

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 31st July 2024

Assembly Building

The Assembly met at 2.30 p.m

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu) in the Chair]

PRAAYER

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dekha Bonja (Nominated): Hon. Speaker I beg to lay the following documents on the table, the documents include:

- a) Participatory Climate Risk Assessment Report
- b) Isiolo County Climate Change Action Plan (2023 – 2027)
- c) Draft Isiolo County Climate Change Policy
- d) County Environment Action Plan (2022 – 2026)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu): Okay, the four documents will be committed to the relevant Committee. That's Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Energy. So I think, the departmental Committee shall take the charge for the Said document. And I think maybe after they review or even peruse the document, even the entire House will have time to get to know what all these documents are about. So, I think the relevant Committee, it is your work. Then from there also you need to the report the House. Because, I think when we approve, we'll have the report accompanying the same. Thank you.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPRAY RACE, CATTLE DIPS AND CRUSHES IN EACH WARD TO BE USED DURING LIVESTOCK VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

(Hon. Francisco Letimalo)

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Honorable Speaker, That Aware that, livestock keeping is the main economic activity in our County that supports and employs over 80% of the local population;

Further Aware that, parasites especially ticks are prevalent in most to the major grazing fields across the County leading to high prevalence of ticks borne diseases; and control of ticks and tsetse fly is key to improvement of livestock husbandry;

Appreciating that, dipping and spray racing is environmentally friendly because the structure is located at a strategic place which is well protected and the animals are also given time to before moving around hence less spread of the acaricide to the environment;

Further appreciating that, dipping is less expensive hence friendlier to the low-income earners who can't afford high cost of spraying their animals;

Worried that, collapse of dips has led to lack of efficient preventive measures to control these parasites will eventually lead to mass losses in livestock by County pastoralists;

The County Assembly therefore, urges the County Executive for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to facilitate the establishment of at least two spray races in each ward, four cattle dips consisting of crushes in each Ward to be used during livestock vaccination campaign.

Honorable Speaker, I remember when I was young, I think most of you except maybe one or two were not born at that time, seventies and eighties, we used to see so many cattle crushes, dips and a lot of spraying of livestock to control ticks, testseflies, and even the deworming. Presently, I am seeing less of this.

I really don't know why. Maybe it could be that the number of animals have reduced. And, hence, maybe the practice is not being carried out as before. But, Honorable Speaker, I want to encourage that the same should happen in all the Wards, because these ticks borne diseases, are very dangerous diseases.

And, if, control measures are not taken, then these other diseases like east coast fever. You see east coast fever is caused by ticks. And at the end, these are the decisions which are very dangerous, to livestock. So, mine here was to ask the concerned Ministry to ensure that cattle dips, crushes, are constructed by the County Government in every Ward where necessary to ensure that the pastoralists don't lose their animals because of ticks and these other diseases, because these ticks can be controlled easily. And when we control these diseases or parasites, then those diseases will not be there for our livestock, which is our mainstay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Dekha Bonja (Nominated): Seconded.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu): The Motion is open for discussion.

Hon. Abdinur Jillo (Kinna): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. I stand up actually to support this Motion. I congratulate Honorable Francisco Letimalo, who is actually of a pastoralist background and knows the value of the livestock. This requirement of cattle crush and the dips is very important, because they say prevention is better than cure. The livestock industry has been neglected for long. The big four policies which has been given by the Ministries is actually not implemented properly. The livestock industry infrastructure, this dip is one of it. And Mr. Speaker it has been actually neglected for long. Particularly, I think those who are planning for livestock industry in the County, it's always thinking of about Agriculture only; and those few animals which are being tied by ropes to the tree in farms or along the roadside. Mr. Speaker, in the ten Counties of Northern Kenya, where Isiolo is one of it, it is actually a mandatory requirement to have this dip everywhere. Not even, you know, centralized because of degradation of the environment; It is good to be spaced according to the need of the pastoralist communities, along the strategic positions, considering the availability of pasture. And again, it has to go with the

requirements as per the season; because dry season livestock move quite outside, stretch over so many kilometers. So we need to have it when we say strategic positions, it should be in line with the need which should come from the community, Mr. Speaker. This County has got bigger percentage of the people living with livestock. So, we have to follow up as leaders of this County representing people, to see that this one is immediately done and also funded as priority.

Mr. Speaker, now we have come up with a big factory to process meat and meat products. So, it is the high time we need now a high quality of meat, diseases to be prevented by providing such kind of facility, which is actually affordable to the herders. So, Mr. Speaker I stand to support this Motion. And I will also urge the relevant department to see that such a Motion really goes through. I ask all the Members to contribute and we follow it up to the implementation of this important requirement for the communities in the Isiolo County.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the Motion; this is a very important Motion. I thank Honorable Francisco Letimalo for tabling this it. As you know, the livestock is the mainstay of livelihood for our community, almost 70 percent of our population in Isiolo County are predominantly dependent on livestock. And you know there are some basics, when we keep livestock in large number, then we have to avail, the basic needs, the disease prevention mechanism, in all those rangeland areas. These cattle dips and the crushes have been there as Honorable Letimalo put it earlier. When we were young kids, they were everywhere after some kilometers, you will get those crushes. But currently, you know the materials are made up of timber and are mainly eaten up by termites and it dies out; and, there's a need to replace them for the sake of preventing livestock diseases. Why do we consider to prevent livestock diseases? Because mostly now we are anticipating the opening of the abattoir which is an International, exporting slaughterhouse, which will soon be launched and the activities are going to start. And, you know, we have the holding ground and free disease areas, but it will cost if the animals you want to sell come with diseases. Maybe our efficiency, as the exporters may be affected. So it's important that at the grassroots, we prevent and when our livestock come over for sale and for slaughter, they are already healthy.

Secondly, most of the livestock in those reserve areas, when our people usually slaughter, you know, mainly the ready food in those area are meat, it is not inspected accordingly, but when we at least, have those important facilities, we are assured that our livestock are healthy and in such eventualities whereby they can slaughter and feed in absence of inspections, then we are safe. Because there are some times when we have mysterious diseases killing our people, and mostly maybe they are related with the meat and its products. For me, I support, this Motion and I urge the Department of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries, to act since it does not cost a lot to put down the crushes and other facilities to prevent diseases. So we urge them to reconsider posting enough extension officers and also to construct those important facilities. Thank you.

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to support the Motion and as well I thank the Mover. It is a really touching Motion, Mr. Speaker Sir. As we all know we are all staunch pastoralists, because our main economic activity is keeping livestock. Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to echo the words said by Honorable Halima, previously, when we were very young girls, nursery school going children, we found such kind of structures, the crushes, and even were questioning our parents on the uses of those structures. But funny enough, as the world is getting more civilized, people are getting more civilized. We are missing those structures, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wonder whether we are no longer keeping the livestock or what, but the structures are not there, Mr. Speaker Sir. Remember we are all depending on this livestock; we used to slaughter animals ourselves at home. We are taking those products like milk; we are always getting in contact with those animals but the innocent electorates, they don't even understand the procedures of even vaccinating or dipping or such kind of things, but they do it in trial and error method.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when we are talking about Agriculture, which is a devolved Ministry, we are not always embarking on only talking about growing crops. Our main activities now is keeping livestock. And we really want to know whether these sectors are doing their work, Mr. Speaker Sir. Remember, I am from the Committee of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. We have the whole Department of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, working. As Members of Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, I know you are there; you know how much we are allocating for that sector. And when we are just going through even, we have

contacts of those officers, but nothing sort of story of dipping those animals in different Wards. I'm speaking this from point of knowledge, Mr. Speaker I know what is going on because what we are depending so much on is this livestock. There is nothing like dipping of those livestock. We don't have those officers. We have a number of extension officers in different Ward, Mr. Speaker, and I actually don't know the work of those extension officers. We have the head of Departments for the Agriculture. During the rainy season, we don't see anything. We have those livestock, and yet we don't see their dipping or preventing such kind of diseases. Our people are suffering from various diseases because of taking those products. They are taking those products, year in, year out with no inspection; Slaughters are being done at home. Mr. Speaker Sir, now we are having a main project in our County, which is an abattoir, Mr. Speaker and we need production for that abattoir to operate. And what we are depending on is those livestock.

Do we really have healthy animals, which our abattoir will depend on Mr. Speaker Sir? I am in that Committee and I will push for the Members and the entire officers has to follow up on such kind of important Motions, which are helpful to our people to just see at least whether those people will benefit from putting up those kind of structures which initially were there and now they aren't, so that we will depend on healthy products from our livestock. With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker Sir, in as much as we are making budget allocation, we are almost now on the verge of approving the Budget, Mr. Speaker; but how often it will help our community should be what we will need to have in our minds. I look forward to implement what is in this Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Rahima Abdikadir (Nominated): I also stand to support the Motion in as much as I'm not doing much debate on this because a lot has been said by the Members. Mine is just a concern; we've been going through so many Motions in this House Mr. Speaker Sir. A good Motion like this might not see the light of the day, that's just my fear, I'm just so paranoid about that; because if we bring this Motions and then we debate about it always, and then we don't see the fruit of it, there's no need for us to debate and have this House opened every day. So, I don't know. We don't have Implementation Committee to follow up on this, but Maybe the concerned Committees, as Hon. Kamila has just said, should take up seriously on all the Motions which come through this House. Otherwise, if we debate and go home, there's nothing we are doing for the community. So these are just genuine

concern. I'm sure everybody's concerned about this. Let's do a Motion and then make a follow up for us to see the fruit of these Motions Mr. Speaker Sir. I beg to sit down.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu): Honorable Halima, the law is very clear; Standing Order is very clear. You cannot contribute in one Motion twice. I'm going to give you leeway of just a minute.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): It's not a debate, along with Honorable Rahima comment of whether our Motions are put to action, all the sectors have sector clerks. And, when I was a CEC, usually I see the sector clerks following up on such Motion and ensuring that it is answered, because if it is a Statement which is usually given timeline, it is followed and reported back to the House. So it's good that wherever we move a Motion that needs an answer from the department, it's good that the clerks follow up and ensure that the response is taken back to the House. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu): I think the Mover will have time to reply. And at the same time, it's good for you to know that when you're moving a Motion, and you are given time to reply, you can reply and at the same time you can even donate your two minutes to any other Member who feels like maybe, the contribution he or she had made before has not been exhausted. You can debate and give Hon. Halima or Hon. Abdinur Jillo even two minutes to support you again. The law allows that. You can reply.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): We're still learning Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much, but I thought, maybe, if we would've been taken for more trainings, at least we would've known this by this time; It's almost two years now. Thank you so much, for giving me this time again. I sincerely thank all the Members, for your beautiful and nice contributions towards this Motion.

This really shows that this Motion really touches all of us. Actually on top of that, I sincerely thank Honorable Kamila for your emotional contribution. It's very nice, it was good. Percentage of Pastoralists in this County is 83%. So actually this Motion is for all those people, that's why it is gaining all that all the contributions and thank you so much. You know, within the Ministry of Livestock, sometimes it used to be together with I think it is even together nowadays with the Ministry or

Department of Veterinary. During colonial times, it was agreed that all livestock from Upper Eastern and North Eastern are always sick and that they should not cross these barriers without being checked thoroughly because of these tick borne diseases and these other diseases; So that thing is permanent and I don't know when it will be removed, but, it's good that there are holding grounds and especially now when there's the slaughterhouse. Will we really sustain this slaughterhouse when it's being opened? Because the number of livestock has really diminished and, I don't know unless we all put up from this other Counties like Marsabit and Samburu, that's the only time I think we will sustain that abattoir. But without that, there is a lot of laxity from Ministry of Agriculture, especially the concerned one here. Nothing is being undertaken. I don't know really what the problem is, because we used to even see the vaccination campaigns once or twice a year, nowadays it is not there at all. I don't know why. What really is the problem?

Honorable Kamila also said that, even the extension workers who are at the divisions, who are at the villages, are not assisting at all. We don't know what they're doing. So since the issue really concerns all of us as specialists, I think we need to do something. And as Hon. Rahima has said, that we could discuss all these Motions here, even the one in the morning, and then it just ends in this House. What can we do? to ensure that there is a follow up on these Motions. Because, if we discuss these things here and we just leave it that way, then there is nothing we are doing. I think the leadership of this House needs to be whipped seriously. I think they have slept on their job. The other day we asked them that we want to come up with this Implementation Committee. What is difficult really and Hon. Losu and the rest who are old timers here in this Assembly are not guiding us on what we will do for us to establish, that Implementation Committee. I think that needs to be taken seriously. And I urge all Members in this House for us to put our hands together to ensure that this Implementation Committee is actually formed. Otherwise, without this, what we are doing in this House is nothing. So mine is to urge all Members that we all come together just to discuss how we can form this Committee, so that at least we will follow up. Something is done on whatever we discussed in this House. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary (Hon. Peter Losu): I think, having the relevant Departmental Committee for the sector, you'll have to take up the matter, that's one. Two, Honorable Rahima, I agree with you that maybe most of the discussion we have in

this Assembly does not see the light and at some point even the sector itself, they are not getting. So I think going forward, if maybe something is touching on you, like even the Motion we had, I think, I don't know, yesterday or for Water, I had to take a picture personally; I forwarded to my CEC and at the same time to the Chief Officer and they acknowledged that they have received. So I think, the Department Committee, any other time you have something that concerns your department, it is your work to take up that role and make sure that information has reached the departmental sector for response to the House. The other thing is about the Implementation Committee, I think I took that matter seriously, and I've already taken to the legal personnel. We agreed, I don't know what is maybe delaying. I've already instructed her maybe to draft something to forward to Rules and Privileges Committee, because it has to originate from that Committee.

You cannot just forward anyhow as a person, as an independent person. It has to be discussed. Because, that one now calls to amendment of your Standing Orders, because it does not allow that Committee. You know, this Standing Order is being customized now and then. You can even wake up today and maybe say, you need to review all this, you are allowed. So even this one, in the first Standing Order, the Implementation Committee was there. And I think for now they have tasked Departmental Committee to follow up. We have tasked Departmental Committee to follow up on the same so that at least we can have a Committee that is tasked for making sure our Motion or any other resolution the House has made has been implemented accordingly so that Members will not be discouraged by the virtue maybe their issues are not being attended to. So, we have that concern and we are attending to that issue. Standing Order 186 for those who are with the Standing Order, report on assessing Assembly resolution; within sixty days of a resolution of the Assembly or adoption of a report of a Select Committee, the relevant Executive Committee Member under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls, shall provide a report to the relevant Committee of the Assembly in accordance with Article 183(3) of the Constitution. So it is there and for now, this is what we are relying on. But, if maybe the feeling of the House is maybe they change the Standing Order and allow the provision of the Implementation Committee, we are in agreement. Let's follow the due procedure for us to introduce that Committee. I think I'm very clear on the same.

I now put the question. Already the Motion has been committed to the relevant Committee. So, in absence of the Chair, the Vice and the rest of the Members will take charge of maybe what has been discussed in the House. So, you take charge of whatever has been raised here by the Member. At the same time, whenever we bring a Motion in the House, which has financial implications, we need also to look or to check on issue of budgetary allocation.

As much as maybe sometimes we touch on Budget Committee, you know, for us, we only receive already compiled Budget. So we are not making the Budget. Making of the Budget is the work of the sectors and then being compiled by the CEC or the Finance Department. Then from there, it is now tabled or even brought to us.

So this one has to originate from your, from your sector. So whenever you talk about the issue of dipping and the rest, you ensure first you have allocated some finance on the same from your line of sector. I think, I'm very clear on that. I now put the question; That Aware that, livestock keeping is the main economic activity in our County that supports and employs over 80% of the local population;

Further Aware that, parasites especially ticks are prevalent in most to the major grazing fields across the County leading to high prevalence of ticks borne diseases; and control of ticks and tsetse fly is key to improvement of livestock husbandry;

Appreciating that, dipping and spray racing is environmentally friendly because the structure is located at a strategic place which is well protected and the animals are also given time to before moving around hence less spread of the acaricide to the environment;

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The County Assembly therefore, urges the County Executive for Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries to facilitate the establishment of at least two spray races in each Ward, four cattle dips consisting of crushes.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary (Hon. Peter Losu): Having no any other Business to transact today, the House remains adjourned until tomorrow Thursday 1st of August, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.25 p.m.