

MOMBASA COUNTY ASSEMBLY**HANSARD REPORT**Thursday, 4th May, 2017

The House met at 2:40p.m.

*(Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid) in the Chair)***PRAYERS****Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Members you may sit down. Yes, Clerk.**MOTION**

Hon. Murfad Amur...

Hon. Amur: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following Motion*(Hon. Amur moved the Motion)***BLOCKAGE OF ROAD DRAINAGE DUE TO RAINS WITHIN THE COUNTY**

THAT AWARE that, it is the mandate of the County government to ensure proper drainage systems on the roads under the Fourth Schedule part two 5(a) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

FURTHER AWARE that, poor drainage systems and lack of proper garbage collection on roads within the County causes clogging and blockage of the system;

CONCERNED THAT, the ongoing rains are causing floods leading to oversaturated soils swells causing structural foundation damage, severe distress and damage of pavement, sickness as a result of breeding mosquitoes among other effects

I therefore urge the Assembly to RESOLVE that;

1. The Department of Roads and Infrastructure to ensure that the drainage are unclogged,
2. The Department of Environment to ensure that they sweep the roads and collect the garbage to avoid clogging of the drainage Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want my colleague Hon. Mary to second the Motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Mr. Speaker Sir I rise up to second the Motion.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): If it has been seconded, I think I will propose the question, blockage of road drainage due to rains within the County. Yes Hon. Amur Murfad.

Hon. Amur: Thank Mr. Speaker Sir. Mr. Speaker Sir I want to emphasize on the Motion, we all are seeing that what is happening now the heavy rains are coming down am not saying that the infrastructure is not that good but our system of maintenance has been a problem. As we speak in today's Nation paper there are areas have been flooded in Changamwe, Kisauni, in towns, all roundabouts are not accessible. It is not that we don't have a proper system but the proper system that we require is to people to be engaged in cleaning this drainage system, and if the department has no manpower then this department at least to come out and employ casual labourers so that we can empower the department. I know that the department is under staffed; as we speak the rains are all over Mombasa County and the department is under staffed and that is well known but for us Mr. Speaker to help our people in such a situation we need to come with a small budget so that casual labourers can be employed to every department in seeing that floods are sweeping our houses and our residents are in better position staying there.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is sad as we speak the most of the roundabouts have caused jams because of the floods that are being seen on the roads, so it is upon us; this House to agree

and empower the departments to at least employ casual workers so that these young people can be employed on temporary measures. We speak that the department is under staffed and we believe if we approve this so that the department is given the authority to employ at least one hundred or two hundred people so that they can assist the department in fighting this issue, and it will be of great help because we don't know how long these rains are going to take, the rains have just started and the roads are not accessible. All the areas of the estates as we speak they are flooding Mr. Speaker, it is upon us now, this House so that we can allow either the department to employ casual labourers for temporary measures so that we can make the town be acceptable by people and the law should be enforced. We have good laws but the laws are not enforced, this drainage system is blocking because people are throwing trash in the drainage system, it is a matter of law enforcement, a Motion was brought in this Assembly and it was passed so it is about the law enforcers to enforce the rule that those who put garbage in this drainage be caught and prosecuted, otherwise Mr. Speaker we will blame the rains yet it is our own problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Jimmy Odari.

Hon. Odari: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the problem of flooding in our estates and in our roads is something that has been happening year in year out. Mr. Speaker it's high time that we as a County take permanent or proper measures to ensure that this problem does not re-occur year in year out. Mr. Speaker we as a government have an obligation to ensure that there is no flooding in this County, the issues of unclogging the drainage system should be a regular program particularly bearing in mind that we have rainy seasons and during the rainy season we experience these floods. This matter is not something that comes by surprise it is something that we are always expecting and therefore we should be prepared to encounter or to counter such a situation. Mr. Speaker the department in charge of roads and infrastructure should have a program to ensure that we take measures or preparedness measures to ensure that a situation like this one does not occur, therefore Hon. Speaker I wish to support this Motion and also wish to support the idea of recruiting youths or young people to help to eradicate this problem, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes, Hon. Mary Akinyi.

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Mheshimiwa Spika nishaunga mjadala huu mkono na bado ninaendelea kuunga mkono mjadala huu hata ijapokuwa baadhi yetu ama wengi wetu tunapigia hili Jumba kwaheri, lakini tusione jambo linakuja na tulinyamazie. Mheshimiwa hili ni janga ambalo linakuja kutokana na mvua ambayo saa hizi inanyesha, mvua ambayo ni kubwa sana.

Mheshimiwa Spika ni kile kitengo cha mazingira na kitengo cha barabara na miundo msingi wachukue majukumu haya kwa sababu hata hivi tunavyoongea serikali kuu imeleta hawa vijana wa National Youth Service (NYS) ambao wanaendelea na kazi, lakini hii kazi ambayo wanaendelea nayo naona kwamba inatakikana tuongezee maarifa zaidi, ama serikali yetu ya Kaunti iweze kuangalia vile inaweza kukutana na wale wakuu ambao wako katika hiyo sehemu ya wale vijana ambao wako kwa NYS, waweze kusikizana vile wanavyoweza kufanya kazi ili waweze kufungua mitaro ili maji yaweze kupita.

Mheshimiwa Spika mitaro iko mingi sana ambayo tayari imeshaundwa lakini imeziba mpaka maji hayawezi kupita, hivyo basi hawa wahusika ambao wako kwa NYS, wakiwa wamekaa chini na serikali ya Kaunti ikatengeza mipangilio mizuri, hii mitaro inaweza ikafunguliwa. Mheshimiwa Spika unapata kuwa hata mitaro wakati mwengine hawa watoto ambao wako katika National Youth Service wakishatoa takataka katika ile mitaro wanaziweka tuu kando ya barabara, ambapo tena zinarudi tena kwa mitaro ikiwa inaziba ile mitaro ambako maji hayawezi kupita.

Hivyo basi Mheshimiwa Spika, hili ni janga ambalo linakuja na haifai tungoje, inatafikana tufanye vyovyote iwezekanavyo, kwa haraka iwezekanavyo tuone kitengo cha mazingira na kitengo cha barabara na miundu msingi waweze kuangalia jinsi ambayo wanaweza kufungua hio mitaro ili maji yapite kabla hatujapatwa na janga ambalo hili linakuja. Ahsante Mheshimiwa.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Patrick Siminyu Muriuki.

Hon. Siminyu: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Mr. Speaker prevention is better than cure and we used to have before we came this new dispensation the Municipal Council used to have special unit working under special section which dealt with the drainage plus the both the normal; the storm water and drainage system which affect our estates, but unfortunately it came to the formation of water and sewerage with the new department of MOWASCO, plus the other formation of the another department which deals with water and sewage these people were transferred to that section hence the Mombasa County government have no special department for that matter.

Mr. Speaker since Mombasa County does not have that section there is a need for formation of a special unit to specially take care of the drainage system; both the solid waste plus the storm water, in fact from where I represent Tudor we used to have workers specially assigned to take care of the sewer system but at the moment we don't have any. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleagues who are suggesting that at least we have people hired on a casual basis to work on these departments because we don't have finances to employ permanent ones and these people should be employed specifically for this storm water drainage system plus the drainage system in our estate.

Mr. Speaker I fully support this Motion because it's going to do good and prevent these occurrences which come always when we have rainy season, thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Mheshimiwa Omar.

Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I also stand to support this Motion concerning the blockage of road drainage due to rains within the County. Mr. Speaker this has been a very bad problem concerning our drainage system with lack of proper garbage collection, I think that is where the problem lies. As a youth in this Assembly today I can publicly stand and say there is a program from the department of transport and infrastructure which is involving the units of every Ward in this County, Kongowea being one of them because even two weeks back the Ward Administrator came to my village and I also saw some youth groups being recruited in order to clean the drainage and when I asked about that program I heard that it will be handled on quarterly bases and the youth should be given that work to handle it.

So I think Mr. Speaker for now the work has not started because maybe they lack financial muscle but the County is looking for a way in which they can assist the youth financially so that the program can begin. So the problem here lies with the department of environment to ensure that they sweep the roads and collect the garbage to avoid problems of the drainage but the issue of the transport and infrastructure department there is a program if other Members have not heard about it then am letting them know, that the County is handling it...

(Interruption)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Hon. Patrick Muriuki Siminyu what is it?

Hon. Siminyu: Thank you Mr. Speaker if there is a program I think it's best for this House to be informed, the Hon. standing should give us specific information, not to say maybe there is financial muscle problem, we have to have reliable information from the Hon. who is speaking and I beg that this House should be given direction or the person in

charge of that department to give us a comprehensive report so that we can know as Members, thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Meti you are not supposed to be debating, you are supposed to inform the Motion, you are now trying to amend your stand; are you supporting the Motion, opposing the Motion or are you giving the House information, what are you trying to do?

Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar: Mr. Speaker according to this Motion there are two departments involved; first department is the department of roads and infrastructure the second department is the department of environment concerned with the sweeping of the roads so on this first point I was just informing the House that the department is taking care of this issue and if I can get some time next week I will come with a report to do.....

(Interruption)

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Point of information.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Mary what is it?

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Mr. Speaker Sir I would like to inform this House the youths who are doing those works are the youths from the National Youth Service (NYS) but not from our County that is what I know very clearly.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Jimmy Odari.

Hon. Odari: We should respect the concern regarding the answer from the Hon. Omar Ebrahim, but if there is any such program involving youths from the County government department I think it is important that we as the representatives are aware of such a program. I want to speak in regards to my area I have never seen such a program if there is anything that is in the pipeline let us know, these rains have started almost two weeks ago and already people are experiencing flooding everywhere, you can see everywhere houses have been flooded and roads have been flooded, how long is it going to take them to bring those youths on board to avert this situation because we are taking too long and in fact this problem of flooding is as perennial as the rain itself they should have come up with this program a long time ago, we should not be talking of next week next week when our people are suffering.

Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar: Mr. Speaker that's why am saying that concerning this issue of the unclogging on the drainage systems, I heard there was a program which our County will recruit youths...

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Hon. Meti are you speaking... just one minute, are you speaking on behalf of the Executive?

Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar: It is not on their behalf Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Because we are debating here, we are debating whether you are against or for the Motion, you are speaking as if you are giving a report.

Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar: Mr. Speaker am supporting with an amendment.

(Interruption)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Jimmy Odari what is it?

Hon. Odari: It's unfortunate Hon. Speaker when you hear the Member responding using the word 'maybe' maybe; maybe is an indication that he himself is not sure of what is saying. You cannot give an answer using the word 'maybe' if you are not sure of what is happening it's better you leave it to the people concerned. As Hon. Speaker you have asked him whether he is speaking on behalf of the government or whether he is supporting or opposing the Motion, he should be clear on that.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes, Hon. Patrick Muriuki Siminyu?

Hon. Siminyu: Mr. Speaker the Hon. Member has to be clear because you see he doesn't have concrete information towards the Motion. Mr. Speaker it is the duty of the House to give a direction when such information can be retrieved; if the Hon. Member has concrete information then he should forward for scrutiny and see if those things, because we are not against anybody what we want is to get a solution for this problem that is affecting our people Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Ahmed Omar Ebrahim.

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): Mr. Speaker if I can get time until next week I can present this kind of information concerning the issue of the youths being given this work of unclogging the drainage system of our County.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes but unfortunately nobody has asked you for that, nobody has asked you for that, nobody has asked you for that.

Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar: I know Mr. Speaker, yes Sir..

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): So what we have to do is debate this Motion whether you are against this Motion or you are for this, for the Motion...

(Interruption)

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid):and if you know there is such a program then you support the Motion and say there is such a program and the government should speed up the program to add any assistance.

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): Okay Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Because nobody has asked for the statement or anything...

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): Okay Mr. Speaker so am supporting because I also....

(Interruption)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Jimmy Odari?

Hon. Odari: I think Hon. Speaker the Member is out of order because this question is not about or defending the interests of the youth, it's about tackling the problem of flooding in Mombasa County therefore Mr. Speaker I think this matter should be directed to the department concerned to take drastic measures to make ensure that flooding does not cause ravages, does not cause damages to the residents in Mombasa and it's not about representing the youths, it is not about agitating for the youths to be employed or whatever that is out of order Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes, can you finish?

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): Mr. Speaker I have the concerns of the fellow Members and I stand firm to support this, to let the House know that it's suppose....

(Interruption)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes what is it Hon. Mary?

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Hon. Speaker it is not right for an Hon. Member to doze....

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): What is the meaning of doze?

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Who is sleeping in the House Hon. Mary?

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Hon. Onje.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Hon. Onje are you sleeping?

Hon. Onje: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity, I do not know the meaning of dozing let her explain the meaning of the word dozing because I know am here i am getting everything clear Hon. Speaker I don't know if there's something Hon. Mary wants from me?

(Laughter)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Hon. Mary what do you want from Hon. Onje?

(Laughter)

Hon. (Ms.) Akinyi: Nothing but he should be awake.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): She wants you to be awake and follow the debate properly, yes Hon. Patrick Siminyu.

Hon. Siminyu: The Hon. Member that was saying Hon. Onje is dozing, he was praying for us, i do not know what Hon. Mary is saying he was praying and interceding for us.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Yes Hon. Meti can you continue and finish up you presentation, please time is up.

Chief Whip (Hon. Ebrahim Ahmed Omar): Mr. Speaker I thank the House and I support this Motion and I just urge the government to speed up the programme so that the blockage of drainage can be unblocked as soon as possible to safeguard the lives of our people of Mombasa, so I stand to support.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Thank you Hon. Amur can you reply to the Motion please?

Hon. Amur: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I want to thank the Members for contributing and understanding the issue, I want to be clearly quoted am not blaming the County but I want to urge the County to perform. I know the department is understaffed that's why I have brought this issue because the staff who are there will be overworked and hence after 24 hours those same staff cannot be able to work that's why I was emphasizing if the department is understaffed then casual employment should be given to the young men so that they can help in this situation.

Mr. Speaker I know we have invested a lot of money in the drainage systems and I want to thank the County government but the issue of maintaining the drainage system is an issue because of understaffed department; the department is understaffed so I urge as much as the drainage system did not (??) it is the issue of maintenance. Mr. Speaker we should have a number of good people of the department so that they can maintain on a weekly or monthly basis so that when rain comes there's no such problem that we will be experiencing, I don't want to be quoted that am misquoting that the County does not have a good infrastructure no but it is the maintenance that is lacking and if the department is understaffed am emphasizing that casual workers be employed to deal with the situation as it is.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Mswabah Rashid): Thank you Hon. Amur and now I put the question in the House?

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Yes Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT

Members, this House stands adjourned to Tuesday afternoon.

The House rose at 3:10p.m.