

THE HANSARD*Wednesday 04th September, 2024**Assembly Building*

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*The Assembly met at 9.00 a.m**[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. David Lemantile) in the Chair]***PRAYER****STATEMENT****STATUS ON SEVERE WATER SHORTAGE WITHIN THE WARDS**

(Hon. Halima Gole)

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. A request ahead of my Statement. Despite the other time you could not accept my Motion to be taped, I preferred at least the headline of my Motion to be seen online as a matter of emergency. I don't see any communication person around, I don't know which option you are going to give because this is a serious matter that has to go round, so that the people with resource can feel that pinch of acting faster.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I think the best thing is that since we don't have that press person in the House I believe we will organize, and when we are done with it we can try to get someone. I will try to get someone from the office to sit down with him to do the necessary because if we don't have it here, then we cannot say we should wait unless you wait until two then we organize that person to be in the Chamber. So it's your option now to read the Statement or you prefer to be at 2.00 p.m. so that I organize that part.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Mr. Speaker Sir, it's okay.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So we demand the Statement at 2.00 p.m.?

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Mr. Speaker Sir, Yes at 2.00 p.m. in the afternoon.

MOTION

COUNTY TO CREATE MEASURES TO CONTROL FLOODS AND SOIL EROSION DURING RAINY SEASON

(Hon. Francisco Letimalo)

Hon. Francisco Letimalo: (Nominated): Thank you Hon Speaker Sir: That aware that, Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources are function of the County Government according to the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010.

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Further Aware that, Isiolo County receives perennial rainfall twice a year which occasionally causing acute floods in many parts of the county.

Appreciating that, the department of water has made some efforts to control the effects of runoff water during rainy season by putting up dykes;

Concerned that, the effects of floods during rainy season have brought about galley creation and sweeping away of the top soil that constitute fertile and essential for plant development, forage and grass growth;

Further concerned that, loss of forages and plant development leads to economic loss for residents whose livelihoods constitute Agriculture and Livestock Production;

This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources to construct gabions, dykes and modern dams to control flash floods and soil erosion during rainy seasons throughout the County;

Hon. Speaker Sir, I think for about two weeks consecutively, we have been discussing about floods which shows its a serious matter which needs a lot of concern that need some action. I think the County and National Government have plans to construct big dams like Crocodile Jaw and Qubi Qalo downstream. Those are the measures that the National Government has for controlling floods. We here in the County have not done anything, we don't have any plans. Having in mind, floods have been taking place in Isiolo town causing a lot of trouble in Ngaremara,

Merti, Ewaso Nyiro is becoming nomad going place to place, Irasaboru, Sericho and all those places. We have not seen anything happening from the County Government at all, nothing totally. Even plans to control the floods from this Meru place here whereby we are seeing a lot of water flowing from the Meru County flowing to Ngaremara, nothing at all.

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Last week we had a proposed to call the concerned Executive Member to tell us, but even ourselves we have not put it into action. Maybe its time that we do something, that is now on floods.

On soil erosion, particularly what I heard in mind was Oldonyiro and these other areas. Soil erosion due to overgrazing, overstocking especially in Oldonyiro because that is the place I know, the whole area almost 40% is full of gullies alone and very dangerous gullies. Despite the Executives knowing all that, nothing tangible has taken place and this is the reason why I brought this Motion up, so that we could see what we can do with concerned department because, it's becoming a very serious issue, that even livestock and people are missing, and there are no roads where to take their animals for pasture. It's becoming a very big menace and a very serious one again. I think this is another important issue which is required at least some action should take place because if we continue this way in another rainy season which is almost near, its going to be disastrous.

Mine is to request all the Members in this House that we do something at least for these urgent issues or we better plan tomorrow on Thursday to call the concerned authority for this very serious matters, so that we discuss all this and see what we can do. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to second the Motion and to contribute and put some of my inputs to the Motion. It is a very nice Motion and I congratulate the Mover. Mr. Speaker Sir, when we are talking of the floods control and soil erosion during the rainy season we have to get back to our roles as Members of County Assembly of Isiolo, whereby our roles are Legislation, Oversight and Representation Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when we are talking of floods we are really talking about issues of unforeseen or emergencies Mr. Speaker Sir, and as you all know, much of our Budget allocation we are putting it towards emergencies, mostly when we are doing Supplementary.

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When we are talking of the effect or menace caused by floods as earlier mentioned by the Mover, most of the areas like Ngaremara, Cherab, Kinna, Sericho, we really know the effect it has caused our people. Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in Cherab, Merti Sub County, there are mothers who are practicing fish farming and the area where they are practicing is along the river bank and we know how the floods destroys all fish farming practiced by those mothers depending on that activity Mr. Speaker Sir. Now that we are speaking they are just sitted having not gotten any help from the County Government of Isiolo leave alone the fish farm even where they are staying, those people are being displaced even the household. The basic needs like shelter they don't have. The business is something that you think of later Mr. Speaker Sir. Having known all those effect, and what we have allocated Mr. Speaker Sir, and our people are not benefitting from that money. Now it's our time to know our responsibility to this County, follow up and do the oversight of what that money we have allocated has done for the people of the various places in Isiolo County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, talking about the dykes, it's another thing. Let me not continue repeating. I wanted as a Member of this House and the department concerned to call upon the offices of the department who are dealing with emergencies to come and tell us before the rainy season we are expecting, to explain what they have done with the money we have allocated so far, to see if the money we have allocated was appropriately used or misappropriated Mr. Speaker Sir. With those few remarks, I beg the emergent attention to look forward and meeting those individual to check how the money allocated for the previous floods was spent. Thank you.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to support the Motion. I commend the Member who brought the Motion, I think this week we have debated on such a Motion more than once. In the last season in April, these floods have really caused a lot of menace in our areas. We have allocated good amount of finance to the disaster portion, and as Hon Kamila Warsame said, we don't have to go around taking about the proposed action, it is a matter of knowing what has been done. I think we are running away from our roles, let's fear Allah (God), who has created us. All of us Nominated or Elected in this House we are here to represent the people of Isiolo County, but I don't know what has befallen this House. People fear to address reality. I am urging my colleagues lets come out and speak reality so that our people are served. Not Bursary, Early childhood, Youth, Women; everything in this County has problems. Whoever caused the problem God knows. It's our mandate to dig out and know because we are mandated and we have that responsibility and the powers but people are fearing. I don't know what is this fear about. There are times that people say let what happens, happen wake up and make this County functional. Right now, as I said yesterday my Ward where I represent, people are suffering because of lack of water which is life. So am urging my colleagues let us wake up, we are sleeping on our job. Thank you.

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me another chance to contribute to this worthy Motion. As we are all aware, this is not the first time that we are talking about this and nothing has been addressed. It is really bad, atrocious and for that reason, this House needs to wake up and do the needful to our people. Because every time we give money for this work and there is very little that accompany what we do compared to what we give. Sometime when I look at this Country of ours not only Isiolo, I feel there is something and I don't know who cursed us, because all of us know that rain is coming in October and we are not preparing. So I feel who will prepare for us? If we people in position are not preparing for this events that is coming to cause havoc again and I fear for my people in Bulapesa, Ngaremara, Merti, Sericho and Iresaboru, those who are within Ewaso Nyiro river it will be havoc again and it will be a cycle that keeps repeating itself but we look helpless, why? That Even the Foreign Countries are giving us money for Climate Change, what are we doing with that money?

There is Kshs 136 million that is supposed to do that work but what will it do in the final end? That shoddy job. Can we be serious and make sure that we are serving our people. If we live in decent houses why don't we... those down trodden people, why don't we in position make sure they also lead a good life. It's within our powers and God has given us that chance even to a portion that money to help our people. But what are we doing with the money? That is the big question we need to ask ourselves. All of us we have risen from down there, just imagine if nobody pulled you from down there you could also be like them. Because we are in a position, let's pull our people up and make sure they also enjoy the privileges that God has given us. So it's important that we know soil erosion is due to overgrazing and is doing a lot of havoc, even all the way to Oldonyiro and many other places like even Kinna we saw those floods are causing havoc. What are we doing to mitigate that? Those are the question we need to be asking and need also the County Government to ask themselves. What are they doing to mitigate that? Because God has given us brains to make sure that those calamities we are able to overcome them, even to be innovative, creators and we can create those things that can help our people. We have seen people in China, living in mountains and they are able to farm there and even have proper farming. I fear for this Country because if we continue like this, slave trade will come again; the white people will enslave us again, because of the policies we people are making. Please can we..God have mercy on us. Can He make us start thinking and feeling for our people? That is the big question, because we have got the money, it's not the time we used to say the money is not available, it is now with us to put it into proper use. So let make sure that this Climate Smart money we put into to use and make sure we can build those dykes, while waiting for the National Government to build those dams and what have you. What are we doing with the little that we have got to mitigate those floods, building even dykes. I remember saying this in this House the other time, we can even plant grass, doing *kaliatia business*, so that when it dries up, our camels can eat instead of bringing them here in town. We can also put that *kaliatia* in our vast land. Even in our own small way we can do something. And with those few remarks Hon. Speaker, sometimes we get emotional when we see what we can do with what we have and not doing something at all. I beg to sit down and hoping that something might be done. Thank you Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Mover may be you have something.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving a chance again. Thank you Honorable Members for contributions and what am gaining from them is that one; this funds which was put for emergency, we should know what this money has done, so the concerned person and am kindly requesting Hon. Speaker if you put some leadership here, we see what we can do in trying to have a meeting with them even like tomorrow if it's possible; like the person in charge of Emergencies, Livestock and Climate Change those who receive the money and the concerned plus Soil Conservation people, Ministry of Water and to have all of them together and I kindly request Hon. Speaker to do something, so that we arrange for a meeting and especially tomorrow in the morning and then we discuss all those issues together.

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Why should we be afraid or scared of anything? Furthermore, nobody has brought the other person here, God has brought us here as Elected or Nominated, there is no need to be scared please that should not happen. You have the right to say anything and nobody will take us anywhere and that is what I know. Hon. Speaker that is what I wanted to add. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I think before I put a question there is a concern and I believe as an Assembly we are working as per the requirement of the County Assembly. We have brought this Motions because you have seen the need of it in our Wards and most important thing is that, that is work of the Assembly; you have to address the Executives through the Motions. I think we are doing our work and nobody is fearing to do that because if the Motion comes to this House we debate on it and give the directive as required by the Standing Orders. I believe that nobody should be fearing to give the Motion as it is. And that is the work of the Assembly, we have to give the Motion the way it is.

In implementation, we have the implementers who are the Executives and if there is need for follow, we have a Committee for the same. And the Committees have to follow up on the Motions, what we have implemented or not, and we are already doing that. The Assembly as may be the Speaker will not wake up to call the Executives for a meeting; we have the channel through the Committees to call for Executive of any department for you to interrogate or also do what we call cordial calls, you sit down with them and try to discuss. So, I think the most important thing is to follow the right way. Like what we have done with the Motion of

yesterday we said we have to have a Statement because it is through that the Assembly can have the mandate to call for any Executive for interrogation and to get some answers. But implementation of the Motions, we must read them in the House, we debate it and give direction as required. On the implementers, there is a way of following up as Committees.

Hon Members. I now put a question; That aware that, Water, Energy. Environment and Natural Resources are function of the County Government according to the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010.

Further Aware that, Isiolo County receives perennial rainfall twice a year which occasionally causing acute floods in many parts of the county.

Appreciating that, the department of water has made some efforts to control the effects of runoff water during rainy season by putting up dykes;

Concerned that, the effects of floods during rainy season have brought about galley creation and sweeping away of the top soil that constitute fertile and essential for plant development, forage and grass growth;

Further concerned that, loss of forages and plant development leads to economic loss for residents whose livelihoods constitute Agriculture and Livestock Production;

This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources to construct gabions, dykes and modern dams to control flash floods and soil erosion during rainy seasons throughout the County;

(Question put and Agreed to)

MOTION

TREATMENT AND PROVISION OF CLEAN SAFE DRINKING WATER
WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY.

(Hon. Halima Gole)

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir: I stand to move the Motion on treatment and provision of clean safe drinking water. There is the Statement ahead of it, I expected a different Motion on Rangeland Water which I presented, but similarly Isiolo municipality is also my area I can continue to move.

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That Aware that, article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that every person has right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

Further Aware that, aware that water and sanitation services is role of county government under the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010;

Appreciating that, the County Government has drilled and sunk a number of boreholes within the municipality in cooperation with other development partners; despite these efforts, residents within the Municipality face challenges to access to clean and safe drinking water;

Concerned that, available water sources within the municipality lack proper treatment leading to water borne diseases;

Further concerned that, the high frequencies of health facilities' visits by residents is a great economic loss as residents are faced with treatment bills and reference to drug purchases elsewhere that may not be available at the County Referral Hospital hence causing families financial strains;

This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources to ensure adequate provision of Clean and safe drinking water and treatment of existing water sources within the Municipality;

Mr. Speaker Sir the issue of water has been debated throughout the week from Monday to today, we are going around either on floods, boreholes and you know those are basic human needs. This County if we cannot cater for our own basic

needs in terms of water which is life, I wonder what is the County Government doing, water is a necessity by all homes and every institution. I think this is not something that we are required to push, it should be without any push. As you have seen the County is still expanding due to the influxes all over being interested in this County because of its developmental agenda of the Country, that this County will be expanding and is an economic hub for Kenya and that made entry easier for people from all over to get interested and you see this County is expanding by the last census

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which has showed a double increases by population and we expecting more increase in the next census. So, if that is the case, we need to be prepared for this expansions and giving safe clean water to the residents in all the villages, everywhere so that people are safe and healthy. I am urging the department concerned to get things right by always rehabilitating and maintaining the boreholes that are already drilled and thinking of drilling more boreholes that will be able to fulfill the needs of Isiolo County Community, because right now there is a lot of shortage even at home you can feel that. Thank you so much.

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I Second the Motion, thank you Hon. Gole for this very important Motion. As we are all aware, Isiolo is not water deficit, as we have always said, we have got a lot of water in Isiolo. The problem that we have is it is as if IWASCO is not equal to the task or their planning is poor. Taking into account that Isiolo is a growing town as Hon. Gole has said; we need to move with time, because water is life and needless to say our people are suffering from curable disease caused by lack of clean or treated water, especially here in the Municipality. People in this town are suffering from curable diseases and at the same time we have got boreholes, but those boreholes because their is no proper sewerline, people have dug their pit latrine, so the water is mixing with feaces and that is even what people are drinking; they have dug their own boreholes close to the pit latrines, what do you expect? But if there was proper planning with proper sewerline and water treatment, this could not be happening. This is happening here in Isiolo because there is shortage of water that can be addressed if people are serious. For once, am asking our people and especially IWASCO to plan and even the Municipality people who are willing to help us as a County, even to bring water into our houses.

Another thing, we should air our views so that the National Government can also know that we are suffering because Crocodile Jaw they said it can save this town, but how long will it take, will it be a song? Like I remember there was a time that they used to say every house by 2000 will have piped water, is this also just a slogan, that water is coming to Isiolo and we cannot see in any tangible evidence that this dam is being built, to bring water in to this Municipality. So it is our prayer and we need to keep saying it so that even the National Government can hear and know that to address water shortage in Isiolo it's beyond the County. The National Government is also to come in, and how does it come in? We need to air our views so they can know. With those few remarks, I beg to sit down.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and the Member who has contributed to this Motion. I think we have highlighted all the challenges in the water supply and quality and we hope that this Motion will be acted upon. Also on the issues of the Bills, the County Executive can start with the process of the Bill if there is no treatment Bills that address issues of purchasing those drugs that are concerned with treating the water so that at the County Assembly level we verify and approve. So it's very critical for this Motion to reach the CEC for Water and Energy so that they can act upon. Thank you so much.

Hon Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members: I now put a question; That Aware that, article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that every person has right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

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(Question put and Agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, the House stands adjourned until today afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.45 am.