

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

SECOND ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

House met in the Main Chamber at 02:30 p.m.

(The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joachim Oketch) in the Chair)

PRAYERS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Members, once again let me welcome you all back to the afternoon. Mr. Clerk can you now take us through the Order Paper of the day?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Next order!

STATEMENTS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Seth Ochieng Kanga.

Hon. Kanga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of County Assembly Standing Orders No. 193 I wish to seek a Statement from the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries with regards to the invasion of locusts in some parts of the County.

In responding to this Statement, the Chairperson should inquire, investigate and report on the following;

- a) Which areas in particularly the Locust have invaded?
- b) What measures has the County Government put in place to curb the situation?

- c) To what extent the damage has been done so far?
- d) What mitigating measures has the Government put in place?

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, by the indulgence and advice of the Leader of Majority, I request that you open this matter for debate. I call upon Hon. Miruka to second my proposal?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Members, can we please allow the seconder before we give Hon. Okiri a chance.

Hon. Miruka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I second.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Okiri!

Hon. Okiri: On a Point of Order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do respect your Chair very much and I informed you yesterday on what is to happen today about you sitting in that chair because there are Members in this House who want to misuse you for their own particular gain.

Mr. Speaker, I told you that these Members have the sinister intention to embarrass you because their intention is to paint you red. Mr. Speaker, this a Statement that has been sought through the Chairman of Agriculture Committee and it is the prerogative of the respective Chair to seek for this Statement from the relevant or line department, thereafter, and procedurally, you allocate a date when this Statement should be responded to. Mr. Speaker, a statement cannot be sought in the House the same date and debated upon on the same sitting, they must respect your Chair, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you Hon. Okiri. Hon. Leader of Majority, please I would like to be informed under which Standing Orders the senior Member is basing his argument. This is because the issue of Locust Invasion is such a catastrophic issue that is of absolute national importance.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Mr. Speaker, if you look at Standing Order No. 41 (2) (a), you will notice that a Member may make a Statement on a County Issue or on an Issue of General Topical Concern. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of General Topical Concern and if you look at Standing Order No. 41 (3), you will realize that the Speaker has the discretion to allow for debate on such matters. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Agolla.

Hon. Agolla: On a Point of Order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in rejoinder and in concurrence to what the Leader of Majority has said. I would like to inform the Senior Member that he should stop misleading this House because the provisions of Standing Order No. 41 (3) is explicit that it is the discretion of the Chair to either allow debate on a matter or not. So, if the Hon. Member for Market/Milimani seeks for your indulgence for your permission for us to debate on the same, then it is your discretion to decide whether we should debate on this matter or not. The Hon.

Member should cease misleading this House without making reference to relevant Standing Orders. Thank you

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you Hon. Agolla for that insight. Yes Hon. Aslam Khan.

Hon. Aslam: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to bring to the attention of the House and the Chair that this matter was raised before this House yesterday and it is of great importance to our County and the nation at large. Mr. Speaker, through your indulgence, please allow the House debate on this issue because time is running out and we need to exhaust this issue before the rice growing areas are invaded by the same locusts.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you Senior Member. Hon. Okiri, for the last time so that I give my ruling.

Hon. Okiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is quite unfortunate that Hon. Members are begging you that you allow them debate on this matter. Mr. Speaker, in your ruling yesterday is that they respect your chair and even after that they still don't respect your ruling stating that this is what should be done. Mr. Speaker, they go behind you and state that they must compel you so that they debate on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the provisions of Standing Order No. 42 (3) ...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Okiri, please resume your seat. Yes, Leader of Majority.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to plead with the Hon. Member who is masquerading as a reposition of knowledge while he is very much aware that his arguments are shrouded in shallowness and they are not backed or supported by the provisions of the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker, if at all he is alluding that we are misleading the Speaker, can he support it with evidential proof.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Okiri, please one minute so that we move.

Hon. Okiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. With one minute, I am going to speak volumes. Mr. Speaker, such a Statement should have reached your office by 01:00 pm today for approval. Mr. Speaker, if it has not reached your office then, it is upon you to inform the respective Chair to bring the responses to the House at a time and date you have dictated...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Order!! Order!! Hon. Okiri. I believe that first, you were challenged to read the specific Standing Orders that may hinder the Chair from allow this House the opportunity to open debate on this matter.

Secondly, for the purposes of clarity and removing any doubts and that facts that we are not demeaning the works done by our Clerks, the Statement has followed the due process and it's the reason it found its way into the Order Paper. So, I believe that for the House to move with haste and for the purposes of eluding repetitions and the powers conferred to me as the Speaker which is the provisions of Standing Order No. 1 and 41 (3) and as explicitly stated by Hon. Agolla, I therefore rule and give the House to debate on the issue which is a matter of grave importance to the County of Kisumu. Members, the floor is now open.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Nyasuna

Hon. Nyasuna: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to appreciate you for allowing Member debate on this issue of locust invasion in Kisumu County. I would to inform this House that Locusts have invaded Masogo/Nyang'oma and farmers in the Ward are seeing hunger in their doorsteps because these pests are consuming their crops. So, I would like to implore Members of this House to exert pressure on the Executive to control these pests before they spread to other parts of the County.

Mr. Speaker, as at now, they are 1 kilometer from where they have invaded and there is that fear that they might spread further to other parts of the Ward. These pests are in a part that borders my Ward and that of Hon. Ngeta. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Pastor Arao.

Hon. Arao: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Foremost, I want to congratulate my Party Chairman for having brought this matter before this House and for your chair to allow us debate on it.

First, I want to speak as a man of God concerning this locust invasion. In the Holy Book, the Bible, there was famine and you can recall that locusts were one of the plagues that hit the people of Israel. Secondly, the Holy Book (Bible) says that if my people who are called by my name shall repent and return and pray to me, I shall hear them and answer their prayers.

Mr. Speaker, there is a problem in the County, because I don't know what to tell the people of the County of Kisumu because you well know that all those countries that were invaded by these plague (locusts) none of them has found any solution to this mater. Mr. Speaker, we need to run back and seek the face of God the Almighty. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is the reason our political opponents who know very well that Nyanza is clean before God the Almighty, some of them decided to carry those locust and ferry them, that is transport them to our County so that we can also resemble like the rest of the Counties.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stand in the gap and repent on behalf of the other Counties. Meanwhile, I would like to urge the County Government to do to ensure that these pests are managed. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Pastor Arao, please resume your sit. Yes, Hon. Steve Owiti.

Hon. Owiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to seek guidance from the Chair as to whether it is right for the Hon. Member of this House to turn this House into a pulpit and start preaching messages which are not in the confines of what we are discussing.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member we are all aware that is a Pastor in his Church. I believe that we also belong to other faiths and this not the audience where we need to preach what we believe in because this is a non-religious gathering and I would like to ask the Hon. Member to withdraw his Statement that we repent, who told him that we are sinners. If he is a sinner, let him go preach in his Church.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you Hon. Steve Owiti.

Hon. Agolla: On a Point of Order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you permit me, I would like to ask for your indulgence to order Hon. Owiti to withdraw that statement. Mr. Speaker, it has been a tradition of this House that before we commence sessions we must pray because we are a House that honours God the Almighty. So, when Hon. Arao was making reference to the Biblical context he was in order and my concern is that if Hon. Arao is brave enough to tell us who in particular transported locust to this County, then we will commence investigations from there.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you Hon. Agolla. Hon. Member, for the purposes of clarity which is part of Hon. Steve's statement would you wish him to withdraw?

Hon. Agolla Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Steve Owiti reiterated that this is not a Church, and that we are not Christians. In his statement, he is refereeing this House as if we don't fear God the Almighty which I believe is contrary to our traditions and beliefs. Mr. Speaker, you are aware that, before we start any business we must pray because even today you did so and mentioned the name of the Almighty God.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Members, I can see the Leader of Majority on his feet, I would have wished that Hon. Owiti to withdraw and apologize for stating as Hon. Agolla has alluded that this is not a religious house and Pastor Arao has no right to preach. Hon. Members, I believe that our first Order in this House is to pray and I believe that you are obliged to withdraw and apologize to this Honourable House.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Mr. Speaker, before you make that ruling or order the Hon. Owiti to withdraw I believe that you need to understand the context upon which the Hon. Member was raising his Orders...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Leader of Majority and Hon. Steve, please resume your sits. I inclined to believe that Hon. Agolla stated right and it's the reason I implored him to state

clearly because I did not want it to emanate from the Chair. Hon. Members, this being a religious House and the first Order of Business when we enter this House is to pray. Hon. Agolla alluded that Hon. Steve did mention that this is not a Religious House. Leader of Majority, please proceed.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Mr. Speaker, let me fist state that I am a Christian and a Catholic but, as that may be does not make me lose my common sense. Mr. Speaker, you know that there are people who preach out there and leave them with the notion so that they cannot conceptualize the simple facts.

Mr. Speaker, when a Member comes to this House, he should give us facts, he cannot carry religion to hoodwink us that somebody can carry locusts from wherever and bring it to Kisumu. Mr. Speaker, I mean that is just ridiculous and this are the kind of teachings that go on in the churches, like a dead man has been resurrected, I mean that is ridiculous and what Hon. Owiti was saying is that Hon. Arao should not bring such kind of teaching. Mr. Speaker, whatever he says must be backed by facts and must be sensible and realistic. Mr. Speaker, I have never seen, by the way how did this person carry these pests? We must bring arguments that are backed with facts and credible facts for that matter.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you Leader of Majority. Hon. Genga.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker for finally according me this chance. Mr. Speaker, I am a very disturbed Member of this House when being misled on the element of religion. First, Hon. Agolla is stating but by fact they are all Pastors and he is right to support his colleague. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Orders states that we pray and I was a bit disturbed because you are being misled to believe that preaching is also part of praying. Mr. Speaker, what Hon. Arao is doing, he is preaching to Members of this House and we cannot stop him from doing that, but we cannot be caught in between what he believes and we all know that he is a charismatic pastor, but he should not bring what he preaches out there to Member of this House because he is supposed to contribute and follow on the debates.

Mr. Speaker, it is a tradition that we have to pray at the commencement of the session, but we are not guided by the Standing Orders that we continue preaching instead of debating. So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that is a correction that you have to make.

Finally, this is serious and I believe that this House needs to be guided properly on matters Standing Orders and we need to get grasp of the Standing Orders. Mr. Speaker, I was stating that we must differentiate between praying and preaching. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes Hon. Ngeta.

Hon. Ngeta: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This House is diverting the attention of Members on critical issues affecting the County because we have an issue of Topical Concern which is

destroying our County and we are taking time discussing issues that are not relevant to the motion.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members like Hon. Arao should not be accorded the chance to preach instead of offering solutions. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes Hon. Ooko.

Hon. Ooko: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know that while you occupy that seat you are blind and I would like to inform you that Hon. Arao is naked in the House.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Members, before we continue, the Serjeant-at-Arms, is it true that Hon. Arao is not dressed properly? Kindly escort him out so that he comes back while dressed properly.

(Laughter)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Members, I believe that the absence of Pastor Arao does not stop us from continuing with our business, but again just for the purposes of clarity so that we may get back to the subject matter of the day. Hon. Members, it is indeed very important that the Hon. Member does not have clarity and we all know that this is a House of procedure and rules and you cannot just allege that locust were carried by specific people into the County.

So, we would like the Hon. Member to first clarify if he has evidence that indeed locust were transported by specific persons because this will make it easy for the motion that we are discussing today. We will resolve today and the culprits are arrested and carry back the locusts from where he came with them.

Hon. Pastor, we want substantive evidence that indeed the locusts were ferried by a specific person into the County. And you cannot just allege that some locusts were carried into the County by certain individuals. Let the Member clarify on that.

Hon. Arao: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Remember on this floor that there was a time we had the issue with the CEC Finance and I read the Bible and everybody clapped. I was just reading the today. What is the problem? I was not going to collect offerings from the Members. We all have enemies and I said one of them could have brought the locust in the County. I didn't mention somebody's name.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Honourable Member, resume your seat please. I want to advice you that whenever you are giving such information, kindly read Standing Order No. 29. Stick to the subject matter and I also wish advice that let us avoid debating on religion. Yes Hon. Khan?

Hon. Khan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Locust is something that is going to be very catastrophic. It is not going to be within our boundaries but all over. As you are all aware, Eighteen Counties have been affected. Therefore, we need a proper guideline on how we are going to handle this matter. The County Government must find a solution to this problem because majority of our people are farmers. We must protect our crops. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes Hon. Steve Owiti.

Hon. Owiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, I want to say that an Honourable Member insinuated that I am not kind of a Christian. I want to persuade this House that we as Kisumu County we need to be proactive. Locust has invaded almost all the East African Countries. We were informed that as these locusts moves, their pattern will not able them to move to other parts of the country. We have seen the damage the locusts are causing in the areas they have visited and for that we have a reason to be worried.

As at yesterday and we can confirm that these locusts have invaded Masogo Nyangoma Ward and indeed they are approaching Awasi Onjiko Ward and if that is not stopped, very soon they will be in Miwani, Ombeyi and Kolwa East will not be spared. We had asked the Disaster Management Team to appear before this House as soon as possible and to explain to us measures they are putting in place to control the locust. I want to plead with the Members that this Statement is of great magnitude and let us give it a support so that an action can be taken to save the plantation as already been explained.

Remember we had long rains and that left our people with a lot of hunger because the crops never performed. If the locusts are also coming then I can assure you we shall be in a very dangerous situation. We need not to take this matter lightly and we must ask the County Government and the National Government that something needs to be done and it must be done without wasting any little moment. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. George Ogutu.

Hon. Ogutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me to say that the issue of locust is not for Kisumu County alone. We cannot take the blame to the executive. This an issue that is all over the East African Region.

The National Government has bigger responsibility to play in controlling the locust. The other day you heard how careless an official from the Ministry of Agriculture was talking. We are aware that the agriculture is devolved but the chunk of the money is left at the National level. The government was aware of the movement of locusts from Egypt and now they are with us here. There was no preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, if the locusts are in Masogo Nyangoma then I am very sure they will soon be in West Nyakach. I am not ready to have another disaster in West Nyakach. The Disaster

Department has failed and we should not blame the same docket at the County. This task is too big for the County Government and let the National Government handle it. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Deputy Leader of Majority.

Hon. Ogendo: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity and I want to say that I am quite ashamed for failing to bring such an important topic in this House. The Member who brought this matter in the House deserves an applause and I really congratulate him because he has our interest in his heart. Hon. Kanga thank you so much.

I also wish to make some comments by criticizing Budget Chair for advising this House to summon the Department of Special Programme despite knowing that there is no any allocation for that department. This is a lesson to you and you need to correct it when making another Budget for this County.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is the backbone of this Country. I want to request that we need to direct all these to the Ministry of Agriculture in the National Government because this is a matter that the County Governments cannot handle. I would request that we should not bring down the Ministry of Special Programme. Let our representatives at the National level such as, our MP, our Senator, our Governor hear our voice. Locusts have invaded our County. This our clear message that we need national partnership in this programme and not excluding other counties.

The message should be that we as Kisumu County have been invaded and we should be in partnership with other counties and plead to the National Government, not the County Government. Even if we summon the Special Programme Department, the Chair Budget had indicated that the Special Programme has no allocation. Therefore, it will be in vain to summon Special Programme and Ministry of Agriculture within the Counties.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Resume your seat Honourable Deputy Majority Leader.

Hon. Owiti: Point of Information Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Ogendo: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be informed.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Honourable Deputy Majority Leader, may you resume your seat please. Yes, Hon. Steve

Hon. Steve: On a Point of Information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think it is not in order for the Honourable Deputy Majority Leader to stand on the Floor of this House and purport that a Government Ministry cannot do anything to sort out the problems of the people he represents.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): I wish remind you that you rose on a Point of Information.

Hon. Owiti: Mr. Speaker, I am giving information that it is the duty of the government including county government to protect its people. Therefore, the representative of the people should not come before the Floor of the House and pretend that he can do nothing. If he cannot do anything, let him resign and go home.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Julius Genga

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Genga, there is a Point of Information. One minute then I get back to you.

Hon. Kanga: On a Point of Information. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of the statement, I want to equally inform the Deputy Majority Leader who represents the government business in this House. He said that he is ashamed that a Member who equally represents building has raised the Statement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to inform him that in the population census conducted last year, Market Milimani Ward had a population of 7,000 people. However, physically, the voter population in Market Milimani is 38,000 people. A third of his residents in Nyalenda are voting in Market Milimani Ward. A third of Hon. Olale's Ward are voting in Market Milimani Ward. So, when I speak as a Member for Market Milimani Ward, I represent the entire Kisumu County because people vote for me as far as Awasi, Ahero, Muhoroni and as far as Hon. Victor Rodger's Ward. Therefore, I speak on behalf of residents of Kisumu County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes, Hon. Olwal. What do you want to inform the Members?

Hon. Olwal: On a Point of Information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform Members especially the Chair for Budget that finances follow functions. There is no way you can ask a department to act on its mandate when we as the Assembly, which does appropriations, did not give them money to do the same. The County Government consists of two arms: the Executive and the Legislature. If the Legislature did not know its work of appropriating money correctly, then they do not have the moral authority to ask the same department to act on its mandate. Thank you

Hon. Agolla: Mr. Speaker, I am on a Point of Information Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): No. Honourable Member, you do not give yourself the opportunity. I think Senior Member, Hon. Aslam Khan also wanted to inform the House. Otherwise, you know we are eating into Hon. Genga's time.

Hon. Khan: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. As Vice Chair of Budget, I would like to say that we do not actually sanction any money to ministries or line ministries. What is there is that if

the Executive prepares the budget, they bring it to the Budget Committee where the Hon. Ogendo sits in. He is a Member of Budget Committee and at the same time he criticizes the same Committee. We do not do allocations but we do appropriate accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Julius Genga. May you continue?

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also seek, as I make my contributions, your indulgence because it seems that the loophole the Honourable Members are using...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): We are going to give you chance. Let us allow Hon. Genga to continue please.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I come from Muhoroni Sub County and as you know, this is the breadbasket of this County. Mr. Speaker, I think it is not in order for the Honourable Deputy Majority Leader to assume that the department is starved of funds. Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency fund and for his information Mr. Speaker, last year we had...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Deputy Majority Leader, with all due respect, just resume your seat. I am saying that we understand that you have been mentioned several times and we are going to give you an opportunity to respond. Just be calm. May you continue Hon. Genga.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Majority Leader should learn from the person seated next to him. The Majority Leader has the threshold to hold on to the heat of the moment and I think it is high time our Deputy Majority Leader learns from him. You may find it necessary Chair to give the two some topic so that the Leader of Majority can teach Hon. Ogendo how to hold on to the heat.

Mr. Speaker, it is not in order to say that we do not have a department that deals with emergency. As far as we know, and it was a very unfortunate statement by Honourable Member when he said that locusts were apparently or it is assumed, they were brought in by someone. That is a very unfortunate statement because we know that locust invasion is a menace all over Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the best this House can do to save our people is to ask the relevant departments to make a formal request to the National Government. It is on record that even USAID has donated some funds close to Kshs. 800 Million to fight the locust menace in the horn of Africa. Mr. Speaker, we know that this is a matter that is beyond the County but the County Government through the Executive has the mandate to make a formal request to the National Government. How long do we have to wait for the locusts to spread across the country?

Mr. Speaker, it will be very unfortunate when we wake up with no food on the table. As you know locusts feed on our crops. Mr. Speaker, I know the Deputy Majority Leader was saying

that the Special Programme Department does not have the money. If in deed they do not have the money then the House has the authority to do appropriation so that we tackle the menace.

Mr. Speaker, this has come at the nick of time because we have our Supplementary Budget with us for discussion. Therefore, the best the Honourable Members can do is to make proper allocation to fight the menace. We cannot wait any longer for the locusts to spread. If this happens then it will be a disaster because we know all along that disasters will never find you prepared. The best this Honourable House can do is to hasten the process of Supplementary Budget in order to make more allocation to fight the menace.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be very much in order for this House to implore upon the Executive to make a formal request to the National Government because we know too well that we may not have enough funds to fight this menace. I am very aware that, very soon as someone was showing me a video clip indicating that locusts were moving towards Hon. Vincent Jagongo's Ward. That tells you that in the next one or two weeks, this invasion may be real and cease to be just a story.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the House must come out and give proper direction on this menace. Otherwise, thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Just for clarification. It is in order that we allow the Deputy Majority Leader because he was mentioned five times and I did promise that I will give him an opportunity to respond. The Deputy Majority Leader.

Hon. Ogendo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is not a question of order but it is a matter of procedure as I was the Member contributing on the Floor. Unfortunately, you gave the Honourable Member for Muhoroni my good friend Hon. Genga to contribute. Let me not talk about it because those are among the areas that have been affected.

Mr. Speaker, as I was airing my concerns, and I would like to withdraw any untoward statement that I made against Honourable Member for Market Milimani Ward. Actually, I am very proud of him for having sponsored a motion and that is why after my sentiments, I congratulated him for the move. It is a shame that even my boss who is the Majority Leader could not bring such a motion. Instead the same is brought by a representative of this area. That was my concern.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also been mentioned that I am part and parcel of the Budget Committee. Yes, I am a part of it and the Chair and his Vice mentioned this. It is true but we do not allocate funds. I recall that the very same department the Chair Budget is telling us to summon brought their allocation. It is should be clear that the government needs funds. They are realizing that just because of floods. In his area when he was affected by floods, he went and complained. How could such an important department be left out?

Mr. Speaker, I was airing my voice because this is not a matter of County Government alone but a matter of national concern. Let us air our voice as a County and send a message to our elected leaders, our MPs, Senator, Governor and our relevant departments. Let us send a clear message that we need support. The County Departments of Health and Disaster alone cannot help us. Let us air our voice so that we can be heard nationally. Those of us who have connections, I know Hon. Genga has connections. He can approach any willing NGO to come to our aid as Kisumu County. We have been invaded not as Kisumu County alone but as a country.

Mr. Speaker, and Honourable Members, let us not strain our departments to handle something beyond their capability. The question of summoning a department does not apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Omieno): The Leader of Majority is on his feet. Anyway, I really wanted you to be the last person to talk about this issue. Yes, Leader of Majority.

Leader of Majority (Onyango): Mr. Speaker, as I was sitting next to the Deputy Majority Leader, I felt some spirit hovering around here. The spirits have taken over from me. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Vincent Jagongo

Hon. Jagongo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, you can see the energy that is there in the House. This is a matter of great importance that we need to deliberate upon and come up with a solution. Mr. Speaker, I want to believe that as much as we would want to compel the County on the issue of the locusts, we are still appealing to the rest of the government to come to our aid so that we have combined efforts in controlling locusts in Muhoroni.

Mr. Speaker, there are two ways of controlling these locusts. We know that in the classification, locusts fall under the class of insects in the Animal Kingdom. One of the ways of controlling locusts is through the biological method and two is through the chemical method. The chemical method is carried through insecticides. All we need is to spray with insecticides. In the last budget, some good money for a feasibility study was set aside. Why don't we compel the Executive to bring the money that was meant for the feasibility study and use the same in controlling locust? We do not need to look for emergency money because we do not have an Emergency Fund. There is money in the department that can be used to control the locusts.

There is also the biological way of controlling locusts. We can organize for the killing of the locusts. This is another biological way of managing them. Whether they are going to eat them or give them to animals is their own choice though it is another method that we can use to control the locusts. I want to urge the Members of this House to pile pressure on the Executive and also on the National Government to help us curb this menace.

There are Members who said that locusts are headed to Maseno. Maseno is a high-altitude area, which cannot allow locusts to survive. I am however saying that we need to combine efforts and manage this issue of locusts. Otherwise, thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Gard Olima

Hon. Olima: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am very much disturbed at how sentiments are brought before this House. Providing a solution is the problem that we have in Kisumu County. I want to tell Hon. Genga that the people of South West Nyakach do not depend on Muhoroni for food. We have enough food and it should be known to you that Muhoroni is not the only breadbasket for Kisumu County.

Mr. Speaker, we are presented with the locust menace. As leaders, we must give solutions to the problems that beset us. I hear the Deputy Majority talk; it is as if this House should not even exist. If that is so then he should not even be sitting here in the first place. If we say that this is national thing, then there is no need of discussing it here. We should let it be discussed in the National Assembly. We are the local leaders who ought to respond to the needs of our people at the grassroots.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak now, a section of the County is affected. What solution can this House give to residents of that area? One, we are presented with a situation where every department must work on its own. Mr. Speaker, we cannot sit here and say that the relevant department has not been allocated funds and so they should not work. Allow me to refer to early this month when the Second President of this Republic died. He was buried at a cost of Kshs. 300 M. I do not know whether the National Government had set aside money for that burial. Members of this House talk as if they do not know the law.

It is only the Special Programmes department that has the mandate to spend money way above the ceiling. This usually depends on the prevailing circumstances. We cannot wait just because we did not allocate money yet people are dying. The only department that can take resources from all other departments and spends and the Assembly ratifies is the special programmes.

There is never enough money. What I am saying Mr. Speaker is that we as Kisumu County government need to give direction. We also need to have the lead person or lead department that takes charge of looking at these things. We cannot do these things all of us at the same time. This is an emergency in the County. We need a leading department that will take charge in controlling this menace. The locusts are moving and will soon spread to other parts of this County. If we do not task a specific department; the area MCA, MP, Senator and Governor will all be talking of different things yet all we need is a solution.

Mr. Speaker, as I was talking to the area MCA of Masogo Nyangoma, he told me that the locust that is there are those which are edible. Therefore, according to him, these locusts can be food for his people. Mr. Speaker that is also another avenue we can use. I remember the last time when

we went to Jinja with you, we ate locusts. From my observation of your appetite, I am persuaded that you can also feed on the same.

In a nutshell, what I am saying is that we must assign responsibility to a specific department and team to take charge of this menace.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Gard, allow Hon. Habil Nyasuna to inform the House.

Hon. Nyasuna: On a Point of Information. Mr. Speaker, I do not remember telling Hon. Gard that we eat locusts. It is very wrong for the Hon. Olima to insinuate that residents of Masogo Nyangoma eat locusts. He should withdraw and apologize.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Gard Olima. Can you please respond to what Hon. Nyasuna has said?

Hon. Olima: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe Hon. Nyasuna was not in the right frame of mind when he spoke with me.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): No. If the Member has found your statement to be offensive, then you should withdraw and apologize.

Hon. Olima: Mr. Speaker, based on what Hon. Jagongo said, the chemical way is not the best in controlling locusts. This is because we also need to preserve the environment. We can spray locusts and end up killing other animals as well. Therefore, we cannot just talk of the biological and chemical methods. Control measures must be targeted in a particular way. The chemical way will kill other animals and important insects in the ecosystem. Mr. Speaker, this is also in line with what Hon. Arao said. Since locusts move, it is not easy to determine how to deal with a particular insect.

This is why we are saying that something should be done immediately even if it means closing up the affected area so that the locusts therein are handled at that level. We are aware that the National Government is doing something but as a County we give direction; we must lead and we must show must show the people of Masogo Nyangoma, Muhoroni and the County of Kisumu as a whole that we as the local leadership are doing something to arrest the situation.

If we are unable to manage this menace, then we should tell the people what we have done and what is left before we go the direction of the Deputy Majority Leader. To him we should not even discuss this issue. However, I am happy that he is getting the sense now because the locusts may be heading to his Ward.

As I conclude, I want to urge this House that a department must be brought on board, taken to the site so that they give us feedback on what they have done; what they can do and what they cannot do. If money is needed, let us give that money. The only department that can spend and

have the money ratified later is this department. Therefore, I think we must go that direction, we must start from somewhere and carry on with prevention mechanism until such a time when other mechanisms, like the USAID that Hon Genga was talking about is embraced so that they can give support to an ongoing intervention. Otherwise, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): I want to give this chance to Hon. Philemon Ojuok but just before he says something, let me allow the Chair Health to say something.

Hon. Jagongo: Mr. Speaker just want to inform the Member for South West Nyakach Ward that they are classified into two that is the specific and non-specific. So, in that case we can only use specific but that is only on locust. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Allow Hon. Philemon Ojuok to proceed.

Hon. Philemon Ojuok: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Kanga for bringing this particular motion. I have to admit that to a great extent even the Kenyan Government and Kenya as a whole, this matter of locust has been handled in what I would call a very pedestrian way of dealing with things. Sometimes we have been asked to take pictures and at a certain point there are helicopters flying around spending a lot of money but we have not seen a report on the progress. I want to concur with the Members of South West and the other people who talked that as the local leadership, we are the ones to bring the level of attention that is required that this thing has invaded our area and I want to say that there is no way that we can have this kind of discussion. Even as you have heard; you know a number of us are not experts but we have heard several people trying to fumble around with it as experts which can mislead us.

That is why we have a department with experts and technocrats and that is the reason why we need to bring them on board to guide the entire process. It is good that as the moment we are dealing with the issue of supplementary budget and we should be able to get some funds for our people to go to the ground and tell us. Let us think of leadership on this particular matter, have the budget in the supplementary budget to allocate some funds and going forward I would ask a number of us that we have a solidified approach in handling special programs. I would urge that we bring on board that department to guide the debate on the same and they give us solutions on who we will go about it. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes Hon. Olwal.

Hon. Olwal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to talk as one of the MCAs representing one of the agricultural lands in Kisumu County. What we are talking about on the invasion of locust is not a small issue. This is an issue that affects close to three continents and I remember back in 2003 to 2005 when we had a locust invasion, close to half a billion US dollars was spent in fighting locust. So, it is not a small issue that you can deal with just like my colleague was saying that it can be dealt with in a pedestrian way.

Remember that in every organism nature in an eco-system has its importance and locust invasion is an ecological indicator that there is something wrong with the eco-system especially to the grassland in our areas. In as much as we can be having curative measures, one Member also said that we will have to consider preventive measures.

I heard of Hon. Jagongo talking about specific insecticides. I want to inform the House that locust can never be fought with specific insecticides. It is fought by spectrum neurotoxin that will also affect other organism. If you touch one part of an ecosystem it will destroy everything that sometimes might not be reversible. As we talk, let us put the Environment Department to task to conserve our ecosystem especially on pollution. I don't worry about the locust that I see but I worry about the eggs that have been laid. They will hatch and they will bring more devastation than the ones that are already around. Finances follow sanctions; there is no way that a department can be denied funds and you expect it to discharge its duties. So, I will expect that this department be given enough money...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Senior Member I really want you to inform the House but I would like to remind you that Hon. Olwal being the last speaker; let us allow him to conclude. Hon. Olwal may you resume your seat! Yes Hon. Steve Owiti.

Hon. Owiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member has just insinuated that the Budget denied certain department money which is not correct. Mr. Speaker the Budget process has been followed and Hon. Member for South West Nyakach explained very well that there are extensions. In such a situation where a department has to carry out certain functions, then someone should not come out and say that they were denied the funds. In fact, the most important thing is that the Disaster Management Department was allocated some funds to a tune of almost Kshs. 80 Million. I am surprised that some Members of this House are standing here very boldly and saying that there is no money in this department. The department should be summoned and come to explain to us that they need the money and that the Assembly will do what is necessary or if there are specific interest that some Members have then they need to declare.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank very much. Yes Hon. Okiri.

Hon. Okiri: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the same Member did say that locusts are food and today he is giving his statement without the Fourth Estate knowing whether he is supporting this or not. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes Hon. Olwal may you take two minutes so that we can take this matter to rest.

Hon. Olwal: I am just concluding and I want to inform my Senior that this was a Statement and not a Motion. So, when you are talking about a motion, I don't know the motion you are talking about and maybe to inform the House I said that we need emergency fund. Even in National

Government, there is specific money that is rein- fenced for emergency. I am not only talking about locust invasion. In the previous months we had floods in our area but when we went to the department, they said that they were not given money. The appropriation duty of the County is vested on the County Assembly and not the Executive. It is imperative that this House does good appropriation in budget process. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Leader of Majority, we had agreed that we are concluding so let me Give Hon. Otura then Hon. Rashid and later we conclude with you.

Hon. Otura: Mr. Speaker it is good that you have allowed the House to debate on this matter which was raised by Hon. Kanga and in his request, he wanted the Chairperson of this Sectoral Committee to respond. Mr. Speaker his first concern was that he needed response which state that where in particular these locust have invade is Kisumu County; Muhoroni Sub County, Masogo Nyangoma Ward. Since I am also partly a Member of Masogo Nyangoma Ward, I also feel affected and also being the Chairperson of Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries Committee, the invasion is hitting the agricultural crops and the fear which is eminent as you can hear from the contributions of the Members is that this invasion will affect the crop production which may lead to short fall in food production in Kisumu County. I would like to sum up these three concerns into one.

The second one which was asking about their arrangements to avert the situation, what extent of the damage differ and what are the mitigation measures in place. Mr. Speaker I cannot expressly answer those but to request this House to give me time up to next Thursday so that I can engage with the underlined department so that I can get to know since they are the people on the ground on what they are actually doing right now and the mitigating measures they are taking and report on what is actual.

I want to concur with my fellow Hon. Members that it is indeed a great concern and we are discussing this matter since it is a topic of concern to the County. To the Member who allude to it being a National concern and saying that it cannot be addressed by a County or a local authority, this kind of species that we are dealing with is kind of yellowish and the most important thing as farmers we control it using insecticides. I am going to plead with the department that if it is true that it can be controlled with insecticides, then we are going to provide the farmers with the right insecticides so that they can be able to control the locusts. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Hon. Miruka.

Hon. Miruka: Thank you Speaker. Allow me to applaud Hon. Kanga for bring forth this statement. I want to say that it is on record that there is locust invasion and we are the 19th County to have suffered the same. I want to say to the Department of Agriculture that what they were waiting for when they heard of the invasion in Kenya. Were they waiting for them to reach

our County that they can start talking about what to do? I personally come from a wet land area where we do irrigation, horticulture and I fear that very soon we are going to lose our people because of lack of food because this has already reached our door step. I want to call upon the Department of Agriculture to help us mobilize resources.

To the Special Programs Department; let us not deceive ourselves that there is no enough money. This is an emergency that has come and we must handle it the way it has come. Finally, we have the non-state actors within the County and Nationally that can be mobilized to help us breach this problem. I would like to support this fully and challenge the mentioned departments that they should act with a lot of speed so that it does not spread to other wards in our County and the Counties that surround us. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Yes, Leader of Majority.

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Mr. Speaker, I want to say that invasion of locust in Muhoroni Sub-County is worrying to the food security in our ranging. I want to say that probably when we talk about this locust invasion, we may not conceptualize the magnitude of the process. I was reading some article and it was saying that just the medium size type of locust can eat the same amount of food for the entire population of Kenya can consume. These locusts incubate like my colleagues have said and they grow very fast. So, this is a catastrophe that the County Government needs concrete efforts by the National Government and I am happy that the Minister for Agriculture did say that Kenya is making efforts to ensure that this invasion of locust is brought under control.

Mr. Speaker what we can do as a House is to call the relevant department so that they can put in perspective the extent this menace of locust in Kisumu and its magnitude can be maintained and this should happen as soon as possible so that if there are remedies that can be taken then this is done expeditiously.

I wish to appeal to the Chair to act very fast and contact the relevant department of Agriculture so that they may give us expert advice because we may talk but we may not know the magnitude of the risk because we may not have the expertise to do that. Mr. Speaker I think that the County Government should also collaborate with other non-state actors so that these locusts don't spread. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Omieno): Thank you. I think that after the lengthy discussion, it is very clear that this is indeed a weighty matter and it is something that should be dealt with speed. Therefore, I do direct that we commit the Statement to the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and again the Chairperson of the Committee having spoken requesting for a specific time, I do again direct that you report back to the House on Thursday next week. Yes Hon. Vitalis Otura.

Hon. Otura: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the County Assembly Standing Order no. 193, I wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson, Sectoral committee of Roads, Transport and Public Works regarding the list of KRB roads. Mr. Speaker, in the statement; I wish that the Chairperson should enquire and investigate into and report on the list of the KRB roads per ward and the contractors who were awarded. Mr. Speaker in that Statement I would also wish to say that you know that we have to oversight on what we do as a County and what we have to do as an Assembly and what I have to do in terms of oversight as a representative. We are concerned that are certain allocations towards KRB roads and I would also wish that we get in depth of how they are distributed. That is why I have come up with this Statement and I would wish with you indulgence that you direct as appropriate. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Joachim): Thank you Hon. Member. Having received your Statement, I also do direct the Statement to the Committee on Roads, Transport and Public Works and the Chairperson should report back within two weeks. Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Joachim): There being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to tomorrow Thursday 20th February 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 4.34 p.m.)

Addendum

Zablon Otiende – Head of Department

Edward Odanga – Hansard Reporter

Fanuel Okode – Hansard Reporter

Patrick Okoyo – Hansard Reporter

Jacklyne Otieno – Hansard Reporter

Denis Odhiambo – Hansard Reporter