

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 31st July, 2019

The House met at 11.44 a.m.

[The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. (Ms.) Margaret Mwikali) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

(Members applauded the Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Members for such applause of welcome. I welcome you to today's sitting and ask you to feel very pleased and happy and contribute to the matters in our day. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

(Applause)

NOTICE OF MOTION

MANAGEMENT OF AMBULANCES BY SUB-COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Members. Under this Order, we have one notice of motion from Hon. Masesi. Welcome *Mheshimiwa* Masesi.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you. Madam Speaker. I wish to give a notice of motion.

Hon Speaker, that aware THAT Article 43(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, stipulates that a person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment;

Aware THAT the Fourth Schedule of the same Constitution mandates counties with county health services including in particular ambulance services;

Acknowledging THAT the current management of county ambulances is a total menace and this is evident by the outcry from the residents of Machakos County;

Aware THAT most are the times when the ambulances lack fuel, insurance and require minor mechanical repairs;

Noting THAT some ambulances are driven very long distances to be fueled hence misuse of public funds because of the waste;

Aware THAT Article 174(h) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that one of the objects of devolution shall be "to facilitate the decentralization of State organs, their functions and services";

Further aware THAT management of these ambulances can done better and effectively at the Sub-County Medical Officer of Health.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion THAT, this Hon. House discusses and approves the rural ambulances be managed at the Offices of Sub-County Medical Officers of Health.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon Masesi. I request the clerk to proceed.

STATEMENT

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FOR 31ST JULY, 2019

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one Statement from Majority Leader Hon. Mark Muendo.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to stand for our Majority Leader.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Proceed, Hon. Betty.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I stand under Standing Order 41(2)(a) where during the Statement Hour, a Member of the House Business Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall, for not more than ten minutes, present and lay on the Table, a statement informing the House of the business coming before the House.

Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on 30th July, 2019 and balloted business for 31st July, 2019 pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151 as follows:

Wednesday, 31st July, 2019

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- a. Motion by Hon. Mark Muendo, Majority Leader, THAT this House does approve and adopt the resolution of the County Assemblies Forum Governing Council that;
 - i. The Members of the County Assembly be paid a housing allowance in tandem with the ideal and adequate endowment;
 - ii. That the payment of the house allowance be effected and implemented as of the date of issue of the ruling of the High Court in Constitutional Petition No. 328 of 2016 being the 5th day of October, 2018; and
 - iii. That the implementation of the payment of the house allowance to the Members of the County Assembly be commenced with immediate effect.
- b. Motion THAT, this Hon. House discusses and approves the rural ambulances be managed at the Offices of Sub County Medical Officers of Health by Hon. Cosmus Masesi, MCA Matungulu East Ward.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

- a. Report of County Assembly Service Board (CASB) on the nomination of the 4th and 5th Members to the CASB by Hon. Caleb Mule Mutiso, Vice Chairperson, CASB.
- b. Motion THAT pursuant to the approved Assembly Calendar for the third session, this Hon. House goes on a short recess from Thursday, 1st August, 2019 to Monday, 2nd September 2019 by Hon. Mark Muendo, Majority Leader.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Betty for that statement from the Majority Leader.

PROCEDURAL MOTION
EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise under point of order under Standing Order 27 to request extension of time.

Hon. Speaker, that 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 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 ends.

Thank you, Hon. Madam Speaker. I call upon my seconder Ndawa. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Minority Leader and I don't think we have any Hon. Member by the name Ndawa. I presuppose you meant *Mheshimiwa* for Matuu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Officially he is known as his initials Hon. Ndawa. Madam Speaker, I am not mistaken, on a very sincere note. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Minority Leader. Hon Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I second, I want to congratulate you for taking up the seat and proving that we are competent.

(Applause)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Ndawa: About the motion which has been moved by my colleague Hon. Kamitu, I do second.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon Ndawa and I appraise you for giving me those congratulations; they are really important to me. Hon. Members, I think since it is a procedural motion; is there anybody here ready to propose or to object? I see you are in agreement therefore Mr. Clerk, let us proceed. Thank you, Members.

(The House resumed business as per the Order Paper)

MOTIONS

PAYMENT OF HOUSE ALLOWANCE TO MEMBERS OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Under this Order, we have got a motion from Hon Masesi. Hon. Masesi, please proceed. Hon. Members, I am sorry for that discrepancy, a bit of it and I hope you realize that it is not easy for the first-time Speaker. I am sorry it was supposed to be Majority Leader, Mark Muendo. Hon. Mark Muendo, please.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you Madam Speaker and first I congratulate you for sitting on that seat well. Madam Speaker, I want to defer this motion which I moved yesterday because we want to do some amendments and there were some omissions on the motion which we need to include. As you know, this motion touches on Members' house allowances and should be framed well because we don't want any challenges in a court. So I defer the motion, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Majority Leader Hon. Mark Muendo. Therefore we defer this motion to the House Business Committee and we know the House Business Committee will slot for next time we have a sitting. Thank you. Members, I now ask and request that we adjourn the sitting of today to Wednesday---

(The Motion was deferred)

(Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker consulted the Clerk at the Table)

Some clarification Members; sorry for that. I am sure the House notes that there is this motion from Hon. Masesi, MCA Matungulu East ward. Welcome Member from Matungulu East Ward, *Mheshimiwa* Masesi.

MANAGEMENT OF AMBULANCES BY SUB-COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You don't have to request for any apologies; at least we understand the condition, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, allow me to move the motion that aware THAT Article 43(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, stipulates that a person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment;

Aware THAT the Fourth Schedule of the same Constitution mandates counties with county health services including in particular ambulance services;

Hon. Speaker, acknowledging THAT the current management of county ambulances is a total menace and this is evident by the outcry from the residents of Machakos County; Aware THAT most are times when the ambulances lack fuel, insurance and require minor mechanical repairs;

Madam Speaker, noting THAT some ambulances are driven very long distances to be fueled hence misuse of public funds because of the waste;

Aware THAT Article 174(h) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that one of the objects of devolution shall be "to facilitate the decentralization of State organs, their functions and services;"

Further aware THAT management of these ambulances can be done better and effectively at the sub-county Medical Officer of Health.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion THAT, this Hon. House discusses and approves that rural ambulances be managed at the offices of sub-county Medical Officers of Health.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to call upon my Deputy Chairperson, Hon. Pauline Mene Munguti, to second my Motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Munguti seconded.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Pauline Mene Munguti for seconding the motion. Thank you, Members.

(Question proposed)

Members, I invite you to debate the Motion. Hon. Kituku.

Hon. Kituku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate you for the position that you have held today.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kituku.

Hon. Kituku: I know it is not an easy task. Madam Speaker, the issue of ambulances has been a thorny issue in the flesh because when it comes to maintenance, even if it means just a small issue affecting the ambulances, it has been that those issues have to be handled at the headquarters and actually if the ambulances are manned at the sub-county level, our electorate will get the services that they require in time.

The department of the manning services should actually decentralize the issue on ambulances so that our people get service at the time that they require. When it comes to issues of fuel, it has been also a great challenge. So, if the Medical Officer of Health at the Sub-County levels is given this room, I think we will achieve. Otherwise, thank you and I support the Motion.

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

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me start by thanking the mover of this Motion, Hon. Ngula Masesi alias Kinyaunyau. This is a Motion that should actually have been brought a long time ago. Madam Speaker, we all belong to Machakos County, we all know our areas. When ambulances are being fuelled at the Central, Machakos, just imagine how much we lose because an ambulance which is based in Ndithini Health Center coming all the way to fuel in Machakos or coming all the way for maintenance in Machakos, we are losing revenue.

Madam Speaker, there is a modern way of doing things through technology. I will maybe urge the Executive and the people who manage in the Ministry of Health that, they can have fuel cards, they can fuel the ambulances anywhere, in Ndithini, in Kibauni, in Kyumbi and that will save money and time.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, maintenance, there is no way you can have a central maintenance workshop because it will be a load. So, if we have the central workshop, the mechanic should actually be moving where the ambulances are. It is not the other way for the ambulance to come to the mechanic. It is easier to transport a mechanic to Kibauni than to bring the ambulance all the way to Machakos; it is totally uneconomical.

Madam Speaker, the other issue on the ambulance is if the ambulances are managed well, they are going to help our people, but of late, we have seen most of the ambulances have broken down and the reason is, if that type of maintenance is the one they follow, you cannot definitely maintain ambulances or vehicles that way.

The other issue about the ambulances is, we need to take it seriously; we need an audit of how many ambulances are working now because we are talking about 40 ambulances when they were about five years old and we are talking about the number; we do not know how many are functioning. So, the Department of Health with the Chairman here, I would trust the Chairman to come with a report here, although I am not the Speaker, to bring a report telling us how many ambulances are working in Machakos County and where they are stationed.

Madam Speaker, this will help our people. Yes, we agree the ambulances are very vital for our people like our old mothers, mothers who are delivering and all these things. We need those ambulance services like yesterday. Madam Speaker, what we have noticed about these ambulances, some of them have no facilities. It is just like a *matatu* with forms.

I will urge the chairman of Health Committee because now we have employed a very qualified doctor, that is Dr. Nzioka, he proved to the Appointment committee that he is one of the best in the country. I think things in the Department of Health are going to change. Ambulances are very vital, so, with the new CEC, Health and our able Chairman, Hon. Masesi, we should put a lot of effort into the ambulances because of transporting people from different areas to get their health services. Therefore, I support the motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Muendo for those sentiments and for supporting. Hon. Alice Nzioka.

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Asante sana Bi. Spika kwa kunipa nafasi. Bi. Spika kuna msemu wa Kiswahili husema, usidharau nazi, maembe ni ya msimu. Kongole kwako kwa wadhifa ambao umepewa leo---

(Applause)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Asante Mheshimiwa Alice.

Hon. (Ms.) A. Nzioka: *Although* umepewa leo, ni wadhifa ambao unalete uongozi. Asante kwako na kwa kuendeleza bunge. Bi. Spika, mimi nimesimama kuunga mkono kwamba, *ambulance* ambazo tunazo ziwe zikihudumia kutoka Kaunti ndogo. Bi. Spika, nina mfano kutoka kwangu, kutoka Kaunti ndogo ya Kangonde, tuna hospitali Kagonde. Siku moja palitokea mtoto alikuwa mgonjwa usiku kitu kama saa tano. Tulishughulika kutafuta *ambulance* ambayo inaweza peleka huyo mtoto hospitali kuu, lakini haikuwezekana maana *ambulance* yenyewe haikuwa na mafuta. Kisingizio ni kwamba, aliyekuwa na ambulensi anasema anataka kuileta mpaka hapa Machakos ili iwekwe mafuta.

Bi. Spika, nakwambia ilikuwa ni huzuni kufikia saa nane usiku, huyo mtoto aliaga. Na sisi kama viongozi, ni shida kubwa. Namshukuru Gavana wetu kwa maana aliona umuhimi wa kuwa na *ambulance* katika kila Wadi. Lakini ukiangalia *ambulance* zingine zimekuwa magari ya abiria. *Ambulance* maana yake, wakati inakupa usaidizi, ndani yake utakuta kuna hewa ya kukusaidia, kuna vifaa ndani ambazo zinakupatia huduma ya kwanza. Ningeuliza Mwenyekiti wa kamati ya Afya, na kamati yake waangalie washughulike kwamba waone *ambulance* zetu ni za kawaida.

Bi. Spika, hata zingine ukiangalia, zimekuwa kama magari tu ya kawaida. Nimuunge mkono Kiongozo wa walio wengi amesema kwamba, kuwe na hesabu tujue tuna idadi ngapi ya *ambulance* katika Kaunti yetu ili tuone zinatusaidia vipi. Bi. Spika, Kaunti ya Machakos ina upana mkubwa, ukiangalia sehemu kama Ndithini, Muthesya, *ambulance* zikitoka huko kuja kunywa mafuta Machakos, aliyekuwa anataka kuokolewa, ataponea kweli?

Kwa hivyo naunga mkono kusema kwamba, katika Kaunti ndogo ambazo tunazo, zinaweza kuhimidi na kuangalia *ambulance* zetu ziwe katika hali sawa na pia zipate huduma kutoka hiyo Kaunti ndogo. Asante Bi. Spika.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: *Asante Mheshimiwa, Alice.* Hon. Members, I ask *Mheshimiwa Kalumu kutoka* Kithimani Ward to contribute to this Motion.

Hon. Kalumu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to congratulate you for the position you are holding today---

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kalumu.

Hon. Kalumu: To echo the sentiments of my fellow Members of this House that it is true that, the Motion has shown what is happening in our Wards. Madam Speaker, back in our Wards, in Kithimani, ambulance is set for emergency and when the goal of something is not achieved, then, that kind of investment is wasted. Madam Speaker, the ambulances we have in the Wards are not doing the work they are supposed to do simply because some of them you find that they do not have fuel, others you will find they do not have tires, others you will find that the drivers are not even available, others the places they were designated, they are not present, they are not there.

I think there is another picture I saw on social media, one of our Machakos ambulances carrying grass for feeding cows. I do not know whether that was the goal for the ambulances of Machakos County to do such kind of a job. So, we need to support the Motion and say that, let the ambulances be managed from the Sub-County because when they are managed there, if there is any breakdown, it will be solved very easily and quickly so that it can meet the goal of emergency because you cannot say you are meeting the emergency when somebody is sick and there is a request of an ambulance and it is coming to be fueled here in Machakos. How is it an emergency?

You have heard my fellow Member here saying that before it reaches that person again from here, coming from the Ward to here and back to the place where it was called, it finds another case. So, Madam Speaker, I support fully and I know that it is a full kind of something which is headed by one Mongera and that he should be put to task to make sure that everything is working well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kalumu. Hon. Mutinda from Wamunyu ward.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I start by congratulating you for this opportunity. I think it is good that we are now expanding and I thank the leadership for that.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutinda.

Hon. Mutinda: Madam Speaker, the issue of ambulances has come at the right time. I thank the Chairman, Health for this Motion. I think we started well with these ambulances when they previously used to pick patients from their homes and as we went on they started picking the patients from the dispensaries and the health centers to the Level IVs and Level Vs and I think this idea of decentralizing is good because ideally and initially, when we started these County Governments, the devolution was supposed to be followed by decentralization so that

people get closer services. When you see our ambulances, they serve in a centralized way such that they are controlled from Machakos and you find it is becoming a problem to our people.

So Madam Speaker, I think it is good we decentralize them to the sub-counties and ensure that fuel is available. I remember there is a time they were fueling at Matuu, all of them. That would waste a lot of time and lives might be lost. We will not forget to say they have been offering services, we really appreciate, but it is good to maintain and upgrade the services so that they are available. Ideally, when you talk of having an ambulance, it is like a patient in a health center or a dispensary and is moved to the ambulance, it means that patient is still being moved to a mobile hospital so that he or she goes to another level of a hospital either a Level 4 or Level 5. The state of our ambulances is slightly low so I think there is need to improve them or we see how we can have as the state of the art ambulances.

I remember it is in this House when we put a budget to start phasing out the old vehicles so that we come up with state of art vehicles where the patients will be ferried in those ambulances which have facilities and that is the way to go and that is where we should target so that we phase out these old vehicles, come up with the state of the art ambulances, fuel them at the sub-counties, manage them from sub-counties so that our people get timely services.

The other thing is on the type of repairs or maintenance they do. I know they do curative and when you come to maintenance and start to do curative as an organization and in a sensitive section like ambulances, then you are likely to fail. It is easy to find an ambulance aside of the road with a patient inside. So it becomes a problem, it is good to have the type of maintenance which is called preventive maintenance where you find after so many kilometers or hours, a certain service is done so that we have ambulances which are giving us service and then our people will get service to a certain standard. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutinda. Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to give an input on the motion which is before the House. Madam Speaker, the motion is valid but to some extent I would say, Madam Speaker, some issues which are being mentioned in this motion have already been addressed because sometimes back, we had those challenges of fuel but nowadays, I am very sure there are good plans whenever there is a need for ambulance to---

Hon. Masesi: Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Point of information from Hon. Masesi.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Kindly allow me to inform Hon. Mbili that currently, the situation which we have is that the ambulances which are stationed at the headquarters are the ones managed by the MoH. The ones at Level III and Level II are managed from the headquarters by one Chief Officer by the name Mr. Mwongela, who is the Chief Officer for Emergency and Health Services. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Masesi for informing Hon. Ndawa. Hon. Ndawa, proceed. I think you have been informed.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The information is also welcomed. I was saying, recently and I am talking specifically about Yatta, maybe it is not happening in other sub-counties, the vehicles could be brought to Machakos for fueling but arrangements were made.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

Nowadays the ambulances are being fueled at Matuu, Total Filling Station. The issue of long distance is not an issue in Yatta sub-county. The only issue that I would advise is to pre-qualify many fuel dealers so that vehicles can be fueled at the nearest petrol station.

When Hon. Kituku was talking about the vehicles being managed at the sub-county level, I asked myself, Ndithini and Masinga, if you are moving from Ndithini to Masinga and from Ndithini to Machakos, which is more convenient? Is it coming this way off from Ndithini or from Ndithini going to Masinga? If we can pre-qualify a petrol station in Ndithini, it would be better because the vehicle will be fueled at the nearest petrol station.

The other request that I would make Madam Speaker and the Hon. Members, is that we pre-qualify many mechanics so that when there is a break down, we do not have to acquire expenses of towing. Towing a motor vehicle from wherever it is to the central workshop is a cost which can be cut if we have a mechanic around. I am very sure we will be saving some money and the money can be used for another purpose.

The other challenge Madam Speaker, about the ambulances, I appreciate they are assisting our people very much. The challenge is that when the vehicles are taken to central workshop, they remain there for a very long time. The ambulance for Matuu Level 4 Hospital was involved in a slight road accident. It was taken to Machakos; it has been lying in Machakos for almost six months and the damage was not that big. If we can have somebody who is pre-qualified in Matuu, I am very sure the repairs can be done there and the ambulances will be available.

I appreciate the decision taken by the director, Emergency Services, Dr. Mwangela because when the vehicle was involved in a road accident, he instructed the nearby ambulances which are within Yatta sub-county to be standing in. Whenever there is an issue, we call the nearby ambulance either from Kithimani, Ndalani or from Ikombe. So I think that is a good arrangement.

Madam Speaker, the other challenge that we must say is that these ambulances, some of them are being driven by people who are not qualified and if they are qualified, they do not have the relevant authority or the required authority to drive. I want to cite an example of an ambulance in Matuu which is being driven by somebody who is working as a watchman. We have forwarded that for the person to be elevated to a driver; up to date nothing has happened.

Let us ensure that whoever is driving a motor vehicle has the relevant or has the required authority to drive that motor vehicle. I am very sure in case of an accident or in case something happens, it can be a problem even to the driver himself and even the insurance will desist from the same because the person who was driving at the time of the accident was not authorized to drive. Let us be keen to avoid some acts which can endanger or cause the county to spend unnecessary resources. So Madam Speaker, I want to rest my case and say the motion is valid. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndawa. Hon. Betty.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, I want to congratulate you for taking us through this sitting. We are proud of you because you are a woman like us.

(Applause)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Madam Speaker, first I want to congratulate the chair Health, Hon. Cosmus Masesi, because I can say that there was a time that personally I had a problem over a weekend that Madam Speaker, it happened there was an accident in a place called Ghetto. Madam Speaker I was crying to the chairman telling him that my ambulance that was based in Masii was not in good order. Madam Speaker, to my surprise, I personally went to Masii Health Center, when I was trying to follow what was the problem and what could have happened that the ambulance was not functioning.

To my surprise Madam Speaker, one, they were claiming that the ambulance did not have fuel. Madam Speaker, it is my able request that because within the Machakos County we have eight sub-counties, it would be better if the fueling of ambulance can be done as per sub-county. The other thing is we normally fuel these ambulances when there is an emergency and I was really concerned because I was proposing the ambulance should not stay without fuel because when we talk of emergency that is not the right time for us to run up and down so that we can get fuel and we save people.

Madam Speaker, I am really humbled that the chairman, Health has heard our cry because personally, I was telling him if he is not going to handle this issue and we solve with the Executive once and for all, it will be too unfortunate because I know even you, you are aware. My people were saying that they are going to demonstrate because we had to get an ambulance all the way from Vyulya to Ghetto near La Palace. That is almost some few kilometers and I think we lost four women on the spot because we did not have an ambulance.

So Madam Speaker, I am really happy and I want to congratulate again Hon. Masesi and I want to urge the Executive because now we have our director, that it can take this initiative and they take things seriously so that we can save our people and for us to give the best in health. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Betty. Hon. Nyanzi.

Hon. Nyanzi: Asante sana *Madam Speaker*. Nakupongeza sana kwa kuwa katika bunge hili lilipoanza. Wewe ndio wa kwanza kuwa Spika mbele yetu, wale wengine ni wale wanafaa kuwa pale. Nasimama kusema ya kwamba *these ambulances* ambazo tunaongelelea hapa, mimi nafanya biashara ya magari na hata *chairman* anafanya kazi hiyo. Sheria ya Kenya inasema gari ikipita miaka sita, hiyo iondolowe, haifai kuwa barabarani (??). Naomba nipewe wakati nilete *motion* tununue magari mapya ambayo ni ya kubeba binadamu.

(*Applause*)

Ile nyingine nataka kuleta, kama mfano, Kalama miaka miwili, ile *ambulance* iko hapo iliharibika na haijakuwa sawasawa, ikitengenezwa mara inaharibika. Mimi nauliza wale ambao mnaleta *motion* hapa muwe mkichunguza sana msituharibie wakati. Kila *sub-county* miezi mitatu iliyopita---

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Mh. Nyanzi, have a seat. There is no Hon. Member who would waste this House's time, therefore I request you to withdraw that.

(*Applause*)

Hon. Nyanzi: I withdraw.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Proceed.

Hon. Nyanzi: Na niseme ya kwamba kila *sub-county* miezi mitatu iliyopita, magari yanakunywa mafuta huko. Wameona hio makosa na wakarekebisha kwa hivyo hii ni kama hawakujua vizuri, kwa hivyo mkuwe mkichunguza kabla ya kuleta. Asante.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nyanzi. Hon. Jeremiah.

Hon. Munguti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to applaud the chairman, Health for this motion which is timely. Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that in this House, majority of the elected Members have suffered a lot. Every time when we are in our sleep, very irritating calls are coming from our electorate and these people are calling for help. Immediately you wake up, it is a distress call and when you try to organize the ambulances to take the patient to the nearby health center or any referral hospital, the only report you get from the workers of the county there is no fuel.

It is so bad especially when we are saving a life only to wake up and find that the component you want to use in the name of ambulance has got no fuel. This one risks the lives of our people and this is the reason why I stand to support this motion and request Members to ensure this problem has been solved once and for all. In my ward in a place called Ithemboni in Miu location, Friday last week I was called in the wee hours of the morning and I was told a woman was delivering but to my surprise, when I called the nurse in charge of Miu Level III hospital, he told me the ambulance for Miu Level III was not in order.

I called the nurse in charge of Muthetheni Level III, they also said the ambulance is in good condition but there was no fuel. It was so irritating, I had to wake up and ignite my car. I went and found that it was too late, we had lost that life because that woman had gone for labor pain for quite some time. It was about 15 kilometers from my home and for this House to save the lives of our people, we need to come up with a strategy on how the ambulances in the wards can be fueled within the wards or the sub counties.

On the same Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that the ambulances that we have are just but vehicles because they have no necessary equipment for life support which can resuscitate our people when they are in critical conditions. Therefore I am requesting this House if we can also budget for at least eight ambulances which are fully equipped for each sub county for saving the lives of our people. Otherwise, I am fully supporting this motion and I am requesting the Hon. House to pass the motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jeremiah. Hon. Minority Leader.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. Once again I congratulate you for the seat that you have now. Madam Speaker is very much aware that it was a very good initiative from our Governor when he bought the 80 ambulances, and in that regard, I am standing here for us to share some experiences so that for us as Hon. Members to be seen that we are doing our oversight role when we are talking about ambulances. I want to share administrative issues that for example in Matungulu, it is important for us to be having the communication of the medical officer of the sub county. That is the thing I normally do and have all the numbers of the drivers and the clinical officers.

It is very true that every ambulance has a clinical officer and so it is important to know who is your medical officer in that area and in weekly or monthly basis, how does he distribute the drivers and the clinical officers. I am saying that because these clinical officers have to take

their leave and the drivers too and in that regard, administrative wise, if you are aware how many drivers you have in your sub county and for that sake in Tala ward, I know the drivers who are on duty, who is taking off, the clinical officers who are taking their leave or offs so that in case of any emergency, if you are told the clinical officer is the one in charge of that ambulance, it will be easier for you to contact him with the driver.

My sharing of this matter, I have heard Hon. Members are talking about fuel; it is true but in my ward and Hon. Masesi we border, you will also witness that our ambulances are drawing fuel in Nguluni; there is petrol station and the clinical officers and drivers have the cards. So as an oversight duty, I will kindly ask you to also make a follow up because it is true some of the ambulances have broken down but it is also our duty to alert them.

My humble request for this House is that the health committee should sit with the transport committee, Hon. Masesi and Hon. Mbevi, so that we may also draw, during the budgeting process, some money so that we also build some mechanical workshops within every sub county so that in case there is any break down, we have mechanics in our workshops so that it will be easier for us; the ambulances will be taken to the sub county workshops.

Mheshimiwa also mentioned about the pre-qualification of mechanics within our areas; we have got people who have their workshops so before we build our own workshops, we should also set aside some money for pre-qualification so that in every sub county or ward or the nearest town like Tala and Ol-Donyo Sabuk, we may have some pre-qualified mechanics who may attend to our ambulances in case of any break down.

Otherwise it was a well done thought for our Hon. Chair of health to bring this notice because those experiences you have heard from Members, they are experiencing those problems and when we come to the terms to define emergency, those are the services that are supposed to be given to the citizens without any delay. I support the motion. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Minority Leader. Hon. Kisini.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also want to congratulate you. I want to echo what Hon. Members have said more especially about fuel. There is that problem and before you reach that ambulance, it is a problem and you are told to fuel. Madam Speaker, I want to notify you that Kyumbi, Athi River and Mlolongo are along Mombasa road where we have so many accidents and I think we don't have an ambulance; the one there is stalled at Mlolongo because of tires. I would request as we look at this, to see to it that sub-counties and wards are provided with one. I kindly request the chairman of health to look into that.

Finally, I want to echo what was said by *Mheshimiwa* Nyanzi that because of depreciation, these vehicles might now be old. We need to consider and see if we can purchase other ambulances which are in good condition so that they can serve the county easily. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Hon. Annastaciah.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutuku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate you because you have been there as our Speaker and feel honored.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Annastaciah.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutuku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to appreciate the committee of health and the chairman. As a Member, I acknowledge that there are some challenges in the

county ambulances because when devolution came, it came for the people to get services near. It is my humble request to request the County Government to modify those ambulances to be equipped and make sure it is fueled all the time and I want to agree with Hon. Members on the drivers; actually those drivers are just behaving like touts and I am talking through experience.

This time, the County Government needs to train the ambulance drivers, be equipped and also to serve the people of Machakos County in a right manner. The other thing, I want to say to the Executive has done great since 2013 but as the vehicle is giving people services, it is getting old, so they need to change and purchase new ones according to the system.

I want to say the committee of Health, and because I am a Member, if the Speaker can now allow us as a committee to do some monitoring throughout the movement of the ambulances and sometimes you know those people do some business on the ground if they are idle, so it is our duty as a committee through the Chair to monitor those ambulances in a right manner so that our people can get services and efficiency so that our people can feel comfortable and feel they are getting the right services. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Annastaciah. Hon. Constance.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First, congratulations for sitting in that chair. It shows good signs of a future woman leader. I want to congratulate the committee; they have done a good job and to me I think it is the right time. We have been talking, we have been seeing, we have been watching. There is a time I had to rescue two women.

One had given birth on the road and there was an ambulance in the Chief's office and that ambulance could not move, the driver was not there, the fuel was not there and so I convened a quick meeting and the Chief said you see these drivers come here they say one, two, three and they go even the driver now is drinking at that bar and true to his word, we went and pulled out that driver and I put information to the Governor's Office and the driver was changed.

However, it did not make much change. They are still behaving the same and you tend to wonder if these ambulances are not working really because everyone who has talked is like no ambulance is working anywhere. Why do we have them? Are we really having value to those ambulances? If it is a matter of fuel, you look at it and ask yourself, an ambulance is in Masinga, it runs out of fuel and is supposed to drive with the little fuel, it has to come to Machakos and fuel and go back. It is now going to spend that fuel doing nothing because it is just going back to the station. To my feeling, alternatively could we have that fuel stored in jerricans somewhere in those near offices where the ambulance is---

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: There is a point of information. Hon. Mbula please get informed by Mheshimiwa Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to inform the Hon. Member that putting petrol in a house or in a store is just like any other bomb. So it is very risky to store that petrol. I want to cite an example of an incident which took place in Matuu. One of the drivers of the ambulances was a thief, so whenever he took a patient to hospital, he would come and siphon the petrol and put it in his house.

One day as he was trying to prepare *ugali*, the petrol Jerrican was just few meters away. It burst and the whole building burnt down, so I want to inform the Hon. Member we should never at any time try to put petrol in the house. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Further information from Mheshimiwa Mutinda.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to inform the Member that it is against government policy, it is against government regulations to have fuel put in jerrycans. Fuel is supposed to be put in vehicles, no additional. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Constance, you have been exhaustively informed. I think you should proceed now. Proceed now.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Hon. Speaker, well-advised but that was just a third option; an option because there is no other way. You cannot let somebody die because there is no fuel. People are learned; we know we cannot store fuel near the kitchen or in the houses. But what I said is store in those offices but then another alternative of getting those vehicles with fuel is to keep them fully fueled during the day so that in case of an emergency, we are not standing and watching and saying there is no fuel. Why do we have vehicles if there is no fuel?

You must get prepared; you cannot go to the *shamba* when you have no *jembe* or *panga* so I want to say I support this motion but we need to move and get those vehicles in working condition and do the job they were brought to do. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Constance. Hon. Helen Ndeti.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish also to congratulate you...I wish you were in the full uniform to be our Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Helen.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Now as somebody who is from the motor trade, I would like to comment as follows. These ambulances are not ambulances; I do not even think they have got a certificate from the Chief Mechanical department in the National Government. They are not up to the specifications that an ambulance should have and that is why they are always breaking down because the suspension is too weak for our roads.

The clearance, is too low for an ambulance and those are some of the reasons why they are breaking down all the time. I think what the government needs to do is just throw them away and procure well specified ambulances for carrying our people.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: I think at this juncture, I invite.....okay Hon. Kiilu, you can proceed.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe I will be the last one. Allow me to join my colleagues---

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Proceed, Hon. Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: Allow me to join my colleagues actually in congratulating you for sitting in that Chair.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: Secondly, allow me to say that I really appreciate the efforts of the Governor for having that good foresight. Actually, it was a very brilliant idea to have ambulances so that we can save lives. Otherwise it is very important and actually we need to understand as the Minority Leader put it. What do we mean by ambulances? What are they needed for? Because of emergencies and if some of these challenges are not addressed, actually we do not need to have the ambulances.

Under number two, I want us to congratulate the members because most of the challenges they have said actually if they are addressed, then I want to tell you that we shall have one of the best means of saving lives in Machakos County. Otherwise, most of the challenges that have been said here normally like in my ward in terms of the drivers, I want to believe that my ward has the best driver ever. A driver who has all the qualifications; a driver who takes care of that ambulance. If they are paraded, I want to tell you Muthesya would be the best and I am not bragging because of that.

Issues of fuel, as Hon. Ndawa said, it is very much disturbing to hear of an ambulance in Muthesya and it is coming to be fueled at Kithimani, that is around 50 or 60 kilometers from Muthesya, so as he put it, it is important that we have other fueling stations and I also want to echo the words of the Majority Leader, let us have cards so that they can be fueling at the nearest fueling station and if that challenge is addressed, actually most of the problems will have exited.

Otherwise, I wish to congratulate the chairman of this committee that is health, and I also want to say that I support the motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members for exhaustively debating. I now call the mover to reply.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all Madam Speaker, allow me to say thank you to the members for their passionate contribution to my motion. Madam Speaker, just allow me to mention that the County Governor of Machakos bought 70 ambulances and for now, we have 52 which are operational. To mention about the sub county is that Matungulu sub county we have nine; one is not operational. Kangundo we have five, all operational, Madam Speaker. Kathiani we have four, all operational.

Machakos Sub County we have seven, two were involved in accident that is Kyangala and Machakos Town; they are being worked on. Madam Speaker, at Mavoko sub county, we have seven, two had accidents at Mlolongo and Athi River; both are being worked on. Madam Speaker, in Masinga sub-county, we have nine ambulances; one has a mechanical problem. Mwala Sub County we have 13, four with mechanical issues, one which had an accident and another one at Miu accident. Lastly Madam Speaker, Yatta Sub County we have eight ambulances. We have one which had an accident at Kisiiki place. Madam Speaker, the same is also being worked on.

Madam Speaker, the concept of this motion is that, and I want to tell again that these ambulances... what I mean is that they are being operated or managed from ambulance headquarter. The monies are being sent from this end not from the sub county offices, Madam Speaker. The reason why the one which had an accident was being towed to Machakos is that the monies are being accounted for from the Chief Officer, Emergency Services.

Madam Speaker, passing of this motion will enable us and that if allowed, health committee will move fast if the motion passed and get all the contacts of the sub county Medical Officers of Health and make them available for members so that Madam Speaker, in case of an emergency, a Hon. Member can make a call to the sub county officer and have the ambulance, Madam Speaker, on time. Madam Speaker, if this motion is passed, it will enable the

management of these ambulances at the Levels one, two and three to be managed from the sub county MOH, that is, if there is no fuel, communication will be done very swiftly from the dispensaries to just the headquarter of the sub county.

Madam Speaker, we need to make sure that we have the modern ambulances and that one can only be achieved if we agree and give a budget for the same at the supplementary which may be coming like January or February, Madam Speaker, this financial year. Madam Speaker, I will take action as the Chair and make sure that that driver in Matuu who is also a watchman is worked on Madam Speaker, and maybe be promoted to a driver to move from a watchman to driver.

(Hon. Ndawa spoke off record)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ndawa, not at this time.

Hon. Masesi: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member mentioned there is a watchman who is acting as a driver and that one I am saying we will make sure that that watchman is promoted to a driver if he has a license or documents which are needed. Otherwise, Madam Speaker, I would like to say thank you to this house and also say thank you for approving our able CEC who Madam Speaker, I believe will take the oath soonest. Otherwise, thank you, Madam Speaker, and congratulations for the position.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Masesi. I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, thank you. The motion is committed to the Health and Emergency Services committee and the committee to table a report on or before the 14th of September, 2019. Hon. Members, now that you have passed this motion, allow me to thank you elected and special elected members for according me serious support, serious understanding and serious encouragement.

I realize that this motion has been very close to your hearts because it is your electorate, it is your people, it is our people, our mothers, brothers and sisters and children who have ended up suffering, therefore it has been vibrantly and exhaustively debated and I thank every member who has contributed and those who are in agreement we thank you.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Now this House adjourns to Wednesday the 31st day of July 2019 at 2:30 pm. Thank you

The House rose at 1.00 p.m.