REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 7th March, 2024

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have got quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

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

(The quorum bell was rung for 5 minutes)

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Mr. Speaker, I can see quorum in the House.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have got quorum in the House.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have got quorum, let the bell stop ringing and get to the business of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

MEMBERS KAMUKUNJI

Speaker: I have got one communication to make. I am requesting the Members that after the session we remain for a five-minute kamukunji.

NOTICE OF MOTION

DRILLING, EQUIPPING AND MAINTENANCE OF BOREHOLES IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

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

NOTING THAT part two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that County public works and services including water and sanitation services is a function of the County Government;

AWARE THAT Laikipia County is among the counties that are regarded arid with an annual rainfall of between 150-550 mm;

FURTHER AWARE THAT rainfall cannot sustain the water demand in the County;

CONCERNED THAT most of the rivers in the County are seasonal;

FURTHER CONCERNED that there are several boreholes that are not functional in the County due to mechanical problems;

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ALARMED by the consequences of drought on both the environment and human society; this House URGES the County Government of Laikipia;

1. To repair and equip the non-functional boreholes within the County.
2. To drill and equip more bore holes in the County.

STATEMENT

NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Business Committee, I would like to give out the tentative business for next week.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Tuesday (Afternoon) March 12th, 2024

A. NOTICES OF MOTIONS- Motion urging the County Government to equip Mouwarak TVET.

B. NOTICES OF MOTIONS- Motion urging the County Government to ensure that the housing projects being undertaken by the National Government benefits residents of Laikipia in terms of employment and issuing of houses.

C. NOTICES OF MOTIONS- Motion urging the County Government to desilt and prepare dams in preparation for the long rains.

D. MOTION- Motion urging the County Government to ensure that the housing projects being undertaken by the National Government benefits residents of Laikipia in terms of employment and issuing of houses.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Morning) March 13th, 2024

A. MOTION- Motion urging the County Government to desilt and prepare dams in preparation for the long rains.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Afternoon) March 13, 2024

A. BILL- The Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2023(Committee of the Whole House)

B. BILL- The Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2023(Third Reading)

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Thursday (Afternoon) March 14th, 2024.

A. MOTION- Motion urging the County Government to equip Mouwarak TVET

MOTION

DRILLING, EQUIPPING AND MAINTENANCE OF BOREHOLES IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon. Salim Edung: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

NOTING THAT part two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that County Public Works and services including water and sanitation services is a function of the County Government;

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AWARE THAT Laikipia County is among the counties that are regarded arid with an annual rainfall of between 150-550 mm;

FURTHER AWARE THAT rainfall cannot sustain the water demand in the County;

CONCERNED THAT most of the rivers in the County are seasonal;

FURTHER CONCERNED that there are several boreholes that are not functional in the County due to mechanical problems;

ALARMED by the consequences of drought on both the environment and human society; this House URGES the County Government of Laikipia;

1. To repair and equip the non-functional bore holes within the county.
2. To drill and equip more bore holes in the county

Bwana Spika, katika huu mjadala ambao nimeleta katika hili Bunge, sehemu nyingi za Laikipia hazina maji. Karibu miaka saba iliyopita, mito yetu haikuwa, ilikuwa imekauka na tukakosa maji. Watu wetu hutembea karibu kilomita ishirini au tano kutafuta maji. Tunasema katika hili Bunge ya kwamba kama kuna mipangilio ambayo tumeweka ya kuchimba vizima, inafaa tuangalie ni sehemu zipi ambazo zinahitaji sana ndiposa tusaidike upande wa maji.

Kuna visima ambazo zilikuwa zimechimbwa zamani na JICA, karibu miaka ishirini iliyopita lakini sasa hivi hazifanyi kazi. Tunaomba katika hili Bunge ya kwamba kama kuna mikakati ambayo iliwekwa kwa sababu iko, inafaa tuokoe watu wetu kwa kuchimba hizo vizima ili wapate maji. Ninaomba Wabunge wenzangu waunge huu mjadala mkono kwa sababu unatusaidia. Ningependekeza Mheshimiwa Shuel aafiki huu mjadala.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the motion. I want to appreciate Hon. Salim for this motion. It is clear that according to the constitution, water is a devolved function and therefore it is a responsibility of the County Government to make sure that we have good water for our people.

If you read the 2010 Constitution, it has given us the right to clean water. The same case applies to the right to access health. So, it is a responsibility, even according to our Constitution, that every Kenyan must have clean water. Not just water, but clean water. So, it is our responsibility to make sure that people access water without travelling for miles.

People from some specific areas of Laikipia North travel for miles to get water. They travel just to get water, not even clean water. Sometimes, they share water with elephants and other animals. In this county, we have a machine for drilling water, so we have no reason not to have enough boreholes for our people. If you read the Governor's speech, you realize that the Governor promised Laikipians that at the end of his term, we will be having 300 boreholes. It is possible, if we can achieve that, I am sure we will not be where we are now in terms of water.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge the County Government to move with speed and make sure that we have repaired all the boreholes that are there and drill new ones so that people can get clean water. The other thing, I know the Governor is giving women tanks. Women contribute a quarter of the cost and the Governor contributes the rest. So, I am sure that when we drill water eventually and give women tanks, there will be enough storage for the water.

I want to urge the County Government to move with speed and identify all boreholes which are not functional and make sure that they do serious repairs. We also want to know where that machine is, how it is, what the program is and how it is going on. We also want to

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get details of the budget so that in next year's budget, we can know how much it costs us to drill boreholes and equip them, so that we do not give little money which cannot be enough for drilling and equipping boreholes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to agree with Hon. Salim that we need to repair the boreholes and drill new ones so that we can give our people water. Even other areas want boreholes for their farming purposes. Therefore, boreholes are very important to every Laikipian and it is the responsibility of us here because the budget lies in our hands. It is our responsibility to make sure that we have allocated enough funds for water in order to achieve what we want when it comes to water.

I know we must have priorities but if we come here and pass very good motions but do not budget for them, we may end up not implementing them. So, I want to urge Members that we be keen on the budget and make sure that we budget for what our people need, and not just budgeting, but also allocating enough money. I stand to second. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Salim and Hon. Shuel.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I now open the floor for debate.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion. As I do so, we all know that there is a rig that was bought to drill boreholes. I think the health sector is equally as important as the water sector. From the look of things, the County Government of Laikipia is doing so much work to just make sure that the health sector has improved. As much as we are working hard to improve the health sector, we should also work hard to make sure that all the other sectors are equally important. Firstly, if you have a health sector that is good but does not have clean drinking water, it will still cost you more because you will catch water-borne diseases. Therefore, I would want to urge the County Government of Laikipia to take the water sector as equally important to hospitals and other stuff.

Hon. Speaker, as you may have heard, there is a water rig going around drilling boreholes. From the look of things, I cannot figure out how they are doing it because as we speak, I have not heard of even a single borehole drilled in the other wards. I have heard that some wards have had even up to seven boreholes drilled. However, I think we need to move with speed and ensure that the County Government of Laikipia attains the 300 boreholes before the end of five years. As it is going now, we might not attain the 300 boreholes because, firstly, I think there is no proper timetable for the rig to drill the boreholes.

Secondly, from the budget we need to make sure that the water rig gets enough fuel so that when it goes around, we do not stop and wait for a month due to lack of fuel. So, I stand to support the motion that Hon. Salim has brought on the floor. It is timely and is actually one of the best motions we need in order to make sure that the rig goes around and drills water for the people of Laikipia County.

As you may know, since you also come from Sosian, there are some places in Sosian where there is no water. Even as we speak now, people walk for about 20 kilometers to get water yet the County Government of Laikipia has a rig which is functional and could help the locals to ensure that the problem of water does not persist anymore. So, I would want to urge the County Government to move with speed and just make sure that the people of Laikipia get clean drinking water. I stand to support the motion and thank Hon. Salim for bringing this motion to the House.

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Hon Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion brought to the floor by Hon. Salim. Having been a concerned Member of the Assembly on Issues of water, it is very key because as we offer services to Laikipians, water is a very important aspect of lives in this county. We are considered as one of the semi-arid areas in this country. We have lots of water shortage services in our locality.

As we plan on how to make the Budget this year, I would like to urge Members that we support the Department of Water in the Financial Budget. Being the Chairperson of the Budget Committee in this House and having Members on Board, we will have a siting with them so that we can deliberate on issues of Budget in the Department of Water and Agriculture.

As we have experienced for the last financial years, we have not had a good Budget on the Department of water. What will make our Members in this House be re-elected for the second term or the third term is water provision in the Wards. Hon. Sammy Parleto has said that his Ward is one of those ravaged by lack of rainfall and water supply.

Being that people of Laikipia are pastoralist while others are farmers, since the county is unable to provide them with water, it is a failure of the Government. This failure still lies on our shoulders as Members of this County Assembly because we are leaders that are elected by our people and we represent them in this House. Our people lacking water or going for 20-30 kilometers just to access water shows that we have failed.

As one of the Members in this House, I do not want us to fail once more. Issues about drilling boreholes, having the rig is not enough. We need to have a Budget for that rig this financial year because the rig was bought in the last financial year. This year we need to do more allocation on fuel, repair and maintenance services of that rig so that we can have a good Budget that can be sustainable to do the target of 300 boreholes across all Wards.

I urge the Members; we support each other on the process of Budget making so that we can have a good allocation. With this, each and every ward can experience change in matters of water provision and drilling of water borehole in our areas. Again, as we embark on the aspect of water provision, we need to know that rain is here with us.

This year and part of the last financial year, we have been blessed with rains. The overflows of the rivers and the surface running water that we experience in our areas should be harvested. One of the aspects that Hon. Salim stated is the desilting of dams in our areas. Apart from that, we need to do more drilling of bigger dams so that we can harvest more running water and overflow of rivers.

Some areas like my Ward of Tigithi, we have three good rivers that we are able to harvest water from. Secondly, we need a Budget so that we can buy land to build dams or even use public lands to drill dams. The dams that have been there in our wards, need more desilting for them to be deeper for holding more water.

Our areas already experience more rainfall in some areas, even though most of the years they dry up. This motion being tabled in this Assembly, has been raised at the right time. As we are headed to the process of making the Budget, I will urge Members that we do an allocation. If at all we need the ceiling of the Department of Water and Agriculture increased, then it should be done since it's a key aspect of livelihood and for Members being re-elected in this House.

I urge the Members in this House that as we raise to support this motion, we engage each other in the making of Budget process so that we are able to finance this Department accordingly. Thank you Mr. Speaker I rise to support.

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Hon. Benson Kuria: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa hii wakati ama fursa. Nikichukua huu muda kuchangia mswada ambayo tumeweza kuletewa na Mheshimiwa Salim Edung, ambaye amechaguliwa katika Wadi ya Segera. Nina nafasi ya kufurahia kwa sababu najua ya kwamba kile kitu tunachangia ni mswada ambao utasaidia wananchi wa Jimbo la Laikipia.

Kabla niseme lolote, ningependa kusema kuwa katika kitabu cha Biblia Yohana 9:5 inasema, *'muda nilipo ulimwenguni, mimi ni nuru ya ulimwengu.'* Sasa mimi si nuru ulimwengu, mimi ni nuru ya Laikipia. Ndiposa nataka kuchangia huu mswada ili nihakikishie Wajumbe hii ni nuru ambayo itaangazia sisi wote.

Jambo lingine ni kuhusu mambo ya ukarabati ya visima katika Jimbo la Laikipia ama Wadi zetu zile ziko katika sehemu zetu. Najua juu ya mahali kama kwetu Wadi ya Olmoran na Wadi ya Sosian, kwa sababu zimepatana zimeshikana zote mbili. Mahali pale, visima tuko nazo za kujivunia nyingi zao ni zile zilikua zimechimbwa na Wazungu.

Yule ambaye ametuletea mswada ameongelelea kuhusu hali ya mvua yanavyonyesha kuwa milimita mia moja na hamsini, hadi mia tano na hamsini. Ukweli ni kwamba mvua ikinyesha, maji yakipita hatuna nafasi nyingine ya kushuhudia na kupata maji. Kama tungelipata bwawa katika Wadi ya Olmoran, Sosian na zingine ambazo ziko na kiangazi na janga kuu, ingemaanisha kuwa Jimbo la Laikipia lingekua limebadilika.

Ni kumaanisha ya kuwa, wakati Mheshimiwa Salim alikuwa anatafakari na kuwaza huu mswada, alikuwa na uchungu kutoka moyoni mwake ya kuwa katika Jimbo la Laikipia, kuna tatizo na shida ya maji. Zile visima zenye ziko katika taarifa ya Olmoran, kando na Wadi ya Olmoran ni kumi na nane ambazo ziliweza kutobolewa mwaka wa 98. Kwa hivyo, vyote hakuna chenye kinafanya kazi kwa sababu, hakuna mtu ameenda kuzifanyia ukarabati.

Kwa hivyo, ninaunga mkono nikisema ya kwamba huu mswada kwa sababu imeingia katika Bunge hii, najua jambo litatendeka na mambo yatabadilika. Ukiangalia katika eneo la Githima na Shule ya Upili ya Githima, inabidi Kaunti iwatumie lori la maji iwapelekee maji. Hii inafanyika kwa sababu maji wanayokunywa watoto hao, wanayatumia pamoja na ng`ombe na hata na wanyama pori.

Wakati umefika ambapo huu mswada itaweza kubadilisha wakaaji wa sehemu hii ninakaa. Ukiingia mahali kama Mutarakwa, visima ambavyo viliweza kutobolewa mahali pale hazijafanya kazi kwa siku nyingi na miaka mingi. Watu wanaendea maji umbali wa kilomita nyingi. Ukiingia katika Wadi ya Olmoran, kuna *(Olmoran one borehole),* iliyochimbwa mwaka wa 1998 na mabeberu.

Sasa hivi haifanyi kazi. Wameng`ang`ana ili ioshwe lakini hakuna mtu anayeweza kufanya hilo jambo. Maji katika Olmoran, saa hii mtungi moja wanauziwa kwa shilingi thelathini. Yule mwenye yuko na kisima kwake huwa amejitobolea.

Huu muswada umeguza roho yangu na wananchi wa Wadi za Ol Moran na Sosian. Mheshimiwa Spika, ukifika eneo la Oldony'iro, utapata jamii ambayo inaishi mahali pale ni jamii ya Pokot. Kutoka hapo kwenda Lonyiek, wanasafiri umbali wa zaidi ya kilomita kumi ili wapate maji. Hao wanahitaji maji iliyochimbuliwa. Kwa hivyo, wachimbuliwe kisima ili waweze kufaidika.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ukiingia Sosian, kuna Sosian ya juu na ya chini. Ukiingia Ngerachi, kuna zaidi ya umati wa watu elfu moja. Mahali ambapo wanaenda kuteka maji wanatoka pale kwenda kuteka maji. Ningeomba Serikali ya jimbo la Laikipia waweke muhuri huu muswada

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ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Salim. Uweze kupitishwa na kufanyishwa kazi ili tuone ya kwamba kile ambacho tunasema na kile ambacho tunataja liko sawa.

Mimi sitakuwa na mengi lakini ninashukuru kwa sababu ninajua ya kwamba Wanalaikipia watabahatika na watasaidika. Huu muswada ukipita na uwe sheria na wale ambao wamesimamia hizo idara, isiwe tu ni kuongea. Tupitishe ili wafanye kazi ili tuone ya kwamba Laikipia imebadilika. Nashukuru sana Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nashukuru Mwenyezi Mungu kwa kutupatia siku ya leo. Kwanza namshukuru Mheshimiwa Salim kwa kuleta mjadala wa maana sana ambao umeguza mwananchi wa Laikipia na siyo wadi pekee. Mara mingi huwa tunasema maji ni uhai. Kama huna maji kwa boma, hakuna kitu kitafanyika. Nashukuru sana na kitu kizuri kikitendeka ni lazima tuseme. Gavana wa Laikipia Joshua Irungu alinunua gari ya kuchimba kisima juzi.

Hilo tendo linatuonyesha kuna mwangaza mbele. Tunataka mpangilio wa hiyo gari ili tujue hata kama kwangu kuko na shida, eneo la Kaskazini mwa Laikipia kuna shida zaidi. Tusiangalie wadi bali tuangalie ni nani wanaumia. Wale watu ambao wanaumia ni akina mama. Wakati mama anaacha mzee kwa boma, saa kumi na moja, anaenda kutafuta maji na pengine atarudi saa nne. Hata watoto hawataenda shule wala kutumia kifungua kinywa kwa sababu ya kukosa maji. Bila maji, hakuna kitu unaweza kufanya.

Pili ningetaka kuuliza Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Maji tuwe na mkutano mmoja wa hiyo kamati. Mimi ni mwanachama, kwa hivyo tuite Waziri wa Maji, Afisa Mkuu na sisi tukae chini. Baada ya hapo, tukae chini na Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Bajeti ili tujue kile ambacho kitatendeka. Ni heri pesa itafutwe kona zote ili tuone kila mwananchi wa Laikipia amepata maji.

Ukienda Ol Moran kama vile mwenzangu amesema, unakuta ng'ombe, punda na mbwa zinakunywa maji kwa mto na kukojoa humo ndani. Ni lazima watu wapate ugonjwa na hii siyo haki. Nikisimama hapa, tungetaka kuwa na kikao na Gavana. Kwa hivyo, Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Maji anafaa kutuitia Gavana, Waziri wake Leah na Afisa Mkuu Abraham wawe na kikao na kamati. Pesa zinakuja na wakati huu tutakapoweka pesa, tunafaa kuangalia. Usiseme Kamati si yako. Maji si kamati ya mtu ila ni ya kila mtu na boma yake.

Mahali ambapo naishi, kama singepata maji, singeoga wala kunywa maji. Watoto na akina mama wanaumia na wengine wanafanyiwa vitendo vibaya wakati wanaenda kutafuta maji usiku. Maji ni uhai na ningetaka kumshukuru Mheshimiwa Salim kwa kufikiria. Hakufikiria watu wa Segera pekee ila alifikiria mambo ya watu wa Laikipia. Tukisimama hapa tuko nyuma kuunga mkono huu mjadala. Kwa hivyo, Waheshimiwa ishirini na moja wakae chini na wafikirie kuhusu maji katika Laikipia.

Bwana Spika, nashukuru sana kwa hii nafasi na ningeambia Waheshimiwa wenzangu kuwa hii Nyumba si ya Spika ama Mheshimiwa wa kutoka Igwamiti. Hii ni Bunge la kutunga sheria na wakati uliletwa hapa na watu, ni sababu ya kuja na kuangalia shida ambazo ziko. Naunga mkono na nashukuru wale ambao wako, wale ambao wamechangia na wengine ambao watakuja. Tutakaa chini ili tuangalie Bunge hili. Asante sana, Bwana Spika na Waheshimiwa.

Speaker: Hon. Benson, you had spoken. Do you have something urgent?

Hon. Benson Kuria: Mheshimiwa Spika, nilikuwa nataka kuambia Mheshimiwa kutoka Igwamiti kwamba Bunge hili kuna Waheshimiwa ishirini na wawili.

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Speaker: Thank you, very much. Hon. Members, the floor is still open. Hon. Daniel Mugweru. Hon. Benson switch off your microphone.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I think my red light is not clear because I have been pressing this, five times without being recognized or noticed. It is either the red light is not visible or something else is happening. Hon. Speaker, I also rise to make my contribution towards this motion. I like making my contributions because in one way, it is always important when a motion comes to the House, you speak your mind and feeling.

Hon. Speaker, it is the high time as the people of Laikipia we move from politics of promises to politics of actualization. Most of the times we remain in politics of promises and populist politics. We sing a song and we know it is something that is not going to be implemented. We shout so that the people who are voting for us feel that we are fighting for them yet we know whatever we are saying is not practical.

Hon. Speaker, the Honourable House that we are in now that is talking about performing these duties, is the same House that approved a budget that did not have money for this work. Today, we are urging the County Government to repair boreholes. Did we set a budget for that? Hon. Speaker, we are not going to have a budget between now and June. We did not set money for this work.

I have heard you talking about a Mega Dam yet in our budget, we only set Kshs.1.2 million per ward. Now, we are urging the County Government to bring a mega dam worth Kshs.15 billion. Sometimes we need to move from populist politics to politics of reality. Let us face the challenges that we are having in the best way Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, about the Department of Water, the money we set for boreholes, the Hon. Members who are here can confirm that no ward has over Kshs. 2 million that is set for this work that we are talking about.

We do not have an opportunity for a Supplementary Budget yet we are saying that we are urging the County Government to implement all this. Hon. Speaker, it is like a husband telling a wife that I am urging you to cook meat for me yet you left five shillings only. How do you expect your wife to purchase meat at a cost of five shillings Hon. Speaker? Hon. Speaker, sometimes when we say things, unless we are talking about future, because we are having a budget in the month of June. Hon. Speaker, I do not know what Hon. Leshuel wants to say? Let him say whatever he wants to say.

Speaker: Let me give him a minute.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Mr. Speaker, if my brother can allow me, I would like to give him information on this motion. I hear him talking about the Mega Dam. What the motion is saying is to repair and equip the non-functional boreholes within the county and to drill and equip more boreholes in the County. Those are the only two things this motion is talking about. I am very sure if he can allow me to explain, it is not necessarily based on the budget. We have many ways of getting money. Like in my area, there is over Kshs. 12 million which is coming to the County Government to drill boreholes and repair some areas and it is out of the budget. This one is implementable but the mega dam is not in the motion.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just listening because sometimes, people are allowed to hear what they want and not what is said. I have only commented from what Hon. Kamara said. I'm allowed to mention whatever statement that has been said here. I was only talking on what he has said about mega dam. Probably, he didn't hear him saying that but I heard it. That is why I was mentioning about the mega dam.

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Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we need to leave populist politics. That you want your people to know you are fighting for them yet you know whatever you are fighting is nothing. Today, we are talking drilling boreholes. We need to ask ourselves as a House, how many boreholes have been drilled for the community since the rig was bought? Most of the boreholes that have been drilled are for individuals. We must talk and speak the truth.

Only eleven (11) boreholes that have been drilled in Laikipia are for the community. The rest are for individuals. Why are we hiding in the said yet we know the reality. I was giving an example of someone telling his wife to cook good meat yet you only left Kshs. 5. That is what we are doing. We did not budget for this and we must agree to this. We must let it sink to our minds.

Many boreholes are not functional. If you go to the original map of Laikipia East –the one that had both Laikipia East and North, in the year 1998-1999. The time Hon. Salim was a councillor, they did so many boreholes with JICA. In my ward, I think every school had a borehole.

As Members, the little budget we have, instead of equipping those boreholes that were done, we are building new ones leaving those ones there. That is the challenge we have. Assuming the project was started by another person that is why we cannot continue improving the same project. We need to agree and believe in ourselves. We have little money. The money we have is not equal to the work that is ahead of us. If there is a borehole that was drilled many years ago, it is the high time that instead of building new ones you equip the ones existing.

Mr. Speaker, in the last five years that were ahead of us, I've heard Hon. Kamara mention over 10 boreholes that were never equipped. But probably in the same area of Sosian Ward, in the last Assembly I was able to see drilling of boreholes worth Kshs. 5,000,000. Why drill a borehole worth Kshs. 5,000,000 instead of equipping three that are existing? You ignore the existing and you build new ones. Go to Umande Ward, there is no borehole that was built by JICA that is not equipped. I capitalized on not building new ones. I equipped that one built in 1998. That is why we are where we are now.

Hon. Speaker, we must agree to stop thinking like we have a lot. We have minimal. We have little money. It is the high time we think on utilizing the little we have in the best way that we can help the Wananchi. It is a good motion and idea and probably in the month of June, the same Members who are seated here and those not here, we will not see them going against the budget for water. It is a reality.

Mr. Speaker, today we are talking about water because we are in the month of March where we have a dry season. In the month of June when we will be approving the budget, you will hear some Hon. Members saying, '*toa hio ka maji, weka kwa barabara.*' That is the reality. We must stand firm if at all we mean what we are saying. In the month of June, let us approve the budget equal to the works that are there.

We are the ones who moved money meant for water to other departments like health. It is the high time if we mean business. If we want boreholes to be done, if we want water, we should approve money to be moved from another department to water. Otherwise, it is unfortunate when we get out all the money from water and then we start crying in the month of April. Come May, there will be a lot of rain and by June, we cannot talk about water anymore because we have surplus water.

Hon. Speaker, we are supposed to stand and know even if it is June or May January is coming again. Dry season will come again so that we may work for the people of Laikipia

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diligently and with a lot of honesty. It will so unfortunate when I go to the people of Umande and tell them that now we have decided that we are going to do boreholes this and that so that they can clap for me yet deep in my heart I know there is no budget for that.

We must live a real life and politics of promises. We now actualize and get to real politics in this county. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I support and hope that the Hon. Members who are here and those absent in the month of June will still remember this. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. I now want to take this opportunity and invite the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Ningetaka kuelezea ndugu yangu Mheshimiwa Mugweru hatua ya kutoka Misiri na kuenda Caanan, mpaka upige hatua. Katika Bunge hili, tumepiga hatua ya kununua ile mashine ya kuchimbua maji. Hiyo ni hatua moja. Ikiwa katika wadi yake hahitaji maji, kuna sehemu zetu zinahitaji maji. Ningesema kwamba wakati tutafanya bajeti ya maji, ni vizuri tuongeze bajeti bila kuguza mahali pengine.

Mheshimiwa Spika, nashukuru kwa wale Waheshimiwa wamechangia mjadala huu kwa sababu inatugusa kila mtu Laikipia nzima. Ingawaje ilikuwa imetengwa pesa kidogo, tumejua umuhimu wa kuongezwa fedha za maji. Nashukuru kwa wale wamechangia na kwa wale wako manyumbani, nawaambia karibuni ili tusukume gurudumu katika Bunge hili letu ili wanadamu wapate kuona kazi iliyotuleta hapa. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow next week Tuesday, 12th March, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 2.45 p.m.

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