REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 13th March, 2024

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.20 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

MOTION

DESILTING OF DAMS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon Salim Edung: I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT water and sanitation services 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 water is life;

COGNIZANT OF THE FACT that rain water is seasonal;

FURTHER COGNIZANT that a lot of water is lost due to poor water harvesting techniques during the rainy season;

CONCERNED THAT during the dry season, farmers experience low farm productivity due to lack of adequate water to irrigate their lands and water for their livestock causing farmers to incur huge losses;

APPRECIATING THAT dams are ideal for conservation of water during the rainy season for use in the dry season;

NOTING THAT the existing dams are heavily silted thereby reducing their water holding capacity;

This House URGES the County Government to desilt the existing dams across the County in order to restore water storage capacity, prevent flooding during heavy rains, ensure constant water supply for agriculture, mitigate soil erosion and support sustainable development by safeguarding water resources for communities and ecosystems.

Bwana Spika, nimeleta huu mjadala katika Bunge hili kuhusu mambo ya maji kwa sababu katika sehemu zetu mbalimbali, maji inakuwa ni shida. Sisi kutoka sehemu za Magharibi mwa Laikipia, visima vingi vilikuwa vimechimbwa na mabeberu. Visima hivyo vingetusaidia kwa kuwa mvua inaponyesha, inazivunja visima hivyo kwa kuwa havikujengwa inavyostahili.

Ningeomba Bunge hili kwa kuwa sisi katika Laikipia mzima na sio Magharibi peke yake, visiwa vingi ambavyo viko kwa saa hii hazina maji. Viliharibika vyote na vikaachwa hivyo. Katika Kaunti yetu, kuna njia ambayo tunapanga ya kusaidia kurekebisha visima vyote vilivyoharibika ndipo watu wa Laikipia wapate maji.

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Visima hivyo hutusaidia kwa upande wa ukulima, mifugo na pia kwa sehemu zingine ambazo hazina maji ambapo watu hutumia kwa kuoga, kufua nguo na kupikia. Hata kama walikuwa wanasafiri kwa muda wa kilomita tano, walikuwa wanapata maji katika zile bwawa lakini zilivunjika wakawa wanakosa maji.

Ningeomba katika Kaunti yetu watu wapate maji, visima vitengenezwe vipate maji mingi ndipo watu wafanye ukulima na hivyo basi, chakula kingi kitakuwa huku sehemu yetu ya Laikipia. Ningeomba wenzangu katika Bunge hili, hii mjadala watilie maanani na waunge mkono huu mjadala. Pia ningeomba Mheshimiwa Mwaniki aunge mkono mswada huu katika Bunge. Asante Bwana Spika.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion on desilting of dams in this county because this is something that should have been done many years ago. The issue concerning water is a very sensitive matter because that is what we depend on in the livelihoods of animals and the residence of the county in this country.

Having dams dug in our areas where erosion has taken place and deforestation, the silt has filled up our dams. Filling up our dams shows that a lot needs to be done by this Government and by us as an Assembly so that we can mitigate soil erosion in our areas.

We need to do a lot of reforestation so as to hold soil preventing erosion so that silt does not flow downstream to our dams. We also experienced the last few months bumper harvest of maize and other crops in our areas due to the El-Niño rains. We should also note that a lot of erosion has taken place and a lot of our dams are filled up with soil.

As a Government during the process of budget marking, we should embark on allocating more funds to our dams so as to harvest more water. The water we depend on does not just go to livestock alone, there is still irrigation. if you visit areas of Kinamba in Githiga Ward, we do not have many rivers in that area, maybe only one.

They depend on dams. So, as we discuss the issue of desilting, there are people in our wards that depend on those dams for water for consumption, irrigation and livestock. Harvesting of such a big mass of water requires making a good budget so that we can even buy land for building more dams. If we do not harvest water, then we do not know where we are headed to as a government. Having more dams in our areas also attracts more rainfall.

As we support this, what I want to urge Members of this County Assembly is that as we look at the CFSP, which is the process of budget-making. Let us look at the Department of Water so that we can be able to allocate more funds and build more dams for harvesting more water. This will enable us to have more productivity in matters of irrigation, livestock keeping and livelihoods in our areas.

Mr. Speaker, the matter of desilting requires availability of machines to desilt dams. As a County Government, I do not know whether we have a bulldozer. I know maybe we have two excavators but we need more machines to be bought, or do more contracting so that we can have bigger dams. Not necessarily water pans because those ones are small. Being able to have bigger masses of water requires a bigger budget, more machines and more manpower so that we can be able to harvest more water and desilt more dams.

Last week, I had to visit a few areas in my ward. I visited an area with a dam called Nyakio Dam that was dug before devolution came into place. As I did more survey, I found out that the water holding capacity of that dam is very small. It was a mega dam with a trough and a pump installed in it for pumping water out for usage by livestock. Today, however, the dam is filled with silt, the trough is no longer in use and the pump is vandalized. So, as we

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discuss the issue of desilting, we need to go a little bit further and do a survey on our dams because more dams were heavily equipped but today, they are useless.

As I rise to second this motion, I thank Hon. Salim for bringing a timely and sober motion that depicts how the ground is like and how lacking our areas are in terms of water harvesting, and the status of our dams. I thank Hon. Salim for the motion and urge the Members to support it. During the process of budget-making, let us hold each other's hand so that we can do more on matters of allocation of funds for desilting and sinking more dams in our areas. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Salim and Hon. Mwaniki.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante Bwana Spika, kwa kunipa nafasi hii ndio nichangie. Nataka kuchangia mswada ambao uletwa na Mheshimiwa Salim. Wakati huu ni wa Kiangazi na tunatarajia mvua kubwa ambayo itanyesha. Kama tujuavyo, maji ni uhai. Kama tutakuwa na maji ya kutosha tutaweza kuwasaidia wananchi ambao wanahitaji na ambao wanategemea viongozi wao wa serikali kuwa katika mstari wa mbele kuhakikisha tuko na maji ya kutosha.

Bwana Spika, sisi katika Laikipia huwa na mizozo wakati wa kiangazi. Huu mzozo huanza Laikipia Kusini hadi Laikipia Mashariki na Magharibi kwa sababu ya kukosa maji. Naona ni jambo la busara kama serikali na sisi viongozi tutatenga pesa za kutosha kuhakikisha ya kwamba wananchi wamepata maji na kumewekwa mikakati ya kushiba miradi ya maji ambayo itasaidia wananchi.

Siku hizi, mambo ya mito inaelekea kuisha. Kubadilika kwa hali ya anga imeadhiri kila sehemu katika ulimwengu. Jambo ambalo tunaweza fanya kwa wakati huu ni kuyashika yale maji ambayo yanaweza kuja kwa wakati huu wa mvua badala ya kuiachilia, tuizuie kisha tuitumie.

Bwana Spika, juzi nilitembea upande wa Laikipia Magharibi. Githiga, Marmanet na Ol-Moran. Nikapata wakulima wanatumia bwawa za maji. Zile bwawa zinasaidia wananchi kupanda mimea na wanapata mazao ya kutosha na wengine kupeleka hadi sokoni. Hilo ndilo jambo tunafaa kutilia maanani.

Bwana Spika, katika serikali iliyopita nilitembea upande wa Ukambani. Nikapata wakulima wameweka bwawa zile ndogo–*water pans*. Na wanazitumia kukuzia chakula. Wanapanda na kuvuna kupitia zile bwawa. Tukaambiwa mvua ikinyesha, badala ya watu kwenda kijificha kwa nyumba kila mtu hutokea kwa barabara kuhakikisha wamezuia maji isiende kwa jirani. Unazuia maji ikiingia kwa shamba. Maana ikinyesha, huenda ikachukua muda wa miezi kadhaa kabla ingine inyeshe. Na kwa hivyo, wananchi huko hawajui maneno ya mwavuli. Kukinyesha kila mtu yuko kwa barabara na kuhakikisha maji yanaingia kwake. Hapo ndipo niliona umuhimu wa kuwa na Bwawa.

Bwana Spika, sehemu nyingi hasa ukienda upande wa Ngobit, wanatumia bwawa. Pia upande wa Salama. Mabwawa ndiyo tunafaa kuweka maanani na nguvu yetu kuona maji yamefika. Vilevile Upande wa Sosian, Mukogodo na sehemu ya Laikipia Mashariki kukiwa na kiangazi vita hutokea kwa sababu wakulima fulani huja kutafuta maji sehemu zingine. Wanapokuja, wanaiba hadi mifugo. Kaunti yetu tukiwa na maji ya kutosha kisha tuongee na Kaunti zingine kama Samburu na Baringo na hao vile vile, wawe na maji na mabwawa za kutosha, tutapunguza hizi vita zinatokea. Kwa hayo machache na mengi, ningewaomba wajumbe waunge mkono huu mswada ndio tuhifadhi maji ya kutosha. Asante.

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Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante sana Bwana Spika kwa hii nafasi. Namshukuru Mheshimiwa Salim. Amekaa chini na kuona yale mambo iko na kiangazi iko Kenya mzima. Maji ni uhai na pia mimi siwezi kaa bila maji. Vile vile wanyama wa pori na wa nyumbani hawawezi kaa bila maji. Namshukuru Mjumbe wa Segera ambaye ni Salim.

Kama vile Mheshimiwa Ndiritu amesema, tungetaka tuongee na Gavana wetu kuhusu haya mambo ya Mabwawa. Hata kama mvua itanyesha na tuko na tenki nyumbani, ni vizuri tuwe na mabwawa za maji ndio pia wanyama wapate maji. Upande wa Ng'arua, Kinamba na Sipili na Laikipia kusini, lile bwawa liko pengine ni moja ama mbili na wale wanyama huja kukunywa maji pale na pia wananchi. Unapata wananchi wanapata magonjwa *kama Typhoid* kwa sababu ya kutumia yale maji.

Bwana Spika, nauliza Serikali yetu ambayo inaongozwa na Mheshimiwa Joshua Irungu, aangalia sana. Wakati kuna kiangazi kama hii, kila wakati watu hukimbia kutafuta maji. Watua wanapigana Samburu, Baringo na Kaskazini juu ng'ombe zitakufa. Kama binadamu, lazima uhame uende utafute maji na kitu ya kukula. Nauliza serikali yetu ikae chini waone vile wanaweza keti chini kusaidiana. Vita mingi inatokana upande huo kwa sababu ya uhaba wa maji. Nashukuru na naomba wajumbe wachangie.

Kuna Mheshimiwa wa Salama ambaye anaitwa Mugambi Gatati, nasikia anajaribu sana akichimba yale mabwawa juu ya maji. Watu wanakuja mtaani na wananiambia na nashukuru kwa sababu yale maji siku moja pia sisi tukiona kiangazi imekuwa mbaya, tunateremka salama. Wale wako na sehemu ya kuchimba yale maji, wachimbe ndio isaidie watu. Watu wakitoka Baringo ama Kaskazini, wasifukuzwe juu wamekuja kwa ile shida ambayo iko na wale wanyama wanaweza kufa. Kwa hayo machache nashukuru.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion brought by the MCA from Segera. I want to state that the issues in this motion are topical and also very important. Having said that, I would want to say that I am a great beneficiary. If we were to actualize this motion and the issues that we have talked about on the ground, I would be the biggest beneficiary. Githiga has got 12 community dams and other earth pans which belong to different farmers arrangement. Therefore, I would urge all the Members in this House to support this motion.

Mr. Speaker, it is important because these dams and earth pans are the source of livelihood and employment. Recently, a report done by World Bank indicated that agriculture and not rain fed but harnessing enough water for agriculture is the next big thing and game changer in sub-Saharan African and other developing countries.

Additionally, I want to state that I have seen this practically. I don't have to go to search books and other things. In my ward we have got a lot of employment emanating of horticultural agriculture. Currently there is someone who stated that these dams were distilled recently but due to the nature of lose soil and at times we are not able to install mechanism for preventing these silts to get back to dams, I therefore want to state that we distil these dams to increase capacity. If we do it threefold, it means that we are going to increase the radius of farm acre rage that will be cultivated using this water. Therefore, I highly support this motion.

As we talk about these dams that belongs to the community, you understand that with the increase of capitalism, people need to have water in their homes. AS we talk about dictation of dams, we are also going to talk about development of house hold water pans because that is the only way we are going to have household economic empowerment. In other departments, this County Government in the past developed issues of leasing machines that have assisted.

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In the department of roads, we have got leasing machines which have increased mileage that we do in our wards.

Today, we have the same in the water department and especially in the borehole system and have greatly benefited in Githiga. I understand that if we have got the same lease machines for distillation of dams, we will do this continually because what we want to improve is our preparedness in regards to issues of drought and food security. So, it is important that we do these things so that we are not caught unawares all the times. Currently I understand that 50% of dams in this county are almost dry. This is the most opportune moment to ensure that we have done what is required.

I also want to end by saying that as we desilting these dams, it is very important that we ensure that they are adopted by the community so that the community takes up the facility for purposes of maintenance, for purposes of ensuring that we own the whole matter. I think this is a very important issue for our people and will result in adding to food system. In the Agriculture Committee, we highly support this Bill for all purposes. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion on desilting of dams across the county. As we are aware, in the 2022/2023 budget, we had budgeted for desiltation of dams across the wards. At least every ward was given one dam for desilting. It is unfortunate that the department concerned has not yet started desilting which is very unfortunate because as we can see changes in weather, we might be expecting some rains. Therefore, the motion is timely and is indeed important that these dams are desilted in time and in right time so that during the rainy season, we harvest water for future use.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at my ward in Mukogodo West, we have got serious dams which are already filled up that need to be desilted. For example, we have got one in Tiamamut, Musul and Naipelele and another one in Soitoudo that need to be desilted. It is paramount that as we make next year's budget, we try to consider some of these things which directly affect the common citizens on the ground. It is important to ensure that we have enough water for our livestock and also agriculture for those who do farming.

It is also good to note that as we desilt these dams, it is important for the County Government to come with a way of fencing so that we can prevent the elephants and other animals from drinking directly from the dams. If possible, the water can be pumped to certain points so that wildlife and livestock can access and other points for human consumption because some areas are extremely dry and any available water is important.

Hon. Gitahi has just said that in the committee of Agriculture we support this motion and we want to urge the County Government to take these measures soonest possible so that as we receive rains on April or May, at least our dams are desilted so that we can have enough water for livestock and agriculture. Therefore, I want to thank Hon. Salim for coming up with this motion and I support it fully.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa hii fursa ambayo umeweza kunikabidhi. Mheshimiwa Spika, sijui kama Mheshimiwa kutoka Salama yuko na jambo angetaka kunikatiza. Naona akiwa amewacha kipaza sauti chake. Mimi maji yakitajwa, ni lazima nisimame kuchangia. Mimi ni Mheshimiwa katika Bunge la Laikipia na ninawakilisha jimbo lizima la Laikipia, na Chama cha UDA kilichoko katika muungano wa Kenya Kwanza. Mimi sina wadi.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna mahali nimetoka na ninajua kona zote za kule ambako nimetoka. Nimetoka katika Wadi ya Sosian na maji ni shida. Mwezi uliopita kulikuwa na

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mzozo wa wafugaji Ngerachi eneo la Lorola. Kuna mahali wafugaji wametenga maji ya kutumiwa na ngombe na watu. Wakati mambo ya maji inatajwa naunga mkono Mheshimiwa Salim Edung mjumbe ambaye amechaguliwa katika Wadi ya Segera.

Mwenyezi Mungu akubariki sana kwa sababu najua ya kwamba hili ni jambo ambalo linaweza kubadilisha eneo letu. Nikifuatilia sana, nimeona ya kwamba kunatakiwa watu ambao wako na utaratibu na ufahamu zaidi. Ninasihi Serikali ya Kaunti kuweza kufanya jambo la maana kwa sababu ninajua ya kwamba ukiangalia mahali nimetoka, Pumwan, Kilimon, Kinamba, Container, Posta, Konabio, Nagum, Ndonyoliwo, Nakwam, Tegema na Lerai ni sehemu ambazo wananchi hawana jambo la kujifanyia ili kupata maji.

Ninashukuru sana kwa sababu ya huo muswada. Ningependa wale ambao wanahakikisha ya kwamba limefanyika, lifanyike kwa sababu ninajua mvua ikinyesha, wanaona kama shida imepita. Kwa sasa ikifanyika, najua wananchi wa Jimbo la Laikipia watafurahia. Nashukuru na ninaunga muswada asilimia mia kwa mia. Asante.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion by Hon. Salim Edung. As I support, I also thank the government because the county has already implemented on desilting. I can attest in my area that some dams have been desilted this Financial Year. I am happy because the community is happy with the progress. Mr. Speaker, the last regime desilted Ndathimi Dam and Nyanjiku Dam and the dam is already being utilised by the community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish this motion is well implemented because I can be the best beneficiary. I represent fourteen sub-locations and each sub-location has more than three dams. Mr. Speaker, as we implement, we should ensure we distribute to the sub-locations because I will be the best beneficiary. My area is an agricultural area and my people highly utilise agriculture for livelihood.

The areas that we have been able to desilt the dams, the dams are properly utilised by our people and they have really benefitted the economy in my area. Mr. Speaker, even if the roles have been devolved to the County Governments, we have water from Mt. Kenya that drains to Laikipia North that is not utilised. We urge the National Government to assist in constructing dams along the Ewaso Nyiro River. This river crosses from the Laikipia West to Laikipia North.

If the National Government can assist in constructing dams along the river, this will benefit us and it will assist our people and I am sure the economy will never be the same again. Mr. Speaker, I support.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this motion and I thank Hon. Salim for this. Mr. Speaker, I want to confirm that it is true, water is life and we cannot live without water. Mr. Speaker, I urge Hon. Members to consider this motion. As we are in the budgeting processes let us take into consideration the issue of funding. We should allocate money for this so that we can be able to have one or two dams in every ward.

That will make us implement this because without funds, we will talk here but finally it will be very difficult for us to implement together with the Executive. Mr. Speaker, it is very important to have water. According to the Constitution, it clearly states that every person in this country must be able to access clean water. Mr. Speaker, we are responsible as we all know that water is a devolved function.

Mr. Speaker, I support and I urge Hon. Members to consider this in the budget. I heard that the Committee concerned of Agriculture should ensure we are able to implement the funds

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that we have allocated for every ward on time because when the rains starts, it will be very difficult for us to implement. Time is rushing and we only have three months to end the Financial Year.

We have a lot to do before the end of the year. I support and I want to thank Members because of this motion. This motion is timely only that we need to have enough funding for us to be able to implement this. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I take this opportunity to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa kunipatia hii nafasi. Pia ninapongeza Wajumbe wenzangu kwa kuchangia katika huu mjadala na wale ambao hawajachangia, watachangia siku nyingine. Nashukuru na Mungu awabariki.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.45 a.m.

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