REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 21st May, 2024

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Thank you. Clerk, confirm if we have quorum before we proceed with the business.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

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

(Quorum bell rang for two minutes)

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Mr. Speaker, we now have the quorum.

Speaker: Clerk confirm if that is the case.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, let us proceed with the business of the day.

STATEMENTS

STATUS OF ACTING CHIEF OFFICER IN THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following statements; As I had promised in the morning, now it is time to act. I stand to note that this is not the first time. This statement has been laid and I hope after this, action will be taken seriously;

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (2) c, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson for Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee regarding the above-mentioned subject matter. Hon. Speaker, section 34(3) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017 provides that, an officer may be appointed in an acting capacity for a period of at least thirty days but not exceeding a period of six months. Hon. Speaker, it has been more than three years.

Hon. Speaker, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has had an acting Chief Officer since the inception of the Third County Government which is in contravention of the above-mentioned section of the Public Service Commission Act. Hon. Speaker, I request the Chairperson Labour Social Welfare and Community Services to inform this Assembly on why we have a Chief Officer acting for such a long period of time and what the County Government is doing to ensure such officers are answerable during such periods.

Hon. Speaker, before I read the next statement, I would like to emphasize on this. Hon. Speaker, as I had earlier stated in the morning session, we are the representatives of the Wanjiku. When you see Hon. Anthony Theuri Wambui, this is the face of Nanyuki Ward. On

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the extension, this is the face of Laikipia County by the virtue that I am the Deputy Speaker of this County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the above officer has been above the law simply because she knows she is answerable to no one. That department has a lot of questions that need to be asked. I have a dam in my ward called Nkando. That dam had been allocated fuel of Kshs.1.2 million. I knew the dam was not very damaged so I came to this Hon. House and requested that the money that is going to remain, be allocated for road network in that area.

That dam has been destroying crops and roads in that area. It is shame since I started following up that money for that fuel and a woman of that calibre at her age yet we are paying her a lot money, blocked my phone call. This is childish and something that cannot be done by teenage girls and boys that are dating nowadays. This is because I am following up on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, on the same I would like to ask the relevant committee to follow up these dams and this money. On the same, I would like to follow up because every time they get a forum to address people, they usually say that they are giving out seedlings, tomatoes, cabbages, avocadoes etc. Mr. Speaker, I want to know and I want this House to be my witness whether they have been involved.

Hon. Mugweru comes from an Agricultural Ward, so I want him to come with a record on that day that says Umande Ward has been allocated the following seedlings, feeds, chicken and fingerlings together with other wards. We want something that we can hold accountable. Agriculture is second from Health. Mr. Speaker, they are using our money and we want someone who is going to held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to remind the Hon. Members here but I will remind them that not long time ago, we had an issue with her and we know what happened. I know it is not pleasing to speak here but they know. We had a huge recruitment of agricultural officers in this county which was done non- procedurally. It was done in a hidden way that we cannot speak here simply because she is saying she has the hand of her boss.

Now we want to hold the boss accountable through her. We are not going to have someone here that we cannot control. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get emotional but I leave it here, but as it has been stated here, I can see the Chair for Labour here. Hon. Irene Wachuka John; I want to see her fearlessness. She calls herself a lioness so I want see that fearlessness here. We want this matter dealt once and for all.

It is a shame that this is a second time this is being brought here and no action have been taken. Mr. Speaker, as I had said before now that Hon. Leshuel who is the Chair, Implementation Committee is here, I will follow up on him that whatever is going to be discussed from my mouth should be followed. It is the high time we do our work properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was on behalf of Hon. Catherine Kibue, Member of the County Assembly representing Ngobit Ward.

STATUS OF ACTING CHIEF OFFICER FOR MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Hon. Anthony Theuri: The second statement is on the same issue. It is the same disease yet we are the doctors and the clinical officers. Now we want to get a solution on the same. Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (2) c, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson for Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee regarding the above-mentioned subject matter.

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Hon. Speaker, section 34(3) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017 provides that, an officer may be appointed in an acting capacity for a period of at least thirty days but not exceeding a period of six months. Hon. Speaker, the department of Medical Services and Public Health has had an acting Chief Officer since the inception of the third County Government which is in contravention of the above-mentioned section of the Public Service Commission Act.

Hon. Speaker, I request the Chairperson for Labour Social Welfare and Community Services, to inform this Assembly on why we have a Chief Officer acting for such a long period of time and what the County Government is doing to ensure such officers are answerable during such periods. Mr. Speaker, do I really need to elaborate on Health Services?

They say that we are in the third world country. If there was a seventh world at the bottom, we as a County Government are ashamed. I am a Member of the Health Committee and our health is dead already. It is on the death bed and the best thing we can do is starting from the head. If the head of the fish is rotten, then the fish is rotten. Mr. Speaker, let me give you a scenario, if you go to the same budget of this financial year, you know we have less than two weeks to go to the final year of the budget estimates.

In the same budget, you are going to find that I have money allocated there of a dispensary in Likii where I reside. Mr. Speaker, we have only had two public participations and now I am wondering where my Kshs. 4 million for the dispensary in Likii is going to be taken. We do not have a hospital neither do we have the money. I can speak here that that is the same case in Igwamiti Ward. She had the same amount of money.

Mr. Speaker, she cannot reply on the statement but I am a witness that we do not have a hospital in Igwamiti. This is not an isolated case but it is happening in most of these areas. We want to know what is happening. Last night, I went to that hospital because it is my hospital. I needed some medicine for my kids. It has empty shelves.

Mr. Speaker, do I need to remind you that the subordinates usually go for more than six months without pay yet we are allocating the money. All that is because we do not have a substantive CO. I want you to be my witness and we can do it dramatically because it is very serious. If it is possible Hon. Leshuel, you can leave that seat for two minutes. Take your phone and go behind the chamber and try calling the emergency number. If they are going to respond, come and shame me here Mr. Speaker.

I want you to do the same on the CO for Health. Call him or her and if there is response, come and shame me here. Mr. Speaker, you can also do the same to the doctors. That is where our 60% of the budget is being absorbed. Mr. Speaker, if you are serious, if you want to leave a legacy in this House and if you want to be remembered by the good deeds you did for Laikipia, let us not joke with health. It is going to be done if you are going to be serious with the leadership Mr. Speaker.

I want to take this seriously and I can see my able Chair here. I have trust in him that he is a no-nonsense man. He is the Matiang'i of the day. Hon. Nicholas Lempaira, I want you to take this personally that we want them summoned here and let it be done quickly. Mr. Speaker, we have many ways of killing rats. If this House is going to be corrupted and God forbid that, we are not going to work on the matters that we are speaking here. So, we are going to directly incite the Wanjiku and let it be noted in capital letters.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to tell them the truth. If they cannot absorb the money, I can tell you I have more than 40% of the students from my area who do not have scholarships or

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bursaries. Mr. Speaker, my people are sleeping hungry. My people are jobless and they are requesting money to be allocated to the Enterprise Fund so that they can come and borrow from the government so that they can improve their livelihood. We cannot afford to live a wasted life especially this time and era.

I pray and humbly request the Hon. Chair for Labour Committee because it falls categorically under her docket to work on this. I know she is capable and after we come from the recess, these things will be addressed. I pray that we are going to support her from this House because we are paying a lot of money. In fact, they are earning more than the Honourable Members. They are controlling the budget by rewarding their friends, wives and side-chicks yet we have no problem with that.

I will not say that I will do the same if I was in that docket. We have no problem with that provided the job is being done. We want them to be held responsible for their actions. We have many jobless people who are Laikipians and they are over-qualified for these jobs. I do not see why someone is a director and earning the director's salary and also earning the CO's salary. We want someone who is going to be held responsible. I pray that this is going to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Anthony for the two statements. Before we go to the next order, I would like to request Hon. Irene, Chairperson for Labour Committee to tell us the length of time that it will take her to get responses to the two statements regarding the acting chief officers. What time would you require considering that we will be headed for recess after tomorrow.

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Namheshimu Naibu Spika na kama vile amesema, naomba tupatiwe wiki tatu ili tulete zote mbili.

Speaker: Before you sit down, is it three weeks from now?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: From now.

Speaker: We will be on recess for three weeks, so it means the first week after coming back. Right or after we are back?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Yes.

Speaker: Three weeks from now, will be after we are back. Are you getting me?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: No, I mean after. When we come from recess…

Speaker: If I give you three weeks from now it will still be after. Hon. Anthony, would you like to suggest a date?

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Mr. Speaker, we have three weeks on recess. What I am trying to understand here because we are serious, it means immediately after recess that is the first week which is possible. With all the humility, I am requesting that my senior, the Deputy Majority leader to make it the first week so that we can deal with this. We are against time and it is not on our side Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I will direct that you respond on 25th June, 2024. Is that appropriate? Thank you. Incidentally the two of them are directed to the Committee on Labour. The confirmed statement responses will be here by 25th June, 2024. Thank you, very much. Hon. Lempaira.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, on the statement, we want the Labour Committee to come with recommendations on the way forward because last time, they were

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given the same statement. It is good when we ask a statement of interest like this, we take it seriously. We are having serious issues with the Chief Officers. If we have an opportunity to deal with one, let us deal with it ruthlessly without mercy. That is the only way we can bring these people back to work for the people of Laikipia.

Mr. Speaker, last time, the Service Board recommended to this House that they are in the office illegally and they should not be in the office. We want to know what action was taken after that report was tabled and after the results were recommended. The moment we keep asking for statements here day in day out without serious recommendations, then we will always be here for statements that add no value to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, very much. In connection with the comments by Hon. Lempaira, I would like to refer the Hon. Wachuka and all the Members to our Standing Order Number 171;

Powers And Privileges of Committees

"Committees shall enjoy and exercise all the powers and privileges bestowed on Assembly by the Constitution and statute, including the power to summon witnesses, receive evidence and to request for and receive papers and documents from the Government and the public."

So, I would request that your committee does a thorough extensive work by the time it comes back. I can have the feeling that the Members are a bit agitated since this matter has been going around various times. I have heard it here in the Assembly for quite some time. I would like you to undertake with your team a serious seating so that when we come back here, we have substantive points to discuss.

We also request the committee apart from the findings to give us concrete recommendations. Thank you very much. Now we move to the next order.

MOTION

REPORT ON STATUS OF STREET AND FLOOD LIGHTS IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on street lighting and flood lights status at various wards across the county by the County Cohesion Justice and Legal Matters Committee dated 13th February, 2024.

Hon. Speaker, we have a report on street lights and flood lights status at various wards and we did the highlights in Tigithi, Ngobit, Igwamiti, Marmanet, Githiga and Ol Moran Wards.

On establishment of the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters Committee;

The Committee is established pursuant to Standing Order 191 and the functions shall be to;

a) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;

b) Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and effectiveness of the implementation;

c) Study and review all County legislation referred to it;

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d) Study, assess and analyse the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;

e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the Assembly;

f) To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 184(Committee on Appointment); and

g) Make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

Committee's Mandate

Mr. Speaker .Sir the Committee is mandated to look into all matters related to ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level and assisting communities and locations in governance as the local level and assisting communities and locations to develop administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level; administration of law and justice including working and collaborating with national government on security matters.

Committee Membership

The Committee comprising of the following Members;

1. Hon. Samuel Mugambi - Chairperson
2. Hon. Benson Kuria - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon Leila Yussuf - Member
4. Hon. Salim Edung - Member
5. Hon. Caroline Kihika - Member
6. Hon George Karuiru - Member
7. Hon Joseph Gitahi - Member

Hon. Speaker, the Members have the report on their gadgets and they can see the observations that we did in various wards. One observation that need to be highlighted is that;

1. The flood lights at Manguo A and Manguo B are fully functional.
2. The flood light at Manguo B is not fully functional.
3. The four (4) street lights along the highway are faulty.

The reason why I am highlighting the observations is because this comes from Igwamiti Ward and the nearby slums. We need to be careful on street lighting. Hon. Speaker, allow me to read the general recommendations after visiting the wards.

i. That there is need for constant inspection of the streetlights and flood lights so as to rectify the major or minor breakdowns. Replacement of bulbs on floodlights and streetlights, token payment of the KPLC powered lights among others

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ii. That the County Executive needs to replace the stolen batteries soonest possible and come up with alternative ways to secure the batteries for the solar powered lights. This is evident in Sipili town and Withare centre.

iii. That the County Executive needs to ensure the timers are rectified for the lights that go on during the day and off during the nights in centres like Karandi, Kinamba town among others.

iv. That the street lights at Ngobit centre whose installation is not complete need to be done soonest.

v. Those batteries of streetlights that go on for very few hours during the night need to be replaced.

vi. That all towns and centres need to be installed with adequate flood lights and street lights. A town like Makutano in Ngobit, Gatundia in Marmanet ward, Kinamba town in Githiga among others which are very busy towns need street lights additional to the flood light.

vii. That a centre like Manguo which is near a river that is heavily infested with hippos needs more flood lights especially near P.C.E.A church at Manguo B since the light keeps them away.

viii. That the County Executive needs to come up with a budget line of maintenance of the lights so that breakdown is rectified immediately they are detected.

ix. That the County Executive should come up with other alternative ways of lighting as security is paramount in growth of our great County.

x. That the House adopts the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters committee`s report.

Now I call upon Hon. Kihika to second the report. Thank you.

Hon. Caroline Kihika: I second the report and I urge the House to adopt the report.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I open the floor for debate. Hon. Kanyutu.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report. As I support, I am concerned because as the committee have stated, we have a big challenge of street lighting in my area. Some floodlights operate during the day and during the night they are not operational. I am also concerned because we had street lights that we fixed in Karaba, Muhotetu Junction and Kwa-Wanjiku. It is unfortunate because they have taken so long since they stopped functioning.

As I was making a follow-up, I was told that there are no repair materials. I am sure the committee will follow-up and see how long it will take to repair the street lights especially the ones that are solarized. The report we are getting is that unless they import yet I do not know where they are importing them from. When these street lights were being fixed, they were fixed in areas that are known to be very hostile and where businesses are affected.

I am sure the committee will be able to make a follow-up so that all these street lights are properly fixed and repaired. Mr. Speaker, I support the committee and I am happy because they were able to visit all the street lights that are within our areas. I am sure they also need to

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give recommendations on the areas because it is not all the areas that have been captured with street lights. There are areas that are still in darkness.

Mr. Speaker, in their recommendations, they need to add the areas that have been left out and that requires fixing of the street lights. I support the committee's report.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand to support the report from the committee. Mr. Speaker, the report is clear we have a challenge on flood lights. Mr. Speaker, the committee have to give us a report again on what the CECM and the Chief Officer is telling us. I know in the budget we have a budget for street lights and they are very specific when they are asking for the budget.

They should give us the answer on what the problem is and why they are not repairing those flood lights. Mr. Speaker, that is a challenge on why we are having things that are not working.

Why should we have things that are not working? Why should we budget for projects that are not sustainable? Why should we have projects that are not serving people and where is the value for money? So, the department should tell us clearly whether it is possible to repair or whether the budget was less.

I know in many areas even in the areas where the committee have not visited, there are challenges. In Doldol marae, the lights are not working well among other areas. So that department should tell us why before we go to another budget. The departments are Criss crossing and giving us a lot of excuses especially in the areas of budget. I am sure that we are giving them sufficient money. So why should they delay on things?

Mr. Speaker, again, the budget is generated from the Executive and for us is just to align and approve. So, what is this they have messed that they are unable to do things because the budget is less. If you do not what you want then use other materials or other ways to work. I want the committee to follow because that is the link between the Assembly and the committee. They have given us a good report and they should follow the department concerned so that they bring again another report here telling us whether the budget is the issue so that we can work on it.

From 2013, the County Government of Laikipia have constructed stalls but they are not working until now yet the County Government has spent millions of monies. We even went for public participation. What is public participation? Is it the entire community that is giving a misleading report or is it the County Government that is being opposite to what the people are requesting? Those are the hard questions that we should know. Actually, the expectations of Wanjiku according to the constitution 2010, it is 30% according to the public participation. The reason as to why even us we are not giving the reason why we are not doing what Wanjiku needs to be done.

So, let us work based on the budget and what we have allocated to this department, let us follow to the letter. It is a shock as the Deputy Speaker has said that we have got Kshs.1.2 million for dams and we are not doing that. The money is there but you don't do them. So, what do you want? If the money is not enough, then why? So, we have got a lot of questions to ask. For now, I want the committee concerned to follow those things so that they can give us good answers.

I am happy that the report is very clear and that is the only way to work. The committee should go out of this Assembly and ensure that they get to know exactly what is happening on the ground for us to understand the budget, the implementation and other things. If somebody

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has read the report on water and I know that it is coming, you will be shocked. Somebody telling you that we have spent more than Kshs.400 million for training. Some reports they are giving are shocking and that lands on the committee. The committee should scrutinize everything about the department. I support and I want to appreciate the Members of that committee led by the Chair. You are doing well and let us be proactive and do better than what they think. Thank you.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the adoption of the report. I am very happy and in fact, I am envious of my Hon. Colleague here, Hon. Gatati and the committee. This is what we have been trying to tell the Members and I can see that we are pulling up our socks and they are doing their work of oversight properly.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way you can be able to scrutinize or oversight if you are not working. It is one thing to trust in Hon. Anthony Theuri Wambui because every time I will be standing here on behalf of the Nanyuki Ward people, I will be speaking on what they want but if I have a witness of two or three; that is the reality on the ground.

I want to echo what Hon. Shuel has just said that we don't do the budget especially on this Assembly. They generate the budget and we just align to a certain extent but this time, I want the Hon. Members to be responsible of what they take. It is a shame if you are coming from Nyeri to Meru during the night maybe past 7.00 p.m. when it is getting dark, it would be all lights from Nyeri to Silver Beck and all the way to past Gatheri Shopping centre. It is only in Laikipia where we have got darkness.

Now they have a strategy and they are saying that the lights are not under our jurisdiction. They are under the municipality. When you go to municipality, they say they don't have funds. We are left to wonder, where are the funds? It is not on that side nor this side. That is why I said and on this, I am with Hon. Wachuka. If we are not going to fund the municipality let us stay without and get something that we can oversight.

It is a good idea if we have a working municipality. Let everything that belongs to municipality go there. I support the adoption and that is the way to go. The cohesion Committee has shown us whatever we are going to bring here especially for our people we must support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The mover may now give a reply.

Hon. Mugambi Gatati: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Members who have reacted and Hon. Kanyutu noted a major thing that we did an error here. We grouped one of his Centre which Kwa Wanjiku. We grouped it in Igwamiti. He has informed me that Kwa Wanjiku is in Marmanet. Apologies Hon. Member.

On what Hon. Shuel has mentioned, we are taking it as our responsibility. In fact, we have planned as a committee that immediately after the recess, we meet with Chief Officer Mr. Kibara and the CECM, Hon. Kendi. Thank you Members and we wish to continue doing the work the Laikipians have entitled us. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

INVESTIGATIONS INTO BATUK AFFAIRS BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Speaker: I wish to bring to your attention a message which I think is quite important that someone has shared with me, especially touching Nanyuki Ward and Mukogodo from our

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National Parliament. That on 28th and 30th May, 2024, the parliamentary committee will be here;

1. Conducting investigations into the alleged ethical breaches related to ethical misconduct including corruption, fraud, discrimination, abuse of power and other ethical behaviour by BATUK.
2. To investigate the allegations of human rights violation including mistreatment torture, unlawful detention, killings or any other violations of the internationally recognized human rights standards by BATUK.
3. To access BATUK's operational integrity especially safety, protocol, compliance with legal requirements and adherence to established military standards.

So, on 28th May, 2024, these are dates to note. There will be a meeting with the public by the parliamentary committee at Juakali Centre at 10.00 a.m. and the same day at Nanyuki Town, Nanyuki social hall at 2.30 p.m. In Doldol which is also quite critical, it will happen on 30th May, 2024 at Kiwanja Ndege Centre at 10.30 a.m. I think that this is a crucial information that the Members of the County Assembly need to know because they represent the people who are being requested to come there.

UNCLOGGING OF DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN URBAN AREAS

Hon. Caroline Kihika: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that County public works and services, including storm water management systems in built-up areas is a function of the County Government;

NOTING THAT the Country has been experiencing enhanced rains since April, 2024 with alarming levels of rainfall because of El Nino conditions;

CONCERNED THAT El Niño rains have caused widespread and extensive flooding which destroyed property in the County occasioned due to blocked drainage systems in urban centres;

This House URGES the County Government to clear drainages during the rainy season to avert artificial flooding of the urban areas and to build and maintain proper drainage systems and culverts to divert excess water.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge this House especially the Budget Committee to please add some funds to the infrastructure since all the roads and drainages are damaged and we need to repair them. It needs to be treated as an urgent and important consideration. I request Hon. Mwaniki to second this.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: I do second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Members. I open the floor for debate on this motion.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion. As you can witness, this time it is raining even in this area and it seems we have a lot in hand to do. Even now it is raining and I don't know where we are going to hold our meeting after this because the hall behind is already clogged.

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Mr. Speaker, it is good to know that if we have clogged drainages, then we are going to have stagnant water which is going to result into diseases. The outbreaks are going to bring more harm than profits. I am also left to wonder, we as a County Government, do we have the capacity to do the same because the employees we have usually come from our wards and I am lucky that I have a big chunk of workers out of the 15 wards.

Their working conditions are poor and therefore if we are going to use the same workforce, then we are going to be doing zero job. I urge this county and especially the Environment Committee and, in my area, Nanyuki Municipality, that they put more work force. They buy new equipment and let them look at the working conditions of our people who usually wake up very early in the morning and usually leave between 3.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. without a break.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame, if you want to motivate them as the motion has said, we have to look at their welfare. They are paid Kshs.12,000 and I don't know the criteria they used because in the last regime, the same people were being paid Kshs.18,000 but, in this regime, they are being paid Kshs.12,000. They don't have any morale and they usually work from Monday to Saturday. This motion has come timely. If we want to do the job that Hon. Kihika has brought on this floor, we must look at the welfare of our people who have got huge budgets.

They are misallocating our money and I don't know where they are taking it. I have to echo what Hon. Shuel had said a while ago. They generate the budget and therefore I want to believe that they are professionals than us. This is the second year but for those people, they have been here for the last 25 years and they are doing the same shoddy job. If whatever we are going to have to clean towns and drainages, because they are creating floods not forgetting what happened in Nakuru the other day, due to clogged drainages, we must look at the welfare of our people. We must add more people and pay them well and buy new equipment. If working in shifts will be the solution, let it be done.

Look at how we live here, we have got a beautiful environment and good staff. You can see that they have got good uniforms, we are eating well and living the life we desired but those people who are responsible beyond the fences of this Assembly are living in abject poverty. It is a shame that they are even paid less than 12,000 and it is the high time we work on what they have said. I am happy that we are now opening our eyes.

I can see that they have read the verse in the bible that says; *'and they broke the bread and after they ate, the eyes opened.'* I can see that the eyes of Hon. Caroline are open and everyone here including Karuiru who have added more spectacles on his eyes and he can see properly now. He can see the horizon because he has got a clear focus on where we want to take our county. This is the way and it is congratulations even to our esteemed nominated Members who are very active nowadays. That is what they have been elected by the party to come and take care of the welfare of our people. Congratulations and I am with you in this and whatever else that you will be bringing here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion of cleaning of drainage systems in urban areas. I don't know how we are going to go about it because in my area, most of the centres lack drainages except the upcoming smart town in Oljabet. Unless we clear the trenches, which drains the floods in the centres. That is the only one which can assist but we have no drainage system. I think that this is an eye opener that in future, we need to continue planning our towns so that we can have proper drainages.

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to hear the Hon. Member claiming that he has a challenge with clogged drainages whereas in this Assembly claims that he and another person from the

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other end are the people who have got the highest number of casual labourers. That ought not to be a challenge because in our small centres, you can get a whole centre having only two casual workers. Even if we push them to clear those trenches, it cannot be possible. It is a good idea but I would wish that these drainages not to be unclogged after the flooding but ought to be unclogged before the rains. After the rains are over, they should be unclogged again so that when flooding comes, the water is capable of flowing freely to the rivers. So, I support.

Speaker: Reading the mood of the House, I will now take this opportunity to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Caroline Kihika: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful and humbled. For those who contributed and those who did not and I am grateful that they support the motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.25 p.m.

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