

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 18th October, 2022

The House met at 10.39 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Kiusya) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
WELCOME FROM SHORT BREAK FOR INDUCTION

Hon. Speaker: Good morning, Hon. Members and welcome back from the short break you took to undertake our second induction. I hope you have gained knowledge on parliamentary procedures for use in executing your mandate. My Office is committed to ensure more training sessions are organized to ensure you are well-equipped to undertake your role as enshrined in the law.

(Applause)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOANS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Hon. Members, the Machakos County Assembly Service (Car Loans and Mortgage Scheme Fund) Regulations, 2018 establishes the Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund. Regulation 12 of the same Regulations creates the Loans Management Committee whose membership include:

- a. Leader of Majority;
- b. Leader of Minority;
- c. The Majority Party Whip;
- d. The Minority Party Whip;
- e. Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee;
- f. A representative of the County Assembly Service Board who shall be a board member;
- g. Two members of the County Assembly being one man and one woman appointed by the County Assembly; and
- h. The Clerk who shall be the Secretary.

Hon. Members, during a meeting of the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) held on 3rd October, 2022, Hon. Johanna Munyao was appointed to be Board's representative in the Loans Management Committee.

(Applause)

I have also received communication from the Assembly Party Leaders nominating the following Hon. Members to the Loans Management Committee:

- a. Hon. Catherine Mutio Muia - Representing Majority Party;
- b. Hon. Loyd Mutua - Representing Minority Party

I take this opportunity to wish these Members the best as they serve in the said Committee.

(Applause)

ASSEMBLY CAUCUSES

Hon. Members, Standing Order 221A provides for the procedure of recognition of Assembly Caucuses. The Standing Order provides that, the Speaker may upon the written request of at least 10 Members, recognize an Assembly caucus formed for purposes of advancing a common legislative proposal. The request to the Speaker pursuant to this Standing Order shall:

- a. Indicate the name of the caucus;
- b. Outline the legislative objective of the caucus and;
- c. Contain the names and signatures of the members of the caucus.

Further, this Standing Order states that an Assembly caucus shall not enjoy the powers and privileges of a Committee of the Assembly. Pursuant to these provisions of Standing Order 221A, I urge Hon. Members, who have the intent to form Assembly caucuses to forward their requests by close of business today, Tuesday, 18th October, 2022. Thank you, Hon. Members.

MESSAGE

NOMINEES TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE COUNTY SECRETARY

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, Standing Order 39(1) provides that, “the Speaker Shall read to the Assembly any message from the Governor or Senator to the County delivered to the Speaker for communication to the Assembly.” Pursuant to this provision of the Standing Order, I have the following message from Her Excellency Hon. Wavinya Ndeti, the Governor of Machakos County on nomination of persons to County Executive Committee and the County Secretary.

The Message is as follows; pursuant to Article 179(2)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya as read together with Section 30(2)(b) of the County Governments Act 2012, I have nominated the following persons for the membership of the County Executive Committee for the respective positions indicated against their names for approval by the Assembly:

1. Dr. Consolata Mutisya - Devolution
2. Onesmus Muia Kuyu - Finance and Economic Planning
3. Daniel Munyao Yumbya - Health
4. Roads, Transport and Public Works - Nathanael Nganga Reuben
5. Lands, Urban Development, Housing and Energy- Philip Mutua Kilonzo
6. Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperative Development - Dr. Joel Nzomo

7. Water, Irrigation and Climate Change - Catherine Mutanu Raphael
8. Education - Joyce Mwikali Muindi
9. Trade, Industry, Tourism and Innovation - Sharon Nthoki Mutua
10. Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Welfare - Onesmus Muasya

Further, pursuant to section 44(2A) of the County Governments Act No.17 of 2012 as amended in 2020, I constituted and gazette a selection panel on 16th September, 2022 for the purpose of competitive recruitment of a County Secretary.

The Selection panel shortlisted and interviewed the applicants and forwarded two names to me for consideration for appointment as County Secretary as stipulated in Section 44(2D)(a) of the County Governments Act No.17 of 2012 as amended in 2020.

In accordance with the provisions of section 44(2D)(b) of the County Governments Act No.17 of 2012 as amended in 2020, I hereby nominate and forward the name of Dr. Victor Muya Ndambuki ID No. 10891674 for approval for appointment as County Secretary.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 39(3) provides that, “when a message from the Governor or Senator of the County is read, the message shall be deemed to have been laid before the Assembly and the Speaker may either:

- (a) Direct that the message be dealt with forthwith; or
- (b) Appoint a day for the consideration of the message; or
- (c) Refer the message to the relevant Committee of the Assembly for consideration.

In this regard and in accordance with Section 7 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, the nominees are hereby committed to the Committee on Appointments for vetting and presentation to this Hon. House for approval within twenty one days. Thank you, Hon. Members.

(Applause)

PAPER LAID
REPORT ON CALENDAR OF THE FIRST
SESSION OF THE THIRD ASSEMBLY

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Stephen Mwanthi proceed and lay your Paper.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 25, I wish to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today, 18th October, 2022; the Report of the House Business Committee on Calendar of the First Session of the Third Assembly.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS
REPORT ON CALENDAR OF THE FIRST
SESSION OF THE THIRD ASSEMBLY

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Stephen Mwanthi, proceed and give notice of motion and after which Hon. Nicholas Nzioka Majority Leader also proceed and give the notice of motion.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the Calendar enables the Assembly to plan for the execution of its business and it sets out a schedule of days for the House Sittings and days of recess;

Aware that Standing Order 24(1) provides that, except for the Session commencing immediately after a general election, the regular Sessions of the Assembly shall commence on the Second Tuesday of February and terminate on the first Thursday of December;

Hon. Speaker, Further aware that Standing Order 25(1) requires the House Business Committee, with the Approval of the Assembly, to draw up the Calendar of the Assembly;

Aware that Standing Order 25(2) provides that once the Calendar of the Assembly is approved by the House, it shall be published in the Gazette, the Assembly website and at least two newspapers of national circulation;

Noting the House business Committee considered the Calendar of the First Session and compiled a report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 25, the House approves the Assembly Calendar for the First Session of the Third Assembly as tabled by the House Business Committee.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Nzioka.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE SPEAKER'S PANEL

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Standing Order 14A provides for the Speaker's panel which shall comprise of four Members who may exercise all the powers vested in the Deputy Speaker;

Aware that Members of the Speakers Panel may preside over the House in absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker as stipulated in Standing Order 14A(7);

Further aware that the Speaker in consultation with the Assembly Party Leaders submitted four members for consideration by the House Business Committee;

Aware that the House Business Committee considered the Members as submitted by the Speaker;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 14A, the House approves the nomination of following members to the Speaker's panel;

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Hon. Annastacia Mutevu | - First Member |
| 2. | Hon. Daniel Muindi | - Second Member |
| 3. | Hon. Loyd Mutua | - Third Member |
| 4. | Hon. Dickson Maundu | - Fourth Member |

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Can we have the next Order?

STATEMENT

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FROM 18TH TO 19TH OCTOBER, 2022

Hon. Speaker: I request Hon. Nicholas Nzioka the Majority Leader to proceed and give the statement to the House.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on Monday, 17th October, 2022 to ballot Business for the House pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151(6). The Committee balloted Business for the House as follows:

Tuesday, 18th October, 2022

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- a. Statement by Hon. Judas Ndawa, Leader of Minority /MCA, Matuu Ward on
 - (i) What the National and County Governments are doing to ensure that the residents of Machakos County are safeguarded from persons and institutions masquerading as microfinance institutions by loaning the residents monies and later auctioning their property.
 - (ii) Whether the institutions pay business licenses to the County Treasury and if so what measures is the County Government taking to protect wananchi.
- b. Motion that the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the address of the Governor delivered on 27th September, 2022.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

- (a) Motion that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 25, the House approves the Assembly Calendar for the First Session of the Third Assembly as tabled by the House Business Committee.
- (b) Motion that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 14A, the House approves the nomination of members to the Speaker's panel.

Wednesday, 19th October, 2022

Morning at 10.00 a. m.

- (a) Motion that the County Executive Committee Member responsible for urban development fast tracks the conferment of Matuu, Kathiani, Masii, Mwala and Masinga towns to municipalities.
- (b) Motion that pursuant to Standing Order Standing Order No. 187 the Assembly approves nominees to the Procedure and House Rules Committee.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

- (a) Statement on; What the County Executive is doing on implementation of the Emergency Fund as provided for in Section 110 of the Public Finance Management Act of 2012.
- (b) Motion that pursuant to Standing Order Standing Order 189A the Assembly approves nominees to the Powers and Privileges Committee.
- (c) Motion on adjournment of the House for recess pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 25 and the Calendar of the Assembly.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I call upon Hon. Judas Ndawa Minority Leader to proceed and give the Statement.

STATEMENT SOUGHT
HARASSMENT OF MEMBERS OF PUBLIC
BY MICRO FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, Article 231 of the Constitution of Kenya as read together with the Microfinance Act, 2006 of Parliament provides for the licensing, regulation and supervision of microfinance business and for connected purposes.

Hon. Speaker, microfinance and other lending institutions today focus on providing to the middle class wananchi and the poor in rural and urban areas, with credit facilities to set up or expand business, invest in self-employment activities and increase household security.

Noting that such lending institutions have some of the highest interest rates and also charge very high loan processing fees and late payment fees, their loans have very short repayment periods, they have very aggressive debt collection methods, with many of them harassing borrowers and auctioning their property without court orders.

Hon. Speaker, a case is cited in Matuu ward whereby some lending institutions have lent money to clients who in turn have not been able to pay. This has resulted to adverse ways of collecting the money borrowed up to even auctioning their property to recover their money. In some instances, the police have colluded to help enforce the agreements that were made by the institutions and the clients.

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 40, I wish to seek the following statement:

- i. What the National and County Governments are doing to ensure that the residents of Machakos are safeguarded from persons and institutions masquerading as microfinance institutions by loaning the residents monies and later auctioning their property
- ii. Whether the institutions pay business licenses to the County Treasury and if so what measures the County Government is taking to protect wananchi.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to request for two minutes to expound on this statement because I may not have another time to ventilate.

Hon. Speaker: Alright.

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to ventilate. Hon. Speaker, in the matter before the House, we have cited a case in Matuu but I am very sure what is happening in Matuu is also happening in other Wards and if this House does not take action, our people will continue losing their property.

Hon. Speaker, a certain businessman will come to a plot and rent a rear room. The person will give the name at the front of the door and the second name will be microfinance. It can be Judas microfinance, any name and that person will invite clients to come and borrow from that office.

Hon. Speaker, the law is very clear. The Microfinance Act of 2006 provides that the National Government must regulate, supervise and ensure that there is harmony in all the businesses which are taking part within the nation.

Hon. Speaker, if you look at the interest rates the normal, the highest that is accepted by the government, the normal banks it is only 13 percent. These microfinance institutions are lending traders or clients Ksh. 10,000 and they are required to pay Ksh. 10,000 plus Ksh 3,000 in one month. If you calculate Ksh. 3,000 for one month, that gives you 30 percent per month. If we calculate per annum it is going to be 30x12 that is 360 percent which is not acceptable anywhere within the world.

Hon. Speaker, we need to come in and assist our people. Hon. Speaker as the statement has said these microfinance or these people masquerading as microfinance are colluding with the police and the police have the mandate of ensuring that there is law and order within our nation.

Our people are being robbed in a broad day time while the police watch and if the client tries to request the police to assist the police turn a blind eye. They do not seem to hear and that is why I am saying we need to come together and address this issue.

I want to cite an example here, there is a lady by name Joan Mulavu who borrowed Ksh. 10,000 she was required to pay Ksh. 13,000 and because of unforeseen reasons, the lady fell sick so by the time she recovered the time of paying had already lapsed.

So instead of giving this particular lady ample time to organize and pay they went to her house, the confiscated the following property. They took a three-seater seat worth Ksh. 20,000, they took a two-seater seat worth Ksh. 17,000, a gas cooker *meko* worth Ksh. 4,000 a television set worth Ksh. 20,000 a woofer worth Ksh. 5,000 and two tables worth Ksh. 15,000.

Remember now if you calculate what she is supposed to pay is Ksh. 10,000 plus Ksh 3,000 that is Ksh. 13,000. They have taken property worth Ksh. 90,000 and now they are threatening that if the money is not paid within hours the property will be auctioned.

Hon. Speaker, the issue of money lending lies under the law of contract and as you are aware, we have two types of contracts, Madam Speaker. We have a liquidated agreement and non-liquidated agreement. The liquidated agreement is where parties agree if party A fails to do what is supposed to do to party B this is the remedy.

The law is very clear, Hon. Speaker; no one is entitled or no one has power to go and touch somebody's property without a court order. These people are taking an advantage of people not knowing what is contained in the law. So, Madam Speaker, this is the high time this House takes its position to ensure that there is sanity within our towns, within our county so that our people do not continue losing property.

I want to cite a case whereby a lady had lent money to go and buy a water tank and she only took Ksh. 10,000 to top up what she had. The water tank was costing Ksh. 90,000. So when she failed to pay, they went for the water tank. They found the water tank full of water and they poured that water. During this dry spell Hon. Speaker that is something which is not acceptable at all and I am requesting---

(Applause)

I am requesting Hon. Members together with the House, the rank and file down there in our Wards are watching and they are waiting for us to rescue them and this is the high time we should rescue them. Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Members you have heard from Hon. Member Mheshimiwa Ndawa about these criminal activities that are taking place somewhere. People are masquerading as micro finances and taking away property from our people. I would like to invite Members to ventilate on this matter briefly; let us not take a lot of time. Mheshimiwa Paul.

Hon. Paul Wambua (Kibauni, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to support the Statement by the Leader of Minority in this House and state that this is something that has been happening under the watch of our County Government and the security apparatus. Some of these micro finances are licensed by the Central Bank. They may not necessarily be controlled to lend at 13 percent like deposit taking banks and deposit taking micro finance institutions. However, in principles of lending, one has to lend prudently and has to consider certain things and one of those things is the capacity of the person receiving the loan to repay you back.

Most of our people do not have that capacity and therefore these shylocks or rogue micro financing institutions do not do prudent lending. Their main aim is not to make profit through proper lending but to benefit illegally from our people.

The other thing I noticed with the lenders or the shylocks is that they do not confirm properly who the owner of the alleged collateral or security is. For instance, my wife who lives in Kibauni while I am in the Assembly may decide to borrow Ksh. 10,000 on a Zebu cow that I bought from Kalawa at Ksh. 30,000. Now if my wife does not have income and I am not around, these people will come for my Zebu cow for my Kailu. Now when they come for my Kailu and I come back home and find that my Kailu is missing, what happens to that family? The family disintegrates.

So these people just take whatever is there from our illiterate constituents without regard to the true ownership of that property and therefore they contribute to family breakdown.

The other point the Leader of Minority is bringing up is very pertinent on whether these institutions contribute to our county coffers because if you are doing business in Machakos therefore you have to pay some income to our county government. I am not sure they do because some of them come from.....like where I am is at the border of Makueni and Machakos and some come from Makueni and do business in Machakos, rob Machakos people and go back to Makueni. Therefore, Machakos ends up losing rather than benefiting.

I request this House to speak some little sense to the people who handle licensing so that we protect our people from these rogue lenders or shylocks. Madam Speaker, this protection apart from enabling our people not to lose income will also strengthen family values and ties because when one family member borrows and the family assets disappear the family disintegrates. I support the Leader of Minority's Statement very strongly and I beg to end it there, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. On that account I also know that these rogue micro finance institutions, once you do not pay, they also put your name into the CRB. So this is a serious thing Members; let us take seriously and ventilate on it further and come up with some outcome. Mheshimiwa.

Hon. Constance Mbula (Nominated, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to support the Statement and say that what the Minority Leader has thought of is very good and it is overdue. Hon. Speaker, sometimes you keep wondering, it has been happening for a very long time and we have been left looking like orphans in our own government because this people have even had a habit of coming to the homes plus Chinese people carrying all sorts of wares and they will leave them there; *sufurias* or anything and they will tell you 'no money for now' and go away.

They will even leave you with wares worth more than Ksh. 20,000 then come the day you agreed and you will receive more than 100 calls and then you will ask yourself; really can you not wait for a longer period of time? They keep threatening you then you wonder about our government and wonder if these Chinese are licensed also and how do they enter into our country because you see them two or three at your gate, they cannot speak fluent English, they cannot speak Swahili but they will keep pointing to you what they have.

Very nice cups, very nice things and because some of us have been housewives and we have not seen these things and we are not asked to pay anything, you agree easily then the worst comes later. They want to take you, your family members are there watching and they are demanding yet when they brought and left you the things your family members were not there. You did not agree on a written note and you are left just like dead. So, Madam Speaker, I think you need to do something like very quickly and urgently and left the departments concerned know we are suffering. We have become orphans to all sorts of thing.

Even these ones called...this Swahili name. They will come and leave them bed sheets and everything, I think they are Somalis and they go away and they believe that if she does not pay I will do something. Something will happen to her and they will go and you will keep thinking I must pay you end up selling your cows and you will not come until you call him. So we need to look at this very seriously; whatever they are doing to us it is a very high shylocking and even those shylocks they need to pay taxes. They will give you lots of things worth Ksh. 50,000 or 100,000 yet they are not paying taxes. We are working here and the little you get you must pay for it. So, Madam Speaker, let us move very fast and do away with these shylocks. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. The very last; Deputy Speaker then after that we can have Mheshimiwa...

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support that Statement brought by the Hon. Minority Leader that that team of guys is a team that I think the County Government together with the National government should come out clearly and try to help our people. Madam Speaker, it has even become that our National Police Service officers are sometimes acting as auctioneers without the legal documents that are required when auctioning and they are the same people who are supposed to protect the rule of law. So when they go and confiscate goods from our people then it becomes a big problem.

I have a similar problem where a certain lady wanted money to travel to Israel on a church tour and she took that money. Sometimes it is very easy to get that money but what happened to that family? When they came they took everything from her including her bed and even went ahead and removed some iron sheets from that house. When the man came back and found what had happened including the cows that the man had, the man just became blind out of stress. It is a real story a person that I can show you.

Those are some of the things people are going through. Sometimes they are lending money to people who are not even in business. Who are not doing any business and because there are no regulations that are being followed. So our request should be let Kenya Police Service and all the authorities come out clean and make sure those people and even some of those shylocks are not licensed by the County Governments. They just rent some small rooms somewhere and start giving people their money or wares.

So it is an area that needs to be looked into and make sure that old mums are protected; some of these things they do not understand and they think it is simple money. It becomes a problem when it the time of paying. I have a lady who left home, I think it has taken her more than four months or five just because she entered into debt with those people and she had to leave the home because she cannot come back home. The husband probably.....and that is another family that broke so it is an area that needs to be checked very well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, DS. Members, you can hear how the situation is sad out there. Mheshimiwa Vincent then after that Mheshimiwa Rose, after that Mheshimiwa Kalama Ward, Mheshimiwa Johanna. Lastly and not least Mheshimiwa Grace.

Hon. Vincent Mutie (Upper Kaewa/Iveti, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We associate ourselves with that Statement because we have a story and that story relates one to another. I have the same cases; in fact, I have had people coming to my home to ask for money to help in settling those debts and they expect us to give them those monies. Inasmuch as we are living in a free market, there also need to be regulations because most of these lenders take advantage of the poverty that our people are going through.

Whereas we can talk about invoking the public order and the police to act and we also know that these police are part of the scheme and most police benefit from that scheme especially when they are send to pick that property, I think the County Government also needs to provide some awareness to our people so that they can know who to borrow from and who not to borrow from.

Secondly, the County Government should be able to provide some means of escape for these people so that they just borrow out of the problem state that they are going through and at the end of the day. In fact, some of those people they borrow to buy food; they borrow for small needs that they have and some of these needs can be addressed by the government.

So we invite also the government to understand the social welfare responsibility that it has to our people. These shylocks take advantage of the poverty situation in our areas. They take advantage that; look this woman is not able to buy food for her children, she is not able to equip her house' so they provide money for that but they know that they are targeting the property of this poor person. Many families are broken up. I have a lady in my ward who has run away from home for three years. The children are there suffering and the husband has no wife so the man results to drinking heavily because of frustration.

So what our Minority Leader has raised is not a story; it is a real thing that is happening in our areas. We need to help the government to come up with policies, we need to have a fund for our women in the rural areas where they can borrow from their government and it will help them. We need to have a framework through which these people can be taught how to save, how to do business if they want to borrow for business and the government should be able to cushion our people from this kind of exorbitant borrowing which is happening across the county.

People are borrowing because they are poor and we can help them through bringing up proper policies and the government of the day especially the county government acting on these policies so that our people are not taken advantage of. Therefore, we support that Statement and we would be supportive of any measure that would be undertaken to help our people live peacefully. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa Vincent. Mheshimiwa Rose.

Hon. Rose Wavinya (Nominated, UDA): Asante Madam Speaker. Minority, huo mswaada umetoa ni wa maana sana na una huzunisha kila mtu hapa. Boma nyingi zimevunjika hata bila kuongea sana ingekuwa ya maana serikali yetu ya Machakos County tuweke sheria. Tukisema watu wetu wasipewe hio, wasikopeshwe na hizo nini hii hawatapewa lakini tukiwachilia watu wetu wataisha. Watu wataisha! Boma nyingi hazina raha, watu hawana raha; mtu analala kivyake mwenzake kivyake na ni sababu ya shida.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, naomba, na wajumbe tuangalie kabisa. Nime *support*.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa Rose. Mheshimiwa Maeke.

Hon. Eng. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to stand to echo and really support the Statement that has been brought before the House and as you heard just from a few it is a real problem that is touching our people and I will borrow from the Bible that say my people do perish due to lack of knowledge and understanding. Our people are perishing but thank God we are here as legislators and we are here to help our people.

My prayer is within what we can do as the Members of the County Assembly to come up with ways because you see it is free business of willing buyer willing seller but definitely our people have a trust on us and I have seen those people come these organized groups as we call them the *mwethya* groups and they are coming in the name of they want to uplift their lives and some of them are even giving the loans against some of the properties which they have taken a lot of time to accumulate. So my prayer is this; as we try to look into the regulations and trying to.....because corruption is very high even if you try to tell somebody do not pick a loan and you are not giving an alternative, but as we heard from the Governor Her Excellency Wavinya Ndeti has a solution for the same.

If this Fund which she promised people can be bankrolled very quickly and we get it, you will find that will be the solution for this lenders because they are lending Ksh. 10,00 or 20,000 or 5,000 and as Hon. Vincent has said, they are borrowing for food.

Secondly, there is the hustler fund that the National government has been speaking about. If those things can come quickly and through the office of the MCA, we constitute one, we do public participation or educate this people concerning the dangers of lending to this people and there can be a checklist for the people who are coming in to our village because they are known,

some of them come in the name of we are NGO trying to give this and this and thorough scrutiny is done and then we have a reporting structure like they have to report to the Chief and the Chief will help us to understand really what is happening.

So the law of if you look at the Micro Finance Act it bars somebody coming to your or even a bank cannot come to auction you but this people are coming to auction meaning that there is a lot of collusion so even the people who are colluding can be termed as criminals because they are coming to your house, they take everything.

(Applause)

So it is not something that should be left at the floor of this House. I propose a committee of inquiry should be put up or a task force either through this County Assembly or the Executive and come up with solution because our people are suffering. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Mheshimiwa Johana.

Hon. Johana Munyao (Mutituni, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support this Statement; it is a sorry state to see our people suffer under the hands of such dubious institutions, I have also several cases in my Ward where women have committed suicide because they find themselves in situations where they are unable even to either repay the loan, they are unable to stop such institutions from auctioning and at times you find that even the timings and even the operations lack professionalism.

It is a very annoying situation and I would request that we advise that a crackdown on such institutions is done such that we are able even we are able to find out whether they are properly registered and again if the processes they are using to recover and also to lend and recover the money is really in line with the Central Bank guidelines on qualifications of such lending institutions.

Madam Speaker, it is very annoying because even the factors which are supposed to be considered when lending money to any potential borrower, they are never considered, there are cases where even once the husband has used the Identity Cards for their spouses and you realized that a family is being auctioned even without the knowledge of the other spouse.

I would request that we support what our colleague from Kalama Hon. Maeke has suggested we have a serious commission of inquiry especially for this County and even nationally so that we are able to even get a data bank whether all this Institutions are known, properly registered and whether the business they are carrying out is valid so that we do not expose our residents to such risks.

We have also come across even strangers in our villages without even any identification. I have in different occasions questioned, which institutions they are working for, they can even visit homes, selling some businesses which they cannot even be able to qualify that they are really doing real business, they are unable to direct you to whoever has send them. Our youth which are also being tossed up and down and soon we may have the situations we are getting from some of this foreign countries; whatever we are seeing in middle east and others, such sufferings because you are employed, you are not given an identification, you cannot tell who has employed you, you can even be confused for a thug going round the villages.

There is a lot of mess and I am requesting that we bring order and I support this Statement. We want to know whether the institutions pay licenses, understand whether what the National and even the County Government is doing to protect the residents because the more we expose them, they are our mothers, fathers, siblings and we are likely to lose a lot in the hands of unlicensed institutions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Mheshimiwa Grace.

Hon. Grace Bahati (Kyeleni, IND): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do support the motion, reason being in my Ward specifically we have really suffered with our people and one of the things like any other Hon. Members have mentioned, these are people who are moving in and out of our people's homes. First we do not know what their agenda is; is their agenda just making money, lending money to our people or what else are they actually looking in to our people's home.

Secondly, we would also want to know whether they have the permit because some of them are foreigners. We want to know whether they are allowed in our country and if the things that they are selling to us are they approved by KEBS.

Basically, one of the incidents in my ward specifically, we have people who are selling food. These are consumables and they are selling them at a very cheap price and they are willing to give them with extended time to pay but the other thing we are wondering, if our own country we are not able to afford a 2kg flour how about someone selling it at Ksh. 150; is it really approved by our institutions? Are they good enough for our people to consume.

The other thing is that the people who are lending money, most of them are masquerading as table banking and others of course as micro financing. We would also want to know, do they pay our County, KRA taxes, we would also want to know because when you see the interest rates they are paying for instance for Ksh. 1,000, they charge Ksh. 100 per week; this is why our people are unable to pay this money so when someone borrows Ksh. 5,000 for a week it means every week that Ksh. 5,000 gives a penalty of Ksh. 500 so when you multiply that in two months' time the interest is way more than the principal that they got which you know that it is not allowed in any institution in this country.

We should also have the grace period for them to be able to pay even if the time has elapsed; we need to have that extension of time for them to pay without their properties being auctioned. We also need to know whether do they check the approvals of their spouses or even daughters because we have kids and their parents due to their naivety you buy property, the documents they have or kettles in the home, so we get a call and you are told your mother, dad or grandparents, things are being auctioned out of their naivety.

Our people's lands are being auctioned by a sheer Ksh. 1,000 and that land might be worth over a Ksh. 1 million. That is not right, it is not right even in the eyes of God and as our people we should be able to curb this people before they take captive of our county.

The other thing I would also want to know is because it is in line of the Governor to be able to give our people money for table banking, we can work with our community, the ones we go to ask our votes from, the ones who are already registered. Can we work and walk with them, can we fund their organizations or their groups so that if they were able to know that when they lend money from that they have better interest to pay and there is a grace period and in case something happens we still have to be gracious in the process of repayment of the money and be able to secure and grow as a county. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa Grace. Members, I think we have ventilated enough and I want to make these few remarks also. The reason why our people are going taking that direction of borrowing from those people who either are not licensed, they are just rogues who are trying to get money from our people is because of the poverty levels that we have in our county. Members, we are here to improve the status of our people. So I would kindly request in the course of our term here in this House, let us strive to see how we can deal with this issue of poverty where it is now it is on another level that we are not doing well.

So it is my appeal to Members that we tackle, we look for ways in which we can improve the status of our people, especially in the grassroots so that we don't just sit here and talk about ourselves and our welfare and we are not thinking about our people such things that we are hearing in the House today could not be there if they were economically empowered.

With those few remarks, I would like to say this, about that matter, that this being a social injustice, I wish to commit this Statement to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee to file a response and within the response should take into consideration the recommendations Members have made here including and not limited to making an inquiry coming up either with an inquiry they know how to come to go about it to make sure that will include all the recommendations that members have come up with so that we can move together and get these matter settled. Thank you, Members.

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Point of concern, Madam Speaker. On the same, Madam Speaker., you have committed the statement to the relevant committee and I am requesting since there is that period that you have given, is there a way we can stop these people from harassing our people as we handle the matter because if we leave it that way, today, before the end of today, they will go to somebody and pick other properties, tomorrow they will pick another property, so as we handle the matter all the property belonging to those who borrowed will have been taken.

Madam Speaker, let us treat this matter with a serious issue it deserves. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: The issue of what measures we can take in the meantime is that I direct to the committee that is concerned, the one we have just mentioned, to liaise with the Committee on the Executive side because then they have the machinery to come up with the ways, in the shortest time, within during the recess, they can see how they will go about it to maybe to release the other ways of doing this.

See how this can be stopped in the meantime, as we go as the committee concerned deals with the matter. On that basis, I direct that maybe by the time we come back from recess, the committee reports back what they have done in the course of those two weeks. Is that in order Members? Is it is that Okay rather?

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Madam, I was of the opinion that we should direct the people charged or the department charged with managing security to ensure that whatever has been confiscated from these traders is not auctioned because I am very sure within two weeks, those properties will be gone and it will be a serious problem. I am also requesting in the Office of the Clerk can also do a letter to the District Security Chairperson, who is or who

happens to be the Deputy County Commissioner or we do a letter to the County Commissioner because he has structures he has a way of communicating.

Hon. Speaker: Okay, maybe I could inquire from you Mheshimiwa. You talked about several people whose property was confiscated, is it something that happened recently or is it something.....where are these people whose property has been taken?

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): The problem is serious in Matuu town and what we are talking about is exactly what is happening right now. The person I have mentioned by name mentioned somebody here; the properties were taken one day ago. So, it is the day before yesterday.

Hon. Speaker: How many people have been affected?

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): I have a list of 60 traders.

Hon Speaker: Whose property has been taken?

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Yes and others are not doing their business because of fear, these people are coming to arrest the traders, they force them to open their rooms, so that property can be moved out. The power of arresting lies upon the police, no other person has the power to arrest. The financier, the most notorious financier is called Simple Pay and because of the word simple, it attracts---

Hon. Speaker: I only want somebody who is giving us a solution on this issue *peke yake*. Only who is that person? Who is that Hon. Member? Mheshimiwa go ahead on the issue of how to tackle that property that has been taken.

Hon. Francis Kitaka (Ndalani, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. These matters are of grave concern, and the best thing and the simplest way to stop them is first to have the person or the entities concerned, addressed directly so that they can stop the menace first and hold all the properties that have not been auctioned in waiting for the response that will get.

Hon Speaker: Now addressed by who?

Hon. Francis Kitaka (Ndalani, WDM-K): We can have them be addressed by the Commissioner, the DCC and served in writing for our Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Okay. Mheshimiwa.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is unfortunate that these incidents are happening, Members have attested but Madam Speaker, I need to inform this House of one thing. In as much as the seeker of this Statement would wish immediate action taken, we also need to be guided by the fact that an agreement between two people or three people or within a certain entity of persons is binding. I happen to have someone and I give this information with a lot of resilience.

I happen to have someone who has been handling these micro finances, lending money giving women utensils and even foodstuffs but Madam Speaker, I used to put your information and awareness that, before these loans or these goodies are dispersed to these either individuals or groups, they are notified clearly given the nitty-gritties of the same and they go ahead and commit themselves, either through groups or individuals. These micro finances, I can even confirm are registered and have operating licenses even within our County.

So the best thing that we can do to help the residents of Matuu, as per the seeker of the Statement is, as you have committed this issue under the committee of Justice and Legal Affairs is to summon that microfinance and come to an agreeable situation because they have a binding agreement that even if taken to any court of law is justifiable. This House has no powers at all to stop somebody's business, which is legally registered, Madam Speaker. There is a legal binding document that those people took so the best way is for this House through the committee you have committed---

Hon. Speaker: Yes Mheshimiwa Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think we have got several sets of these cases. Yes, it is true that we have licensed institutions, and we have unlicensed ones. In our case, we are referring to the unlicensed cartels in fact; they are just people who are on the streets giving out money and I am very sure that some of these people have not been licensed. My feeling would be that, yes, the County Assembly is a House of procedure and we are not the implementers. and now that we have got departments that are supposed in the county government that are supposed to deal with such cases, I think we can possibly direct to the concerned department from the executive to deal with the matter immediately.

If we say that we start summoning them, in the County Assembly we are not implementers and we have the departments concerned to do that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Majority Leader.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the mover of the statement should substitute the word microfinance and call it plainly Shylocks because I think microfinance, mostly I am talking about in Machakos, most of them are licensed, and we know their offices. Of course, when you don't pay, they process you properly and if they are going to auction you, they will process you properly. So I think in this case, we are not talking about those micro finances, we are talking about shylocks. So, that we don't belabor the point too much, let us call them shylocks because they are just people who open shop, just like any other business.

My input would be that the Executive intervenes by denying them license to operate because if they are denied licensed to operate, then they cannot take it as a business. Actually, their business is not selling money or buying money, their business is to target what they can get from you, they sell they make triple. In fact, I don't think they look forward for you to paying what you have borrowed; they look forward to taking your property. So they are not in real business of buying or selling money. So let us not call them microfinance let us call them Shylocks because they are indeed Shylocks. Yes,

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Mheshimiwa Mwonga and you are the last.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, I want to start by then thanking the Hon. Member for Matuu and all the other members who have contributed on this matter. Mr. Speaker, Members have ventilated on this matter and the issue at hand now is how we are going to safeguard the properties of 10 of the 60 people if it is true, they are 60. How are we going to safeguard their property from being auctioned?

Madam Speaker, I have listened to some Members here suggesting that the County Assembly should write to the County Commissioner. Madam Speaker, I think that is not the way and the route we should take. Madam Speaker, in this House, we have a conveyor belt who conveys issues of the Executive to the Assembly, and should do the same, should be a conveyor belt of the issues the pertinent is being raised by Members from this House to the Executive side and that is none other than the Leader Majority.

Madam Speaker, the issue we are discussing here is a serious issue and I am talking out of experience end of take. If I were the Leader of Majority, immediately after this I would consult the Executive and tell them the business before the House and what Members have said. So, Madam Speaker, I am wondering why we are laboring on this when we own the apparatus. The Leader of Majority is a conveyor belt to both sides. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Maybe we can bring this matter to an end and I would wish to conclude it this way. I am guided this is a Statement and not a motion and that being the case, the committee I had directed takes up this matter for Justice and Legal affairs Committee is at liberty and I am sure it will be willing to include all these discussions we have had. It can summon, it has all the powers to summon those stakeholders including even the Commissioner for a discussion, including the county government and the County police as stakeholders and find the way forward towards this matter.

I will still say that, that committee takes up its work and make sure that everybody has been sorted and property belonging to the Matuu people is protected. Hon. Members, that is my ruling. Thank you.

(Applause)

MOTION

THANKS OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC
POLICY CONTAINED IN THE ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR

(Hon. Nicholas Nzioka on 18.10.2022)

(Resumption of Debate on the Motion tabled on 28.09.2022)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Majority Leader, proceed.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 20(5), the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor delivered on 27th September, 2022.

Madam Speaker, this is a continuation of the debate of the Address of the Governor delivered on the 27th of September and going by what has been addressed here earlier, I think

the Governor's speech partly the solution of what we have been discussing is contained in the Governors Address. She talked about availability of table banking for women groups, empowering of businesses and I think through such interventions what is happening in Matuu and in this County in general we may be in a better place following those interventions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I invite Members, particularly those who had not contributed to the debate. Proceed, Mheshimiwa.

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Point of Order, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, proceed Mheshimiwa.

PROCEDURAL MOTION
EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am rising on Standing Order 27 which talks about extension of time.

Hon. Speaker, aware that Standing order 27(2) provides that the Speaker shall interrupt business at 12.30 p.m. for the morning sitting;

Aware that Standing Order 27(3) provides that the House may resolve to extend its sitting time;

Aware that Standing Order 27(4) requires a motion to extend sitting time to be moved at least 30 minutes before the time appointed of adjournment;

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the motion that the House resolves to extend its sitting time until the business in the Order Paper is concluded.

I wish to call my brother the Majority Leader to second the motion.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K) seconded

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House resumed business as per the Order Paper)

Hon. Speaker: The floor is yours Members; you can debate

Hon. Francis Kitaka (Ndalani, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to contribute on the Governors Address in regard to water. Our Hon. Governor has indicated very well that she will be seeking to have all homesteads connected to water. This will be achieved if we employ various technologies in regard to addressing our water shortages in our constituencies especially in Machakos County. I would suggest that the Executive purposes to work on hydrams in all the rivers and streams across our county so that we can have maximum water supply with minimum expenditure.

As you know, hydrams is a technology that does not need fuel power or electricity so this is a water supply method that will ensure our electorates get water sufficiently and reliably.

I also want to mention about the Wikwatyo fund. We all know that most of our electorates especially our women are the major casualties of shylocks we have discussed this morning so this fund will go a long way to assist our organized and individual electorates in addressing the money needs. So I would want to encourage the Executive that we have this fund operationalized so that our people can have access.

On matters education and more importantly the bursaries, our Governor indicated that her government is working towards improving or putting additional monies on the bursary kitty. Previously, the monies that were being given to the wards, the ranking Members who are here can attest to that, less than Ksh. 1 million was being shared per ward in the bursary which could reach minimum people.

Our people are suffering, right now they are crying about school fees and we request the Executive commits to putting aside additional monies for the bursaries so that we can reach out to many pupils who deserve this fund. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Mheshimiwa Ndeti.

Hon. Helen Ndeti (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for catching my eye, I had to move from my previous position to here so that you can see me.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Although I am told you had contributed.

Hon. Helen Ndeti (Nominated, WDM-K): Yes, I wish to make a few comments on the Governor's speech. I find the speech very focused; she comes from Machakos and she knows the problems Machakos has and her first priority is water. Water is life and our people are suffering right now because of the prolonged drought. I am sure she is not only looking at the funding that is going to come from the National Treasury, I imagine she is working with other water providing solution companies so that at the end of the day everybody in Machakos has water.

Secondly, I wish to comment on the issue of table banking and I think setting up a fund to assist capacity building of our women. Most of the times women are the ones who take care of the households and when they do not have money you can imagine what happens in those families. When Madam Governor sets up the table banking and a fund where women can borrow and their properties will not be auctioned, I see it is as a very important thing to do because these women will be able to borrow from one another, will guarantee each other and the issue of getting loans from people who are not even licensed will no longer be there. That is more or less of what I would want to comment on the Governor's speech.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa.

Hon. Mathew Ndunda (Kangundo North, IND): Thank you Madam Speaker. In support of Governor's Speech, my first point is on the issue of bursaries I believe our Hon. Governor---

Hon. Speaker: Maybe you could introduce yourself.

Hon. Mathew Ndunda (Kangundo North, IND): Thank you. My name is Mathew Ndunda from Kangundo North representing special members from that area. I am talking about the issue of bursaries; I believe our Governor promised bursaries can be raised to around Ksh. 5 million basing that the first term and second is where most of our pupils go home because of school fees, if it can be divided in to two you find that at least the first term we get Ksh. 2.5 Million and then the other subsequent term we get an equal amount to ensure that you will be in a position to give at least all students and ensure that they get education as they deserve as compared to give less than Ksh. 1 million where you find yourself giving only a few and others are left questioning why they are not being considered.

The other issue concerning sub locations where our able Governor talked about that every sub location will get a dispensary. I would support that point basing that you find at night we have some issues like serious sickness like cases of pregnancies whereby you find somebody want to go and deliver. So having such said dispensaries in every sub-location you find it will be easier in that at the end of the day our people get medical care as it is required.

Then the last point is concerning the Wikwatyo fund. We are trying to talk about women and I agree they are the backbone when it comes to matters of households. However, we are forgetting about the youth and old *wazees*. In fact, in my area there are groups of *wazee* whereby they form their kind of groups and so forth and you find when these elders and these youth have the said funds, at least they are able to move their community forward especially on matters development.

When we support these elders at least in these groups and they are registered, then it means the cases of alcoholism which has gone down will help these kind of elders to bring strong support in our society and also enable our societies to grow forth. When it comes to the youth you find there are youths in fact I belief if not all of us about 80 percent we came on assurance of the youth that we are going to ensure that their future is positive in terms of development. Even others day after the other you find they are asking issues of the job.

So now supporting such youths with funds at least we are going to help them and by so doing we are going to eradicate cases of alcoholism, issues of idleness and so forth and you find the vices which are mostly rampant within our societies are not the case. So my wish is support the Governor's speech by point of at least strengthening all members *borake* they are in point of they are point of institutions and they are in a position to ensure that development is given to all members positively and more effectively. Thank you. I rest my case.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. We will have Mheshimiwa Katiti and Mheshimiwa of Muvuti Ward and lastly Mheshimiwa Senga.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Madam Speaker---

Hon. Speaker: We are running out of time; hope Members you understand that.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is just few remarks. First, I want to commend the speech of our able Governor but there are some issues that I want to address just two or three. You know it is normally said a country that has no youth is as good as dead. It is good that she factors so much on the youth. What I want to urge the County Government and the Executive is just to hasten the implementation of these digital Apps so that

they can create employment and the mentorship for the youth so that we cannot just sit and watch our country going to waste because eventually we will have no youth that take care for this country.

The other thing is about the staffing of Early Childhood Education (ECDE) centers. I have gone round within my Ward and some of the ECDE centers have no permanently employed teachers. If they have one it is just one and if it is possible I would encourage that we have two fully employed by the County Government.

On the issue of staffing in the dispensaries, the subordinate staff there are those dispensaries that do not have a watchman and a cleaner. So let us look unto it and eventually if we do that everything will be okay. I want to comment everything that she said I support it. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Mheshimiwa Muvuti Ward.

Member for Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe (Hon. Joseph Mulinge, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First I would like to thank the Almighty God for giving me this opportunity to serve the people of Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe. Regarding the Governor's speech after listening very well I will say the Governor's speech was full of goodies, good wishes of people of Machakos County.

The Governor recommended the need of leaders of Machakos County to come together for the hastening of quick delivery services of people of Machakos County. Also, the Governor addressed the major issues facing the people of Machakos and she said she has given the Executive 100 days to mitigate and to come up with good measures of how to solve these problems within those 100 days.

I congratulate the Governor because when she was campaigning she realized the problems people of Machakos County are facing. One, lack of food and she came up with a good measure of food security and she addressed it through coming up of harvesting water, creating weirs in the rivers and de-silting dams so that when the rain come, farmers can use that water to irrigate their farms. By doing so, we will create enough food that can sustain people of Machakos.

Secondly, the Governor touched on socio-economic development. Hon. Members, you know in our County, majority of youths are not employed. Through socio-economic empowerment that is how youths can get employment and through employment they will be in a position to pay taxes and paying taxes they will empower the County to do development.

On that note, the Governor did not come clearly on areas of taxes. For instance, the area I come from Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, Kathemboni, those areas most people do not do farming but they rely on trading and the license they are paying they are so high; you cannot compare with the earning they make per month. You will find somebody is doing salon business is paying Ksh. 6,000 when per day he cannot make Ksh. 200 per day.

So I urge the committee for trade to sit down and ventilate and come up with measures that the small traders who are doing business can come up with good ways of a license that will give them an opportunity to do business and to have a good environment for doing business.

Also the area I come from of Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, she talked about infrastructural development. In my place, most of the roads, when it rains, these roads are not passable so I congratulate Her Excellency the Governor because of coming with imitative of *barabara mashinani*. Right now in my place, I have a grader grading the roads and people

from Muvuti they are happy because of that and if the initiative will continue, it means that within the next five years most of the roads in Muvuti Kiima Kimwe will be tarmacked.

(Applause)

Another area that maybe the Governor did not touch about is that in my area Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe we have an area called Industrial area. Most of the industries have collapsed, they have closed and these are some of the industries where students from Machakos University will venture and get attachment. So I urge the committee for trade to lobby with the Executive to see whether we can have a place for the start-up; a place where we can allocate for the upcoming small industries whereby graduates can start doing their business like processing of food, animal feeds and also tapping the younger ones skills.

If you go in Nairobi we have a place called Kariobangi Light Industries and that is where the young people from universities go and start harnessing their ability and if we will be in a position to bridge that, these small industries will employ our youth and even the County will earn income from that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Mheshimiwa Senga.

Member for Kangundo Central (Hon. Dickson Maundu, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for catching my eye. First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for giving me an opportunity to be in this Hon. House. Secondly, I want to thank the people of Kangundo Central Ward for electing me to come and represent them.

Madam Speaker, I want to echo the words from my colleagues the Hon. Members who have supported the motion of Her Excellency Madam Wavinya Ndeti the Governor of Machakos County. Madam Speaker, I want to comment on the issue of dispensary when she spoke about the dispensaries in the Wards. I think it touched me because where I come from we have Kangundo Level 4 hospital which is mostly congested due to vicinity of where it is located. This is because it is located next to the town of Kangundo which has many people around it.

So I want to commend the speech of Governor on putting up extra dispensaries and a case in point in my Ward is the Ngiini dispensary which was started by the Hon. Member who was in this House in the First Assembly. It is halfway-constructed and that means monies from this Government were not properly utilized seeing that halfway-constructed means it is not helping neither the people of Kagundo Central Ward nor the County Government of Machakos. So I wish the Hon. Governor could come up with a way of putting up into completion that dispensary.

Thirdly, Madam Speaker, I want to support the motion on infrastructure and that is the roads. Where I come from is a hilly area and when it rains, most of the roads are impassable. So I want to urge Her Excellency the Governor as much as we grade the roads, they should also consider having some murrum on the same so that these roads can last at least two to three years.

Lastly, I want to speak on the ECDE classes. Madam Speaker, most of our primary schools do not have ECDE classes and as much as we talk about education, the foundation of education is ECDE classes and I urge the Governor that if she could put some extra monies to make sure at least each and every primary school has an ECDE class. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Members. I now want to call upon the mover of the motion to reply. Mheshimiwa Majority Leader.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka, (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to thank the Hon. Members for engaging and interrogating the Address of the Governor to the House. We have noted that a lot of her manifesto during campaigns are contained in the address and I hope and wish that she is also going to align our manifestos as Members to hers so that at the end of the day we are all going to be winners and come 2027 we are going to have a greater chance of coming back to the House. Thank you, Members. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: There being no business I now adjourn the House to the afternoon today at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.29 p.m.