REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 23rd February, 2023

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have got a quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Deputy Speaker: Let the Serjeant at Arms ring the bell for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for three minutes)

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, do we have the quorum?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

PAPER LAID

KICOSCA GAMES REPORT

Hon. Salim Edung: I wish to lay the following Paper; the report on the 9th Edition of the KICOSCA games held in Kisumu County from 15th to 21st January 2023, by the Sectoral committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services dated 20th February, 2023.

(Hon. Salim Edung laid the Paper on the table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

KICOSCA GAMES REPORT

Hon. Salim Edung: Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, this Assembly adopts the report on the 9th Edition of the KICOSCA games held in Kisumu County from 15th to 21st January, 2023 by the Sectoral committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee dated 20th February, 2023.

STATEMENTS

NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to give the tentative business for Tuesday, 28th February 2023 afternoon. It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Tuesday (Afternoon), February 28th, 2023.

A. **NOTICES OF MOTIONS -** The County Government to introduce animal identification and traceability system for all livestock in the County in order to mitigate stock theft.

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B. STATEMENTS - Response Statement No. 001/2022 to the Chairperson Finance and County Planning Committee (Hon. Stephen Ndiritu) raised by the Member representing Sosian Ward (Hon. Lekopien Parleto) on 9th November, 2022 pertaining to leasing and acquisition of specialized vehicles and equipment.

C. MOTION - The County Government to develop a Policy on Small and Micro-Enterprises (SMEs) By Hon. Stephen Ndiritu.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative Business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Morning) March 1st, 2023.

A. MOTION - The County Government of Laikipia to consider development and Implementation of a comprehensive community beneficiation framework by Hon. Eunice Salaten.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Afternoon) March 1st, 2023.

A. MOTION - The County Government to introduce animal identification and traceability system for all livestock in the County in order to mitigate stock theft by Hon. Benson Kuria

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Thursday (Afternoon) March 2nd, 2023.

A. MOTION - The Report of the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee on KICOSCA Games.

MOTIONS

FOOD INSECURITY IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;-

THAT, AWARE THAT Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, stipulates the rights of every person to be free from hunger, to have adequate food of acceptable quality, and to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

FURTHER AWARE THAT there is a prevailing food shortage in Kenya which is as a result of among other factors, lack of and inadequate rainfall and the consistent decline in the number of farmers and lands committed to farming, subjecting 4.1 million Kenyans in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) to an acute food insecure situation and about 942,500 children under five years and 134,270 pregnant and lactating mothers to acute malnutrition according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) report;

NOTING THAT about 1.5 million deaths of livestock have so far been reported in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and that the situation is expected to be dire in light of expert projections that Kenya missed the normal cycle of rain that was expected in October, November, and December, 2022 and that this could be the worst drought that the country has experienced in 40 years;

CONCERNED THAT the county is recording incidences of conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists over the scarce resource of water and pasture which results in the destruction of crops and deaths of livestock;

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This House urges the County Government in collaboration with the relevant ministries to develop targeted policy programs aimed at addressing the food insecurity in the county including the following;

i. Coordinate with the relevant agencies to establish strategic grain reserves across the county, with drought-stricken areas receiving priority;

ii. Develop livestock feeding programs in requisite regions, providing water and feeds to the livestock farmers;

iii. Coordinate with the National Drought Management Authority to do quarterly reports to the County Assembly on the drought situation in the county;

iv. Subsidize agricultural production;

v. Establish abattoirs in areas affected by the drought.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I actually want to move the motion and ask the County Government of Laikipia; now that you have got the experience, you as the Member for Nanyuki Ward. You have schools where kids are going for days without food yet the government still wants schools to continue. It is unfortunate, today we were having a meeting with the County Bursary Committee about giving cheques to schools and it is sad to know that we are giving kids bursaries yet they have no food in their homes or even at school. Lately you have heard how drought has stricken the whole country, especially Laikipia County, to be specific. We have had a lot of issues with water problems. From the projections, climate change is affecting everyone, more so the arid areas. We have had issues of insecurity just because of lack of food. So, we want to move the motion and make sure that the County Government steps in to make a plan for the affected people.

Secondly, the good thing that the County recently developed, is an insurance policy for livestock keepers. So that is a little relief but in the middle of problems. I would want to urge Members to make sure that they ask the County Government to consider the factors of food security. When there is plenty of rain, the County Government should have proper storage and give a good subsidy to keep the stores so that the public can access food during dry times.

We also need to ask the County Government of Laikipia to make sure that there are enough boreholes and dams for people to do agriculture, an alternative means of getting food when the rains fail. We have experienced enough problems and we are learning from it. Climate change is here to stay. Therefore, if as a County Government we cannot make a proper plan, we will have these recurring problems every day. No matter how we try to do it, recently they are giving NPRs guns to make sure that they protect communities from livestock theft; it is all because of food insecurity.

People downstream have no water while people upstream are using all the water that is supposed to go downstream. So we should make a plan with the County Government of Laikipia to support and make a proper plan so that we will not have an issue of people fighting over scarce resources in terms of water. We have had issues of pastoralists going to graze in people's private farms. It is just because of climate change that all this is happening and we would want to ask the County Government to make sure that there is a proper plan for everyone to enjoy and at least make enough food for the county.

Thirdly, most of the schools now in arid areas have closed down because of lack of food and enough water. We would also want to urge the County Government to move in and

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make sure that they give out relief food to schools so that learning continues as normal. If nothing happens, we will have a big challenge with many kids dropping out and leaving schools, which might lead to banditry and people going back to old ways since they have nothing to do. If that happens, there will be a lot of insecurity and problems all over the county. I beg to move the motion and ask Hon. Salim to second.

(Hon. Salim Edung seconded)

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, the floor is open for debate.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to contribute towards the motion raised by the Hon. Member from Sosian Ward but am bit concerned. He has talked of drought in semi-arid and arid areas and my shock is that the drought has affected almost every part of the country. Recently, I saw people from Githunguri going for relief food and that is the highland region that we have never heard of such a calamity.

The motion is good but now it is specifically talking of arid and semi-arid areas. Mr Speaker, he also claimed that there is conflict between farmers but I can bear with him maybe because he doesn't know what farming is. With the little water we conserve for irrigation we are really constraining. Mr. Speaker, Lake Olbolosat is in the highlands and it is almost dry. Unless we have a mitigation plan whereby when it rains, we conserve the water. Sometimes back we were claiming that at Archers Post we cannot access water during the dry spell but now even Rumuruti has no water. I don't know the farmers who are doing the farming.

Mr. Speaker, the motion is good but it is not specific because he has specified on some parts. He is lucky because I am a frequent visitor of his area whereby people cannot die of hunger except in schools because they consume porridge, but in their homes, the sheep are still fat. I was in that place recently and the cattle are dying but the sheep are fat. I was shocked because, does it means that these sheep feed on stones because the place is dry and they are fat?

Mr. Speaker, even if the hunger has really affected people, it is only on the cattle and not the sheep even in their locality. I have no maize in my store but he can slaughter a ram and I am sure if am invited; I can be a guest there. Then meat can be in the stomach for a duration so he is a bit lucky.

What I would propose Mr. Speaker, is mitigation measures whereby immediately we will be having the rains, there will be floods. The floods will still flow but we will be left complaining. Due to the climate changes that we are encountering Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that we put proper mitigation measures.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate because I was wondering whether he relocated his animals to Aberdares. Immediately he relocated them there, the place started burning. The little bushes we had to conserve water is already dry. Let us try to find mitigation measures we can implement. The proposal is good but now there is nothing to conserve.

Deputy speaker: Hon. Lekopien?

Hon. Sammy Lekopien: Point of correction, my animals are still in Sosian, not in Aberdares. I think Aberdares was not burning because of pastoralists but charcoal burners.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you for clarification. I was there at Lake Olbolosat recently Hon. Speaker. His community and even his locality there is no cattle within. All the

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cattle are in Aberdares. All the sheep are on the ground. They have left the small kids grazing the sheep but the cattle have been moved by Moran's to other regions.

Mr. Speaker, I am shocked in my area the small streams that have never dried in life now are all dry. A single dam that has never dried even when I was at school, for once it is dry. Drought has touched each and every person. The ground is completely dry. Farmers who have been able to conserve maize stalks, it is what we are using for our animals for the time being. Once it is over, we have nothing and no expectation.

Mr. Speaker, even the elephants have relocated to upper regions. They are at Rumuruti Forest. We are spending sleepless nights. They are looking for anything edible in our farms. I appreciate the motion but he should not only consider semi-arid and arid areas. He should know that the drought is all-over the country even in Mt. Kenya. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Sammy Lekopien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Hon. Kanyutu for the contribution. Just a small clarification. The animals are moving upstream because the only little water left is there. Thank you very much.

(Question put and agreed to)

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY IN GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 24(4), the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor delivered on Tuesday 14th February, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members it is the high time we debate on the address of the Governor again. The floor is open for the Members who have not contributed.

(Silence)

Deputy Speaker: Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House now stands adjourned until next week Tuesday, 28th February, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.10 p.m.

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