

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Thursday, 15th February, 2018

The Assembly met at the County Assembly chambers at 2:30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker, County Assembly of Samburu, (hon. Jonathan Lemoosa) in the Chair

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

DELAYED DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY FOOD

MCA Wamba West Ward, (hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order No. 45 (2c), I hereby request for a statement from the Leader of Majority regarding the delayed emergency food distribution.

Hon. Speaker, the Samburu County Disaster and Risk Management Act, 2014 was passed as a law on 14th July, 2015. Since then, the County Government established a directorate and an office to deal with the issue of disaster management within the county. In the Act, disaster means mishap, catastrophe or a grave occurrence in any area arising from natural or man-made causes or by accident or negligent which results in substantial loss of life of human suffering or damages and destruction of property or damage to or degradation to the environment and of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected areas.

Hon. Speaker, section 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Samburu County Disaster and Risk Management Act, 2014 instruct that the Disaster Management Committee to prepare the management plan and the measures that the county government will take to implement the plan on the emergency settings.

Hon. Speaker, emergencies arise either by the county government committee on Disaster Management agency. Whether within the county or otherwise certified by a directorate as an accredited disaster notification service under sub-section 3 broadcasts or otherwise publishes verbal announcement warning persons of the threat of the striking of a disaster.

The National Drought Management Authority, as such an organization to produce disaster notification services, on its January, 2018 bulletin issued a warning on the worsening drought situation in Samburu County. Noting with concern, the NDMA issued, among others, the following points on matters of food security prognosis:

1. Depleting pastures has resulted to early migration in search of pastures has likely led to low milk production thus increased malnutrition cases in children under 5.
2. Deteriorating terms of trade is likely to cause low purchase power hence livelihood of poor dietary diversity.
3. There is livelihood of further increase of tracking distances as water diminishes in water sources till probably the onset of the next season.
4. Incidences of cattle rustling especially in Samburu North has led to high tension and is likely to further limit access to available pasture in conflict prone areas thus possibility of abnormal migration routes to other areas.

Acting on these warnings, the county government ought to act first and safeguard the livelihood of people living in affected areas but instead, have been purchasing food and receiving relief grants which unfortunately, lie idle in the Maralal silos without dispatching it to the malnourished populace.

In view of this, the Leader of Majority should inquire into and report on:

1. Whether there is any emergency relief food in possession of the county government and when was it received?
2. Why was relief food bought evenly and whether it is meeting its intended purpose?
3. Which type of food and what is its value if any?
4. Why is relief food always delayed to be dispatched to the public in the affected areas? And does this lead to increase of aflatoxin leading to it being unfit for human consumption?
5. Why is the department, as established in the Act, not acting its roles as provided and ensure mitigation of drought even before it happens?

Allow me to add a few points not included in my statement. I decided to direct this question to the Leader of Majority because of the situation. In our yesterday's contribution to the speech of the Governor, we had a concern on the delayed distribution of food to the Samburu populace. People are suffering of hunger, livestock are migrating from one place to another in search of

water and pasture, we are losing lives due to insecurity that is contributed by shortage of pasture and water and the movement of people has resulted to the conflicts.

We had in our last budget enough money to buy food for the entire population of Samburu County. It is almost a year when this House approved a budget to give the executive money to buy food for the people but this has never been realized.

Mr. Speaker we want a quick response from the Majority Leader to inform this House whether the money approved by this Hon. House has gone to the intended purpose or it has been directed to other avenues. We wish to know whether there is food for our people or not. This is a concern to the public too.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Jonathan Lemoosa): I was just about to cut the Member short, this is because in a Statement, all that is required is put across, the concerned department will give a prompt and efficient answer to the hon. Member's Statement. I call upon the Hon. Majority Leader to give us direction on when this Statement shall be answered having in mind the wait and the intensity of this matter in particular.

MCA Ndoto Ward, (Hon. Raisy Letura): Thank you hon. Speaker. The office of the Majority Leader will take seriously the Statement raised by the hon. Member for Wamba West ward. I will furnish the response to this Statement on Tuesday next week at 2:30 pm, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Jonathan Lemoosa): Very well; thank you hon. Deputy Majority Leader, Hon. Amhed Letura. Tuesday next week is on the 20th, we expect the answers to this particular Statement on Tuesday as per your direction on the 20th Tuesday at 2:00 pm. Thank you very much. What is your concern hon. Leitore?

MCA Wamba West, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Mr. Speaker I have a concern that other Statements have been given dates for responses yet it has taken a year or so to get the response. It is my wish that...

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Jonathan Lemoosa): Please hon. Leitore you are out of order.

MCA Ndoto Ward, (Hon. Raisy Letura): Mr. Speaker I want to bring to your attention that the hon. Member is trying to anticipate response to the Statement which is not allowed as per the Standing Orders. He should have some trust in the office of the Majority Leader. We will work.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Jonathan Lemoosa): Hon. Benjamin Leitore you are out of order. I directed the response will be brought on Tuesday the 20th at 2:00 pm. That is, it. Thank you very much for that.

Hon. Members, the time being 10 minutes past 3 o'clock and there being no other business, this Assembly stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 at 2:30 pm. Thank you.