

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Wednesday, 22nd October, 2014**

The House met at 2.35 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****NOTICES OF MOTIONS****DEFORESTATION OF GOVERNMENT FORESTS**

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give a notice of the following motion; THAT this house discuss and approves that the Machakos County government intervenes to stop deforestation at Iveti hills, Kanzokea, Kanzalu hills including all other places and acquisition of land in areas known as government forest. Thank you.

PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLES

I also wish to give another notice of motion that, Mr. Speaker, that this house discuss and approves purchase of new vehicles by the county government of Machakos. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MOTIONS**HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

Hon. Speaker: The motion of the morning continues and we had adjourned when Hon. Geoffrey was on the floor, so proceed.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, first let me congratulate the chairlady for this department of health for the good job she has done as pertains our health. Mr. Speaker, I will start by saying, Kathiani Level Four hospital is in pathetic condition. I think Kathiani is not a

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hospital, it is a slaughter house or a butcher house as I can say, because if you can take your patient there, you can stay more than four hours unattended, the patient can die without seeing a nurse, a clinical officer or a doctor, Mr. Speaker. So I first thank this department of health for their concerns as pertains to Kathiani Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, water is a major concern in this hospital while Muooni dam is two kilometers from this facility. On Mashujaa Day, I went to Kathiani General Hospital and the facility had no water. I used my vehicle and went back to my home to collect water to bring to Kathiani Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, when we were here, the administrator for Kathiani General Hospital called me to ask if I am available, to drop water to the hospital. Also, Mr. Speaker, the staff are said to be 98 but if you go there you will find they are less than 10 members of staff who are working in that facility. So I am in total support of the committee which said officers in Kathiani be transferred to other facilities although I don't understand in those other facilities, who wants to be given such services by this staff.

Mr. Speaker, the small services like gloves, you cannot get in Kathiani General, while it has the largest and modern buildings in this county but all this services cannot be given at the hospital.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I urge these hon. members, if possible, because Kathiani is in a pathetic condition, to assist me even if we are going to have an harambee within the precincts of the assembly, to assist the people because they are dying, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. A. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank health and emergency services committee and the chair for the good work they have done concerning health facilities in Machakos County. My contribution, I want to concentrate on Kathiani Sub County. This county comprises of four wards that is Kathiani Central, Mitaboni Central, Lower Kaewa and Upper Kaewa ward, where I represent.

We have been receiving requests from our voters, requesting to demonstrate to ask for their rights of health because when you go to Kathiani Level Four Hospital, it is in a pathetic situation. Even services there, it is not up to date, so I support what the committee of health did.

When you go to Kathiani in the department of ambulances, there are two drivers, one from Kathiani hospital and another one from Machakos County. And the funny thing when you go there and the patient is referred to Machakos level five, and the driver of the hospital is not there or is on leave, the driver of the hospital who drives the Land Rover cannot access the keys for the ambulance.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need to talk to the director of the ambulances to know that the ambulances belong to the government and instead of wasting a lot of money for the patients to come to Level Five hospital in Machakos. Secondly, I request the committee to talk to the minister of the said department to appear before this house and tell this house what steps or actions she has already taken concerning this report because it is not new to that department.

Hon. Speaker: Hon Member, you would want the CECM concerned, to say what she had done about a report that has not even been adopted by the house?

Hon. A. Wambua: Immediately after the house adopts this report.

Hon. Speaker: Okay.

Hon. A. Wambua: Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman Implementation committee, my committee is ready to implement this document immediately the house approves it, because as members, we must stamp our authority because our people elected us and our duty is to oversight and my committee is ready to implement that. My last contribution is that, Mr. Speaker, I support---

Hon. Speaker: Okay let us take the point of order.

Hon. Matheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Is it in order for the member to say that his committee is ready to implement this document? Does it mean he is not ready to implement any other document? What does he mean by that?

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, I think that point is sustained.

Hon. A. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, I am ready, my committee is ready to implement all motions which will be approved by this house. To implement, Mr. Speaker, Sir----- My last contribution, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is to support that in Kathiani Level four hospitals, all the staff to be transferred to other hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. As we proceed on debate, hon. members, I want to put to your attention to Standing Order No. 181, reports on house resolutions- once this report is adopted there will be a house resolution. Within sixty days of a resolution of the house or

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adoption of a report of a certain committee, the relevant committee executive member under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls, shall provide a report to the relevant committee of the house in accordance with Article 183 (3) of the constitution.

So immediately the resolution is done, it is incumbent on the CEC member to provide a report on implementation of the report. So as you do your implementation, I think the law is already stated.

Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give special congratulations to the health committee for coming up with this kind of report and I send a wakeup call to the other committees in the house. They should visit our wards on a fact finding mission to come with such reports.

I belong to this committee and we went to few hospitals, Mr. Speaker and this problem cuts across this small clinics and when I discussed with the chairman for health, she told me the minister will appear next week.

So my proposal was, we wait next week so that we can present our grievances to her, so that she can file the report in her committee and then it can be brought back to the house. Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: And they are not our grievances, they are our demands.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the house at large. I will start by congratulating the hon. chair and this committee on health and say this is the way to go for all the committees that we have in this house. The introduction of committees in parliamentary system enhances the achievement of oversight responsibility for members, because small size of committees can be able to focus on the key matters that are affecting our departments.

Mr. Speaker, when I go through the report I realize the committee visited only four out of 198 medical facilities within the county. Mr. Speaker, going through the report, as clearly outlined, whatever you can see here is massive and intimidating.

Hon. Speaker: Point of information.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Just to inform the hon. member that we were on a mission for the Level Four hospitals, we are coming down to the ward levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Understandably, the Deputy Speaker was not in the morning sitting.

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Hon. Nganga: Mr. Speaker, I was only making reference to the report and using it as a base of my argument. I was not disputing the number of institutions visited. Mr. Speaker, what I would want to say is that, these challenges must be solved without much ado. We don't need to wait until the CEC member is here so that we can approve this report.

Mr. Speaker, the report must be approved forthrightly, so the CEC member must be compelled to move with speed and address the challenges that are facing our people. Mr. Speaker, without proper medical care, the lives of our people are in danger. Whether skilled or unskilled, and that in itself is a danger to the population of our county.

Mr. Speaker, going through the report also, the whole outlook makes it very clear that in Machakos County, the health care department is indeed an ICU because whatever we see here is a situation where we are not sure, if I get ill in my ward and is taken to the nearby medical institution, will be taken care of.

And we don't want a situation where, only the rich and the able can be able to take care of their lives and the poor and impoverished cannot be given the basic right of health care that is enshrined in our constitution, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to support the report and urge the hon members of this house to seek deep within their hearts and see that we need to move with speed. Mr. Speaker, I have heard about the hon. member for Kathiani, highlighting that a few minutes he has been called by the hospital administrator in Kathiani.

I happened to use that hospital while I was in high school, and I know what that hospital means to the whole of Kathiani constituency, Mr. Speaker. If I look at the report about Matuu hospital, this is more than intimidating because that means the people the whole of Lower Yatta cannot be able to access medical attention.

Mr. Speaker, this indicates that if anybody falls ill around that area, they must be taken to a neighboring county, maybe Mwingi or Thika while we are working hard to be the leading county. We may be leading in the new initiatives that we have developed, but Mr. Speaker the inherited responsibilities must be fulfilled so that the people cannot see that it was far much better when we had the centralized system of government unlike now when we have devolution.

Mr. Speaker, I went through an article of Transition Authority chairman of Kinuthia Wamwangi and he was applauding the new initiatives that have been brought about by the county governments. Mr. Speaker but he strongly lamented on how the counties have been able to take shape in the existing responsibilities that were under the national government.

Mr. Speaker, I think this house must move beyond this and even demand to have a full house session where the report from the CEC member responsible shall be table here and further

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decisions must be taken to ensure that our department of health is in the best possible situation. Mr. Speaker, this in itself is demeaning. It is not the kind of medical care that we would want to give to our parents or our brothers who cannot afford high class medical care, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to urge all members, in the best interest of our county, to approve this report and seek that the concerned CEC member must move ahead and implement this report with the best interests of our county at heart. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for according me this second chance, although I have realized that I had contributed on the same matter in the morning sitting but Mr. Speaker, allow me to inform the chair of this important committee that she should allow members to lay their base of argument and because, even in love making, people or animals don't just go straight to the act. They have to look for a way of caressing before the actual act, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think members are agreeing with me. For those who have had an opportunity to watch donkeys when they want to have this act, the female donkey kicks the male donkey very hard, preparing it for the actual act, Mr. Speaker.

So it is my humble request that the chair allows members to lay their base of argument. We should start somewhere then come to the Level Four. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: That is how they do it where you come from?

Hon. Kamitu: Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support and to applaud the committee for health services. They did a commendable job, so it is now my chance in regard to the recommendation they have done. Mr. Speaker, my emphasis would be in regard to getting solutions.

I stand here to request the house that we support this report, if it is adopted, we should go and write the analysis. We see where our shortfalls are. In this regard, in the report, they have talked about poor facilitation within the health services. So we should also ask ourselves what will be the short fall in regard to this facilities and equipment.

They have talked about understaffing. My humble request, Mr. Speaker, Sir, would be against, because what this report is talking about is that most of the level four hospitals have similar problems. So my recommendation would go in line with what when we are talking about understaffing of the nurses, the clinical officers, the doctors, the support staff at what ration, so that if we are going to have the supplementary budget, as a solution, what would be our short fall.

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Again, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should not lose sight of what the committee has done. It has done a commendable job, but as I said, we should also go and check in regard to the drug analysis. What is our short fall and what has made this short fall to come because from the previous record, in most of the hospitals, the supervisors have opened their own private chemists. This is because there is no close supervision.

So if this report is going to be adopted, we should also come up with a solution of how we are going to control the drugs, to prevent theft of the same. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also request the same committee to be given time to prevent a situation where our electorates are not aware of the NHIF. They should be given civic education because this one of the areas, where, if our electorates are educated, the contribution they are supposed to be making as individuals is also going to help them.

When somebody is admitted in those level four hospitals and they are contributors of the same, it will be easier for them when they are admitted. It is a cost sharing sort of cover. It will enable our electorates to be able to pay debts in regard to the inpatients. Again my humble request, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the facilitation of these supplementary budgets so that we may come up with the solutions, because the committee has covered most of the problems and it has done all the recommendations.

So the solutions would be to incorporate our CEC member for water, because in this report, they are talking about shortage of water and electricity and there are those departments which are also related to make it easier facilitation of those hospitals.

So it is the committee in regard to the relationship of the departments of water and energy so that those level hospitals where there is no water or electricity, we can avail those facilities. Otherwise, I sincerely recommend and applaud the committee for health services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I thought that immediately the report is adopted, it is the duty of the CEC member in charge to liaise with his counterparts to provide those services.

Hon. Kamitu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is in support of the committee. We are on the same note with the committee.

Hon. Itumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for catching your eye. I take this opportunity to thank this committee of health and emergency services for coming up with an excellent report for the first time. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you realize that I am a member of Kangundo Central ward, where Kangundo level four hospital is built.

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I want to say that, most of the equipment in that hospital was installed by the colonialists and the drawers in the hospital are in rust. You cannot imagine, Mr. Speaker, Sir, three cots for infants in the incubators in a very big hospital like that. I tell you, the situation there does not smell. It stinks.

Mr. Speaker, that mortuary is in a pathetic situation. For those who reside near that building, they are not sleeping. It is stinking. I was with this public health officer, by the name Kisio, who told me the machines there are not working properly. And they should be installed or replaced with two new ones with immediate effect. This committee has not talked about refrigeration in the motion. If it is in the report, congratulations to them.

Mr. Speaker, Kangundo Level Four hospital is not a new hospital. I can say it is the one that follows the level five hospitals.

You find that people from Umoja, Komarock, Ruai, Njiru and Mwala come for treatment in that particular hospital. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this report should be taken with a lot of seriousness and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, because I remember we allocated enough money in this docket of health, my committee is going to summon the Executive to come and present on our table, the policy that guides them on how they are going to perform with this money that we allocated that docket.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you talk about this situation in this various level four hospitals, it is a matter of life saving, it is not a joke. Let us be serious and unite and approve this important report. Also in my area, we have started building a new health centre to ease the population in that Kangundo level four hospital where, Mr. Speaker, I told you to be a guest of honor.

Because even as a citizen of this nation, I would ask you to go there yourself and see the situation over there. Mr. Speaker, if I continue talking about this situation, I will find myself crying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the document.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you hon. Itumo, it looks like this committee did not invite you when they were visiting your hospital at your ward.

Hon. Itumo: It is true, because initially, I was there, but this second round they have been rotating I was not there.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the information from the Chairman.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, the day we went to Kangundo, we invited the hon. member. He was not there. They had some issues with the shambas. I called him
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more than five times and all the members I was with can attest to that. But Mr. Itumo told me to go ahead because his presence is still there. So I am worried when he says he was not there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Itumo: It is true, Mr. Speaker. I didn't because you know the problem with Komarock ranching.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Itumo, can you tell this house whether you have contributed the Ksh. 1,000? I think that was a recommendation for Kangundo hospital. Or you have not read your report that the committee proposed that to contribute a minimum of Ksh 1000 to do cement on the tent within the next 10 days?

Hon. Itumo: No problem with that, Mr. Speaker, I will contribute.

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the matter in front of us touches everyone because it is the issue of saving lives and I know it is very tearful and hard when you lose someone for a mere case which could have been handled seriously. Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the level four health facilities cover large areas for example Matuu covers from Kivaa, Mbiuni, Masinga and part of Kitui west.

So you see we have an urgency to improve the health services within our areas and most may urge the house to approve this report very quickly and the first step to be taken is we have to go to Matuu and see what we can do.

In fact, Matuu hospital is in the poor state, because it has no electricity. Yesterday, I was there and the only drug that is there is paracetamol. The place is so dirty. We have no water. The wards have been closed for renovation and it is now the eighth months after the patients were removed from the wards. We have no theatre. The x-ray room is also under renovation. We do not have casualty in that area, no backup generator for electricity. You see all those are the problems within which are touching the people from Matuu, Mwala, Yatta and Masinga.

So I urge the hon. members to move in a speedy way that we may save the lives of our people. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also have to see the attendants who are there. We have some doctors who have been in Matuu for more than 15 years and also the administration. Can they be transferred to other places because a change is as good as a rest, Mr. Speaker, so that we may see performance of that hospital?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is of great concern to our people. People are losing lives there. It is in the last week, a guy was hit by a motorbike, then the motor rider ran off and the victim was taken
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to Matuu district hospital around 5 p.m. He was given paracetamol, and then told to go home and sleep and then come the following day to be attended to. Tomorrow, that man was taken back to Matuu and they said ‘this is a case of referral to Thika or Machakos.’ Before they reached Sofia, that man passed on.

You see how the situation is and it is not only that case only. In fact, there are simple things which people have to think about. We have consultation for people who need consultations but there nowhere they can be attended to.

So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg you now to put the question so that this report can be reach the minister before the end of today because it is painful losing lives. So I urge you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the hon. members have agreed. Just put the question. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, have you have been consulted so I can proceed and move the question? Until we hear Hon. Mueni and Hon. Muthesya.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I thank the chair, because at that time, it is the time I was cancelled from the list to go to Uganda. I was invited to go around with the committee of health and I understand what the hon. members are saying that Matuu and Kathiani hospitals are in terrible state, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I ask, if you can move the question so that we can go ahead and you call the CEC member here even today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Yes Hon. Muthesya.

Hon. Nzioki: Asante sana Bw. Spika. La kwanza ningependa kushukuru hio kamati ya afya pamoja na Mwenyekiti wao. Mimi naunga huo mswada, mia kwa mia kwasababu, Bw. Spika, kile ambacho kimeandikwa kwenye hii ripoti, sio mambo ya kudhania. Ni mambo walio yaona wao wenyewe. Na vile naweza kusema Bw. Spika, kuna mambo mengi hapa hayajaandikwa.

Na tuiseme, na sidhani kama kuna mtu ambaye atasimama hapa aseme, labda tunataka kuharibu serikali ama Serikali ya Kaunti. Sisi tumeletwa hapa kutetea watu wetu na hii ndio kazi yetu.

Ningetaka kusema hivi, Bw. Spika. Mimi natoka Muthesya, mahali ambapo tunapeleka watu waonjwa Thika kwa sababu tukipeleka watu Matuu, kesho yake tunaanza kupanga matanga. Nikisema hivi, tunajua huyo mtu hatarudi akiwa hai. Kwa hivyo ni lazima tumpangie matanga ili tuje tumzike. Na hata hivyo niseme, Bw. Spika, tunapo sema tunaenda Thika, kuna

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watu wanasema hatuhudumiwi. Tunahudumiwa vizuri, lakini hata hivyo, jicho ambalo halikutaki saa zingine unaweza kuliona.

Mimi nimewahi kupeleka watu pale mara mbili lakini tunahudumiwa. Tusije tukawashtumu kaunti nyingine kwa sababu ya kusema hivyo. Lakini hata hivyo waswahili wanasema, akufukuzaye, hakwambii toka. Utaona tu kwa macho.

Ningetaka kusema hivi Bw. Spika, kuna watu ambao wamelala kwenye hii kazi. Kuna watu ambao, sisi tuliochaguliwa, hawatuhusishi kwa yale mambo wanayo fanya kwenye hizi hospitali.

Hii ndio nafasi yetu ya kuchangia, ili waweze kufanya kile ambacho kinatakikana kifanywe. Kwa hivyo Bw. Spika, mimi nawaomba waheshimiwa wenzangu, tuendeleo kwa huo mwendo na tuunge huu mswada ili tuweze kukosoa mambo ambayo yanafanyika.

Labda hii ripoti ingefanywa mwaka jana, Bw. Spika, labda ingekuwa na mambo mengi sana yakutisha. Tusije tu tukasema ati Kaunti haijafanya lolote. Mimi najua kaunti imefanya mabadiliko, lakini kwa sababu wakati wetu umefika wa ugatuzi, ili tuweze kuokoa watu wetu. Wakati wetu ni sasa na ni lazima tuwaokoe. Asante sana Bw. Spika.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, I think we can have this debate concluded. We have taken enough of time, unless there is something you feel is very burning, I give you a minute then we can hear the chair.

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Asante sana kwa Bw. Spika kwa kunipa hii nafasi. Nasimama kwa mara ya pili kuunga huu mswada mkono na kuwaomba wabunge wenzangu kwamba tupitisho huu mswada. Pia kama kamati ya afya, ningependa mwenyekiti wa hio kamati wamuite waziri wa afya, waziri wa fedha, waziri wa maji na waziri wa fedha.

Kaunti ilikuja na mradi mzuri sana, wa magari ya ambulance. Kila wodi imepatiwa ambulance mbili na imekuwa shida sana na mara kwa mara utakuta kwenye wodi kuna mtu mgonjwa na mtu wa ambulance akiulizwa anasema ambulance hazina mafuta.

Tungetaka kamati ya afya ijue kabisa ya kwamba mikakati imewekwa ili kuona kila wakati ambulance inaweza kupatikana ili kuokoa maisha ya wale wametuchagua. Hii kamati iko na kazi kubwa na ya maana kufanya, ni kwa ajili wale wametuchagua. Kipao mbele ni tunacho weza kuwapa ni afya.

Kwa hivyo washikane mikono pamoja, waziri wa afya, fedha na maji waone kwamba hospitali zetu zimeletwa kwa kiwango ambacho kinatakikana. Bw. Spika, nauliza tushikane pamoja sisi ili tuokoe maisha ya wale waliotuchagua.

Hon. Ngunzi: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you so much and declare the chair health the chairman of the year and say that the report was timely because things in rural Mwala were getting out of hand.

People were now beginning to refuse any referrals to Mwala hospital. No one will agree to be put in the ambulance and be referred to Mwala. They are saying Mwala is a place of death. So with this, I wanted to request that this house also approves the directive that has been given by the director emergency services that the rural Mwala health centers and dispensaries have referrals to Mwala Hospital. That directive should be removed and all referrals from rural Mwala should be referred to Machakos hospital.

You cannot refer a patient to a hospital that has no doctor, no light, no water, only a clinical officer who has been overworked. So referring people of Mwala Sub County to Mwala hospital is calling for their untimely death. We are against it, and a directive should be issued that all patients be referred to Machakos Hospital. Thank you.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hon. members for the support they have given my committee and they have contributed warmly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I even want to thank the Thika hospital for what they have been doing to our people. They have really supported us when we needed them and we can't say they have done nothing because our people told us that is where they get health services.

Again Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this house, when we bring the supplementary budget to pass it without fail. Mr. Speaker, the committee of health needs money and if there is no money, nothing will move.

I would like to ask this hon. house to give emergency services section its own money so that our ambulances will not go without fuel, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and thank you hon members. God bless you all.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Members.

(Question put and agreed to)

Let us proceed to the next agenda.

PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLES

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Hon. Muthuka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion. Aware that this Hon. House discussed and approved purchase of reconditioned vehicles by the county government of Machakos, aware that the county government of Machakos has already bought the said vehicles, aware that this hon house passed the same motion due to shortage of vehicles, aware that there was inadequate funds by then and aware that the county bought some vehicles which I tend to think they are almost adequate, if the county embarks on purchase of new vehicles, they will serve for a longer period as compared with the reconditioned vehicles.

Further aware that the vehicles can be replaced and further aware that new vehicles are cheap to maintain, this Hon. House discusses and approves gradual purchase of new vehicles by the county government of Machakos instead of reconditioned vehicles so that they can serve the county government for a longer period of time with fewer repairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to call Hon. Matheka Francis to second the motion.

Hon. Matheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Aware that the county government bought second hand vehicles and knowing very well, some of the vehicles like the one for Decentralized units, which go by the name Tiida, are reconditioned but allow me to say that cheap is expensive.

Maintenance cost of those vehicles at the end of the day might be higher than buying a new vehicle. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my prayer that, this house reverses the earlier motion allowing the purchase of reconditioned vehicles and allow the county government to be buying the new ones due to the fact that new vehicles for the first few years are almost maintenance-free and they take little cash to maintain.

Also aware that our surrounding counties, for example Makueni, they bought new vehicles for ambulances and I believe vehicles which are assembled locally will take longer and they are sure of their vehicles reaching their destination.

I am not saying that our ambulances don't do their job but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, locally assembled vehicles are more strong and tough for our rough roads than the reconditioned. I will give you an example of the reconditioned cars for the decentralized units department which are used in the inspectorate department. Most of them, as we talk now, are grounded and if they were new vehicles, I think they will be going for their second or third service which is normal to the dealers. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this motion, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let me hear contributions for the motion.

Hon. Nzioki: Mr. Speaker, as the motion is brought in the house, the wording of the motion is not correct because, I would say, the cars we are using in Machakos County are not reconditioned because they are second hand vehicles. Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between reconditioned and second hand. I would suggest this motion to be deferred and corrected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let me get you, you are saying the vehicles in the county are second hand, they are not reconditioned.

Hon. Nzioki: Yes Mr. Speaker. Reconditioned cars are cars that are bought from Japan or China and then they are reconditioned to be used in that country. Mr. Speaker, the kind of cars we use here in these tropical countries, like in Africa and particularly Kenya, are not the same cars that are used in Japan.

Mr. Speaker, when that car is brought here, it is taken back to the factory and reconditioned so that it suits the conditions in Kenya. But Mr Speaker, these cars are just bought direct from the shop dealers and then they are brought to Kenya, so Mr Speaker that is the difference.

Hon. Ngunzi: I want to differ with my colleague member for Muthesya, because I saw the ambulances when they came. They looked reconditioned, they were not new. When he says they are second hand vehicles, a second hand vehicle is a vehicle that has changed hands from me to him or from me to the Speaker.

So, I am worried because I saw the ambulances come. I saw other cars or he is talking of a particular kind of a car because I didn't see the Tiida when they were new. So there is confusion here. We kind of categorize the vehicles in the forms they came in, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: But we are in agreement the cars were not new, I think that is the underlining word, isn't it?

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, and the rest of the house. I think we should not be discussing about the wording because vehicles that we normally import, the second hand, they are always reconditioned. And that is why there is a regulation in Kenya that you cannot import those cars if they are more than eight years old. So before they are shipped to Kenya they are reconditioned, sprayed with paint and they look new. That is what I am referring to be reconditioned.

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Second hand vehicles, I don't know what you are talking about, maybe be fourth or fifth. So my point is the kind of vehicles we are using. They are not new and being not new, there lifespan is very short. Then maintenance is very high, because today, if you walk into the county garage, you will be shocked. It is almost half full because these cars are less than one year but now they have been parked because maintaining the cars has been a burden and that is the reason why you see we are short of fuel, because most of the money we are using to repair the cars.

So we should not even discuss if it is second or third, the key word is can we start buying new vehicles which will serve us for a longer period of time. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Muthuka, I get your point but I do think there is a better way of doing it in that, we have the motion referred to a committee and a substantive report done the way we handled our report today. We will be able to do an audit and make well organized conclusion.

Hon. Muthuka: Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with referring the motion to the committee so that we get a comprehensive state of matter about the cars. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I think the house is in consensus that that be done. Then I will put the question that the motion as brought up by hon. Stephen Muthuka be referred to the appropriate committee for further deliberations.

(Question put and agreed to)

The motion will be immediately forwarded and a report will be brought to the house in the earliest.

DEFORESTATION OF GOVERNMENT FORESTS

Hon. Muthuka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion that this house discusses and approves, that the Machakos county government intervenes to stop deforestation at Iveti Hills, Kanzokea, Kanzalu hills, including all other places and acquisition of land in areas known as government forest.

Mr. Speaker, aware forests are prime to our environment and that the resource can easily be destroyed for individual interest, forests must be equally be started initiated to improve our environment. Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that forestry is a shared function between the national

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government and the county government under the fourth schedule, Article 182,186(1) and 187(2) and part two 10 (b) of the same schedule, the County Government stands to lose both land and forest with the ongoing cutting down of trees at Iveti hills, Kanzokea, Kanzalu, Katunga forests we are alive of what has been happening in the recent days and acquisition of land in areas known as government forest.

Mr. Speaker, aware that the county government has no legislation on tree planting and deforestation, I wish to move the motion that this hon. house discusses and approves that the Machakos County Government intervenes to stop deforestation, recover and protect all forest land grabbed and initiate planting of one tree by every person, both young and old, living within the county once every month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to call hon. Wairimu to second this motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Musyoki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The motion is well laid. I welcome contributions.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to start by thanking the mover of this motion, but Mr. Speaker, because he has just named a few forests that are within our county and he has clearly stated that it is a shared function by both the national and county government, I would wish to request that the motion be referred to the relevant committee so that they can tell us how many forests we have in our county instead of deliberating on the few he has named. If he has no objection, Mr. Speaker and I have said it is a very important motion and timely, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Now that, that is the contribution of the Majority Leader, you can tell us what will happen if we refer this motion with the forest. Like I can see Iveti hills are really bleeding. What will happen?

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, I have said the mover of the motion has just named a few and we know our county has very many forest land and it is very true deforestation is going on, which is not good for our county and for our environment and I want to agree with the mover of the motion that environment is life. You destroy the environment, it will one time destroy you.

But Mr. Speaker, my argument is, let us not zero in on the few forests he has named, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon member from Ndalani for bringing up this motion, and as you have just said Mr. Speaker, Iveti hills is bleeding. As much as I want to support the suggestion by the hon. member for Masinga, but there is also need to move with speed, particularly on the forests around Machakos and perhaps in your wisdom Mr. Speaker, you could direct this to go to the committee on environment and that committee forms an *ad-hoc* committee and be given a strict timeline so that an urgent step can be taken and that a report be tabled to this house so that we can even take other steps and come up with the list of those other forests later.

There is need to move with speed and try to see what is actually happening around Iveti and the mover of the motion has also mentioned that there is also grabbing. This is a serious vice that has gripped all Kenyans. So we really need to have a committee that can bring a comprehensive report to this house so that we are able to know from where to debate from because it has just been tabled to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I am for the motion be referred to the relevant committee but a strict timeline, very short time be given, so that they can be given a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Is the chair for environment, land and natural resources here?

Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa): Mr. Speaker, I just need clarification from you as I support this motion because the mover of the motion is saying, ‘to repossess the grabbed land’ and I understand that the issue of land is to be dealt with by the National Land Commission. As a county, are we entitled to deal with the issues of land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I noted that, but that is curable by an amendment, but on acquisition of grabbed land, that is in excess of the county’s jurisdiction. What is devolved is land use not land ownership. But let us hear the mover of the motion.

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the rest of the house. I applaud what the members have said but I want to put a disclaimer, on what hon. Kasoa is talking about.

I have talked about a shared function. For us to repossess our land, we know the process. So it is our duty because it is our land. To follow the procedure, that will go to the CEC member of lands department and through the National Land Commission. We will be able to get our share. Because this land is being grabbed in our county so it is not that we are after the land. We want to protect what we have.

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And I think in the motion, I have put it very clearly that we want to protect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no objections on forwarding or referring this motion to the relevant committee because the underlined word is not about the places that I have mentioned because I have mentioned just but a few. The issue is the vice. De-forestation which is happening and the grabbing of the land within forests.

So I wish, though your guidance, the committee can be given a strict timeline so that we can save the face of our county and again we know that through the ministry of natural resources, we have the campaign to plant trees.

If we are planting these trees and we are not taking care of them and we are just destroying the forest, all that good intention will just get destroyed. So what I need to say is, let us give this to the committee and let them work day and night so that we can come up with a legislation that will guide our forests. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. I think that point is conceded by the house that the motion be referred to the appropriate committee. But while we do that, can we hear from the chairman of environment committee on whether he is able to take active steps and stop what is happening as we debate this?

Hon. Ngunzi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is an enormous task because it will involve a lot of consultations first then it will involve again actual visits. We will have to identify those areas and then we will also constantly consult the law. Because there is the Kenya Forest Service, we shall see where our mandate will fall and where will be moving overboard so when you talk of the timeframe, putting into consideration that we also have other obligations in the assembly, it will actually require that we get quite some time. It is not something that we can do in weeks.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think the chairman has acclaimed his fears and I love it because he knows that there are other organs that are still in operation in this area. Nevertheless, you are able to give us a statement within seven days on the status of deforestation that is really happening enormously in the county?

Hon. Ngunzi: That we can do, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Then we shall have a statement in the next seven days from the chairman. I am sure the Majority Leader will aid you in obtaining the statement. In the mean time, I put the
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question that the motion as presented by hon Stephen Muthuka be referred to the committee of Environment, Land , Energy and Natural resources for further deliberations and subsequent filing of appropriate reports.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, we want to say that.... I will remember today the business of the day was good and debate was really above per and I am happy about that. Let us keep those standards. Thank you very much chairman, for achieving this. Otherwise, have a good afternoon and that is the end of the day's business. Let us meet tomorrow.

The House rose at 3.47 p.m.