

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 6th June, 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: Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise to support this Statement and pray for my colleague, Sen. Anuar Loitiptip. I hope that he recovers. This raises a very serious concern, and this House ought to think about the security of its Members. I am aware that some of our Members have had their security detail withdrawn. Are we serious when we withdraw the security of Members who are out there working for Kenyans?

I join my colleague, Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr, in urging the Speaker of this House to speak on the security of Members. It is about time that the security docket seriously considers arming Members of this House who are not armed, so that they can defend themselves.

I pray for my dear brother and hope to visit him today at the hospital. If these goons can attack a Member of Parliament, what will happen to ordinary Kenyans out there? As Members, we have to ask ourselves serious questions. Where are we going and at what time should we go there? Should we be at some places at the wee hours of the night? It behoves us to take personal responsibility. We must protect ourselves even as the security force in this country protects us.

Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Prof.) Kamar): Thank you. Let us have the Senator for Narok County, Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you very much, Madam Temporary Speaker. Narok County gets about Kshs2.1 billion every year from tourism. If you think about an ordinary Kenyan, he probably makes a maximum of Kshs84,000. It begs the big question: What is it that we are now doing in terms of caring about the ordinary Kenyan? When an ordinary Kenyan is killed by an animal, there is compensation by a county government that collect Kshs2.1 billion. Taita-Taveta County collects about Kshs6 billion from tourism. Why can we not set up an emergency fund to ensure that we compensate our people when they are attacked or killed by wildlife?

Madam Temporary Speaker, what has happened in this country is that human beings and animals are competing for food and space. We, as human beings, are also to be blamed for encroaching into their natural habitats. If you go to Narok, you will see houses erected in those habitats. We, as Kenyans, are to blame for what is happening.

I wish the Senate was tasked with the duty of preparing the budget. The first thing we need to do with the national budget, which Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr. has said benefits the national Government, is to ensure that there is a fund that is set out clearly to compensate human beings. This is because we care so much about the wild animals and not the people.

It seems this Government cares a lot about the dollars brought to this country by tourists than our people who are attacked or killed by these animals. If this situation continues, Kenyans may decide to kill all these animals. In fact, some Maasais have killed the lions in Kitengela. It is sad to see their boreholes destroyed by animals.

I stood on the Floor of this House and raised issues. Even my father has a claim with the Attorney General since 1980. His crops were destroyed and animals killed, but to date, he has never been compensated. For how long will we continue singing this song of compensation?

I wish we, in the Mediation Committee, could force the Members of the National Assembly to ensure that they set aside some amount of money to create a fund for compensating people who are killed and their crops destroyed by these animals.

Madam Temporary Speaker, recently the President said that all pending bills must be paid. Those are also part of the pending bills. Compensate those who have been killed by wild animals and we will know that you are not preaching wine and drinking water.

Sen. Seneta: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for giving me a chance to also add my voice to this very important Statement raised by my colleague from Kajiado County.

Madam Temporary Speaker, one week ago, we buried two young men who were bringing up their children. We are yet to bury another one this weekend. I wish to condole with the families who lost their loved ones.

As I speak, we have not seen Government officials visiting them. If it was an elephant that was killed---

(Sen. Seneta's microphone went off)