

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF TAITA TAVETA**THIRD ASSEMBLY - THIRD SESSION****THE HANSARD****Sitting no. 051****Tuesday, July 23, 2024**

The House met at 2:44 p.m. in the County Assembly Chamber

[The Acting Speaker (Hon. Anselm Mwadime) in the Chair]

PRAYER

QUORUM

The Acting Speaker: Honourable Members, I confirm that there is quorum to proceed with this Sitting. Clerks-at-the-Table, read the Orders of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Acting Speaker: Honourable Members, the Chair has the following communication to make:

DELAY IN STATEMENTS AND REPORTS ON PETITIONS BY COMMITTEES

The Chair has noted with concern delays by Committees to respond to Statements sought and report on Petitions on the Floor of the House.

The following Petitions are yet to be reported on the Floor of the House:

No.	Petition	Committee in charge	Due date
1.	Petition on modalities of establishing carbon credits on account of County forests, public land and community lands within Taita Taveta County	Joint Committees of Trade, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Industry and Cooperatives Development, Environment, Natural Resources, Forestry and Mining and Lands and	20 th February 2023

		Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	
2.	Petition to the Taita Taveta County Assembly on Mgeno Community land and the boundary between Voi and Mwatate Constituencies	Left out because the mandate lies in the National Government	
3.	Petition to the County Assembly of Taita Taveta regarding history of Kingstone FC, Kingstone Stadium and Historical Injustices	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	5 th February 2024
4.	Petition to the County Assembly of Taita Taveta regarding unfair administration of justice by one town administrator, Noel Mwavadu	Joint Committees of Administration, Security, Devolution, Public Participation, Community Services and Drugs Control and Justice, Constitutional, Legal Affairs, Labour, Employment, Trade Unions and Social Welfare	19 th February 2024
5.	Petition to the County Assembly of Taita Taveta for re-allocation of all uncommitted lands, ranches back to the community and 50% shareholding of all ranches in Kasigau Ward	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	16 th June 2024
6.	Petition to the County Assembly of Taita Taveta regarding unremitted deductions of Wundanyi Sacco members by the County Government of Taita Taveta	Justice, Constitutional, Legal Affairs, Labour, Employment, Trade Unions and Social Welfare	4 th August 2024
7.	Petition to the Taita Taveta County Assembly to invoke issuance of long pending title deeds to purchasers of the Voi Municipal Ikanga plots	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	17 th September 2024

The last two are active because the due dates are yet to lapse. You are hereby reminded of the Provision of Standing Order no. 204(2) which stipulates that; whenever a Petition is committed to a Sectoral Committee, the Committee shall, in not more than 60 calendar days from the time of reading the prayer, respond to the petitioner by way of a report addressed to the petitioner or petitioners and laid on the Table of the County Assembly. All Committees are therefore urged to adhere to the stipulated timeline.

Further, the Chair hereby directs that the above-mentioned petitions which are long overdue be tabled by 14th August 2024, before the House proceeds for long recess. Where it is not possible, the Committee shall, with the necessary justification and leave of the Speaker, report progress to the House on the same date.

On Statements, the following are yet to be responded to:

No.	Subject	Committee Responsible	Due Date
1.	Implementation status of County Assembly resolutions on slaughter house supervisors	Implementation	16 th November 2022
2.	Status of Diaspora University Project	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	22 nd November 2022
3.	Status of Rukanga Market	Trade, ICT, Industry and Cooperatives Development	7 th December 2022
4.	Status of officers on acting capacity in the County	Administration, Security, Devolution, Public Participation, Community Services and Drugs Control	9 th December 2022
5.	Status of County stalled projects	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	13 th December 2022
6.	Operations of the County Health Services Department	Health and Sanitation Services	8 th March 2023
7.	Distribution of Medical drugs to the various health facilities in the County	Health and Sanitation Services	4 th April 2023

8.	Boundary between Sagalla Ranch and Bughuta area	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	5 th April 2023
9.	Status of Maungu Market	Trade, ICT, Industry and Cooperatives Development	25 th April 2023
10.	Lease status of all ranches in the County	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	26 th April 2023
11.	Status of County assets/inventory	Public Investments and Accounts	14 th June 2023
12.	Status of Bungule Vocational Training Centre dormitory	Early Childhood Development Education, Libraries and Vocational Training	14 th June 2023
13.	Status of Rukanga public toilet	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	14 th June 2023
14.	Status of service delivery at Moi County Referral Hospital	Health and Sanitation Services	14 th June 2023
15.	Status of iron ore mining in Kishushe	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	26 th July 2023
16.	Provision of Health Services in the County	Health and Sanitation Services	26 th July 2023
17.	Ethics and Anti-Corruption advisory on staff of the Office of the Governor	Administration, Security, Devolution, Public Participation, Community Services and Drugs Control	27 th September 2023
18.	Alleged acquisition of Teita Sisal Estate by the County Government of Taita Taveta	Public Investments and Accounts	27 th September 2023
19.	Status of ownership of Voi Municipality land	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	4 th October 2023
20.	Status of preparedness in mitigating the impact of El Nino rains in the County	Administration, Security, Devolution, Public	4 th October 2023

		Participation, Community Services and Drugs Control	
21.	Status of payment of allowances for Education Fund Board and Ward Bursary Committees	Early Childhood Development Education, Libraries and Vocational Training	4 th October 2023
22.	Information on court cases to which the County is a party	Justice, Constitution, Legal Affairs, Labour, Employment, Trade Unions and Social Welfare	1 st November 2023
23.	Status of Vindo plots and Kirutai farms	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	1 st November 2023
24.	Status of agricultural extension officers in the County	Agriculture, livestock and fisheries	1 st November 2023
25.	Status of County Directorate of Children Services	Justice, Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Labour, Employment, Trade Unions and Social Welfare	1 st November 2023
26.	Status of Lata fruit tree nursery in Lata Dam at Sagalla Ward	Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	28 th November 2023
27.	Status of Mbere fruit tree nursery at Sagalla ward	Environment, Natural Resources, Forestry and Mining	13 th December 2023
28.	Construction of pathways along key streets and roads in County towns	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	13 th December 2023
29.	Operation of Rahasi Export Processing Zones (EPZ) centre in Sagalla Ward	Trade, ICT, Industry and Cooperatives Development	19 th December 2023
30.	Sustainable methods of maintaining County roads	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	19 th December 2023
31.	Status of Vindo plots and Kirutai farms	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	13 th December 2023

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32.	Status of subsidized training Centres support conditional grant for vocational training centres	Early Childhood Development Education, Libraries and Vocational Training	27 th February 2024
33.	Quality of work done on Landi-Mlindinyi Road	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	12 th March 2024
34.	Status of Mwatunge Seed Farm at Modambogho Sub-Location in Mwatate Ward	Environment, Natural Resources, Forestry and Mining	26 th March 2024
35.	Status of housing in the County	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	3 rd April 2024
36.	Status of Mwatunge Seed Farm at Modambogho Sub-Location in Mwatate Ward	Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	3 rd April 2024
37.	Proposed sale of approximately 3000 acres by Teita Sisal Estate Company Limited	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	16 th April 2024
38.	Status of land ownership of Mwatunge Seed Farm	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	23 rd April 2024
39.	Status of major feeder roads connecting lower and upper zones in Sagalla Ward	Transport, Roads, Public Works and Infrastructure Development	30 th April 2024
40.	Status of Kirumbi slaughterhouse	Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	30 th April 2024
41.	Statement on gazette notice NO.3052 issued by the Governor of Taita Taveta on land parcel LR. NO 3880/3 in Mgeno	Lands and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution	7 th May 2024
42.	Status of the banana processing plant	Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	7 th May 2024

43.	Delayed remittance of statutory deductions by the county government of Taita Taveta	Administration and Devolution	7 th May 2024
44.	Status of engagement of agriprenuers in the county	Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	11 th June 2024
45.	Status of public utility plots in the county	Lands and Human- Wildlife Conflict Resolution	26 th June 2024
46.	Ownership status of Mwatate Kariobangi land under the world bank Kenya informal settlement improvement project.	Lands and Human Wildlife Conflict Resolution	25 th June 2024
47.	Operation status of Mgange Dawida health centre.	Health and Sanitation Services	26 th June 2024
48.	Status of pending bills paid in the financial year 2023/2024	Budget, Finance & Appropriations	2 nd July 2024
49.	Status on registration of Kasigau community land	Lands and Human -Wildlife Conflict Resolution	3 rd July 2024

The Chair hereby directs that the above mentioned Statements be responded to by 14th August 2024 before the House proceeds for the long recess. Where it is not possible to give the response, the Committee shall with the necessary justification and the leave of the Speaker, report progress to the House on the same date. The Chair so directs. I thank you. Next Order.

STATEMENT

STATUS ON ENGAGEMENT OF AGRIPRENEURS

Hon. Stephen Nzai (MCA, Marungu): Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker, Sir. I beg to respond to a Statement sought by Hon. Newton Salim, Member for Wumingu/Kishushe Ward and Minority Chief Whip, concerning status on engagement of agriprenuers.

Background information;

During the County Assembly Sitting held on Tuesday, 4th June 2024, Hon Newton Salim, rose pursuant to Standing Order no. 42(2)(c) to seek a Statement from the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the status of engagement of agriprenuers in the County.

The Honorable Member sought the following information:

1. The advert for engagement of agripreneurs in the County.
2. Shortlisting of agripreneurs in the County.
3. The terms of engagement of the agripreneurs in the County.
4. Criteria used to pick those that participated in the Madaraka day as agripreneurs.

The Statement having been referred to the Committee for a response, it proceeded to hold meetings for deliberations of the Statement on Tuesday, 2nd July 2024 at the County Assembly Committee Room 2 and on Saturday, 6th July 2024.

The response to the Statement was made following a letter REF TTCA/ADM/3/22/VOL.3 (103), dated 4th June 2024 (*Annex 1*). The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) wrote back to the Committee responding to the Statement vide letter REF AGRIC/TT/ASSEMBLY/VOL1/129 dated 6th June 2024 (*Annex 2*).

The Committee held a Sitting on 6th July 2024 at 10:15 a.m. at Mombasa Beach Hotel and deliberated on the response from the CECM for Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and Blue Economy and resolved that the Chairperson gives the response on Tuesday, 23rd July 2024 either during Morning or Afternoon Sitting.

Committee concerns;

However, notwithstanding the response provided by the CECM as attached, the Committee raised the following concerns:

1. That, the response did not include the advert that was used to engage the agripreneurs.
2. That, the response did not include electronic printouts of:
 - a. Data of all applicants.
 - b. Data of each application.
 - c. Score awarded for each applicant.
 - d. Shortlists of all applicants.
 - e. Qualifications of all shortlisted candidates.
3. Upon scrutiny of the responses provided, the Committee observed that some issues were not satisfactorily responded to and thus resolved to write to the CECM to seek information on the issues raised in the Statement by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Blue Economy in an effort to shed light on issues raised (*Annex III*). The CECM gave his submission to the Committee both orally and in a written response dated 19th July 2024.

Response to the Statement;

The Committee wishes to respond as follows:

1. Application process advertisement used to engage agripreneurs.

The application process was online through a link which is anchored at Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) servers. The link was meant for individuals

(Youths) who previously participated in farmers profiling and registration exercise. The link was shared to ward selection committees for awareness creation.

The link was as follows: <https://apeoi.kalro.org/>; which redirected applicants to express their interest to become agripreneurs in the County.

The deadline for application was 22nd May 2024 at 8:00 p.m.

2. Selection Process

At County level, a sub-Committee was constituted as stipulated in the Agripreneur Model Manual (herein attached for your reference). Below is the membership:

- a. CECM - Agriculture, livestock, Irrigation & Blue Economy;
- b. County Chief Officer (CCO) - Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation & Blue Economy;
- c. Representative of County Commissioner;
- d. County Director - Veterinary Services;
- e. County Project Coordinator (NAVCDP)- Member- Secretary;
- f. County Director - Agriculture;
- g. County Director - Livestock & Fisheries;
- h. County Director - Cooperatives;
- i. Representative from community Organization/FPO: Vice Chairperson - Tagho Dairy Cooperative Society.

The role of the sub-committee will be to oversee day to day activities of the agripreneurs including validation of shortlisted agripreneurs from the KALRO Servers.

The County sub-Committee appointed ward selection committee consisting of representatives from the office of:

- (i) CDDC or Cooperative- Chairperson
- (ii) Ward Agricultural Officer-Secretary
- (iii) Ward Livestock Officer
- (iv) Ward Administrator
- (v) Chief
- (vi) The MCA representative
- (vii) The Ward Cooperative/SACCO

- (viii) The ward representation the People Living with Disability (PLWD)/ Youth/ Women.

The above members were invited for a meeting on 18th May 2024 at CIT, Voi, where they were sensitized on the model, and given the link to publicize and share to the members of their respective Wards as stated above. From this sensitization exercise, Taita Taveta was able to achieve 143 applications from the six Wards.

3. Data of all applicants.

No	Ward	Applications
1	Werugha	15
2	Wundanyi Mbale	31
3	Wumingu Kishushe	15
4	Mwatate	26
5	Wusi Kishamba	24
6	Sagalla	32
	Total	143

Males = 80

Females = 63

4. Qualification of all shortlisted Candidates.

All the applicants from the six wards were screened based on the information they had given (including uploading documents) during their application via the link.

The screening was based on the following criteria:

- a. One should be a holder of a post-secondary certificate in agriculture (agronomy, horticulture, livestock production/health, range management, agricultural economics, agribusiness management, agricultural engineering) - applicants were required to upload their original post-secondary certificates.
- b. Should hold a Kenyan National ID & should not be more than 35 years. One was required to upload their IDs
- c. Should be a resident in the ward of Agriprenuer application.
- d. Should be digitally literate and in possession of a smartphone
- e. Should be able to communicate fluently in English, Swahili & local dialect.
- f. Experience in the field of agricultural development will be an added advantage.
- g. Participation in the farmer profiling exercise will be an added advantage.
- h. Should be committed to be engaged on full-time basis.

From the server, applicants were given scores depending on their qualifications (shortlisting). The qualified candidates were forwarded to the County sub-committee for validation and the list of shortlisted candidates shared to the Ward Selection committees through their secretary (ward agricultural officers) for mobilization to attend interviews. All shortlisted candidates were sent invitation messages and given a follow up call.

5. Shortlist of all applicants

No	Ward	Shortlisted		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Werugha	3	3	6
2	Wundanyi Mbale	6	5	11
3	Wumingu/Kishushe	7	3	10
4	Mwatate	2	10	12
5	Wusi Kishamba	4	5	9
6	Sagalla	7	2	9
	Totals	29	28	57

6. Summary of the qualification of all shortlisted candidates

Shortlisted candidates were holders of Post-Secondary Certificate in Agribusiness Management, Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Horticulture, Agricultural Education and Extension, Crop protection, Animal Production and Health Management, Environmental Science with IT, Agroecosystem and Environment, Dairy Production and Management, Human nutrition and Dietetics, Food Science and technology and Integrated Forest resource Management.

The table below shows summary of the qualifications.

NO	Qualification	Number Shortlisted
1	Certificate	13
2	Diploma	17
3	Degree	27
4	Masters	0
	Total	57

7. Terms of engagement of agripreneurs

The agripreneurs were subjected to mentorship program that consists of three stages: Boot camp, Incubation and Commercialization, spread over 18 months. During which, they received

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foundational training on essential entrepreneurial skills, mobilizing farmers and facilitating membership in SACCOs and Marketing Cooperatives (FPOs), conducting farmer, know your customer, training on business & financial skills, technical assistants engage farmers on extension services and technology adoption.

An agreement contract between an agripreneurs and the business accelerator will be signed.

Facilitation;

The agripreneurs were facilitated as follows:

1. During Boot camp -Ksh.10,000 for a month
2. During Incubation Stage- Ksh. 15,000 for 11 months
3. During Commercial stage - Ksh. 5000 for 6 months

The above is guided by the Agriprenuer Model Manual.

8. Criteria used to pick those who participated in Madaraka Day Celebration

This year's Madaraka Day theme was about agriculture and food security. It was during this event that Agriprenuer Model was launched by H.E The president of the Republic of Kenya. It was mandatory for every County implementing the model to participate in the event, failure to which could disadvantage the County.

As advised by the National team, Agripreneurs were drawn from KALRO servers based on merits (since each answered question during online application was weighty), gender and Ward of residence. Names of the prioritized candidates in the six wards were submitted to the presidential team for verification and approval for attendance. A total of 30 candidates participated, out of which 15 were males and 15 were females.

Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker, Sir. This was the response from the CECM for Agriculture, Livestock and Blue Economy. As a Committee, we engaged with the CECM, deliberated on the issues and we found the response to be sufficient. Hon. Newton Kifuso who sought the Statement...

(Silence)

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee, for that response. You lost the Chair when you said you contacted Hon. Newton Kifuso and he confirmed that the response was sufficient. Was the Statement personal? The Statement was sought on the Floor of the House. The response was expected to be given here while the Member is seated. It should be noted that in the event that a Member seeks a Statement, he or she should be here to receive the response and failure to that, we will skip it and you will not be allowed to ask that question again. This is among the amendments we will bring on board in the Standing Orders. We do not wish to be in situations where Members seek Statements and disappear then give reasons or some remarks such as these we are receiving from the Chairperson for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee.

The Chair may end up putting you to task to prove to us that indeed, Hon. Newton Kifuso and you had a conversation and he was contented with the response. That notwithstanding, by virtue that he is not here, he is no longer interested in that response. We move to the next Order.

MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON THE SITE VISITS TO MAJOR WATER SOURCES IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Brayson Mwambi (MCA, Sagalla): Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker, Sir. I beg to Move the following Motion:

That, this Third County Assembly approves the Report of the Select Committee on Water and Irrigation services on the site visits to major water sources in the County, laid on the Table of this House on Tuesday, 23rd July 2024, Morning Sitting no. 050 and its recommendations thereof.

The County Assembly committee on Water and Irrigation Services in the fulfilment of its oversight mandate, conducted site visits in all the major water sources in the County, namely Mzima Springs, Lake Jipe, Njoro Kubwa Springs, Chala Water Supply Project and Mwatate Community Dam from 13th to 15th May 2024.

The Committee's objectives of the site visits were to:

- i. Ascertain the status of the major water sources in the County.
- ii. Assess the problem of water scarcity in some parts of the County despite having vast major water sources/bodies.
- iii. Establish and propose strategies that can be implemented to ensure that every DATUZEN has access to clean water for both domestic and livestock use.
- iv. Establish the scope of works to be done under some of the water projects that supply water to the people.
- v. Report its findings and recommendations to the House for implementation by the County Executive.

Below are Committee findings and general observations on major water sources visited:

1. Mzima Springs

Mzima Springs are a series of four natural springs in Tsavo National Park, Kenya. They are located in the west of the park, around 48 km from Mtito Andei. The source of the springs is a natural reservoir under the Chyulu Hills to the north. The Chyulu range is composed of volcanic lava rock and ash, which is too porous to allow rivers to flow. Instead, rain water percolates through the rock, and may spend 25 years underground before emerging 50 kilometres away at Mzima. The

natural filtration process gives rise to Mzima's famously clear stream, which flows through a series of pools and rapids. Two kilometres downstream from the springs, the stream is blocked by a solidified lava flow and disappears below the surface again. Mzima is one of Tsavo's most popular wildlife attractions owing to its resident populations of hippos and Nile crocodiles.

Mzima's isolation makes both species dependent on its waters: other sources are too distant for them to reach by overland travel. The hippos also sustain an entire food chain. They browse the surrounding savannah by night and return to Mzima's pools by day, where their dung fertilises the water. Fruiting trees such as date and raffia palms, water berries and figs grow beside the water, using their submerged roots to absorb nutrients. Their fruits are a source of food for monkeys and a variety of birds. Below the water surface, the invertebrates which feed on the hippo dung are preyed on by fish and cormorants. The springs were made famous by wildlife film-makers Alan and Joan Roots 1969 nature documentary on Mzima: Portrait of a Spring, which featured underwater footage of the hippos and crocodiles. They were also the subject of the Survival Special Mzima; Haunt of the River horse in 2003, which featured the first footage of a hippo infanticide.

In 2009, a prolonged drought proved catastrophic for Mzima's wildlife. Starving game animals were driven to permanent water sources in their thousands, bringing them into competition with the resident hippos. The grassland surrounding the spring turned to desert and hippos began starving to death. In September 2009, only five remained, down from 70 in 2003, and journalists reported seeing carcasses floating in the pools.

Observations;

1. The water source produces 302,400m³ per day out of which only 11.5% is tapped and being pumped to parts of the coastal region. However, 88.5% is non-revenue water.
2. Valves have been installed at Mzima II water project and only connection works are remaining.
3. Treatment of the water is done by Coast Water Works Development Authority whom also undertake maintenance of the facility.
4. Approximately Ksh. 70 billion is required to complete construction of Mzima II project to ensure that water gets to residents in Taita Taveta, Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa Counties.

Recommendation;

The County Government in collaboration with the National Government should fast track the implementation of Mzima II to supply water areas in Taita Taveta that do not have adequate water.

Lake Jipe;

The second water body we visited is Lake Jipe. I will go straight to observations and recommendations as guided.

Observations:

1. The lake has the capacity to supply water to the villages surrounding the lake and some other parts of Taveta if the right infrastructure is put in place to collect, pump, treat and supply the water.
2. The lake is a good tourist attraction due to its vast flora and fauna and has the capacity to earn the County local revenue if tapped well.
3. There are Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) officers who conduct regular patrols in the lake to curb overfishing.
4. The lake is prone to siltation.
5. The water body is transboundary shared between Kenya and Tanzania.
6. Poor road network leading to the lake.

Recommendations:

1. The County Department of roads should improve accessibility to the lake by rehabilitating the road network leading towards the lake.
2. The County Government should put in place appropriate measures to prevent further siltation of the lake.

Njoro Kubwa Springs;

We went further and visited Njoro Kubwa Springs.

Observations;

1. The spring has a capacity of producing 390,000m³ per day which is higher compared to the Mzima springs. However, only 3000m³ per day is being produced from the springs.
2. The facility has a total of three pumps out of which only one is functional.
3. The one functional water pump is overworked and is prone to frequent breakdowns.
4. One pump takes approximately 13 hours to fill the distribution tank at California.
5. The pumping machines at the facility lack regular maintenance.
6. The water pipes are old/aged and have not been replaced in a long time.
7. There is no backup generator and the facility depends on electricity.
8. The adjacent springs lack maintenance.

Recommendations:

1. TAVEVO Water and Sewerage Company Limited should provide duty and standby pumps at Njoro Kubwa intake.
2. The non-functional pumps should be repaired immediately.

3. Regular maintenance of the pumps should be done. An electro-mechanical technician should be deployed and stationed at the TAVEVO Taveta Branch to conduct regular maintenance of the pumping machines.
4. Replacement of old pipes within Taveta /Lumi water supply.
5. Purchase of a back-up generator to supplement in case of power outages.

Chala Water Supply Project;

This is a community-based water supply project in Taveta.

Observations:

1. The project currently serves a population of over 20,000 people (approximately 2,500 households) and over 15,000 livestock.
2. Water meters were introduced in order to enhance revenue collection.
3. The project currently faces financial constraints and no funds have been channelled to the project since it was handed over to the community.
4. Some of the project's infrastructure were destroyed by heavy rains and the project funds were utilized to cover repair works expenses.
5. The management of the project has been forwarding its proposals to the County Government but none has been captured and implemented by the County Government.
6. Chala water project is partially supplied water by TAVEVO through Nakuruto borehole.
7. The water project generates a revenue of approximately Ksh. 200,000 per month that is used to pay workers, repair works and settling of day-to-day operations costs of the water supply.
8. There is also theft and vandalism of the project infrastructure.
9. The Kidong tank does not receive enough water due to low water pressure.

Recommendations:

1. The water supply should be upgraded to cater for the growing population (Phase II).
2. Employ security personnel (Water guards) to curb theft and vandalism.
3. The Nakuruto borehole and water supply should be handed over to Chala Water Association.
4. The County Government should honour, capture and implement proposals from Chala Water Association. The area MCA should follow up on the same.
5. A booster pump should be installed and another water tank to be constructed at the highest point of the Kidong hill.

Mwatate Dam;

Observations:

1. The County Government has neglected the dam and has not invested in any substantial infrastructure such as fencing.
2. The dam, if well managed, can be beneficial to the surrounding residents by practising farming through irrigation and large-scale fishing.
3. The dam can be transformed to a major recreational facility that can earn the County good revenue if well-constructed. Water sport activities can be introduced once the dam is well and fully constructed.
4. Water can be pumped from the dam and help meet the huge demand of water in Mwatate and its environs for domestic use.
5. The dam is one of the selected dams in the County being proposed for transformation of a mega-dam project by the National Government through the state Department of Water and Irrigation.
6. The dam is silted and needs to be desilted.
7. The dam requires a lot of attention and expenditure to secure, develop and make it human and environmental friendly.

Recommendation:

1. The County Government should enhance the intergovernmental relations to secure funding for development of Mwatate Community dam in order to mitigate the above noted observations.

General Recommendations.

The Committee recommends as follows:

1. The County Government should push for implementation of the Mzima II project which will not only benefit the residents of Taita Taveta County but also Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa Counties.
2. The County Government should endeavour to protect and preserve some of the major water sources such as Njoro Kubwa springs, Mwatate Community dam and Chala water project, Lake Chala (Nakuruto borehole) and Lake Jipe to ensure their sustainability.
3. TAVEVO Water and Sewerage Company Ltd should move with speed to repair the two faulty pump machines at Njoro springs. This will not only supplement the quantity of water pumped but also improve service delivery and efficiency to the people of Taveta who depend on the water pumped from the springs.
4. TAVEVO Water and Sewerage Company Ltd should always repair and replace old/aged water pipes. This will help reduce cases of water bursts and ensure that there is steady flow of water.
5. TAVEVO Water and Sewerage Company Ltd officers should maintain a good cordial working relationship with community managed water projects. This will alleviate unnecessary tussles like the one currently being witnessed at the Chala water supply project.

6. Rural water projects managed by TAVEVO should be handed back to the community case by case.
7. There should be established a parallel water service provider for rural areas.
8. The County Government should push for funding through the state department of water and irrigation to ensure dams earmarked for transformation into Mega-dams' projects are implemented to benefit DATUZEN for example, Mwatate community dam, Kishenyi dam, Kighombo dam, Ngelenyi dam, Ngerenyi dam etc.
9. The County Government should allocate funds to fence and desilt Mwatate dam. This will help increase the water ratio in the dam and also control unauthorized access to the dam.
10. The County Government should pursue other sources of funding such as donor funding in order to implement some of these water projects which are too costly to fund.

I call upon Hon. Sakina Kusania to second the Motion.

Hon. Sakina Kusania (MCA, Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker, Sir. I beg to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

The Acting Speaker: Honourable Members the Floor is open for debate.

Hon. Kimuyu Daniel (MCA, Mahoo): Ahsante sana, Mhe. Kaimu Spika kwa kunipa nafasi ili niweze kuchangia Hoja ambayo iko mbele yetu. Kwanza, ninachukua fursa hii kumpongeza Mwenyekiti na Kamati nzima ya maji kwa ajili ya Hoja hii na vilevile kuweza kutembelea vyanzo vya maji ambavyo viko katika Kaunti ya Taita Taveta na kutupa mwelekeo.

Kulingana na Hoja hii, tuko na maji mengi Taveta lakini wananchi hawana maji kwasababu hatuna mpangilio mzuri. Nikigusia maji ya Jipe, ni mazito; lakini mifereji inayoingiza maji pale inaingiza kwa midomo mitatu, na yale maji huwa ni mepesi, yakiwa yanaweza kupewa wananchi wanaweza kuyatumia.

Ni vizuri kuomba kupitia Hoja hii ambayo iko mbele yetu ya kwamba kama vyanzo vya maji vipo, tumetaja Jipe, Njoro Springs na Mzima Springs ni vizuri wananchi wa Taita Taveta wapate maji. Kupitia Hoja hii ninaomba tupeane mwelekeo kama viongozi ili kuona ya kwamba watu wetu wanapata maji. Ninaunga Hoja hii mkono na tuwe na mpangilio.

Sijaona ziwa la Chala limetajwa ambalo liko kwa Wadi yangu na hamkulitembelea. Kwa upande mwingine, tumechimba kisima pale na wananchi wangu wanapata maji. Ninaomba tuzingatie hili ili tuone ni kwa jinsi gani vyanzo vya maji vitawapa watu wetu maji ya kutosha ya kutumia nyumbani, kwa mifugo na pia kwa kufanyia kazi zingine. Ni hayo tu.

[The Acting Speaker (Hon. Anselm Mwadime) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nancy Mwakio) took the Chair]

Hon. Kimuyu Daniel (MCA, Mahoo): Ninaunga Hoja hii mkono. Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda.

The Temporary Speaker: Chairperson of Budget, Finance and Appropriations Committee.

Hon. Jimmy Mwamidi (MCA, Wundanyi/Mbale): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. First and foremost, I want to congratulate the Committee for the good insight they have brought back to the House on the availability of water within Taita Taveta County and also highlighting the scarcity.

I want to bring to the attention of the House, within the purview of the same Report, that in the last two days, I have had an extensive meeting with my people and the greatest concern is water supply. One institution that has been mentioned negatively is TAVEVO Water and Sewerage Company Limited. I understand that even in Taveta they are unable to supply water simply because of not repairing a pump, and that has come out clearly in this Report.

Within my Ward, they have been unable to supply water that they have stored in tanks. We have a big problem with this institution called TAVEVO because since I joined this House, I have not heard their name mentioned positively. When we are discussing water and this Report, it is my humble request that we go further and demand a moment with them.

I tend to feel that the many recommendations may still amount to nothing if we do not handle the challenge of TAVEVO. It is a bigger challenge than the connectivity of water. While I am fully supporting the Report that has been given by the Water and Irrigation Services Committee, I would wish to recommend to the House that before we file the Report, can TAVEVO be invited to this House so that they deliberate further on issues that may hinder the implementation of this Report. Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Anisa Mwakio (MCA, Nominated): Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda kwa kunipa nafasi hii. Kwanza, namshukuru Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Maji na Kamati yake yote kwa kutengeneza Ripoti nzuri kama hii. Najua iligharimu bidii, wakati na kila kitu. Ninaunga Hoja hii mkono kwa asilimia mia.

Ni kweli, mapendekezo yaliyowekwa na Kamati ni mazuri sana na yanastahili kutekelezwa kama vile yalivyo. Wakati ninaunga mkono, ninaomba ya kwamba tunapoenda kutekeleza Ripoti hii, basi tuhakikishe zile bidhaa ama huduma wananchi wanaenda kupewa, zinafaa katika maisha yao.

Raslimali hii inatoka kwa chanzo na kuna wanyama wanaoga na kunywa na hili linanitia wasiwasi. Si makosa wanyama kutumia lakini, wakati yanatoka pale na kusambazwa basi kuwe na matibabu ya kisawasawa. Hii ni kwa sababu wakati mwingine unapofungua mfereji wa maji, hasa asubuhi, unakutana na maji machafu ambayo hayafai kutumika na mwananchi. Yale maji ukiyachota kuna saa huwa ni meupe na ukiyaweka kwenye chupa kwa siku mbili, huwa yameanza kuleta rangi ya kijani kibichi na siku ya tano unaona kama mwani ndani ya chupa hiyo. Hiyo inakwambia ya kwamba, haya maji hayajawekwa dawa inayostahili ili yawe mazuri yakutumiwa na wanadamu. Hata kama haikuonekana hivyo, naomba waongeze kwamba, wakati haya maji yanasambazwa, yawe yamewekwa dawa za kutosha. Wakati mwingine unafungua mfereji na unapata harufu isiyoeleweka kama ni dawa ya klorini ama ni Jik.

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Ninaomba Kamati ifuatilie ili tujue ile dawa inawekwa kwa maji ni *chlorine* inayostahili na wanaosambaza haya maji wawache matani katika huduma za mwananchi hasa katika utumiaji wa maji.

Nataka nizungumzie hii laini ya pili ya maji kutoka Mzima kuenda Mombasa. Mwaka wa 1997, nilikua mmoja katika wale waliopewa jukumu la miezi sita kuchukua takwimu za kuona watumizi wa maji ya kutoka Mzima mpaka Makina, kisha wa Kwale wakachukua kutoka Makina mpaka pale imeishia alafu wa Mombasa wakamalizia. Ilikua chini ya mmiliki na mshauri aliyeitwa Sureka Mangat. Hiyo kazi tuliifanya, tukapeleka kazi yetu nzuri na ikapitishwa kabisa lakini mahali ilikufia, nafikiri iliwekwa katika kaburi la sahanu.

Ninazungumzia Mzima II kwa sababu imetumika kama chombo cha kampeni kila wakati baada ya miaka tano. Tunakuja tunahadaiwa ya kwamba itafanywa, tunapiga kura lakini haifanyiki. Imefika wakati tuchukue hatua kali kulazimisha hii Mzima II iingie. Haiwezekani maji yatoke hapa kwetu na huku sehemu nyingi za Taita na Taveta hazina maji kwa sababu yanaenda moja kwa moja hadi Mombasa na Kwale. Kwa nini kusiwe na mkataba au makubaliano ya kwamba sehemu zote za Taita na Taveta ambazo zinahitaji maji zitoshelezwe, ndiyo yasambazwe kuenda mbele?

Kama ingekua ni pendekezo langu, kungekua na laini hususan ya kusambaza maji ndani ya viunga vyote vya Taita na Taveta, ile ya Mombasa iende Kwale na Kilifi. Raslimali hii inatoka nyumbani na ni lazima iangaliwe tofauti ili kuhakikisha tumepewa maji ya kutosha. Kwa nini tuko na mali hii na hatuoni faida yake? Kwa mfano jana, ijapokua ni kwa sababu ya mambo ya urekebishaji, leo ni siku ya pili, Voi na sehemu zingine hazina maji lakini kama kungekua na hiyo laini nyingine ingesaidia hii ikifungwa kwa sababu ya marekebisho na hatungekuwa na hizi shida.

Unapoenda siku mbili au tatu bila maji katika nyumba tunazojenga za kisasa ambapo kila kitu kiko ndani, mpaka choo, athari ya kukosa hii raslimali ni kifo. Ninaunga Hoja hii mkono kwamba Taita Taveta tunahitaji kuhudumiwa tofauti na watu wengine. Pili, haya maji yawe yanapata uangalizi na matibabu ya kutosha ili yawe sawa kwa wananchi wa Taita na Taveta. Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda.

Hon. Lawrence Mzugha (MCA, Mbololo): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity. It will be very unfair if this debate goes without a voice from Mbololo because that is the place where we experience perennial water shortage. I thank the Chairperson, Hon. Brayson Mwambi, for a comprehensive Report on water. It is very tiresome that we have been talking about water since I was born until now.

I want to echo the sentiments of Hon. Anisa that reports are being done day in day out about the perennial water shortage in this County but the actions are almost zero. As I speak, I do not have water hence I have to call for a water bowser from Voi to bring water to my place in Mbololo. We have talked about Mzima II which has become a song everybody talks about. Until and unless the Governor of this County and the Executive look for serious solutions for the water shortages in this County, we will keep on having reports that will keep on gathering dust.

This should be the last detailed Report. We need implementation and I want to call upon the Chairperson of Implementation Committee to follow up the Report closely. I know there has been scarcity of resources and there will never be enough in this world, regardless of the person you are, but when something is that critical, then you must look for resources.

Our Governor has been moving in different countries looking for donors but we need one for Mzima II. I have heard about Ksh. 70 billion, it is not pocket change and we cannot get it within our budget. The CECM for Water, Irrigation, Natural Resources, Climate Change and Sanitation Services should get a donor who can fund a project like Mzima II. I will not only castigate the government for that, as the Swahili saying goes '*Mgala muue, na haki yake umpe*'.

We have been given a project of Ksh. 56 million in Ngolia and Mbololo, which is a plus. However, the real solution for water shortage in Taita Taveta is Mzima II or Challa which we have been hearing about since we were young. We are now old and we do not see anything valuable coming out of it. I will ask the Chairpersons of the Water and Irrigation Services Committee and the Committee on Implementation, my brother Hon. Peter Shambi to follow it up closely and see practical things happening and not lip service. With that, we can go far. I beg to support the Motion and may God bless the Committee. Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Peter Shambi (MCA, Nominated): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity. I also want to take this opportunity to weigh in on this heavy matter, particularly on water shortage in this County. Before I do that, I want to take this opportunity to thank Hon. Mwambi for the great job with his Committee. I feel so proud when this Assembly actually handles matters of grave concern to the people of Taita Taveta County.

Having looked at the Report and the recommendations, I have two issues that I want to raise as I support the Motion. This Report gives sound recommendations but you have put the cart before the horse. In my opinion, one of the greatest challenges we have in this County that has given rise to the challenges of water, is environmental degradation. When you walk down the river, at the prison gate, there is one which is drying while many small rivers have become seasonal.

Recommendation number nine is talking about desilting the Mwatate dam. When I was growing up, Mwatate dam used to have horrifying stories because it was huge and used to collect a lot of water, but it was being fed by a river that was also being fed by a dam called Ngulu. Today when you go to Ngulu, it does not exist.

Ngulu was also being fed by all these rivers that we find on the hill. The challenge that we have, even as much as we want to complain about the issue of water which I totally agree with is that, we have degraded the environment so much; we have cut down so many trees to the extent that, the water catchments uphill have dried up. There is no way we are able to get water downstream with this kind of environment.

Even as we want to address the challenges of water that we are getting, it is important that we also try to address the environmental degradation, specifically at these high-altitude areas, so that we can revamp the catchment areas and therefore, the rivers will start flowing. That is why we would

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want to have dams like Ngulu with water and the rivers alive, so that we can have adequate flow of water downstream and people at the rangelands get adequate water. I agree with the Committee that all these recommendations are fine, but we need to add recommendation number 11 that, even as we are trying to address this issue, it is important that we take care of the environment at the high-altitude areas.

I said it on this Floor some time ago, that if there is ever going to be a Third World War, the trigger would be water conflict because the challenges of water that we have are all over this country. If you go to North Eastern and other countries like Tanzania, we have similar challenges. Right now, as we speak, the snow on Mt. Kilimanjaro is disappearing. That means the rivers that are fed by the snow from Mt. Kilimanjaro are also drying. As we speak today, I can assure you, though I do not have facts to prove, but I want to believe that the volumes that Mzima Springs used to produce 20 or 30 years ago are not the same volumes they are producing now.

When you project, in the next 50 years, with the current situation, we could be having Mzima Springs dry. Therefore, as we are discussing the issues of water today, it has to go hand in hand with the climate change intervention, environment protection and catchment areas and also with the proper usage and utilization of the scarce water that we already have.

Having said that, if I was given the opportunity, I would propose very radical changes in law. Today, as we speak, it is a fact that Mzima Springs is squarely in Taita Taveta County. It is another fact that the County is one of the counties that are suffering from water shortage. It is also a fact that 60% of the water that is consumed in Mombasa County comes from Mzima Springs. It is another fact that this County does not control the water at Mzima Springs. It is not controlled by TAVEVO which is our own corporate entity. It is controlled by Coast Water Services Board. The County does not have a say on the Coast Water Services Board because it was not created by the counties but by the National Government. Therefore, as we speak today, even as much as we want to make noise about Mzima Springs, we have no say on what happens with Mzima Springs.

In my opinion, the Coast Water Services Board has metered water. Taita Taveta County being the host of Mzima Springs is also paying money to Coast Water Services Board. The other day, Voi people were experiencing water shortage reason being the Coast Water Services Board had closed the taps that supplied water in Taita Taveta County, yet the water comes from us, reason being that there is a pending bill of about Ksh. 400 million. That should not be the case. If there are any historical injustices, this is one of them. As a matter of fact, the law needs to change so that we, as Taita Taveta County, can create an entity that will then be metering water and selling it to Coast Water Services Board, so that they can sell to whatever County they want, then now get the resources and use them to supply water to the people of Taita Taveta County. Otherwise, what we keep complaining about here is what Hon. Lawrence Mzughha has said; reports after reports.

It is important that this House comes up with a Motion that will petition the National Assembly, to be able to change the laws that are governing and managing matters of water in this County, so

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that the tables can turn from them metering the water to us, to us metering it to them while they sell to whoever they want. When we get the money, we will be able to supply, maintain and repair the pipes that we are talking about. It is clear that we do not have adequate resources.

The Mzima II that people are complaining about has been a political campaign tool for a very long time. Nothing stopped the County Government from investing in it, but it does not have capacity because we do not have money. This project is valued at Ksh. 40 billion. The County Government earns Ksh. 5 billion annually. How do we pay salaries? Do the small projects and start investing on matters Mzima II? It is impossible. Unless we sit down as a House, brainstorm and come up with strategies of ensuring that we collect money from the Mzima Springs, then we will keep singing songs, writing reports which keep gathering dust and we will see nothing.

Otherwise, I want to thank the Committee for the good job they have done. In my opinion, I would like them to add the two recommendations, so that we can start working on the recommendation on environment and the change of law with the Petition that we have just proposed and from there, we will start seeing fruits of the Mzima II Water project. I beg to support. Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Rose Shingira: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to echo my sentiments. First and foremost, let me congratulate Hon. Brayson Mwambi and his Committee for the detailed Report. I am one of the Members of Water and Irrigation Services Committee and we only covered the areas we visited, though we have more water bodies.

Taita Taveta is blessed with different water bodies and water catchment areas. One of them being Mzima Springs which is the largest source and others in Taveta. The main catchment area which can help us is Mzima II even though it is endangered by people who have encroached. That is why we have Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA) which is going to make sure that our streams and water bodies are well maintained so that we do not lose them.

I know that the National and the County Governments are aware of this and they are making all efforts, including our partners who are also helping. I have a problem with the County and Coast Water Services Board because Mzima Springs water moves by gravity. There is no money being used except for purifying the water with chlorine and maintaining the pipes. What makes the Coast Water Services Board charge Taita Taveta County heavily for them to get water? This is an issue of concern. The whole of Taita Taveta County Assembly needs to meet with TAVEVO and Coast Water Services Board and discuss in detail about this issue because as a County we do not know why we have a lot of debts.

We are going to send a warning to all those in power, seeking for re-election and to those who lied to us that they are going to make sure that Mzima II is going to work and benefit Taita Taveta residents. Up to now, nothing has been done. We cannot say that it is only Taita Taveta County where there are no funds for projects. Other counties are spending billions of monies on projects

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but in Taita Taveta there is no money for projects and yet we have Tsavo East and West National Parks which are bringing in a lot of money to this country.

The best minerals are found in Taita Taveta which also bring in a lot of money to this country. Water is life. They are talking about Ksh. 70 billion. What is Ksh. 70 billion to the National Government? It is only in Taita Taveta where we are taken as fools. Somebody comes and uses it as a campaign tool and when they get into power, they forget.

I remember H.E. the President Dr. William Ruto came here before and after getting power and said that Taita Taveta is going to benefit from Mzima II. Up to now, it is not done. Either it is a game or someone is diverting the money to something else. You cannot say that the country cannot get donors or Private Public Partnership to do the project of Ksh. 70 billion which is very little money. We are not going to sit down and be fooled that there is no money. We are not going to tolerate that. We need Mzima II and other sources of water so that our people can benefit from them. We are not supposed to face the challenges of water shortage or else, the next time people come to seek for re-election, we will tell them they should not come here without Mzima II. Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker: Honourable Members, I invite the Motion mover to reply.

Hon. Brayson Mwambi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I beg to reply.

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

ATTENDANCE AT THE GALLERY

The Temporary Speaker: Honorable Members, I would like to recognize those in the public gallery. We have Mr. Reubin Mwakwiri, Mr. Naboth Mwalalo and Mr. Renson Mnyamwezi from the Standard Group Media

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Liaison Committee will meet after the rise of the Afternoon Sitting and the Lands and Human - Wildlife Conflict Resolution Committee will meet afterwards.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker: Honorable Members, there being no other business, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 24th July 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

(The House rose at 4:15 p.m.)

