

COUNTY ASSEMBLY

HANSARD REPORT

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The House met at 9.30AM

*[The Temporary Speaker,  
(Hon. (Mr.) Joseph Leruk) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

THE PROPOSAL TO CONFER MUNICIPALITY STATUS TO MOYALE TOWN  
MARSABIT COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (2023-2027)

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE PROPOSAL TO CONFER MUNICIPALITY STATUS TO MOYALE TOWN

**The Temporary Speaker:** Honourable Members, I am in receipt of a Communication from the Governor requesting the Honourable House to consider the report of the Ad-hoc committee which advised the Executive whether Moyale town can be conferred the status of Municipality.

Honourable Members, the report of the Ad-hoc Committee is hereby attached to the forwarding letter from the Executive. I now commit this to the Committee on Lands, Urban and Housing for consideration and submit its report to the House for adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF MARSABIT COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2023/27

Marsabit County climate change action plan 2023/27 is guided for implementation of climate adaption and sustainable mitigation....capacity of the communities.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Cabinet meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 has approved 2023-2027.....Marsabit County Climate Change Policy 2019 and Marsabit County

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Climate Change Fund Act 2020 as per the Cabinet memo signed during the Cabinet meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

CEC for water, environment and Natural resources was given the responsibility to forward approved MCCAP to County Assembly to consider its adoption.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to forward approved MCCAP 2023-2027 TO County Assembly of Marsabit for consideration and adoption to enable the environment and climate change sector achieve its mandate of building community's adaptive capacity.

Honourable Members, I commit this to the Committee for Water, Environment and Natural Resources to consider and submit its report to the House. Next order!

#### MARSABIT COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2023/27

**Hon Kiya Chana Jillo:** Mr Speaker I now lay on the table the Marsabit County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027.

*(The paper is laid on the table)*

#### ADJOURNMENT MOTION

**Hon Bernard Leakono (Majority Leader):** Mr Speaker, aware that on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at KICC, the members of County Assembly Caucus in Kenya resolved to adjourn the House until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 2.30 PM.

I now seek the House to allow the resolution made by the MCA's Kenya implemented and adjourn the House until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, at 2.30 PM.

Mr Speaker, the reason why the MCA's Kenya met and decided to adjourn all the Houses in Kenya to adjourn is they want all MCAs in Kenya to be heard.

Mr Speaker, after the third County Government, County Assemblies are not independent and still under the executive. I am privileged to be among the members of the County Assemblies in Kenya who started this. The reason why we started this is because the Assemblies in Kenya are one basic unit of devolution. If Kenya will realise devolution, then the County Assemblies must be empowered. We found the only way to employ County Assemblies is to stop any activity of all plenary sessions of County Assemblies in Kenya.

I want us to join all County Assemblies and do the same. Mr Speaker, when you look at the County Assembly, our finances are under executive and at the mercy of executive. We need money for training of our staff. When you look at the staff of County Assemblies, they are not going for any capacity building because we have no fund. They are supposed to be capacity built like any other Assembly...like National Parliament or the Senate. We are supposed to have Ward Fund if devolution is to be realistic. If they don't do that, there will be no plenary session in all forty-seven (47) Assemblies in Kenya.

I beg the members that we stand as Kenyan Assemblies to make sure that we are heard. When we unite, we will always be heard. Thank you and I beg Honourable Kiya Jillo to second.

*(Motion seconded by Hon. Kiya)*

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Christopher Matahdere Ogom:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am proud that you are holding this position at this time.

*(Applause)*

Congratulations for taking us through this process. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the words by the Leader of Majority Hon. Leakono for joining the other County Assemblies in this Country to ensure that our voices are heard.

I just would like to request that Committee activities should continue. It should be clear it is only the House that we have adjourned but Committee roles and duties continues.

People out there say that MCAs are not doing their oversight role. How can someone who you oversight get enough resources and muscle?

*(Applause)*

Someone that we vet in this House earns three times, actually five times than an MCA? Then you are the person who is going to oversight? You will be compromised. How can we oversight when we have no that capacity?

We need technical individuals who will guide us to ensure that we play our roles. Those who are with us are not capacity built. Unfortunately, I am informed that the County Assembly staffs in Marsabit have not gone for capacity building trainings so that they can be at par with others in this Country.

There are County Assemblies that can do this because the allocation differs but a marginalized County like ours that was marginalized during colonial period and now that there is devolution is not being given equalization fund... The money that we are given is so meager. There are infrastructures that we need to finish like the ongoing chamber. This is a unique County with limited infrastructure.

At the point devolution was initiated, they would have given us more money to help us build or improve infrastructure. We are using the same money that should run the County Assembly for development. There are Counties that had infrastructure in place because the National Government considered them. For us we have little and only trying to balance things out to ensure that we have everything in place.

So, in as much as we are looking forward to funding by the National Government, we would like to do a petition the Hon. Majority Leader that marginalized Counties like ours need to do an audit and find out what we need to have in place so that when resources come, we are equal with other Counties.

We should be considered better in terms of infrastructural development. The other thing is about motor vehicle. You remember we have had this discussion in our Kamukunji about the capacity that the SRC has given the MCAs. I am sure these people made these decisions in boardrooms. I am sure they don't know where Illeret, North-Horr is. They are telling you to take a 2,000CC car to North-Horr or Illeret to do oversight. How can such a car reach these places? They have not gone there themselves.

I would like to ask SRC to visit these areas and see. We cannot be equated to an MCA in Korogocho or Kibera or Nyeri or Mombasa. These are areas that were developed by the National Government. They have roads and can access their areas conveniently. For us, when we travel all the way to Illeret, the road is pathetic. The National Government is not working on these roads. Kargi road - a road that we were discussing the other day is so bad that even taking patients out remain a problem. A kid died when there was an ambulance, but the road is impassable.

We need to be heard and this matter should be taken seriously by the National Government. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Bernard Leakono (Majority Leader):** Mr. Speaker I am sorry, I wanted to pass some information. When all the Members of the County Assemblies requested for adjournment, one thing is clear that Committee activities shall continue. So, we are just adjourning the plenary sessions.

Thank you, Hon. Ogom for reminding me about it. You talked about Northern Kenya and other remote Counties. In our discussions, I am part of the steering Committee and we are still fighting. We have divided into two; the Northern frontier districts (NFD).

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When we are talking about resources to be added for capacity building, we also talk about mileage for MCAs in Northern Kenya. This cannot be the same as that of an MCA in Nairobi.

*(Applause)*

We are handling all those issues. Thank you.

**Hon. Tura Ruru Elema:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am today the happiest Hon. Member when I hear about adjournment due to conflict of interest. I am a second term MCA still earning a peanut...*(inaudible)*

*(Applause)*

What I am given is not even enough to feed my home and I am expected to do a lot as leader. This morning when I left my home, I left ten of my people some sick, some with school fee problem all lining up to get some money from their MCA while I have nothing to eat even at home. I think it is a blessing today if we are talking about adjourning. That those who are suppose to take care of us, have forgotten us and we must let them know that this is an important group and need to be funded. We were given the role of oversight, we are told to oversight people who earn better than us! Even a Director in a Department earns better than an MCA.....

*(Applause)*

Let alone a CEC or CO, what a CEC earns is almost KES 400,000 which is 20% of what the MCAs are getting. So, when you are telling me to oversight a CEC earning KES 400,000, it is nearly impossible! Because I am hungry and he gives me 20% of his/her salary, is enough to compromise the oversight work!

*(Applause)*

I don't know the role of SRC and KRA in this Country they are so biased that they want to snatch everything from the MCAs! We were lucky the former President Uhuru Kenyatta gave us a car grant now they have moved to the courts to double the taxes for MCAs, these should be scrapped!

We are an oversight body in the devolved units, if something goes wrong at this stage, it will never be right at any other stage! That is why we need the Ward Fund and our remuneration be revised, so that we have financial autonomy. It is high time we learn to be together just like our colleagues at the National Assembly and Senate and fight for their rights. If all the County Assemblies close down their House until this injustices are taken care of , if not we will still languish in poverty! A hungry man will always have a problem...

*(Applause)*

.....*(inaudible)* to do the oversight, thank you.

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**Hon. Danila Lenatiyama:** Thank you, I also join my colleagues here to support the Adjournment Motion and it is very sad that MCAs are still discussing about their salaries! SRC you need to cooperate with the MCAs, because you can't just sit in boardrooms and plan for people when you don't know where they come from! Yesterday, the Senate did a good job in support our bid, I also call upon the Governors to support the MCAs. We need to have that money! Thank you.

**Hon. Josephine Leado:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said, I concur with my colleagues especially Hon. Tura. It is true oversight is hard when you earning a peanut, it is unrealistic! On the issue of car reimbursement, this Northern Frontier District is not Central Kenya, we are in a terrain where we need four-wheel vehicles, we can draw examples from the NGOs we have around, 1200cc or 1500cc will not work in Illeret, Korr, Kargi let alone North Horr and other far places! Let's adjourn as quickly as we can, thank you.

**Hon. Bernard Leakono (Majority Leader):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for standing together. I thank the Speaker and Hon Tura for attending the Madaraka Day celebrations in North Horr it was peaceful not chaotic like the UDA meeting here.

*(Applause)*

*(Hon. Tura interjects)*

I did not attend that, we were in Meru with Hon. Jacob Elisha on behalf of the Committee for Agriculture. Why we should close the Assemblies; Ward Fund in all Wards, Oversight Funds for the County Assembly, County Affirmative Action for our Nominated Members, Financial Autonomy, Staff Capacity Building Funds-staff need money for capacity building and motivation, Mileage Review from 77 to 177, Car grant which is double taxed and Security for all MCAs, these are the reasons why we close all the Assemblies in Kenya, thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**The Temporary Speaker:** The County Assembly of Marsabit remains adjourned till 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

*(The Assembly rose at 3.00PM)*