

Soroti councillors adjourn meeting over bad toilets

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SOROTI. Drama ensued at Soroti Municipal Council Hall after councillors forced the adjournment of a meeting due to lack of functional toilets.

A female councillor, who could not bear the burden of holding back the call of nature, raised concern over how they would carry on with the session while the toilets remained closed.

Mr Abdul Latif, the Central Ward councillor, said it was challenging to continue operating in such a manner where the sanitation standards were being ignored.

"You come to execute council business and when you need to ease yourself you instead have to move to public toilets to pay, the toilet system should be sorted," he charged.

He challenged the town clerk to explain why they could not open the toilets even during full council sitting.

"Mr Speaker Sir, I know everybody in the house lives through a process of digestion and excretion, why are these places of convenience closed for two months?" Mr Abdul Latif asked.

Mr George William Okoit, a youth councillor, said for more than two months, Soroti Municipal Council has failed to clear more than Shs4m water bill that had accumulated and forced National Water and Sewerage

Cooperation to disconnect water supply.

"Local revenue collections are meant to facilitate payment of utilities, does it imply we have stopped to collect local revenue?" he asked.

The agitated councillors rose up, prompting the speaker, Mr Isaac Elakuna, to adjourn the sitting until the toilet facilities are worked on.

Shs4m

Bill. Soroti Municipal Council has failed to clear more than Shs4m accumulated water bill that prompted NWSC to disconnect water supply.

Mr Karl Peters Emukon, the councillor representing Oderai and Majengo wards, blamed the council for failing to prioritise hygiene and sanitation in the area.

The Soroti Municipal Council town clerk, Mr Emmanuel Banya Natal, said if the facilities were left open residents would 'misuse' them.

He, however, admitted that there is an accumulated water bill, which has not been cleared since 2011.

Mr Natal said he was in touch with officials from National Water and Sewerage Cooperation to ensure that water is reconnected 'before the end of the day' to facilitate council operations.