

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF

SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018

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

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Lucas Lekwaale) in the Chair

PRAYER

NOTICES OF MOTION

TO INCREASE FUNDING TO CONSERVANCIES

MCA Waso Ward, (Hon Ekutan Wonyang’): Hon Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion. That the County’s Diverse Ecosystem and wildlife are cornerstone of the economy and conservancies are making significant contributions 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 ecosystems as well as biodiversity. However, the actual cost of conservation is borne by local communities who often get insufficient and inequitable benefits; Cognizant of the fact that this has caused various challenges to the management and conservation of wildlife; Further aware that effectiveness of conservation activities in Samburu National Reserve can be done through cooperation, partnership, mutual support and joint action between Samburu County Government and the neighboring conservancies of Kalama and West Gate; Noting that Samburu County Government collects almost 80% of its local revenue from Samburu National Reserve, concerned further that engagement of activities by communities that endanger conservation such as killing of wildlife subdivision of land and incursion of livestock into the park will derail conservation efforts and benefits; Further aware that, Kalama and West Gate conservancies are the two conservancies neighboring Samburu National Reserve and they desire to support the county government in promoting wildlife and environmental conservation. Deeply concerned that the success of county government lies in nurturing relationships with communities living adjacent to Samburu National Reserve for the survival of SNR and tourism in the county; Aware that, Ksh.3million allocated by the defunct local authorities twenty years ago is still offered by the County Government today without any formal agreement with the changing economic times this figure is far below acceptable level of cooperation. Therefore, this house urges the County Government of Samburu to allocate at least Ksh.20 million per year through the department of tourism to the two conservancies as social responsibility to continue supporting their conservation programs adjacent to the Samburu National Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an issue that is being raised in my ward and also in Wamba West Ward. Most of the residents now are literally using the slogan that “let them eat the money as we eat grass.” This has resulted in encroachment into the park. As I said earlier, these people are given Ksh.3 million a year as was started by the now defunct County Council and yet things have changed. The economy has changed and the people have better conservation programs in areas neighboring the Samburu National Reserve. We are also aware that to date the Rangers that have been employed by the County Government are unable to deal with the encroachment issue. It is only the elders, through grazing committees that have proven to be effective.

So, we are urging the County Government of Samburu to raise this figure from Ksh.3 million to at least Ksh.10 million for each conservancy so that this money can go into increasing the frequency of patrols in the park and also other programs that are geared towards conservation because if the neighboring areas are well-protected they become buffer zones. They protect livestock and people from getting into the national reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of another motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION ON REGULATION OF SAND HARVESTING

Aware that, there is no regulation of sand harvesting and environment conservation in Samburu County, and with ballooning real estate sector, coupled with infrastructure projects, we are staring at a calamity. This is because we are consuming sand much faster than nature can replenish. Further aware that, sand harvesting destroys riparian vegetation, affects the flow of water along the river, and erodes the water holding capacity of the riverbed and damages ecosystem; Cognizant of the fact that, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) had drafted sand harvesting guidelines where miners are required to obtain license from NEMA after an environment impact assessment; Concerned that, scooping from riverbanks is prohibited to avoid widening rivers and it should only be done between 6am to 6pm. Sand harvesting along rivers has brought destruction of the environment which includes....

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Osman Dube): Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Lucas Lekwaale): What is it hon. Dube?

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Osman Dube): Mr. Speaker, hakuna karatasi tunaweza kuangalia kama Members. Mheshimiwa Spika lazima tuangalie karatasi kwa kuwa ni kama Mheshimiwa anasoma karatasi peke yake. Ya pili Mheshimiwa Spika, akitoa notice ni mzuri lakini naona kama anaendelea. Nianomba, Mheshimiwa Spika, tunataka karatasi tujue akitoa notice lazima waendelee mbele.

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Lucas Lekwaale): Asante sana Mheshimiwa Dube, lakini leo anatoa notice lakini baadae akieleza mswada kwa kina makaratasi ya mswada yatakuwepo pia. Endelea Mheshimiwa Wonyang’.

MCA Waso Ward, (Hon Ekutan Wonyang’): Thank you, Mr Speaker. That considering the high poverty levels and erratic weather in Samburu County, especially Waso ward in Samburu East, sand harvesting is an easy way to earn quick money; Aware that, there is unregulated sand harvesting along Ewaso Nyiro river bed and its tributaries and school going children are now dropping out of school to engage as sand loaders; Further aware that, the Samburu County government is losing a lot of revenue from sand harvesting; Alive to the fact that, the environment is being degraded: Ewaso Nyiro River is drying up prematurely as there is little sand to store water during dry spells. This is adversely affecting Ewaso Nyiro natural ecosystem, tourism and keeping of livestock. Noting that tourism and livestock keeping are the main economic activities of the residents of Samburu County; this House urges the Samburu county government to fast track a county specific policy and a Bill to regulate the harvesting and sustainable utilization of sand in all the low lands of Samburu County.

Mr. Speaker Sir the second motion that I’m reading is on sand harvesting. We are losing a lot of revenue, especially in Samburu East because most of the sand harvesters are coming from Isiolo County, Meru County and Laikipia County. If you have done a little research you realize that the amount of money that they spend in collecting sand from our county is very little compared to the amount they get from selling it in either Meru, Isiolo or Nanyuki.

So, we want to come up with a legislation that will regulate how we do the harvesting and also as we collect revenue we make sure the environment is not degraded. We utilize it sustainably. I know it is this house that is supposed to be creating and approving legislation but the issue of sand harvesting is very tricky. There are so many stakeholders for instance in

my place we have Losesia Group Ranch, Girgir Group Ranch and even right now elders are collecting revenue from sand harvesting. The number of youth engaged in this activity is big. So if the assembly formulates this bill by itself it might backfire. We want the executive to take charge to move with speed to come up with this bill because it requires a lot of technicalities because there are many stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Honorable members the time being 3:45pm and there being no other business, this Assembly now adjourns until Thursday, May 3rd 2018 at 2:30pm.