REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 12th March, 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 whether we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum I direct the bell to be rang for 10 minutes.

(The bell was rung for seven minutes)

Hon. John Gichuki: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that there is quorum.

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether indeed we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

PREPARATION FOR LONG RAINS

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

THAT, AWARE THAT our County has previously faced challenges in responding to heavy rains, including poor drainage systems, damaged roads, and inadequate disaster response mechanisms;

CONCERNED THAT if proactive measures are not taken, the impact of the long rains could be severe, leading to loss of lives, destruction of property, and disruption of essential services;

NOTING THAT the Constitution and relevant laws mandate the County Government to provide emergency response services, improve drainage infrastructure, and safeguard the welfare of residents;

This House URGES the county government to:

1. Conduct an assessment of flood-prone areas and put in place mitigation measures.
2. Clear and improve drainage systems to prevent waterlogging and flooding.
3. Develop an emergency response plan, including temporary shelters for displaced persons.
4. Provide public awareness campaigns on safety measures during heavy rains.

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5. Stockpile emergency relief supplies such as food, medicine, and clean water.
6. Work with meteorological departments to provide timely weather updates to residents.
7. Allocate sufficient funds in the budget for disaster preparedness and response.

Thank you.

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO PLANT TREES

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki through Hon. Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion:

THAT, AWARE THAT implementation of specific National Government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation, including soil and water conservation; and forestry is a function of the County Government as stipulated in part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

FURTHER AWARE THAT forest resources in our country are valuable natural endowment that must be sustainably managed for present and future generations;

NOTING THAT Forest resources offer a range of benefits and opportunities for local and national economic development, improved livelihoods and provision of environmental goods and services such as watershed protection and carbon sequestration;

This House URGES the County Government to liaise with relevant agencies and plant trees in the County during the forthcoming long rains period.

MOTION

PREPARATION FOR LONG RAINS

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Wakati nilikuwa nasoma *notice of motion* nilifikiria ni mswada wenyewe, ndiposa nikaendelea na mswada. Hata hivyo, niruhusu sasa niendelee na huu mswada.

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

THAT, AWARE THAT our County has previously faced challenges in responding to heavy rains, including poor drainage systems, damaged roads, and inadequate disaster response mechanisms;

CONCERNED THAT if proactive measures are not taken, the impact of the long rains could be severe, leading to loss of lives, destruction of property, and disruption of essential services;

NOTING THAT the Constitution and relevant laws mandate the County Government to provide emergency response services, improve drainage infrastructure, and safeguard the welfare of residents;

This House URGES the County Government to:

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2. Clear and improve drainage systems to prevent waterlogging and flooding.

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3. Develop an emergency response plan, including temporary shelters for displaced persons.
4. Provide public awareness campaigns on safety measures during heavy rains.
5. Stockpile emergency relief supplies such as food, medicine, and clean water.
6. Work with meteorological departments to provide timely weather updates to residents.
7. Allocate sufficient funds in the budget for disaster preparedness and response.

Bwana Spika, kama nilivyokuwa nimesema, huu ni mswada unaosema kuhusu kujitayarisha kwa ajili ya mvua inayokuja Mwezi wa nne. Wakati mwingi mvua inaponyesha, wananchi wengi huteseka kwa sababu hawana habari mvua itanyesha kwa kiwango kipi. Kwa hivyo, ni jukumu la serikali kuwaeleza wananchi wake kuhusu hali ya anga. Madhumuni ya huu mswada ni kusukuma serikali ifanye kazi inayostahili kufanya.

Bwana Spika, wananchi ambao wako kwenye sehemu zinazokumbwa na mafuriko wakati mwingine wanajipata kwa shida kwa ghafla ilhali tuko na serikali na wizara ambayo inafaa kuhakikisha wananchi wameelewa madhara ambayo yanaweza tokea wakati wowote.

Juzi tuliona nyumba za watu zikifurika maji. Wengine kutolewa kwa manyumba Nairobi na katika sehemu zingine zote na pia hapa Nanyuki watu walisongwa sana na Mto Nanyuki ambapo wananchi wengi waliadhirika. Mahali ambapo mimi nawakilisha tuko na sehemu ambayo inakumbwa sana na ukosefu wa mitaro ya maji taka. Sehemu za Ruai, Kilimo, Stadium na mahali ambapo kunaitwa Mirera huwa kuna shida kubwa sana wakati wa mvua. Ni jukumu la serikali kuwafahamisha wananchi.

Wakati huu kuna mvua tunatarajia mwezi wa nne. Mimi na wananchi wengine hatuwezi eleza mvua hii itanyesha kwa wakati mgani na itakuwa na madhara gani. Serikali wakishirikiana na wale ambao wanafanya mambo ya anga wataweza kufahamisha mwananchi ambaye yuko huko bila kujua ni nini inaweza fanyika wakati wowote. Ni jukumu la wizara ya mazingira na maji waweze kufanya kazi pamoja.

Vilevile kupitia wizara hio wanaweza kuwa na mpango maalum wa majibu ya dharura. Watu wakipata shida kama hio kuna vile wataokolewa. Kwa leo tukipatwa na janga, tutaona tu viongozi wakikimbia pale kuwapa pole na mambo mengine lakini hakuna ule mpango wa dharura ambao umewekwa.

Vilevile waweze kujua ni sehemu gani zinazo adhirika. Juzi tulikuwa na bajeti kidogo ya kupunguza maji ambayo inaelekea upande wa Ruai. Kwangu haitoshi. Ni tone la maji kwa ziwa. Ningeuliza hili Bunge ipitishe pesa ambazo zitafanya kazi vizuri. Ule mtaa wa Ruai wananchi wamejenga na ni kubwa. Kuna nyumba za kifahali. Tunahitaji kama shilingi milioni mia tatu ndio mitaro ya maji taka iweze kutengenezwa na ndio pia wapate barabara nzuri.

Vilevile kunaponyesha, serikali iwe na mpango. Yale maji yasiende kwa mto kisha kiangazi ikiingia tunaanza kulia. Wakati huu watu wanalia hakuna maji na juzi watu walikuwa wanasombwa na maji. Lazima tuwe na mpango wa kuwezesha wananchi kuwa na maji.

Vilevile, tumesema kuwe na mpango wa kuhamasisha mwananchi. Tunalekea wakati wa mvua, mwananchi anajua nini? Mwananchi anapanga nini? Lazima serikali ifanye mikutano ya baraza kueleza mwananchi kuna mvua na itanyesha kiwango hiki na sehemu hii ama ingine mjikinge namna hii kwa sababu mvua inaweza nyesha wakati wowote.

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Vilevile, kuwe na chakula cha msaada cha dharura. Watu wakipata hio shida ya kusombwa na maji unapata maji yakiingia yanafagia chakula ile iko kwa shamba, iliyopikwa na inaharibika yote. Mavazi wanakosa na hayo yote serikali inafaa kushughulikia. Pia tuwe na pesa za kutosha. Sehemu ni nyingi ambayo inaadhirika na mafuriko katika wadi kadhaa. Sehemu kama Kinamba ni mtaa ambayo inakuwa. Yale maji inatoka pale maana iko kwa mlima kuna mahali inaenda.

Vilevile mtaa wa Nyahururu unafaa kuangaliwa. Mitaro imeziba. Kila mahali kuna mafuriko. Lazima serikali iwe tayari. Katika mtaa wa Nanyuki kuwe na mpango mwafaka wa dharura na pia Rumuruti na mitaa ndogondogo kama Matanya, Kalalu, Lamuria, Makutano na Wiyumiririe. Mambo ya mitaro hukumba kila sehemu. Hata barabara zenye tunajenga zinafaa kuwa na mitaro ya kuteremsha maji mahali inafaa. Naomba tupitishe huu mswada. Wale wanafaa kushughulikia hili jambo wanafanya nini? Wanafanya nini? Ni akina nani? Na watafanya nini janga litakapotokea?

Nashukuru kwa sababu mambo ya moto tuko na gari la moto ambalo linajaribu. Tulikuwa tumeweka kwa bajeti hii tuwe na gari la kuzima moto. Lenye liko na mzee. Kutoka hapa hadi Ruai linachukua muda mwingi. Tenki limetoboka na pia linamwaga maji ovyo ovyo. Hata ikifika pale liko maji nusu. Moto ikitokea Likii na uwe na bodaboda utafika mbele na dakika 30 hivi. Linapiga tu kelele na kuenda mwendo wa kinyonga. Haya ni mambo ambayo tunafaa kuweka laini. Mambo kama hii ikitokea lazima tuwe tayari na tuhakikishe wananchi wamekaa kwa Amani. Ni jukumu la serikali kulinda maisha ya mwananchi na kumpa haki yake. Kwa hayo machache nataka kumwita Mheshimiwa Gitahi ambayo yuko mwito ya mambo ya ukulima na anaelewa mambo ya kuweka maji. Namkaribisha aweze kuunga mkono huu mswada.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion by Hon. Ndiritu from Thingithu. The motion is very timely. In the last three days, we have heard from the Kenya Meteorological Department. One thing I would say that is different this year is their accurateness. These days they are able to state that rain will start on Monday and end on Wednesday. It has been accurate as so. It is then important we take their projections very seriously as a people that are concerned with a population of its size in Laikipia County.

Hon. Speaker, having said that, I want to state that we are reminded time without number and I don't know whether it's the bible where this wisdom has been drawn but we are told that it's only a fool that does not learn from the past mistakes. I was seated here when a report was issued by the Kenya Red Cross on the devastating losses that we had last year with the heavy rains. It is incumbent upon us to have learnt and understand that as rain comes, we have a bigger responsibility of ensuring the blessing does not come with its curses.

I have read through the motion Hon. Speaker and some things are very important. First for it is important that the County Government maps the location that are so vulnerable on issues of flooding. Secondly, the County Government must also contemplate on how we are going to harvest this water so that we bring the issues of food dignity. Additionally, there are issues of garbage collection. If you go the informal settlements or even in towns, it is garbage that obstructs water which later cause's destruction. These issues must start from mapping to issues of identifying the kind of help that is needed.

On this one, we also have to be timely so that when people are affected by these floods, we know areas where we can evacuate them to and the kind of humanitarian assistance that is requisite for human living. Having said that, I wouldn't want to say much because I know these members have more important issues to state.

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As I end, I want to say that in Githiga Ward we have areas prone to floods. There is an area called Rubere and it is an area prone to flooding year in year out. People have been evacuated to Rubere Primary School, just as a place called Matuiku in a place called Kieni. It is the high time that this County Government marks these areas and intervenes for probable destruction. Thank you, I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Members, I open the floor for deliberations and debate regarding the motion.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I don't want to comment because I know what Hon. Kaniaru wanted to do when I was passing there. There is something he wanted to check whether I have.

Hon. Speaker, I want to make my contribution in relation to the motion that was brought today. The motion has come at the right time because we have been given a warning by God Himself. He has brought three days rain so that at least we should be able to prepare. This is to confirm that long rains are on the way. Therefore, preparing at the right time will be the best for us.

Hon. Speaker, at this time, there are so many things that as a government needs to be prepared on. We have got so many blocked drainages across the county which are supposed to be cleaned at this time. It is very unfortunate that most of the time we only learn to unblock those drainages when it has already happened.

So, Hon. Speaker, this is now the high time we are supposed to deploy as many young people and also machines to unblock the blocked drainages. We should also prepare because after the rains there will be a lot of destructions in this county including roads that have already been done and the ones that will are doing now. In the month of June, most of them will be no more. So, among preparedness is even preparing for the rains and after the rains.

Last week on Friday, I wish to commend the Government of Laikipia because one, they were able to purchase a brand-new excavator to desilt the water pans in this county. That was the best thing that can happen to us because every ward has got a water pan and all those pans needs desilting so that after the rains we may not cry up and down saying that there were rains and afterwards people are dying of hunger.

We need to reserve that water so that it may help us after the rains. Now that the Executive has bought a new excavator, this is the high time we deploy enough lorries to accompany the excavator so that they may be able to desilt as many water pans as possible. That is between now and when the rain starts because those water pans are to preserve the water.

It would be very unfortunate because if we do not do it now by the time the rains are here, we will be forced to do it next year in the month of January or February. So, an excavator will just be lying there waiting for January to come. That excavator should even work day and night because it is only for a month and it came late. Now it should work day and night so that it can at least have do four water pans in a week.

I don't want to say when the rains will come because these people who usually tell us when the rains will be coming always make mistakes, apart from this time when they said that the rains will be here for three days and it happened. Most of the times the stories they give are opposite of what happens. So, I don't want to be one of them. When the rains come whether it

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will be in the beginning of April or mid-April, by that time we are supposed to have done as many water pans as possible.

Because it is our responsibility, the people who are supposed to do that, before the excavator came, they were just relaxing. It is always sweet to get paid for work done but it is embarrassing when you queue to get salary yet you know that you have been doing nothing. Those people at this time, because they have not been busy, now that they have a new machine, they should do it as if they are repaying for the days they were not working.

Last year when we had long rains, we saw some people around Likii. There are people who had built houses next to the river and when the rains stopped, some of them went back next to the river. It was really surprising because that is the first day I saw somebody who fetches water in a river seated from his compound. You are in your compound and yet you are fetching water from the river, two meters from the river.

Immediately after the rains were over, they went back to the same positions. Most of those people, you cannot even blame them but the government because I realized that the government of those years is the same government that allocated pieces of land next to the river. Those people have got papers and you really wonder where we go wrong. Whether it is 20 years ago when they were allocated those lands, it is us as the current government to know where to take those people because they followed due process.

When there were floods around that area, I remember seeing the CECM and the Deputy Governor crossing the floods that day and now I don't know whether we are waiting for another rain to cross the same river. Mr. Speaker, we need to prepare ourselves because the rains are coming. Even if they don't come next week, we know that next month the rains will come. So, I support and also thank the Hon. Member who came up with this motion at this time when we need this action done. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion on preparations of long rains, as a County Government and as we are starting on the budget process making, I think that the motion is timely. I can see that there is a need for allocation of sufficient funds on matters of mitigating floods that will wreak havoc in our county.

This means that as a House when we will be planning on the budget, more funds need to be allocated towards this issue so that we can be able to repair our infrastructure. Most of the roads which will be done this financial year, before the end of this year most of them will have been damaged by these floods.

So, I would like the Members to dwell on this issue as we prepare for budget so as to allocate enough funds. As of today, in Nanyuki Town Municipality and regions near this town i.e., Thingithu Ward and Umande, these are some of the areas that will be mostly affected by the floods because populations are high around these zones and matters of drainage and unclogging will be a very sensitive matter.

In the budget of this financial year, there was an allocation of construction of drainage works between Thingithu Ward and Nanyuki Ward. This budget is not sufficient because the number of drainages that needs to be done in these two wards is quite high and there are always complaints from the members from those wards. So, I would urge the Members of this House that in the coming budget we do an allocation of the same so that we can be able to serve the residents of those three areas so that they can be able to have a better livelihood.

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This matter is also affecting the municipalities in this county which are Nyahururu (Igwamiti), Nanyuki and Rumuruti. We need to allocate more funds so that we can be able to repair the infrastructure in the three zones.

Mr. Speaker, across the County and in my ward, the flood affects the residents of my locality. There is flooding across the lands because there is horticulture farming. Last year, they encountered a big loss because most of our people have large tracts of land and they are doing horticultural farming. Last year we did not give them any support of seedlings. As I can see, the Governor Natembeya came up with a movement on eradication of hunger by giving out maize seeds to the local people.

Laikipia County should adopt this because after floods, there will be hunger because most of our crops will be damaged. On matters of setting emergency funds to counter this, we need an additional fund so that we can be able to provide for our farmers who are in our locality. I support this motion and I urge this House to support so that we can be able to help our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to air my views. I appreciate the Member who brought this motion on Drainage Systems. Mr. Speaker, as much as we want to do water harvesting and drainage systems. We also need to train our people and the community on how to do water harvesting.

When you go to NTRH, it has no gutters on the buildings. Therefore, when the rains come, water from the roof floods in the hospital. That is one thing that we need to do. We want to task the Water and Environment Department to continue sensitizing our people. We would like to encourage the Agricultural Department to send extension officers to the farmers for them to encourage them to do water harvesting.

As much as we want to allocate more funds in our budget, we also need to train our people on how to do water harvesting by digging their own water pans. Mr. Speaker, it is very expensive to buy dam liners to every farm. That is why even if those dams are done, without dam liners, it will be useless because our soil cannot retain water for quite sometimes. We need to encourage our people to buy dam liners.

If we do not train them, they will think it is only the government that is supposed to buy those dam liners. We cannot afford to buy for every farmer in this county. Even if we distil the dams that we have or the County Executive buys the machine, without the dam liners, it is a waste of resources. Therefore, we need to encourage, we need to be trained and know that our soil cannot retain water for long.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to unblock the culverts that we have installed because they are many. As Hon. Mugweru has said, we need to use the money that we have for emergency funds. We allocate money for emergency and this is the high time we use that money to unblock the drainage systems before the rains come. I support the person who have brought this report. It is very important and timely.

I remember four years ago, when the rains came, in Majengo there were culverts that were installed but because of that blockage, water flooded the area. It is important we unblock the drains and the water will follow the route. I support.

Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Mwaniki, kindly switch off your mic. You forgot to do so.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. I would like to reply to the motion.

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Speaker: Kindly do.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninashukuru wale ambao wameweza kuchangia huu mswada ambao ni wa maana sana hasa wakati huu tunaelekea kupata mvua. Bwana Spika, ninaelewa kama serikali itafanya kazi inavyostahili, shida zingine hata kama hazitaisha, zitapungua. Mvua ni ya Mungu na kila Jumapili tunaenda Kanisani kuomba mvua.

Mvua inapokuja, tunafaa tuitumie kwa njia ambayo inafaa. Tutaweza kuwalinda wananchi wetu kutokana na janga ama madhara ambayo itapatikana. Bwana Spika, ukiangalia haya mambo saba, Rais alisema mambo ni matatu lakini mimi ninasema mambo ni saba katika huu mswada ambayo ninataka yatimizwe na Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia. Bwana Spika, kama vile unavyojua, kuna yale mambo ambayo wananchi husema wakati wako huko na wanaandika kwenye mitandao.

Kila mahali chochote wanafikiria kuweka kwenye mtandao wanasema vile wanataka. Juzi nilisikia mwingine akisema kwa mtandao kwamba kuna Mashtaka ambayo yataendelea. Niliona picha ya wanaume na wanawake. Bwana Spika, kuna jina ambalo lilinifurahisha waliposema *"who has the balls?"*. Wataangalia na waone ni akina nani wako nazo na wale ambao hawana wawekwe kando.

Bwana Spika, hayo ndio mambo ambayo yanaendelea. Juzi pia nimesikia mwingine hana ilhali ninajua yuko nayo. Bwana Spika, kwa sababu ya mambo kama hayo ni lazima tujue tunafanya nini. Tuzungumze mambo ambayo yanaeleweka. Mtu asiandike mambo ambayo hawajui. Bwana Spika, ninasema hivyo kwa sababu mambo ni mengi yanayozungumzwa huko nje. Unazungumza ukiwa nje lakini huwezi fika hapa.

Ninauliza wale ambao wanaongea huko, kama unaona kuna kitu haifanywi na yule ambaye yuko hapa uwanja uko wazi. Enda hapo, simama upatiwe kura kisha uje ufanye kile ambacho kinaweza kufanyika. Bwana Spika, tuwache kutishia watu kwa sababu hii Bunge ni ya sheria. Tunafanya kazi kama korti. Korti haiwezi kuamua kesi kuhusu vile watu wanasema huko nje. Inaamua kulingana na ushahidi kile ambacho kiko.

Bwana Spika, watu wawache shinikizo la kuwasukuma watu. Kama unajihisi una nguvu kuja ufanye hayo na uwaondoe wale ambao hawana. Hayo ni mambo ambayo yako Bwana Spika na ni vizuri nikuelezee kama Mwenyekiti wa hili Bunge yale ambayo yanaendelea. Nisipokuambia, huenda usielewe kama kuna mambo kama hayo ambayo yanaendelea.

Bwana Spika, ninajua unaelewa kidijitali kama *Twitter* lakini nisipokueleza hapa, wanasema "*the Speaker is always blind*". Ni lazima nifungua macho nikwambie na nikueleze yale ambayo yanatendeka. Waheshimiwa wako wanaambiwa hawana *balls* na ni ukweli wengine hawana. Wale ambao tuko nazo tuko tu na tutafanya kazi kulingana na vile sheria inatuongoza. Kwa hayo machache, ninaungana na wale ambao wanaunga mkono huu mswada ili tuweze kuhakikisha ya kwamba wananchi wetu hawataumia haswa wakati huu.

Bwana Spika, kabla ya kumaliza, ninasikia Mheshimiwa Gathoni akisema wote wako nazo lakini hiyo ni hadithi ya siku ingine. Kama Mheshimiwa Gathoni anasema yuko nayo, basi iko wapi? Bwana Spika, sijui na siwezi kueleza. Kwa hayo machache, ninaomba tuunge mkono huu mswada ili tuweze kuwasaidia wananchi wetu. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen and Hon. Members for your robust participation in this debate.

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(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday 12th March, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.57 a.m.

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