

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

DAILY HANSARD

Tuesday 14th June, 2022

PLENARY

BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

Tuesday 14th June, 2022

The Assembly met at the Mini-Chamber,

Main Assembly Buildings at 9.00 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai) in the Chair]

PRAYER

BOMET COUNTY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Hon. Members, beginning this Afternoon, we will request you to prepare your closing submissions for the term of this current Assembly. We will begin with the order of swearing in. You will make your closing remarks, your experiences, what you saw in the Second Assembly and how we can improve the Third Assembly.

Thank you.

MOTION

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Hon. Maritim.

Hon. D. Maritim: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I wish to Move the following Motion;

That pursuant to Standing Order 193 (5), this County Assembly the adopt the report of the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives on the Bomet County Tourism Policy (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2021) laid on the Table of the Assembly on Wednesday, 8th June 2022.

Hon. Speaker, the Members of my Committee sat to deliberate on the policy and we went through public participation. The Sectoral Committee on Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives derives its mandate from the provisions of Standing Order 193 (5) which defines the functions of the Committee. One important function, for the purpose of this Policy, is to study the programs and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of their implementation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the objective of this policy is to procedurally re-engineer the *modus operandi* of the tourism sector in Bomet County, to give the people of Bomet County and other stakeholders a

platform to guide in sustainable tourism, to clarify and consolidate roles of various stakeholders and partners including the private sector. This will simplify the continued development of an economic and environmentally viable and balanced tourism sector through understanding the internal and external needs and opportunities available in the sector.

The policy identifies objectives that need to be addressed, strategies and the relevant actors. It will provide the necessary direction to support a competitive and sustainable tourism sector and give clear direction to tourism stakeholders and partners for carrying out their operational programmes. Therefore, this policy espouses fundamental guiding principles that should inform its implementation and actions that enhance sustainable tourism in the County and especially in the key areas of promotion and marketing of tourism. It proposes innovative ways of making Bomet County a tourist destination.

Hon. Speaker, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Energy, Tourism and Industry forwarded to the County Assembly, the Bomet County Tourism Policy, 2021 on the 8th October, 2021 for its consideration and deliberation. The Policy was laid on the Table of the County Assembly on 9th November, 2021.

The Hon. Speaker committed it to the Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives and further directed it to deliberate and report to the Assembly as provided for under the County Assembly Standing Orders.

The Committee held a public participation forum on 18th March, 2021 at the Assembly grounds. In conducting the public participation, the committee made reference to *inter alia* the Constitution, the Tourism Act, 2011, County Governments Act, 2012, the Bomet County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013 – 2018. 2018 – 2022, County Strategic Development Plan (CSP) 2018 – 2028, National Tourism Blueprint and the Vision 2030, County Assembly Standing Orders among other enabling provisions of the law.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, on the justification of this policy, the Constitution under Article 185 (4) provides that;

“A County Assembly may receive and approve plans and policies for the management and exploitation of the county’s resources”

Similarly, the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 confers among other roles of the County Governments the trade development and regulation including local tourism.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, guided by Article 118 of the Constitution the committee held a one-day public hearing on 18th March, 2021 and received the following views;

1. The participants proposed that the policy should address the establishment of a local tourism coordination committee to oversee the marketing of the various products available within Bomet County.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, together with my Committee, we went through the five sub-counties. In Sotik, we went to Abosi Hill. In Bomet Central, we went to Masese. In Bomet East, we went to Kaplelach. In Chepalungu, we went to Chepalungu Forest and in Konoin, we went to Iria Maina power plant and caves around there. These culminated to this policy.

2. The participants stressed the significance of guaranteeing safety and security of the tourists and the investments within the region. In this regard, they proposed that the policy should intensely address the various means that guarantee the tourists of their safety.
3. The participants proposed that the policy ignored the issue of marketing of the various products available locally. They proposed that the policy should lay the plan on the promotion of Bomet County as a tourism destination both locally and internationally.
4. The stakeholders already practicing in the industry informed the importance of good road network especially on those destinations in the forests and hilly areas. They proposed that the policy should address this vital factor to guarantee them of future investments.
5. To develop local tourist guiding skills, the participants proposed that the policy should include the establishment of a local tourism learning centre mainly to train the local youth on various tourists needs at the local level.

In fact, Hon. Speaker, Sir, there was a time, Hon. Leonard Kirui from Siongiroi, suggested that we should have a learning tourism centre in Chepalungu. Hon. Speaker, Sir, after the public participation hearing, the committee made the following findings and observations regarding the Bomet Tourism Policy, 2021.

6. That the Policy should provide avenues to complement other policies and legislative frameworks including but not limited to Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) of 2013 that provides for the protection, conservation, sustainable use and management of wildlife in Kenya and for connected purposes. For instance, The National Climate Action Plan (NCAP) of 2018-2022, The Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) blue print, among others.

Remember that we held a Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) meeting here in Bomet. So, this policy should have captured what the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme (LVEMP) discussed during the conference and also the WCMA of 2013.

Findings and observations

- a. The committee observed that the policy did not provide express way on the measures to ensure quality services are provided.
- b. We found out that the policy did not provide measures to ensure quality services. Therefore, the committee suggested that there is need to develop guidelines and regulations.
- c. The committee observed that on tourism education, the policies provide for the support of the provision of basic skills, training, and pre-training for local school leavers, unemployed and underemployed persons.
- d. The department of Trade, Energy, Tourism and Industry (TETI) should incorporate the proposal in the approved Bomet Spatial Plan (BSP); which I think the governor laid the other day.
- e. This policy should incorporate those proposals in the BSP;
 - i. So that we can map areas which are tourist destination in our county.
 - ii. In order to utilize available tools and technology to develop, manage and market tourism products within the county.

Recommendations

After wide consultations and consideration of the views from the members of the public and different stakeholders, the committee established that there are convincing reasons justifying the need for the Bomet County Tourism Policy (BCTP) 2021. The committee therefore approves the BCTP with recommendations therein.

I request Hon. K. Barchok to Second this Motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Hon. Barchok.

Hon. K. Barchok: Hon. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to second the Motion. As our Chair took us through it comprehensively about the tourism policy draft, I wish to make some comments. The public may think that we do not have a tourism industry in Bomet County, which in fact we have but we have not tapped that resource. We may be thinking that tourism can only be taken through Maasai Mara to Mombasa but even Bomet has tourism industry.

The draft entails that tourism policy is to ensure that adequate involvement of the local community in tourism activity. This is to guarantee the social economic benefit.

We went around the entire county identifying the areas that we can be able to see those resources. We went to Fin lays or Kenya Highlands. There is a natural bridge in the forest here. There is a Kapkimolwo Group here but we have not tapped that resource yet it is very important. There is Mt. Abosi which we need to identify so that we can have the resources increasing in this county. Now, this policy will give us the guidelines on how to standardize the processes of every region in this county. I urge this House to give us support so that we can have this policy guide us on how to harvest those resources. Let us not behave as if this county is only meant for the traditional singers. We need to have other natural resources. I Second this motion as I urge this House to support.

Thank you.

(Question of the Motion proposed)

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Hon. Ambrose.

Hon. A. Koech: Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me this chance, particularly almost the second last day. I want to support this Motion about the Bomet County Tourism Policy although it is long overdue.

The Mover of the motion has told us that this Motion has been in CIDP from 2013 to 2018 and from 2018 to 2022. This is a terrible oversight on the side of the Executive for the people to have actually raised an issue that they wanted to be effected in the County 10 years ago and no one seems to have taken notice of it until now.

We have had ten ADPs and at no time has this policy been seen as a priority for the people of Bomet yet it is supposed to be generating revenue. Our own revenue is going down because we do not have measures to tap revenue. When we see a policy like this one, just like many others lying in the executive, it tells us that there is a lot to be done.

Hon. Speaker, as we talk about Tourism Policy, it is always an idea that people tend to think like the tourism is attached to the white people only who come to our country but the local tourism is a flourishing revenue earner to most of the counties in this country. If you go to Kakamega, there is a crying stone that local people go to see and earn revenue for the county.

So, much as I support this policy, I believe that as we pass this Motion, it will gather dust in the executive again for another 10years before it is actualized. I wish it be actualized so that our youths can get employment from this area. We have many youths who have done something on tourism, even degree and have nowhere else to go. They go to Maasai Mara but Narok is prioritizing her people likewise to other areas.

I support this Motion and wish it be implemented immediately for the benefit of this county.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Hon. Kelong.

Hon. J. Kelong: Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. This policy is long overdue. When the county was started in 2013, the departments were also arranged including tourism in the department of Trade. We used to have Miss Tourism in Bomet County but it no longer exists. We need to sell what we have for other people to come and see. If you look at Tenwek Falls, people could come and see; same case to other places within our county.

There are numerous policies that we have passed but they have not been used for the purposes they were intended for. Every department should have funds to cater for all the activities in that department for the benefit of our county.

So, there is no need for us passing bills, policies to be shelved in archives. I think it is better that we pass the Bill today and my request is that it should be used for the purpose that was intended for. Than you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. J. Kirui (**Hon. Leader of Majority**): Hon Speaker I also rise to support this Motion by the Chairperson on Committee on Trade and Tourism. As said by my two able colleagues, this policy is long overdue.

This county is very rich in terms of tourism and tourism sites are available. It is important that the executive has forwarded this policy for the adoption in the Assembly and I want to laud the executive for taking the effort. I am one of the people who are so passionate about tourism and more especially the eco-tourism because we live near the Mau. My ward actually borders the Mau forest and this forest has several birds. The tourism sector that has not been tapped in Bomet is eco-tourism although the other tourism sectors have not still also untapped.

Hon. Speaker, I urge the executive that they actually take it seriously. I know we are in electioneering period and the first regime from 2013/2017 could not forward this thing to assembly because they did not' tapped into the areas that have been explored. It is apparent that they want to come back but the despotic regime will not implement anything. So I want to urge that we adopt this policy. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Hon. Members as I requested you to prepare for our closing remarks, I think we still have time. We can start this morning by making your closing submissions on your observation, views and expectations. I would propose that we proceed now maybe beginning with the members who are inside.

Hon. A. Koech: Hon. Speaker I respect the Chair and as much as you would like us to start now, you know this is something somehow like a eulogy and I wish to say that it will be better if you will give us time maybe up to afternoon or tomorrow so that we can be able to say and much as we will be grateful to talk of what we have achieved and what we have not achieved in this 2nd assembly.

We will also be able to say that maybe our ‘parents’ in this assembly will send us with maybe at least something because I used to see my mother when my sister came home and wanted to leave, as they say bye at least there is something that they were given maybe a pumpkin or something small that they carry. So, I wish that as we also prepare to say thank you the ‘parents’ of this Assembly should also prepare to give us some ‘pumpkins’ and ‘avocados’ to carry home for our children. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Thank you Hon. A. Koech. We can hear someone else give us views on or whether to adjourn the making of submissions.

Hon. Leader of Majority (Hon. J. Kirui): Hon. Speaker, I am also rising to give my input on the observation. We still have a lot of pending issues in the House. We have the supplementary budget that we have not passed. There is a Bill from the Committee on Administration, Peace, Justice and Legal Affairs. that is the County Government Coordination Bill and it will be prudent if we as the leadership will sit down before we talk of adjournment and discuss on how we shall handle some of these pertinent issues before the House.

Hon. Speaker we do not want to go home and relax. We also want to do some business that will translate into the business that the Third Assembly will continue from there and we cannot leave unfinished business to break.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Thank you. I urge the Members to note that this adjournment does not mean the businesses will not continue. Committees will continue with their jobs as required by law on issues to do with budgets and any other business of the House. We will Gazette a Sitting. So, I am sure you can cover as many areas as you can when you are preparing your submissions. Let us do that in the afternoon.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 10.20 a. m.)