REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 16th June, 2026

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.00 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

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

(Quorum bell rang for four minutes)

Hon. Denis Kaniaru: Mr. Speaker, we now have quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if indeed we do have quorum.

(Quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Thank you. If we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing and that we proceed into the business of the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

PREPAREDNESS FOR EL NINO RAINS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT the Kenya Meteorological Department, in its El Nino–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook released in April 2026, indicated a likely transition to El Nino conditions later in 2026, with forecasts projecting a 58–61 percent probability of El Nino occurrence from June to December 2026;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in its El Niño/La Niña Update issued on 2nd June 2026, forecast an 80 per cent probability of El Niño conditions developing during June–August 2026 and a probability exceeding 90 percent of persisting through November 2026, with the potential to enhance rainfall and increase the risk of flooding in parts of East Africa;

COGNIZANT THAT previous episodes of heavy rainfall in Laikipia County have resulted in loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of residents, outbreaks of water-borne diseases, and damage to critical infrastructure;

This House URGES the County Government of Laikipia to undertake all necessary preparedness and mitigation measures, in collaboration with relevant agencies to

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safeguard lives, livelihoods, infrastructure and property against the anticipated El Nino rains.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

MOTION

PREPAREDNESS FOR EL NINO RAINS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT the Kenya Meteorological Department, in its El Nino–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook released in April 2026, indicated a likely transition to El Nino conditions later in 2026, with forecasts projecting a 58–61 percent probability of El Nino occurrence from June to December 2026;

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COGNIZANT THAT previous episodes of heavy rainfall in Laikipia County have resulted in loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of residents, outbreaks of water-borne diseases, and damage to critical infrastructure;

This House URGES the County Government of Laikipia to undertake all necessary preparedness and mitigation measures, in collaboration with relevant agencies to safeguard lives, livelihoods, infrastructure and property against the anticipated El Nino rains.

Bwana Spika, huu ni mswada ambao tumeweza kuleta katika Bunge hili ili kuuliza serikali kupitia idara zote ambazo zinahusika. Ni vyema kuwa tayari wakati tahadhari inatolewa na wahusika wowote. Iwe ni *Red cross* au hali ya anga inapotolewa ni vizuri serikali pamoja na wananchi kuweka tahadhari. Bwana Spika, wakati mvua kubwa inanyesha kupindukia huwa inasababisha hasara kubwa sana kwa mwananchi. Ni vyema kama serikali ambayo iko kwenye mamlaka ihakikishe ya kwamba mambo ambayo yanafaa akufanywa ili kuzuia uharibifu mkubwa inafanywa mapema.

Bwana Spika, juzi kumenyesha mvua ambayo ilionekana kubwa ambayo ilisababisha mafuriko hasa katika mji wa Nanyuki na sehemu za Ruai, Kilimo na Likii. Bwana Spika, tumeweza kuwa na hiyo shida na kama serikali haitaweza kuwa tayari, huenda tukapoteza mali, maisha ya wananchi na pia tuwe na magonjwa ambayo yatatokea wakati huo. Bwana Spika, kuhusu barabara zetu, ni lazima tuwe tayari kuhakikisha kwamba mifereji yote ya kupitishia maji taka imefunguliwa.

Hakuna *culvert* yeyote ambayo inafaa kubaki bila kutolewa udongo ili maji ikija inapita kwa haraka ikienda mahali inapasiwa kuenda. Bwana Spika, unaweza kuzuia mambo mengine yeyote lakini ni ngumu kuzuia maji. Moto ukitokea unaweza kuja na zima moto lakini mvua inaponyesha kubwa hauwezi kuwa na ziwa lako la kuchotea kabla ifikie wananchi. Hili ni jambo ambalo tunafaa kuwa tumejitayarisha.

Bwana Spika, ni vyema serikali ielewe ya kwamba sisi kama wawakilishi wa wananchi tumeweza kuona mbele. Tumeweza kufungua macho yetu kabla haya mambo yafike. Wahusika wote ambao wako katika ofisi na ambao wanafaa kufanya hii kazi wanafaa kuwa tayari na

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waanze kufanya hiyo kazi. Bwana Spika, ukiona wakisema kuna uwezekano wa mvua ambao itazidi kwa asilimia tisini, itakuwa ni hatari. Wanasema inaweza kunyesha kutoka milimita 58 hadi 60. Bwana Spika, ile mvua kubwa imenyesha ni juzi Nairobi ambayo ilikuwa milimita 24 ambayo ilisababisha hasara kubwa sana.

Sasa hii ni mara tatu hiyo. Kwa hivyo, hili ni jambo ambalo tunafaa kuwa makini. Vile vile wakulima ambao wako sehemu za chini, tunafaa kuwatahadharisha kwa sababu wakati mwingine mvua inanyesha na badala ya kuleta faida inaleta hasara.

Siku moja, mimi ni mtalii kivyangu na niliweza kutembea upande wa Nyahururu na Marmanet nikielekea upande wa Sipili mahali ambapo nilipiga vichochoro hata kama siwezi kumbuka kunaitwa aje. Nilipata mlima mwingine huko mbele ukishapita Gatanga ukielekea Karamba. Niliona mahindi zingine zilikuwa zimegeuza rangi kwa sababu ya wingi wa maji.

Kwa hivyo, jambo kama hilo likitokea wale wakulima hupata hasara na ni vizuri tuwatahadharishe mapema. Mzungu husema ya kwamba '*Information Is Power.'* Kama tutakuwa na ujumbe ama tuweze kufahamisha wanchi wetu mapema, kama ni mitaro watachimba mapema ili maji ikija badala ya kusimama pale inaweza kusonga. Hayo ndiyo mambo ambayo naona ni vizuri tuyazungumzie ili tuwe tayari kutengeneza barabara zetu.

Serikali Kuu inafaa kuingilia kwa sababu katika bajeti ambayo tuko nayo katika Serikali ya Kaunti, wakati mwingine huwa ni shida kwa sababu tukisema ya kwamba tutaweka mitaro yote ambayo inafaa kuwekwa, itabidi tutumie zaidi ya bilioni tatu ambayo ni mara tatu ambayo Kaunti hupokea kwa upande awa maendeleo.

Kwa hivyo, hili ni jambo ambalo tunaweza kuhimiza Serikali Kuu kuingilia kati. Nchi ni kubwa lakini sisi kama wananchi wa Laikipia, kuna zile pesa ambazo hutengwa na serikali za dharura. Katika Kaunti yetu tuwe mojawapo ya Kaunti ambazo zinafaa kupewa hizo pesa ili tuhakikishe ya kwamba tumepigana na hili janga la El Nino.

Bwana Spika, sasa hivi wale ambao hupima hali ya hewa wanaongea kuhusu El Nino na La Nina. La Nina ni wakati kinapokuja kiangazi. Sasa tuko kwa kiangazi na juzi tulikuwa kwa mvua. Kwa hivyo, wakati mwingi huwa nashangaa ni nini serikali inaweza kufanya kuzuia. Juzi tulipelekwa na maji na leo hatuna maji mpaka unashindwa hii ni nchi gani. Juzi tulipelekwa na maji.

Ni lazima tuwe na mipango mwafaka ambayo itaweza kusaidia. Juzi niliona wakulima ambao wanafuga ng'ombe kwa mfano wa Maasai. Juzi wameanza kuhamisha ng'ombe zao zikienda Mlima Kenya na sasa tunaambiwa ya kwamba kiuna El Nino. Haya ni mambo ambayo yanafaa kuangaliwa na kupangwa vizuri tusije kuwachia wananchi shida na mateso ya ghafla.

Bwana Spika, kwa sababu nimesema ya kwamba mimi ni mkulima ya chakula na ng'ombe kidogo, na ni mkaaji wa mji wa Nanyuki. Ningetaka rafiki yangu hapa ambaye alihamisha ng'ombe juzi kwa sababu ya kiangazi na ambaye huiishi mashambani na ni mkulima wa mbuzi na ng'ombe, sote tunaweza pata hili janga. Kwa hivyo nitamkaribisha, yeye hutetea watu wake kwa njia ya kipekee na anapotetea watu lazima ajue ni nini iko huko kaskazini kwa mfano tukiongea mambo ya pesa.

Nafikiri ni mmoja wa wale wakaaji wa Laikipia Kaskazini ambao wanafaa kutegemea pamoja na wewe Bwana Spika kwa sababu nyinyi ndio mko macho na huzungumzia mambo ya sehemu hiyo. Kwa hivyo, naomba Mheshimiwa Leshuel aweze kuunga mkono huu mswada ili tupitishe.

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Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member, the Chair of Budget for being a proactive person. El Nino is coming and it is good to be proactive to ensure that we do not suffer. I second the motion. It is very true as the mover of the motion has said that it is our responsibility to put all measures possible to ensure that we don't cry when the El Nino arrives.

Mr. Speaker, what are those measures that we need to put in place? One of them is opening of the drainages. You know Kenyans are crazy. Yesterday on my way to Nairobi, just past Thika, I saw very big buildings but in a serious swamp. So, when people are crying at times, they are the creators of problems because you cannot divert water from its natural way. But we are trying to do that and it is not possible.

So, we need to put measures now. The government should wake up and open drainages and alert people who are living around the rivers to move a bit far and especially those who are living down there. Most of those who live down there, water comes and finds them there even without the rains. So, when you are just grazing you see a big thing coming like a hill or mountain and you are not aware what it is. So, it good to alert people that when they see the signs of rain to move a bit far from the rivers.

Mr. Speaker, because we are experienced about patterns of rainfall, it is just a matter of alerting people. We need to also understand how to capture this water. A lot of water comes and goes and leaves us dry and crying. It is lie we are not prepared. If you look at the two rivers in this country like Ewaso Nyiro which goes up to Lorian Swamp, a lot of water pass through that river. The other one is River Tana to Indian Ocean and a lot of rain water goes that direction. What measures do we put in place to ensure that the Kenyans who are living around there are benefitting from that water?

So, it is good because we can talk about the country but we definitely need to talk about our county. The reason as to why we have the small dams is so that we try to capture water despite of not having enough resources because the dams that we are constructing are very small. We need to have at least two or three in every ward especially in Laikipia North. A mega dam that would capture plenty of water. It would be wise because when we talk about Kshs.40 million to install an intake from Mt. Kenya to Laikipia North, why don't we have a mega dam that can supply water all over without cost? Because to get water from Mt. Kenya to Laikipia North, you will need maintenance of those pipes.

You also need to pay the government money because you pay subscribes of some money every month. When you go and give your animals water, Mr. Speaker, where do you get money to pay? You can't sell every single goat to pay for water. So definitely you leave that water and take your animals for miles to get water.

So, the best way is to have a mega dam and then we distribute to water points for animals. For those who are doing irrigation, there is a proposal for a long time that we need to have a mega dam around Mount Kenya that supply water to Umande, parts of Mukogodo East, Segera, and the entire Nanyuki and some areas that are dry. Those people will be having serious cultivation or farming.

Mr. Speaker, we are good in speaking, we are good in writing things in paperwork but action is what we are lacking in this country because we never prioritise things right and that is our big problem. If today we think that we have only two projects in Laikipia for two years, even if we have very little money in the budget we can allocate for two years and complete those two projects. Those two projects can serve the entire Laikipia for the last 20 years or 100

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years. But what are we doing? We are just putting small projects here and there which doesn't have even impact? People even don't realise that I have done ABCD, Mr. Speaker.

So now, because I want to come back to the content of the motion, we need now to have serious measures, Mr. Speaker. Serious measures on opening of the drainages and serious on how to capture that water when the rain comes? How do we make sure that the pastoralists are in good and safe hands because sometimes they live all over?

Number two, outbreak of diseases for human and animals Mr. Speaker. How do we control that? What measures are we putting in place? We are very quick in putting measures on Ebola to save people from outside but we never put measures to save ourselves. If El Nino happens to come, it would really kill animals. Like you remember the 2007 El Nino, it swept all our animals because of a disease that affects goats and cows.

So, if we don't put measures to prepare for that, then after El Nino we are going to remain poor without food and animal products. So we live poor. Therefore, it is for us to prepare now in terms of diseases and in terms of health department. We prepare how to secure people in terms of outbreak. We prepare the livestock department to prepare themselves. We prepare the water to take care of the outcome of the rain. All that is inclusive of everything. So, if we don't do that, then we'll cry after El Nino.

Why do you cry when you hear that from today there is an animal coming to eat people and it is in Isiolo? And then you wait here, you are not prepared, you don't run away until it kills you. Then you are a fool because you have two options. You either run away or you prepare.

If we are not prepared, unfortunately this thing can cover the whole of East Africa and so we can't even run away. So, it is our responsibility just to prepare ourselves. So, I second and I want to thank the Member for being proactive that he gives us a preparation. Now that we are preparing our people for elections, let's now introduce that motion to the people that El Nino is coming. So be prepared because we don't want to lose them.

We want to have an additional vote. So, we don't want to lose them. We don't want to also lead poor people. As a leader, if you want to get a rough time, lead poor people. Poor people never make their own decisions and never have independent minds. They are driven by so many things, Mr. Speaker. Again, they will disturb you because when you go to them you will find them crying. When you do your research, you will realize that they don't have food.

So definitely, you'll be disturbed by the way they live Mr. Speaker. So, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are stable in terms of health and they are stable in terms of wealth. They should be people that we rely on. I thank the Members and let's take this seriously Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I now open the floor for the Members who may wish to contribute to this debate.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa kunipatia hii nafasi. Naunga mkono huu mswada wa kuhusu Elnino. Elnino haijaanza leo lakini ilianza miaka mingi sana. Waswahili husema ya kwamba panapo moshi, hapa kosi moto. Tunafaa kama Kaunti ya Laikipia tuweke mikakati ya kuzuia hadhara ambayo Elnino huleta. Kwa mfano, wakati mvua itakaponyesha na iwe kubwa kama ya Elnino, mara nyingi kuna jamii ambazo hukaa karibu na mito kwa kutojua hadhara za mvua. Ni vizuri kuelimisha watu katika vijiji na kwa mikutano

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ya kwamba kuna Elnino ambayo yatarajiwa na ni vyema watu waende mahali ambapo pameinuka.

Jambo lingine Bwana Spika, hasa kwa wale watu ambao huchunga ng'ombe na mbuzi, ni vizuri wapate habari ya kwamba mvua ambayo inayotarajiwa ni nyingi na sio kama ile ambayo sisi hupata kwa wiki lakini inakuja mfululizo. Watafiti wanasema ya kwamba itakuwa mara tatu kuliko yenye sisi hupata kawaida.

Inafaa tukiwa Kaunti ya Laikipia, tuweke mikakati. Tujue hii mvua ikinyesha tutasaidia vipi kwa upande wa barabara na mabwawa. Kuna mabwawa mengine ambayo ni madogo, yakijaa, maji yanabomoka na kuathiri watu. Tukichukua mfano wa mabwawa yaliyobomoka katika eneo la Solai, Nakuru, na kuua watu wengi na kuwafanya wengine kuwa maskwota. Mabwawa yalibomoka na watu wengi wakafa na majumba kusombwa. Lazima tuangalie mikakati kama hio kwa makini. Hata tukijenga bwawa kubwa, tuhakikishe lina sehemu ya maji kuingilia na sehemu ya kutokea.

La mwisho, Bwana Spika, ni kuhusu hizi barabara zetu. Mifereji ya kuondoa maji, hasa kwenye barabara za mji wa Nanyuki, hujaa hadi maji yanaingia kwenye barabara. Inaonyesha kuwa kuna mahali pengine ambapo maji hujaa hadi inakosa njia ndipo inaingia kwenye barabara. Kama Kaunti ya Laikipia, lazima tuangalie kwa umakini na kuwakinga na kuwaeleza watu wetu kuwa hili jambo likitokea tutapunguza vipi.

Bwana Spika, nasema hivyo kwa sababu hivi majuzi tuliona kila sehemu ya Nairobi imefurika maji. Barabara zilikuwa zimejaa maji. Kuna watu waliojenga karibu na mito na hayo maghorofa yalikuwa yanaanguka. Hayo ni madhara ambayo watu walipata. Huenda watu walipewa vyeti bandia ndiposa wakajenga karibu na mito. Hata hivyo, mvua ikija haitaki kujua iwapo umejenga wapi; itapita tu kwenye mkondo wake, kwa sababu maji hufuata mkondo. Ni hatari watu wakijenga karibu na mito. Naunga mswada wa leo mkono kwa sababu tunajua kuwa ni lazima tuwaeleze watu wetu kutahadhari dhidi ya El Nino inayokuja. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Salim. I want to give a chance to Hon. Kanyutu.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion by the Chairman of the Budget Committee who is also our Whip. I am shocked. We are intending to prepare for El Nino but unfortunately, even the long rains we had at the beginning of the year damaged almost everything. You can remember that when there were floods in Nairobi, vehicles were being evacuated because roads had been rendered impassable. The concern is, if the rain that is predicted to come will be more than what we had observed, I wonder whether the Honourable Whip would advise us to start relocating from the lower areas where we reside to Mount Kenya. If it will be three times more than what we witnessed, I wonder what that situation would look like.

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, we have not been able to repair the roads that were damaged by the previous rains. If we start preparing now, I wonder whether we will start by repairing whatever was damaged as we wait for El Nino, or where will we start from? It is a challenge. However, it is good for us to be alert so that if one resides in a lower region, they will try to relocate to a higher region because if one gets swept away, no one will rescue them. Some of us even fear any amount of water that is more than a basin.

Those who are in lower grounds or next to rivers should try to relocate to higher grounds. However, it is unfortunate because I do not know what is happening with our resources at the moment because even the vote that we allocate at the county level has not been utilized yet we are in June. The machinery is moving at a snail's pace. I would wish that we try

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to make it faster because if El Nino starts right now or in a month's time, the situation will be even worse. I hope we will have some preparedness on how to counter. However, the situation on the ground is not good because of the previous rains yet it was not even El Nino. I wonder what will happen when El Nino arrives. I support.

Speaker: Thank you. I now want to give the chance to the mover of the motion to reply. Hon. Stephen?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nachukua hii nafasi kuwashukuru Wabunge ambao wametoa mchango wao kuhusu haya mambo ya El Nino. Unajua, Mheshimiwa Spika, kujitayarisha ni jambo muhimu. Sasa wananchi pamoja na serikali, hata kama hawakuwa wamesikia kutoka kwa watabiri wa hali ya hewa, wamesikia kutoka kwa Mbunge. Unajua kuna watu wenye masikio yasiyosikia. Sasa hata sio kusikia pekee, tutawapa hadi mswada waguse ili waelewe tunachokizungumzia.

Mheshimiwa Spika, wajua kujitayarisha inamaanisha kujitayarisha kwa kila kitu. Hata hili Bunge linafaa kujitayarisha maanake mambo mengine yameharibika. Angalia viti ambavyo Wabunge wanakalia; vimeisha. Vimechafuka. Hii ni aibu sana. Nilikuwa nafikiri iwapo wasimamizi wa Bunge hawana pesa za kutengeneza hivi viti, basi watafute vile vitambaa vya kujifunga ili mtu akiingia pale anajifunga. Mtu akitoka hapa amejaa uchafu kwenye mgongo hata anaona aibu.

Mheshimiwa Spika, Wakikuyu husema kuwa mwenye anakula kwa vidole ndiye huchomeka. Huenda ikawa sisi tunakula na vidole ila hatuchomeki. Wajua hapo kwenye meza ya juu, viti vyenu viko sawa. Nyinyi mnakula kwa vijiko kwa hivyo hamchomeki. Hamna hio shida. Nikiangalia kiti chako, kiko sawa. Hata kina taji na ni kipya. Viti vya makarani pia ni vipya. Kwa hivyo, sisi tunaona kama tumetengwa na kuwekwa kando. Mheshimiwa Spika, tunataka kuhusishwa katika kila kitu na mambo yatengenezwe. Nashukuru kwa mswada na naomba Wabunge kuupitisha ili ufanyiwe kazi inayofaa kufanywa. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 16 June 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.47 a.m.

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