REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 7th May, 2024

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

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

(Quorum bell rang for seven minutes)

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, I can see there is quorum.

Speaker: Clerk confirm if we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Thank you, very much Hon. Members. We will now proceed with the order of the day.

PAPERS LAID

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND CFSP CEILINGS MEMORANDUM

Hon. John Gichuki through Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am standing on behalf of the Majority Leader so that I lay the following documents;

a) Memorandum on the 2024-2025 CFSP Ceilings by the CECM Finance.

b) 2024- 2025 Budget Estimates for the County Government of Laikipia.

Thank you, I am doing on behalf of the Majority Leader.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the Papers on the Table)

Speaker: Thank you. The two Papers stand committed to the Committee on Budget and Appropriation.

NOTICE OF MOTION

PREVENTION OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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

THAT, AWARE THAT Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that trade development and regulation including local tourism is a function of the County Government;

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FURTHER AWARE THAT our country is endowed with a unique combination of tourist attractions, scenic beauty and plentiful of wildlife;

NOTING THAT the Kenya's tourism sector has been identified as one of the major areas that contribute significantly to the economic growth since most visitors come to view the wildlife;

FURTHER NOTING THAT different approaches have been employed to mitigate the Human-Wildlife conflict so as to maintain human livelihoods as well as conserve our wildlife;

CONCERNED of invasion of wild animals e.g. elephants, lions, hyenas among many others, into the farms causing destruction and even loss of human life;

This House URGES the County Government to identify and map areas prone to human-wildlife conflict, with an aim of providing mitigative measures by putting up electric fences and that the conservancies and the County Government, to employ rangers to provide information about roaming wild animals to the Kenya Wildlife Service among many other possible solutions, to curb this menace in collaboration with the relevant Government departments and other agencies.

MOTION

PREVENTION OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Hon. Salim Edung: Mr. 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 trade development and regulation including local tourism is a function of the County Government;

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FURTHER NOTING THAT different approaches have been employed to mitigate the Human-Wildlife conflict so as to maintain human livelihoods as well as conserve our wildlife;

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This House URGES the County Government to identify and map areas prone to human-wildlife conflict, with an aim of providing mitigative measures by putting up electric fences and that the conservancies and the County Government, to employ rangers to provide information about roaming wild animals to the Kenya Wildlife Service among many other possible solutions, to curb this menace in collaboration with the relevant Government departments and other agencies.

Bwana Spika, naongea kuhusu Wanyama ambao wanarandaranda mitaani kwa sababu watu wengi ni wakulima na mimea yao inaliwa na ndovu. Ndovu zinavunja ua na kuua watu kutoka hizo sehemu. Serikali ya Kaunti inaomba mikakati iwekwe ambayo itazuia wanyama ili wasiharibu mimea ya wananchi. Hizo mimea zinatupatia chakula na maji. Tunaomba

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Waheshimiwa wa Bunge la Kaunti ya Laikipia washikane mikono. Kama wanyama wanarandaranda huku, pia sisi tuko kwenye hatari kwa sababu hawa wanajua kuna shida ambayo imetokea vijijini.

Nikiangalia kwa makini, miaka mingi iliyopita hifadhi la wanyama la Lewa walikuwa wameajiri afisa wa porini. Kazi yao ilikuwa ni kuwa na redio, na baruti ili kufukuza wanyama na kupeana habari kama kuna wanyama ambao wametoka nje ya hifadhi la wanyama kama vile ndovu, pundamilia na wanyama wengine. Tukiachilia hawa wanyama waranderande katika mashamba ya wananchi, hatutavuna chochote kutoka hayo mashamba.

Wanyama wametuadhiri sana ilhali tunaweza wapa taarifa KWS ili waweke mikakati. Hifadhi zingine zinawekwa ua, ziko na NPR lakini hawaangalii wanyama walio nje. Sheria inasema kwamba wanyama wanatupatia fedha. Idara ya KWS ikisema tusiue huyo mnyama anapotoka kwenye hifadhi lakini ni kwa nini huyu mnyama anakuja kukula mimea yetu katika mashamba yetu. Hata ikisemekana kuna fidia kutoka kwa KWS, hiyo fidia inachukua karne bila ya watu kusaidika. Yule ndovu huwa anavuna kwenye hilo shamba kwa siku moja.

Mkulima anakosa chakula na anapovuna watoto wake wanapata karo ya shule na ya mambo mengine. Ninaomba wabunge wenzangu waunge mkono huu mjadala na tuwe katika kauli moja kwamba hawa wanyama ambao wanarandaranda wanafaa kuandikiwa maskauti vijana ili tusaidike. Kama sehemu zingine hazina hawa wanyama, basi hilo hifadhi liweke ua ili hawa wanyama wasitoke nje.

Mimi ningependa tuunge mkono huu mjadala. Nimeuleta kwa sababu kuna wanyama wengi hasa pundamilia ambao ni wengi sana kuliko ndovu. Hizo pundamilia zinatapakaa kila mahali. Wakipata shamba lako halina ua, asubuhi unapata pundamilia zikiwa zimejaa huko na kumaliza kila kitu ilhali huyo mkulima alienda benki kukopa pesa. Kwa siku moja, hawa wanyama wanamaliza kila kitu.

Hiyo itakuwa njia moja ya kupatia wananchi mkazo katika maisha yao kwa sababu atalipa namna gani mkopo wa benki? Inafaa tuweke mikakati na afisa wa porini ambao wako Laikipia waweke mikakati. Kama ni kufanya uhamisho wa hao wanyama, wafanye kutoka hifadhi moja hadi lile lingine. Ninaomba Mheshimiwa Umija aniafiki katika huu mjadala.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to support this motion by Hon. Salim to ensure that wildlife conservancies are fenced for the sake of our people and for the sake of the things that we are planting in our farms. This is so that they do not destroy or roam around people. I just want to retaliate what he has just said. Not far from this town around five kilometres away in Thingithu Ward, I was visiting the plots that are past KDF, Laikipia Airbase.

As you roam around, you will meet the animals such as zebras and gazelles. I said if those are day-time animals that are roaming around, imagine during the night. You will be meeting the hyenas, the lions and all the animals that comes out during the night. It was surprising because people are building within that area yet there are wild animals that are roaming around.

I think this is an initiative that KWS should take to ensure that these animals are put back to where they are supposed to be in terms of ensuring that they are in their designated parks. We should avoid the human-wildlife conflict. You will see people who just come and hunt the gazelles for meat yet KWS will say that you hunted illegally, it is because they are roaming around people houses.

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I think that the KWS should take that initiative and ensure that they fence where humans have already settled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I support the motion.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I now open the floor for debate in regards to this motion.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia hii nafasi. Asante pia kwa kuangalia upande huu. Bwana Spika, nachukua hii fursa ili niweze kushukuru Mheshimiwa Salim kwa kuleta mswada ambao kwa kweli unafaa. Bwana Spika, mswada ambao uko mbele yetu unahusisha wanyama wa pori ambao wanaingia kwenye mashamba na kurandaranda ovyo ovyo.

Bwana Spika, nafikiria tunafaa kuwa na maskauti kama vile Mheshimiwa Salim amesema ili wanyama wakipatikana, watachukuliwa na kurudishwa mahali wanafaa kuwa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, Mheshimiwa Umija amesema ya kwamba hao wanyama wamekosa nidhamu na wanakuja hadi wadi ya Thingithu. Kuna watu wanaelewa Thingithu ni mtaa. Kama wanyama wanarandaranda mitaani, yule mtu yuko ndani kama Leshuel ama Karuiru wa Olmoran kusema ukweli, wanyama wataenda hadi kwa nyumba. Hili ni jambo tunafaa kuliangalia kwa umakini. Hawa wanyama wanapotembelea sehemu zingine wananchi wanakaa, wanaharibu mimea na nyasi ambayo imetengewa ng'ombe mbuzi na kondoo. Hawa wanyama wako na sehemu zao ambayo wametengewa na wako na walinda usalama ambao wamejukumiwa hilo jukumu la kuwaangalia.

Bwana Spika, nikisema hivi, huwa natembea sehemu zingine na nakuta punda milia hadi kwa mashamba. Wanaingia na kula mahindi. Kumaanisha ile kazi ilikuwa imefanywa na mwananchi imeharibiwa. Huu ndio mmea ambao mkulima anategemea kuvuna. Naona ni jambo la busara tuweke mikakati na sheria ngumu ya kulinda wanyama wasije wakaingia mashamba ya watu.

Hawa wanyama wakiingia kwa shamba, wanaharibu vitu. Shamba ikiharibiwa kuna sheria ingine ngumu. Uonyeshe picha ya makanyangio, picha ya ile mimea imekuliwa na ndio ulipwe. Tunafaa katika hii wizara ya wanyama pori tuwe na mipango mwafaka kwamba wale watu wanazingira hayo maeneo yote wawe wanalipwa mbele. Ndio kama utapanda zikose kukuliwa unarudisha.

Nilikutana na Mheshimiwa Karuiru wakati mwingine Rumuruti akiwa na picha na stakabadhi akipeleka ndio aweze kulipwa shamba lake. Ndovu amekanyaga mahindi na kukula na ikaisha. Hadi wa leo, sidhani amewahi lipwa. Wakati huu amepanda mahindi ingine na imesongwa na maji. Tuko na shida hadi wakati mwingine tunajiuliza tunalindwa na nani kama wananchi. Mnyama anakula mimea. Maji ikija, inabeba; tuko na shida. Acha tuhakikishe hawa wanyama hawatoki. Kama watatoka tupatie wananchi nafasi. Hata wao wako na njaa. Punda milia siku hizi zinaliwa. Juzi nilisikia ukikula punda milia, yale mafuta yake yanamaliza magonjwa ya homa na mengine siwezi taja hapa ambayo ni ya ndani.

Bwana Spika, turuhusu hawa wanyama wakiingia kwa shamba lako wakikula na wewe unamkula. Iwe nipe nikupe. Hapo ndipo hawa watu wataona ni vizuri walinde. Siku hizi mnyama ana dhamana kuliko binadamu. Ukiua huyo mnyama, unaenda jela. Mnyama akikuua inachukua miaka ndio uweze kulipwa. Hilo ni jambo tunafaa kuangalia na binadamu apewe kipao mbele. Naunga mkono huu mswada.

Mheshimiwa Spika, namuonea huruma Kanyutu. Isipokuwa ni ile ua ambayo iko pale, ndovu ni rafiki yake. Wanakuja hapo kwake. Juzi nilikuwa pale na nikapigwa picha nikiwa

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karibu na ndovu. Huyu ndovu alikuwa anakula nyasi pale polepole. Lile ua linasaidia sana maana yule ndovu hawezi toka kwenda kuharibu mimea. Watu wa pande ile kwa saa hizi wako sawa isipokuwa juzi nilisikia fisi ambaye aliingia na kula mtoto na mtu mzima. Lazima tuangalie kwa umakini na tuunge mkono huu mswada maana ikipita tutafuatilia tujue serikali inafanya namna gani. Kwa hayo machache, hao wanyama wakiwekewa ua turuhusiwe kuwaona bila kulipa. Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, I wish to make my contribution towards this motion. Probably, I don't know how Members will take me but I like speaking my mind. Probably, this will be my first motion in this House to oppose. Some of these things we say in this House are strange. Sometimes I feel we say things to pass time.

Hon. Speaker, firstly, we are talking about tourism. We are talking about human-wildlife conflict in this County. We are also talking about the County Government to employ rangers in this County and also to fence the conservancies. To me, I feel this is the wrong direction and as the Count Government of Laikipia, we should not move to that direction.

When you read this motion, first you need to ask yourself, in the conservancies that are around us, how do our people benefit? We are talking about tourism. How does Oljogi help us as people of Laikipia in terms of revenue? How does Ol-pejeta help us in terms of revenue so that we may employ rangers on their behalf?

Hon. Speaker, putting an electric fence like the one in Marmanet costed over Kshs. 200,000,000. If today we wake up and say we want to do a fence for Oldaiga, Olnaisho and all those areas, it will cost us for no reason. Hon. Kagondu has spoken about zebras roaming around. Why didn't he talk about Rhinos? Ol-pejeta knows the value of the Rhino. Why do they protect the Rhinos and not hyenas? It is a matter of how important is. The conservancies that are around us, because we are farmers. There are people who do livestock farming. Their animals are taken away by lions. We are grain farmers; our maize plants are eaten by elephants.

Hon. Speaker, we need to ask ourselves a question. When those animals come to our farms, are they allowed by those people because they come during the dry season? Sometimes when there is a lot of maize in Umande, that is the time we see elephants. Oldaiga is responsible. If you are willing to rear animals, take care of them. If I feel like doing farming, I am supposed to fence my land. It is upon everybody to choose the business you want. If your business is raring elephants, make sure your elephants live with you. It is your responsibility to put an electric fence for your animals.

Hon. Speaker, the issue of human-wildlife conflict is something that is very sensitive and broad. As a County Government, we might engage ourselves saying that we are employing rangers and those rangers benefit someone else who owns those animals. At times, we need to be reasonable enough and face these ranchers with courage. They take us for granted. That is why I was saying you can only see a Zebra but not a Rhino. You see a Hyena not a Lion. That tells us much. That they allow those animals come and destroy our farm products because they don't have value for us.

Hon. Speaker, today Hon. Kagondu said that Hon. Karuiru is moving around town with forms to be paid for those years. If he killed an elephant, we could not have him here as a Member of County Assembly. They could have arrested him the same day. Why is it that now when those animals come to our farms, we take years before payment? If you kill one the same day, airoplanes move around looking for you to be arrested. To make things worse, sometimes they will shoot you down. Thousands of people have been shot here in Tigithi. Many killed in

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Ngobit because of the same animals. How many animals have been killed because of killing human beings in this County? None! Men and Women are killed because of those animals.

Mr. Speaker, now you want us, as the County Government to employ guards and protect those animals and they are the ones enjoying the tourism industry. We need to invest right. Personally, putting an electric fence for them, from where I sit I don't know where we shall get that kind of budget. Secondly. Employing rangers for them, I don't think because even NPR we are unable to pay them.

Mr. Speaker, we need to put priorities right on issues in our county. Instead of even employing rangers, let us first for protect our lives by paying the NPR before going to those people. From there, we wake up and tell the conservancies; you are the one who will benefit from animals. Take care of them, fence well and employ rangers and we don't want to see wild animals coming to humans. You fence or give out your land. These are the rules we are supposed to set as County Government.

Number two, if today my farm is invaded by elephants, I be paid within a certain period of time. I had planted my maize to harvest in the month of September. Now, why tell me you will pay me after five years. I be paid by the time I was supposed to harvest. When we kill wildlife, we die and others are arrested. When they eat our farms, they need to die or the owners of those farms we stop them from rearing animals because they are not able to protect them. Today, I oppose this completely from my heart. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, first I thank Hon. Edung for bringing this motion. It had been my trend previously but at the moment, I cannot talk of the same. The only concern is that if the conservancy he is talking about is private, I don't think there is any way the county can implement using the county money. If it's a public conservancy and at the same time I don't think if we have nay fence that has ever been fenced by the county.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak I have a fence surrounding Rumuruti Forest. It was done by the National Government and County was involved in engaging the scouts who were to maintain the fence. Two weeks ago, I was the only area MCA who was able to greet H.E the President when launching that fence in my area. As I speak, at the moment the National Government is implementing another fence surrounding Naigera forest which has been hectic.

Mr. Speaker, very soon I will also be pushing for the rangers who will maintain the same fence. We had this issue. I was even laughing to some extent because H.E. the Governor has a farm within my area in Karandi. He tried to put avocados. Within a night, they were all cleared by elephants. It's unfortunate because even as the Member was talking of filling the compensation forms which are given after five years, previously they used to include a next – of-kin because some of the people who filled those forms used to die before they got compensated. Of late, I heard there is a change and last week I was at the police station and went through a very big list of people who have benefitted. I am happy because the government is keen on compensation.

Mr. Speaker. I am shocked when I hear Members raising concerns pertaining to zebras. I cannot talk of those animals. These are the animals that humans can deal with accordingly. They are very nutritious. Unfortunately, our people when working on them they shout. If you touch a Rhino or Elephant, that is when you can see an airplane. Zebras and buffalos are sorted within the bushes.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard Hon. Kagondu stating how he enjoyed taking a selfie with an elephant. That is the norm in my area. It is unfortunate because we have an area that is really

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hectic like Naigera but in Rumuruti Forest, even my youngest boy has enjoyed that trend and that is the issue that used to bother us throughout life. Even if we are to push the government, some of the issues that we can handle with our own hands, let us sort it in a manner that nobody will interfere.

There is a time when I head an elephant that had fallen in a hole somewhere near Kanyingi. That was the first time when I got to see vehicles with trailers coming to rescue that elephant. Unfortunately, it died before it could be rescued. I celebrated their presence and I was almost trapped. I told them that I was very happy that one has been eliminated until another could be born.

Recently, we had two other elephants which were practising how to swim near Githiga Region. All the government resources were taken there to rescue them but it is unfortunate because the people reported earlier. I told them if they needed a secret behind everything, not to report early but for nature to take its course. I support If we are putting the fence so that those of us who are farming to get the produce and harvest our crops without disturbance from the elephants because we can easily deal with the other animals. The big animals are really a bother and I am sure that with the people's support, it will be possible.

As I speak, I know that there is a Member who is wondering how we are going to get a solution. If you pay a visit to Salama on a daily basis, they do cry because elephants are Criss-crossing in each and every corner. I am sure that that area is the best in horticulture which is sustaining our county. I am happy because when H. E the President was launching Lariak fence, he promised to bring over some more kilometres of fence which would cater for areas like Salama. I am sure that with that, all the farming regions will be well catered for. So, I support as far as we do not fence private areas. Thank you.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Asante sana, Bwana Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ya kuchangia huu mjadala mzuri sana ambao umeletwa na Mjumbe kutoka Segera. Ningetaka kuunga mkono kwa sababu pia mimi mahali nimetoka, kuna shida ya Wanyama kama vile Mheshimiwa Kanyutu amesema. Huko Salama kuna ndovu na simba wengi kutoka mbuga la Wanyama la Ol-pejeta. Ningetaka pia kufafanuliwa zaidi kuhusu kazi ya Serikali Kuu, KWS na kazi ya Serikali ya Kaunti katika haya mambo ya Wanyama.

Mr. Speaker, I am not very good in Swahili and therefore I would like to switch to English so that I can get it well. I was trying to say that we need to know the role of the County Government, National Government and the KWS because when the President was launching the Lariak fence last month, you will understand that the County Government is only left with conservation of wildlife only. So, you cannot force a County Government to put up a fence. I don't know whether putting up a fence is the work of conservation.

In my ward, there is a very bad route, Kivuko Ranch where animals migrate from Salama, Pesi to Thome and in areas of Thome, we have got a lot of ranchers. I want to say that I and Hon. Salim are the biggest casualties of wildlife. In Salama, everyday we receive like a hundred elephants which start entering our farms from around 6.30 p.m. Every time, we must mobilize people to go and force the animals out and you know when you are chasing away elephants, you are likely to get some casualties. We have one story that goes like; if you see one elephant commonly known as *ndovu ya nduiki,* that one is very dangerous.

I want to say that Hon. Salim brought a very important issue here and in the same motion, he is talking of bringing a solution to curb the menace in collaboration with the relevant government departments and agencies. So, that is where the motion becomes appropriate to us.

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I strongly support the motion and also urge the County Government to get down to their business. Thank you.

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Nashukuru kwa sababu nimejaribu mara tano ukiwa unanikata lakini nikasema wacha tu ningoje hadi dakika ya mwisho ili niweze kuongea. Nataka kushukuru Mheshimiwa Salim kwa kuleta huu mjadala katika hili Bunge letu. Kila wakati huwa nasikia Mheshimiwa Gatati kutoka Salama akiongea lakini ndovu Kenya nzima huwa na eneo la kuzaa huko Igwamiti; Kauka. Hapo katika Kenya nzima, ndovu wakitaka kuzaa, lazima wakimbie pale kwa sababu wako na eneo la kuzaa pale na kuna pahali ambapo wanaosha Watoto wao.

Kwa hivyo, juzi kwangu walikuja saa moja na kula parachichi na ndizi na kuvuka barabara na kutembea mpaka mji wa Nyahururu; karibu ndovu sita. Tena, ukisikia nduru eneo la Maina, ni kumaanisha ziko huko. Saa moja kasoro, zilikuwa zimeanza kurudi msituni na tukaitana. Wakati tuliitana, mimi sisemi ndovu ziuawe. Nachangia nikisema ya kwamba serikali ifungie ndovu zake kwa sababu sisi huwa hatuendi kwa msitu kuzisumbua, bali hizo ndizo huingia kwa Wanjiku na kuwachokora kwa mashamba.

Unajua ukiua ndovu, siku hiyo ndiyo utajua ya kwamba kuna serikali kwa sababu wote watavamia mahali pale ndovu imekufa. Juzi kwangu katika shule ya Kimaru ambapo inapakana na msitu, ndovu moja sijui kama iliwekewa dawa ya mnada kwa malenge, ikala na kufa. Niliona watu wazee na mapanga wakikimbia na magunia na kuikatakata. Baada ya saa moja, hakukuwa na chochote. Watu wa KWS walipokuwa wakifika, walikuta ya kwamba hakuna kitu.

Katika Kenya, wageni wengi huja kuona Wanyama lakini serikali ina haja kuliko Wanjiku. Nasema hivyo kwa sababu kama ni mimi nilikuwa nimeuawa na ndovu, ni kuandika tu kwa magazeti ya kwamba Mheshimiwa Wachuka ameuawa na kupelekwa chumba cha kuhifadhia maiti. Lakini ukiguza ndovu moja na ikufe, serikali yote huwa inaungana na kuja huko kujua ni kwa nini huyo mnyama amekufa na pia historia yake lakini ya binadamu, hakuna kitu kama hicho.

Kwa hivyo, ningetaka kushukuru Mheshimiwa Salim na tujue ya kwamba hata leo tukiweza kusema ndovu ziuawe, hakuna mtu ambaye anaweza kuua. Kile kitu ambacho tungeuliza serikali yetu ni ya kwamba wafungie hao wanyama ili wakae wanapofaa na sisi Wanjiku tukae pahali tunatakiwa. Wakati ndovu zilikuja kwangu, mimi nilipiga simu na king'ora lakini hakuna mtu alitoka nje. Kila mtu alikuwa anauliza ni wapi na zilikuwa nne. Zilikuwa ndovu mbili za kiume, moja ya kike na mtoto mmoja. Ndovu mbili za kuime zilikuwa zinaweka ndovu ya kike na mtoto katikati. Ukiona ndovu zikiwa na Watoto, ni hatari sana.

Nilijaribu kupiga hadi debe na kuwasha moto lakini hazikuogopa kisha zikaenda. Kwa hivyo, tungeeleza serikali yetu, vile walivyo na haja na hao Wanyama wao, wazifungie kwa sababu sisi tuko na haja na watu wetu. Sisi hatuna haja kuua ndovu au mnyama mwingine kwa sababu tunajua katika Kenya, Utalii ni wa maana sana. Sasa hivi ukienda Thompsons Falls, wakati nilikuwa nakuja, magari zilikuwa zinaanza kutoka. Unaona kama magari kumi na tano za watalii wakitoka *lodge*. Huwa hawapendi sana kulala Panari. Ningeuliza Bwana Spika siku moja Waheshimiwa wapelekwe waone vile Thompsons Falls iko.

Sasa hivi ndivyo unaweza kuiona vizuri. Huwa unaionea kwa mbali na hata unaogopa kuikaribia kwa sababu sasa mto uko karibu kufurika. Ukiwa pale katika hoteli ya G.G Kariuki na kuangalia vile Thompsons Falls iko, hadi viboko zimetoroka. Juzi viboko zilikuwa zinakuja mjini lakini siku hizi zimetoroka. Ninaunga mkono lakini sisemi ndovu ziuawe. Ngojeni

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serikali ifungie Wanyama wao na pia ichunge Wanjiku inavyochunga Wanyama kwa sababu wanjiku ni wa umuhimu sana kuliko Wanyama. Asante.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand to support and I would want to make some clarity on several areas. Conservation is where the wildlife is being conserved. We have two categories of conservation because I am a conservationist. We have got environment and wildlife conservation. So, where you conserve the wildlife, is where we call the wildlife conservation area but you can also conserve the environment even without the wildlife. So, conservation is an area where you specifically conserve a certain activity or purpose.

Mr. Speaker, the County Government can have a conservation in a national reserve but a national park is a National Government Park. When you go to Samburu and Maasai Mara, it is under the County Government. Probably if tomorrow, we come up with the Kilimon Conservancy, it would be a national reserve under the County Government. So, the County Government can apply all the resources in that national reserve and also employ the rangers and get resources from that reserve.

Mr. Speaker, Laikipia is very unique. All conservancies are private conservancies being managed by the settlers. If you go all across Laikipia County, as we all know, 52% of Laikipia County's entire land is under the whites whereby in Laikipia North, 75% is under ranchers. So, the 48% is where we occupy as farmers and others.

The picture right now because they are getting money from the tourists and I am happy that this motion has mentioned several things. This motion has mentioned on how to get a solution and the big solution we can get from this human-wildlife conflict is to fence the entire private conservancy lands. The other thing is to identify the corridors because you cannot fence everywhere because elephants have got routes and cannot stay in one area. You cannot fence the Ol-pejeta alone and say that all elephants will stay inside. They will destroy everything and at the end of the day, they will die out of hunger. Therefore, they must move across.

If you go to Lewa, there is a corridor that crosses the tarmac road just next to the junction of Isiolo-Meru going to Mt. Kenya allowing the elephants to move from Lewa to Mt. Kenya and probably connecting to Aberdare. Without that movement, the elephants would be a problem in this county because their population is very high and the most dangerous animal in destruction is an elephant.

If you go to Lewa and Borana, they is bare land now without trees because the elephants have destroyed everything because of the fence. So, we are protecting the group ranches because we are also doing some conservancies but we do not want to fence the entire group ranch because the moment you fence the entire ranch, it will become a bare land. When it becomes bare, there will be no rains, erosions and other things would occur. In private lands, they can probably plant trees.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution must come out clearly and the concerned agency must come up with a solution and one of the solutions is for private ranchers to fence their land. Secondly, they give an alternative way of wildlife to move. Failure to that, we will be having this problem forever because nowadays the elephants have experienced the electric fences and they can even break. So, we must get the solution and the government cannot employ the rangers unless there is a national reserve.

You cannot employ rangers to go to private farms and just loiter and the National government have got their own budget in tourism. For your information Mr. Speaker, we do

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not get any resources as a County Government from tourism because the tax from tourism belongs to the National Government. If you go to those lodges, we are only getting money from the permits which we give to the hotels. We do not get bed nights or any money from tourism. We do not stand at the gate to count how many guests come to your area because it is not the mandate of the County Government. So, the entire tourism is under National government apart from the national reserves.

So, Laikipia is both a private and national issue. Those are the two entities that will deal with the issue of wildlife conservancy. Our job as the County Government is to liaise with them because our people are suffering. We liaise with them and give them information and advice on what to do. The Department of Tourism in the National Government should employ rangers to identify and help the people to even fill those forms. Very few people report to the government when predators get their animals or cause destruction.

Mr. Speaker, when you analyse the destruction and the people who are killed by wildlife, the government cannot afford that budget. It is a big number. What they do nowadays when a person is killed is that they give one million this year, another million next year and so on. They do not give five million at once even in the one that was launched. How much money was launched, then divide it by five million? How many people are killed per day in this country? Analyse that.

You cannot get that budget. So, what the government is doing nowadays is to cater for the people who are killed. The injured ones and destruction caused takes years. So, what we are supposed to do is to secure and protect instead of pretending that when one dies, they will be given five million. I am also sure that no one wants to die so that their next of kin can get five million.

Mr. Speaker and the Hon. Member who has brought this motion, firstly, the County Government cannot employ. The County Government can only fence the forests in liaison with the National Government. I remember that from 2013 up to 2016, we allocated more than twenty million as a County Government for Marmanet forest. Even if it was substandard, at least there is a fence that we have even managed.

I just want to say that the County Government cannot employ but can collaborate with the relevant entities and give advice. They can also give advice on corridors as well as identify private land areas that allow the animals to penetrate and reach farmlands. We can push them to have two options; either fence your land or vacate and give it to the public. Why should you have thousands of acres of unproductive land? Why should you have land which turns into a thick forest where bandits can hide.

People from the West must be good people. This lady called Kuki Gallman owns a thousand hectares of land, very big land with no activity taking place inside it. So the Pokot come and settle in it permanently and then come and steal our animals. It should either be used as a tourist attraction site or given to the people. Why should people own land which they do not utilize?

Mr. Speaker, those private land owners should fence their lands. Hon. Mugweru knows that we have pushed Lenaisho and Loldaiga to put up a fence at the boundary between them and the areas of Umande, Ngenia, etc. If they do not fence, that will be a problem. One day, we will come up with a bill which says that if you own a conservancy, you will be paying the compensation fee instead of the National Government doing so. You should allocate a certain percentage from what you are getting from tourism for compensation instead of just throwing everything to the National Government.

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We will have that bill eventually because that is what will help our people. However, before that, they should fence their lands, the government should look for corridors and probably compensate. If you go to Naromoru, that area is the corridor that crosses to Aberdare. They should compensate people to allow movement of wildlife. Failure to that, we have a problem.

Mr. Speaker, the population of wildlife is increasing because nowadays we are not doing culling. Until the government introduces that policy again, the population will remain very high. Until we address those issues, the government can be giving compensation but it can never be enough. If your maize is destroyed by wild animals today, it will take you years. So, you will be waiting for something that is not there.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that private land owners should fence their lands, the government should identify corridor areas so as to allow movement of wildlife, and the county government should come up with a policy or law that will cause every conservancy to allocate a certain percentage of what it gets from tourism to compensation for human-wildlife conflict. The County Government cannot employ rangers but can liaise with the National Government and fence forest areas, and private conservancies should fence their lands to protect Laikipians against being killed by wildlife. Thank you. I stand to support.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion presented by Hon. Salim. Knowing that he comes from the hotspot of human-wildlife conflict, this is a menace that he has been experiencing for years since he started campaigning. Having risen from a councillor all the way to becoming an MCA, I know he has been on the hotseat of this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the point that Hon. Shuel has just made. If you look at my ward of Tigithi Ward, it is surrounded by two private conservancies. One of them is Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the other is Solio Ranch which has both wildlife and livestock. When it comes to tourism in those private conservancies, the profit that those entities make does not help the residents surrounding those areas. If it helps at all, it is by a very small percentage. Hon. Salim and I have been pushing Ol Pejeta Conservancy to allocate a substantial amount of funds to fencing their own property.

This is a private entity, thus all the profit that they make goes to their coffers. It does not go to the National Government or County Government coffers. If it is a private entity, then they should be able to secure their conservancy. There should not be elephants or monkeys in Tigithi or zebras in Solio. That is their duty. If they make profit which does not help the surrounding residents, it shows that we are failing as a government. With the PS for Wildlife being from Laikipia County, we should have a sit-down with her so that we can deliberate.

Mr. Speaker, these Members are the first respondents when it comes to cases concerning wildlife in Laikipia County. Before they reach the Governor, the first person who responds is Hon. Salim or Hon. Gatati who is on the ground because he lives in that area and it is his home base. If a person is killed by an elephant, the first person who is called is the area MCA. So, if we can get a sit-down with the PS herself, then we can address these issues amicably because we are the people who have first-hand contact with the people of Laikipia County.

If it is achievable, we need to have a meeting with the PS so that in areas such as Salama where we have more private conservancies, the owners should own up and fence them. If they make a substantial amount of profit from what they do in their conservancies, they should

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allocate a substantial amount towards fencing their own properties. This is not the property of the government; it is a private entity and so they should secure their own property.

There was a day in Tigithi Ward at an area that borders Solio Ranch, a herd of lions were seen just lying on the tarmac road at night enjoying its warmth. Lions from the conservancy move to Solio Ranch where livestock is reared and end up crossing over to where people are living. You wonder how even the rangers employed by Solio Ranch are not aware that lions have crossed over to people's residences.

As Hon. Shuel has stated, we need to cull. Some years back, there was a scheme which I think was from the government, that people had licenses to hunt zebras which were transported as meat to Nairobi and exported. Today, I have a herd of zebras in Solio villages ravaging residents' crops. As Hon. Kanyutu has stated, we should be discussing issues of zebras yet he is discussing issues of zebras as though zebras are cows. We should not be discussing zebras which are treated as though they are not wild animals.

Speaker: Order Members! Continue, Hon. Mwaniki.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Hon. Kanyutu has just stated that we should not be discussing this. Hon. Kanyutu himself is being haunted by elephants, buffaloes, leopards and lions. They are ravaging things in Marmanet while us in Tigithi are being disturbed by mere zebras on the ground. That is something that we should be given licences to hunt and export because it is meat. If we allow the population of wild animals to expand in our conservancies, that is when owners of the conservancies switch off electricity and wild animals escape from their conservancies because they are unable to feed them.

That is what has been happening to Solio and Ol Pejeta conservancies. If you see that the population has escalated, there should be a formula on how to cull the number of wild animals in those conservancies. So, I rise to support Hon. Salim's motion. We have a bone to chew with the PS of Wildlife and a meeting should be scheduled so that these Members can discuss that issue with the PS. I do support, thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwaniki. I now want to give the Mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Nashukuru, Bwana Spika kwa kunipa hii nafasi tena. Nawashukuru Wabunge wenzangu kwa vile pia wamezingatia wakati na kila mtu amechangia kwenye huu mjadala. Tunajua kwamba tutaweka mikakati katika hii Kaunti yetu ili wanyama wasidhuru binadamu wala mashamba yetu. Asante kwa wote waliochangia na Mungu awabariki. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members for a robust debate.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday 7th May, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.24 a.m.

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