

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 28th February, 2019

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

Temporary Speaker, (hon. Stephanie Lanyasunya) in the chair

PRAYER

PAPERS

The Leader of Majority, (Hon. Christopher Lentukunye): Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to table the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2019. I also wish to table Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Paper 2019. I also wish to table the Annual Report for the Public Service Board of Samburu for the year 2018, thank you.

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephanie Lanyasunya): The three Papers are now committed to the floor of the House. The County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2019 is to be committed to the Budget and Appropriation Committee. The Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Paper 2019 is also committed to the Budget and Appropriation Committee. The Annual Report for the Public Service Board of Samburu for the year 2018 is to be committed to the Committee of Justice and Legal Affairs

MOTION

MCA Wamba West Ward, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand to move the following Motion, **THAT**, the county diverse eco-system and wildlife is the cornerstone of the economy and group ranches are making significant contribution to increase wildlife numbers and regenerating vegetation in areas that were no longer able to support wildlife and other animals.

AWARE THAT, wildlife conservation as a business offers global, national and local benefits of saving species, habitats and ecosystem as well as biodiversity. However, the actual cost of conservation is born by local communities who often get insufficient and inequitable benefits.

COGNIZANT of the fact **THAT** this has posted various challenges to the management and conservation of wildlife.

FURTHER AWARE THAT, effectiveness of conservation of activities in Samburu National Reserve (SNR) can be done through cooperation, partnership, mutual support and joint actions from the County Government of Samburu and the neighbouring group ranches such as Girgir and Nkutuk e Ng'iron group ranches.

FURTHER AWARE THAT, Girgir and Nkutuk e Ng'iron group ranches are the two group ranches neighbouring SNR and desire to support the County Government in promoting wildlife and environmental conservation.

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT, how successful the County Government nurtures and manages a relationship with the communities living adjacent to SNR, is critical to the survival of SNR and tourism in the county.

AWARE THAT, the County Government of Samburu is currently allocating sh. 2 million per year per group ranch and with changing economic times this figure is far below acceptable level operation.

Therefore, this House urges the County Government of Samburu to allocate 5 million per group ranch and this should be included in the financial year (FY) 2018/2019 through the submissions of the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance to the County Budget Committee. I call upon Hon. Lesoipa to second the Motion.

MCA Suguta Marmar, (Hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Thank you Madam Speaker. The Motion caught me unaware and for the purposes of interests let me stand and support the Motion by the Hon. Member for Wamba West. Having stated clearly the intention of the Motion for the Community conservancies neighbouring Samburu National Reserve, He mentioned that for the purpose of cooperation and co-existence and that the Kshs. 2 Million allocated yearly is below the expectation.

For that interest I urge this House to move forward and create co-operations between the communities and the conservancies for the prosperity of wild animals' conservation and the flora for that matter

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Hon. Kiragu, what is it. You are amused

MCA Suguta Marmar, (Hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Protect me from the Hon. Member

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Hon. Kiragu, you are disrupting the House.

(Hon. Kiragu apologises to the House)

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Obligated. Hon. Leitore

MCA Wamba West, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to give input to my Motion so that Members will comprehend as to why we intend to increase the funds from Kshs. 2 million to Kshs. 5 million.

First and foremost I want to congratulate and appreciate the support by the Hon. Member for Suguta Marmar Ward my able brother and my close friend Hon. Lesoipa and support from the other Members. Madam Speaker, I have supplied... (*Interjection by the Temporary Speaker*)

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): The Motion has not been proposed. Hon. Members, I now propose, THAT, the County's diverse eco-system and wildlife are a cornerstone of the economy and group ranches are making significant contribution to increase wildlife numbers and regenerating vegetation in areas that were no longer able to support wild life and other animals. AWARE that, wildlife conservation as a business offers global, National and local benefits of saving species, habitat and ecosystem as well as biodiversity. However, the actual cost of conservation is borne by communities who often get insufficient and inadequate benefits. COGNISANT of the fact that this has posed various challenges to the management and conservation of wildlife

FURTHER AWARE that effectiveness of conservation activities in Samburu National Reserve (SNR) can be done through cooperation, partnership, mutual support and joint action between the Samburu County Government and the neighbouring group ranches such as Girgir and Ngutuk engiron group ranches.

FURTHER AWARE that Girgir and Ngutuk engiron group ranches are the two group ranches neighbouring SNR and desire to support the County Government in promoting wildlife and environmental conservation. Deeply CONCERNED that how successful County Government natures and manages relationship with communities living adjacent to SNR is critical to the survival of SNR and tourism in the County.

AWARE that, the County Government of Samburu is currently allocating Kshs. 2 million per annum per group ranch and with the changing economic times this figure is far below acceptable level of cooperation

Now therefore, this House urges the Samburu County Government to allocate Kshs. 5 million per annum per group ranch (Girgir and Ngutuk Engiron) and should be included in the

financial year 2018/19 through the submissions of the County Executive Committee Member for finance

Hon. Members, this is a critical matter brought for the second time and it is imperative to give Members time to ventilate more on this. So the floor is open for anyone who wants to add, Hon. Leitore.

MCA Wamba West, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to further ventilate on the information that the Members sought in our last debate on this Motion. I had given the Members the copies of how this money is utilized by our group ranches... *(Some disturbances in the House)*

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Hon. Members, can we have order in the House.

MCA Wamba West, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Madam Speaker, if you take the example of the year 2017, Ngutuk Engiron group ranch used the Kshs. 2 million as follows;

- (1) Bursaries provision was Kshs. 1.574 million went to support 99 students in the conservancy
- (2) Kshs. 164, 000 was disbursed for medical services to support the poor community members by which four members benefited at that period.
- (3) Kshs. 176,400 was for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers' salaries, six teachers benefited
- (4) Community water projects were supplemented... *(interjection by the Temporary Speaker)*

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Hon. Letura, you will go out if you do not concentrate *(Laughter)* continue Hon. Leitore

MCA Wamba West, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Madam Speaker, the conservancy through the allocation used Kshs. 85,600 for purchase of fuel for community boreholes during the dry period. Madam Speaker, in the year 2015/2016 January, they provided bursaries for 129 school outgoing students. They used Kshs. 430,700. The Ngutuk Engiron students were able to continue with their studies without dropping out of school

In February 2016, Kshs. 1.5 million was paid to conservancy to support these operations on vehicle fuelling and maintenance. The outcome was that the conservancy was able to conduct its operation due to this immense support by the County Government

Madam Speaker, this is the operation that our conservancies provide within Samburu National Reserve. To get animals that have encroached the park are out of the park so that the wildlife will have peaceful time within the conservation area

Madam Speaker, I had given Members copies of expenditures for different years on how the conservancies have been utilizing the money. I was not in the position of getting for Kalama conservancy but it has also been doing the same. In my last contribution, I indicated that most of the money is used to support conservation particularly for capacity building for communities, support operations, enable our rangers go for patrols, take our communities to meetings with Samburu National Reserve management and support operation in general
Madam Speaker.

This has given the management and animals at the park peaceful time for our visitors to have a good time and view the animals. We had also witnessed increase in revenue collection
(Applause)

Our communities are greatly contributing to a peaceful existence and relationship between the park and the communities. You see that our group ranches go as far as buying fuel for our boreholes so as to prevent our domestic animals from going to where the wildlife gets water and disturb them. With those few remarks, I wish to call on Members to support the Motion, thank you Madam Speaker *(Applause)*

MCA Elbarta Ward, (hon. Peter Lempei): Madam Speaker thank you, I haven't made my maiden Speech this year.

Temporary Speaker, (hon. Stephany Lanyasunya): Most obliged.

MCA Elbarta Ward, (hon. Peter Lempei): Mr. Speaker...

(Interjected on a point of order by hon. Speaker)

Temporary Speaker, (hon. Stephany Lanyasunya): I am not Mr. Speaker

MCA Elbarta Ward, (hon. Peter Lempei): Madam Speaker I apologise, you know when we break for a long recess there is some sort of rustiness that comes with not having sessions so may I be excused for calling you Mr. Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I stand to support the Motion. This Motion touches on so many aspects of our Community. We have benefited greatly through conservancies as our education was funded through the facilitation group ranchers received for conservation when it was County Council then.

It would be unfair if we don't fund that sector of our economy to enhance production of manpower and other resources that would be beneficial to our people. If we do not support especially when we are at the verge of some animals being extinct we will be doing a disservice to our people.

The contribution given by the mover of this Motion proposing Kshs. five million, I feel that it's even on the lower end. There is no reason to refute the Motion because earlier on the House approved 10% of the revenue to be issued to group ranchers.

Madam Speaker, there is need for support of our ecosystem as they also provide security to our people so by increasing their funding does not only benefit the conservancies but also the safety of our people against external intrusion.

It only right to agree with the proposer of this Motion by looking at the benefits of increasing funding incurs to our people, youths are being employed in large numbers which in turn enhances our service delivery. It will also help with the growth of the conservancies rather than them becoming redundant.

Through the funding to conservancies our marketability as a County increases hence tourism sector growth. Funding the conservancies will have a ripple effect as towns like Maralal will grow through the tourism sector.

Specially Elected Member, (hon. Antonella Lobura): Madam Speaker, I stand to support this Motion which was brought forth by hon. Member for Wamba West. SNR (Samburu National Reserve) is the only national reserve we have within our county and when one visits it's so beautiful seeing the wild animals in their natural habitat.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Kiragu is interrupting, Madam Speaker...

(Interjected on a point of Order by hon. Kiragu)

MCA Maralal Ward, (hon. Fred Kiragu): Madam Speaker I have not said anything, I am being falsely accused and I think it's not in order Madam Speaker.

Specially Elected Member, (hon. Antonella Lobura): Madam Speaker, SNR (Samburu National Reserve) supports women across our County...

(Interjected on a point of Order by hon. Lentukunye)

MCA Wamba North Ward, (hon. Christopher Lentukunye): Hon. Speaker, I think you ought to take action against Hon. Kiragu because since this Session begun, he has been laughing and shouting creating interruptions.

Specially Elected Member, (hon. Antonella Lobura): Hon. Kiragu can bare me witness that SNR has played a big role in helping our women economically especially those that make beads. When SNR (Samburu National Reserve) attracts tourist they buy beads from the local women. It is not only women but also youth that benefit and with that in mind I request Hon. Members to support the Motion.

MCA Ndoto Ward, (hon. Raisy Letura): Madam Speaker I am not siding with Hon. Kiragu but I think he is just happy and with your guidance, I honestly don't think is punishable. I also wish to support the Motion brought forth by Hon. Leitore.

Madam Speaker, as I was watching the TV yesterday on a Motion being brought forth at the National Parliament about clearance of hospital bills for people who die and relatives left behind are unable to clear the bills and this an issue that touches on the lives of the general public.

The Motion was overwhelmingly supported and was passed and I wish to request hon. Members to also support this Motion as it is an issue that is of benefit to our people. When we talk about funding that is felt by our people directly like funding SNR (Samburu National Reserve) we are aware of the benefits it has to our people.

Madam Speaker, even before devolution Samburu East was on its feet compared to North and West Constituencies. This was due to conservation, group ranchers and the mode of organization they had that brought about improvement of education and health sector.

They assisted the Community. We have seen people employed, we have also seen some advanced communities who are even flying outside and we can see the Women from Waso going outside the Country to show case the good culture and whatever item that they have at their disposal at that particular community level. That is one of the positive side of conservation that has happened before devolution. When the hon. Member says maybe 10 million shillings per financial year I think that he did not consult well. He could have increased to 10 million to be specific because even five million per year is too little. If you divide it into three or four quarters per year it becomes barely a million per year.

We have seen a lot of good work from the conservation especially where my friend hon. Leitore comes from. We have seen the invasive weed that hindered growth of vegetation gotten rid of in the East and also in the entire County. This had to be done to reduce the risks of the livelihood of our people. I appreciate that the County Government gives up to 90 million in Samburu North in support of conservation. It is fair to us when the East asks for 10 million because they are already up and running. The communities surrounding the Samburu National Reserve should get the small incentive since they have always been very accommodating to the wild animals that they live with despite the fact that these wild animals some time kill domestic animals that the communities entirely depend on them.

We appreciate the County Government's support in parts of Samburu North, Samburu East, Maralal Ward also in Kirisia Forest, Poro, Ltungai and even Nkoteiya. We as the County Assembly in the subsequent years through the hon. Member should move a Motion to increase the allocations of these communities. They deserve it. We can attest that we have gone to places like Westgate and Sera conservation where we have given three million shillings, if you compare the project and that project of the County Government worth 10 million there is a very big difference. They are well managed. These communities are well empowered and do things the right way.

These communities run their conservancies. They are the board Members. They even hire very senior officers like the CEOs who are PHD holders and degree holders but you find them sitting down doing interviews just like in the recent Reteti where I heard that one of the strongest conservationist Mr. Paul Leringato who is well known in the Country but now those roles are given back to these communities and they do not disappoint. They give you the best conservationists who are well known. This is the right money put in the right place and I stand in support, thank you Madam Speaker.

MCA Maralal Ward, (hon. Fred Kiragu): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I wish to go on record that

(Point of Order by hon. Letura)

MCA Ndoto Ward, (hon. Raisy Letura): Thank you Madam Speaker as much as I supported when he was over excited he should respect the Speaker of the day and also the gender which is feminine.

MCA Maralal Ward, (hon. Fred Kiragu): I apologize for that and thank you for the protection. It is very difficult for the hon. Member to see happiness as a criminal act. I do not know what they will decide when one cried. It looks like this Motion will go through the indicators but I would like to go on record that I seriously opposed this Motion. There is no single group ranch in this County that does not do conservation. We cannot say that the animals in this County are based in the SNR. There are animals all over this County including Maralal Ward. On matters conservation it is actually not right for us to legislate on given two group ranches. It would be proper as we go to legislate to say that every group ranch...

(Interrupted by a call for a point of order)

Temporary Speaker, (hon. Stephanie Lanyasunya): What is hon. Leitore?

MCA Wamba West Ward, (hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you madam Speaker. I wish to inform the hon. Member for Maralal Ward that... *(Disrupted)*

MCA Maralal Ward, (hon. Fred Kiragu): Madam Speaker I do not need information. Protect me. It is derailing me.

Temporary Speaker, (hon. Stephanie Lanyasunya): Continue hon. Kiragu.

MCA Maralal Ward, (hon. Fred Kiragu): I do not wish to be informed since I never interrupted while they contributed. All I am saying is that there is no group ranch involved one way or the other in conservation. If we were to legislate, we should say that maybe every group ranch gets this amount of money to encourage them to conserve. If we only conserve animals in SNR, then it means that animals may be killed in other conservancies or ranches.

The only reason that I oppose this Motion from my hon. Colleague is that we should legislate of all the group ranches in this County including even Maralal group ranches. This is because we also have tourists who come to birdwatch. We in Maralal also have to do conservation

around Kirisia forest but we have a danger that a lot of people are going into the forest cutting firewood for survival. They also go into the forest to burn charcoal for their survival. If they cannot be considered so that we can conserve it is about Flora and Fauna so that we can conserve Kirisia forest and have some money allocated maybe to Ng'ari and Shabaa group ranches so that they can find ways of discouraging those who go to destroy the forest.

We also have Lkurroto group ranch where Maralal Safari Lodge or its area has taken part of it. We also have people there who are inconvenienced by that facility there. We should also see how much we should give so that they are convinced not to move in the compound of the Maralal Safari Lodge. When we talk about conservation as much as I appreciate the intentions of the Motion but then we should carry and it is more important that we consider our people as whole, we also have the project that has come at Nkoteiya, what do they have? What the hon. Member has brought here, what has been done with the community with the income that they have? Let us amend where we feel we can but let's not deny those communities that small amount of money that can motivate them and can make them feel the reason we gave them the part they are taking

MCA Elbarta Ward, (Hon. Peter Lempei): Thank you Madam Speaker, this time am not going to get to the predicament, am now used to Madam until further notice when we have a masculine Speaker. I think the intention and specification of this Motion in writing is clear. We have group ranches that have converted into conservation and that is the intention of this Motion. One of the group ranches that have not converted into conservation is for example Ngari Group Ranch

Madam Speaker, we all want to have resources allocated to where we represent but we have to be realistic that even in allocation of those resources they go to where it will be meaningful.

Other group ranches that have not converted into conservation are for example Lkuroto and Lpartuk group ranches. The intentions of the group ranches that have converted into conservancies are clear and one is as such as specified, so let us go in that order,

Madam Speaker, when we talk about bursaries, it will not be a crime when there is a conservation conserving wildlife to help us to also put a certain amount of money to help children in its surrounding as they also contribute the money that comes to the County Government to help the rest. The bursary that goes back to assist them is the same money that

they have collected in the same conservancies. I do not find validity in looking at the services that our conservancies are already providing on the ground and say those are as well the functions of other departments. Other departments can do but nothing can stop them from supplementing.

Madam Speaker, we all know Kirisia forest, how it operates and we would all want to support its conservation. Nothing stops us from bringing forward other Motions to support our forest because they are separate entities from conservancies. When we say Samburu National Reserve (SNR) money be drawn from SNR and others go back and support those people, then those are matters of regulations that indeed we can pass a Motion and regulate in which money can get back to those people so it is not a cut and dry that the kitty we are getting from the National Government is what we target. We go ahead and regularize that so that it dictates the manner in which money must come and go back to the community.

Madam Speaker, I stood for clarity (*Applause*) that I also have a conservancy called Bendera inside Baragoi town. It will look very funny if I say it should be supported maybe to conserve three rabbits, thank you Madam Speaker.

The Leader of Majority, (Hon. Christopher Lentukunye): Thank you Madam Speaker. I also rise to give my input to the Motion. Samburu National Reserve is a cash cow of this County and therefore we need to protect it. We have seen a lot of challenges like encroachment of animals which does not go hand in hand with conservation or tourism.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Hon. Leitore for bringing this Motion to be deliberated and be passed so that the County Government can channel some money accrued by the Government for the National Reserve to give to the neighbouring communities through conservancies. Madam Speaker, conservation is a very delicate activity which requires combined efforts between the communities and the Government. If we leave protection of Samburu National Reserve to security agencies, then we will not see the dream of conserving the National Reserve

I therefore support the Motion, that the County Government should consider giving those community conservancies the proposed amount of money to enable them to also conserve and protect the National Reserve. There are a lot of cries and issues concerning the management of the National Reserve. We have recently witnessed killings at the reserve

simply because the communities living around there were discriminated on various opportunities like employments and other rightful considerations.

To conserve, we need to make these communities realize that the reserve is theirs and to promote the realization of ownership of those conservation activities within the reserve and their conservancies. Protect me Hon. Speaker

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): From who Hon. Lentukunye?

The Leader of Majority, (Hon. Christopher Lentukunye): From the same Member complaining

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): I am keeping my eye on him

The Leader of Majority, (Hon. Christopher Lentukunye): Thank you Madam Speaker. Therefore, with those few remarks I support the Motion

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Thank you Leader of Majority. Hon. Members, this is a debate that can really go on and on the whole afternoon, but from the views of all of you who have spoken this afternoon, I think you got the essence of the Motion and I want to propose the question. What is it Hon. Lempei?

MCA Elbarta Ward, (Hon. Peter Lempei): Madam Speaker I have not spoken even a word, that was Hon. Leitore

(Question put and Motion passed)

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Stephania Lanyasunya): Hon. Members, the time being 3:55 pm and there being no other business, this Assembly now adjourns until Tuesday afternoon, March 5th, 2019 at 2:30 pm.