

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 26th February, 2019

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka) in the Chair]

PRAYER

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am so happy today to welcome the delegation from Narok County. I am glad they came to see how we do things here. I know them very well. I know Mr. Jushua Ngure, Ms. Mary Namayian, Nalepo Nkaiwuetei and Jackson Oitinaio. Narok is a beautiful place and they are doing a good job there. As I welcome them to the Senate, I would also like to encourage them to continue in participating and making sure that they benchmark and go around.

I see the delegation from Kirinyaga County. I like Kutus very much and hope that next week, when we go there, we will enjoy all the rice. I hope that when they go back, they will do something about all those advertisements which are all over, when going up to Kianyaga. I was there a few years ago, and Narok and Kirinyaga can learn a thing or two about outdoor advertisement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity. I welcome and urge them all to continue coming to visit the Senate.

nd CSR undertaken.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Let us keep the comments brief.

Proceed, Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Statement by Sen. Mwaruma. The issue of mining is something that this House ought to take very seriously. This is because miners are currently getting into our counties. Therefore, it is important that we take this matter seriously. For instance, in Narok County, mining is now getting worse. We have people who are mining volcanic ash and using it to construct houses. It is sold as sand.

Most of these buildings which are collapsing in Nairobi are being built, not with river sand, but with volcanic ash. This is something which I hope the distinguished Senator and Chairperson of the this Committee – who I know to be very diligent – will extend himself a little bit in trying to understand how the Ministry of Mining operates; how licenses are issued to miners and whether NEMA is doing its work properly. Since the functions of NEMA are devolved, this is something that should concern every sitting Senator in this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you look at the activities of mining in Narok, Taita Taveta and now in Nandi – as it has been explained by Sen. Cherargei – these are things which will continue destroying our environment. Consequently, the problem we had in Solai nine months ago will now spread across the entire county. This is because of how you license mining and allow people to go doing excavation without giving you a proper plan on how they are going to restore the land.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that the Committee will extend the scope of this Statement so as to give us the proper guidelines on the process of mining. This is because right now, what is happening in most counties is that people proceed to mine and NEMA waits until someone complains. When one complains to NEMA from the national office in Nairobi, they tell you that all their activities are devolved. Therefore, this is an extremely important Statement, and I hope that we will get the response quickly enough with the scope that I have requested.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise to support this Statement. Seven years ago, I rose up and said that it was a completely misguided policy to introduce laptops to young children in this country where most schools do not have electricity. I still stand by what I said seven years ago. Shifting the policy to building computer laboratories, in some regions, is still misguided.

I support what Sen. Halake Abshiro has said that it is important for us to know who will be responsible for this Statement. Is it the Chairperson of the Committee on ICT, the Committee on Education or both?

The truth is every opportunity to transact in billions in this country becomes transactional. It is never for the interest of the people of this country. For example, we hear about big transactions for dams but it is not for the interests of the people of Kerio valley. Issues of education, for example, the laptops, are not for the interests of the children in schools.

Someone should make me understand this. How do we expect a child who does not have a classroom to have a laptop? Most schools in Narok, Baringo, Isiolo and most parts of Kenya are built of cow dung while some children study under a tree. This is theatre of the worst form. It is not even Nollywood; it is *ushambahood*. To be honest, I find it to be lack of reasoning by the people who come up with these policies or just pure corruption.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I support this Statement and hope that you will commit this to the two Ministries for them to come clearly and tell us what happened to the laptops, which schools were given and the suppliers. I like it when Sen. Wetangula requests for the names of the suppliers. I bet that when you follow through, you will find that it is some highly connected individuals who were all about transactions.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I hope that you will give a short time for us to get this and correct it before this country commits another billion of shillings into the policy of building computer laboratories.

I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Prof.) Kamar): Sen. M. Kajwang, did you have an intervention?