REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 1st March 2023

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

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

PRAYERS

Speaker: Clerk kindly confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct the bell be rung for five minutes.

(The bell was rung for 2 minutes)

Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum?

(Clerk confirmed the achievement of quorum)

MOTION

CONSIDERATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMUNITY BENEFICIATION FRAMEWORK

Hon. Moile Eunice Salaten: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;-

THAT, THAT AWARE trade development and regulation including local tourism is the function of the County Government as provided in part four of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

AWARE THAT, Laikipia County is one of East Africa's most important areas for wildlife conservation with the higher populations of large mammals than any protected or unprotected landscape in Kenya, outside of the Maasai Mara National Reserve;

FURTHER AWARE THAT, Laikipia County is also rich in biodiversity with over 95 species of mammals, 540 species of birds, over 700 species of plants and almost 1000 species of invertebrates already identified;

COGNIZANT THAT, the growth of the tourism industry has not yielded genuine benefits for rural communities even though they could benefit from participating in the tourism industry;

CONCERNED THAT some tourism investors and operators have taken advantage of the natural and cultural resources, which belong to communities, without any benefits accruing to the communities themselves;

APPRECIATING THAT the benefits of community-based tourism to community include; much-needed attention and recognition to the local community, promotes cultural conservation, the income generated from tourism is more likely to stay within the local destination, Promotes an alternative to unsustainable forms of income such as

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poaching, Community-based tourism helps safeguard the well-being of the indigenous people. It encourages pride within the community and the protection of community resources, Community-based tourism encourages the participation of women, It encourages the conservation of wildlife.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, Laikipia County has twenty-four (24) both community and private conservancies, which contribute to revenue generation for the County;

This House URGES the County Government of Laikipia to consider development and implementation of a comprehensive community beneficiation framework which will lead to improvement of local communities' capacity for understating community-based tourism issues and opportunities to provide realistic assistance to communities to maximize potential tourism opportunities.

Asante, Bwana Spika. Langu ni kuchangia huu mswada wa mambo ya utalii. Utalii hapa Laikipia ni vizuri tuchangie kama wajumbe. Tuko na zile mashamba makubwa (*Conservancies*) ambazo wako na wameajiri watu wetu. Akina mama wanauza shanga zao huko na kuna faida wanapata kutokana na hio kazi. Naomba tuweze kuunga mkono huu mswada na tuangalie wale wananchi wako huko chini kwa sababu pia tunawaitisha kodi. Naomba tuchangie na Mheshimiwa Kanyutu aunge mkono.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Hon. Speaker, I rise to second this motion on tourism though I am shocked because she said we also support the community yet they are also attractive to the tourists. I would wish as the county we try to tap into all the resources that we would get from the community and the conservancies that are there as well as working together to ensure that we get maximum for our county.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to tap into all the resources that we get from the already present conservancies and private ones within our localities. I support and I wish all the other Members support the motion. The county comprehensively ensures that we get resources that come from those conservancies. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to support Hon. Moile for bringing this motion. What I have understood is that the beneficiation framework will help the community to be able to benefit from the tourism proceeds. According to the data and statistics that has been presented, you can see that the 24 community conservancies based in Laikipia are actually bringing income benefitting women, children and community at large. This framework will enable as far as the conservancies are able to give a little bit of revenue to the County Government, they should consider leaving some of the revenue within the conservancies so that the community can be able to benefit from the revenue proceeds.

Yesterday, we had a forum as the Agriculture and Trade committees with Laikipia Conservancy Association, which actually expanded the idea of us understanding the role they are doing within Laikipia County. Most of the time they were making referrals from Narok County Government on how they are using their proceeds from the community conservancies to benefit the community itself. Laikipia County Government should borrow a leaf from Narok to ensure tourism is benefiting the community. Thank you.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to give my contribution on this motion. I actually was not conversant on the number of conservancies we have in Laikipia. This is the noblest thing Hon. Moile has thought of. As a far as we have drought problems and insecurity, the part I can deviate a bit is on the income generated from this conservancies.

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If we can go and do a public participation especially to *wanjiku* who is not conversant on the benefits of tourism. They only complain of the elephants that come from those conservancies, bandits that hide in those conservancies other than seeing the good. What I would urge the County Government, last week but one we sat down with the people who do valuation to assess this situations.

It is absurd that wherever we are doing these businesses, a tourist comes from USA, lands in our conservancy and yet there is no awareness from the County Government. They (County Government) get very little from that tourist. The framework Hon. Moile is talking about should be taken heavily so we have a mechanism to know what conservancy gets what number of tourists at a particular time.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate those who work in these conservancies. They give us what goes on around those conservancies. If they are well scrutinised, the Own Source Revenue (OSR) that this County receives can be doubled from Kshs. 1.25 billion to even Kshs. 2 or 3 billion. This can ease the burden of *mama mboga.* What we need to do is as the president stated, the conservancies could initiate the electric fence so that the human/wildlife addressed.

If the County Government through the valuation role would know whether we take our enforcement team, so that we can know what they are getting so that we can get what is supposed to be paid to the County Government. We can now see the replication of what Hon. Moile is saying that we need to have a good framework.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the valuation role is on the way and I am hoping that when it comes, we will amend it to satisfaction and equalization. We need these investors to manage the private conservancies as well as our local conservancies. One of the conservancies in my area called the Laikipia Nature Conservancy is a hub for bandits. The traversing of elephants from the same conservancy going to another local conservancy called Lariak Forest, where it is said that it is the maternity location for those elephants. They traverse through people's lands.

If we would hold our Laikipia local conservancy and the government takes the initiative of fencing it, the Laikipia Nature Conservancy also fences it; I do not think that there is need for an elephant giving birth at a hospital. It was born that way, it is supposed to be in that conservancy as long as there is a conducive environment.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many dams in those conservancies. As a County Government, I appreciate through the Governor that we are still doing boreholes. If those people would think of doing boreholes around their home made dams and tap that water throughout, we would never have conflict of wildlife coming to drink our water out of our irrigation dams. Therefore, I urge the concerned committee through what Hon. Moire has brought across, we follow it to the letter. I know that we are going to say that we have good conservancies generating income for our county, maintaining animals and tourist are in abundance because the bandits are ejected, as well as addition of NPR in the conservancies and outside the local communities. I support the move and I hope that it will not only be a debate, but be followed to the letter.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. George. I now give the floor to Hon. Daniel Mugweru.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also rise in support of this motion because of certain reasons. Firstly, we must respect that we are gifted differently. I know nothing to do with tourism. In fact, I was trying to go through the motion but I could not understand. I can see that Hon. Moile is gifted in that area. I was trying to listen to other Hon. Members so that I may understand what the motion is about and now at least I have known what we are talking about.

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I wish to congratulate Hon. Moile for coming up with this motion. As a House, we are here to support and ensure that whatever motion brought to this House that can benefit the people of Laikipia is well supported. I also want to encourage all the Hon. Members to come up with the same. If today I come up with a motion and all the Hon. Members go mute, then tomorrow I am going to feel that there is no need to bring another one.

Mr. Speaker, today I have learnt something new that in the motion, Hon. Moile has reminded me that we have 95 species of mammals in Laikipia, which probably I learnt when I was in primary school and forgot. I have also come across a name about the invertebrates, the animal without backbones. Today at least Hon. Moile has taken me back to many years when I learnt about these things.

To be honest, the investors in the tourism industry came and took advantage of our community because there is nobody who is making our community understand what it entails into have these things. They come and get natural resources here, make a lot of money, and we start saying that the white are so bright and rich yet they use our natural resources to do the tourism. So if we can come up with a framework on how the community will benefit from this, then we will have done justice to our community. Not just women, although when it comes to community-based projects, many people speak about the beneficiaries being women and children but up there, they put the name community. Therefore, I do not know where men are left.

We should come up with an idea of how we can help women, children, men and the community at large so that at the end of the day, when we do not include men in this one, that is when men come up with another idea of poaching. If I do not benefit from an elephant and I am able to get a tusk, then a man feels like he is not a beneficiary, then he will go and poach and get the rhinoceros horn to become wealthy.

Therefore, if we come up with the idea of making the community benefit, then we will be able to stop poaching. I really support this motion and once again congratulate Hon. Moile because apart from bringing the motion, she has brought me back from 42 years and now I feel as if I am 14 when I learnt about vertebrates and the invertebrates. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. It is indeed a good reminder of our initial schooling. The floor is still open for deliberation towards this motion. For the Members who have come in, the motion is on development and implementation of a comprehensive community beneficiation framework. As you prepare to contribute, I want to welcome the Hon. Benson. You have been away on leave feeling unwell; I hope that now you are well. The floor is still open for those who may wish to contribute.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion today brought by Hon. Eunice Moile. It is indeed a good debate to talk about the importance of having a comprehensive way of ensuring that the communities are benefitting through the wildlife that are within their conservancies.

As Hon. Mugweru has said, we have a lot a lot of private conservancies within Laikipia and with few ranchers who own 60% or 70% especially in Laikipia North and they benefit way too much than the communities around. When you look at the people who are affected by wildlife, they are actually the communities within. Those communities who live around these conservancies get a lot of issues from these wildlife. For example, they are killed by the animals and fail to get compensation in time.

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Therefore, this is a very important motion to me especially in Mukogodo West whereby 90% is occupied by community conservancies. We look at the people who do conservation within Laikipia and they are now rushing to bring Rhinos to Laikipia without a proper way of telling the people how they shall benefit. If you look at my neighbour in Loisaba, they are in a rush to bring Rhinos but the community who live around have not been educated on the importance of these rhinos and how they are going to live with them. The insecurity they will cause the people who are around, and how the community that lives around this conservancy is going to benefit.

So Mr. Speaker, this framework that we are talking about today will be a very good one hoping that it will clearly outline how the community will benefit. Nowadays, they have a lot of land and when it is dry like now, they do pure business with the grass they have in their ranches charging us too expensive for our cows. When we will be making this framework, I think it is time we will all be involved so that we may also give our views on what exactly how the community needs to benefit from these conservations. We cannot have these wildlife roaming all around.

Even the small boreholes we have within our wards get broken every now and then by these elephants and it takes time for them to get repaired. We can only make it happen when we have got a framework that gives us guidelines on the best ways of benefiting from these conservations. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion on the improvement of local community capacity on the benefits of the conservancies and the wildlife. As it is today, in my area, Tigithi Ward, it borders the Solio and Olpejeta Conservancies. I have come to understand that the Solio ranch is one of the ranches that bring menace to the community in my ward. When it comes to the wildlife, they have broken the fence and the animals are now ravaging the crops in the farms of the community in the surrounding areas.

When it comes to the revenue collection from Solio ranch, it has become a headache to the Laikipia County. Therefore, as we talk about the benefits collected from the conservancies, we need to come up with a good framework on how to deal with the conservancies. As of today, the local community have not benefitted from Solio ranch; not even a single cent. I have tried to book a date with them, have written letters to them so that we can have a meeting as a ward representative but they have not even responded. Therefore, as we discuss this motion of conservancies and wildlife, we need to know that conservancies are supposed to be part of the community. The wild animals and the ticks are ravaging our domestic animals.

This month we will be vising Olpejeta Conservancy to discuss how the community around the conservancy will benefit from them. Previously, we had a board meeting with them and we had invited Salim and other leaders from Laikipia County. They were telling us that they have spent Kshs.60 million in one year for benefitting the community but they are doing cosmetic work in the locality like coming up with improved jikos and ways of conserving forests. We asked them why they are providing such outdated services instead of providing something tangible that can exist for over ten years like classrooms or boreholes, especially like now we are experiencing water shortages in our county.

There should be consultation between the County Government, the ward representatives and the community at large so that we can discuss on how we can reap maximum benefits from the conservancies so that the community can benefit from their funds. There is also another issue of unemployment. With the board in the presence of the area MPs, Hon. Kiunjuri and Hon. Sarah, I asked the board whether they can present a list of the employed

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individuals from our ward in terms of the names and the number but they did not have anything to present.

So as we are discussing about the conservancies today, the revenue being generated by the conservancies is very minimal. Therefore, if at all we can request a revenue officer to come into this Assembly and maybe tell us how much per acre they pay, maybe it is only five or ten shillings. We need to up our game as a county and as a government so that we try and push this. As we discussed with the conservancy, there was supposed to be a bill that was to be tabled in this Assembly concerning the land rates so that we can reap more benefits from those ranches to also benefit our people. We need to formulate stringent measures and laws which will govern on how to handle the conservancy issues and tourism in this county. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion. The beauty of this motion is that it talks about the framework in the conservancies. If you go to my area and I am happy because Hon. Eunice is the one who tabled this motion, I have conservancies called Il Ngwesi Conservancy. Lekurruki Conservancy and Makurian Conservancy are coming up now. Mr. Speaker, those conservancies have been there for twenty years. We have a conservancy and lodges inside the conservancy. The big challenge there is the framework.

Mr. Speaker, we can initiate conservancies but we will end up not benefitting. The definition of conservancies is that we conserve the trees and everything including the wildlife but we are supposed to benefit from the conservancies through tourism, carbon and many other things. Mr. Speaker, we need to conserve our environment for future use including water and all natural resources.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, what is important to all those conservancies including the private and the community conservancies is the framework. What we are getting, we may end up not benefitting at the end of the year for one reason. The way we are spending money and remember the conservancy and the community we are owning land communally, the land belongs to all of us but the management is running the conservancies. I elected people as trustees on behalf of the others.

When the money comes, a few people manage it. Finally, you will realise that there is somebody within the twenty years who have never benefitted with anything because we have a tendency of giving people bursaries. How many communities have children that are going to secondary school? What about the rest and the land belong to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of destruction. We are conserving wildlife including the elephants who are destroying trees in our areas. We need to see the benefits going direct to the people. We need to see sharing of resources equally. We need to analyse the areas that we are supposed to benefit apart from education. Now the County Government is pushing Laikipia North to insure our animals.

How much money have we allocated from the conservancies to cater for that? If a person is not able to pay the amount that is needed, that person will never benefit in that insurance. What is lacking? It is the framework Mr. Speaker. We don't have policies that guide. We need to come up with policies and framework that clearly give us the capital share.

The capital share means what criteria we use to employ people so that we do not practise nepotism system. If today I am given the Chairperson of the group ranch, then you know the first priority I will give is my family. What is the framework that is guiding that? How much are we getting in a year and how do we share?

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We normally go to the AGM but what is the framework that guides us? If a person like me with a capacity goes there, I can stand and say according to our framework, we are supposed to share this money at a certain percentage. 20% may go to education, 5% to community individual, and 30% to buying land for members and all that but we don't have any.

The Chairperson can stand and tell us the expenditure. If you balance the expenditure and the income, you will realize we have a deficit. Who proves the expenditure? We do not have a proper framework. Sometimes we lease our lodges to those who have there but you will realize that those who have leased those lodges again spend money, which is 40% in the name of conserving, grading roads and all that.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that Hon. Eunice has brought this motion. We need a very clear framework. If you move to private conservancies and go round, those guys are smart in labelling. You will find everywhere the schools are built by Lewa and others but what is the percentage that we are getting from them? What is the effect that we are getting from them? If you compare, then you will realize we are getting very little.

If you are keen on helping inside the farm or private conservancies, then they will refer you to the government and stay for ten years without getting anything. They are getting a lot of money. Remember, the wildlife belongs to the nation so they are only using our assets and resources to get money. Mr. Speaker, if you go to the presentation of private conservancies, you will think that this is a government. The government is doing little than them and they are very good on that.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we want to come up with a good framework that will benefit our people. It is unfair to sit here and deny our people benefits yet we have given all our land to the conservancies. If you go to Il Ngwesi where I am a Member, 80% of land is the conservancies. We are only occupying a settlement of 20%. The big issue twenty years down the line is what we benefited.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important we have a framework. It is now a challenge. What measures are we going to put in place to make sure that we have that framework? We must look at how we will come up with that framework. Mr. Speaker, I support and I would like us to build capacity to the people who were selected to run those conservancies so that they can come up with policy proposals.

I totally support this and we want to talk with the private conservancies like the way the Honourable Member has said that we need to know how many people have been employed. If you go to farms, they are using water from the rivers yet people are crying that the employees are coming from all over the country and they are not from the specific area. Sometimes people take advantage of the illiteracy but it is our responsibility as leaders to lead people.

We must wake up and say that things must change. Things must not go the way it was before. That is our stand and everybody must come out and tell us what he is doing so that we can realize the benefit that goes to the community. We do not force people to give everything to us but the little we have, give us in a transparency manner. That is our stand and our position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Leshuel. Before you sit, you have mentioned a few critical things. You have mentioned about direct community benefits from the conservancies. I have heard you mention about carbon credit benefit and I would like you to comment more on that. You have also talked about conservation insurance. Could you comment further on the two?

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Hon. Paul Leshuel: Mr. Speaker, on the insurance of animals, there is a drive which is a National Government Initiative that is supported by the World Bank. Therefore, they have identified some areas and Laikipia is one of the areas. Within Laikipia, there are five wards that have been identified which are Mukogodo West, Mukogodo East, Segera, Sosian and Salama. We were supposed to register our animals by yesterday, which was the deadline date.

Unfortunately, the way they mobilised people and the way they gave the information to the people, I am sure if many people have registered they are less than 2,000. Our target was 6,000. What is important with this insurance is that in every ten days, there is a satellite that will spot those areas. They will give us the drought analysis in those areas. When pasture goes down, they offer facilitation so that they buy food for the animals.

They do not pay for the already dead animals but they facilitate you so that you protect the animals from dying. It has already been done in Samburu and two areas in North Eastern successfully. The process of getting this money is giving you money through your account. The other day, Kshs.6 million went to Samburu County. Economically, if Kshs.6 million goes to Samburu and it goes to individual accounts, despite not buying the food for the animals, they can buy food for themselves.

It is a very important thing yet we have a reluctant government. We could have even allocated some money for emergency to cater for those who were not able to pay something. Is that done? No. We have a responsibility. Sometimes we are not happy when things come and not work well. We may sit here pretending we are comfortable but some people will take a blow one day. It is very important for us to think about other things.

The other thing Mr. Speaker is that we have a carbon credit. We have three categories of carbon credit. We have a carbon credit on forest. When you conserve forests, the international community are benefitting from what we are conserving here. They realise why we benefit from them yet we do not give them anything. They come up with the carbon credit. How do they measure the credit in the forest?

They look at the size of the forest and they see the diameters of the trees then they give a certain percentage. There is a ratio that they give in terms of percentage. When you go to our conservancies, Il Ngwesi is one of the beneficiaries. Last time we got Kshs.36 million. Hon. Lempaira is one of the beneficiaries in Naibung'a Conservancy of more than Kshs.36 million. Lekurruki in my area has Kshs.36 million. We are now expecting Kshs.72 Million in every conservancy.

They also look at how you conserve the environment. They also look at how you conserve soil. Therefore, they look at many thing so that they give carbon credit. The government is late and NRT were far ahead. They have started and succeeded and everybody now is pushing on how to get carbon credit but they are ahead of the government. We still look for the framework because we do not have a proper framework and we do not know the ratio they used because they are also brokers.

What they give us, we accept because we did not know how much they get. That is where we are heading now. We want them to tell us and explain to us on how they arrived to get the amount that they are giving us. That is what we call a credit carbon Mr. Speaker. On that Mr. Speaker, we need a framework on that. When they give us Kshs.36 million, they give us guidelines on how to spend.

The money comes because we conserve our environment but they want to control us so that we do not benefit. Then we spend on other unnecessary areas. Those are the things that we

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need to put proper policies so that we spend what we get in the right areas. If it was me we would have used Kshs.36 Million to buy extra land. The land that we own, we have given 80% to the conservancies.

We could have taken the Kshs.36 Million to buy a big land in Segera Ward or from other individuals so that we can conserve that area. We are not grabbing land, we are buying…

Speaker: What is it Hon. Lempaira? Hold on Hon. Leshuel.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: After we finish here, I have information I would like to add.

Speaker: I will give you a chance later. Hon. Leshuel, kindly wind-up.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: I have heard the Hon. Member for Segera and I would like to clarify that I want to buy not to grab. Mr. Speaker, the reason why I am saying that, the number that we were twenty years ago is not as at now. So we will be moving to other areas. For us to have a conservancy area, we must also get somewhere we can make our lives better.

Mr. Speaker that is what we call carbon credit. Yesterday we had the LCA representation and I would like to urge the Hon. Members from Laikipia West to utilise the resources that are there. There is the Rumuruti and Marmanet Forests, which can benefit you if you conserve them. Register with the Community Forest Association. The government has a law that allows people to register that. You will manage that forest for yourselves and benefit from the tourist.

The carbon credit is coming. They have started from the conservancies and now it is coming for the forest. The carbon from the forest is better than the carbon from other areas. Those are the areas where you need to be sharp and register early so that you can be a beneficiary. Wildlife is in those forests but you are not getting anything. It is better you get something from those forests so that elephants cannot just come and destroy your farms without getting anything. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you for the elaboration. You are knowledgeable. I want to give the opportunity to Hon. Salim.

Hon. Salim Edung: Nashukuru Bwana Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi. Kitu cha kwanza ni kuunga mswada ambao umeletwa katika Bunge hili na Mheshimiwa Eunice Moile kuhusu hifadhi za wanyama pori. Hifadhi zote zikiwa na mpangilio, zinakuwa na njia nzuri. Ningeambia Mheshimiwa Leshuel kwa kusema atanunua sehemu katika Wadi ya Segera, kwamba hiyo ni njia moja ya kuinua jamii ya hilo eneo kwa sababu kutakuwa na viwanda na watu.

Pia atakuwa ananisaidia kwa njia moja kwa sababu wataongeza wapigaji kura. Napongeza Mheshimiwa Leshuel. Kitu ambacho ningeangalia kwa makini ni hizi hifadhi ambazo tunajaribu kuangalia kwa njia moja au nyingine. Sisi tukiwa kama jamii tumeumia kwa muda mrefu sana hasa kuna hifadhi saba ambazo ziko katika eneo langu ni Hifadhi ya wanyama pori ya Olpejeta, Hifadhi ya Mutara, Hifadhi ya Kabarak, Hifadhi ya Segera, Hifadhi ya Impala, Hifadhi ya Mugie, Hifadhi ya Loldaiga na Hifadhi ya Oljogi.

Unakuta hizo hifadhi zote ni mpangilio ambao hujawekwa kanuni ambazo hizo hifadhi zitasaidia kwa mambo ya mapato au pia jamii ambazo ziko katika eneo hilo. Ukikuta katika hifadhi ya Olpejeta vile mwenzangu Mwaniki ametaja, tulikuwa mkutano huko na mkataba ambao tuliweka kule, watu wale hawakufuatilia. Ukiangalia sanasana sisi tulipatiwa kijikaratasi ambacho kimeandikwa kwamba kila mwaka jamii hupata pesa milioni sitini.

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Sisi tuliuliza maswali; hii milioni sitini ni miradi ngapi ambayo imewekwa katika zile eneo kwa sababu, ule mpangilio ambao Olpejeta imeweka kwamba kilomita tano kando ya uzio inastahili kufaidi wanajamii wa eneo hilo kwa njia ya maji, shule na ufadhili. Tukaangalia kwa makini katika Bunge hili letu au Bunge ambalo lilipita, hawakuangalia kwa umakini sana hifadhi hizi kwa sababu tungepata pesa nyingi kwa hiyo hifadhi. Kuna hifadhi zingine wanafanya wanasema wacha wachimbue visima ili wasipeane pesa katika Kaunti.

Kuchimba visima ni njia moja ya kusaidia wanajamii lakini tunahitaji mapato katika Kaunti ili isaidie mipangilio zingine lakini nikiangalia serikali iliyopita, kuna pesa nyingi haikuwa inachukuliwa katika hii hifadhi. Labda watu wengine walikuwa wanafika pale hifadhi wanafanya mkataba na hawa, lakini serikali ya kati haipati pesa kwa sababu nimefuatilia kwa makini sana mpaka tukasema kwamba ni vizuri.

Bwana Spika, katika hili Bunge mimi ningeomba hawa wanachama wote tuwe tukitembea hizo hifadhi ili tujue ya kwamba wanafanya nini na wanasaidia wanajamii namna gani na wanasaidia Bunge hili au kata hili namna gani? Juzi karibu miezi mbili iliyopita nilijaribu kusukumana na hifadhi ya Olpejeta na wakati walijua ya kwamba sisi tulijaribu kuongea na hawa tukasema ya kwamba ni vizuri watuelezee miradi ambayo wanafanya katika sehemu ambayo wananchi wako.

Walikimbia katika shule ya msingi ya Tanki Nyeusi wakajenga kisima kimoja haraka kwa sababu sisi tunajaribu kufuatilia kwa mwaka huu umefanya nini kwa hiyo miaka mingine iliyopita au miaka kumi mlikuwa mkifanya nini. Unakuta mbona tumeelezana jambo kwa muda mfupi na hao watu wamechukua kwa uzito na kuanza kufanya jambo fulani kwa upande fulani, kwa hivyo, nikaona ya kwamba ni watu walikuwa wamelegea mahali ambapo nguvu inahitajika.

Ningeomba Spika katika Bunge hili, ungetumia nguvu hawa wanachama waweze kutembea katika hizi hifadhi hasa sanasana ukiangalia kwa makini vile Mheshimiwa Mwaniki ametaja, sisi tulikuwa tumepangiwa na Uhifadhi wa Olpejeta mkutano. Lakini, ninaomba katika Ofisi yako tusikutane na wanachama watatu au watano twende tukiwa timu katika hizi hifadhi. Kila Uhifadhi unasaidia jimbo kwa njia gani isipokuwa kuhusu maji.

Katika kila wakati wa kiangazi, sisi wananchi wa Laikipia Kaskazini tumeumia sana na kama kungekuwa na mkataba, hao watu wa uhifadhi wakati kama huu wangekuwa wamepeleka maji na vifaa vya kubeba maji katika sehemu iliyo Laikipia Kaskazini. Tumeumia hasa mashule na wanajamii, unakuta watu wanachota maji katika lile bawa ambalo ndovu na wanyama wengine wanakunywa maji sisi tungependa katika Bunge hili.

Bwana Spika, utushike mkono ufanye mpango wa kuingia katika hizo uhifadhi ndio wananchi wasaidike. Hasa sanasana nikiangalia katika mkono wa kushoto, Mheshimiwa Tony akiingia pale katika ule uhifadhi na tuweke mkataba, utasaidia kata ya Mheshimiwa Tony. Pia yeye ambaye yuko Nanyuki, kuna mpangilio ambayo Olpejeta amesaidia kwa njia moja sio, kusaidia yeye binafsi, kusaidiana na wenzake ndio tutambue ya kwamba kuna uhifadhi ambao unaitwa Olpejeta ambayo umesaidia Nanyuki kwa njia moja ama nyingine. Mimi ningependa nisiende na Leshuel au Lekopien katika hilo eneo, tunasema iko katika Laikipia Kaskazini. Sisi tungeenda kama timu ndiposa hawa watu ambao wako katika hii hifadhi waelewe ya kwamba hawa ni Wabunge katika Bunge la Kaunti la Laikipia ambalo wanafuatilia mipangilio iliyo katika Kaunti hii.

Jambo lingine ambalo ningegusia, saa hizi tukiongea hivi kuna ndovu zilienda katika shule ya Mbogoini. Nilipeleka maji katika shule ile nikajaza tanki lakini ndovu kutoka hizi hifadhi zimeharibu hizi tanki kwa kutoboa. Kwa hivyo, shule hakuna maji yoyote hata ya

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kupikia. Hii ni kwa sababu hata kama wako na msaada mahali wamepata, hao watoto wa shule wanakosa hata chakula cha wakati wa mchana. Mimi ningeomba serikali katika Kaunti hii tuungane kwa kila njia ndio tusaidie wananchi wa Kaunti ya Laikipia.

Nikimalizia, hifadhi hizi kuna wakati katibu wakuu walikuwa wamekaa na wale mabwanyenye mahali na wakasema ya kwamba wataweka uzio katika hizo hifadhi. Lakini, unakuta hizo hifadhi wanasema ya kwamba sisi tuweke ua kulingana na vile sisi tunafikiria, hii inamanisha nini? Inamaanisha labda kuna sehemu ya wanajamii wanataka kunyakua na kuiweka iwe ya upande na sisi tunasema ya kwamba mahali kikingi cha hicho ranchi au hifadhi ambayo ilikuwa, ni lazima watengeneze uzio wao pale.

Pia, wajaribu kuweka hawa walinzi katika hizo hifadhi zao kwa sababu kuna siku nilienda hifadhi ya Lewa nikakuta walinzi wa wanyama wanaajiriwa. Hiyo ni njia moja ya kuajiri vijana. Wazunguke katika eneo hilo, wanapoona ndovu amevunja uzio wanaripoti kwa haraka lakini unapata hifadhi zingine hawajali wanajamii. Sanasana, ukienda sehemu za Tanki Nyeusi, ndovu wanarandaranda, sasa hivi na kuna Olpejeta, Segera, na eldown. Eldown imekuwa kama njia za ndovu kwa sababu haina uzio na inahitajika iwekwe uzio ambao utasaidia wanajamii na hifadhi.

Mwisho Bwana Spika, sanasana hizi hifadhi ndizo hupata faida nikitaja katika Loldaiga, kuna kesi iliyo kotini kuhusu mambo ya moshi na wakati hawa mandugu zetu wa *British Army* walipokuwa wakifanya mazoezi katika sehemu za Loldaiga, kuna moshi ulioathiri watu. Wengine wakapoteza macho na wanyama wengine walikufa na watu wengi waliathirika, pia walikufa na walioenda hospitali afya zao ziliathirika na wakaaga. Sasa hivi, kuna kesi iliyo kotini ya kuwa mahali hao *British Army* walikuwa wanafanya mazoezi, iliathiri watu wa Mirimiti mpaka skoroi na watu walijiandikisha kulingana na athari ambayo walipata. Sasa hivi, hao watu wa Loldaiga wana kesi ya kujibu kortini.

Pia ninasema ya kwamba haya mambo yote ni serikali ndiyo ililegea kwa kutolinda watu wake kwa njia moja au nyingine. Tukiangalia nyuma, Doldol ilikuwa ikifanya kesi kama hizo miaka iliyopita na pia kuna watu walisaidika kwa hiyo njia na kwa saa hizi tuna mahitaji. Spika, tunakuomba mara ya pili tena au mara ya tatu, wanachama katika Bunge hili tunahitaji kutembea katika hizi hifadhi zote tujue wanasaidia wanajamii kwa njia gani. Wanasaidia Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia kwa mambo ya mapato kwa njia gani kwa sababu kuna pesa nyingi inapotea katika hawa walinzi. Kwa hayo machache, sina mengi. Ninaunga mswada ambao umeletwa Bunge hili na Mheshimiwa Eunice. Kama haungeleta kwa haraka, mimi na Mheshimiwa Leshuel tulikuwa tumejipanga, asanteni.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. Salim, I think it is a very important and robust contribution. For that matter, you have requested that I take on House visits there. According to our standing orders, we have a committee that does that work; the committee itself is the trade, tourism and cooperatives Chaired by Hon. Catherine Kibue. I will see to it that on behalf of the House, this committee moves as we have suggested.

A few members I will perhaps have to mention is the Hon. Deputy Speaker who is part of that committee. I am sure he is very capable to ensure that it is done. Thank you very much. Without forgetting about the smoke and the people who lost their eyesight and their lives because of the action of BATUK (British Army), I will make a follow up. Hon. Lekopien, the floor is yours.

Hon. Lekopien Parleto: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand in support of the motion about the conservation. Just to go back a little bit, there was a person called John who has written a book and I think it is very important for everybody to read it. That book is called **The**

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Big Conservation Lie, by John Mbaria and a person called Mordecai Ogada. The big issue with the conservations is it only benefits very few individuals, actually the owners of the big ranches; the writing is so nice. You know a stranger can write a book and you think that people around the conservancies are living in heaven because the writing shows clearly how the people will benefit and when you come around the conservancies, it is a big problem and that is what is happening now.

Hon. Leshuel has said that we just need to sit down and get a clarity on how conservation works. This is because when the conservation people come in; they have never taken or made the people learn about conservation. A lot of them like the previous government is a whole story of having a corridor, the rhino corridor all the way from Aberdare through Lewa connecting further down to Samburu national reserve. In the process, the plan was to move some of the communities off the way so that there is no community living in the corridors and make way for the rhinos, forgetting that people living there they have conserved it for all that time.

When you come around, I will probably say Laikipia, and Laikipia North in particular, the locals have been living with these animals since time immemorial. It is a bit of a joke that someone comes and tells you we are doing conservation to benefit you yet before that, these people have been living with the animals peacefully and coexisting together. Then you come in and say I will give you a good conservancy yet no one is benefitting from it.

Yesterday, we were at Sportsman's Arms with the Laikipia Conservancies Association. It is quite interesting, because I was there for a few minutes; they are only considering conserving more land and having more animals and forgetting about people who live around those conservancies. Therefore, I think it is in order to have a body that will control what happens in these conservancies. For one, I come from a place where there are a few conservancies, about five or so. I have driven around during the campaigns and even lately and have not even seen one benefit, even a school or anything made by these conservancies.

So you look back and ask yourself, how are we benefitting from these conservancies? You go in there and 90% of people who work there come from outside those areas. Therefore, I would also think that the community or so-called conservancies should make a modality that all the employees should come from around that area. I think that the only way we can do that, as Members of this County Assembly, is to call a meeting with the owners of the conservancies and tell them clearly that this is what we want and this is how the community should benefit from the conservancies. If we cannot do that, we will be exploited without any benefit.

The last thing, we have had many human-wildlife conflicts and it comes from these conservancies. Many times, I think the County Government of Laikipia should set a rule that when someone is killed by the animals, before you go to report it at the KWS, the conservancies should compensate the people immediately. I have worked for most of my life around the Maasai Mara Game Reserve and there is a very good model for conservancies around that area. I think it is in order for all of us to go there and learn a little more on importance of conservancies.

I have been to the Mara and conservancies are helping people so much that even during the dry period, they give them a grazing plan, like grazing for three months then move to another place to graze for another three months. Here, the conservancies will charge you to graze your cows in there but to them they think they are helping you yet you have to sell your cows or make some money to pay them for grazing there.

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In the last three years, there has been sort of a rapid evolution with the conservancies. There is a big conservation body called TNC, which is a group of rich people from the US who are trying to buy all the land. They put all the money in the community conservancies to make sure that they expand and make more conservancies around. In that extent, they are forgetting the importance of the people who live around there. Therefore, I think we should have a plan and get to know what is happening and how these communities should benefit from the conservancies.

The last one is about carbon credit. I used to work with a person who has a carbon credit firm. It is quite interesting that with a carbon credit, also they look at the local, original forests. I walked around with him at a place called Loita and the money they are making is ridiculous. They make money as individuals and as conservancies. More so, the money is in brokerage, per every carbon credit you earn two dollars. I have land in Samburu and they took away a copy of my title because we are supposed to be paid for the carbon credits. Now it has become so competitive that everyone else all around wants to be paid for carbon credit.

As Mr. Speaker knows the area, all the way towards Baragoi, there is a whole line of conservation area there and lately I think they are probably getting a few million shillings from the carbon credits. NRT is acting as a broker for the community, but what happens is that they will probably employ a few rangers and the community does not get anything from the money. Therefore, I think it is in order that we as Members should sit down, plan and let the people know that gone are the days of the big conservation lie. Thank you and I support the motion.

Speaker: Thank you. I now call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Eunice Salaten: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank the Hon. Members for supporting my motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Salaten.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today in the afternoon, Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.25 a.m.

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