

Maasai herders call for protection of water sources

From HECKTON CHUWA, in Kilimanjaro

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TRADITIONAL leaders from the Maasai herders' community from Kenya and Tanzania have called on relevant authorities in both countries to protect water sources and catchment areas.

The leaders made the call recently during a three-day meeting held in Siba District, Kilimanjaro Region, as part of a campaign dubbed 'White Mountain', initiated by the people from the herders' community under the funding of environmental activists from the Netherlands.

"Inroads of water sources have reached the point of invading even the traditional areas of the Maasai community as well as other areas surrounding Mt Kilimanjaro, Ulangwa mountains, Uluguru mountains, conservation areas in Seme District, Ukiyo District and Chyote hills", said Mr. Saphir Lauer, who is the Tanzania Country Director of the White Mountain Campaign.

"This situation has caused a lot of damage to the invaded areas as the mosquitoes are now threatening environmental protection efforts in East Africa", she said.

Commenting on the White Campaign in Tanzania, Mr. Lauer said that it will involve the planting of 1.5 million trees every year to restore the natural vegetation lost due to environmental damage.

"We will start by planting these trees at Orumbi Village in Siba District and other areas around Mount Kilimanjaro with the main goal being to restore the natural vegetation in those areas", she said.

She further said that the campaign will go hand in hand with a three-day symposium of the traditional leaders which that aims at setting up strategies to address climate change in the two member states of the East African Community.

For his part, the founder of the White Campaign, Mr. Frank Heckman from the Netherlands said that similar campaign was held in Kenya and successfully yielded great results in the area of improving the environment.

Speaking at the event, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner (RC) Mr. Nurdin Babu advised participants of the campaign to encourage parents from the pastoral community to send their children to school to get education.

"The education they will acquire will be a springboard to continue this campaign you started in the future and thus make it sustainable. In this way environment will continue to be protected for the benefit of all mankind," he said in a statement read on his behalf by the Siba District Commissioner (DC) Mr. Christopher Tumbuka.



BAADHI ya ng'ombe wakiwa katika eneo la Ranchi ya NARCO iliyopo Wilaya ya Kongwa mkoani Dodoma. (Picha na Ofisi ya Mkuu wa Mkoa wa Dodoma)

Majosho manne kujengwa Malinyi

Malinyi
Na Igamba Libonge

MAJOSHO manne yakuogeshea mifugo yanatarajiwa kujengwa na Halmashauri ya Wilaya ya Malinyi, mkoani Morogoro baada ya kubainika wilaya hiyo kuwa miongoni mwa wilaya zenye uhaba wa majosho hayo.

Taarifa zinaonyesha kuwa vijiji vya Malinyi vina idadi kubwa ya wafugaji ambapo ujenzi huo unatajwa utaoongeza tija katika ufugaji hasa kiplindi hiki ambacho Rais Dk. Samia Suluhu Hassan ameweka mkazo ujenzi wa majosho katika kila wilaya nchini.

Akizungumza na gazeti hili juzi, Mkuu wa kitengo cha mifugo na uvuvi Halmashauri ya Wilaya ya Malinyi, Absalom Gepson Mwasumbwe, alisema tayari wameshatenga maeneo kwa ujenzi wa majosho hayo yatakuwa karibu na wafugaji wanaoishi katika tarafa za Mtimbira na Ngoheranga.

Mwasumbwe alisema wametenga vijiji vinne katika tarafa hizo kwa ujenzi wa majosho ambayo yatagharimu kiasi cha shilingi milioni 92 hadi kukamilika kwake na zitatumika pia nguvu za wananchi.

Alithibitisha kuwa tayari wameshatoa elimu kwa wafugaji kuhusu umuhimu wa uwepo wa majosho katika maeneo yao pamoja na uundwaji wa kamati za pamoja za usimamizi wa ujenzi kwa kila kijiji.

Alivitaja vijiji vitanufaika na ujenzi wa majosho hayo kuwa ni kijiji cha lhowanja, kitongoji cha Mwambike, kijiji cha Tanga, kijiji Kiswago na Usangule, kitongoji cha Mipululu.

Alisema mradi huu utanufaisha jamii ya wafugaji ambao wana upungufu wa majosho ndani ya wilaya ya Malinyi na kusema utekelezaji wake ulipaswa kuwa katika mwaka wa fedha 2021/2022 lakini ulichelewa kutokana na ukosefu wa fedha.

Akizungumzia hali ya minada katika halmamshauri hiyo, alisema mpaka sasa ipo minada mitano iliyosajiliwa kisheria kwa mujibu wa sheria ya nyama namba 10 ya mwaka 2006, chini ya kanuni ya masoko na mifugo kifungu namba 5, ambapo kupitia sheria hiyo tayari minada ya Njiwa (itete), Salamiti, Biro, Tanga na Mabanda imesajiliwa kama minada ya upili kwa mujibu wa sheria hiyo na inafanya kazi.

Mfugaji wa Kitongoji cha Salamiti, Saulo Mashimba, alisema kulingana na uhaba wa majosho itawasaidia katika kuogesha mifugo na kuondoa tatizo la magonjwa.

Aidha, alisema majosho ndio msingi wa mifugo kuwa bora ambapo ameishukuru serikali kuanza mkakati wa ujenzi wa majosho katika vijiji ambavyo vina idadi kubwa ya mifugo.

Naye Masalo Kajua, alisema endapo majosho hayo yatakamilika yatawasaidia sana katika ufugaji na hasa wakati huu ambao serikali inasisitiza kufuga kisasa na kwa tija.