

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 25th August, 2021

The Assembly met at the County Assembly chambers at 8:30 am

Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Paul Leshimpiro) in the Chair

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Zamzam Ismail): Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. I think there was a statement sort three weeks ago in this House concerning the Special Programs Department on what mitigations they have.

Hon. Speaker Sir, we know that there is a drought that has hit our County and we did seek for a particular statement from the Department of Special Programs. This is a House of rules and procedures. We were expecting the statement response and this is the third week since.

Hon. Speaker Sir there are some things that we should take seriously. When we talk about drought we talk about death of our community. There is no pasture for our animals and our livelihood is the livestock. On. Speaker, we pass a Budget in this House in every FY for the special programs.

I do not know what those special programs are; Mr. Speaker I believe that this Department is supposed to take care of people of this County. On. Speaker I think last week a friend of mine told me she was in Nkeju-emuny and she met a big herd of cattle moving from Opiroi and they were so skinny that they could not even walk, the herders moved from one house to another asking if their cattle could graze there.

Hon. Speaker Sir we have a potential land in Samburu County. Special Programs Department has failed people of this community, they have not taken any mitigation to provide fodder for our animals, if this was a special program I believe that by now they could have been planting grass. We do not have any problem with land; we have a lot of land which is idle.

They are supposed to provide water, they could dig water pans because funds are allocated each year, they could provide water bowsers to the communities that are dying out of drought. Mr. Speaker this is very sad and I believe that we as the Hon. Members are obligated to see through that the people we represent are not suffering.

Hon. Speaker Sir, in this drought period Samburu County is among the 14 Counties that are hardly hit. Hon. Speaker, the big question is what is this Special Program Department doing for the Samburu County communities. We need answers and a statement response from the Special Program Department today at 2:30 pm, thank you Hon. Speaker sir.

MCA Maralal Ward, (Hon. Fred Kiragu): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. Every time money is allocated to Special Programmes, and I don't know because I cannot substantiate, maybe the money is being misappropriated and used for other purposes. Because this is the time and *Mheshimiwa* Zamzam is talking about fodder, which is very important too. But even food for human is rotting in the store. Right now at the Cereals Board even for Maralal Ward, the food is still being held there. Young men are suffering; I am sure Mr. Speaker you could have seen this; people are suffering where they have taken animals for grazing. And the food for *laleta* is just lying here even for Maralal Ward, and even for other Wards. And every time we go there we are told they are having problem with transport up to yesterday. And you wonder if they cannot be able to fill all these vehicles that are lying idle in the Governor's compound; can't they be able at least to take these foods to Wards?

This is a very serious issue Mr. Speaker, and I think fodder or hay should have been supplied. Because their people who are having hay and this would have enabled the pastoralists not to land in problems that we are landing in Laikipia if these hay and fodder were made available, and pellets. And the bussers are here doing almost nothing, and some are grounded. So I think Mr. Speaker, even as we wait for this answer, the House should take a very serious note of what is happening in this department. And even possibly set an *Adhoc* Committee to probe this department or even be summoned by this House. Because we cannot allow lives, we cannot allow the economic lives of our people, economically socially or otherwise to be disrupted when this House allocated funds for such interventions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Elizabeth Kalapata): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I think we are killing our own people. I am sorry to say that because the other day we saw Samburu County being shown on the television because of drought. Our people are suffering. And now this statement has taken about three weeks since we requested for the answer. Hon.

Speaker, the Committee concerned to follow for this statement please, so that we can know what is going on? Which plans the Special Programmes department has for the people of Samburu?

The other thing is that we are losing livestock's. Water shortage is there since people now are moving from they used to be living to look for grass they need to be given water through water trucking. Hon. Speaker, we allocated funds for all these. So we are request if it is possible today, we get response for that statement Hon. Speaker, so that we know what the department has for the people of Samburu County. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Osman Dube): Ahsante Mheshimiwa Spika. Naunga mkono kama vile waheshimiwa wenzangu walivyo sema. Ni ukweli kwamba Department ya Special programmes hawajafanya kazi yoyote na mimi nashangaa kwasababu Department inapewa fedha, chakula kiko kwa gala lakini watu hawapewi chakula.

Mweheshimiwa Spika mimi naangalia venye watu ambao si walemavu wanavyo angaika kwa wakati huu wa COVID-19 je walemavu? naomba bunge hili litengeneze kamati maalum ya kuchunguza hii Wizara ndio tujue shida iko wapi, ahsante mweheshimiwa spika.

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Lenamatiyo Silapia): Thank you Hon. Speaker I stand to echo the sentiments of my fellow Hon. Members. Hon. Speaker I think you also experience such disasters such as cattle rustling, drought and shortage of water all over the County.

Hon. Speaker Wamba East is where I am from and the drought is severe there, the Department should be able to respond to such emergencies but it is doing nothing.

Hon. Speaker this House pumps money to this Department each FY but we see nothing being done. Recently our County was invaded by the locusts but we never saw anything that the Department did. I urge this House to know that we are to represent our people. So, let us be very serious and let us see the way forward on what we are going to do with this Department. We should form a Committee for this Department instead of pumping a lot of money towards it yet nothing is being done. There is no Committee that is overseeing this Department. The Finance Committee oversees the Committee on Finance and Special Programs, I am not aware but we need the response at 2:30 pm, thank you.

Specially Elected MCA, (hon. Stephanie Lanyasunya): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not think it is procedural to discuss a Statement whose response has not been tabled but nonetheless it just shows the disappointment of the Members. The Department is really special and it was only put up to harvest from the disasters affecting our people. We have not seen any mitigation efforts put by this department yet as Members have said money is still being allocated for the same. When we were in Isiolo during the Northern Frontier Counties meetings it was decided that there should be a House Committee to oversee this. It is long overdue and we should pursue it, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker, (hon. Paul Leshimpiro): Thank you hon. Members. You have debated enough on this but it is unfortunate that the answers to the Statement was not brought back. I am not seeing the Chairman of Finance, is there any other Member? Hon. Stephanie and hon. ZamZam you are both directly concerned since you both sit in the said Committee; We need to have the legal department here since as we agreed in Isiolo that we need to amend our Standing Orders so that we may have a Committee to oversee the Special Programs. We do not feel that we are well represented in the Finance Committee in the Special Programs.

For those in the Finance Committee I direct that this House be given that Statement; today is on Wednesday and the Statement is not yet here I can say that we need the Statement today, I direct that on Thursday tomorrow at 2:30 pm that Statement should be in this House because the problem is that the droughts we face today does not wait, it does not give us time and for this we have to attend to it in a timely manner. The Members present to go to the Special Programs which is in that specialty and make sure that we have that Statement tomorrow at 2:30 pm, thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members the time being 17 minutes to 10 o'clock and there being no other business this Assembly now adjourns until Wednesday, 25th August, 2021 at 2:30 pm.