**COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Tuesday 25th April 2019**

The House Met at 2:30 P.M

*[The Deputy Speaker Hon. (Mr. John Killo Dawe) in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

**COMMUNICATION**

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Members, I have a communication from the Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Energy and Urban Development on the Proposed Municipal Boundaries.

*(Hon. Speaker reads the letter)*

*(Hon. Speaker hands the Municipal Boundary Map to the Clerk)*

**STATEMENT**

STATEMENT ON WELL POISONING IN MOYALE

**Hon. Sadia Araru:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The residents of Moyale Sub County depend on the shallow wells for both domestic and animal consumption. Few weeks ago in a place called Holale, it was reported that about four shallow wells were poisoned by unknown persons.

The motive of the poisoning is not known. The wells had snails, rats and monkeys which were seen dead. It was then that the people fetching water for human consumption realised the water was not safe late after some had long fetched the water for same use.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Department of Water to furnish this House with a report on measures they have taken to avoid loss of human lives, the department to state whether the said shallow wells are still in use or not. I also want to know if there are any lives lost after consumption of the water.

This is a very serious matter because the poisoned wells are used by many people in that area particularly during dry spells because in those areas heavily depend on shallow wells.

I think the department is fully aware of that incident and I would like to know the measures they have taken. Thank you.

**Hon. Kiya Jillo Chana:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The people of Moyale depend so much on those few shallow wells especially during this dry season. Therefore, the department should take this as a matter of urgency and furnish this House with a report.

**Hon. Elema Diba Guyo:** Bwana Spika, Mheshimiwa ameleta swala la maana sana kwa sababu maji ni uhai, na si uhai ya binadamu pekee bali hata ya wanyama.

Jambo kama hili si la kwanza katika Kaunti hii Bwana Spika. Ni jambo limewahi tokea eneo la Elhadi katika Kata ndogo ya Dukana muda wa miezi tatu iliyopita. Bwana Spika, ingawaje tendo hilo halikuhusishwa na binadamu, watu walipoteza mali nyingi sana kama ngamia na mbuzi.

Bwana Spika kutokana na tukio hilo, Ngamia pekee ndio alipewa kipau mbele na wachunguzi walisema kuwa kisa hicho kilitokana na madini ya naitrojeni kuwa nyingi kwa asilimia zaidi ya mia katika bwawa hilo la maji.

Bwana Spika, tukisikia kuwa maji yetu yanatatiza maisha ya wanyama wetu kutoka kila sehemu, tuna haja ya kuhofia na kutaka kujua na kuelezwa kwa kiini nini haswa husababisha vifo vya binandamu na wanyama kutokana na maji haya.

Bwana Spika, ni jambo la kuhofisha sana kusikia kuwa maji yanatiwa sumu. Je mhusika ana nia gani? Ni heri washika dau katika idara husika iwajibike na kutupa majibu katika muda fupi iwezekanavyo.

*(Honourables Buke Diba and Konchora Abduba stood from their places)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Kizito...

**Hon. Konchora Abduba:** Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa fursa uliyonipa. Swala hili limeletwa kwa wakati unaofaa sana. Ni shida iliwahi tokea hapo awali na wakati kisa hicho kilitokea, habari kamili ilifika ofisi husika. Hata hivyo hatukupata kiini ya kisa hicho na hatua ya baadae kutoka kwa ofisi hiyo.

Kisa hichi si kisa cha Moyale pekee bali kiliwahi tokea Kaunti ndogo ya Northhorr, Laisamis. Bwana Spika hii ni dharura na inastahili tupewe majibu kwa haraka na ofisi husika. Ahsante sana.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Burcha?

**Hon. Burcha Daniel:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think this is a concern to all of us. While supporting the statement, I wish to congratulate the Member for bringing the statement.

I would like to add the fourth point that the department should test the water through the Government Chemist. Otherwise this is a concern. More than 100 camels died the other day and no steps were taken. Next it might be human beings!

So, we would like to know the step the department has taken to test the water. If this is not done, things may turn to be worst. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you.

The Honourable Minority Leader?

**Hon. Buke Diba Yattani (Minority Leader):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to contribute to the statement by Honourable Sadia. This is a House that has been reduced to asking Statements without solutions.

I think we have tabled thousands of Statements and once we get replies, they are just left there. It is a tradition of this House and I am sure this will also go down like the previous ones. We need to be proactive. We don’t need to be reactive.

As a County it seems we react to issues as they emerge. I think we need to be proactive so as to prevent this from happening. For one, this County lacks an analytical lab for water and I am sure that despite the fact that someone decided to poison this well, I think what people have been consuming all along was just poison.

People have the right to life and that is enshrined in our Constitution but the biggest problem here is that I am sure if all these wells that people consume water from are analyzed, 90% will be condemned as not fit for human consumption. I am saying this because you must have heard about the incident that happened in El-hadi. The result showed that what had killed those animals was nitrate poisoning. These are heavy metals.

If you look at the upsurge of cancer in Marsabit County, you will not hear about the cancer of brain, liver and other parts of the body but 95% of cancer cases in Marsabit are as a result of the cancer of oesophagus. I am sure this is attributed to the water. So, as an emergency analytical lab needs to be established in this County so that we will not move to Nairobi or Embu, take one or two months to get results and expect tens or thousands of people or livestock to perish. That is not the way to go.

We are calling on the Department of Water to establish a water analytical lab in this County. People don’t die because of mineral poisoning but*.....(inaudible)* Is also there. So it is good to establish the causes of these problems and then look for solutions as they occur.

This also goes to the House. We are telling these guys to establish this and that but they will not do it from their own pockets. The solution lies with us. We need to take that into consideration.

Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you the Honourable Minority Leader.

Honourable Chair?

**Hon. Hassan Wako Jarso:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, may I thank Honourable Sadia for bringing this noble Statement on the floor of the House so that it gets the attention of the Honourable Members. Many issues have been raised on the floor of this House as was said by the Minority Leader.

Two things are very critical- the human lives and the property that we hold. I doubt if anyone who is normal can drop some poison in the wells, unless he or she has ill intentions. While we would like to know the intention of that person, we must also task the department concerned through the Committee.

Why has it taken the department or the investigating authority which in this case is the police all this time? It is said and believed that authorities at certain points must take responsibility. It is not only a matter of raising statements on the floor of the House and leaving it there for them to die.

Whenever Statements of such a magnitude are made, it is also the responsibility of this House or the Implementation Committee to make a follow-up and make sure that they get the right feedback. The concerned Committee must also make sure that we did not ask the Statement in vain or to please an individual. This is a very critical Statement that needs to be given the due attention.

It is good that our beloved Clerk is taking every point that we are raising. We are also going to step in and commit the department so that they furnish us with an adequate, accurate and comprehensive report so that the House becomes aware of what has really transpired at not only Holale but also El-hadi wells.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

**Hon. Speaker:** I think we have contributed enough and it is up to the Water Committee to pick it from there and give us a report after how many days Chair?

**Hon. Hassan Wako Jarso:** Mr. Speaker since this calls for a comprehensive report, two weeks will be adequate.

**Hon. Speaker:** Two weeks.So, we go to the next step.

Honourable Dibo Isacko?

The next statement was supposed to be made by Honourable Dibo but it seems the Honourable Member is not around. So, we have to skip that.

We are through. This House remains adjourned until Tuesday next week at 2.30P.M.

***The Assembly rose at 3.50pm***