REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025

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 ten minutes)

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum now.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum, I direct that the bell continues ringing for five minutes.

Hon. Salim Edung: Mr. Speaker, we have quorum.

Speaker: Clerk confirm if indeed we do have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing and consequently we move to the business of the day.

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER PANS

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

THAT NOTING THAT Laikipia County experiences erratic rainfall yearly;

FURTHER NOTING THAT Laikipia North, some parts of Laikipia West and East are semi-arid areas and they experience little to no rainfall yearly;

AWARE THAT there is a huge demand for water usage in these areas due to increase in population over the years;

COGNIZANT of the fact that water pans are essential structures for rainwater harvesting, constructed using specific materials to ensure durability and functionality for agricultural and domestic use;

FURTHER AWARE THAT construction of water pans along the river beds will assist communities with water for domestic use, irrigation and also for livestock watering;

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This House URGES the County Government to construct water pans along river beds that will assist communities with water for domestic use especially during the dry seasons.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER PANS

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

THAT NOTING THAT Laikipia County experiences erratic rainfall yearly;

FURTHER NOTING THAT Laikipia North, some parts of Laikipia West and East are semi-arid areas and they experience little to no rainfall yearly;

AWARE THAT there is a huge demand for water usage in these areas due to increase in population over the years;

COGNIZANT of the fact that water pans are essential structures for rainwater harvesting, constructed using specific materials to ensure durability and functionality for agricultural and domestic use;

FURTHER AWARE THAT construction of water pans along the river beds will assist communities with water for domestic use, irrigation and also for livestock watering;

This House URGES the County Government to construct water pans along river beds that will assist communities with water for domestic use especially during the dry seasons.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ninaleta huu mjadala katika Bunge hili kwa sababu eneo zetu za Kaskazini, Magharibi na Mashariki mwa Laikipia ziko na sehemu ambazo maji inakosa. Pia kuna sehemu ambazo ziko na bwawa na zingine hazina. Tunaomba Kaunti ya Laikipia na Waheshimiwa ambao wako katika Bunge hili tunapotengeneza barabara katika sehemu zetu, tuweke *water pans* karibu na hizo maeneo ili wananchi wa hizo sehemu wapate maji ya mifugo na ukulima.

Katika Laikipia, kuna sehemu mbalimbali hasa katika Laikipia Kaskazini. Inapofikia mwezi ya tisa, unakuta kuna ukavu na watu hutembea mbali kutafuta maji. Yale maji ambayo wao hupata ni lita ishirini au kumi kwa sababu ni kilomita nyingi. Tunaomba Serikali ya Kaunti pamoja na Waheshimiwa ambao wako hapa, huu ni mjadala muhimu ambapo tutaweka *water pans* kwa mito ili watu wetu wapate maji ya kilimo, mifugo pamoja na matumizi ya nyumbani

Katika Sehemu za Laikipia Kaskazini, huwa hatuangalii kama maji ni nzuri au chafu, bora maji. Kama kuna ukosefu wa maji huwa tunachota maji ya barabara au hata kwenye bwawa ambazo zimepasuka. Tunatumia hiyo maji kwa kunywa na kuosha nguo. Katika hili Bunge tunaomba ya kwamba tusaidie watu wetu kwa sababu hao watu ndio wametuleta katika hili Bunge. Ningeomba ya kwamba tupitishe huu mjadala ili tunapotengeneza barabara zetu, tuwe tukiweka *water pans* karibu na mto au kando ya barabara ili tuweke mitaro ambayo inaelekeza maji huko ili mifugo yetu iwe ikipata maji na pia sisi tusaidike.

Bwana Spika, ningeomba Mheshimiwa Gatati kutoka Wadi ya Salama aweze kuunga huu mswada mkono. Asante.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to second the motion. It is a good motion and therefore, I wish to thank Hon. Salim for bringing such a motion in this

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House. I would like to echo his words that in most parts of Laikipia people are suffering due to lack of water.

I think that the approach of water pans is good and it is also good that we as a county view things in a different perspective. Mr. Speaker, you know that the raw materials that are used in making a water pan, you need an excavator and a dam liner. I this county we usually pass a budget of approximately Kshs.1billion and above in development. It is high time that we plan on how to increase the purchases of an excavator. We might say here that we need water pans but the cost of excavating them might be very high.

We need an approach whereby we look at first of all having the raw materials or production factors. If I remember very well for my form two syllabus we were taught about production factors. Therefore, we want to produce water pans. This House must sit down led by the Agriculture Committee and the Chairperson so that we add more excavators. Thank God we purchased one but its programme is not quite well.

Two, if you excavate a water pan, you will need a dam line. If you approach the process of a dam liner, it will also be expensive but setting up a factory of producing dam liners, it would take less than Kshs. 40 million. We set up the unit and we start producing the dam liners. Until we start looking at things from that perspective, most of these things will be literature. We will just be saying that we want dam liners and water tanks.

Hon. Speaker, I want to inform this House that if you want to set up a factory that makes water tanks, you just need less than Kshs.20 million and then from there, you will just be buying the raw materials. If you can do that in the first year as a Governor, you can distribute water tanks in all households in Laikipia. Hon. Gichuki who is not here, had a very good idea. He had set up a whole factory in Nyahururu of producing water tanks but I don't know whether he completed it. I think that this is the way we need to approach things.

I wish to congratulate Hon. Salim. As a House, there is no other person who can make decisions if we don't start with decisions. We cannot always be pinpointing the Governor and the CECM whereas we are Members here; whether elected or nominated. There is a saying that goes that if you want change, you should start with yourself. Hon. Speaker, Therefore, I would urge you to be spearheading.

Mr. Speaker, you can be very proactive in bringing us together. You should be having a notebook and when we are having such a motion, you should also invite the Agriculture Committee immediately and be the father and guide them. Let us do the next budget and put some money in buying the excavators so that the next time we come unto this House, we can say that out of the motion that Hon. Salim brought to the House, we are now going to the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the membership of this House, some of the Members do not even attend sessions and I cannot blame them. The reasons why they are not here is well known to all of us. Some of us who come from far, e.g. Laikipia West, for me to arrive here takes a lot of personal sacrifice. I am still not convinced that we are heading in the right direction. I would urge you as our Speaker that all the motions we bring here, start taking charge and make sure that we actualize them.

One day we can even call the media and actualize the people of Laikipia and tell them that we as the House are making sure that in this particular financial year are putting up a budget of around Kshs.100 million in the Department of Agriculture. If you can put up a budget of 100 million Hon. Speaker, we can purchase two more excavators so that in Laikipia East,

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Laikipia West and in Laikipia North we can have our own excavators. That is around Kshs.60 million because each excavator will cost us at around Kshs. 20 million and the rest Kshs. 40 million we set up a factory producing dam liners.

Until we approach those things in this manner, most of these motions will be just be conversations like the literature of *abunuwasi* and other short stories. In my life I like being real and don't like faking things. We only have one financial year left before we go for *Sine Die*. You will be trying to get quorum but quorum will not be found but if we make hay while the sun is shining, I believe that we can still deliver to the people of Laikipia.

I can see that the Governor is doing very well by promoting coffee but it is also good to ask ourselves, those coffee planting zones experience a lot of rainfall, at the same time Hon. Salim here is saying that in Laikipia North, they need a lot of water pans for their domestic uses. Before we go to those crops, it is high time we first think about water. The first language whereby the Laikipians will listen to you is about water solution and not about breeding another crop.

The crop that is being brought here is very good. If you look at countries like Ethiopia, it is the best country in producing Arabica coffee in Africa and they have a lot of export money. In Laikipia, if we can get water, I believe that this can be the highest county in producing coffee but before we go to coffee we need first of all to solve water problems. Water problems in Laikipia, it is just a matter of budgeting. I don't blame the Executive but the blame is here starting with myself.

For example, in my ward, this financial year I have been allocated 2.1M in Agriculture. So, what can I do with 2.1M and the people we are leading, almost everyone in my ward is a farmer. It is high time and I pray to God that I be re-elected again. I came here as a freshman just like the first time you get to campus as a fresher. If I can be elected here again, from the first financial year, there are so many things which we can do together with other good elected people like the Governor and the CECMs and Chief Officers and that way we can change Laikipia.

Hon. Speaker and we don't need anything outside this country, we have the people here and it is about planning because we have time. Now that we are discussing about water pans, I once engaged the National Irrigation Authority and I want to inform my friend who is at the same time my neighbour, we neighbour ADC Mutara and we have communities that we share. He is a former PA and now he is vying in my Ward because, we have Turkana communities in Thome and Segera and they are my good friends. I want other members to hear this, I visited National Irrigation Authority offices in Nyeri that is Mount Kenya West Region branch.

I was surprised that in the National Irrigation Authority, every financial year they receive approximately Kshs. 20 billion to be used in irrigation. Immediately when I landed there, it was last year, they told me no other elected leader has ever visited that office. Immediately, I was awarded 1500 water pans without any documentations and two weeks ahead, excavators were sent to my ward. So, these are the things we need to be serious with. I also urge my friend Hon. Salim to visit that office one afternoon. They have a big budget.

Currently, I have secured three dams each Kshs. 47 million in my ward. They have money but their approach is they can't bring the project to the ground until you request it. Hon. Speaker, those are things that I think the Members of the Parliament are supposed to link us with such institutions and water agencies. Most of our Members of Parliament when you mention issues to do with water they switch off. They immediately say that is a devolved

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function but now you hear that there is Water Agency here that receives more than 20B for irrigation.

Hon. Speaker if this government was also serious instead of giving a Water Agency Kshs.20 billion to give contracts like in my Ward, one water pan holding 1,000 cubic meters water was costing the government two hundred and fifty thousand; that is 1 water pan. So, this government is not serious because we used almost Kshs.180 million in those 1,500 water pans. Kshs. 80 million can buy three excavators and a company to produce dam liners just when we get the fuel. Hon. Speaker I want to task you this morning. It is better late than never.

We are not late so, all the things we usually table here, get the members of staff and let them organize it as the committee. We talked about the water pan and it is under agriculture. During budget, call all of us and say on this date, Hon. Salim brought this motion and on this date this Hon. Member brought this motion. So, let us actualize it in the budget. When we do that this last financial year, I think we can see some changes.

Hon. Speaker today you are the Speaker and tomorrow you might be a Member of Parliament. Nobody knows but for you to go to that seat of MP, you need to have something tangible for those people of Laikipia North. It is also good you give them the ideas and be the ahead here. Some of us will still be blaming the Executive but the budget is brought here. Hon. Speaker, when you try and go through the budget, you will find some allocations. When we try to do some cost benefit analysis, that budget cannot help us.

Some projects you find we are building a very big hall in every referral hospital costing us Kshs.30 million like in Rumuruti, Nyahururu and Nanyuki; we are doing it. If we can save those Kshs.100 million and take them to the Agriculture Department. In fact, when we start telling our people we need to do coffee farming, we can have every household with a water pan and a dam liner. Even if you have a water pan without a dam liner, dam liner is that paper that hold and prevents the water from seeping into the soil. The dam liner cannot hold. Those are the conversations Hon Speaker that I would wish, you as the Speaker, to be leading us in to those actualizations. we also need to meet the Executive because we have the powers of inviting the departments here; The CECM as well as the CO for Agriculture and have those real discussions before we go into the next financial year. With those submissions, I support. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Dennis Kaniaru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may not be audible enough because I have a cold. However, I want to first thank the Hon. Member, Hon. Salim for this motion that he has brought. You come to realize that water is very essential. Most parts of Laikipia County are affected by drought and dry seasons, while the rainy seasons are very few.

Mr. Speaker, water is a very essential commodity. You realize that even in our Sustainable Development Goals that were set by an international team, goal number six is clean water and sanitation. So, you find that water is very important. No one can live without water. I advocate that when we have water pans built in these areas, communities as well as livestock, especially in Laikipia North where there are many livestock, will benefit from this water.

The people of Laikipia North move for miles and miles looking for water for their own consumption and for their livestock. So, I find it very important when we have these water pans around because people will not travel for long looking for water, animals will not suffer, and everything will thrive eventually. It is for that reason that I support the motion. Thank you.

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Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Kaniaru. I wish you a quick recovery. Allow me to now invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nawashukuru Wabunge wote ambao wamechangia mjadala wa leo. Tunaomba kwamba yale yote tunayopitisha katika Bunge hili yatekelezwe mashinani ama katika sehemu ambazo kuna kiangazi, kwa mfano sehemu kama Laikipia Kaskazini ambako hakuna visima na mabwawa sio mengi. Tunaomba kuwa yale yote ambayo tunajadili kwenye Bunge hili yawekwe kwa ufasaha na yafanye kazi. Nashukuru kwa Wabunge ambao wamechangia. Wale ambao hawajachangia, huenda wakachangia siku nyingine. Mungu atawasaidia. Asante, Bwana Spika.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.50 a.m.

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