

Request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Sessional Committee on Devolved Government

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (b), I rise to seek a statement from the Chairperson of the Sessional Committee on Devolved Government on prolonged drought disaster and looming famine in the Country.

In his statement, the Chairperson should state the following:-

- a) Whether the government is aware that there is serious drought, water shortages and starvation in Tana River County and indeed in other parts of the Country including Kwale, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Kitui and Garissa Counties;
- b) What the National Government and the County Governments are doing to support the people affected in the areas and to mitigate the problem; and
- c) Whether the government is planning to appoint a special task force to investigate the effect and extent of the drought in the Country.

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Sen. Ali Bulle
Senator for Tana River County

TANA RIVER DROUGHT APPEAL

On behalf of the people of Tana River County and myself, I hereby submit my appeal for humanitarian aid for the people of Tana River, who are seriously facing a prolonged drought.

Over 70,000 lives have been affected with over 170,000 heads of cattle risking starvation.

The pastoralist communities are seriously facing water shortage. All water points have dried up. The dried up water points illustrate the seriousness of the threat to lives of this communities. The condition of the surviving livestock is very alarming and could worsen is agent drastic action is not taken.

The county government has slightly addresses this issue indicating that it is going to spend 100 million on the drought. It further indicated that it is using 4 million daily on buying food. This amounts to aid lasting 25 days. This is a drop in the ocean. The County Government is not taking this drought seriously and I urge the Governor to address this issue and sieze attending to the weddings he is flocking to. The Governor is holding the special programmes docket where all the money channeled to support the needy like in such situation is pocketed.

I therefore urge the MCAs in Tana River County to wake up and ensure the County Government is supporting these needy people. Every member should ensure that his ward is supported.

Devolution Cabinet Secretary and his counterpart from the Treasury (CS Henry Rotich) released 250 million to cater for the affected areas. (Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Taita Taveta and Garissa). This will merely come to 50 million per county if it were to be divided equally. This amount is too little. I therefore appeal to the National Government to take this matter very seriously. I also appeal to the National Government to donate maize harvested from Galana – Kulalu to help residents. I also would like to appeal to the National Government to declare this a national disaster because that is the only way foreign aid and donors will come in.

MOTION - (Sen. Ali Bulle)


(Ministry of Devolution and Planning)

WHEREAS Article 43(1)(c) and 43(1)(d) of the Constitution guarantees every person a right to adequate food and clean water;

CONCERNED that the people of Tana River have faced a prolonged drought with serious water shortages, risking starvation and hunger;

APPRECIATING efforts made by the county government of Tana River by allocating ksh. 4 million daily to buy food and the national government, through the National Treasury and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, by releasing ksh. 250 million to cater for the affected persons;

NOW THEREFORE, the Senate directs that the Ministry of Devolution and Planning immediately disburses maize and other forms of food supply and water to ease the suffering of the people of Tana River; declare the drought in Tana River a national disaster and take all necessary measures to address the situation.



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Sen. Ali Bulle

18/10/16