

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2023

Afternoon Sitting

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT
TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2023

The House met at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Honorable Members, this is not a communication but it is to inform you that we are going to use our supplementary Order Paper in view of the submission of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and County Medium Debt Management that came in after the HBC had sat last week on Thursday. In view of the timelines, and today being the last day of submission, we were able to have the same on the Order Paper so that the Committee can act on them accordingly.

We have the Order Paper that is having those new items that were not there when the draft Order Paper was read to the House last week. We proceed.

PETITIONS

PETITION ON THE NEW ORGANOGAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY HEALTH ACT, 2019

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, I do have the petition by the Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN) Bungoma Branch in the matter of the new organogram in the department of health of Bungoma and Bungoma Health Act 2019. The issues raised in the said petition warrants me to commit the same to the joint committee of Justice Cohesion and Legal Affairs and the Committee on Health to address the matters contained in the said petition. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 206, the said committees are to process the same and we have the report within 60 days from the date of committal.

PAPERS

1. THE COUNTY FISCAL STARTEGY PAPER, 2023

2. THE COUNTY MEDIUM TERM DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER FOR FY 2023/24 TO FY 2025/26

3. THE COUNTY MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK AND COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2023/24; PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (*Leader of Majority*): Thank you Speaker, allow me first to table

1. The County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2023
2. The County Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Paper for Financial Year 2023/24 to Financial Year 2025/26
3. The County Medium Term Expenditure Framework and County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2023/24 Public participation report

They are three documents Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the papers tabled before the House,

1. The County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2023
2. The County Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Paper for Financial Year 2023/24 to Financial Year 2025/26
3. The County Medium Term Expenditure Framework and County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2023/24 Public Participation Report.

They are all committed to the Committee on Budget and Appropriations for processing with the timeline of 16th of March. By 16th of March, we ought to have approved all those documentations from the Budget and Appropriations Committee by this House. You have time running from today onwards. You can sit after this sitting in a committee somewhere and plan your timetable so that you are able to have public participation done as per our Standing Orders.

Equally Honorable Members, just a reminder which is supposed to be done to every committee, sector committees, extract your part of the report, interrogate and get back to the Budget Committee as they prepare them for your ceilings.

4. REPORT BY THE LIAISON COMMITTEE ON THE COMMITTEES' ACTIVITIES IN THE FIRST SESSION, THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY AND COMMITTEES RETREAT SCHEDULE FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO JUNE, 2023

Hon. James Barasa: Thank you Speaker. On behalf of the Chairperson, Liaison Committee, I wish to lay on the Table of this Honorable House a Liaison Committee report on the committees' activities in the first session, third County Assembly and committees retreat schedule for the period of February to June, 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the report by the Liaison Committee on the committees' activities in the first session of the third County Assembly and the committee's retreat schedule for a period from February to June, 2023 is hereby tabled and it now becomes the property of the House accordingly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION BY THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Hon. James Barasa: Thank you Honorable Speaker, I wish to give a notice of motion that this House adopts the report by the Liaison Committee on the committees' activities in the first session third County Assembly and committees retreat schedule for the period February to June, 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. James Barasa, Honourable Members a notice of motion having been duly issued by the Liaison Committee on the committees' activities in the first session third County Assembly and retreat schedule for the period from February to June, 2023, I do direct the Table Clerks before me here to share this report to Honourable Members and it is going to form business on the Order Paper in the course of this week accordingly.

MOTION

REPORT BY THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FARM INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Mr. Speaker: Before you proceed, I had a request from an Honorable Member here to make a statement and I think he forgot to alert me. Allow him in view of him being in the Committee of Tourism which I have given permission to go out. Members when you make a request to my office, stay alert! You are not yet on Hon. George. You may have been present here physically but in the gadget you are absent. Kindly proceed.

Hon. George Tendet: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. I stand here first to thank God for helping me to go through what you already know...

Mr. Speaker: We don't know Hon. George. When you are making a statement under Standing Order 48, come out in black and white; we don't know.

Hon. George Tendet: I want to inform this Honorable House that I had a petition which gave me a lot of stress but last Friday, I want to thank God that I succeeded and that is why I stand here to thank the following people.

First I want to thank God; secondly, I want to thank the electorates of Elgon Ward for having elected me as their representative. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our National Speaker Hon. Moses Masika Wetangula for assisting me to go through what I went through.

His Excellence Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka assisted me greatly in making sure that I went through. His deputy did the same, she helped me and I don't want to explain the help I got from all of them. You know when I say they assisted me, you can guess.

I want to thank our Hon. Speaker for advising me, for giving me comforting words; he really helped me when I had this big problem. I also want to thank the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, he did the same. I don't want to forget our Majority Leader who was very close to me, he advised me and helped me very much.

I also want to thank the Deputy Majority Leader, Hon. Joan Kirong' for what you did to me. I wish to extend my thanks to Majority Whip Hon. Meshack Simiyu for assisting me, thank the Deputy Whip Hon. Sudi Busolo; though he is not around, but he used to guide me, I want to thank him. Without forgetting the Leader of Minority Hon. Anthony Luseneka for doing the same; thank you my friend. I want also to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Minority Whip Hon. Milliah Masungo, she helped me by advising me. I want also to thank all Honorable Members for standing with me, praying for me, assisting me financially, and advising me and so on, I don't take it for granted. I value your prayers and ask that you continue praying for me.

I also wish to thank all Bungoma County workers for doing the same. Lastly, I want to thank the entire family of Ford Kenya; they stood with me and up to this time, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. George; we wish you well, but you forgot your lovely wife in your appreciation; she is very important.

(Applause)

Hon. George Tendet: Allow me to say in her absentia; they are very important. They were cooking for me. You can see the way I am; it is because of her. I want to thank her though she is not here.

Mr. Speaker: That was important for you. Hon. Milliah, why are you so worried? Let us proceed please.

MOTION

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FARM INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, what is coming up this time is a motion by the sector committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development on the implementation status of the farm input support programme. It is still hot so get for him enough water.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: I stand to table a motion on report of the...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Waiti, you are moving a motion, you tabled it a long time ago. We keep on learning Honorable Members.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: I stand to move a motion of the Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development Committee on the implementation status of farm input support programme.

CHAPTER ONE PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is my pleasure to present the committee report on the implementation status of the farm input support program for FY 2020/2021, 2021/2022 by the department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation & Cooperative Development.

I believe every Member of this House has the Standing Orders and the mandate is stipulated there.

1.0 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee comprises of the following members;

| NAME | DESIGNATION |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hon. Wafula Waiti | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Idd Chamawi | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu | Member |
| 4. Hon. Busolo Sudi | Member |
| 5. Hon. Milliah Masungu | Member |
| 6. Hon. Aggrey Mulongo | Member |
| 7. Hon. Simotwo Franklin | Member |
| 8. Hon. Jerusa Aleu | Member |
| 9. Hon. Alfred Mukhanya | Member |
| 10. Hon. Edwin Opwora | Member |
| 11. Hon. Caleb Wanjala | Member |
| 12. Hon. George Tendet | Member |
| 13. Hon. Bernard Kikechi | Member |

14. Hon. Martin Chemorion Member
15. Hon. Metrine Wilson Member

JUSTIFICATION FOR INTERROGATION OF FARM INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

One of the most important features of our constitutional framework is the requirement of the County Assemblies to have the mandate to exercise oversight over their respective County Executives and their departments. Article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 on legislative authority of the County Assemblies states inter-alia that, A County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs.

It is on this basis that the committee undertook this exercise for the following reasons;

- i. To ascertain the implementation status of the programme as captured in the budget for Financial Year 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.
- i. To ascertain if the implementation of the programme was done in accordance with the provisions of the Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture input support programme to Resource Poor and Vulnerable small Holder Farmers 2014 and any other addendum policies and legislation as passed by the County Assembly.
- ii. To ascertain the social economic impact on the lives of residents of Bungoma County, the challenges experienced in the implementation of the programme and possible solutions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker and Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma for the logistical support that enabled the Committee to execute its mandate.

Allow me Hon. Speaker, to applaud each single Honorable Member and the secretariat of this committee for their commitment and exemplary work which made the production of this report a success.

It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation & Cooperative development to table this report to this House for deliberation and adoption.

The report is signed by the Chairperson.

CHAPTER TWO

BACKGROUND

Bungoma County is one of the fertile regions of Kenya and the agriculturally potential land is estimated at 183,800 ha. The combination of good soils, adequate amount of rainfall which is well distributed during the growing season makes it suitable for a variety of small scale farming enterprises. The agricultural sector comprises of over 250,000 small scale farmers. They produce eighty percent (80%) of all food and cash crops and livestock in the county. Out of the total labour force of about 565,000 people, 52% are engaged in agricultural production which provides 60% of all household incomes (GoK, 2005).

The number of the unemployed population is estimated at 200,000 people and 60% of the population lives below the poverty line. The poverty incidence in Bungoma County is higher than the national average of 53% (GoK, 2005). It is well recognized that small scale farming is generally low external input system. The major reason for this phenomenon is that resource poor farmers cannot afford the cost of these inputs.

It has been established that this category of farmers are so resource poor that without external intervention, they may never get to use these inputs. They will remain poor and unable to participate in farming as commercial venture.

This scenario leads to having a high proportion of people living below absolute poverty levels and food insecurity. Research shows that the only way this section of the population can come out of the cycle of poverty and food insecurity is for them to be assisted with agricultural inputs for a given period of time with comprehensive training and capacity building programmes.

The right to food is guaranteed under Article 43 (c) of the Constitution, with effect that “...every person has the right to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality.” When Kenyans suffer from hunger and malnutrition, peace cannot be guaranteed as this could lead to food riots. When access to food and safe water is guaranteed to all Kenyans at all times, this would enhance national security and Kenyans would attend to other issues of national development.

INTERROGATION OF THE FARM INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Input Support Programme (ISP) is a pro-poor hunger safety net program through which resource poor farmers will be provided with fertilizer and seed subsidy. The programme seeks to address the problem of food insecurity and poverty by improving access and affordability of the key production inputs for smallholders with small parcels of land, particularly the resource poor farmers. This category of farmers will be provided with basic inputs to cover at least 1 acre of land of maize crop.

The package will not only comprise of seed and fertilizer but also other inputs such as chemicals used during the planting season or those to be used to undertake postharvest management practices once the crop is harvested. The programme was initiated in 2014 and targeted about 100 farmers per Ward.

For seamless implementation of the programme, the County Government developed the Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture Input Support to Resource and Vulnerable Small Holder Farmers' Policy.

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AGRICULTURE INPUT SUPPORT TO RESOURCE AND VULNERABLE SMALL HOLDER FARMERS POLICY, 2014

The Salient features of the Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture Input Support to Resource and vulnerable Small Holder Farmers' Policy are as follows:

THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

In order to implement the programme there will be established the programme steering committee and the management teams. The County Steering committee will have a maximum of nine (9) members and a quorum of six (6).

THE COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

- a) Chairman - County Executive Committee Member (MOALFIC)
- b) Chief Officer - Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperatives - Alternate Chairperson
- c) Secretary - County Director of Agriculture

OTHER MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE:-

- a) Finance Officer
- b) Procurement officer
- c) Representative from Finance institution
- d) Agribusiness officer
- e) Farmers representative
- f) Any other officer that may be appointed by the CEC – MOALFIC

ROLE OF COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

- a) To review and approve programme work plans
- b) Approve budgets
- c) Ensure Monitoring and Evaluation is done; and
- d) Resource mobilization among other roles that may be instituted from time to time

VETTING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

For purposes of transparency and accountability, a seven (7) member vetting committee shall be formed to oversee beneficiary worthiness to the grant.

The quorum will be four (4) Members. The committee will include but not limited to;

- a) Member of farmers' Organization/farmers Representative – Chair
- b) The Ward Administrator - Vice Chair
- c) Ward Agricultural Extension Officer (WAEO) -Secretary
- d) The local Member of the County Assembly or his appointee - Member
- e) A woman representative
- f) A representative from Persons With Disabilities
- g) A youth representative

THE TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The criteria for selection should include, but not limited to:

- a) They must be resource poor and vulnerable
- b) The beneficiaries must be practicing farmers and willing to grow maize.
- c) They must be able to access the land parcel where to grow the crop.
- d) The farmers shall prepare the land and practice all the good agronomic practices applicable to maize production.
- e) Must/shall be willing to acquire any supplementary inputs not provided in the package.

f) Must/shall be willing to be involved in subsequent training and programme activities that may be instituted in the programme from time to time.

g) Farmers be selected shall be either Widows, widowers, orphans, child- headed households or physically challenged and practicing farmers.

h) Must have land parcel adequate to grow 10kg maize seed (or slightly less in case s/he strongly deserves the package).

i) Shall set up monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure none of the subsidy farm inputs is sold e. g branding of the packages

SUBMISSION BY THE DEPARTMENT

The committee requested the department to submit a report on the programme for the financial year 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 which was to capture the following:

1. Distribution of the farm inputs for FY 2020/2021 and 2021/2022
2. Criteria used in the distribution
3. Criteria employed in the identification of beneficiaries
4. Monitoring and evaluation reports.

In the response the County executive Committee Member submitted the following information;

1. Distribution of FY2021/2022

- i.** Planting fertilizer 17,616 bags (402 x 43 Wards,165x2 Wards- Khalaba&Township)
- ii.** Top Dressing fertilizer 17,616 bags (402x43 Wards, 165x2 Wards- Khalaba &Township).
- iii.** Maize seeds-176160kg (10kg per farmer)

2. Distribution for FY2022/2023

- i.** Planting fertilizer -21900 bags (500x43 Wards, 200x2 Wards)
- ii.** Top Dressing fertilizer -21900 bags(500x43 Wards, 200x2 Wards)
- iii.** Maize seeds -219000(10kg per farmer)

3. Method of beneficiary identification and distribution

A Ward Committee (farmer rep, Ward Admin, Ward Agriculture Officer, PWD rep,

Woman rep, FBO & NGAO) identified and vetted beneficiary in a public barasa.

4. Criteria for selection

- i.** Vulnerable widow/widower and not benefitted in the previous years.
- ii.** Very poor and sick.
- iii.** Child headed house hold.
- iv.** PWD
- v.** Must have at least one acre of land.

Follow up is done by the Agriculture Officers to offer technical advice on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISP

- a) The department cited inadequate funds allocation for vetting committee allowances and stressed the need to incorporate the committee allowances in the FISP policy and strategy.
- b) Inadequate farmer training and follow up during growing season; low facilitation to the Wards.
- c) Identified beneficiary farmers are very vulnerable and distribution at Ward level is one point usually far for such farmers.
- d) Insecurity of the stored input before delivery at the Ward, MCA or agriculture office
- e) Infestation of the crop by the African Army worm-*Tsikhungu* the package requires chemical inputs to support the vulnerable farmers
- f) Over-dependency on the County Government by farmers who benefited in the past

SOIL TEST RESEARCH REPORT

Bungoma County mobile laboratories implements the mandate of the ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperatives i.e. to do soil sampling, testing, and analysis and result interpretation to the clients

The mobile laboratories are three in number and supported by soil care (agro cares platform). The labs are run by trained staff from the department of agriculture, County Government of Bungoma. The standards and quality assurance is guaranteed as the system is updated periodically and need requires.

The technical team and lab system have provided services since 2016 to Bungoma County farmers under promotion and sensitization, GIZ pro-soil, WHH supported farmer groups in western Kenya. The teams were involved in standardization of soil testing institution where centres came together under coordination of KEPHIS AND KALRO.

However the test is too general for the whole county, the department needs to carry out analysis and give samples specifically of the different areas in Bungoma County.

TEST AND RESULT PARAMETERS

The Bungoma county laboratories complete soil analysis providing 13 parameters as shown below.

| | PARAMETERS | UNIT OF MEASURE | RANGE LOW | RANGE HIGH |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | Organic carbon | g/kg | 17 | 50 |
| 2 | Cation exchange capacity | Mmol+/kg | 75 | 200 |
| 3 | Ph(water) | Ph value | 6.0 | 7.2 |
| 4 | Potassium | Mmol+/kg | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| 5 | Total Nitrogen | g/kg | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | Phosphorus | Mg/kg | 20 | 40 |
| 7 | Copper | Mg/kg | 1 | 2 |
| 8 | Zinc(m3) | | 2.5 | 4 |
| 9 | Calcium exch | Mmol+/kg | 15 | 25 |
| 10 | Magnessium | Mmol+/kg | 4.5 | 10 |
| 11 | Total sulphur | g/kg | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| 12 | Lime requirement | Kg/acre | calculated | |
| 13 | Specific nutrient requirement | Kg/acre | Calculated | |

ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES (soil test research)

On soil testing research, the CECM submitted that to date 6000 samples have been done in Bungoma County supported by the county and partners. Over 60% of test results indicate that the county soil is acidic. This implies that fertilizers to be used be non-acidifying. The sustainable effort being put in place to mitigate soil degradation includes programmes on soil protection and rehabilitation.

PENDING BILLS

Pending bills for 2021 LR and 2022 LR

| S.No | Item | Pending bill | Remarks Pending bills |
|------|------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Maize seed | 58,460,000 | Pending bill Kshs 27,260,000/-LR 2022; Bill of 31,200,000 for 2021 LR |
| | | | Maize seed bill Kshs 58,460,000 |

MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

On monitoring evaluation report the CECM submitted the following:

- a) All the vetted beneficiaries who received inputs and implemented the technologies increased maize productivity from three bags per acre to between 10 to 15 bags across the county.
- b) The participating beneficiaries had increased food security from only 1-2 months of maize supply to between 5-12 months of adequate supplies. The participating beneficiaries were able to keep between 5-10 bags for food as they sell the surplus.
- c) Beneficiaries selling surplus produce had increased farm income with an average of 5 bags sold for fee payment at kshs 3,000 per bag of 90kg.
- d) Improved ability for farmers (30%) to access NCPB fertilizer for next season; at least two bags have been bought by many farmers per season both planting and top dressing fertilizer.
- e) Improved housing purchase of iron sheets and proof replacement by 10-20% of the house hold at ward level.
- f) Diversification into other crop enterprises including sweet potatoes, cassava, sorghum small scale livestock

FARM INPUTS SUPPORT PROGRAMME BUDGET

The table below indicates the amount allocated for the farm inputs and the number of beneficiaries per Ward from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023

| SEASON | FERTILIZER(MT) | MAIZE(MT) | BENEFICIARIES |
|-----------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| 2018/2019 | 94,686,973 | 33,462,500 | 402 PER WARD |
| 2019/2020 | 94,000,000 | 20,205,900 | 402 PER WARD |
| 2020/2021 | 68,099,441 | 20,537,350 | 350 PER WARD |
| 2021/2022 | 58,348,000 | 21,746,400 | 200 PER WARD |
| 2022/2023 | 270,000,000 | 56,000,000 | 500 PER WARD |

CURRENT STATUS ON FISP

In the financial year 2022/2023 the CECM has issued a circular to the implementing teams with have several deviations as follows:

Vetting Committee composition

The policy stipulates for a seven member vetting committee whereas the circular increased the number to 10

The committee will include but not limited to:

1. Member of farmers Organization/farmers Representative - Chair
2. The Ward administrator - Vice Chair
3. Ward Agricultural Extension Officer (WAEO) -Secretary
4. Ward Maize Value chain Officer
5. The local Member of the County Assembly or his appointee - Member
6. Special interest group (either woman or youth)
7. A faith based representative
8. A representative from persons with disabilities
9. The area village Administrator
10. The area headman/woman (Mukasa)

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable, I cannot blame you, it is the secretariat. We have a word that is always used, not the village headman or head woman that they are writing here. I will call the secretariat; it is not your problem.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: The target beneficiaries

The criteria for selection should include, but not limited to:

- a) They must be resource poor and vulnerable
- b) The beneficiaries must be practicing farmers and willing to grow maize.

- c) They must be able to access the land parcel where to grow the crop.
- d) The farmers shall prepare the land and practice all the good agronomic practices applicable to maize production.
- e) They must/shall be willing to acquire any supplementary inputs not provided in the package.
- f) They must/shall be willing to be involved in subsequent training and program activities that may be instituted from time to time.
- g) Farmers selected shall be resource poor, widows, widowers, orphans, child-headed households or physically challenged and practicing farmers.
- h) Must have land parcel adequate to grow 10kg maize seed (or slightly less in case s/he strongly deserves the package), that is, one acre or slightly less than one acre.
- i) Shall set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure none of the subsidy farm inputs is sold e.g. branding of the packages

Modalities of vetting

- 1. Each Ward committee will vet and identify 500 (five hundred) beneficiaries, except Khalaba and Township Wards which will have 200 beneficiaries each
- 2. Vetting will be done at Village level through public barazas
- 3. Schedule of vetting will be prepared by the vetting committee and dates announced

Safeguards to ensure the inputs are put to proper use by the beneficiaries

- 1. Each Ward will have one designated maize value chain officer attached to the 500 beneficiaries, and who will keep a data base of the farmers in a prescribed format.
- 2. The ISP beneficiaries will be trained on good agronomic practices of maize.
- 3. The ISP beneficiaries will be put on a crop insurance scheme.
- 4. The ISP beneficiaries will be required to plough their maize farm by 15th February or before receiving the free inputs.
- 5. A crop cut will be done on randomly selected farms in order to measure the maize yields

Timelines for the implementation of the FISP

| S/NO | Activity | Responsible/Actor | Timeline/By when |
|------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Planning meeting | CECM, Ag. Chief Officer, CDA | 19 th Dec. 2022 |

| | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | Policy advice communiqué | CEM | 31 st Dec. 2022 |
| 3 | Ward vetting committees in place | Ag. C.O, CDA, MCAs, WAEO, Ward Admins, | 15 th January, 2023 |
| | | Ward vetting | 15 th January, 2023 |
| 4 | Planning meeting of vetting committee | committees, CDA | |
| 5 | Commencement of vetting exercise | Ward vetting committees | 17 th January, 2023 |
| 6 | Training and Authentication of ISP beneficiaries | Maize value chain officers, headmen/women | Continuous from 20 th January |
| 7 | Completion of vetting | Ward vetting committees, CDA | 15 th February, 2023 |
| 8 | Beneficiary lists ready | CDA, WAEO | 20 th February, 2023 |
| 9 | Issuance of the farm inputs | Vetting committee | From 20 th February, to 10 th March |
| 10 | Submission of lists of ISP beneficiaries to the Chief Officer for processing of payments | CDA, WAEO | 12 th March, 2023 |
| 11 | Crop cut exercise | C.O, CDA, WAEO | From July, 2023 , or before the maize is harvested |

CHAPTER THREE

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS:

The committee made the following observations:

- i. That the policy provides that 5 % of the budget allocated for strategic stock be utilized for administrative cost whereas regulation 197(1)(d) of the Public Finance Management(County Governments) Regulations 2015 provides for a maximum of 3% to be utilized for administrative cost.
- ii. That the extension service in respect to the program has not been properly rendered to the beneficiaries.
- iii. That The Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture Input Support to Resource Poor and Vulnerable Small Holders Farmers policy was to be effective for five years which lapsed in 2019.
- iv. The department submitted monitoring and evaluation report of 2017/2018 financial year.
- v. That supply and delivery of the fertilizer and seeds to the farmers has not been done on time hence delay in planting and topdressing which has eventually affected the yield of the Maize planted.
- vi. That the input program captures a large portion of the budget at the expense of other programs in the department.
- vii. That the farmers are not getting access to fertilizer and maize seeds appropriate for their altitude and soil status.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee made the following recommendations

1. That the department is hereby directed to review the policy and further develop regulations to comply with Regulation 197(1)(d) of the Public Finance Management(County Governments) Regulations, 2015 on administrative Cost.
2. The department to incorporate extension services and follow up programs for better implementation.
3. The department should as a matter of urgency review the Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture Input Support to Resource the Poor and Vulnerable Small Holder Farmers policy and submit the same to County Assembly for adoption before next financial year.
4. That the Directorate of Monitoring and Evaluation is hereby directed to establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system that can

inform future decisions to improve the programme.

5. The department should strictly supply the fertilizer and maize seeds in time to boost productivity.
6. The County should develop mechanism to introduce subsidy programme to enable sustainability.
7. That the department should put in place a system of countywide soil mapping that would inform the type of fertilizer to be availed to farmers under the input program.
8. That the department should identify various altitudes within the County to inform the variety of maize seed appropriate for a given location.
9. The department should carry out a county sensitization meeting for all stakeholders before implementation of the initiative.
10. That the department should establish maize stores at the Ward where farmers can store some bags of maize to be sold in future so as to help the farmers financially and to also keep track of the number of bags the farmer produces. This will curb the problem of selling inputs and will also help farmers economically.
11. The department is directed to develop an Agricultural Soil Management Policy which will address sustainable agricultural land management practices and submit the same to the County Assembly within 90 days from the adoption of this report.
12. The department should put mechanisms in place to deter beneficiaries from selling farm input.
13. The department should put in a timely monitoring and Evaluation programme to assess the social economic impact on the residents of Bungoma County.

Under 3.2 there are annexures of the number of beneficiaries and productivity of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. The Adoption schedule is here presented; the undersigned members of the committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development, Irrigation, Fisheries and Co-operative development appended their signatures adopting this report with the contents there in.

There is a list of 15 members whom I read out in the first page.

I now move to the table, number of beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker: That is not read. What comes after the adoption schedule are annexures; it ends there that way.

We are still learning Honourable members and there is no problem with that.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I now call upon...

Mr. Speaker: Don't end up asking the Speaker to second. Just get your Member.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: I am posing so that I look at the face of my Members. I call upon Hon. Aggrey Mulongo who is a Member of this Committee to second the report.

(Applause)

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I thank the Chair of Agriculture for giving me this chance today to second the motion. As we all know Bungoma County is an Agricultural County and therefore this Committee is at the centre stage for making sure that hunger is not there in this County and country at large. They have gone through the report, 52% of this County is Agricultural land and therefore I beg Honourable Members in this Honourable House to ensure that the distribution of input is being done and therefore I beg you as members of County Assembly whether nominated or elected, let us put an eye on those inputs so that we can at least have better results in future.

People are selling these inputs once they are distributed, our own farmers are selling those inputs and therefore we are not getting the rightful results year in year out. What we have seen is that they always just get and sell. They get it today and sell the same day or the following day. Therefore our Honourable Members from different Wards, let us keep an eye.

Honourable Members, we need to run away from this fertiliser called DAP; NPK and we should at least come up with organic fertiliser. The organic fertiliser is very friendly to the soil and therefore we need to train our farmers on how to make organic fertiliser that will assist us economically since it is not very expensive. We are here as the law makers and we should come up with policies to make sure that every Ward can allocate funds for CEF for our people to at least train them on how to make organic fertiliser.

We need to diversify Agriculture. Let us not just be planting maize alone. Let us diversify with some other Agricultural items like we have potatoes in Mt. Elgon which can assist on the side of food. Instead of eating *Ugali* alone we can also eat potatoes and so let us think widely and outside the box. I stand here to second the motion.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Aggrey Mulongo for seconding the motion that is before this House. Allow me Honourable Members to propose a motion for the House to debate on accordingly.

Honourable Members, a motion has been moved and seconded that this House adopts the report by the sectorial Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Co-operative Development on the implementation status of the farm input support program. I propose.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I can see the mood of the Members that they do not want to contribute today, but I want to support the motion and congratulate the Chairperson for the wonderful report that he has given this House and to also congratulate the entire committee on Agriculture for sitting down with such a good report.

Just a few points from the report, and even away from the report; I also wish to congratulate His Excellency, the Governor, I think you can see the difference. In the last Government this fertiliser came when people had already planted, but today people have not yet planted but fertiliser is already in our Wards. In fact, I have just been informed that maize seeds have arrived. Yesterday fertiliser was delivered and so my Ward is sorted and this exercise is going to take place tomorrow and the only people I would not want there are people called Village Administrators.

I know my good friend Hon. Lusenaka is comfortable with the village administrators but I am not comfortable. Hon. Mutiambu could be comfortable, but I may not be comfortable. Hon. Mutiambu is countering what I am saying.

I have heard the Chairperson talk about chemicals. I do not know at what stage these chemicals will be released to the various Wards and the mode of application because it will be an extra burden to the tax payer at that level. I have just heard also that 43 Wards will be given fertiliser and maize seeds apart from Khalaba and township which will get 200 each. I do not know if my Members in Township and Khalaba are in agreement with this because I can attest here that most of the people who vote in Township for Hon. Jeremiah come from my Ward. So I wouldn't wish that my people miss, even if they vote for Hon. Jeremiah and Khalaba where Hon. Cornelius comes from; so that we do not disadvantage anyone. I know they are in town, they do not have land but I think they have their say over the report.

Then something on laboratory soil testing. I do not think we have the capacity to test even if it is sampling and I even do not know where this laboratory that will do soil testing across Bungoma County is situated and I have never even encountered one. Maybe we are walking towards there, having the laboratory for soil testing, but I have never encountered one.

In almost the last segment of the report, the Chair is talking about the composition 9 Area Village Administrator, 10 area Village Headman. For example I have 6 villages which area Village Admin will be on the committee? I have 110 Village Headmen which criteria are you going to use to pick to ensure that you pick one headman amongst the 110?

Lastly, the Chair read and said that the Policy lapsed in 2019 and in the recommendation they are trying to pacify how it is going to be tabled. If it lapsed in 2019, the Committee must move with speed and engage the Executive to ensure that we are doing things according to the law so that they follow up the issue of policies and regulations; when tabled in this House.

Finally, Agriculture is a very huge department. It has almost five tails. It has one of the largest donor funding. I want to advice the Committee and the Chair to be very careful with the CECM. One time, Hon. Milliah was the Chair of Education in this very House and that

lady was the Chief Officer of Education. I don't want to finish the story but chair you must be very alert with that huge department.

(Applause)

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you for giving me this chance to air my views on this important Motion and let me also thank the Chair for Agriculture for the good job that he has done this afternoon. If you may allow me, the most important aspect of giving the Fertilizers to the poor and the needy is to empower them. The most important thing from the Ward Committees that were formed, I will urge the Agricultural Committee to make sure that as one of the Members said here, previously, that as you have been given the fertilizer this year, then next year you also allow somebody else to have a chance.

The purpose is that you want to be empowered then we need to have sustainability because we don't want to see the repetition of the same people getting the fertilizers and the seeds every year. At the end of the day, if the Committee on Agriculture can make sure that those Committees that were formed at the Ward level can do a follow up of the people that were given the fertilizers and come with a report. As Hon. Mulongo has said, it is true. Some of these people sell these fertilizers. If you are given fertilizer this year, and you sell it, those people should not again appear on the list on the subsequent financial year when we are awarding the fertilizers.

The Committee on Agriculture in this House has to follow up the Committees on Ward level to be giving a report at the end of every year. That these are the people who got fertilizer and this is how they used this fertilizer and they are now able to sustain themselves so that in the next batch they allow other people to get fertilizer.

Hon. Alfred Mukhanya: I also want to contribute towards the programme of farming in Bungoma. It being an agricultural zone, it is a good idea that we encourage the peasants in the Villages to do farming. This noble idea introduced by Bungoma County Government is one that we are trying to chase hunger out of this County. So the idea of giving fertilizer to our farmers is so encouraging such that even the small farmer in the village looking for employment can join farming. It is also a noble idea and it is time that we can do our best, if possible to grow enough and export to other Counties.

Our people in Turkana, Isiolo and other places have this problem. Whoever was contributing to the idea of growing enough to keep in our stores to give our brothers in other Counties is a good idea. In future if possible, we should grow more than enough because currently, we are importing sugar from other Counties that are planting Sugarcane. This sugarcane is causing a lot of hunger and does not assist our people very much, though it is also good to have sugar.

We as MCAs, it is good to encourage our people to do farming. You can use the fertilizer given and if some is left; you can use it to grow other crops like sorghum, Millet and others. These foods are for our own consumption. Our Chair, what you have done and what you have read is good. So we 45 elected MCAs and 17 nominated, please let us join hands and encourage our farmers to do the best so that something comes out of our County.

We also want to encourage our Governor next year to even give out loans. This will enable our farmers to grow. We also want to encourage the Committees on the ground to do a lot of monitoring such that this year, we will scare those ones who are given the fertilizers and sell immediately. I support the report.

Hon. Job Mukoyandali: Nashukuru kwa kunipa huu muda kuchangia mada ilio mbele yetu. Kwanza nashukuru kamati ya wakulima kwa kuketi chini na kutuletea ripoti njema ambayo ipo bungeni siku ya leo. Nashukuru gavana pia kwa wakati alikuwa akitembea akiongea akiomba kura, wengi walifikiri kwamba hili swala la kuomba mbolea lilikuwa la mzaha.

Wakati alikuwa anaomba kura aliweza kueleza wananchi kwamba ataongeza mifuko ya mbolea katika kila Wadi ili ifike 1500. Hata hivyo, mbolea ambayo ameweza kutuletea sasa hivi ni mifuko 500; ukilinganisha na ile ambayo wakulima wetu walipata wakati uliopita utapata kwamba amejaribu. Lile tunaomba ni kwamba swala la ukulima ni swala muhimu sana ambalo tukilitilia mkazo na kama bunge tulipe nguvu ya kutosha. Tutaweza kufukuza umaskini kutoka katika Wadi zetu.

Mimi naishi nyumbani kwangu katika Wadi yangu na kila asubuhi ninapoamka wale wengi ambao tunajaribu kusaidia hapa na pale ni kwamba hawana uti ambao unaweza wafanya wakatembea. Tukiweza kulishikilia hili swala la ukulima, wakulima wetu wapate mbolea nyingi kutoka mia tano amabayo tumepata sasa hivi; katika bajeti inayokuja tuweke ili tuweze kupata elfu moja ili tuweze kufikia wakulima wengi. Tukifikia wengi, watoto wengi wataenda shule kwa kuwa tutakuwa na watu walio na chakula ambacho watatumia katika maboma yao na mazalio yanaweza pelekwa soko ili watoto wao waende shule.

Tukilitilia mkazo swala hili, watu wetu wataokolewa dhidi ya shida nyingi wanazopitia kule mashinani. Changamoto ambayo sisi kaka wawakilishi tunayopitia ni kwamba hii mbolea inapopewa kwa wakulima fulani, wengi wanaenda kuuza kwa sababu ya maisha magumu na uchumi mbaya tunaopitia sasa hivi. Ningependa watu wetu watiliwe mkazo kwamba mbolea ile itumiwe katika kuanda mashamba yao iweze kuwasaidia.

Naomba bunge na kamati ya Ukulima kwamba tuwe na mwelekeo dhabiti na ile mbinu mwafaka ambayo tunaweza tumia na kuhakikisha ya kwamba hiyo mbolea inayopewa; tufuatilie wale ambao wanapewa kiasi kwamba tujue iwapo wameitumia ama hawajaitumia na iwe wazi kwamba wale ambao hawajatumia ile mbolea kwa njia inayofaa wakati mwingine ule wasiweze kupata mpenyo katika ile orodha ya wale ambao watapata. Tukifanya hivyo wengi watatumia hiyo mbolea kwa njia inayofaa.

Hon. Okasida Ipara: Thank you for allowing me to identify myself with the report of Agricultural Committee. As most of you understand, our County depends mostly on Agriculture. Most of the people have had employment within their farms. So I want to congratulate the Committee through the Chair and also commend the Governor for this good initiative.

As you understand, most of our farmers are peasant farmers and land as one factor of farming has become a scarce commodity in our County. When we talk about it and say at least an

acre, we are going to disadvantage most of the farmers. The condition of one acre, I wanted to make a kind and a polite proposal to the Honorable Chair to reduce it to at least half an acre so that we encourage every one of us to participate in production and when we talk about production, it means that it will increase food in most of the Households.

The Chair talked of the fertilizers that they have distributed across the County and the Wards. One important aspect he omitted is that he never talked of subsidies. Subsidy means that it will be availed at the cheapest prices to the farmers. He could have told us the cost of one 50Kg bag of fertilizer. If that is said, then it will encourage all of us and we shall identify as we already identified ourselves with this programme.

You have reminded us that production has reduced from time to time because of lack of Extension Officers in the field. These are officers who are supposed to advise the farmers as they start preparing their farms, advising the farmers on the best methods on how they should do the planting and advise our farmers on the variety of crops that can give them good returns. So I want to urge our respected Chair for Agriculture that kindly consider that as a factor and a very important factor.

He did say of the Composition that should form the Agricultural Committee in the Ward. I also wanted to support what Hon. Makari said. We only have in the office of the Ward Administrator and eliminate any other person called the Village Administrator in that Committee. The role of the Village Administrator should only be when the Committee is visiting his Village which is the sub location.

He must be the person guiding the Committee within the Village because he is the person who knows who those people are, if they really leave within the village or the local villages within that sub location. If that is done, I want to assure you that we shall get value for our money.

If we do forget that, I want to assure you that we shall not help the farmers that we want to identify ourselves with. To encourage these farmers, we must make these farm products very available within the sub Counties. Every sub County must have a depot where the farmers can go and get the fertilizers; whether it is the National Government or the County. If we make the subsidy fertilizer for the National Government to be found at Webuye, Bungoma, it is a longer distance for these farmers. I want to urge you the Chair and the CECM whoever will talk to the National officers so that this fertilizer can be moved to a closer point where farmers can obtain it; so that they can enjoy the subsidy that has been given to us by the two Governments.

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Thank you. First of all I want to thank you for having allowed me to speak over the same. I want to thank our Governor for having allowed this fertilizer to be increased from the 200 or whatever quantity that was given previously to the current one. It is empowering the small scale farmers who are in need.

However, changes should be done. Farmers who are in town are the ones who are in the Villages. Farms are in the villages. It will look like being discriminatory to the people of

Township and Khalaba. A law that was put there or an agreement that was put there so that the people of township get 200 bags and the people of Musikoma or South Bukusu or West Bukusu get 500 bags; I don't think if that is fair.

There are people who stay in town, just like us right now, but in the evening we shall be retreating to our villages. I therefore think that it should be a balanced thing so that all of us who are part and parcel of this Government. I don't like these free things. The way we are being treated year after year, I was of the opinion that Agriculture Committee should come up with a policy whereby the fertilizer is reduced from 3000 to 2000 or 1500, so that every farmer can buy and take care of this fertilizer in a very good manner. There should be a follow up of this fertilizer that has been given to these farmers; a lot of it is sold out there.

The issue of Village Administrators and Village Elders participating in this exercise, I don't think is a noble idea. Right now in Township, the calls I am getting when here, I am being told that the Village Administrators who number to around three or four, plus the Village Elders who are around 50 in this town want to be given free fertilizer. We should change such rules so that they can buy the fertilizer, but at a much reduced price.

Hon. Alice Kibaba: Thank you, I also support the Motion. First I wish to congratulate the Agricultural Committee for the report. They talked of the type of the people who are supposed to get the fertilizer and the seeds. They talked of the widows, the widowers, the sick and the poor. How can you give the fertilizer to a sick person? These are the people who will sell the fertilizer to buy medicines and to take care of the Hospital Bills. So I wish that you could remove them from the list. Khalaba and Township Wards residents are men and women who ran away from the rural areas to come and enjoy life in town. The characteristics of the people who live in town is that they are clean and they do not want to get dirty. How can you give someone fertilizer who is not ready to get to the farm? I support the Motion.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Alice before you run away, I have checked once again there is no indication of the sick people here. Physically challenged people are not sick. From the criterion number (a) up to (h). I haven't seen the sick anywhere.

Hon. Alice Kibaba: I meant the disabled.

Yes Hon. George?

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker, the Honourable Member referred to us who live in town that we ran away from the villages.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari, she is saying, even I included. Hon. Stephen Wamalwa kindly proceed

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I think I am so excited because I now realise that you have confirmed that you are among those who ran away from the villages to come and enjoy life in town.

(Laughter)

So kindly leave the issues to the people from the rural areas to do them. For you people in towns, continue enjoying because you actually ran away. I can see Hon. Makari is also disputing that, but smiling heavily, because he is comfortable and enjoying life in town.

I wish to appreciate the Committee for this good report that has been read to the Assembly and to the Members articulating the issues that actually touch on the lives of our people. I want to commend them for the report. I also want to commend the Hon. Chairperson, Agriculture; the Hon. Waiti Wafula for having actually read the report in a very articulate manner, without over humouring, taking water in style and you can see that he even carried the bottle with him so that he can complete what he begun. Congratulations Hon. Waiti for that report. I was with you when you were preparing to come read the report. I wish the Hon. Kikechi was here to confirm and applaud you for the effort you have done.

I want to say that we need to explore more avenues to improve on this programme of agricultural support because we have to benchmark from other counties; especially our neighbouring Kakamega, where very many farmers get access to these inputs. It is through what the Hon. Jeremiah mentioned in passing that the prices of the planting fertiliser, the phosphates and the topdressing fertilisers should be reduced, or to be subsidized, so that at least every farmer gets access to it and can buy at an affordable price.

This will enable many farmers access this, I want to believe also, that when a farmer buys this, even if it is at two thousand shillings, it would not be possible for the farmer to sell because at least he has had or she has had an input on the same. But when we people are used to getting free things, and when somebody gets a free gift in; most cases, that is why we are talking of other beneficiaries selling the same. So I want to appeal that through this House and the committee, let us explore ways on how we can access and procure enough farm inputs and make a subsidy so that many farmers can benefit; and if we are really fighting to alleviate hunger in this county as the Hon. Mulongo aptly put, then that is the avenue that you have to explore.

I also want to request that apart from just giving, it would be very prudent that we track those beneficiaries. There should be a mechanism on how we can track those who benefited from the inception; which is during planting. There should be a measure on how we can track to ensure that someone who benefited from this scheme has to use the same fertiliser to plant and you have to track that. We have to track up to the level of harvesting so that this agriculture committee at the end of the day should come to this House and inform us that from the inputs that we gave out, the output was this much. We need to get the results. We need to know how our people are using this because this is government money and if otherwise, this is being misused, we can change and this money can be used to do something else that can benefit the people of Bungoma. So I want to suggest that we do tracking so that we can get the results pronounced in this House. That out of this, the results or the output was this much.

Another issue that I feel is of importance is on how we can do and all of us including the Executive and everybody else. Let our people come out of their comfort zones; there is a disaster. Even people who are lawyers will be struggling, jostling to get this fertiliser. Teachers want to get this fertiliser, engineers want to get this fertiliser, employees and unemployed people; all of them want to jostle for this fertiliser and I am very sure even if there was a subsidy on the same, still the people will want to get free things or cheap things. We have to teach and try to help our people so that let Kenyans and especially our people in Bungoma can be self-reliant.

Let us run away from this issue of free things. there was a time that there were no free things like scholarship, there was nothing like bursaries, there was nothing like free fertilisers, and I want to believe that many of the Honourable Members seated here can agree with me that these things were not there and we grew up. Our parents were struggling to ensure that we go to school; our parents were struggling to put food on the table. Where did that behaviour go? Where is our society heading to? So, it is something that I want to request even the preachers like Hon. Caleb here; they should preach, they should pray, this spirit should come out of these people and our people should come out of that zone and be responsible.

Having said that and that the report is so good, my attention is drawn to recommendation number three and it says that the department should as a matter of urgency review the Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture Input Support to resource the poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers policy and to submit the same to County Assembly for adoption before next financial year. That is the recommendation that hasn't been considered by this House. The same policy that the committee is trying to inform us and make a recommendation three has not been considered by this House. This House cannot be used to justify that the policy needs review when in the first place it has not been approved by this very House. How? So therefore that recommendation should change and maybe try to inform this House that the Executive to immediately submit to this House the policy being implemented in the department, not the other way around because my question will be; was the policy in reference submitted before the committee to rely on for the recommendation number three? Was the committee given that as recommendation number three? Or was it a statement from the CEC of Agriculture?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Milliah Masungu what is your information all about?

Hon. Milliah Masungo (*On a point of information*): Mr. Speaker, I also wish to concur with the Hon. Stephen that from what the Chair has read, the recommendation was to be that the department to fast track and bring the policy in this House for approval. So I think it was just a misprint or something of the sort but that was the statement.

Mr. Speaker: So you are a Member of the Committee? Kindly join your Chair to reply during the reply time. Those are the corrections accordingly. Thank you Hon. Milliah; back to Hon. Stephen.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: So Hon. Speaker, I think the Hon. Milliah being a Senior Member of this House is trying to un-mess the mess and we agree. That is my submission. Otherwise, I want to say that we support this report but with the recommendation that it be with amendments.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, at that juncture I think unless you call someone to support your proposed amendment with recommendations, it will collapse flat.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Hon. Speaker, I wish to actually call upon the Hon. Milliah Masungu to second that we adopt this report with amendments, especially on what I pointed out in this report. Hon. Masungu, kindly second this otherwise the report will run into headwinds

Hon. Milliah Masungu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not seconding the amendment because I think the Honourable Member was not very keen when the Chair was moving the report. Because recommendation number three is very clear and it is written; that the department should as a matter of urgency review the Bungoma County Policy Framework for Agriculture Input Support to resource the poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers policy and submit the same to the County Assembly for adoption before the next financial year. I think we are agreeing that the department must fast track and bring the policy to this House.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Milliah. With that, the proposed amendment has now collapsed flat. We go back to Hon. Caleb. Members, anytime you want to propose anything on the floor of the House, look for a friendly seconder or else...
But as we are doing so, those people who ran away from the villages you have been put on notice. You go back to the villages.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity also to share out my views concerning the motion at hand. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Chairperson for Agriculture and the Agriculture Committee for the good work that they are doing towards the support of agricultural activities in our county. However, I have an issue concerning this free fertiliser. I think as an Committee on Agriculture, we need to come up with a policy that can help our people not just to make them dependent, but we need to make them self-reliant because this fertiliser that we have been issuing year in year out, but there is no that tangible result. So it is a high time that the Agriculture Committee in this House comes up with the policies that can change the way things are done, so that we can make our proposals to be accountable when it comes to agriculture, .

The One Acre Fund begun from this county of Bungoma and as we speak right now, one Acre fund has spread everywhere. They came up with a good policy. They are loaning

fertiliser, they are loaning farm inputs to farmers and out of that they are even able to sustain themselves and at the same time support the farmers and make farmers accountable. So I am also of the opinion that this issue needs to change. The issue of diversification in agriculture; we need to also take that seriously because as things are right now, every farm produce that we are consuming in this county is not coming from Bungoma county. When it comes to tomato, When it comes to even fruits, all these things; even kale, surprisingly even just kale it's coming from other counties in our neighbouring country when this county has a potential to sustain itself,

I have been to the USA; they only harvest once per year, but they have enough to sustain themselves to the extent of sending aid to a country like Kenya to help us when we have the potential. Luckily, God has favoured us; we have rain almost throughout the year, if we can put a lot of efforts and good policies in our county, I am very sure this county will be the bread basket of this great nation of Kenya. So, I support and I know that with our able Chairperson, together with CEC for Agriculture, we have plans to change the way things are done in this county. I am very sure by next year; we are going to see a lot of tangible results when it comes to agriculture. Let me finish by saying this. We are of the opinion that Mabanga FTC should be autonomous. On the Chwele fish farm, I wish that they can be in a position to produce well without any political interference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Caleb I will go to Hon. Cornelius, who is among those who ran away from their villages to come to town and they are now complaining here bitterly

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for this opportunity to also contribute. First of all, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for presenting this report. You know, I would like to congratulate the Governor for procuring these farm inputs in time and I concur with my brother *Mheshimiwa* (Hon) Makari, that normally in other years, we have been receiving these farm inputs late after planning season, but now, our farmers are happy to have received these farm inputs early so that they prepare very well.

Now I want to tell my colleagues, may be those who don't live in town that we have to complement each other, and we complement each other as those who live in town. We provide ready markets for farm inputs from those rural Wards. So in this case, when we talk about our farmers, we should not forget that even us who live in town, we have farms out there and we do farming. So when we don't receive just like other Wards, because in the Chairman's statement when he was presenting, you could hear he mentioned Khalaba and Township not once, not twice, because we receive less farm input than other wards.

43 wards received more than the two wards. It was a policy; I think which they say that people who live in town don't have farms. So we propose and I discussed with my colleague *Mheshimiwa* Jeremiah; our balance of 300 bags of fertiliser has been there before it was taken to trade loans and you know, with the trade loans it is paid back. So we feel like we have

been discriminated upon. I would propose that our balance of the 300 bags and other farm inputs should be transferred to bursaries in our wards, so that they don't pay back. We are not getting justice as other wards. So I support the report. I cannot say I propose an amendment, but next time, we hope we shall also be given full farm inputs like other wards, we shall not feel discriminated upon. Otherwise I support.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Members, allow me invite the Chairperson to reply to the motion before the House accordingly. Hon. Waiti Wafula, Chairperson, Agriculture?

Hon. Waiti Wafula Thank you Mr. Speaker, I once again rise to thank you and thank the Honourable Members of this Honourable House for the observations they have made in the motion. Without much ado, I want to promise the Honourable Members of this House that I have taken note of the observations and going forward, we shall consider that as a department. How I wish that the Honourable House passed a motion to support our vulnerable farmers waiting to receive the farm inputs.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Waiti for your reply to the motion that was before us this afternoon. Honourable Members, allow me to put a question to the said motion before the House so that you are able to make a decision over the same. A motion was moved and seconded and debate having ensued that this House adopts the report by the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development on the implementation status with the firm input support programme

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

The report is adopted without amendments for forwarding to the relevant department for implementation purposes accordingly.

Honourable members, looking at our Order Paper that was the only motion we had. We will adjourn for now and resume on Wednesday the 1st of March 2023 for our 9:30 a.m. session.

House adjourns