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CLIMATE CHANGE ABSTRACT

Over the years, climate change has been an area of concern. The global community has done a lot to address this through summits, creating awareness and even doing educational programs on it. Africa which is emits fewer elements in the atmosphere is the one facing serious consequences as a result of pollution which has resulted to climate change. One thing that has drawn attention of Africa is drought that has creeped into sub-Saharan countries that were once experiencing tropical climate. Many activists are doing a lot to ensure the matter is tabled and discussed to have an amicable solution to it. In Kenya where the late Nobel prize laureate Prof. Wangari Mathai fought for afforestation is facing serious climate change effect. It seems after her demise things changed and as seen numbers of forests have reduced and we are experiencing minimal rainfall as it used to be. In some region in northern, north eastern, eastern and coastal regions are going without rainfall for months, years and so on. This issue has been addressed and we have been reminded to remember the law of sustainability that states “We should leave it as it was or in a better form than before.” Unfortunately, we haven’t paid attention to this law and we are facing a crisis that will take years to revert too. Drought in Kenya has become normal like breakfast. Every region is facing drought as a result of climate change. Some are facing food shortage leading to malnourishment of children and elderly due to drought. Some regions that were agriculturally productive have now been swallowed by semi-aridness or aridness. If this continues, we are on a wrong lane.

It is a calling on a younger generation that still has longevity on earth to take an immediate action to prevent further effects of climate change. Countries in middle east, Mongolia, northern part of China and south American countries like Chile have improvised mechanisms to deal with the crisis including; irrigation, planting drought resistant plant in desert area and their governments support initiatives to conserve environment and also have created strict laws to prevent deforestation.

Deforestation which the late Prof Mathai was against is what has created the mess in Kenya. Human activities have gone beyond its maxims and humans have sneaked into animal habitats which has later resulted to human-animal conflicts and this is evident in Kenyan counties that border game parks or reserves for example there has been these conflicts in counties of Taita Taveta and Kilifi where animals sneak from Tsavo national park and attack humans and their food crops.

A lot has been done to ensure the crisis ceases. Kenya has been on the forefront on the international chart to advocate for climate change. One challenge that faces Kenya is lack of enough funding to address this issue. Also, general public haven’t been taught the importance of conserving environment. As a country we lack strict rules to bar people from destroying the environment. This has seen even foreign contractors cut down trees when constructing roads and there is no law that bars them from that. In existing forests, logging has escalated, wardens are bribed and eventually the forests shrink. No law prohibits logging. During the reign of the late former president Mwai Kibaki, environment was a priority. He could be hard saying, “cut one plant ten” and it was done. Personally, I did so as young as I was.

I believe we can do something just like other countries globally. Kenya needs to teach it public importance of environment. Introduce a program in schools that teaches about environment. Create strict rules that are accompanied by serious punishment when one destroys environment. Also, the government has to fund initiatives to save the environment from total destruction. Images below indicate effects of climate change in our countries and what should be implemented to salvage it. Also, there are those that depict what other parts of the country is doing to prevent the crisis from finding its way into their territories.