



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA
GARISSA COUNTY ASSEMBLY



Third County Assembly

(NO.070)

Fourth Session

(NO.185)

THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY – (FOURTH SESSION)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 9:30 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PRAYERS

1. Administration of Oath
2. Communication from the Chair
3. Messages
4. Petitions
5. Papers
6. Notices of Motion
- 7*. Questions and **Statements**

(STATEMENT SOUGHT FROM THE CHAIR COMMITTEE ON WATER AND IRRIGATION SERVICE)

Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order 47(2)(c) and in execution of my oversight mandate under Article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, I rise to seek a statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Water and Irrigation Services regarding the status of emergency water trucking interventions during the ongoing drought across Garissa County, with particular concern on Dertu Ward.

Hon. Speaker, access to clean and safe water is a fundamental human right, essential to life, dignity, and development. This right becomes even more critical during periods of drought when livelihoods and public health are at grave risk. The obligation to guarantee adequate water for all is not discretionary it is a constitutional, legal and moral duty incumbent upon both the National and County Governments.

The need for timely and coordinated emergency water interventions is grounded in several key legal provisions, including:

- **Article 43(1)(d)** of the Constitution: Every person has the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.
- **Article 21(2)**: The State shall take legislative, policy, and other measures to achieve the progressive realization of economic and social rights.
- **Article 56(c)**: Requires affirmative action programmes to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups have access to essential services, including water.
- **Fourth Schedule, Part 2(11)**: Assigns County Governments the responsibility for water and sanitation services.
- **Section 63 of the Water Act, 2016**: Mandates County Governments to ensure the provision of water services within their jurisdictions.
- **The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Act, 2016** and the **National Disaster Risk Management Policy**: Provide frameworks for coordinated drought response, including emergency water trucking interventions.
- **The Public Health Act (Cap. 242)**: Requires that water supplied for human consumption meets national health and safety standards.

Hon. Speaker, despite these clear legal and policy frameworks, several areas across Garissa County are currently experiencing severe water shortages as a result of the ongoing drought. Many households, especially in Dertu Ward, are facing extreme hardship due to the absence or irregularity of water trucking interventions.

In Dertu and other affected wards, boreholes have become overstretched or non-functional, and residents are walking long distances in search of water for domestic and livestock use. This has exposed vulnerable communities to increased risks of dehydration, waterborne diseases and disruption of livelihoods.

Hon. Speaker, the situation demands urgent, coordinated, and sustainable response measures to mitigate the suffering of our people and protect their constitutional right to clean water. It is therefore imperative that the Department of Water and Irrigation Services enhances and expedites emergency water trucking operations across the County, with particular attention to Dertu Ward where the crisis is most pronounced.

Hon. Speaker, the people of Garissa, especially in the most affected areas such as Dertu Ward, look upon this House and the County Executive for urgent and compassionate intervention. The provision of clean and safe water during this period is not only a service delivery issue but a matter of human rights and survival. I therefore urge the Committee to treat this matter with utmost urgency and report its findings and recommendations to this Honourable House at the earliest possible opportunity, to ensure that no community within Garissa County is left behind during this period of drought and hardship.

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Hon Speaker, in the statement the chairperson should inquire into and report on;

1. What specific plans and timelines has the Department of Water and Irrigation put in place to implement emergency water trucking interventions across all sub-counties, with particular concern on Dertu Ward?
2. What is the current status of emergency preparedness, resource mobilization and allocation for water trucking services across the County?
3. How many water bowsers are currently available, operational and deployed within the County, and how is their distribution determined?
4. What criteria or assessment mechanisms are being used to identify and prioritize drought-affected areas and communities for water trucking support, particularly in Dertu Ward?
5. Are there any partnerships or coordinated efforts with the National Government, NDMA, Kenya Red Cross, Northern or other humanitarian agencies to supplement the County's water trucking operations?
6. What measures are in place to ensure transparency, equity, and accountability in the implementation and monitoring of emergency water trucking services across Garissa County?

(STATEMENT SOUGHT BY HON. ADEN HASSAN ODOWA-MCA DERTU WARD)

8. Motions and Bills
