REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 19th September, 2023

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum?

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct the bell be rang for 10 minutes.

(The bell was rung for 16 minutes)

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum?

(Clerk confirmed the achievement of Quorum)

STATEMENT

SPORTSMAN'S ARMS HOTEL LAND ALLOCATION ISSUE IN RUMURUTI

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Hon. Speaker, I rise to give a Statement on the Sportsman's Arms Land Hotel issue in Rumuruti. Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 45(2/c) I wish to seek a Statement from the Chairperson for Finance and County Planning in regards to the above-mentioned subject.

Hon. Speaker, part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution stipulates that land surveying and mapping is a function of the County Planning and Development Function. Sportsman's Arms Hotel has been issued a land in Rumuruti that is close to 20 acres. The said parcel of land situated next to KEMRI or Juakali sector and it is in the opposite side of Kandutura and has already been fenced.

I wish to request the Chairperson for Finance and County Planning to inform this House on the procedure used to issue the said parcel of land. The committee should also furnish this House with documentation for the said land issued to Sportsman's Arms. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I will direct this Statement to the committee on Finance and I will give them a period of two weeks to respond to it. We expect their response by 3rd October, 2023. What is it Hon. Lempaira?

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT COUNTY IMPORTANCE ON UN-PROCEDURAL HIRING OF ENUMERATORS

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in reference to Standing Orders No. 34 on matters of Urgent County Importance. As we are all aware, agriculture is one of the devolved functions that is fully within the mandate of the County Government. One of

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our roles as Members of the County Assembly is to oversight on everything that goes on within the department.

A few weeks ago, there was an advert that was publicised by the department on the hiring of Enumerators and Supervisors. They were supposed to collect data that can help the department in the upcoming project on food security and make sure we have a comprehensive data on all our farmers so that they can at least have access to fertiliser or be factored in during planning on issues of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing serious challenges especially on how the process was undertaken. If you look at the advert, it states that it has to be regional and represent our villages where our enumerators will be picked from. If you look at the list which is out there, it is like drama. Every now and then, we have different information going to our youths who are jobless out there.

Today, they are receiving messages that they have been selected as enumerators then tomorrow in the morning, you are advised to report to the training; in the midday another report comes that you are not in the list. If you look at my Ward, Mukogodo West which is big geographically. Our pattern of settlements is also different from other wards. If you look at the selection of these Enumerators, it was designed for people from one specific area to be picked. How does someone from Ewaso be taken to do enumeration at a place called Sek?

A few minutes ago, we had a meeting with a few MCAs and we agreed and discussed that we have to bring this issue to the floor of the House so that we can look into these challenges that are actually in the department of Agriculture. A few days ago, the Governor instructed me and Hon. Leshuel to go and sit down with the CECM for Agriculture so that we can sort issues raised by MCA's and public in our respective wards.

When we sat down, we recommended that they should cancel the entire process. It should be done a fresh and we have consultation among the key stakeholders. When the people go out there to represent the region, for example in my ward, they will represent the nine group ranches that are there and every person will come from one group ranch so that they can collect data as per the group ranches.

The list that was sent there was wrong. It was not balanced and it is bringing a lot of issues within the youth in my ward. There is something that we might have had in the list. Maybe the list is doctored but it is the opposite because what we are speaking of with the CECM and the CO is different from what is being presented there.

Mr. Speaker, we resolved that we are going to have a meeting with the panel that was supposed to do the selection of the enumerators because we have one staff in the Agriculture Department who goes by the name of Lincoln Njiru; he doesn't take orders from anybody. He takes orders from himself and he does what he wants. Mr. Speaker, I am asking that we discuss the issue that is at hand so that we come up with recommendations and we present them to the CECM in a few minutes. This can be implemented and be taken into consideration due to the uniqueness and the challenges that every ward has.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask that we discuss the issue that is affecting the Agriculture Department and specifically the Agriculture Enumerators so that we can try to get the best way forward. It is not only affecting Laikipia North but it is also a challenge that we are having in Laikipia East and West. Mr. Speaker, that was the urgency of the matter that I wanted us to discuss. Thank you.

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Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lempaira has risen on the matter pertaining to Standing Order Number 34, matter of urgent county importance. The Standing Order states as follows;

(1) Any Member may at any time rise in his or her place and seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent county importance.

(2) A member who wishes to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly shall, at least two hours before the commencement of the sitting, hand to the Speaker a written notification of the matter but the Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim, unless the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is definite, urgent and of county importance and may properly be raised on a Motion for Adjournment of the Assembly

Hon. Members, I confirm that Hon. Lekopien has given me a notice more than two hours ago. I also want to allow the debate on the same.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On the same motion on the Agriculture Department, I support the Hon. Member for Mukogodo West, Hon. Lempaira. This is a sad story for this country and county that the Agriculture Department has been taken over and controlled. From the look of things, it is either the CECM, the CO or the Directors are out of hand and they cannot control what is happening in that department.

In conjunction with what the Hon. Member has said, we heard that advertisement. We had a sitting with the CECM and we were told that everything is in order. All over sudden everything turned out and the CECM himself does not have a hand on it. He seems confused and that he doesn't know what is happening. From the look of things, the CO is out of it and as the Hon. Member has said, the Agriculture Department is a fully devolved function of the County Government.

It seems that there are some cartels or senior people from the National Government who want to take control of the whole program. With that regard, the County Assembly of Laikipia is not in support of it. Firstly, there was no regional balance, secondly, there was no ethnic balance, thirdly there was interest from outside the County Government and especially from the National Government.

We are ready to lose the whole program if they do not want to hear our voices and the voices of the citizens. We stand united either for them to stop the whole process and research again or they stop the whole program and withdraw from the County Government. Thank you.

Hon. John Gichuki: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nasimama hapa kuunga mkono muswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Lempaira. Mheshimiwa Spika, saa hii tumetoka kwenye mkutano na ukiangalia orodha kutoka kwa Idara ya Kilimo, haina usawa kabisa. Nikiangalia orodha ya kwangu yote imeingiliwa kati. Nikifuatilia orodha ya wale ambao walienda kuhojiwa na orodha ambayo ilipendekezwa, ni tofauti sana.

Ni kama hiyo idara imetekwa nyara na mtu mmoja ambaye ni Lincon Njiru. Mheshimiwa Spika, naomba huu mchakato usimamishwe hadi lihalalishwe na Wabunge wote walio kwenye hili Bunge. Naomba kwamba ikiendelea hivyo, iwe na ujumuishaji kwa sababu sasa hivi haina. Sina lingine.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. John Gichuki. I will give the floor to Hon. Mwaniki.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for awarding me this chance to contribute to this motion. Having had recruitment in the Agriculture Department going on, we

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have had several challenges in this county. It is as if Members' voices in this county are not being heard, and the County Government itself is not being heard. As the Members who have supported this motion and the person who has tabled it have said, regional balance is key in this county. Having a tribal balance is still another challenge.

As we have seen through the recruitment process that has been going on, the people who have been picked to perform this duty of data collection in the Agriculture Department of this county do not portray inclusivity of all people in Laikipia County. The people who are leading the Department of Agriculture, it is as if there is an upper hand controlling whatever is going on in this department, yet we have seen and we know that according to the constitution of the Republic of Kenya, agriculture is a devolved function.

Despite it being a devolved function, it seems the National Government, through the Department of Agriculture is controlling whatever is happening in our agriculture sector. So, we as the County Government of Laikipia need this to be addressed. We need to sit down and have a discussion with the leadership of this county so that we can forge a way forward on this issue.

Our youth are the people who should be awarded these jobs. When we do not have regional balance in this county, we are not giving a chance to our youth to perform what needs to be done in this county. These are jobs and our people are out there without jobs, and we need them to be recruited. You can check it out, Mr. Speaker, we have learned people in this county. As we are advocating for education in this county, performance is still key.

When our people are not being awarded jobs in this county, then we have failed somewhere. So, as I rise to support this motion, I seek the whole Department of Agriculture to sit down with the Hon. Members and the leadership of this county so that we can forge a way forward on this issue. Thank you.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa hii nafasi ya kuunga mkono mjadala ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Lempaira katika Bunge hili. Tukijaribu kuangalia kwa makini sana, siku ya leo imekuwa siku ambayo sisi sote katika Kaunti ya Laikipia tumekuwa na kiwewe kwenye mioyo yetu. Hii ni kwa sababu ya mpangilio uliowekwa wa kuajiri wahesabu. Walifanya maombi na kuja kwenye maofisi kufanyiwa mahojiano, lakini waliofanya maombi na kuambiwa ya kwamba wanahitajika kuwasilishwa wanakohitajiwa kufanyiwa mafunzo, unapata kuwa ni watu wengine ndio wamefika pale.

Bwana Spika, ni wewe unayeongoza Bunge hili na Bunge lina sheria. Sisi tunashangaa kwamba mtu, kutokana na ubinafsi, anataka kufanya mambo peke yake katika eneo hili letu la Laikipia. Hiyo ni njia moja ya kuwasha moto pale mashinani ili sisi Wabunge wa Kaunti tuambiwe na wapiga kura waliotupigia kura kwamba hakuna kazi tunayofanya katika Bunge hili. Hii ni moto kubwa inayotakikana kuzimwa kabla haijawaka.

Ujumbe ambao sisi tumepata kwenye rununu ni kwamba watu waliokuja kufanyiwa mahojiano na waliokuja kufanya mafunzo ni tofauti, sio wale waliomba kazi. Kwa hivyo, sisi tunaomba kwenye Bunge hili kwamba hiyo kazi iliyotangazwa irudiwe kwa sababu tumemalizwa mashinani. Mtu hawezi amka asubuhi moja na kusema kuwa yeye atafanya chochote kwenye hili Bunge.

Wewe, Bwana Spika, ndiye unaongoza Bunge hili na Gavana ndiye anaongoza hii Kaunti. Kama sisi viongozi hatuwezi kusikizwa, wananchi watatusikiza sisi aje? Kwa hivyo, tunaomba kuwa zoezi lililokuwa linaendelea lisimame ndiposa ile kamati ambayo ilikuwa

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imeteuliwa tujue walifuata kanuni zipi kuchagua vijana kutoka sehemu moja na kuwacha sehemu zingine.

Katika hili Bunge, tunahitaji watu wasaidike na vijana wapate kazi kwa njia ya usawa na ambayo ni wazi na sio kwa njia ambayo imefichika. Tulipokuwa tukidadisi Waziri, alisema ya kwamba hajui lolote na ndio maana tunashangaa kama Wajumbe. Kama Waziri hajui vile kazi ilivyofanyika, ni nani mwingine ambaye atajua? Bwana Spika, mimi naunga wenzangu mkono tukisema ya kwamba hiyo shughuli kwanza isimame ili tuangalie kwa makini taratibu zilizofuatwa. Asante.

Hon. Benson Kamala: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa hii nafasi ambayo umeweza kunikabidhi. Nikiunga huu mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa kutoka Mukogodo Magharibi, Mheshimiwa Lempaira, bila shaka najua ya kwamba hili Bunge ni la sheria na sheria inafaa kufuatwa inavyofaa ili kuweza kushikilia jimbo letu la Laikipia.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna wale ambao tulikuwa tumepitisha ili waweze kuenda mashinani kukagua na kuchagua lakini hawakuweza kufanya ile kazi. Nikiunga huu mswada wa Mheshimiwa Lempaira, wanafaa kuja Bungeni ili waweze kujibu haya mashtaka kwa sababu ni kosa kubwa. Waheshimiwa ambao wamechaguliwa mashinani, wako na shida na pia kilio kwa sababu hakuna CO au CECM ambaye atapigiwa simu au kuulizwa swali na mwananchi wa kutoka Mukogodo Magharibi, lakini wao wanafanya jambo wakijua ya kwamba kuna bwanyenye fulani ambaye ameweza kukoroga Bunge letu.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ukiwa wewe ndiye unatushikilia na sheria la Bunge, hili jambo linafaa kutupiliwa mbali na wajue ya kwamba sisi ndio hutunga sheria na kushukilia miswada katika Bunge letu. Naunga mkono nikijua ya kwamba kuna udhalili ambao umetendeka pale ili kunyanyasa Wajumbe ili wanapotembea katika wadi zao, wanaonekana ya kwamba hakuna jambo wanalolifanya. Naunga mkono wadi zote ili lile jambo liweze kutupiliwa mbali na sote tuhusishwe pale ili tuonekane ya kwamba sisi ni waakilishi wa jimbo la Laikipia. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I will still allow one or two more Members to contribute towards the motion. Now that there are no more Members willing to continue with this, I will invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all the Members of this House for the deliberations we have had on this issue. It is very unfortunate that when we all know that the cost of living in Kenya now is very high, at the same time we are also playing with the minds of the youth who do not have any source of income and are jobless. When a small opportunity like this comes, equality and transparency is not adhered to.

Mr. Speaker, it is also very unfortunate that an entire department that is very important in the economy of this county is roasted by one individual who does not take instructions from his bosses starting from the CECM and the CO but makes his own decisions with reference from somebody in the National Government.

It is also time the CECM takes control of his department because the moment we allow the juniors to take control of such processes, we cannot have the grounds to question these juniors. It is time the people took responsibility for their actions starting with this Lincoln. If we must have this food security programme, Lincoln should not be a member or the coordinator of the project under any cost. If he starts messing the programme from the initial stages, that means that at the end of the day, the programme will not be very successful. If we cannot have enough data on our farmers, distribution of the fertilizer will not be very effective.

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The number of farmers that we have in our county will not be a true reflection because the process was unfairly done or done in a rush without consultation of all the stakeholders, and without taking consideration of the uniqueness of every ward and the challenges that every ward faces. Therefore, we want to recommend and say that as we meet the panel this afternoon, we want them to tell us the clear procedures they will use to ensure that the process is fair, transparent and well balanced according to villages and regions. We cannot have one place lacking enough Enumerators for correct data entry. I want to thank all the Members for contributing towards the motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.00 p.m.

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