



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA
GARISSA COUNTY ASSEMBLY**



Third County Assembly

(NO.071-A)

Fourth Session

(NO.188)

THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY – (FOURTH SESSION)
SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER
ORDERS OF THE DAY
WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 2:30 PM
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
1. **(STATEMENT SOUGHT FROM THE CHAIR COMMITTEE ON COUNTY AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SERVICE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS)**

Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 47(2)(c) and in exercise 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 County Affairs, Public service and Intergovernmental Relations regarding the urgent need for food supplement and relief support to assist the most vulnerable households affected by the ongoing drought across Garissa County, with particular concern for Dertu Ward, which remains among the most severely affected areas.

Hon. Speaker, Garissa County continues to experience a prolonged drought that has depleted pastures and water sources, disrupted livelihoods and significantly undermined household food security. The situation has been especially difficult in Dertu Ward, where many households are struggling to access adequate food and water and where vulnerable groups particularly children, the elderly, expectant and lactating mothers, persons with disabilities and marginalized pastoralist families are facing heightened risk of hunger and malnutrition.

While drought mitigation is a shared responsibility between the National and County governments, the Department of County Affairs, Public Service and Intergovernmental Relations bears the immediate duty to coordinate humanitarian relief, mobilize emergency resources and ensure the timely distribution of food supplements and other essential support to affected communities. It is therefore imperative that the Department urgently initiates and scales up food supplement and relief interventions, prioritizing the most vulnerable households across all sub-counties, and especially those in Dertu Ward, where the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.

Hon. Speaker, the right to food and the obligation of the State to protect citizens from hunger are firmly anchored in constitutional and statutory provisions, including:

- **Article 43(1)(c)** of the Constitution, which guarantees every person the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality;
- **Article 21(2)**, which obligates the State to take policy and legislative measures to progressively realize economic and social rights;
- **Article 56(c)**, which calls for affirmative action to ensure marginalized groups access essential services, including food and nutrition;
- **Fourth Schedule, Part 2(2)**, which assigns County Governments the function of planning and implementing social welfare and relief services;
- **Section 102(e)** of the County Governments Act, 2012, which provides that County planning and development shall ensure equitable access to basic services;
- **Section 104(1)(b)** of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, which mandates County Treasuries to facilitate emergency responses for unforeseen circumstances;
- **The NDMA Act, 2016** and the **Disaster Risk Management Policy (2022)**, which require coordinated drought preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

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Hon. Speaker, despite these robust legal and policy frameworks, numerous households in drought-affected areas particularly in Dertu Ward and its environs have yet to receive any form of food supplement or relief assistance. The absence of timely intervention continues to expose vulnerable residents to avoidable hardship and threatens to erode community resilience.

Hon. Speaker, the drought situation requires immediate, coordinated and transparent action to protect lives and preserve human dignity. I therefore appeal to the Department of County Affairs, Public service and Intergovernmental Relations to prioritize emergency relief efforts in Dertu Ward and other severely affected areas, while ensuring equity, accountability and sustainability in all ongoing and planned interventions.

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

1. What urgent steps is the Department taking to provide food supplements and relief support to the most affected and vulnerable households across the County, with specific reference to Dertu Ward?
2. Which sub-counties and wards have been prioritized for support, and what criteria are being used to identify and verify beneficiaries, particularly in Dertu Ward?
3. What funds have been utilized, reallocated, or earmarked by the Department for drought response interventions under existing budget provisions, and what mechanisms are being applied to ensure prompt deployment of resources to the affected areas?
4. What partnerships or collaborations have been established with the National Government, NDMA, Kenya Red Cross, World Food Programme (WFP), or other humanitarian agencies to complement County efforts, particularly in the most affected areas such as Dertu Ward?
5. What medium- and long-term strategies has the Department adopted to strengthen drought resilience, enhance food security and support sustainable livelihood recovery across Garissa County?

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

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2. (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.

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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.

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
