

Save the Mara basin

Increased human activities along the Mara River Basin - that is said to support 1.2 million people in Kenya and Tanzania - pose serious threat to the ecosystem.

Deforestation, poor farming methods and water pollution in the water catchment areas around Nakuru, Narok and Bomet counties continue to degrade the ecosystem.

Unplanned development projects - like construction of roads and high rise buildings in the area - have also had negative effects on the environment.

Not only do human activities endanger the environment, they have also led to increased human-wildlife conflicts due to encroachment on animal habitats.

The allure of the Mara Game Reserve during the annual wildebeest migration in August will diminish if the ecosystem is allowed to disintegrate without measures to save it being put in place. Kenya's dependence on tourism cannot be taken for granted. The tourism sector earned Sh93.9 billion in 2014 and Sh96 billion in 2013.

Communities living along the Mara River should be sensitised on the need to conserve it. Notably, the Narok county government sets aside 19 per cent of the revenue earned from tourism to support the local communities and they have every reason to save the Mara from destruction.

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tory gossip as if he ceased being human once he took up office.

And not long ago, members of the opposition were in Burma Market, kwa Mama Baby, where mouth-watering chicken is served. They too, wanted to demonstrate that they are in touch with the reality of the lives of the common man and woman.

The question we must always ask is what else they do, apart from giving generous tips, to ensure that these hardworking Kenyans operate in a better business environment? Let me put it this way; I was so disappointed that the President did not order a water and sanitation programme for Kenyatta Market.

And don't tell me that this is the work of the county government. No, the President is the President. Period. There must be a token step he can take to show he cares. Otherwise you will understand why his critics are accusing him and Ruto of mocking the poor and engaging in PR stunts just for votes' sake.

The poor would be ill-advised if they took literally the 'Tuko Pamoja' slogan for they long crossed the billion and probably even the trillion line.

But the most important issue is the hope that when our leaders occasionally slip into the enclaves of poverty, disease and pestilence, they can see the footprints of corruption, bad policies and inept leadership that have characterised governance over the years.

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