

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Wednesday, 29th July, 2015**

The House met at 10.07 a.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****Hon. Speaker:** Good morning Hon. Members. Let us proceed, Clerk.**NOTICE OF MOTION****CASHLESS POLICY IN REVENUE COLLECTION**

Hon. Amina Mutio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion that this Hon. House discusses and resolves the county treasury adopts cashless policy in revenue collection based on digital forms of cash transfer. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Notice is issued. Proceed.**MOTION****CASHLESS POLICY IN REVENUE COLLECTION**

Hon. Amina Mutio: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Aware the county has been losing a lot of revenue through the current mode of revenue collection, aware that the present system of revenue collection has had various failures and is not dependable and secure. Further aware that, direct handling of cash has had a lot of irregularities in the process of collecting county revenue. Further aware that the current system is unable to achieve county revenue targets, efficiency and cost saving. The system has encountered unprecedented failures in revenue collection drives. Most of the county revenue never gets to the County Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the digital era has revolutionized money transaction to paperless and cashless which has been implemented by other counties to safeguard their revenue, aware that the banking industries have also implemented digital cashless deposits, withdrawal the business transaction system through Mpesa and Airtel money, the same would be safe, efficient and effective for payment of cess, parking fees, rent rates, loyalties, market fees, bus-park fees, quarry fees, building plan approvals, tender fees, single business permits, health cost-

sharing fees, county court fines, liquor licensing fees, signboard and advertisement fees and any other revenue for the County government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the treasury has been reshuffling the revenue staff to safeguard revenue collection, aware that reshuffling the staff from one station to another is not a measure to secure revenue collection or a strategy for revenue collection, I wish to move the motion that this hon. house discusses and approves that the county treasury adopts cashless policy in revenue collection based on digital forms of cash transfers to protect and increase collection of county revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I call upon hon. Alice Nzioka to support the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Alice Nzioka: Asante sana Bw. Spika. Nasimama kuunga mkono kwamba sisi kama bunge tupitithe mswada kwamba ukusanyaji wa kodi katika Kaunti ya Machakos uwe katika hali ya digitali.

Bw. Spika nina sababu nyingi za kuunga huu mswada mkono. Mimi kama mwanachama wa kamati wa ukusanyaji wa pesa, tumekuwa tukipoteza pesa nyingi sana sisi kama Kaunti. Kwa mfano, mwaka 2013/14, tulikuwa tunapaswa kukusanya kodi zaidi ya bilioni mbili. Ni mshangao sana kuona kwamba tulikusanya kodi zaidi ya bilioni moja, kuonyesha sisi kama kaunti tunapoteza pesa nyingi sana.

Tukileta mfumo wa digitali kukusanya pesa, sisi kama kaunti tutakuwa na kodi nyingi na itatuwezesha kufanya mambo mengi katika kaunti yetu. Kwa mfano, ukienda sehemu ambazo lori zinabeba kokoto na kwingine, unakuta sehemu zingine wanapatiwa risiti eti wamelipa pesa. Hiyo inafungua njia kubwa kwa wale wanaokusanya kodi kutumia pesa zetu vibaya.

Kwa hivyo naunga mkono kwamba sisi kama bunge, tupitithe kwamba ukusanyaji wa kodi katika kaunti ya Machakos uwe wa digitali na pia wakusanyaji wa kodi waangaliwe vizuri sana. Maana hakuna vile sisi kama kaunti tunataka tupate kodi kutoka kwa wanaokusanya na hatuwalipi vizuri. Hiyo iangaliwe ili sisi kama kaunti tukusanye ile idadi ya pesa ambayo sisi kama kaunti tunatarajia. Asante sana Bw. Spika.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, the motion is on the floor for debate. I welcome contributions.

Hon. Alex Kathinzi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by congratulating the Speaker for not seeing my hand and identifying that I would like to speak something about this. Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this motion that we adjust to the current digital system of collecting revenue so that we can improve the standard of the kitty we have in terms of revenue collection from the local sources.

Even the government that we have nowadays was saying that is digital during election. His Excellency the Deputy President William Ruto said this is a digital system and we have seen

many things are now turning to be digital including our own assembly. Within the few days, I came to understand that we are turning to digital electronic signatures.

We would like to show commitment serving our own people by contributing, to the best of our knowledge and ability, to improve this. In support of this motion Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, for instance like in my area in Kivaa ward, at Kithyoko market day, every Tuesday, the county earns more than Kshs. 70,000. It is a remote area but most of the money is lost because of corrupt practices by some of the officials of the county.

Initially, when the government started, it used to collect more than Kshs. 100,000 every Tuesday market day. Now, to explain this is a bit tricky but I understand it is because the big fish have been corrupt and the small fish have followed suit to earn that which they have not worked for.

So to put remedy on such practices, it is important to agree in this particular assembly because we are the legislators on behalf of the county electorates, that we agree unanimously that we support hon. Amina Mutio's motion that we move digital so that we can do like the Nairobi County have been doing. You go to Industrial Area in Nairobi and you will find that nobody questions whether you have paid but they will come with their small gadgets and send an SMS to find out whether you have paid the packing fee or not.

So I think that will improve the standards of that particular issue. I also request that, for example, we have the stickers of our vehicles. The state officers in this assembly, when you go to Nairobi, we are not charged by other counties, and they tell you that when we come to Machakos, we are told to pay.

So I would like to request whether we can also agree that, with due respect, on that particular advice. If Kitui County, they are cross-cutting in our county, they are fellow colleagues. If they have a sticker for their county, let them park for free because they are our colleagues because we get that other extension service from other counties, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing on that particular issue is that, one of them told me that we have excused you to pay because you are a member of a County Assembly but if it were for the Executive side of the government, they would have paid. So I told them this is one government, we are serving under one government. I find it fit to address that particular issue but I am totally in support and request that it is in best interest of our people that we support this particular motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much.

Hon. Benedette Mueni: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support the motion. Our county is very rich. It is only that the people who collect the money are not honest and some are not permanently employed, they are casuals. It is very important because if you have left your home without food and you come to collect thousands and thousands of money, you will go back home not having some of the money for your people to eat.

So if they use the Mpesa, they will not be able get that money. So please, it is important for this house to support this motion so that our county can be able to get the money to do the work for the people. Thank you.

Hon. Oliver Nzeki: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the member for bringing this motion although I think nowadays we are using digital gadgets. It is also cashless although it is not transmitted to central unit which is the treasury. So Mr. Speaker, during the transition period, there was the teething problems of collecting money. You find somebody is collecting money, putting into his pocket and it ends up not getting to the treasury.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, we were with the CEC finance and she told us that they have introduced a till number that is supposed to be used by the traders or by the people who pay taxes and it is supposed to be circulated to all the sub-counties so whenever you want to pay house rent, ground rent or business permit, you are supposed to use that till number.

Mr. Speaker, because we are still trying to catch up with Nairobi county, I hope next time between this financial year and the end of this financial year, we will catch up with them and the till number will be circulated to all the sub-counties and to at least everybody who pays taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: I think Chairman, I was expecting more. This is a matter in your docket, tell this house more. Why you have not taken it up to date, what you intend to do, whether you will negotiate with the mover of the motion and do something better.

Hon. Nzeki: Yes Mr. Speaker, I understand it is all in my docket but according to what I know and what the committee knows, because I have a member who supported the motion and she is very well aware that we met with the CEC finance and she told us that she is going to take up the matter.

But what I know is it has been a problem even at Mavoko. In the last two weeks, I understand there are some people who were caught putting the money in their pockets and not using the gadgets. So I talked to the CEC finance and the committee talked to the Chief Officer and she told us she is going to take up the matter and soon everything will be in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Christine Mutune: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to support this motion. Mr. Speaker, we know that there are some gadgets which were introduced by the CEC finance but there are some challenges. For example, the network fails at times and those people let money go because you cannot keep somebody there.

I witnessed a case in our place. Vehicles are moving, the gadget is failing and they let them go. Mr. Speaker, I want to say this motion should be supported fully and implemented

because if we introduce a method where the money is going to be paid through a till number, it will be direct to the treasury. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Joseph Muli: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, let me appreciate and applaud the mover of the motion because I believe she had predicted something in when she was bringing this motion. Mr. Speaker, you find during the budget estimates, we have tried to approximate the sums of the amount which we expect to be collected for revenue and we have not yet met our target.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is due to the process of this revenue collection and if this digital process can be improvised, we can achieve our goal and also have more because from our expectations, we believe Machakos County is very rich and can collect even more than Kshs. 2 Billion if the process is implemented well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reinforce the point the hon. Christine has put forward. You find there are some areas in Machakos where there is no network connection and it is as if those gadgets of this county have low network connection because you find phones have network but those gadgets do not have network. The collectors have been allowed, if the network is not connecting, to collect money in terms of cash.

Now, I fail to understand how these different connections, while the revenue collectors are collecting money in cash. In other times when there is network, they are collecting in digital form. I fail to understand how that collection is calculated to meet the real sum.

Mr. Speaker, I had a feeling on the chairman of finance committee who said the till number, we would like to know how long will this till number take. Does it mean it is a long process to have that till number because I expect having the till number of Machakos county for collecting revenue will be more important and it will try to control revenue collection.

Therefore, it is a whistle to the chairman of finance committee to move with speed and make sure those till numbers are in place and the process is done in the right way so that we achieve our goal. We need money for the development of our county and we are against the issue of corruption. We don't want to hear big fish and small fish following suit. I believe the suit and channel should be cut off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Indeed you remember I interjected when the chairman finance was addressing the house. In my own expectation, I expected the chairman will own the motion, call for a meeting and file a report on the way forward. I don't know whether I am stimulating the ideas.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The motion is good and I appreciate the mover of the motion but due to some circumstances, can I be given sometime to go and inquire from the CEC finance then ask her why the till number has not been circulated to all revenue collectors and I will bring the report in the afternoon because it is already on the table.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear hon. Muthuka.

Hon. Stephen Muthuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the rest of the house. Mr. Speaker, I wish to applaud the mover of the motion because this has come in the right time. Remember during our first financial year, we had some problems where workers of the county have been banking the revenue in to their bank accounts and later transferring it to the treasury which is an irregularity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you remember the first excuse the CEC finance gave why we are under performing in revenue collection is because we had not gone digital. Then even after introducing the digital approach, we have also realized that we have duplication of the equipment because we have the original equipment which is collecting the revenue to the treasury and at the same time, we also have other gadgets which are faulty and are not transmitting any information to our treasury.

With that, Mr. Speaker, we would request the chairman for revenue to move with speed, this house does not have to request the CEC finance; we need to demand for the services. So Mr. Speaker, it is a wake-up call for the committee chairman not to dilly-dally because this is the third year yet we are underperforming in our revenue collection and a lot has to be done as far as our electorates and regions are concerned.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I would also request that we amend the motion so that we can have the revenue collectors being permanent because most of them are casuals and you find that if you are a casual, you know that your job is not secure. To some extent, you can be tempted to keep some shillings to yourself because you don't know if tomorrow you will be working.

So if we can include that the revenue collectors being granted a permanent position, I believe that our revenue collection, our targets are going to be met by the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and congratulations to the mover of the motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Peter Nzioki: Thank you Mr. Speaker and members present. Mr. Speaker, first I want to applaud the mover of the motion. This motion has come at the right time but I would say that actually we are late. We should have done this a long time ago, Mr. Speaker.

As you remember, last time when the member of treasury was here, she said that there are cartels where we are losing money. As a member of the finance committee, I would say categorically that we have lost a lot of money, quite huge sums of money due to theft by junior and senior staff as well. Mr. Speaker, if you see the targets we had in 2013/14, we never met them even half-way and that shows that there is a big lapse in our revenue collection.

Even the figures we were given last time, Mr. Speaker, there were a lot of challenges and you could see some figures were either omitted knowingly or unknowingly or either those people did not know what they were doing. Mr. Speaker, I would say that this house, through the chairman of finance committee should follow up and make sure that some of the recommendations that were done last year have been implemented.

Mr. Speaker, there were some gadgets which were introduced last time to collect revenue and if you go to the bus-park, they enter those figures and then they start looking for network connection, going round and the vehicles are piling. As one member said here, they used to let the vehicles go because you cannot keep people waiting so that your gadget gets network.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing a lot of money and if something is not done, we are going to keep on losing money and we are not going to collect what is due for this county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Anne Wairimu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support the motion fully knowing that if we collect the money digitally, we shall make a lot of revenue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we go the Nairobi way, what do I mean the Nairobi way? When I go to town I am forced to pay before the revenue collector comes and send it to the center where they collect the money. The only thing they do is come round looking whether I have paid and whether my car number is registered there. If we do that, we will be doing the best thing.

I remember one time, hon. members went to Mavoko quarry and the revenue they collected that day was amazing. In an hour, it was almost Kshs. 900,000. If we had that gadget, I believe we would be collecting a million shillings in a day and that will make a difference in our county.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we come to security, the revenue collectors go round carrying money and most of them are ladies. As you know, we are not as strong as men. We don't have policemen to go round guarding them. If the gadget is introduced, I believe we will have a lot of safety.

Mr. Speaker, there is also another problem with the money which is collected on daily basis. The revenue collectors who remit the money do not sign somewhere saying this is the amount of money they have collected and there is a loophole. So we don't collect enough

revenue.

What I would urge the chairman finance committee is to go meet the CEC finance and get the center of sending the money and the till number is not a big deal. If they are not able, I can assist them. That is work to be done within a week and, trust me, you will get it. If he or she is not able, trust me, I will assist the county and they will get the till number where we shall be sending the money to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Raphael Mutuku: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by applauding the mover of the motion. The motion is timely and maybe the motion is aimed at instilling physical discipline in the collection of the money. Mr. Speaker, the motion if implemented, if we go to cashless maybe we may collect a lot knowing that this financial year, we are targeting to raise more than Kshs. 3 Billion which may be a nightmare to our county.

Last year we tried to collect Kshs. 2.1 Billion and we could not even attain Kshs. 1.5 Billion. So, I don't see the miracle which will be done to ensure that larger amounts totaling into Kshs. 3 Billion will be collected but if at all the cashless system is implemented, maybe we may seal the loopholes that are used by some of the officers who are pocketing the money.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform this hon. house that back last year I was among the team that went round in the bus parks and we realized a huge change in the collection of the money within a short period of time meaning that the officers who were collecting money on behalf of the county are not trustworthy. They are pocketing some amount of money.

Mr. Speaker, as much as you want to go cashless, there are different systems. We go for the till number, we also have other gadgets where members of the public can swipe their cards if they want to pay and we reach a situation where one of the systems cannot pay.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, I would urge through you and the chairman of finance committee can allow that the member who has moved the motion be incorporated in the committee and they sit down and look at the motion deeply and file a report to the house because handling a sensitive motion like this and passing a motion and at the end of the day it is not implemented, it will not assist our county. I propose that if the committee can retreat and given maybe one week, not retreating in a certain place but have committee sittings and come up with a report which will be implemented within the shortest time so that we avoid losing money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think that is the proposal I have been giving the chairman but the chairman has not gotten my mind.

Hon. Kyalo Kyuli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start by supporting the motion and Mr. Speaker, informing you that I had sought a statement before we went on our long recess about the same issues that are cropping up with a motion this time round. I feel that, although my statement was never replied to, something is now coming up in a substantive motion. So Mr. Speaker, it is timely. Mr. Speaker, I had sought, just to inform you, to know if the gadgets that are being used by our staff are hired or the system is bought.

When you are buying something like this and it is a system that is supposed to check revenue collection, Mr. Speaker, what happens if the system fails? Who is liable? Who is supposed to pay the county? Because here is a situation whereby the county as purchased gadgets that are supposed to collect revenue and we do not know how much it cost but this time round the gadgets are not able to collect promptly or it was supposed to.

So who is supposed to mitigate the losses? Where are we supposed to knock for the loss of revenue that we have been losing because we have been losing a lot of money when these are not working? The gadgets that we bought, the revenue collector sit and wait. Sitting and waiting means sitting and losing, Mr. Speaker.

So Mr. Speaker, if we are talking about going cashless is the best way. If this county cannot be able to go cashless, then we will be like moving backwards because every other county, I believe are geared towards going this same way and your advice that the chairman of Finance committee who is a hon. member I know for long when we were in the other dispensation of local authorities and he used to be the chairman of finance committee at the municipal council and I was the chairman of finance committee in the county council.

We used to meet out there doing serious issues about revenue collection but with the expertise that he has, Mr. Speaker, because I know he has the expertise, Mr. Speaker, this county would collect a lot of money when we go this cashless way. Therefore, the advice you are giving, personally I think should be the best way forward because, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about our county going cashless while it is already cashless. He is saying there is a till number that the CEC finance is supposed to have gotten and we don't know. He is going to ask.

Mr. Speaker, this assembly is not supposed to be going to ask. We are supposed to demand. We are not even supposed to go. We are supposed to summon somebody here to tell us why he or she has not gotten what they said they will get, Mr. Speaker.

By the law, we are mandated to do that. So Mr. Speaker, while I support this motion, this far, we have lost a lot of revenue and I had sought to know who to peg the loss on because we cannot lose revenue yet we have information of officers that collected money banking into their own accounts and later transferring the same into the county accounts.

Mr. Speaker, we want to know who we are going to peg, who we are going to charge because we have lost a lot of revenue. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, while we want to mitigate the loss of funds, we also want to know where the funds that have been lost will be gotten from.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about network for the gadgets that are there now, if we decide to go the Mpesa way, I am proposing that even, Mpesa means that somebody collects money first and then they put it into their phones and then sent it to Mpesa, we want Mr. Speaker, first to have the revenue collectors permanently employed and well paid.

(Applause)

Collecting revenue while you are hungry is very difficult and I believe everybody knows this. Here is a person who has been working for the county and he or she is not paid for three or four months and that person collects Kshs. 100,000. He is supposed to be banking this money and go hungry. Mr. Speaker, surely how possible is that going to be. That is why we here some of them have run away with our cash because somebody is employed, he is on contract, he has not been paid for two to four months and therefore he is having Kshs. 100,000 with him or her, Mr. Speaker he is going hungry while he is having money in the pocket.

So Mr. Speaker the issue of collecting before banking is where we should be targeting. When we are talking about Mpesa, it comes after collection has been done. Mpesa is an issue of banking. So what we are supposed to check and that is where your advice comes in handy, Mr. Speaker, before banking, the issue is when we are collecting the money and that is where it pains and that is where your advice about the chair sitting with the committee and expediting issues that we are raising here about collection not banking.

Somebody collected money and they put into their account and later they banked into the county accounts. Mr. Speaker, let the committee sit and deliberate seriously on issues of collection before they talk about banking because banking is easy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Raphael: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. member, when you talk of cashless, we are not talking of a situation where the revenue collectors collect money from the public, and then later they bank. We are talking of a situation where you pay what you are supposed to pay like either license fee or business permit, through the till number directly and not the officer collecting on your behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: I agree with you. Let us hear hon. Dominic.

Hon. Dominic Maitha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this moment to applaud the mover the motion and try to concur in totality that the sentiments which were made over the Obama weekend are in total concurrence with what she is trying to put in the floor of this house.

She is addressing the issue of eliminating corruption so that we can foster growth. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that you are trying to bring the chairman in light but he seems to be suffering from the so-called 'Impossibility syndrome' where he finds everything impossible, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The same chairman promised this hon. house six months ago that he was to table the Revenue collection report. In this house, we are still in dilemma. We have never received that report, which was also addressing the issues that we are speaking right now. So in as much as hon. Kyuli tries to praise him that he is experienced and he has the expertise in revenue collection, we need to see that actualized and he needs to exonerate himself from the so-called 'impossibility syndrome,' Mr. Speaker.

On Friday last week, Mr. Speaker, you will prove me right or wrong, we sat in a conference at Hotel 67 and the people from EACC, who were training us about the effects of corruption addressed the issue of 'impossibility syndrome' where we find everything impossible. But I believe it is possible, Mr. Speaker.

For those who belong to the transport committee, we had a trip last year to Singapore. Mr. Speaker, in Singapore to use roads, you don't use roads and then you pay. They have erected machines on all highways where you pay in advance and the moment you pass under that gadget which is so effective, then that money is deducted automatically.

That is why countries like Singapore which just got independence the other day, which were getting grants from the national government of Kenya, have surpassed this country because we believe everything is impossible, Mr. Speaker. I want to address a few issues. Mr. Speaker, today I can boast that I happen to come from one ward which contributes almost 30 per cent of the total revenue collected in this county.

Almost all the quarries that are giving Mavoko sub-county huge amounts of money come from Katani where I represent those people, Mr. Speaker. There are extreme loop holes of revenue collection. We need to address these issues. Most of the quarries, wherever they are, Mr. Speaker, there is no network and most of the times these machines are not able to generate the receipts for each single lorry that passes there. The minimum we are charging is about Ksh. 800 per lorry. So assume, Mr. Speaker, there is total failure of network in a day so we are losing not less than half a million shillings in terms of revenue.

So Mr. Speaker, we need also to see in certain areas like Katani where we have like 20 quarries, all with different exits. Can the county government come with mechanisms where we can have one central exit and entry so that we can be able to control the revenue because we have, like a thousand routes in Katani where the lorries pass this route and use the other route and we are losing a lot of revenue. I want to invite the team because I am the one who comes from that area and there are a thousand and one loopholes where the county government of Machakos is losing huge chunks of revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I happen to have had a direct talk with the CEC finance a week ago for almost an hour or two. She was in a whole day, in Katani to assess the revenue collection mechanism failures in Katani and what she told me, the amount of money that was collected that single day and the entire week, surpassed a monthly collection of the entire Mavoko sub county.

What does that tell you, Mr. Speaker? We are losing a lot of revenue. So I think the chairman needs now to move with speed and ensure that he constitutes a committee of people who understand what we need to do so that we can raise our revenue because unless we raise revenue we will not be able to meet our service demands. So that is one area.

The other thing that has been said by the members contributing, Mr. Speaker, I happen to come from one ward which is quite unique. A week ago, I confronted some enforcement officers on a Sunday and they were travelling on a private car. I would not wish to reveal their identity, Mr. Speaker, they were going to the collection sites collecting money but the excuse they gave me which is valid, is that 'Mheshimiwa, for almost six months, we have not received our salaries.' What do you expect us to do?

Mr. Speaker, as a human being I felt that these people are going through hell. It is a fact, most of the inspectorate guys who have been posted to the department of revenue collection don't have permanent employment contracts. Yet when you go to the people who are working under the county directorate, who are planting flowers, cutting grass and depending on the inspectorate guys to collect revenue and come and pay them, they already have permanent employment letters, Mr. Speaker. So the motivation aspect is not there, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Order hon. Dominic. You find revenue collectors conniving for crime and you make a statement in this Assembly and you promise not to disclose the criminals. Are you in order?

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, I believe i might not be in order but Mr. Speaker, let us be humane.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Dominic, when you know you are not in order, what are you supposed to do?

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, I know I am supposed to sit down but what I want to say, Mr. Speaker-----

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Dominic, you are out of order.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let us move on.

Hon. Joseph Itumo: Mr. Speaker, it is said and I believe that..... but before I continue, I do support this motion. Mr. Speaker, liquid cash is equivalent to a ready-made food Mr. Speaker. This is the high time for us to pass this particular motion because we have been losing a lot of cash through these revenue collectors.

Mr. Speaker, I have passed many areas especially after work and whenever I sit down at Tala market to refresh myself, these tax collectors, some of them are my friends, they join me and they behave very well.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, think of a situation whereby, bearing in mind liquid cash is ready-made food and you are paid only Kshs. 15,000 and you are collecting huge sums of monies. Mr. Speaker, you need to realize that there are some sins that God cannot see. You cannot expect somebody to collect a huge amounts of money and then he goes hungry, Mr. Speaker.

These people first are not employed permanently. These people are paid peanuts, Mr. Speaker. For us to be able to give these tax collectors time for them to collect money, even if we provide this cashless policies and these people are not well paid, they will just carry on and then they fail to collect that money and tell those who they are supposed to collect revenue from, 'just to evade the revenue' and they give them *kitu kidogo* (bribe).

The process will continue, Mr. Speaker. First, we have to check their whereabouts by paying them well so that these people may do their work perfectly, Mr. Speaker. By that, I know everything will be streamlined as far as revenue collection is concerned, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the chairman.

Hon Nzeki: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I some other time said that agree with the mover of the motion.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe after hearing what hon. Dominic indicated, address the house now.

Hon. Nzeki: In fact, I brought recommendations sometimes last year and this house returned the recommendations back to the committee of finance. So I had made all this recommendations they are giving me. What I am asking you, Mr. Speaker, is, because I had talked to the CEC finance and she had told me that there is a till number and there are other recommendations which are supposed to be forwarded to the treasury, I would like to ask the house, through the Speaker, that we be given time and we incorporate some members who will come and give us some of the new recommendations they are talking about.

I understand we are losing a lot of money. We have a deficit of Kshs. 1 billion and we have a budget of collecting Kshs. 2.3 billion a total of Kshs. 3.3 billion and now we can't even collect Kshs. 1.5 billion. What I understand is that in the last financial year 2014/15, we collected Kshs. 1.3 billion. Now we are supposed to collect Kshs. 3.3 billion. So we have to pull our socks and you give us time we invite members of the Assembly who will give us way forward and the till number.....because I understand the till number is in operation. Give us time to constitute a subcommittee or the committee.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Maitha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The other time I was out of order but this time now, the Hon. chair is confusing and contradicting his statements. He is saying he has no information about the whereabouts of the till number. This time he is saying now the till number is operational. Can he come clearly about this and, Mr. Speaker, there is a very important point I want to pass. I am making one request.

To make this cashless payment work, Mr. Speaker, can we give the bus-parks a monthly sticker fixed for every car that gets into our bus parks, Mr. Speaker, such that it is a must.....and one major problem that really irritates me, is the nature in which Kenyans take things. We need to force, not to request, those people who want to use our bus parks to pay a monthly parking sticker.

Secondly, the people who are operating in Machakos on daily basis with private cars, we also need to introduce a monthly fixed sticker so that we can tap our revenue collection, Mr. Speaker. How do we go about this? If you allow me, Mr. Speaker, I will say this. We will be receiving the Finance Bill soon to implement. I would even request this house to increase the monthly parking fee for private cars, Mr. Speaker.

Today Nairobi they are charging Kshs. 300. Machakos are charging Kshs. 50. Mr. Speaker, there are people who are driving cars worth Kshs. 10 million, Mussos, V8, you mean they cannot pay Kshs. 100 such that when we increase the Kshs. 100 parking fee, then we can say in a month they will tentatively spent like Kshs. 2,500 for parking and then we introduce a monthly parking sticker of about Kshs. 2,000. This will have saved the private car owner about Kshs. 500 and the county will have gotten an extra Kshs. 1000, Mr. Speaker.

By so doing, we will have increased our revenue. So that is one major issue that needs to be checked and the chairman needs to focus on that and we will increase revenue. Machakos County, you cannot tell me someone residing in Mlolongo, which is an uptown area and Mavoko should be paying Kshs. 50 the same money which is being paid at the county headquarters. It is impossible, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Unless you want to inform yourself. *(addressing Hon. Nzeki)*

Hon. Nzeki: I just want to inform the house that we have yearly stickers for the matatus.

Hon. Speaker: In the morning, you said that you will have the report in the afternoon, what is the report about?

Hon. Nzeki: That is a report of the till number because I just rung the CEC finance.

Hon. Speaker: Are you available to give us this afternoon?

Hon. Nzeki: I can contact the CEC finance and I understand she is not feeling well.

Hon. Speaker: What is difficult with what members are proposing? What is difficult in implementing a cashless system?

Hon. Nzeki: Mr. Speaker, I am not refusing that we have the cashless because I am in need of it. I need a cashless system.

Hon. Speaker: What steps are you taking to ensure that that is done?

Hon. Nzeki: There is no problem with having a till number.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, why can't we have a comprehensive statement from the chairman this afternoon and we continue with conclusions and discussions. I want us to be firm on this matter then we can continue with the contributions on the matter after we hear the chairman in the afternoon. We all agree that we can do that further in the afternoon.

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think we are going in the right direction, though mine is that I want to throw a challenge because we have seen so many motions which pass through this hon. house but they are not implemented yet we don't get any reports.

Hon. Speaker: That is why I am saying this Hon. Muthuka: we conclude this debate then we will be giving the chairman timelines. If it is Machakos, implement cashless in Machakos town, give us a report in a week, Mavoko in a week, like that and we will cure the problem.

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. In the same light, I think you should also direct the chairman for implementation committee 'let us have the reports because from last year-----

(Applause)

Hon. Muthuka: we are still grumbling with the same situation whereby we don't get reports our motions implemented in the Executive side.' So if we can expedite that, I think now we will be moving in the right direction. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I think this one, we will have it done. Hon. Members, can we agree we meet and discuss this matter cogently in the afternoon.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, you cannot have a question in the house.

Hon. Wilson Kasimu: I wish to remind the hon. house that hon. Amina Mutio came here with a motion that the house discusses and and approves that the county treasury adopts cashless policy in revenue collection based on digital platforms of cash transfer to protect and increase collection of the county revenue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work of this Assembly is to come up with laws and then we oversee to see that those laws are implemented by the Executive. At this juncture, I really don't understand why we keep on procrastinating and moving and pushing things. It is like we are afraid of confronting issues. I was thinking that, this house passes this law as it is and then the finance committee will move and meet and see.

(Applause)

It is for us to meet here. It is our duty to pass laws in this house. Why do we keep on taking it to tomorrow and tomorrow? We must be tired of corruption. Corruption is killing our people and services are not being seen and if we have to see services, we have to go cashless and come with a till number and everyone will know that for you to pay parking fee, for you to pay the services, you have to go through the Mpesa way and pay through the till number and that our revenue collectors will be permanently employed and we will have money to pay them.

But if we will continue for them to be casuals as long as they handling our money, they also don't want us to go the cashless way because I understand they are getting a lot of money when they are handling the cash. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the motion of Hon. Mutio. Why are we going again and waiting for tomorrow? The motion is on the floor of this house. It is for the members of this house to pass it or reject. So I don't know why we are moving it to tomorrow.

Hon Speaker: Order. Did we say we are waiting for tomorrow? I don't know. Where did you get that from hon. Kasimu?

Hon. Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are we waiting for the afternoon? We have given the finance chairman forever to come with up with whatever he is now coming up with in the afternoon. What is it that he is coming up with in the afternoon that he cannot do it here? Why do we keep on mentioning the CEC finance here? The CEC finance has to implement what we pass in this house. It is not for us to consult her on what we are going to do. I think hon. Mutio is very clear on her motion. Why do we now go back to the CEC finance? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am confused on this. I want your guideline on this.

Hon. Speaker: Ok. Therefore, we can proceed and put the question. I think I agree. We wanted to assist the chairman a little bit further but even then, let us proceed and put the question that those in support of the motion as drawn and debated and as proposed that the revenue collectors be permanently employed.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Then we further proceed to give directions on that resolution that the chairman, finance convenes and ensures that this resolution is implemented and a report to be brought to the house next Tuesday.

Hon. Maitha: We are trying to consult with the Majority Leader, Mr. Speaker; we have adopted permanent employees not the cashless as per the motion. Can you guide us if I am not wrong because you have mentioned-----

Hon. Speaker: The proposal was made by hon. Muthuka.

Hon. Maitha: Yes, but now we were discussing a motion on the cashless payment system. Is it what we have adopted or the issue of permanent employees? Guide us, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: We said that the motion is approved with the amendment that the revenue collectors be permanently engaged.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can we have more amendments or those are enough because-----

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Majority Leader, you will have an opportunity to consult with the chairman. You cannot engage the chairman after the question has been put.

Hon. Kasimu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: That is all for the morning. The house adjourns to today in the afternoon.

The House rose at 11.13 a.m.