

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11th August, 2021

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

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Jonathan Lemoosa) in the Chair

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Jonathan Lemoosa): Hon. Members there is a request for a statement from the Chairperson Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Marketing regarding County Government preparedness and response to the current severe drought for the entire County. Hon. Kalapata.

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Elizabeth Kalapata): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 42 (2) I hereby request for a statement from the Chairperson Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Marketing; regarding County Government preparedness and response to the current severe for the entire County.

Hon. Speaker, Samburu County Disaster Management Act 2015 provides for a more effective mitigation of preparedness for response to and recover from emergencies and disasters. Hon. Speaker, one of the objectives of the Samburu County Disaster Management Act 2015 is to enhance the capacity of the County Government of Samburu to effectively manage the impacts of disaster and emergencies and to take all the necessary actions to prevent or minimize threat to life, health and environment from natural disaster and other emergencies.

Hon. Speaker, the drought in Samburu County is worsening by the day. With this respect, families trekking long distance in search of food water and pasture for their livestock. Women, children and the elderly are the most affected as the dry spell persists in the northern and eastern parts of the County.

Hon. Speaker, majority of the Samburu people have been affected by the drought and are at risk of starvation. The emergencies had several causes and exhibiting factors. First, Samburu County arid and semi-arid lands have experienced increasingly frequent drought in the last two decades, this means that households in this area has not got time to recover from previous drought before the next one hits, increasing their vulnerability to food security and poverty.

Second; conflicts in these areas exert the effects of drought hence disrupting life and livelihood and preventing external assistance from reaching affected populations at the right time.

Hon. Speaker, livestock forms the basis of livelihood of the pastoralists, drought has a direct effect of performance of the livestock sector and hence food security to most of the pastoralists. Provision of adequate water and ensuring that sufficient livestock assets remains was thus crucial.

Inadequate water and pasture led men to migrate to other regions in search of better pasture while women, children and the elderly remain behind with little means of survival. Food availability and access sharply declined and drinking water becomes scarce.

Inadequate food undermines the nutrition and health status of most households. Wide water scarcity led to unhygienic conditions resulting to waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and typhoid. Lack of food combined with compromised health conditions led to malnutrition, increased morbidity and mortality especially to children under five years of age, the elderly and the sick.

Hon. Speaker, in view of this the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:

- 1) What are the plans of the County's relevant Department as for the food distribution to the people experiencing crisis; that is food insecurity.
- 2) When will food and water be delivered to the affected Samburu residents to intervene the situation?
- 3) Has the county Government conducted any survey to determine the number of people affected by drought?

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Economic planning and Marketing, (Hon. Leshoomo Jerias): Thank you Mr. Speaker, it is true that the County is experiencing drought as said by the Hon. Member and I think we request that we make a response next week Tuesday at 2:30 Pm.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Hon. Member can add on the questions to be inquired and reported on because livestock are really affected and we want to know what plans the County Government have to ensure that the livestock are taken care of in terms of re-stocking and the purchase of hay to support the most affected livestock in the County, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lemoosa Jonathan): Thank you Chairperson. I think the Committee Clerk should take into account what the Chairperson needs to be taken care of, I think Chairman that you have stated that you will be ready to submit the answers to the Statement to Tuesday the 17th. There is room for the Members to ventilate if there is any additional matter before we comply to the Chairman's dates.

Specially Elected MCA, (hon. ZamZam Ismail): Thank you hon. Speaker Sir. We are all very much aware that there is a severe drought hitting our County, we are among 13 Counties badly hit. In times of drought there is a high risk of insecurity since our livestock are our livelihood. Communities clash due to lack of resources. We want a response from the Department of Special Programs that has been funded very well every year by this House so that they cater for the Communities. We have lost many of our children and our livelihoods. This is a wakeup call and we want to know how well prepared are we as a County. We should know how serious this department is.

Drought is a natural disaster, we have to prepare and plan on how to survive when it hits. We have potential land that God has given us, the department has refused to introduce grass planting of which we worry yet we can plan and plant and save hay to use in times of need. This is a matter that concerns our community since livestock is all we depend on. We want substantive answers on the date that the hon. Chair has said which will be next week on the 17th or else we need to summon people here to come and explain what is happening in these departments. The Sectoral Committees are the departmental committees, thank you Mr. Speaker

The Deputy Speaker, (hon. Jonathan Lemoosa): Thank you hon. ZamZam. There is no other better way that we can put it. We need informed and binding answers to what is being sought. Member can ventilate since this a very crucial matter. Reading from the mood of the House the Members seem contented on what is to be reported and I now direct the Statement to the

Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and Marketing and report to this House on Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 2:30 pm; it is so directed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members the time being 13 minutes past three o'clock and there being no any other business this Assembly now adjourns until Thursday 12th August, 2021 afternoon at 2:30 pm, thank you.