

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 18th October, 2017

The House met at 2.35 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Good afternoon, Hon. Members. I welcome you again to this sitting of this afternoon. Hon. Member Cosmus, are you with us or you are not with us? Have a seat.

(Laughter)

Alright. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

STATEMENTS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MACHAKOS COUNTY PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT 2016

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this order we have statements as listed in the appendix and I call upon Hon. Justus Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I have two statements. Statement number one; Madam Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), I wish to seek a statement on the status of the implementation of the Machakos County persons with Disabilities Act 2016 which in particular sought the establishment of a board and a fund to run the same. Thank you Madam Speaker.

ADHERENCE OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS TO ARTICLE 54(2) OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA

Then I want to do the second statement. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2)(c), I wish to seek a statement of the extent of adherence of the County Government of Machakos to Article 54(2) of the Constitution of Kenya which states that the state shall ensure

progressive implementation of the principle that at least five percent of the members of the public elective and appointive bodies are persons with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, I need on this particular statement just to add a footnote that if we read together that Article 54 in our constitution, I want to read it together with Sections 4 and 9(1) of Machakos County Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Now, Section 4 says 'the County Government shall take steps to the maximum of its available resources with a view of achieving the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Then 9(1) says 'no person shall deny another person with disability access to opportunities for suitable employment and Madam Speaker, you see while on this statement, I am talking about Machakos County Government and Machakos County Government is consists of two arms. That is legislative and executive. My point is this, Madam Speaker ad Hon. Members, that there is no need or it becomes impossible, practically, to continue bashing the executive to do some of these things while us who make laws in this House cannot implement the laws that we make.

If you look at employees, we have more than 100 employees. I have not seen one who appears to belong to my constituency. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Katumo. The two statements have been received before this House. They are taken with the seriousness they deserve and for the first statement that you made, I direct that the chairperson of the committee on education and social welfare do deal with this matter as extensively as possible and that there be filed a response with this House on the 14th November, 2017 at 2.30 p.m. On that particular day this House will listen to the response of the chair of that committee in line with the statement by the Hon. Member.

The second statement that the Hon. Member made makes equally weighty issues. It is about human rights and it is about preaching the constitution and living the constitution. To that end again the Chair directs that the chairperson or the chairman of the committee on education and social welfare do have his or her committee deal with this matter in great detail and bring a response to this House on the matter that is in the statement on the 14th November, 2017 at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

POLICY ON COUNTY ANNUAL TREE PLANTING WEEK

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this order we do have a motion as is indicated by Hon. Justus Katumo. Hon. Justus Katumo, you are looking at the Chair like you are not aware that you have a motion to present.

Hon. Katumo: I am aware.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. It is your turn.

Hon. Katumo: Madam Speaker, thank you again. Madam Speaker;

That aware that the national tree planting day is celebrated in Kenya every year in Kenya on April 21st:

Aware that trees are important, valuable and necessary to our existence and that without trees we humans would not exist on this beautiful planet;

Aware that during the climate change public awareness organized by UNEP in Nairobi in October, 2015, Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to combat climate change through tree planting;

Remembering that the vision of the environmental sector in the Machakos County Integrated Development Plan is not have a county living in a clean, secure and sustainable environment;

Informed that trees have medicinal remedies and that indigenous trees are adaptive and bear unique characteristics of the place;

Recognizing that trees act as carbon sinks by locking carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas and a major contributor of global warming;

Further aware that trees attract rainfall, intercept and redistribute precipitation as well as store water reserves act as buffers of the ecosystem during drought;

Madam Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves that the County Government of Machakos draws up a policy to set up County Annual Tree Planting Week during the short rains of October to December this year.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, I want to call---

Hon. Speaker: Your seconder?

Hon. Katumo: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Katumo: At this juncture, I want to call upon the chairperson of environment committee Hon. Kisini member of County Assembly from Athi River Township. Thank you.

Hon. Kisini: Madam Speaker, I want to second that motion because it is very important. We all know the law and how important it is to have trees. You know trees make rains or they are part of the ecosystem and I want to second the motion that we set a date as proposed by the Hon. Member who has moved this motion to have a tree planting day. Thank you, I have seconded.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Ngunga: Point of correction, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Ngunga: Thank you. Hon. Justus Katumo, unless you are careful your motion is not going to see the light of day because your seconder is proposing we set a day and I thought you were talking about a week here. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kisini, as seconder do you want to take note of that?

Hon. Kisini: Yes I was on the....the proposer is saying that we set a day of tree planting week during the short rains of October to December. That is what I meant. I am sorry I withdraw that other statement. Let us set a date according to the proposer. A week? Nimesema a day?

Hon. Speaker: Just read the motion Hon. Member. Look at the motion.

Hon. Kisini: I am proposing that we set a day as---

Hon. Speaker: Look at the motion, Hon. Member.

Hon. Kisini: He is talking of October to December when the rains are there isn't it? A week, okay let us go by that. Thank you.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Katumo the mover and Hon. Kisini. Order in the House. Hon. Brian Kisila, order, so that we want to proceed from where the seconder Hon. Kisini has reached. Allow me now members to propose the question.

(Question proposed)

This is a motion that is now open for discussion members. Can I have Hon. Museku?

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to support that motion that has been floated by Hon. Katumo on the County setting aside a day or a week in which the County will be planting trees. As the Hon. Member has said trees are life. Today in the morning we had a motion on water and the only way you can replenish that water which we are all crying for here in the morning is to ensure that our County is well vegetated with trees.

Trees give us oxygen, trees provide catchment areas for the replenishment of our aquifers which in turn makes our county be able to produce the beautiful climate we have especially in Iveti hills.

During the time of the second president of this country His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, you remember he had initiated projects on tree planting which did very good for this country. There used to be a very famous saying is you cut one plant two. That we did for more than 10 years but we have watched over the last 10 years, we have watched as trees are being felled without any replenishment. There is growing demand for building materials the County develops and people are turning to their local trees at home because the cost of timber has gone so high that people prefer to use the local trees as timber for building the houses.

The effect of that has been there is a lot of deforestation going on in this county. Drought, we are crying of drought. In my area here during June/July it used to be very cold. We used to use things we used to call *ngalalai* that is a saying for a cane where we used to put cow dung and stuff like that and then you roll it like that to keep warm because the place is very cold. Why? We had a lot of trees the climate was fantastic, lots of water but now as a result of this continued of this draining of these natural resources we are experiencing drought even here in Machakos Town.

So I would like this House to ensure that we have some heritage to pass on to the future generations. We do not want to be the people who were there when all the trees vanished from the beautiful county of Machakos. It is our duty to ensure that we leave this place better than we found it. So, we found our fathers growing trees and we see that the trees are deteriorating then it is upon us to take it upon us ourselves to ensure that we set aside a time when we ensure everybody does actually go ahead and plant trees for the betterment of our people for the future of this county.

So, I support that motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, as you continue with your contributions on this motion let me just give you some guidance. The motion and issue at hand is at the very core of every citizen of this nation and that is why in the Constitution of Kenya Article 69(1)(b) but if you can start from Article 69 (1) 'the state, and remember you are part of the state, this House is part of the state, the state shall ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources and ensure the equitable sharing of the accruing benefits.

(b) Which is most important and relevant to this motion, 'the state shall work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least 10 percent of the land area of Kenya. Hon. Members as you debate it is also upon you to go find out on your own way researching what is the current tree cover of this nation. It is definitely less than 10 percent. Thank you. Can I

have Hon. Kiilu, Muli? No give me the name please, say the name. Hon. Kituku, sorry about that.

Hon. Kituku: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for catching my eye. Actually, today people are cutting tree indiscriminately and that is why I want to support the motion brought forward to this House by Hon. Katumo because actually the environment today is changing. The climate is changing and actually we need to come up with that program so that we also make our people to be aware of actually how the environment is. As we all know, trees are very important because of some of the reasons that have been given.

To add on that, trees do conserve the environment, they conserve moisture and so on. So if we can come up with that program it will help our county so much and actually we will find ourselves having a very good environment so beautiful and the like. Even more than flowers I think trees are the best so we can adopt that. So I want to support my friend. Thank you.

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

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this chance. I would like to support the motion because as we said this morning, water is life and trees make the water so they also fit in that category of life. What I would want to say is that if you go around Machakos County, like I come from Mua hills, I have seen that many of our citizens have planted maybe the wrong type of trees that instead of capturing water, they drain the water.

So, as we plan to come up with a tree planting session or time let us also look at the type of trees we need to plant that are adoptive within our areas.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Helen Ndeti. Hon. Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Madam Speaker and the entire members present. I want to applaud the mover of this motion because it is a noble idea to have to plant trees. Really, trees have many benefits. Really they reduce the amount of strong water run off thus reducing erosion. Trees also beautify our landscape; members you will agree with me they bring beauty in our area and our land. They are also living memorials of life thus changing our events.

Trees are like lands of planet. Really, they breathe in carbon dioxide and also breath out oxygen so there is need of planting trees members if you agree with me because even we usually use energy-saving *jikos* because trees are not many in our areas. So, if we plant more trees I think that will help a lot. Thanks a lot, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nziva. Hon. King'ori. I am looking for people that have not had a chance to say much in this House lately. Hon. King'ori?

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What I would want to tell this House is that, this motion is very good but it should also be adjusted to fit what we go through in Machakos. There are so many areas there are no trees. We don't need one week, we need to have a policy where every homestead will plant at least two trees in their compound so that we can cover our area with good air. Knowing the price of oxygen in Kenyatta National Hospital, I think no one will dare not to do that.

(Applause)

I think what we need to do with this motion, we need to broaden it and add other areas like water catchment areas so that we can also try and avoid soil erosion. I know this area, we depend on farming and the more we need water, the more need for trees because at the end of the day, we need those trees to make rain. I come from an area were trees are found everywhere, my home place and that is where rain comes from, that is where Ndakaini water comes in---

Hon. Speaker: Point of correction, Hon. King'ori.

Hon. Ngunga: Are you trying to tell the people of Muthwani that were they elected you is not your home?

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: I believe Hon. King'ori meant his origin and people have many origins. Like we have Hon. Ngunga originated from Kibauni.

(Laughter)

So it is in order. Proceed, Hon. King'ori.

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now, in Central Province where I originated first, there are a lot of trees and a lot of rain and we need to copy what they have done including the water we need here. We don't need dams or what, we need a lot of water and we need trees. So, this motion it should be broadened so that it can cover almost every area of Machakos County where there are big lands which are not being used but have no trees. We should put a policy were unused lands should have trees planted. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. King'ori. Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion which has been brought to this House by Hon. Katumo because trees have many benefits to the lives of everyone. I am

very sure everybody seated in this House has benefited from trees; maybe he has constructed a house using them, when he wants to go rest under a tree. So, I support it and I would propose we start by setting example.

The wise men said, a change needed in the grandson has to begin with the grandfather and grandmother.

(Applause)

So, as a House, we set a good example; we plan a day, as a House, we go out and show the members of public that we can also take part in tree planting. The other issue I would like to add on is that, trees pull the rains and we also understand that it also reduces evaporation. We know very well that trees are used as medicine. So, I would propose also when we are planting trees, we also select the trees that we are going to plant, we don't need to plant just any tree.

I remember where I was schooling when I was in standard two, there is a tree I planted and up to now about 28 years down the lane, if you go to cut that tree, maybe you want to get charcoal or firewood, you cannot get even one wheelbarrow of that, so we need to select the types of trees we aim to plant. Otherwise, I support the motion very much and it is a noble idea. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, as we continue to debate on this very important motion, I have been thinking, and allow me to guide you; Hon. Katumo, do you just want a policy for only October to December or a policy for every rainy season? We also have the April rains which are the long season, do you think of amending the motion so that you cover all the rain seasons?

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for that. But according to the common practice traditionally we plant trees during October to December rains most of the time and that was my consideration because of the subsequent rains that come along its when trees can survive.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member, for clarification. I think, Members, we can first ventilate on this issue of amending the motion. It is a motion for the House. Can we hear Hon. Ngunga? I will come to the others too.

Hon. Ngunga: Madam Speaker, I think I was almost about to propose to the Hon Member, for the purpose of being futuristic, that we don't have a motion that only lapses after the short rains, that we have a member coming shortly after to also propose another week. I was imagining that we can move a motion so that we broaden this motion to capture even the next five years, the length of this House so that any other time we have rains, we will have to set aside a week where the County of Machakos, all the residents, through legislation will be forced to observe that week and activity is drawn so that we motivate the residents towards tree planting.

I want to echo what Hon. Ndawa was saying; that if you look around our forest cover is less than five per cent and unless we have a concerted effort as a House and leaders were we lead from the front, then we are seeing a situation where desertification is catching with us very quickly.

I come from Mua ward which is hilly, I used to work there in 1992 and during that time as Hon. Museku put, you would not be able to see a distance because of the trees that were there but when I was campaigning the last three years, Mua looks like Kibauni where I came from. This is because of the wanton wastage of the trees by the public. This is because of the poverty status that we have because now, trees are a source of income, people sell trees but the only danger is that they don't plant after they cut.

So, I want to propose to Hon. Katumo that we broaden this motion to cover a longer period so that every other time we have rains, we observe a week that we have a tree planting exercise. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I want first to hear the views of other Members before we come back to you Hon. Katumo. Can I hear Hon. Paul Nyanzi on the proposal to broaden the motion?

Hon. Nyanzi: Asante Madam Spika. Sijui kama mtachoka na kiswahili changu lakini shauri ya uzee hapana neno. Nataka kusema hivi, MCA Katumo ameleta kitu ya maana sana dunia hii. Kwa nchi saba nilizotembea, wale watu wako nchi hiyo isipokuwa waswahili kidogo wanashikwa na shuka, wengi wanashikwa na miti. Kwa hivyo kupanda miti ni kitu muhimu sana. Nataka kusema sioni kama hii tunaweza kukaa sana tukiongea maanake hiyo ya kushikwa na miti ni ya muhimu zaidi hizo nchi nasema. Nataka kusema Katumo---

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Speaker: Order in the House. The member should be heard in silence.

Hon. Nyanzi: Nataka kusema miti inatufanyia kitu muhimu sana; hewa na mambo mingi. Kwa hivyo naomba kama tungeweza kupitisha tu maanake kila sub-location, hii miti hata tukisema tupande juu ya nini, haina maana, ni lazima kila sub-location iwe na earth dam karibu kumi ndio hii miti ikipandwa iweze kumea vizuri. Asante sana.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Paul Nyanzi. I remind Members that we are still on the proposal to broaden the motion. Let us deal with that. Can we have Hon. Mwanthi?

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion citing that according to the motion he has brought I can see he has said 'discusses and approves that the County

Government of Machakos draws a policy to set up County annual tree planting.’ So, I think it is already covering, it is not only something for this month in fact he has not even indicated 2017.

So, I think we can move on with the motion that way understanding that he has just indicated that it should be done during the short rains of October to December. I think on the same, it might not be possible for this year because we already have the short rains with us, I don’t think it’s possible we have the week but it is a good motion that we can adopt for next year and as time goes on, it is good as a House we also draw our own policy of the same; we be planting trees, if possible we start at my ward Ekalakala where there are no trees at all. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I propose we go to the mover of the motion on the proposal to amend.

Hon. Katumo: Madam Speaker, thank you for that direction, but when we talk about an annual policy, it should always be done once to avoid that cumbersomeness of doing things over and over again. But the spirit of this motion was that once we have this short and then long rains, what remains following the long dry season is to take care, then we take stock when we come again because it is an annual event that we do it again in December.

That is normally what happens for those people who plant trees; even the National government I think it does the same- and that was the spirit that guided me on having this particular annual tree planting day especially towards the end of the year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I hear now the voice is to leave the motion as it is and we continue debating now. Hon. Kalumu.

Hon. Kalumu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support this motion simply because trees are equal to life. Trees help to generate rain; without trees, we cannot be able to rehabilitate or transform drought areas like Yatta. What is needed there is planting or trees so that we can transform that area in to a rainy area.

Planting of trees will result into having a lot of ground water. When we plant trees, the evaporation does not take place very fast and so it helps in collecting of water in to underground water and thereby increasing the underground water. So, trees help in reducing global warming. Nowadays, you have heard the sea levels are rising very fast simply because of global warming.

If we plant trees, it will help the climate to be conducive and to compress the evaporation of ice from the highest mountains like Mt. Kenya and that will transform into water and it will help in reducing the raising waters from the sea. So, I support the motion fully and come up with a week of planting trees in every area in Machakos County. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kalumu.

Hon. Abdirahman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is just one; as a member of the Committee of Trade, when I drive towards Mavoko, I see most of the factories create air pollution

and where we live we don't find many trees and trees, we know, help in controlling air pollution. So, as a member of Mavoko Constituency, I am really concerned. Also as a member of Trade Committee, this gives me a solution to the motion brought by Hon. Katumo, I really support this motion and we indeed need to plant and take this exercise with the seriousness it deserves. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion, bearing in mind the importance of trees, I would even propose that since trees also act as a source of food especially if they are fruit-bearing trees and again given that we promised our people some employment, I would propose that we encourage various groups to start tree nursery projects.

(Applause)

So that the government can also set aside some budget which can be used to buy the trees from the various groups so that we can promote our people as we also make the County green. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Johana. Mheshimiwa Kiteng'u.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Madam Speaker for capturing my eye. I tried yesterday and it was in vain, now today I thought you won't be able. Thank you. I support the motion. As you know, the government recently banned the plastic polythene papers and although I am not capturing the name of those organic papers, the ones which decay and I think with this, more of planting trees in our country, we can be able to produce more benefits to our people.

Secondly, our County is very hot, sunny and you know trees absorb heat, so my view is that with more trees in our Country and in Machakos, the trees can be able to cool our county so that we live in a nice and temperate area where we can be able to enjoy our environment.

Madam Speaker, we have medicines which come from trees; herbal medicines and I think the motion brought by Hon. Katumo with increasing the plantation of trees, will also help in more productions and enhance our business. So, Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to support the motion and I second Hon. Katumo that the day you will set, I will be in first line to support and enhance that project. Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, Members.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Kiteng'u. Hon. Mulatya.

Hon. Mulatya: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is to support this motion but Hon. Members, I feel this motion as Hon. King'ori put it, that it should be widened a little bit because we cannot be planting trees when we do not have tough measures to curb deforestation, for

example charcoal burning, timber and the likes. So, I think this motion should be a little bit wider to cover both areas.

Also, because I want to be brief, I think we have seen what has been transpiring in our County, so I urge the County Government of Machakos not to confuse the tree planting with flower planting. Thank you.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mulatya. Hon. Jacinta.

Hon. (Ms.) Luka: Asante sana, Bi. Spika. Nachukua hii nafasi kushukuru Member ambaye amelele hii motion kwa vile ni mjadala ambao umekuja kwa wakati ambao unafaa tukijua yakwamba tunaelekea wakati wa mvua ambayo inastahili kama ikipitishwa halafu hiyo miti iweze kupandwa, kaunti yetu itakua imepiga hatua mbele kwa kua kuna sehemu nyingi katika hii Kaunti ambazo ziko na ukame na tukiangalia katika hizo sehemu unapata yakwamba watu wengi kutoka katika hizo sehemu huwa wanahamia kama huku Machakos ambako mazingira ni nzuri kwa maana saa zingine hata unapata mti unaweza mea hata kama haijapandwa halafu ikiongezewa ingine ambayo imepandwa unakuta ni mazingira amabyo inapendeza na tukiangalia hali ikiwa hivyo sehemu zingine ambazo mazingira haipendezi watu wanahamia huku na maendeleo huko na akute yakwamba inarudi nyuma na watu wanakua ni kama wamehamia sehemu moja.

Kwa hivyo Madam Spika, huu mswada ukipitishwa sehemu itakua imepata maendeleo katika Kaunti yote na Kaunti itakua imesonga mbele na itakua ikipendeza watu wenye watakua wakikuja na wakion Kaunti vile iko pia watakua kufanya bihashara huku na tutakua tumesonga mbele. Asante.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jacinta. Hon. Cosmus.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to oppose this motion on the grounds that, Hon. Members if you remember very well on the times of our campaigns, I doubt whether there is any of us who had this agenda on his manifesto. It is a good idea but the timing, in terms of income spending because I want to assure Members that every item we pass, it come son with costing. I would urge these Hon. Members to preserve this motion for a future date as well as we know the status of our County income. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cosmus. Hon. Brian Kisila.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to support this motion fully and I am surprised that my Chairman Finance is worried about money when he should be the one telling us how we are going to ensure that the County is having enough money to do all the projects which we are doing. I also sit in the Environment Committee and I do not want us to

play down this motion. In my campaign and in my manifesto, tree planting and afforestation was part of my manifesto.

So, I think Hon. Katumo is just supporting me to achieve this and I am standing here to say two things. First, we need to ensure that we have enough nurseries in our Wards and in fact I am proposing that our budget committee ensures that every Ward has a tree nursery.

Secondly, I support the motion because, if we are not careful, we are going to have a desert. Where I come from, Mwala, they are cutting all the trees, there is a lot of charcoal burning and people are not planting trees. So, this motion has just come in very handy and the last point Madam Speaker, is what Mheshimiwa Johana said, we need to ensure our Youth have income and one of the projects which I am starting in my Ward is tree nursery for my youth and if we are going to buy these trees, let them not come from where Mheshimiwa King'ori originally came from.

Let us have them bought from people who are planting trees in Machakos County. That way our people are going to have enough income and they are going to be doing very well. In fact, I support the motion on the basis, not necessarily trees, we should talk about fruits; mangoes, oranges all sorts of trees so that our County can be very, very, very beautiful.

My last point Madam Speaker, I come from Mwala Sub County and the only tree nursery we have is in Masii unfortunately the dam in Masii has dried up because two private Developers have actually done two dams up stream, resulting to Masii Dam drying up and our only tree nursery in our Sub County has dried up, so we have a very big challenge of the next tree nursery in our Sub County.

So, Madam Speaker, this is a very good motion and I want us to support it fully as Members and even come up with very stun warning to people who want to ensure we do not get enough trees in our Wards. I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Brian Kisila.....Hon. Annastacia...

Hon. (Ms.) Mutuku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First I want to congratulate Hon. Katumo. As I stand here, I support this motion fully because of some reasons. As I was presenting in the morning the motion of water, I think the drought we have in Kibauni is because we lack trees and Hon. Members as we are here to support this motion, I would urge every Member who is here...I think where you are sitting, you are seated on a chair, it is made by trees. So, we need to support this motion fully and if it is through Hon. Katumo, I urge the Hon. Members first to launch this exercise in Kibauni Ward so that we can change the environment.

(Laughter)

That is where I come from, it is a great area and I cannot run away. Even if Mheshimiwa Mueni ran away because of crisis of water, that is my area, I like it and it is a very wonderful area.

Secondly, as you know there is a Global Climate Change and charcoal vendors, as a County we need to come up with a policy on how we can prevent the little we have in our County while we are processing about the tree planting so that we can secure the little we have. In Machakos County, a third is just like the environment we can enjoy but the three quarter is all desert.

So, as a Member of Kibauni, I support this motion fully and if it is passed, first we launch that exercise Mheshimiwa Katumo, I have very many active women groups, come and show them how they can start nurseries and how we can plant the Kibauni Hill trees and also we need protection from the forest security because sometimes we do plant those trees on that hill and people from the area end up doing some charcoal burning and that is the cause of drought in Kibauni.

The other thing, as a Member, I support and I am not used to be....although the trees change the environment well and we enjoy the trees but some of us like me, let me be frank, I want to emphasize this in my site and to have some expertise who can show my people including me how we can do some tree planting and how we can survive in my area. I therefore support the motion, it is very wonderful. Thank you, Hon. Katumo and thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Annastacia. Hon. Kieti.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Madam Speaker although it has taken long before you got my eye.

Hon. Speaker: They say I am looking for opportunities to give to every Member and I have in mind that those who wish to address this House get it.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Alright.

Hon. Kieti: Okay. The issue at hand about Flora and Fauna is not an issue that we should debate on for so long because we all know the importance of trees and I want to thank the Hon. Member, Bw. Katumo, who has brought this wonderful motion to this House because we all know that our trees provide ground cover which is important, they are good for our animals, they protect our water catchments and when one of our Hon. Members said that when we were campaigning we might not have had this kind of agenda in our manifestos, I think according to me this was one of the agenda that I was selling to my people and it is coming in good time when we should implement it.

Trees are source of raw materials and not forgetting that, as Members as sighted, those are places where we can get medicine and also all sorts of food and fuel. Increased ground cover, will ensure that we have a check on the climate change as Members have sighted. So, I stand to

support the motion and make the following suggestions although the Hon. Member declined from allowing us to expound the motion.

I would suggest that, we identify areas like our Institutions, the Public Institutions, those are good areas where when we plant the trees, they may have some people to look after them like the schools, our hospitals, it is funny when you go to our hospitals and find our patients lack somewhere where they can rest. You have just seen those *mabati* shelters being brought up so that they can shelter the patients.

So, with trees, I think they would act better than the *mabatis*. Then other areas where we can target are the dams. In the former Government, so many dams were dug across the County, some of them have water and around those dams, I think those are good areas where trees can be planted and then sustainability of the trees may be guaranteed in those areas because by the time the dams dry, the trees will be able to get enough water during the dry season.

Other areas are the bore holes...we also have areas where bore holes were sunk and those areas even if we have a hundred trees where there is a bore hole, the it will mean that, with the number of bore holes that we have sunk across the County, then if we have a hundred bore holes with a hundred trees, it means those are ten thousand trees and chances of those trees drying up will be low than when you plant them on the hills where there is nobody to look after them.

So, I would like to make those suggestions if possible they can be included within the motion so that when the time comes for planting the trees because this is a good move then I think our trees will be protected and then we encourage every Member and also those groups that we have in our areas to plant trees, like in my place we have a policy in the groups whereby every rainy season, every homestead should plant at least a hundred trees and then we have scouts who monitor whether those trees have been planted.

I am a Chairman of a water group and this is a policy that we have in our place and we are doing very well. So, I would like toif this one can be replicated across the County, I think by the end of it all we will have enough trees across the County. So, I support the motion that we set a week for tree planting in our County. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kieti. Yes, Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Madam Speaker for granting me this opportunity to support the motion by Hon. Katumo. I think the motion is timely because comparing with the place I come from, we have had---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mark Muendo, you do not try to catch the eye of the Speaker when there is a Member on their feet.

(Laughter)

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have had farmers who have been in this business of tree planting seedlings for long and I can say that they have not been able to reap anything from it. So, when Hon. Member Katumo comes up with the motion, I think it can go in handy to support the farmers from my Ward who have been in that business for long.

The other thing I think we all know something called carbon emission, I think it is commercialized in some Countries and employment is scarce, this issue of tree planting can create employment to our youth if at all we implement the right policy. So, as we plant to support this motion, I would also request that we put in measures that....it is not only planting of trees but also taking care of them. So, I support the motion Madam Speaker, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mitaa. Hon. Minority Leader, Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I am standing here to support the motion and allow me to give a historical information in regard to tree planting. Trees are of great importance to this Nation and taking into consideration that there is a treaty between Egypt and Kenya and the Ugandan Countries simply because most of the rains that come from Cherangani Hills, and there were these treaty trees that were put in a historical treaty that, in those areas of Cherangani, there should be not tree cutting because those trees in Cherangani are the trees that are encouraging.

There is a lot of heavy rainfall in those areas and rivers like River Nzoia drain water into Lake Victoria and if you are not aware, most of the rains that are coming from these hills, Eldoret and the like and Trans Nzoia, they drain water into Lake Victoria. As a result of that, that is where we have the source of River Nile, much of the water is coming from Kenya but the exit of the water is through that. So, what am I saying? It is an historical treaty and it is of importance so when you come to Machakos, what are you talking about?

If you ask my fellow brother, my elder brother, Nyanzi, he will tell you in areas like Iveti Hills, areas like Kyanzave Hills, these are in that history when I am talking about history, we had trees but as a result of tree cutting, what has it ended to? The results are that, we are getting some areas like the Juja area, the Kilimambogo area facing Nairobi. There is a shortfall of rain because when I was a young boy, there was a lot of rain and we used to g grazing in those areas, Hon. Nyanzi is my witness because he shifted also from Kangundo to a drier area looking for a bigger land but now---

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker, if he can tell you, if he can speak his mind, he was telling that he is planning to come back to the area but I told him now we are overly populated. So, what are the indications? That areas with a lot of trees, areas that trees were planted the rainfall is heavier than areas that are.....so, I am encouraging Members and Hon. Katumo, you have done us well, it is just a question of time that this House should come up with a policy where every homestead,

where every area, where every Ward should come up with that important....and you also mentioned...Madam Speaker, our Majority Leader was talking of trees that were cut in Mua Hills and what is the end result?

It is also affecting areas towards Kinanie area it is becoming drier because of the trees that are being cut from Mua Hills. So, I sincerely support the motion and this House should take it seriously as a move. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Minority Leader. Hon. Mark Muendo.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker for catching the eye of your MCA. I will stand here to support but with reservations---

Hon. Speaker: I cannot dispute that because it is the fact.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion but with some reservations and I would like to give some proposal which is going to help the mover. It is a noble idea, yes but the question is, you plant trees, trees come from seedlings. It is of my opinion if the mover can drop the motion and then maybe we polish a bit to give a policy whereby the County Government will set aside some money to buy seedlings first from the people. Because we plant trees from seedlings---

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Point of information.

Hon. Speaker: Point of information Hon. Mark Muendo from Hon. Mueni.

Hon. Muendo: Let me be informed.

Hon. Speaker: Yes.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to inform the Member who was on the floor that the executive have that policy, it is only that it is used badly because those people go to buy the trees they just eat the money---

(Laughter)

Or like Makueni, you know the way they were planting without having the roots (??) So, the County has that money it is only that the money is used badly.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Angela, you want to give information? Alright....Further information from the mover.

Hon. Katumo: Yes. I just want to give this Member on the floor information. The motion says, the County Government of Machakos to draw a policy, a policy includes what you are saying. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mark Muendo, proceed.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker for that information but what I am saying on seedlings....you know there is a lot on seedlings, first we have to do mapping. Trees are not planted just like the way we plant flowers. The trees which can do better in Mua cannot do better in Kibauni. When I am talking about the seedlings here, it is where the product of trees will come from. And I am saying for example, if we polish this motion well, we can do zoning, Mwala they do better with mango trees and that is also tree.

Hon. Speaker: Another point of information from Majority Leader.

Hon. Ngunga: Thank you Madam Speaker. I think the Hon. Member for Kinanie is becoming difficult to understand. You see we are saying, a policy is a document that guides on the behavior. We are talking about protection of the trees that we are going to plant will be captured in that policy. So, when the Hon. Member says that policy is a broad document that is going to govern from the point of planting until the harvesting of that tree even if is going to take ten years. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mark Muendo, you got the point of information?

Hon. Muendo: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Can I add more to it?

Hon. Muendo: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: A policy Hon Members is very broad unlike the law and every law that is passed there must be a policy preceding it. A policy is a kind of a political statement, it takes care of all the interest of the parties involved, looks into all the issues including even deforestation and ways of addressing the reasons why people do deforestation.

So, you will do afforestation which is planting the trees and all the issues related to afforestation which will include the type of trees you should plant and where and when and

caring for them because it is one thing to plant a tree and it is another thing to nurture it to grow and then it will talk about even the benefits, what are the benefits the community is going to get from those trees because you don't just plant.

We are talking of environmental conservation, we are talking even of job creation we are talking even building our homes with timber. Policy is very broad. Are we together?

(Applause)

Thank you.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for that information. I rest my case and I support.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: I am very tempted at this point to ask the mover to reply. But let us hear from a member who has not said something today. Mheshimiwa Angela, I saw your hand was up? Alright.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am passionate about tree planting, in the sense that everybody has a passion like I have seen most Hon. Members today, in fact all members that have spoken are in support of the motion and it is a good thing that the county MCAs have started on a very high note, the motions being moved are all beneficial to the entire county. What I wanted to add to the motion or to suggest is that we need to also learn how to protect our resources by trying not to be too generous, Hon. Speaker.

The community, our Machakos county community is very generous when people from other communities or from other counties come for us for sand, we have never stood firm to say this is the policy that governs our sand harvesting. So, they harvest all the sand our rivers run dry and because our community is known to be quiet and easy to compromise we let that pass. Apart from sand harvesting, we have people harvesting charcoal; the same trees that we are trying to protect are cut and that we are the same people that burn the charcoal and sell it to other communities.

I am sure our member from Ndakaini, will agree with me that all the sand they use is from our community is from our county; it is harvested in Machakos county. If we were to try to go and get some---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Munyasya, you can see that you are not treading on a very good ground

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: I understand, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Point of information?

Hon. Ngunga: Enquiry.

Hon. Speaker: Enquiry?

Hon. Ngunga: Yes, I am enquiring from the member on the floor, because I am only aware of the 40 wards that are represented in this House and now I hear there is a member of Ndakaini.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Munyasya, you said there is a member from Ndakaini and we do not have a ward in the name of Ndakaini in Machakos County. So can you correct that?

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: I wish to correct that the member is not from Ndakaini ward, but Hon. Members agree with me, he told us he comes from Ndakaini. So, I was referring to where he originated from, Hon Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Are you through? Sorry.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: No.

Hon. Speaker: Alright, finish.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: So, members I would like to support the motion by being sensitive on the fact that we are told that, some of these resources that come from our county are very sensitive other people have said it that if you touch on sand, you will burn your fingers. If you touch on charcoal you will burn our fingers but I am sure if we are all united as members of the county and I am sure we will be united because we are all passionate about making a difference in the county, we will be able to move on. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Munyasya. Hon. Members, allow me to call upon to call the mover of this motion, Hon Katumo to reply.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you Members, Madam Speaker. I am a happy man because this motion that I had a lot of passion and interest, because during campaigns, I went round Machakos county and it was very saddening in areas you could even be carried by wind, because there are no tree buffers even to protect you.

Also, you agree with me of course Machakos climate has really changed; Machakos is becoming more drier and even more arid day by day, and we cannot as an assembly as leaders of this Machakos county watch. I am told that Machakos during July, the cold season, it used to drizzle much but nowadays it does not. Actually, a scientist told me that Machakos is becoming a lee side for Nairobi; rain is just passing by going to Nairobi and Ngong hills, so it has become a lee side and we can experience this.

Actually, when I was coming from Mlolongo all through it has rained a lot, Machakos is still very dry and we can imagine what is happening and therefore even before I continue I want to invite members, members good afternoon. Yes, this chambers, the environment of this chambers is different, why? I invite you to watch outside through the windows what do you see?

Yes, that is why this is very different and this motion want to catch that aspiration to make sure that of course we have an annual tree planting policy that will be carried in a week especially in the rains of October to December and let me say members that I am happy that you gave your contributions but I have two points to make, to say that apart from what you said, I am told that what mostly we get from trees is very beneficial environmentally-speaking. That of course it is only trees that we can get everything that is bio-degradable. Hon. Justus Kitengu was lacking that word and I wanted to write it down; bio-degradable is the word.

Then of course I have talked about greenhouse gases; these greenhouse gases are so many but we put them together because they affect us, they are very consequential as dichlorofluoro carbon gases and you find nowadays we are suffering from myriad sickness that we cannot treat. Even we are not aware you are sick, you are tired because of the environment and I call upon members that off course we take this motion seriously and we approve it as we have done so that we can go forward and make Machakos greener, beautiful and a better place to live.

Finally, Madam Speaker, members especially Hon. Member from Kinanie was wondering about where we get this. I want to say it here and now that the owner of this motion is an environmental scientist.

(Applause)

One of my first Bachelors degrees is on environmental science before I went north and south and did other things, Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon Katumo. We all feel the passion in the motion that you have brought here.

(Question put and agreed to)

Members, order! At this point, allow me members to make a comment and the comment I am giving is a way of directions and I am happy that I am giving it after you have voted on this motion so that I am not accused of trying to influence the motion in any one manner.

I want to make a confession that I have a lot of passion in tree planting and that I am a past chairperson on a national committee that dealt with conservation of the environment, the Public Complaints Committee on Environment and that I worked very closely with the late Hon. Michuki and we planted a lot of trees in the country.

I want to commit myself to this particular project and this is off the record, that I will be working very closely with the committee on environment because I love the environment.

(Applause)

I also want to draw your attention members that there is a Global Conservation Fund at the global level, where each country earns points as far as donor funding is concerned depending on how much you have conserved your environment through tree planting. So, if we started on the right footing, we should also be thinking of looking for donor funding to facilitate the planting of trees in Machakos County.

If there is any place where trees are needed it is in Machakos and I was getting a bit worried when my member of county assembly was like not supporting the motion and I am just planning to go and plant trees in my school which is next to my neighborhood and that is in his neighborhood.

Members when you take your walk around Kinanie, just have a view of my home; it was a desert but it is a place with trees. Even right now I have instructed my people to dig holes because I plant trees every rainy season. Thank you very much members.

So, now for purposes of this motion allow me members to commit the motion, it having been admitted by this House I commit it to the environment, lands, energy and natural resources committees so that it can look into all the aspects in this motion and the policy in particular working closely with the relevant department in the county executive and of course members of the public, and that you file a report in this House on the 15th November, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

The chairperson or Chairman of this committee will be giving a position on this motion on that day because members have shown the passion and the desire to move this motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much members. Allow me at this point, we are adjourning this House to the Thursday, 19th November, 2017 at 2.30 p.m. Have a good evening, Members.

The House rose at 4.20 p.m.