



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS



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MACHAKOS – KENYA
Third Assembly

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21st November 2023

STATEMENT RESPONSE ON HUMAN- WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN MATUU WARD

Hon. Speaker, Standing Order 41 (2) (c) states that *a member may request for a statement from the Committee chairperson relating to matters under the mandate of the Committee and the Speaker may either appoint a day for the statement or direct that the statement be issued on the same day.*

Hon. Speaker, during an Assembly sitting dated 25th July 2023, Hon. Judas Ndawa, MCA Matuu Ward sought a Statement that that Human-wildlife conflict in Machakos County and in particular Mbingoni, Katulani sub location, Ngengi and Kitambaasye in Matuu ward, is a pressing and complex issue that stems from the coexistence of local communities and diverse wildlife species in the region. The Member stated that the wildlife from B2 ranching has continued to destroy crops on the nearby farms and the response from the nearest Kenya Wildlife Office in Donyo-Sabuk is not prompt. The particulars of the Statement were as follows;

- i. The initiative Kenya Wildlife Service is doing to ensure that the wildlife in the nearby ranch is contained to avert destruction of property.
- ii. Whether Kenya Wildlife Service has established a fair and prompt compensation or insurance mechanisms for communities affected by wildlife attacks or property damage can alleviate economic hardships through the County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committee established under section 18 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013.
- iii. Why Kenya Wildlife Service has not established Wildlife Corridors and Fencing for animal migration and strategically placed fences to help reduce human-wildlife encounters in high-conflict areas.

Hon. Speaker, the Statement was committed to Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for inquiry and subsequent reporting to the House as provided under Standing Order 189. The Committee

held its sitting on 30th October 2023, and the agenda of the day was discussion on the said statement and way forward as directed by the House. In the meeting the Committee resolved as follows;

- i. Conduct a site visit to the affected areas in Matuu ward in order to get facts from the affected residents. This is in line with Article 10 of the Constitution that provides for public participation as one of the principles of governance before the Government makes a decision affecting the public.
- ii. Engage the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) for information and action as regards to stated human-wildlife conflict. This is in line with the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution that assigns KWS as a function of the National Government. It is also in line with Article 189 of the Constitution that provides for cooperation between the two levels of Governments i.e. the National and the County Government for the purpose of exchanging information, coordinating policies and administration and enhancing capacity.

1.0. Committee site Visit to Mbingoni, Katulani sub location, Ngengi and Kitambaasye in Matuu Ward.

Hon. Speaker, on 26th and 27th October 2023, the Committee and the area MCA, Hon. Judas Ndawa visited the above stated areas in Matuu Ward to collect views from the affected residents in relation to the Statement sought. After the interaction and interview of some of the residents, the committee confirmed the following;

- i. That the B2 Ranch, which is a property of Kitui County borders Mbingoni, Ngengi and Kitambaasye villages which is in Machakos County.
- ii. That the residents have a committee that liaises with KWS on security matters and despite the many reports done to KWS in Oldonyo Sabuk Station nothing so far has been done to contain the wild animals and prevent them from destroying crops and threatening lives of villagers
- iii. The ranch is not fenced and so wild animals, mostly zebras and hyenas cross to the stated areas and destroy crops and also kill livestock especially at night.
- iv. Farmers in Mbingoni, Ngengi and Kitambaasye have big shambas and vast grazing lands and so these villages contribute a lot in provision of food in Matuu Ward.
- v. The residents lamented to the Committee that last season they had planted mostly maize and beans and hardly very little was harvested from the shambas since the said wild animals due

to scarcity of grass in the B2 ranch sneaked on daily basis to these shambas and grazed on the planted crops.

- vi. That with the high cost of farm inputs ie seeds, fertilizers and labor, the farmers had incurred serious loses and this is unfair to the residents considering the high cost of living being witnessed in the country at present
- vii. That residents in the affected areas in many nights spent outside in fear of being invented by these wild animals
- viii. The residents requested the County Government to intervene on this matter so that their lost property could be valued and be compensated and also fencing be done to contain the animals. This is pursuant to Section 24(2) of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013 states that *the Wildlife Compensation Scheme shall be used for financing compensation claims for human death or injury or crop and property damage caused by wildlife*

NB Committee audio clips for the meeting are available

2.0.Submissions from KWS office to the Committee

Hon. Speaker, the Committee via letter reference *MKSCA/PCS/CMM/DEV /VOL.1/24* dated 26th September 2023 wrote to KWS, head office in Nairobi seeking response to the Statement. The office did not reply until 19th October 2023, when the Committee decided to visit the Machakos KWS office for a follow up. The Chief Warden, Machakos Station submitted to the committee and promised to take up the matter and seek response from the Head office in Nairobi.

Hon. Speaker, on 11th October 2023 the Assembly received a response on the Said statement via letter reference SDW/8/17/2 and the following are the submissions from KWS Head office;

2.1. The initiative Kenya Wildlife Service is doing to ensure that the wildlife in the nearby ranch is contained to avert destruction of property.

Response: Kenya wildlife service (KWS) has staff in all the protected areas and over 156 stations and outputs outside parks and reserves. Staffs in these areas are responsible for coordinating management of wildlife outside designated protected areas in efforts to enhance coexistence between wildlife and communities in those areas. Considering the Country is expansive, areas that are out of reach by the

established stations and outposts are served by Mobile PAC (Problem Animal Control) teams deployed to deal with upsurge in conflicts in specific areas.

Human Wildlife conflicts in Matuu ward within Machakos County are addressed by KWS personnel stationed at yatta B2 sub-station within the B2 ranch and in cases where the conflicts are intense, the team is backed up by personnel from Oldonyo National park Headquarters. Strategies employed by these teams include:-

- I. Pro-active patrols on community lands to minimize invasions.
- II. Wildlife drives from community lands.
- III. Trapping and translocation of problem animals mostly predators.
- IV. Elimination of problem animals as per approved procedures and regulations.
- V. Scaring of problem animals from community lands.
- VI. Facilitation of the government's compensation process.

Table 1 gives a summary of the reported incidences at Matuu area that were attended to by KWS officers from February 2015 to date. The claimants have already been facilitated to initiate the process of compensation for damages caused as per the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013.

(See table 1 appended)

2.2. Whether the Kenya wildlife service has established a fair and prompt compensation or insurance mechanisms for communities affected by wildlife attacks or property damage can alleviate economic hardships through the County Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013.

Response: Section 25 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act(2013) provides for compensation for personal Injury or death or damage to property. The Act requires that all Compensation cases shall be deliberated upon and recommended for payment by the respective County Wildlife Conservation Committees (CWCCs) after which the Ministerial Wildlife Compensation Committee approves the same for payment. Composition of the CWCC is as follows:-

- I. County Commissioner-Chairperson
- II. KWS officer- secretary

- III. Agricultural officer
- IV. Medical officer
- V. Livestock officer
- VI. Four community persons

As such, the Kenya Wildlife Service Machakos County office through the Oldonyo sabuk National park(including Yatta B2 and Juja substations) facilitates affected community members in claiming compensation from the government for damages(death, injury, and property destruction) caused by wildlife.

(See Table 2 on Status of the processed and paid Compensation claims from 2014 to date 2018 for Machakos County)

2.3. Why Kenya wildlife service has not established wildlife corridors and fencing for animals migration and strategically placed fences to help reduce human wildlife encounters in high-conflict area.

RESPONSE:

a) Arising from wildlife populations across the country, it was imperative to initiate the process for gazettelement of wildlife corridors so as to provide an appropriate dispersal area onto which wildlife could move freely and thus increase the space available and viability of wildlife conservation. In order to realize this, a taskforce was formed which mapped wildlife corridors Country wide and recommended gazettelement of the same. Among the identified and mapped wildlife corridor awaiting gazettelement are the Athi-Kapiti Plains and the Kitengela migration corridors in Machakos County.

The plains provide a critical wet season dispersal range for some of the Nairobi National Park's wildlife species. The plains extended across the largely commercial ranching enterprises of Machakos County in the east, via the gently descending Emarti valley to the Amboseli national Park in the South.

b)KWS has collaborated with stakeholders and experts to design and put in place different wildlife barriers for different species of wildlife in HWC prone areas.

Barriers like electric and solar powered fences have proved to be an effective method in managing wildlife encroachment into community settled areas.

Fencing provide a long term solution to problematic wildlife species such as elephants and other large mammalian species from invading agricultural areas and destroying crops. Fences have been successfully used in Kenya to minimize and destroying crops. They have been successfully used in Kenya to minimize interactions between the communities and wildlife. KWS fences off protected areas or undertake strategic fencing to shield communities and social facilities from wildlife invasion. Over 2000 Kilometers of electric fencing have been erected throughout the Country with funding from different sources such as the government of Kenya and private entities. Taking cognizance of the costs involved in erecting the various designs, Kenya Wildlife Service implements the fencing programme in phases based on availability of funds and HWC intensity. In the current financial year, the service has established a technical committee on fencing of Oldonyo Sabuk National Park whose recommendations are expected by the end of the year (2023) for considerations and implementation.

2.4.Awareness creation

Response: Regulation awareness creation to the public on wildlife co-existence is undertaken by KWS staff in collaboration with stakeholders, chiefs and village administrators to sensitize the public on wildlife conservation and coexistence. This is done through outreach programs, community barazas and radio talks on the local Mwatu FM radio station where wildlife matters are shared to keep the public informed on animal behaviour and the best ways to co-exist with wildlife.

Thank you Hon. Speaker

HON. ANN NDILO

~~Ann~~ 21/11/2023

**CHAIRPERSON, DEVOLUTION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

Table 1: Matuu Ward Wildlife Conflicts for 2015 to 2023 in Matuu Ward, Machakos County

#	DATE	AREA/ LOCALITY	TYPE OF INCIDENT	PROBLEM ANIMAL	ACTION TAKEN
1	25/07/2023	Mbingoni	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
2	15/07/2023	Ngengi	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
3	01/05/2023	Kivandini	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
4	15/01/2023	Kivandini	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
5	25/12/2022	Kivandini	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
6	17/12/2022	Ngegi/Mbigoni	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
7	24/08/2022	Ngegi/Mbigoni	Crop destruction	Zebras	Attended and the Zebras were driven away
8	23/06/2022	Kikwanguuma	Crop destruction	Hippo	Attended and the Hippo were driven away
9	02/05/2022	Kaluluini	Crop destruction	Hippo	Attended and the Hippo were driven away
10	20/01/2022	Kaluluini	Human threat	Hippo	Attended and the Hippo were driven away
11	17/09/2020	Kaluluini	Predation	Hyena	Attended, incident verified and a predator trap set
12	20/08/2020	Matuu	Predation	Hyena	Attended, incident verified and a predator trap set
13	08/07/2020	Matuu wa Mwituu	Crop destruction	Baboons	Attended, Baboons scared away
14	16/10/2018	Matuu	Human threat	Hyena	Attended, incident verified and a predator trap set
15	08/07/2016	Matuu	Predation	Hyena	Attended, incident verified and a predator trap set
16	03/03/2016	Matuu	Predation	Hyena	Attended, incident verified and a predator trap set
17	06/11/2015	Matuu	Predation	Hyena	Attended, incident verified and a predator trap set
18	03/02/2015	Matuu	Human injury	Snake	Attended, though Snake not seen

Table 2: Status of the processed and paid Compensation claims from 2014 to date 2018 for Machakos County

#	NAME OF CLAIMANT	NEXT OF KIN	CLAIM TYPE	ANIMAL RESPONSIBLE	INCIDENT DATE	AMOUNT (KSHS)
1	*Sebastian Nzomo Munyao	Munyao Nzyoka	Death	Snake	15/03/2014	1,000,000
2	*Muthée Mwaura	Susan Njeri Kanyoro	Death	Hippo	05/07/2017	1,000,000
3	Dennis Nduli Mwanyumu	Patrick Mwanyumu Nduli	Death	Snake	01/12/2014	5,000,000
4	Jane Nyambura Mbuta	Agnes Wangari Gaitho	Death	Crocodile	23/12/2014	5,000,000
5	Veronica Wazilu Mwaluko	Theophilus Mumo Mualuko	Death	Snake	20/03/2016	5,000,000
6	Mbatha Mbuvi	Muthoni Mbatha	Death	Elephant	18/09/2016	5,000,000
7	Nduku Muli	Teresiah Kanini Muli	Death	Crocodile	24/03/2017	5,000,000
8	*John Mbithi Musyimi	Elizabeth John Mbithi	Death	Hippo	05/09/2018	1,000,000
9	*Pauline Kalondu Musau	Christopher Muoki Kitonga	Death	Crocodile	18/09/2018	1,000,000
10	*Crescent Kiio Kathuka	Samuel Dnuva Kathuka	Death	Hippo	30/10/2018	1,000,000
11	Nduku Mukusya Isuni	Bernard Mukusya Isuni	Injury	Snake	24/03/2014	300,000
12	Kelvin Ngeki Matheka	Lawrence Ngeki	Injury	Crocodile	16/09/2014	150,000
13	Mulewa Peter	Pascalina Mumbua Peter	Injury	Snake	20/09/2014	200,000
14	Susan Mbithi Kavita	Elizabeth Mueni Kavita	Injury	Snake	02/10/2014	20,000
15	Ruth Njeri Mugo	Beatrice Wamboi Mugo	Injury	Snake	29/10/2014	200,000
16	*Isaac Muuo Musau	Danson Musau Ndaba	Injury	Snake	19/11/2014	400,000
17	Benson Matheka Kaunda	Annah Nduku Kaunda	Injury	Snake	20/11/2014	250,000
18	Terecia Nzula Mumbua	Francisca Mumbua Muli	Injury	Snake	03/12/2014	20,000
19	Janet Mukonyo Mutiso	Veronica Ndulu ID 25705163	Injury	Snake	03/12/2014	25,000
20	Joseph Nzioka Kioko	Mutuku Kioko	Injury	Elephant	05/01/2015	20,000
21	Kivuva Ndambuki	Joyce mukami Katumu	Injury	Hyna	17/01/2015	90,000
22	Dickson Kimeu	Janet Wavinya	Injury	Hyena	17/01/2015	300,000
23	Ruth Mutuku kioko	David Kioko Kimongo	Injury	Hyena	16/02/2015	15,000
24	Luciah Nzisa Ndaka	Cecilia Mutindi Ndaka	Injury	Snake	02/02/2015	20,000
25	Augustine Musyoni Kinyumu	Mutindi Musyoni	Injury	Snake	03/04/2015	200,000
26	Monica Nthemba Kameti	Jostina Kameti	Injury	Snake	03/05/2015	140,000

27	Antony Mwonga Nzioko	Jane Ndunge	Injury	Hippo	30/05/2015	5,000
28	Brenda Mwelu Wambua	J.W Musembi	Injury	Snake	11/07/2015	80,000
29	David Masaku Kasia	Kasasi Mulumba	Injury	Hyena	03/11/2015	40,000
30	Simon Kasyoka	Harrison Mwangangi	Injury	Leopard	24/11/2015	50,000
31	Mutinda Damaris Mwikali	Benard Mutinda Kiio	Injury	Snake	21/12/2015	25,000
32	Christopher Muinde Mwongeli	Monica Mwongeli	Injury	Wild Pig	25/02/2016	5,000
33	Christopher Kimanathi King'oo	Bancy Kanini	Injury	Snake	17/03/2016	17,530
34	Catherine Mwende Mutua	Onesmus Mutua	Injury	Snake	08/04/2016	5,000
35	Lucia Muthwa Kivuva	Samuel Humphery Wambua	Injury	Snake	19/04/2016	21,230
36	*Winfred Twili Nduva	Eunice Ndura	Injury	Snake	22/04/2016	360,000
37	Grace Ndunge Kathuku	Paul Kathuku	Injury	Snake	29/06/2016	61,000
38	Josephine wavinya Makii	David Ndali	Injury	Cheetah	19/11/2016	6,400
39	Michael Malombe Mbaliuka	Francisca N. Francis	Injury	Snake	31/03/2017	100,000
40	Simon Mutua	Felisa Mutanu	Injury	Hippo	07/04/2017	61,500
41	Tabitha Wavinya Mutua	Annastacia Mutua	Injury	Snake	16/04/2017	44,500
42	Mbaluka Muturu	Alice Kaluki Mutuku	Injury	Snake	13/07/2017	33,300
43	*Caroline Zembi Kasanga	Paul Kasanga Wambua	Injury	Snake	19/10/2017	240,000
44	Jackline Muthu Kioko	Jeremiah Kioko Ngao	Injury	Snake	27/03/2018	22,400
45	Daniel Makau Kasivau	Marysalome Musembi	Crop Destruction	Buffalo	30/12/2016	12,500
46	Bosco Mutunga Mutuku	Samuel Mutua Mutuku	Crop Destruction	Buffalo	02/01/2017	12,500
47	Alphonse Mbaluka Maingi	Teresiah Mukuli Kyenze	Crop Destruction	Buffalo	05/03/2017	25,500
48	Regina Ketheu Muema	James Musyoki Mueni	Predation	Hyena	18/06/2014	42,000
49	Loko Nzau Ndunda	James Mtaheka Nyaa	Predation	Hyena	18/06/2014	15,000
50	James Mutuku Kitolo	Rose Ndunda Mulei	Predation	Hyena	03/11/2015	80,000
51	Mary Syombua Muli	Ambrose Kilonzo Kivuva	Predation	Hyena	07/11/2015	60,000
52	George Muthoka Nzyoki	Penninah Ndunge Wambua	Predation	Leopard	10/11/2015	18,000
53	David Masila Mwengi	Penina Nthimba Masila	Predation	Hyena	04/01/2016	30,000

54	SR Mumbua George Nzioki	Basila Kalewa Musyimai	Predation	Leopard	08/03/2016	21,000
55	Peter Munyao Ndolo	Christine Nthambia Munyao	Predation	Hyena	28/04/2016	15,000
56	Mary Nzilani Kivai	Justus Muthiani Timothy	Predation	Leopard	06/05/2016	18,000
57	Joseph Muema Mwanja	Nicholas Mwanja Nthiwa	Predation	Hyena	26/06/2016	40,000
58	Jane Kavindu Mutungi	Daniel Muli Mutungi	Predation	Hyena	07/09/2016	42,000
59	Mary Nduku Mwaluko	Stanely Muinde Wambua	Predation	Hyena	22/09/2016	30,000
60	Beatrice Kanini Wambua	Johnbosco Makau Wambua	Predation	Hyena	05/11/2016	18,000
61	Daniel Muindi	Joyce Kataa katori	Predation	Hyena	05/11/2016	24,000
62	Paul munyao Mutie	Phylis Wanjiku Paul	Predation	Hyena	11/11/2016	30,000
63	Julietta Kithuie Titus	Stephen Kathingu Nzinga	Predation	Hyena	21/11/2016	6,000
64	Patrick Mulinge Muema	Penninah Mutindi Maingi	Predation	Leopard	27/11/2016	51,000
65	Catherine Nthambia Kavwele	Januaries Mwangela Nzai	Predation	Hyena	09/12/2016	20,000
66	Mercy Kinyajui Waceke	Samwel Githae Kinyajui	Predation	Leopard	10/12/2016	25,000
67	Ruth Nzisa Munuve	Kennedy Kyalo Musyoka	Predation	Hyena	23/12/2016	48,000
68	Julius Wambua Kieti	Dorothy Ndinda Kithembe	Predation	Leopard	05/02/2017	54,000
69	Mutinda kititu	Muleso makau	Predation	Leopard	09/02/2017	3,000
70	Mutee Wambua Mulwa	Cosmas Kioko Wambua	Predation	Hyena	11/04/2017	45,000
71	Gonzalis Mueni michael	Julius Simona Kalia	Predation	Hyena	20/05/2017	10,000
72	Lawrence Kaindi Musyoka	Agnes Mwelu Nzioki	Predation	Hyena	13/06/2017	27,000
73	Jonathan Muinde Kyumbu	Simon Mutuku Muinde	Predation	Hyena	20/03/2018	20,000
74	Simon Muisyo Munywoki	Cahrles Wambua Munywoki	Predation	Hippo	23/03/2018	60,000
75	Antony Keli Mbondi	Sera Mutu Keli	Predation	Snake	25/03/2018	20,000
76	Anthony Mutuku Kangangi	Florence Ngina Mutuku	Predation	Hyena	08/04/2018	30,000
77	Peter Mwanzia Mulwa	Eunice Ndinda Mutuku	Predation	Hyena	17/05/2018	25,000
78	Rose Musengya Mule	Florence Mueke Peter	Predation	Cheetah	04/06/2018	32,000

Note:- *Have received 20% of the approved amount as per the approved criteria provided by the Ministerial Wildlife Conservation and compensation Committee sitting on 1st March 2023