to the 2003 Maputo Declaration of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which targets that at least 10% of public expenditure be allocated to the agriculture sector, and also aims to achieve at least 6% annual growth of agricultural GDP. The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the County Government Act, 2012 and the Legal Notice No.139 allow County Governments among other responsibilities, to formulate and review county specific policies and strategies. Bungoma County has no published policy on the Agricultural Sector therefore, there is a need for the County to develop a Policy to be aligned to the wider National Agricultural Policy, 2021.

Despite the aforementioned challenges, the County has not developed an Agriculture Sector Policy and has been relying on the national legislations in order to guide the sector. The

national policies and legislations do not sufficiently address Bungoma County agriculture sector requirements and provide a framework for addressing county specific challenges and interventions. Further, efforts have been made by Development Partners to formulate several policies which are largely sub-sector and commodity-specific, resulting in failure in achieving sector targets. As such policy gaps have been identified that require a comprehensive sector-wide approach that is multi-Sectoral and multi-stakeholder.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee having scrutinized the policy made the following observations

1. That Agriculture sector is a devolved function
2. The policy is not self-executing and therefore, requires further legislation to enable seamless implementation.
3. The Committee was concerned with the non-implementation of the policies previously adopted by the House and noted that policies are not for shelves, but for implementation.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the Committee's scrutiny of the Policy, recommends that the House approves the policy with the following comments:

1. That Agriculture is a devolved function and that if the policy is implemented to the latter will help in strengthening the agriculture sector institutions for effective and efficient delivery of services.
2. The policy addresses multiple issues and therefore, the committee recommends that the department should develop a multi-faceted legislation to be known as the Bungoma County Agriculture Sector Bill covering all the issues outlined in the policy.
3. The County Government should develop a robust strategy for resource mobilization to implement all the interventions as provided in the policy and that the CECM Agriculture should take necessary action to ensure full implementation of the policy.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRIBUSINESS POLICY

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the policy are to;

1. To facilitate the transformation of the agriculture value chains through agripreneur support and resource mobilization for investment in agribusiness value chains.
2. To mobilize and enhance access to internal and external resources for investment in agribusiness.
3. To develop market structures, improve access to markets and strengthen linkages through PPP models.

4. To support agribusiness programs aimed at equipping value chain actors with knowledge and skills.
5. To enhance agripreneurship (entrepreneurship in agriculture) in Bungoma County.
6. To enhance value addition and agro processing services among value chain actors.
7. To establish and strengthen producer organizations including formation of cooperative societies.
8. To institutionalize and facilitate participation in the formulation and review of legislative policies and general decision-making mechanisms.
9. To mainstream gender and social inclusion in agribusiness in order to increase participation of the vulnerable groups in agribusiness ventures.

RATIONALE OF THE POLICY

The Kenya Vision 2030 identifies agriculture as a key sector through which to deliver 10 per cent annual growth rates. Under the Vision, smallholder agriculture will be transformed from subsistence activities, marked by low productivity and low value addition, to ‘an innovative, commercially-oriented, internationally competitive and modern agricultural sector. Agribusiness holds the key to this transformation. It is the sleeping giant that could realize the potential of the agriculture sector across a wide range of sub sectors including value addition in food, textile, energy industries and biotechnology. Capital investment in agribusiness will create jobs and increase revenue generation as well as economic growth for the county.

In Bungoma County, there exists opportunities amidst exploitation challenges across the various value chain nodes including input supply, production, transportation, value addition and marketing. The sub sector is facing a mirage of issues including; low capital investment, inadequate entrepreneurial and technical skill levels of managers and employees, inadequate agripreneurs to exploit the existing opportunities, inadequate value addition and agro processing facilities, weak production and marketing organizations, weak markets and marketing structures coupled with unsupportive business environment. The above challenges notwithstanding, the County lacks an agribusiness legal instrument to address them.

Schedule 4 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Government Act 2012 and the Legal Notice No.139, allow County Governments among other responsibilities to formulate and review county specific policies and strategies. Some of the legislation developed under the County Government include: Bungoma County Investment and Development Corporation Act 2019 and Bungoma County Youth Policy. These legislations however, do not adequately address agribusiness issues in the County. It is against this background that this policy has been developed in order to operationalize the existing Bungoma County Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2022-2027 and coordinate stakeholders within the county

Mr. Speaker, I move with you to page 35, committee observations and recommendations

Mr. Speaker: Under which Standing Order, proceed!

Hon. Ali Machani: Hon. Speaker is it in order for a very senior member to point out that he is moving with the Speaker instead of moving with the House.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard your sentiments but after this, see me behind the tents and I will explain to you what he meant.

Proceed Hon. Waiti! You ought to thank Hon. Ali Machani, you have been given chance to take water.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing Hon. Machani to give me a break to take water. You are the head of this House and if I address you I will be addressing the House.

I now read the committee observations.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee having scrutinized the policy made the following observations

1. The policy is not self-executing and thus requires further legislation to be operationalized.
2. That the County executive has not submitted the Bungoma County Youth Agribusiness strategy 2022-2027 to the County Assembly for adoption and thus the assertion made that this policy will operationalize the strategy is not founded.
3. There are no clear set criteria for identification of project beneficiaries in the policy.
4. That if the policy is implemented to the later, it will not only increase agricultural production but it will also enhance marketing of Agricultural products and thus spur economic growth in the County.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee notes that Agribusiness is a devolved function and thus recommends that the House approves this policy with the following comments:

1. That the County Government should develop a legislation establishing a revolving Fund which shall offer credit facilities to agriprenuers in the County.
2. The department is hereby directed to submit the Bungoma County youth Agribusiness Strategy 2022-2027 to the County Assembly for consideration within 30 days from the adoption of this report.
3. The department should amend the policy to include the criteria for identification of the beneficiaries.
4. The department should develop a robust strategy for resource mobilization and further take necessary action to ensure full implementation of the policy.

On page 36, we read the committees general observations and recommendations

COMMITTEE'S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The committee having scrutinized the four policies made the following observations;

1. The areas covered in the four policies are a devolved function of the County Government as per part two of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and are based on a county need.
2. That Agriculture sector has a component of the other three policies; The Agribusiness policy, Food safety policy, Soil management policy which would have been better if amalgamated into one policy.
3. All the four policies are not self-executing.

COMMITTEE'S GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee notes that the four policies cover devolved functions and are based on County need thus recommends that the House approves the policies as a basis for legislation with the following comments;

1. That for better implementation the department should fast track the enactment of a legislation that amalgamates the four policies for ease operationalization within 60 days after adoption of this report.
2. That because the four policies are not self-executing, the committee recommends for the enactment of legislation by the department for ease implementation of the policies.

We move now to the adoption schedule which has been signed and on page 38, there is a list of annexures showing adoption minutes, gazette publication and copies of the following policies as read earlier.

At this point, I wish now to call upon honorable Edwin Opwora to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honorable Waiti. Honorable Opwora, you've been called upon to second the motion, proceed!

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I want to laud my able chair, Honorable Waiti, for reading the report and ensuring that the house has heard it well.

I want to second this report indeed with a general observation of the committee that the areas covered in the four policies are a devolved function of the county as per the constitution and these are based on the county needs.

We have the soil management policy and the policy has highlighted major issues affecting soil management and suggested possible interventions. The policy is also well-tailored and once implemented; I believe will help increase crop productivity, sustainable land management, and help in the environmental conservation. On food policy, if the policy is fully implemented to the latter, it will help and promote consumer health while actually facilitating the orderly development of food industries, as well as the fair practices in the food trade.

We highlighted on the agriculture policy, which, and as you know, agriculture is a devolved function and if the policy is fully implemented, it will help in strengthening the agricultural sector institutions for the effective and efficient delivery of service.

The county government actually should develop a robust strategy so that all these four policies are implemented instead of being kept in the shelves and I'll call upon actually the implementation committee to ensure that all the policies that are passed here are implemented within the agreed time or the suggested time by the committee. I believe, this house or all the members in this house are affected by these policies and as I second this motion, I believe that the house will pass the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Opwora. Hon. Members, a motion has been moved and seconded that this house adopts the report by the Sectorial Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development on the Bungoma County Food Safety 2023, Bungoma County Agriculture Sector Policy 2023 and Bungoma County Agribusiness Policy 2023 laid on the table of the house on 18th of June, 2024. I propose!

(Question proposed)

Hon. Chemorion!

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance. Foremost, I want to appreciate the mover of the motion my Chairman, Honorable Waiti, for actually taking us through the report. I just want to make some few remarks to emphasize on the importance of the policies in our counties.

We see agriculture is the backbone of our economy, more so in the country and, of course, down here in Bungoma. So it is incumbent upon us, all the stakeholders, the county government, this assembly to ensure that robust strategies or policies are put in place to ensure that there is enhanced food security to enable us to be food secure at the household level.

On the issue of soil management, we see that there has been little emphasis on this because there have been no policies. This policy is going to help us to ensure that the nutrition of our soils is adequate for our plants or the crops we grow. When we ensure there is good nutrition, definitely there'll be increased productivity and that will trickle out even to the household and making sure that there's adequate food on the table. So, this policy is handy and actually its going to enhance food security in our county.

At the same time, we've seen, we've been doing a lot of activities, the human activities along maybe the rivers, poor soil conservation measures for us from the slopes. We grow up along the contours instead of across the contours. So, this policy is going to actually enhance and educate or sensitize farmers to observe the soil conservation measures and of course when we are doing mining, maybe sand mining, for example, along the river beds or on the wetlands. Definitely this policy is going to reduce that. It's going to guide on how we are going to mine the soils because this is a very sensitive resource if we tamper with, definitely we go down.

On the agriculture policy, this is a broad kind of policy that is actually highlighting more than 16 issues to be addressed and of course, I'm pretty happy that they are actually recommending very good solutions towards that and that if you have the chairman, you have to amalgamate it because this agriculture sector policies captures the entire issues within the agriculture sector. So, if we amalgamate it, by putting the agriculture business policy, soil management and even the nutrition bit together, it is going to be okay for us and we don't need to come up with so many policies to address just food security.

We've noted that all of them are not self-executing because we want this county to do things procedurally within the legal framework and that's why we're suggesting that they should come up with legislation or regulations that can operationalize this policy. With those few remarks, I second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I see the side effect of people being impatient to go for short recess.

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Hon. Speaker, I support the motion

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Ipara!

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. First of all, let me start to thank the mover of the motion, who happens to be a member whom we share a boundary with. Today he was himself and I want to appreciate what you've done, Honorable Chair.

Agriculture, as all of us understand, for this country and this county is our economy base and more so, most of the employment that is created in this country is created through the agricultural sector. Lastly, it's the major contributor to our GDP. Therefore, I have no reason as to why I should not support this particular motion.

Policies are very important, particularly, they provide the framework on how decisions are made and you remember, if we don't make sound decisions in agriculture sector, we land ourselves to what happened recently, where most of our outlets were stocking fertilizer, which was not the right one.

It also ensures consistency and provision for fairness. This, I want to say, if we say co-operatives should be in Mt. Elgon, Bumula and Tongaren so that fairness is seen and we say equity and that who does not do equity should not expect equity., it also bring about checks, clear checks and accountability. When we say that we are providing free fertilizer it must be actually by word and action it's free fertilizer and this particular policies, if I were the one I would have said they have been adopted, approved and put in use.

Soil management is very important because if you can't manage the soil, then the soil will manage you and you will find people will mismanage the soil that they have by planting trees that are not friendly. We require to make sure that at least we have these soil management and agricultural policies enforced so that we ensure one, soil remains fertile and...Hon. Waiti is laughing wondering why soil should remain fertile. When soil remains fertile, it increases productivity. If a farmer was getting two bags, he will get 20 bags and that for us will ensure that food security is guaranteed. It also reduces soil erosion, how do we reduce soil erosion? Because this policy will give proficiency on how we put up terraces, where they come from, to control the flow of water and reduce the speed which erodes most of our soil.

Lastly, it increases productivity in our farms and that guarantees food security.

On Agribusiness, previously we used to do farming to produce food for the family, but we are now walking out of that cocoon to make sure that we produce both food for ourselves and for the outside market. We require good ways and controlled measures on how we safeguard the farmer and that is where the world is now walking towards on agribusiness. When we talk about agribusiness, it gets money into the pockets of the farmer, you can reach the global market, you can talk to a person in Europe today and find a market in Europe and in the evening you move your products to Matuto Airstrip and in the morning they have those products or even you can invite those buyers from outside they can come here. When we have a good agribusiness policy, it also stipulates or gives out clear supply chain. If you have a product, where do you move it to so that it reaches the consumer?

I want to end by saying this, soil management is a fundamental component of food safety and the policy brings about equity in addressing inequality. I support.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, let me have Hon. Wanyama then Hon. Joseph Nyongesa will be closing off that part.

Hon. Godfrey Wanyama: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to the motion by the committee of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development. Agriculture is actually the backbone of the Kenyan economy contributing to about 33% to the gross domestic product. I want to dwell on the agri-business policy and mention just three or four very critical issues, agribusiness is very critical to economic growth. It actually stimulates economic development by promoting agricultural productivity, it creates jobs and it also generates income especially in the rural areas.

Secondly, we have the issue of food security. By supporting the issue of agribusiness, it leads to efficient agricultural practices and so there is introduction of technology in farming which actually help to ensure a stable and sufficient food supply.

Thirdly, agribusiness actually stimulates rural development. It contributes to the development of rural infrastructure such as roads, storage facilities and irrigation systems which ultimately reduces poverty levels in our rural places.

Lastly, agribusiness actually leads to sustainable farming practices and this includes promoting soil conservation, proper water management and biodiversity in farming. So with those few remarks, I support the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, allow me appreciate the Chair for taking us through these four policies. What I do understand is that a policy is a guide to operations and again I do agree with the contributors on these policies that actually, we want to enhance our agriculture. My problem is on general observations, what I understand is that amalgamating means we shall be collapsing all these policies into one as they say in 2 that, “because the 4 policies are not self-executing.” I was following up how the Chair was taking us through, each policy had its own objectives so when we shall be amalgamating these four policies, and shall we again also do away with the objectives? Because every policy has its own objectives.

What I know is that the committee had a chance to also meet with the developer of this policy, now, what was the problem if the committee could advise so that they do it once and for all rather than now passing it then we wait for 60 days to amalgamate into one policy. I'm left wondering, otherwise, if they could shed light on it so that we know for those who did not have that chance to meet the developer so that we can also move with the committee.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Waiti Wafula, you have now the honor of replying to the motion.

Hon. Waiti Wafula (The Mover): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First of all, I want to applaud my colleagues who have had time to add flesh to this motion that our role as an oversight body is very key and it's not very easy to oversight something that has not been put in proper planning that is why we urge that this policy is put in place. It will help us when we carry out our daily duties to check the executive, we shall know what we are dealing with. If these policies are implemented as they are stipulated it will assist steer up the welfare of the Bungoma County residents.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware that there have been questions on the floor of this House over the farm input support program that has been done without proper policy, when we come up with such policies, it will really assist us in terms of the general observations that were put across by our leader of Majority. If you look at recommendation number one, when these policies are amalgamated it will be easier for operationalization for the implementers. I urge this honourable House that they pass this motion so that we can steer the implementation side from the executive.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Waiti for your reply to the motion. Members, I will now be able to finish the last part of this motion by putting a question.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Next item,

REPORT ON BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION ON IN THE 9TH AND 10TH KICOSCA GAMES EDITION

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Florence, you have the honour on behalf of the committee.

Hon. Florence Juma: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the chair on the Committee of Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, I wish to move a report on Bungoma County Government participation on in the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games edition.

Page 2 is a table of contents so I go to the next

CHAPTER 1

The Kenya Inter-County Sports and Cultural Association, KICOSCA is a sports association bringing together all the County Governments employees to interact, network and share experiences through sporting and cultural exchanges. The main goal of this association was to foster unity and co-existence among counties. Its benefits can be traced from years back. Several games are lined up for participation and each county finds its specialization as well as shift in hosting the games.

This report captures the participation by the County Government of Bungoma in the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games edition held in Kisumu and Nyeri counties on 15th to 19th January 2023 and 20th to 27th August 2023 respectively. The report also captures the vetting process for the teams that represented the county in various discipline, the selected participants, challenges experienced in the two competitions and committee recommendations that if implemented would guarantee a better participation in KICOSCA games in the subsequent years. Honourable Speaker allow me skip 1.2 which is the establishment and mandate of the committee.

Mr. Speaker: You just say 217 we know what it means then you proceed.

Hon. Florence Juma: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On committee membership, the Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare as currently constituted comprises the following members:

1. Hon Jack Kawa	-	Chairperson
2. Hon Abraham Obama	-	Vice Chair
3. Hon Joseph Juma	-	Member
4. Hon James Mukhongo	-	Member
5. Hon Godfrey Mukhwana	-	Member
6. Hon George Kwemoi	-	Member
7. Hon Jeremiah Kuloba	-	Member
8. Hon Alfred Mukhanya	-	Member
9. Hon Metrine Nangalama	-	Member
10. Hon Eunice Kirui	-	Member
11. Hon Florence Juma	-	Member
12. Hon John Wanyama	-	Member
13. Hon Maurine Wafula	-	Member
14. Hon Sheila Sifuma	-	Member
15. Hon Mildred Barasa	-	Member

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank the office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma for the support accorded to the committee in discharging its mandate. Further, I wish to thank the committee members for the commitment in examining the KICOSCA 2022 and 2023 reports that ensured the success of the compilation of this report.

Lastly, the committee is grateful to the secretariat for the support accorded to it. On behalf of the Committee of Gender Culture and Social Welfare I now have the honor to present the report on Bungoma county government participation in the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games edition before this honourable House.

Report signed by Hon. Jack Kawa chairperson Committee of Gender Culture and Social Welfare

Background information

The Inter Municipality Sports and Cultural Association KIMSCA games started in 1978. The games were initially meant for the employees of the defunct municipality before the advent of the new constitution of Kenya 2010. Since their initiation, the KIMSCA games have been geared towards prompting peace and unity, through sports among the local authorities in different parts of the country. The 34th edition which was held in 2012, at Kakamega municipality marked the last edition of KIMSCA games, this saw the advent of KICOSCA games under County Government's operations. KIMSCA was transformed to KICOSCA (Kenya Inter-Counties Sports and Cultural Association) games for County Executive employees from all 47 Counties and CASA (County Assemblies Sports Association) for County Assemblies respectively.

On 11th July, 2013, marked the first edition of the KICOSCA games and was held in Nairobi City County. This edition saw the then Governor of Nairobi City County, His Excellency, Dr. Evans Kidero appointed as the first patron of the KICOSCA games.

KICOSCA is a sporting event held annually in different host Counties across the Country. It is an activity significant to the staff of the County Executive in that it is an avenue where they get an opportunity to interact, compete and share work experience. The interaction with other players from different Counties facilitates exchange of ideas while in the process of making new friends.

The KICOSCA games have been hosted by Nairobi City, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Kiambu, Machakos, Kisii, Kericho, Kisumu and Embu Counties since its inception.

THE KICOSCA 9TH EDITION, 2022

Introduction

The 9th edition of the KICOSCA games was held in Kisumu County from the 15th to 21st of January, 2023. The event saw the attendance of about 32 County Governments as well as the Ministry of Devolution with about 8,000 participants. Various sporting disciplines included basketball, football, netball, volleyball, badminton, squash, tag of war, chess, scrabble, pool, darts, Ajua, table tennis, athletics, choir, cultural dance and golf.

The week-long games were held in various venues among them, Moi Stadium, Kisumu National Polytechnic, Rotary and Vocational Center, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Ground, Mama Grace Onyango Social Hall, Kasagam Secondary School and Jomo Kenyatta Stadium in Kisumu.

Preparation and selection of Teams

The Department conducted a vetting exercise on the 27th and 28th December, 2022 at various locations within Kanduyi Sub-County whose objectives were to:

1. Allow fair competition across all sub- counties
2. Foster peace, harmony, exclusivity and bonding among County staff
3. Select the best teams to represent the County in KICOSCA games
4. Identify talent among the County staff

All Sub-County Gender and Culture officers together with the Sub-County Administrators were required to prepare participants in as many disciplines as they could and present them for competitions with other teams. The selection was done by team captains and talent scouts based on competence and full-time attendance. Supervision and guidance by the Department was available at all times.

Participants in all the disciplines from all the nine (9) Sub-Counties were invited for vetting to select the most suitable participants to represent the County in the competitions. Transportation was provided from their various places to the vetting venues within Kanduyi Sub-County. In sporting activities, the best players were picked whereas in music and cultural dances the best team was selected to represent the County.

The total number of participants that were present for the County vetting exercise at the various venues exceeded 1,000.

Groups that emerged best in the various categories were cleared to represent the County in the competitions held in Kisumu.

After a successful vetting exercise, a total number of 694 participants were selected. The team was to represent the County in: football men, netball, volleyball women, volleyball men, basketball women, athletics, set piece, borrowed dance, *Kamabeka*, folk songs, tug of war men, tug of war women, Ajua, pool and table tennis, handball women and handball men. The team also comprised of medics, enforcement officers, trainers, coaches and instrumentalists.

Review of overall performance

The overall performance and review of the games was as follows:

NO	Team	Performance
1	Football men	Emerged position 4 and was awarded a certificate of participation
2	Netball	Was position 2 and was awarded a certificate and a trophy
3	Volleyball women	Emerged position 2 and received a certificate and a trophy

4	Volleyball men	Was ranked number 4. They were awarded a certificate and trophy
5	Basketball men	Emerged position 3 and was awarded a certificate and a trophy
6	Basketball women	Performed exemplary as they were position 2. They received a certificate and a trophy
7	Athletics	The athletes performed pretty well and were ranked position 4. They were awarded a certificate
8	Set piece Kanduyi	Emerged position 6 and received a certificate
9	Set piece Kimilili	Ranked position 12 and received a certificate
10	Borrowed dance	They managed to be position 4 and received a certificate
11	Kamabeka	Exhibited an exemplary performance and emerged position 1. They were awarded a certificate and a trophy
13	Folk song (Bukusu)	Became position 2 and were awarded a certificate and a trophy
14	Tug of war men	Emerged position 6 and were awarded a certificate
15	Tug of war women	Were position 5 and received a certificate
16	Ajua	Ranked number 6 and were awarded a certificate
17	Pool and Table Tennis	Categorized position 6 and were awarded a certificate
18	Handball women	Emerged position 3 and were awarded a certificate and a trophy
19	Handball men	Were ranked position 3. They were awarded a certificate and a trophy

In 9 out of the 19 games, Bungoma County took between position 1 and 3 and in the rest of the games; the County was ranked between positions 4 and 12 as shown in the table above. In overall performance, the County was ranked third after Nairobi City and Kisumu Counties.

THE KICOSCA 10th edition, 2023

The 10th KICOSCA edition was held in Meru town, Meru County. The annual show piece was held from 20th to 27th August, 2023 at various venues. Among the venues that hosted the eight-day extravaganza include Kinorū stadium, Meru Teachers Training College, Meru Polytechnic, Kenya Methodist University, Meru University and Meru School.

The opening event was graced by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Rigathi Gachagua and 37 counties participated with Nairobi and Kisumu counties maintaining overall position one and two respectively. The CECM Gender Culture, Youth and Sports appointed a KICOSCA team comprising 10 persons from the department whose main objective was to ensure efficient selection, planning and execution of the games. The KIKOSCA Committee agreed that due to budgetary constraints, the only teams that managed to be first, second and third positions in the KICOSCA 2022 games would represent the county in Meru.

A total of 326 participants were presented to the 10th KICOSCA Games Edition. Their teams included netball, volleyball women, basketball women, athletics, *kamabeka*, folksong - bukus, handball women, handball men, basketball men and football. The total amount budgeted for the program in the financial year 2023-2024 was KShs.15Million however the total expenditure was KShs15, 354,200.

On the county performance in the 2023 KICOSCA Games, the following disciplines were presented at the KICOSCA 2023 competitions and their performance was as follows:

Discipline	performance
Football men	Eliminated at preliminaries
Netball	Position 3 and were awarded a trophy
Volleyball women	Position 5 awarded certificate
Basketball men	Position 8 and were awarded a certificate
Basketball women	Position 3 and were awarded certificate and trophy
Athletics men	Position 6 were awarded certificate
Athletics women	Position 2 and were awarded certificate and trophy
Kamabeka	Position 4 and were awarded a certificate
Folk song-Bukusu	Position 4 and were awarded certificate
Handball women	Position 1 and awarded a certificate and a trophy
Handball men	Position 1 were awarded a certificate and a trophy

In 5 out of the 10 games, the county was ranked between position 1 and 3, whereas in the rest of the games, the county was ranked between position 4 and 8. In the overall performance, Bungoma emerged position 4 after Nairobi Kisumu and Mombasa counties respectively.

Challenges experienced in the implementation of the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games

1. Inadequate funds for purchase of uniforms and truck suits.
2. Poor and late disbursement of funds.
3. Late selection of participants.
4. Poor organization, coordination and delayed communication to participants.

Committee general observations and recommendations

Committee observations

The committee made the following observations in relation to KICOSCA 2022 and 2023.

1. The teams lacked necessary training to enhance performance, improvement and to provide requisite leadership in the various disciplines.
2. The teams that performed exceptionally were not acknowledged by the county executive.

3. The total number of 694 participants represented the county in the KICOSCA games 2022. The total number of participants that represented Bungoma County in the KICOSCA games 2023 was 326 as compared to 694 in the KICOSCA games 2022.
4. The department had a total expenditure of Kshs.15, 354,200 against an approved budget of Kenya Shillings 15 million.
5. Bungoma County emerged position four after Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa counties in KICOSCA games 2023.

Committee recommendations

The committee made the following recommendations;

1. There is need for the County to support sports so that the teams can have their much needed exposure, experiences and coaching that is critical for competing in future events to improve their performance of teams and occasion victory.
2. The County Executive should formulate a mechanism of recognizing teams and individuals who excel in KICOSCA games to boost their morale and enhance their spirit of competition.
3. The department should strive to ensure that teams are promptly facilitated as they embark on the competition as a measure to psych the participants in their subsequent years.
4. The department should adequately budget and or allocate funds for the program.

There is an adoption schedule that has been signed by all the members and there are annexures for minutes of the adoption, two photos of KICOSCA 2022 and 2023.

At this juncture, allow me call upon Hon. Ken Wanyama to second.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ken, you have the honor of seconding the reports on behalf of the committee of Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, proceed.

Hon. Kennedy Wanyama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second a motion by the committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare on Bungoma County Government's participation in the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games editions.

As it has been well pointed out, the inaugural KICOSCA games were held on the 11th of July 2013 to replace the Kenya Inter-municipalities Sports and Cultural Association. That is when the country moved from the central mode of governance to devolved units.

One of the main challenges that we've been having with KICOSCA games is the issue of funding. Apart from these games creating cohesion among different counties, these games are also a way of branding counties. As a county, we need to be more serious and ensure that the department has enough budgetary allocation every financial year so that then there can be continuity of these games

When you look at the overall performance, Bungoma County emerged as position four after Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa. This is quite encouraging and so, as a county, we need to put more focus on it. There is also a need to put in place an incentive system whereby teams that

perform well are actually recognized and rewarded. These will also motivate participants and we will see better results.

Thirdly, here is a need for proper planning in terms of identification and also facilitation of these teams. What we've seen in the previous games is that there has been a challenge in planning and sometimes teams are facilitated very late so, they are not even able to prepare properly. If Bungoma emerged position four then with adequate planning it can get to position one.

Lastly, they say that diversity is strength; Bungoma County is diverse in terms of our culture. I want to urge the Department of Gender, Culture and Social Welfare that when identifying teams to participate in these games, let them ensure that the issue of diversity is properly captured so that as a county, we can be able to showcase what we have. With those few remarks, I second.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ken Wanyama. Members, allow me to be able to proceed and propose a motion for the House to debate.

(Motion proposed)

Hon. Johnston Ipara: First of all, let me thank the mover and secondly, thank the committee for their selection of the move of the report because the report belongs to gender and it is good for us to be sensitive of the gender both in the House and away from the House. This report has also revealed for some of us who are not aware that our team from Bungoma County has always been among the top ten teams in the country. So we lauded that report.

And that report clearly also spells out the importance of why we conduct those sports competitions. We may think that it's a waste of time, but I want to say with the following issues that it is very important; physical health of an individual who participates, the mental health of the person and the social interaction.

The mover of the report was reminding me at that time that as we went to Nakuru, she had some good friends who promised her to join her in a business enterprise activity and she wanted to go there. So she got friends who improved her social life. Also, sports is also one part where discipline is managed and time. You'll find that I was with our chief whip, I saw the chief whip running and then I was asking the chief whip, why are you running? He told me no, our activities are about to start. Sports also help us in life skills, particularly in leadership, individual leadership, group leadership and a community leadership; it helps build perseverance, we persevere. Some of the disciplines like pool game, it takes like three hours, but you find that our honorable members and others just persevere until the game is over.

Lastly, we should not forget about the last part of it, the enjoyment and fun making. You remember when we came back from Nakuru, I'm talking about general sports, we came with a renowned witchcraft Hon. Mulongo...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, you are accusing Hon. Mulongo Aggrey that he basically engages in witches. Hon. Ipara, the last time I checked, he was basically a senior member sharing sports with Hon. Cornelius, but not a witch.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker, one of the disadvantage you have, you are never present when we were watching it.

(Loud consultation)

Mr. Speaker: You are out of order! I was part of the whole exercise; I was part of those teams, all of them, including the one way on the bottom of my channel, the majority.

I challenge in talk of war, proceed. Honorable speaker, I agree with your direction. Honorable speaker, I said also this came with some challenges.

And the few challenges we had is the communication challenge, where we did not have a clear way on how teams were to meet in the morning. That was a major challenge. The second challenge was the motivational factor, which already has been said by the second of the report.

This is an area where we must invest a lot of money and resources, because actually we must also appreciate these particular members and the staff who took time to practice and make sure at least they go out of the way to make sure their teams win. And a good example is the volleyball. A good example is the tag of war, which is troubled.

You know honorable metronome is a noise maker and you cannot hide with her anywhere. Hon. Speaker with that, I support.

Mr. Speaker: Members, I think from this side, I am not seeing another speaker. Hon. Florence, you can give you response.

Hon. Florence Juma: Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank my seconder Hon. Ken and Ipara for their contributions to this report.

A lot has been said and from our recommendations, I would also like to say that we have been able to invite the executive department on Gender and some of these issues that have been raised, we have been able to share with them and we hope that going forth they will be able implement. I would also like to ask the house that when we are appropriating money, please let us appropriate enough money because when you look at 2024/2025, in the main budget, actually there was nothing. This is the only opportunity that members of staff of the County Government get to go out there to be able to interact, get experience and mingle with their fellows from the other counties.

As you allocate money, just my humble request that you also appropriate a good amount to KICOSCA because you know, like last year, other than going for KICOSCA, they also went for EALASCA. As you appropriate, please think about them and thank you for submissions.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, let me be able to conclude the remaining portion of the motion by putting up a question for the house to make its decision.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members that was the last motion on our Order Paper and following the calendar of this House, our recess commences from this hour when we adjourn and we will resume sittings on 23rd July 2024 at 2:30 p.m. As we do so, all the committee settings are still available, those with retreats, they are available. We adjourn accordingly.

The House rose at 4:11 p.m.