

KILLING OF LIVESTOCK IN RATIA, LAIKIPIA
NORTH CONSTITUENCY, LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order no. 46(2)(b), I rise to seek a Statement from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on National security, Defence and Foreign Relation regarding the killing of livestock in Ratia, Laikipia North Constituency, Laikipia County.

In the Statement, the chairperson should state:

(1) Whether the period within which the Gazette Notice dated, 17th March 2017 by the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government declaring Rumuruti, El Molo, Kerimon, Ng'arua, Marmanet, Mgogodo East, Segera as disturbed and dangerous areas where possession of any arms was prohibited was extended.

(2) Enumerate the number of cows that have allegedly killed by the police officers since the area was declared a disturbed and dangerous zone.

(3) Explain what happened immediately following the shooting of the cows.

(4) Whether any herders were arrested by the police officers from the scene of crime and the status of the arrested herders.

(5) State the measures that the Inspector General of Police took to preserve the crime area following the killing of over 300 cows last week.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Statement was presented quite a while ago but we did not get any response and that is the reason why I have re-introduced it.

(6) Confirm whether as alleged, the herders invaded a private ranch and if so, whether the ranch owners filled a complaint with the police officers.

(7) State the names and owners of the said ranch where the cows were killed.

(8) Table a list of the disciplined forces who were deployed to the areas and the specific makeup of each discipline, stating the community from which they come and percentages per community.

(9) State the measures that the Government will take to compensate the herders who lost their cows and specifically Mr. Lena Kukuyia who lost 168 cows and Mr. Lekale Simiyu who lost 138 cows

(10) Explain the measures that the Government has put in place to bring to an end the killing of livestock and foster harmonious living between the communities and the ranch owners.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to add that it would be good for the Chairperson of this Committee to explain how and what the Government is doing to bring the three communities together because as of yesterday, the three communities were stilling killing one another.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Is seven days okay with you Sen. Olekina?

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker Sir, that is fine.

STATUS OF LAND OWNED BY ADC IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order No. 46(2)(b), I rise to seek a statement from the Chairperson, Senate Committee on Land, Environment and

Natural Resources regarding the status of over 63,000 acres of land owned by the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) in Laikipia County. In the Statement the Chairperson should:-

(1) State whether the government is aware that Samburu community has for over 40 years grazed on over 63,000 acres of land owned by ADC.

(2) Confirm the status of the said land and specifically around Mutara Area.

(3) Explain who owns the land adjacent to the ranches which the Samburu Communities have occupied since Independence; and finally,

(4) Explain what happened to the communities that were forcefully evicted from the said public land.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a statement that I raised earlier on in the last Session, so I expect that it will take a shorter time to get the response.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the statement the Chairperson should:-

(1) State whether the Government is aware that the Samburu Community has for over 40 years grazed on over 63,000 acres of land owned by the ADC.

(2) Confirm the status of the said land and specifically around Mutara area.

(3) Explain who owns the land adjacent to the ranches which the Samburu Community has occupied since Independence.

(4) Explain what happened to the communities that were forcefully evicted from the said public land.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last Session I brought this matter up. The reason why I revived it is because we could not proceed with matters of the last Session. So, three weeks is not good enough. One week would be enough because this is a matter that the Speaker referred to the relevant Senate Committee. Therefore, seven days are sufficient to get us a detailed answer.

Sen Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to ride on that statement, specifically on the road reserves. We have noted, particularly in Nairobi County, that most of the road reserves are occupied by people. There are stalls for businesses and sometimes they cause a lot of hazards and many accidents occur, particularly in Kangemi on your way to Narok. So, the Chairperson of Standing Committee on Roads and Transport should come up with a policy on whether those road reserves are reserved for roads or for markets and people's housing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Irrigation Bill, 2017 albeit with some amendments. This Bill is timely and wants to repeal the Irrigation Act, Cap 387. Technology has evolved and given us various ways of using water efficiently to guarantee plant growth. Every year we have floods in Narok County where I come from. I would propose that this Bill be amended to include aspects on how we can harvest rain water so that we can use it for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have noted in the engagements built in the Senate Bill Digest that a lot of powers have been given to the national Government. It begs the question as to why agriculture is devolved yet the decision on this Bill will heavily be made by the national Government.

I think it is imperative that we look at the administrative structure to be really focused on the devolved government from the county levels. This is because it is where people on a daily basis are faced with big challenges such as drought. If we wait for The

National Government to come up with policies for the entire structure of the National Irrigation Development Authority (NIDA) which the Bill proposes to set up, it will then really limit what the devolved governments are able to do in order to help their people improve on food security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think this Bill would be able to help communities when it goes down into the sub-location levels where every community has different ways on how they carry out irrigation. Where I come from, most people use flood irrigation and sometimes, excessive water in terms of irrigation increases a lot of saline and alkaline. There are various ways we need to be able to consider when debating this Bill and also coming up with various amendments to be able to help farmers and people conserve the environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I read somewhere that the Chinese government has deployed about 60,000 soldiers to go and plant trees. When you look at Narok County, a lot of trees have been destroyed. We use them for fuel. The Mau Forest has been destroyed. All the timber which probably is used in your homes for the furniture comes from there. So, I think we need to add more incentives in terms of this Bill and also when it comes to structuring on how these projects will be developed to include things like tree planting.

I have planted over 30,000 trees using irrigation. I think in this country if we are able to tap the flood water which sometimes will require us to build dams, we can improve on the environment.

I support this Bill, and hope that the sponsor will take into consideration the contributions by the Members of both sides; that the management of this new Bill should be focused on the county governments and not the national Government.

I also would like to just contribute a little bit more on the different types of irrigation. I think it will be important that in this Bill, it narrows down - or maybe that will come up on the issue of policy - to what types of irrigation can be used in different parts of this country. There are parts where flood irrigation can work to some level, but in most parts of this country, I think if we focus on drip irrigation or new technology, it can help us to save water and guarantee that our soils will still be good to guarantee plant growth.

With those few remarks, I support, albeit with amendments.