

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 10th November, 2015**

The House met at 2.32 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****Hon. Speaker:** Good afternoon Hon. Members. Let us proceed, Clerk.**NOTICE OF MOTION****REVENUE POTENTIAL OF THE COUNTY****Hon. (Ms.) Sereka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion; that this Hon. House discusses the revenue potential of the County. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Notice issued, proceed.**MOTION****REVENUE POTENTIAL OF THE COUNTY****Hon. Sereka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that aware that the Article 175 of the Constitution of Kenya states that the County Government shall have liable sources of revenue to enable them to govern and deliver services effectively; Aware that the County Government of Machakos has continually missed its revenue targets for local revenue and continued to adjust the revenue target from Kshs. 3 billion in 2013/14 to Kshs. 2.85 billion in 2014/15 and further to Kshs. 2.3 billion in 2015/16 financial years; Aware that the County Government collected Kshs. 1.37 billion in 2014/15 financial year which is less than 50 per cent of the target revenue collections; Further aware that if this trend continues the county will never be able to realize its development agenda.

Informed that the defunct local authorities used to collect more funds than the County Government is collecting and aware that the revenue collected by this defunct councils are the basis of projection for revenue target in 2013/14. Aware that the committee of finance and revenue collection visited some revenue collection points and reported massive corruption but did not pursue that matter further, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses the revenue potential of the county. Thank you. Mr. Speaker. I call upon Hon. Dominic Maitha to second my motion.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the Hon. Members present. Mr. Speaker, Sir, every person in the world knows that without finances you cannot go anywhere. Everybody knows that without proper financial management mechanisms, you cannot go anywhere but you can have as well proper systems to manage the finances but you fail to meet your financial obligations. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support this motion in totality. Bearing in mind I come from a ward that, as we were discussing the finance bill the other day, Mr. Speaker, it was reported that an area that has got quarries gives this County not less than 35 per cent of the total revenue raised. But Mr. Speaker, I can comfortably report to this house we should be surpassing the 40 to 35 percent margins.

We should be eating more than 50 per cent of the total revenue that is supposed to be collected from the region. But Mr. Speaker, when you try to see the trend in which our county is collecting revenue it is worrying, Mr. Speaker. This County itself, I want to talk like for example Machakos and Mavoko sub counties, those two sub counties only, have a potential to raise not less than Ksh. 3 billion annually, with proper management information systems kept in place proper measure kept in place and with a proper oversight mechanism put in place. But it is the other way round. The entire County cannot even collect Ksh. 2 billion, Mr. Speaker,

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, last week we were at Gelian Hotel with the Commission on Revenue Allocation and they told us clearly that instead of our trend of revenue collection increasing even after we have invested heavily in trying to put the right measure in place, Mr. Speaker, nothing is happening. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the information of this house, I have been time complaining so many to the department of finance. I have personally gone to the CEC member of Finance complaining of the amount of money that the County Government of Machakos is losing in my own ward alone.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a chronology of when I came in Utawala, where I have built my house. I have been in Utawala for the last eight years, Mr. Speaker, to date and when I joined Utawala there were less than 2,000 people. Today we are talking about more than 20,000 to 30,000 people and they have constructed houses. The County collects nothing. Totally nothing, any truck that is coming from Katani entering Nairobi ferrying ballast at the exit point pays Ksh. 1000. Every single truck.

The County Government of Nairobi is collecting almost Ksh. 1 million in a week because of the trucks that are coming from Katani. But all the trucks that are ferrying material from Nairobi, coming to my ward, for my people to develop that area, the County Government of Machakos collects zero. I have brought the CEC finance there, the chief officer came there, the CEC Kioko Luka was there and some chief officers but nothing has been done. About a month

ago, when I insisted for them to come, they brought an old man who was unable to collect the revenue. I organized for my own mechanisms and that day within two days the County was able to collect more than Ksh. 15,000 but after that the man disappeared.

To date, nothing is being collected. Those are some of the avenues our County Government is losing finances. And much a lot of the finances, Mr. Speaker, much of the finances which is being collected, I can comfortably say that from the information that we have, is that it is not going to the County Governments account. That money does not reach even the quarters that it is supposed to reach.

There is a cartel of corruption between the revenue collectors and those people who supervise the revenue collectors whereby on a single day a revenue collector is told 'you are going to collect Ksh. 50,000 as usual but when you exceed the Ksh. 50,000 mark, we need about Ksh. 20,000' and that is what is happening, Mr. Speaker. That is why we are not able to meet our financial obligations. To date, if you go to Mlolongo and Katani, there is a potential to raise not less Ksh. 2 million, Ksh. 3 million in a day but there is nothing the County Government is doing. Every other single day systems fail. And when the systems fail it is a deliberate move. Somebody fails the systems, money is collected manually, because somebody somewhere, seated in an office is waiting for Ksh. 50,000, 60,000, 100,000 at the end of the day.

So the systems fail deliberately. It is being conned by the revenue officers, the revenue collectors. So, Mr. Speaker, it is now or never that this Hon. House considers this motion as a serious motion. The committee on finance, where the chairman is here, went to Katani where they used to collect Ksh. 300,000, 400,000 when they went there in a day. Within a few hours, they were able to collect Ksh. 800,000. What does that tell you? The rest Ksh. 400,000 has been going to somebody's pocket on a daily basis. Mr. Speaker, I can confirm, to date, if I am requested to be posted as a revenue clerk in some regions of this county, if I am not, my integrity is not working, I would better go there.

There are some revenue officers today who are rich than these Hon. Members in this house. They are driving goods cars more than this Hon. Members in this house. They have already constructed houses, they are collecting rent. Even when you tell them you are Hon. Member, they even ask themselves, a Hon. Member driving one car for four years? A Hon. Member, you cannot even afford to build a house like myself? That is the situation that we are in today. So I am in total support and I wish to applaud Hon. Cecilia from Kinanie because she comes from a potential prone area. Kwa-Kanusie belongs to Hon. Cecilia where we have the quarries but people have become overnight millionaires in those quarries and I think this is why she has raised her concern.

She has raised a red flag on that. She would be an accomplice to that but she has refused and said no. This money must go to the County revenue fund so that service delivery can be

directly proportional to the amount of money coming from her ward. Mr. Speaker, the principal of devolution is very clear. If you go to Article 174, 176 of the constitution, it is very clear. The county is supposed to initiate measures that are sustainable in terms of revenue collection but what are we doing as a County? Instead of doing so we are trying to go against that. So Mr. Speaker, if this County has to achieve its requirements in terms of revenue collection, we have to enhance the measures and we have to know, if certain officers are corrupt, if certain officers have become overnight millionaires through these cartels, they have to lose their jobs and we get the right people.

It is not a matter of employing. Mr. Speaker, the County Government, right now, plans to employ more revenue collection clerks but the question which we should ask ourselves is, the few whom we have, have they delivered the services or we will continue employing and employing and escalate the wage bill, Mr. Speaker. I support this motion and ask Hon. Members, remember, we promised services to our people and these services cannot be done or achieved through mere talk. This can only be achieved through revenue measures being put in the right place so we can achieve, first, our revenue target.

The National Government is giving its equitable share but anytime when we ask for services we are told 'we never reached our revenue target.' So, every year there is a deficit. Can we address the matter of that deficit, seal all those loopholes and ensure that all revenue is banked. Because we have information that revenue collected is not banked. That is a fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be denied. It is not being banked. So those are the measures which we need to ensure that they are enforced because people are collecting money, failing to bank the money and at the end of the day they tell us they did not meet their requirements because the target was not received.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask members to support this motion and I support it in totality and if need be, the chairman for finance now, he needs to up his game. He needs to move out of this house, go to the revenue collection centers and get data and statistics of how much money is being raised, how much is being banked, whether it is in tandem with whatever is being banked in our account. Failure to that, Mr. Speaker, come the next two, three, four or five months, we are not going to be able to sustain our wage bill, our development plans. I support this motion in totality. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members the motion has only been seconded, so I need to make a finding that the motion is now properly before us for debate and I will call upon the mover now to move her motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, I have some facts, why I think this Hon. House will do good to the people of Machakos County by

discussing this motion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, several surveys have revealed that counties nationally are generating less revenue than what the defunct local authorities, that lay within their boundaries, used to collect. This has raised concerns over public finance management in the devolved units of government. A baseline survey on devolution revealed that several reasons had contributed to this decline in revenue collection. These reasons include:-

- i. Weak revenue base.
- ii. Absence of internal audits.
- iii. Poorly trained personnel.
- iv. Manual revenue collection systems.
- v. Failure by the devolved governments to seal corruption loopholes.
- vi. Reluctance by some county revenue officers to embrace change.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite this national decline in revenue collection, several counties have significantly improved more than others. For example, Nakuru County collected a total of Ksh.1.82 billion during 2013/14 Financial year improving to Ksh. 2.76 billion in 2014/15.

A comparison of the collection by Nakuru County with Machakos shows a dismal performance. The target by Nakuru County was Ksh. 2.76 billion in 2014/15 financial year, close to the amount of Ksh. 2.85 billion set target by Machakos County collected Ksh. 2.2 billion while Machakos County collected Ksh. 1.36 billion (??)

Revenue collection in Bomet County has increased by 140 per cent in the past two years as reported in the Daily Nation on Tuesday 17th February, 2015. The target had surpassed that used to be raised by the local authorities annually. Some of the factors attributed to this success were more revenue collection streams and the systems.

Revenue Collection in Machakos County Government since Devolution

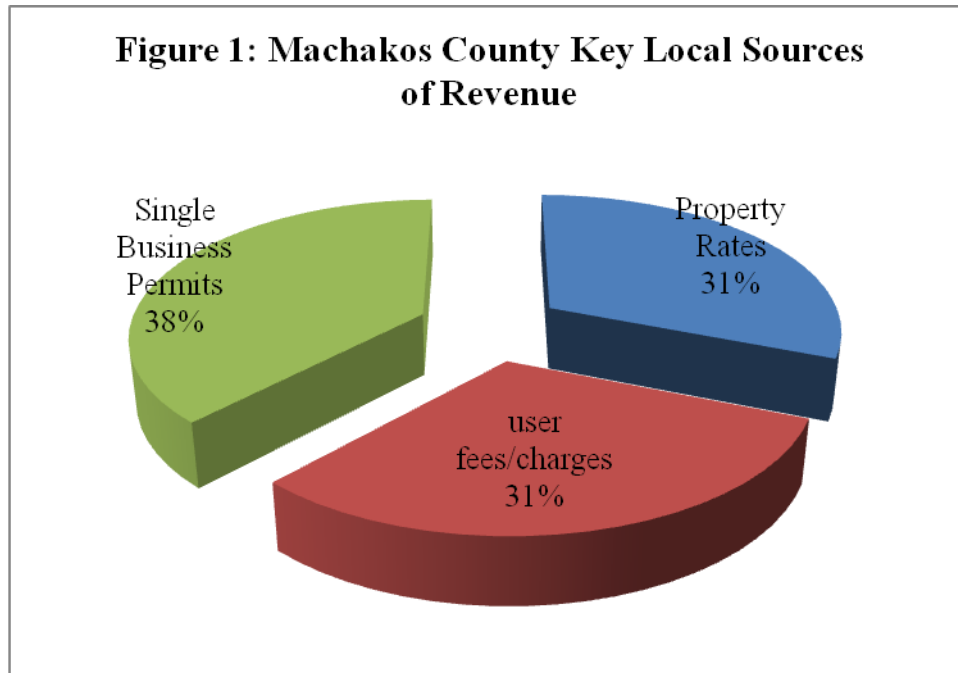
Financial Year	Annual Target (In Billion Ksh)	Actual collected (In Billion Ksh)	Percentage (%) of the Actual Revenue collected to Annual target
2013/14	2.5	1.18	46.2%
2014/15	2.85	1.36	47.6%
2015/16	2.3	-	-

(Source: Annual County Governments Budget Implementation Review Report FY 2014/15, August 2015)

According to devolution baseline survey done in 2014 by ICPAK, single Business Permits were the major source of local revenue for Machakos County, contributing 38 per cent

of the total local revenue. The County also relies on property rates and user fees/charges which contribute 31 per cent each.

Mr. Speaker, I have a chart showing how we are not doing well.



(Source:

Devolution Survey, 2014)

What we get in business permit was 38 per cent, property rates was 31 per cent user fees or charges was 31 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

The report by the controller of budget in August, 2015, revealed a drop in local revenue for the third and fourth quarter of 2014/2015 which was Ksh. 441.35 million and Ksh. 300 million respectively down from Ksh. 454 million and Ksh. 309 million realised in the third and fourth quarter respectively in the financial 2013/2014.

Mr. Speaker, this decline has been despite the automation in revenue collection and the reinforcement officers employed by the County Government of Machakos.

What is likely to happen as a result of under collection?

1. Development in the county could be slowed.
2. Setting high revenue targets that are difficult to meet is likely to affect planning.

Conclusion

There is a need to investigate the following:-

1. Whether the factors are cited in surveys are causing this decline?

2. What measures is the county government putting in place to raise more revenue?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you let us hear now contributions in support. Yes Hon. Itumo please.

Hon. Itumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I must thank you for giving me this time to contribute, Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support this particular motion. Mr. Speaker, this morning, my committee happened to visit some area including Mlolongo, where I could see, this morning, lorries heading to quarries and they were just following one another, simultaneously, just the way red ants follow one another, Mr. Speaker. I am telling you it is very annoying, if this County, actually is not termed No. 1, in revenue collection because, you may realize, we have a lot of production in quarries. We have got also a lot of industries that are along Mombasa road and it is unheard of to hear that our revenue collection is not actually positioned No. 1, Mr. Speaker.

If I was given the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to be one of these senior officers who are in charge of revenue collection, Mr. Speaker, I promise I can raise the revenue standard almost equivalent to what the Hon. Member has said, Ksh. 3 billion, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was very much shocked, I think it was last month but one, when a junior revenue collector, I happened to meet him by evening somewhere, and Mr. Speaker, I could not believe my eyes. Mr. Speaker, I thought even the revenue collector was asking for votes because whoever was surrounding him could not even listen to what I was saying, Mr. Speaker, because he could behave in a manner that he was even not asking for MCA but the member of parliament, Mr. Speaker.

He could not differentiate who he was buying beer for because he was just throwing monies, Mr. Speaker. I had to shift from that place to another one. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how much these people are paid, Mr. Speaker. The revenue collection is being shared by people and I want to correct one Hon. Maitha when he said that the County Government is collecting nothing, he was wrong. The County Government is collecting a very big amount of money but ending to the pockets of individuals, Mr. Speaker.

If this House does not take immediate measures, Mr. Speaker, this county is going to be grounded, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is our high time, we as elected members, to see to it that everything and I mean everything, is streamlined Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the leader of this house we must take measures and Mr. Speaker, the future of this county lies solely on your shoulders and both the shoulders of these Hon. Members. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much yes Hon. Matheka.

Hon. Matheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion is timely and it is good but I have some few questions or some few clarifications I would like to hear from the mover. We are saying that the revenue collection is low or the measures which are there in place are not effective enough to increase it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know we are comparing what and what. We had year 2013/14, 2014/15 now we are in 2015/16. We should be given figures to compare to know what we are doing. Because know we are comparing nothing with nothing. We should have something to compare with to see how the trend is going.

Also Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot gauge ourselves against other Counties. We should gauge ourselves against what we are collecting and what is targeted. Maybe, if we are given a figure, like we collected Ksh. 1 billion and were targeting Ksh. 3 billion, from there we can know what to do. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, as much as I want to support the motion, I would like it to refer to a committee, to give us those figures, we have them here and then we compare and we know exactly what we are comparing with what. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Matheka, are you suggesting the motion is premature? It is not adequately prepared?

Hon. Matheka: It is a good motion but it is not well-researched. We should have those figures to---

Hon. Speaker: So you are opposing the motion?

Hon. Matheka: I am not opposing. I am for the motion but it should be well-researched and we get figures to compare. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what are we comparing with what? Well, what is the revenue potential, if I may ask? What is revenue potential, Mr. Speaker, Sir? Can somebody explain to this House what revenue potential is? I believe we have to compare a figure with another one, to know what we are doing in the county because if we say revenue potential, even Ksh. 100 million is revenue potential, Ksh. 3 billion is revenue potential. What are we comparing with what? It is a good motion, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not opposing it but we need some comparative figures to see what is happening in the county. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Yes but Hon. Matheka, you know, what is before this house is a motion, not a report. The member raised concerns and the only way you can do it is through a motion. Maybe it is after there is a report in the house now, perhaps, you can interrogate on that....
(inaudible) issue.

Hon. Matheka: If that is the case Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion, we debate the motion but we should get what I am asking for. If it has to go to a committee and bring the report I am asking for, I am for the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Okay, there is a point of order here. Yes.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Nganga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the point of order, I would like to seek, to further restate or restructure the question by the member. I think the baseline question he is asking is, what the motion aims to achieve because it does not have a lead on. Now that we shall have discussed about the revenue potential of this county, what, as a house, shall we require, either the relevant committee or an *ad-hoc* committee or the County Executive to do so that now the various matters that have been raised by the motion can be now addressed adequately so that we can achieve our true potential.

So through my point of order is that, could the member find it in order, to restructure the question such that it would recommend either the County Executive, to furnish the house with details or the committee on finance to further investigate and respond to the house on potential of the County and the cause of decline or a substantive *ad-hoc* committee be formed, Mr. Speaker, to investigate on the potential of revenue of this County and the various loopholes and the recommendations of which measures can be taken to seal the same, Mr. Speaker. So, that would be my point of order that the motion lacks the point of action on which either the various instruments are supposed to act within. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe the immediate contributor, perhaps, you did not come when the motion was being presented.

(Applause)

The Speaker got the points from the mover and the seconder that their intention is to have a raft of measures on improvement of revenue collection and that can be adequately done by either a committee or an *ad-hoc* committee. So let us resolve on the question. Are we aware of what the mover is saying is our revenue measures down? Yes, let us hear mheshimiwa Pastor Ndeto

Hon. Ndeto: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I hope you will not put me out of order because first I was rising on a point of information.

Hon. Speaker: Proceed, just proceed.

Hon. Ndeto: Okay, thank you. This is a very crucial motion that the Hon. Member brought today and I congratulate her together with Hon. Dominic. Thank you for that. Together with Hon. Dominic who supported this motion. Mr. Speaker, clearly, it is clear and we have the evidence. On Tuesday, the leadership of this house took us to a meeting in Gelian Hotel and the points were very clear from the Commission of Revenue Allocation that Machakos County, we are failing in this area. Comparing what has been done for the last two financial years, so we

have evidence of that and when we look at these things, it is true money is collected but it is not banked. That is where the problem is and what we need to address in the issue of, if money is taken from wherever sources, why is this money not going to the accounts? What are the reasons?

With me, I have a few evidence as to how or what.

1. Failure to pay the revenue collectors. Today is 10th. Those people have not been paid and they collect money daily. What do you expect of me? Imagine I was collecting money then I leave the house in the morning, there is no food, the house whatever, is on me. What will I do? Definitely I will steal to cater for that.
2. Those employees who are collecting the revenue are on contract. They are just casuals.

Hon. Speaker: Order Hon. Members. Let us hear the member on the floor.

Hon. Ndeto: They are either on contract or casuals. In fact, it is a big problem because some of them, they usually receive a letter on the way, you are just told ‘from today, you should not proceed to your work place.’ And what do you expect of that person? The opportunity, the chance he gets, he wants to steal as much as he can or she can because she does not know what will happen tomorrow. That is another problem.

When you look at the lifestyle that is going around, as Hon. Itumo said, actually you go to a bar and I know somebody will pose a question to me, and you will find overnight, an individual spending over Ksh. 200,000 buying beer to all the people seated in that bar and you ask yourself; is this sweat from this person? The answer is clear. No. The other one which is very serious and very crucial to this house and if I fail to talk about it today, I will never get another chance, is when an Hon. Member like Pastor Festus Ndeto, goes to the executive, he is given Ksh. 60,000, he does not question where this money comes from and I do not sign anywhere.

(Applause)

This is revenue and this is the seriousness---

Hon. Member: Point of order.

Hon. Speaker: Let us allow Hon. Ndeto to proceed.

Hon. Ndeto. This is the seriousness of the matter.

(Applause)

We need to style up and block all the loopholes that are in existence in this county. At this juncture, I want to say this; I have done my research, about politicians who have been in existence in many years ago, beginning from those who surround me, from my area and I have seen the kind of investments they did when they were Hon. Members, like we are but the moment they leave this world, what happens, what follows? Nothing.

Their families are ruined completely. The team that we went with Mheshimiwa Itumo, yesterday, we saw what happens in the steelworks. Young boys wearing sacks and somebody is pouring water on those sacks for them to work and just imagine, the tax we collect from those young boys, we corrupt and we misuse it. What will follow us? It is a curse. Definitely, a curse will follow us and whatever investment we make with such kind of money, will never be of any use. We may invest for our kids today, but in future, they end up being useless. It is better for a Hon. Member to leave this house without money.

Hon. Speaker: I agree. Point of order, yes.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Ngui: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order on the contribution of one Hon. Festus Ndeto. Mr. Speaker, Hon. Ndeto is not discussing the motion on the potential revenue within our county, he is discussing the lifestyle of this members. Mr. Speaker, we are aware there are some other Hon. Members who were there before us. We do not know how they live. This is a different regime. We are members of County Assembly; we are not councilors, Mr. Speaker. We are Honorable. Our investments should not be a matter of discussion in this assembly, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

So, Mr. Speaker, I request him to discuss the matter on the table rather than the lifestyle of the Hon. Members of this County Assembly. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I think the point of order is sustained. Hon. Ndeto, find reason to either support the motion or oppose the motion.

Hon. Ndeto: It adds that I support this motion and the point I am passing today are very crucial when we discuss collection of revenue and the standard and the failures that are happening. My point is we are part of the failure in essence, yes. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Wacha tusikie chairman finance.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you Hon. Speaker, for this chance you have given me. I first congratulate the member for Kinanie having brought this credible motion. Yes, I agree with Hon. Member Cecilia that we are supposed to collect a lot of money, a lot of revenue and if that does not happen soon or later, the County will collapse. There was a time I brought a report of revenue collection of committee for finance and we brought some recommendations to this Hon. House. First, we said the clerks who are collecting revenue are on casual basis and this morning, I understand there are some revenue clerks who are being employed, noting that there are still others who are still there.

If they are being employed, don't expect me to hear there are revenue clerks who are being employed, and I am a clerk and wait until they are employed. I will just collect money

putting it in my pocket. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recommendations we put, we said that all revenue clerks should be employed on permanent basis but not contract basis.

(Applause)

That is why you find most of the executive members around Machakos County, they know they are on contract basis for five years, that is why you find there is a lot of looting because they know they are going.

(Applause)

What we are supposed to do and recommend, with the recommendations from this Hon. House is that all revenue collectors should be employed on permanent basis, not contract basis. Again I said, it is true what Hon. Itumo has said, that these people are trying, they are means to unseat the sitting MCAs. They are collecting a lot of money. Especially in my place, there is a revenue collector, he is just a former leaver, he was just employed the other day and every morning he has hangovers. Every afternoon he has money stuffed in to his pockets. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need to rise and go outside.

(Applause)

I can request this Hon. House, all of us, move one week, we leave the proceedings of the House the committees, we go outside all of us some go to Masinga, Mwala, even others are to be left Machakos Town and I know, within one week, we will give them target of how much they are supposed to be collecting. Because when I went there, yes I went there to check how revenue can be enhanced at quarries, they used to collect Ksh. 350,000 and I remember saying in this Hon. House, on the floor, I stood here and brought that report. We collected Ksh. 780,000. One day

(Applause)

Even I told the director of revenue collection; he said yes, that is enough, 'from now, we are collecting even Ksh. 1 million. Where is that million? Nairobi they used 2013/14 they collected around Ksh. 4 billion. Now, because the enhancement has been brought, they are collecting over Ksh. 12 billion. So this Hon. House, I am asking your leave, that we leave this Hon. House we go outside for one week.

(Applause)

For one week and set a target where these revenue clerks will be reaching. If they do not reach there, that is performance contract, they are kicked off. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you and maybe chairperson finance, what is preventing you from going out there and making sure all is well?

Hon. Nzeki: Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker, but we have not been having time to go because we are limited on times of spending of the money which is supposed to be spent in this County. In the assembly, we are limited. We are supposed to go out one time one month.

Hon. Speaker: So what is the solution you are offering?

Hon. Nzeki: First, my recommendation is that one week is enough before we go out, you give us leave, we go outside, we set a target for the collection of revenue and we come back. You will find, there will be no problem of money in Machakos County.

Hon. Speaker: Okay, let us hear Hon. Mueni then I will get back to you. Yes Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support the motion but in Machakos County, there is a system of eating the money not taking it to the banks. This people, they have channels because the person who is collecting the money is not the one who is taking the money to bank.

(Applause)

So the most important thing, I don't support our chairperson of finance because even if we go and collect the money, they will not be taken to the bank. They will be taken to the people who eat the money and they will still eat the money.

(Applause)

So the most important thing is the money. The person who is collecting the money to be taking the money to the bank so that he can bring the bank slip to the one who eats the money. But taking the money to the person who is eating the money, he is not the one taking to the bank and even those people, the clerks they are not employed, they are casuals.

Even I hear some now are being told to bring good conduct certificates. They are being asked for the good conduct, even if they were thieves, the county does not know. So, Mr. Speaker, I always tell you, you are the educated person, you need to be taken to those people who employ our people to know whether the person was a thief whether he is from jail or whatever. Most of the people, who are employed in Machakos, are the thieves. Even they are giving our Governor a hard time because even he does not have the money. He is told the money is eaten, he cannot get the people who ate the money and they have already eaten the money and they will not bring the money back. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Asante sana. Tusikie Mheshimiwa Kitheka.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, I think the stanza here is 'eating the money' which has been put by Hon. Mueni. Mr. Speaker, the potential of Machakos County of revenue collection is very high. We can as well bypass what we have targeted by far. And I am very sure of that as a former councilor of the municipal council of Machakos.

I first and foremost applaud the member who has come with this smart motion into this House. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform you that there was a town administrator, one Mr. Muthusi in Mlolongo, Athi Rive. Mr. Muthusi was banking the money in his own account, we are all aware of that, bank documents are there. He banked money to an extent that even his bank account could not believe whether it was the same bank account which has been living without money to an extent that he forgot that he is stealing the money and he took back the money to the where he was stealing from. Transferring the money from his own account to the account of the county. Mr. Speaker, that is total stealing and I know, Mr. Speaker, even that is not eating. It is beyond that.

Mr. Speaker, that same person, instead of being even taken to jails straight without passing the court, he was just promoted and kept there for some time then transferred to Kathiani. Is, Mr. Speaker, if that is the kind of trend we are going to have into this county, definitely we are not going anywhere simply because some of these people who are trying to man our money, they are well connected to an extend that the money which they collect goes somewhere to somebody and I believe we have a lot of thieve in this county and I am not going to a hesitate to say we have thieves and we have to root out these thieves to go back where they have been stealing.

If they are immune to stealing from the central government, please, let us release these thieves to go back and continue stealing. Mr. Speaker, I live in this town of Machakos and every night I leave Machakos at around 12 in the midnight every day---

Hon. Speaker: Order, Hon. Kitheka. The person you have mentioned is a Mr. Muthusi. Is it an example or Muthusi is in existence?

Hon. Kitheka: It is not an example. I am giving a true story. It is not an example.

Hon. Speaker: Then the rules of business in this house do not allow you to impute improper motive on a person who is unable to defend himself.

Hon. Kitheka: Then I withdraw that. Then I wish we investigate on the same. I have withdrawn.

Hon. Speaker: Then proceed.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I leave this town up to beyond midnight every day and Mr. Speaker, I wish you can see the kind of people who are drinking in Machakos. Every person you find, very drunk on the streets of Machakos, they are calling themselves, we are in the Government. They are spoiling the name of the Governor. Let me just be open. They are spoiling the name of the Governor in the name that they are just hanging around drinking in drinking sprees and making sure that they tell everybody whom they come around, every lady they come across, smart one or not smart, they tell them that ‘we are from the Government and we have money from the Governor.’

Mr. Speaker, some of these individuals, we know them. In a few years, they were just beggars in this town. And Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention that there are some people, more than 20, who hang around the town and they have pay slips and they are paid and they are existing and I can tell you so and so and so, they go to the County offices to receive money and they are deceiving and abusing the name of the Governor by saying that they hang around to campaigning for him and they do not work and they have money.

Mr. Speaker, these are the people who are spoiling the name of our Governor, even if he has done something good, they will blow it out of proportion and people will not see that. They will only see the negative issues which are being portrayed by these people. So, Mr. Speaker, I think, the way we can improve this, is that we divide and go into the sub-counties and exactly do what Hon. Nzeki has said, the able chairman of finance. And exactly that is what we did when we were members of the municipal, the defunct council. We netted a lot of corrupt people, we improved the revenue to 75 per cent and we got a lot of money.

So, Mr. Speaker, we should not just hang around, here in the assembly, very smart like Hon. Dominic and we do not have money. It beats logic why we are here. That is why I have just decided to hung a coat in one of the offices, I be picking it to come with it in this house when there is need. So, Mr. Speaker, I kindly request these members we wake up to the situation because these people are getting richer than they are. They are living beyond their means and I wish to tell you that, living beyond your means is dangerous because the means which you are living beyond can as well kill you. It might be drinking so much, it might be going with many women, that is living beyond your means and it will kill you. Hiv/Aids is true and drunkenness can kill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much we will hear Hon. Nzoka, then we go to Hon. Muthuka then Hon. Alice from this said and then we hear.....

Hon. Nzoka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I applaud the member who brought this motion, that is Hon. Cecilia and I say it is right motion. It is well presented and she said there is a target which the revenue has set and they just go below all the years.

(Applause)

So, we should not say we have no target. Those who come with those targets are those people. They are the ones who are still collecting less. It means we have a problem and there are some people who are, there is a clique of some people, might be surrounding the Governor, saying there is this and they are destroying him because if this County lands without money, we shall focus on the Governor. There are some people who walk out with money. I do suspect these gadgets which they use to collect money with, might be it has been directed to another source. This is technology, you can still keep on clicking money, money but it is moving to another account. And I suspect that.

(Applause)

Yes, so when we were councilors, there is someone who thought councilors were this and that, we were doing much well and I am known in my ward by what I did when I was a councilor. So, we moved to Tala and other markets and we improved that one. So Hon. Nzeki, because he also did that, you were also there you are speaking from experience. This is what we did. So what he can say is this; look we have a problem in executive, we are talking of ballooning wage bill, today they are employing. Are these people mad?

(Laughter)

You can hear some people in the health sector are not paid, yet employment is going on. It seems as if this is, what do you call that one which goes to the moon and whatever, rockets, it is burning at the tail and still it is going.

(Laughter)

So, in fact, we are not heading anywhere. The whole thing will blow and also we shall go with nothing. So, it is time now to change the situation because it has not changed and because they are resisting change, change will change them. Because they have to toe the line we cannot keep on talking about ballooning wage bill, ballooning this and this expenses and yet, they are

employing. I am saying we have something which is going to the moon, burning and it is still going. We have to know what this is. Might be it is what? It is a ghost.

(Laughter)

What I can say is, we need to move with speed, we have to come with motion and a bill in this house to stop the employment. Because those whom we have employed, we cannot pay them.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Nzoka, I think you have made your point.

Hon. Nzoka: Thank you Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Yes.

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise here with a concern because I think the motion is properly laid and the facts are on our tables. Mr. Speaker, the failure of our county can be blamed squarely on us. Because Mr. Speaker, we have so many resolutions of the County Assembly, we have so many motions we have passed but the major problem is about implementation.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, as I speak here, I am speaking with cold feet because even if we pass this resolution about the motion, is it going to be implemented? That is the big question. Mr. Speaker, if we recall, mid this year, we had the same discussion and I was invited in the committee of finance and Mr. Speaker, when the report came, you directed that the chairman give us the updates of automation of our revenue collection because the same concern had been raised. Then Mr. Speaker, I can remember very well, even the chairman of finance gave us a paybill number, since it was seen as one of the ways, maybe, to seal the loopholes but if I may ask, has that being implemented? That is the question we need to think. Because, Mr. Speaker, as long as we stay here we pass so many things but once we get out of this house, we normally keep them in our drawers.

Mr. Speaker, I remember again, late last year, we passed a resolution to freeze any further employment in this County so that we can check on the ballooning wage bill. Was that done? That was not done. So Mr. Speaker, we need to be guided. Do we just come here to make noise and leave? There is one saying which says 'if you go for equity, you want to go with clean hands.' Are our hands clean so that we can monitor the revenue collection, Mr. Speaker? My concerns are simple, Mr. Speaker, I wish to support this motion with totality, but then Mr.

Speaker, we need also to have a *kamukunji* so that we can discuss many things that are derailing our county.

We maybe thinking about the five years but we have a future to live in the county. Elected or not elected, some in the Government, some in the opposition but because east or west, home is the best. We may auction our county at this moment but we still have our kids in this county, what kind of a life are they going to live? Sometimes, I am perturbed Mr. Speaker, it might be the first regime, a new dispensation, but we are not starting from scratch. We had some defunct councils which were even working better than us. What has gone wrong? We used to have councilors who we thought they were not educated but they knew how to plan things, they knew how to supervise things.

(Applause)

What has gotten into our heads? Sometimes, today, we had the CEC finance. The kind of presentation she is giving us, other CECs are giving us a contrary thing, so are we working in a government or are we working where, because a government is made of system.

Hon. Speaker: Order, Hon. Muthuka. You cannot discuss a matter that is pending before a committee in the house.

Hon. Muthuka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am not discussing the matter. I am giving an example, because it is not the first time that we are calling the same CECs. So what we are saying is, Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the revenue we need also as an assembly we sit down---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Muthuka did you mention a correspondence that you had this morning with the CEC?

Hon. Muthuka: Mr. Speaker, yes I am trying to give the kind of information that we get from the executive---

Hon. Speaker: The question from the Chair is; did you mention a correspondence you had with the CEC finance in a committee meeting today?

Hon. Muthuka: Yes I mentioned but I withdraw---

Hon. Speaker: Then.

Hon. Muthuka: I wish to withdraw.

(Laughter)

If it will affect my contribution, I withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Do you appreciate you are out of order to that extent.

Hon. Muthuka: That is why I am withdrawing, Mr. Speaker, and I am sorry if I alluded to that.

Hon. Speaker: It is okay.

Hon. Muthuka: Mr. Speaker, my request is simple. As long as I support what the chairman of finance has said, we need a special sitting with you, Mr. Speaker, and if we can also get other people who can open eyes, so that we can understand our roles and to the extent that we can go to because sometimes, that is why I have been asking, when does oversight start and when does it end because that is a question most of us, maybe, let me single myself, maybe I do not know where do I start.

Where the revenue is being collected, how it is being put in other people pockets and how it being transmitted into our accounts and that is the reason the Commission on Revenue Allocation, if you could read the mood of that lady commissioner, she was bitter because she alluded that, with minimal supervision, Machakos County can collect more than Ksh. 3 billion a month. With strict supervision, we can get even to Ksh. 10 billion. What is wrong with us? Mr. Speaker, call us for special meeting, we discuss the revenue collection and all other stalled projects in our county. Because those guys with different or living beyond their means, not only the revenue which is being collected, even the money which is being allocated to our projects most of which are stalled today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Yes let us hear Hon. Alice, welcome.

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Asante Bw. Spika, kwa kunipa nafasi. Nimesimama kuunga mkono mswada ambao umeletwa na mheshimiwa Cecilia Sereka. Bw. Spika waswahili husema panapovuka moshi pana moto. Sisi kama bunge tungelidhibiti hali ya kaunti ya Machakos, hatungefikia mahali ambapo tuko sasa. Juzi Gavana wa kaunti yetu alisema kwenye radio, kila mtu alisikia kwamba amegundua, amefanya uchunguzi zaidi, kuna watu wanasema wanakusanya pesa na kumpelekea na akasema yeye sio sehemu ya hiyo kazi.

Bw. Spika, mimi na waheshimiwa wengine tulikua mkutano Athi River tukiongea na wananchi juu ya mwongozo wa ulipaji kodi ama ushuru katika Kaunti yetu. Kulitokea fujo na kelele nyingi kuna makarani ambao wanakusanya kodi ama ushuru. Wakatuambia nyinyi kama

waheshimiwa kuna jambo ambalo hamjui kwamba sisi tunakusanya ushuru na tunashindwa sisi tunafanya kazi na hatulipwi. Tumegundua kwamba tukikusanya ushuru kuna mahali tunapeleka unatolewa fungu la kumi ndio unapelekwa benki.

Wakasema wana ushahidi kabisa kwamba ushuru ukikusanywa kuna mahali unapelekwa. Bw. Spika, kamati ya fedha, tulitembea kuana vile magari yanabeba kokoto tukafika na Bw. Spika kwa mda wa dakika thelathini kulikua na lori zaidi ya mia moja. Na hao wote wanalipa ushuru. Tukakuta karani tukamuulizia Kindani ndani akasema kwamba wanakusanya elfu mia tatu zaidi. Bw. Spika mshangao ni kwamba muda wa lisaa limoja walikusanya elfu mia saba. Na pia tukagundua, ndio tukagundua kwamba wale makarani amabao hupelekwa kukusanya ushuru ni wale ambao wamewekwa kwa Mlolongo wa kujua vile pesa zitapatikana.

(Applause)

Unachaguliwa kwenda kukusanya ushuru ili umpelekee mtu fulani ile hesabu umepewa ukusanye, ukikosa unatolewa kunaletwa na mtu mwingine ambaye anawenza fanya kazi amabayo inapaswa. Bw. Spika, imekuwa shida kubwa kwa wanaokusanya ushuru. Tumewaajiri sisi kama kaunti wanakusanya pesa na hatuwalipi. Bw. Spika, hata kama mtu ni malaika dunia hii ama Kenya yetu na mahali tumefika sehemu ya maisha ama vile ambavyo tunaishi maisha yamepanda juu. Unahitajika hiki na kile, unakusanya pesa na hulipwi lazima Kaisari atachukua chake. Lazima atachukua.

Bw. Spika, sisi kama kamati tulimuita waziri kuongea naye kumwambia ile shida ambayo tumeona. Tukamuita katibu mkuu katika hiyo wizara. Tukawaambi a kuna mahali kuna shida. Akasema hata wao wamegundua kuna shida. Tumengojea, tumeangalia, unasikia kaunti haina pesa lakini wale ambao wanafanya kaunti, wale ambao wamekaa ile sehemu ambayo inakubalika, magari ya kifahari wanaendesha. Unaangalia mtu anapata mshahara elfu mia moja na anaendesha gari la karibu milioni nane. Ni miujiza? Umetoa wapi pesa? Si ni kuiba?

(Applause)

Misururu ya uufisadi imetajika katika kaunti yetu, mara uufisadi kwa masomo, mara uufisadi katika katika wizara hii, mara uufisadi hapa na pale. Bw. Spika, sisi kama kaunti hatuendelei mbele, tunarudi nyuma. Bw. Spika, na hii hatua ambayo tunaenda nayo tukimaliza miezi mitatu itakua sisi waheshimiwa hatuwezi lipwa. Sababu matakwa yetu ni mengi kuliko ukusanyaji ambao tunakusanya. Na itakuwa shida pia kwa wale ambao mwaka 2017 watachaguliwa kuja hapa.

Badila ya maendeleo, itakuwa ni kulipa deni. Uko na deni ya bilioni mbili ndizo pesa umepewa unalipa deni. Maendeleo yatatoka wapi? Bw. Spika, sisi kama waheshimiwa katika

kaunti hii tunataka tushikane pamoja tuone kwamba ushuru ambao unakusanywa unafaidi kaunti yetu. Bw. Spika, wale ambao wanatufanyia kazi na hatuwalipi, kwetu ni laana. Sisi kama kaunti imekuwa ukienda huku deni, karibu hata sisi tutauzwa. Utaona tumepelekwa kwa mnada tunadiwe sababu hatuna pesa. Bw. Spika sisi tunaweza kusanya pesa nyingi lakini sio hivyo. Ni kinyume na matarajio yetu.

Bw. Spika, sisi kama Kaunti ama kama bunge tushikane pamoja na tuangalie mwongozo. Sisi kama kamati ya fedha tulitoa maono kwamba tunataka kwenda Kaunti ya Kiambu ama Kaunti ya Kwale, tuone ile njia ambayo wanatumia kukusanya kodi sababu hapa hii bunge tulisema na tukapewa nambari ya Mpesa ili kuitumia sisi kwetu ni kuimba na wimbo ambao hauna mwisho. Tunapitisha mengi hapa na hayendelei.

Hata ndio maana, Bw. Spika, imefikia wakati wale ambao tunafanya kazi na wao wako sehemu nyingine ya serekali yetu, tukiwaita hawashughuliki maana wamejua hatuna nguvu yoyote. Wako na pesa, wanaangalia mheshimiwa ameendesha gari la miaka nenda rudi, yeye mwezi mzima amefanya kazi, amepora amenunua gari la kifahari. Kwa hivyo heshima itatoka wapi? Tufanye kazi yetu waheshimiwa ili na sisi tuheshimiwe. Asante, Bw. Spika.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Asante sana. Yes Hon. Ndolo.

Hon. Phillip Ndolo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The biggest problem here is about the issue of banking the money that is being collected. You find that the money that is being collected is taken to somebody and the person who is taken the money to bank it, he uses the money. You find that, like the Hon. Member has said, we went to where the ballast is being collected, you find that when they collect the money, they do not bank the money. Instead of banking the money and taking the slips to the officers to the office, they are taking the whole amount to them. Once you want to find the way the money is banked the following day, you cannot get it.

The money is being mixed with another collection, such that you cannot find the money which was taken from Katani, how much it was. Also in areas, like in our wards, in Mitaboni, the money that is being collected in Mitaboni is taken to an administrator in Kathiani and is being mixed with other wards. Such that if you want to find the true money that was collected in Mitaboni, how was it banked you cannot trace it. That is the system the money is being stolen in our system. The other system is the gadgets that are being used. You can reverse them.

(Applause)

You can reverse them such that somebody has collected a lot of money, at the evening the money is being reversed and you cannot find the money that was being banked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Point of order, yes?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Kitheka: Mr. Speaker, I wish we said or we talk something which can be possible. There is no way you can re-set that system because at the end of the day, when you transmit or you transact it reflects elsewhere and the mother transaction is always there. Even if you reverse, it is always there. It is the same as deleting something in a computer. The moment you do some kind and say that you are sending something to the dustbin in a computer, nothing is deleted in a computer, unless you format the computer. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I think we are entering into an area we are not experts in Hon. Kitheak. Let us take contributions. I think we are in agreement that this is a motion that must succeed, so we just need to proceed and put the question, unless there is something particularly material.

Hon. Kyuli: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for this chance. I rise to support the motion again and Mr. Speaker, if you can recall sometimes early this year, I had sought a statement on the issue of those gadgets and the Mpesa paybill number, Mr. Speaker, because even the provider of that service, I do not know or we do not know, whether there was an agreement when those gadgets fail to collect because, Mr. Speaker, I can speak this with authority because I once went to a market in my ward and it was a market day and that particular day, the clerks told me that there are times it does not have the network, Mr. Speaker. So what happens during that time? Then they talk to the businessmen that they just give them Ksh. 20, for example, and then they do not issue receipts.

Mr. Speaker, there is an issue of the service provider. What was the agreement between them and the County because the gadgets fail to work and there is no hand-written receipts given to our businessmen. Mr. Speaker, as we speak today, you go to the markets down there, you find that businessmen have paid monies to the collecting clerks and the clerks cannot issue receipts to the businessmen and there is a mutual agreement between the clerks and the businessmen, that I must pay Ksh. 2,750 but I can afford a Ksh. 1000 today or this month or the next month and I will be let free. So, therefore even the collection is not fully collected and that little money that the clerks collect never gets to the banks and if it does it is very little.

Mr. Speaker, therefore out of experience, I once met the chairperson for finance, who is seated here today with us, when he was the chairperson finance in the municipal council of Machakos. I met them, seated at the bus top, Mr. Speaker. They were doing actual collection.

Thereafter, nearly every other local authority had to have a performance contract, Mr. Speaker. I want to request that we set records and we create a performance contract that every revenue clerk or revenue collector must collect this much by this date and if they fail, there is a penalty because it is collectable, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore, while I am supporting the chairperson finance, Mr. Speaker, we should reintroduce the performance contracting in our county so that people are given targets, if they do not meet the target, there is a punishment. Those who meet the targets, we also dangle a carrot in front of them, Mr. Speaker, or we give incentives. Mr. Speaker, revenue collection is something that we should not leave to only the collectors of revenue. We need to get involved if we need to change the kind of systems that are here and the kind of cartels that are here. If we want to clear them, we must get involved. Mr. Speaker, I support the chairperson of finance committee that we need to get out so that the cartels can be dismantled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I want us to conclude. I think we are not saying anything different now. We have really exhausted. One thing, yes.

Hon. Ngunzi: Just in conclusion Mr. Speaker, what we are witnessing in Machakos today, is history repeating itself. There was once in Africa, a time of scramble. When everybody was scrambling to take home, whatever they could take. Those were the white men and that is what is happening in Machakos and to address the issues that are affecting this County effectively, we can never debate and come up with a resolution here. We need to come up with a committee, a special committee that will go out and come here with a report.

It should be a committee of serious men and women. Otherwise, if we sit here and wait and as Hon. Ndeto said, curse one another, Hon. Members are not tax collectors. We do not collect revenue, we do not spend revenue. We are watching people misuse the County and we curse one another. Unless a committee comes here with a report that I hope will be implemented, then, Mr. Speaker, we will sit here and perish. And perish with our communities.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think my mind is already formed in that direction. Yes, briefly.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is true that this is a very important motion that has been brought by our able lady, Hon. Cecilia and this is one of the motions that Mr. Speaker, Sir, that should be taken very seriously because we are talking about revenue and revenue is the backbone of all the counties. We are talking about money. Money that can sustain the county to move forward so what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, Sir? It is that most of the able members, they have really stood up here and they have given out the points that are supposed to be taken. My contribution, Mr. Speaker, Sir, will be very little in that is we should come out

asking ourselves now then that most of the important things have been covered, what are the measures, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that are supposed to be put in place to curb corruption.

What are the measures that are supposed to be put down, that if they are used, we can have an increase of the revenue collection and my contribution in this regard, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Hon. Ngunzi has said, people should move out from this assembly? To do what? To go and see exactly, on the ground, what is happening. I am saying this because, for example, in all our areas, we have got the collection points. In the collection points, what are our junior officers doing? What are the supervisors doing to this juniors? So I am talking about bottom up. That is from bottom to up and from up to bottom, because in this regard, we have got the eight sub-counties, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and every sub county must have been given a target to meet. Why? Because it has got some collection points, for example, in Masinga, it is very much known in regard to sand-harvesting and in that regard, Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me point out that there are some obstacles, maybe, to the officers who have been assigned to those duties.

They do not have serviceable vehicles, for example, in those collecting points. If a lorry happens to escape out of the check point, the officers on the ground are not able to follow that lorry, to make it pay, whichever fee is supposed to be paid. Officers on the ground in those sub counties they do not have vehicles to move around for supervision. So we are talking about supervision, we are talking about facilitation. So if the facilitation is not there, what are saying? We are encouraging now the revenue collectors to collect money and pocket it into their own use. So on that regard, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would urge this house to move out, in sectors, in the sub counties, and see exactly what these vital areas are. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have heard of Hon. Members, mentioning about Mlolongo or Athi River, where we have quarries and we are also forgetting that in the same areas Athi River, Mlolongo, we have upcoming factories industrial areas where there are no officers who go and collect revenues

(Applause)

Whichever revenue is being collected, it is being pocketed. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request this House to be very serious. If have got, if we put up the measures, we can be able to collect money, revenue even to a tune of Ksh. 5 billion a year. Take it from me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that we are able to do that but because of those weaknesses, the inclination will be down. So we need to move out, we need to put some measures up and it is through that experience, as I always say in this House, that we have got to do that, we compare notes and we shall come out as victors. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Finally, finally yes.

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the Hon. Members about something that was said last week by the CRA group and we need to take it seriously. Nobody doesn't understand the current financial crunch that is being faced by the National Government. If every county is now told for the next three months, four months, sustain your wages through local revenue collection, what is going to happen, even to us as Hon. Members. That is food for thought.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, to show how senior government officials in this county are becoming a major roadblock to revenue collection, I need this investigated. The committee on revenue, Mr. Chairman, I need you to do your own research. There is a senior Government officer in this county who is operating 19 Marutis in this town under the name Heatwave.

(Applause)

They do not pay parking, they do not pay anything. They are untouchable, they park anywhere and when you try to impound one of them, you will leave out of Machakos for the rest of your life. That is food for thought. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think this last points are just scaring us. Yes, let us hear Hon. Mary Ndinda and then we hear.....

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to support what the other Hon. Members have said but there is something that I want to comment upon, knowing that revenue collection is our source of income, we should not talk of a committee being composed. This is a very crucial thing, very serious issue where we need to be involved, all of us should be involved. We visit all the eight sub-counties, maybe we sub-divide ourselves in groups, and it should be very urgent---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ndinda you are out of order. You are dictating what this house should do.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: I am not dictating, I am only requesting, if possible.

Hon. Speaker: Find better language.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: If you can call it a proposal perhaps.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: So it is my humble request, that if it will be possible, we all go as members of the county assembly, visit all the sub-counties. Secondly, we should also go and scrutinize and know, if in case, these workers are messing up with the monies they are collecting, what is the root cause of that? Maybe they are not being paid their salaries on time and that can contribute to that---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ndinda, maybe.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: I am only saying 'maybe'. I am not saying it is true, we are only going to scrutinize---

Hon. Speaker: Order, Hon. Ndinda. This house has never prevented you from visiting a collection point from your committee. Has it?

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: It is true.

Hon. Speaker: That has always been open for all committees to do.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndinda: Yes, but I am proposing the issue, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A certain Hon. Member, proposed of a committee but it is my humble request, if it is possible, we all visit the eight sub-counties as the whole county assembly so that we can know what is the root cause and if they are inconveniences they are facing, we also collect the information so that we can come up with a proper conclusion on how we shall have our revenue collected at the right time and collected as a whole amount instead of any money going to any person who is benefitting alone other than benefitting the whole of Machakos County. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you let us hear the chairperson of finance committee.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I understand now members are seeing why Hon. Cecilia has brought this motion and because corruption has got root into this county, I am suggesting, I am requesting Hon. Speaker, to order that all the revenue clerks, even that department, goes back, we get a service provider who will be collecting money on behalf of the county because it seems that even if we move all the revenue clerks out, we bring others, it will still go on. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting that we have service provider, on behalf of Machakos County. Money will be collected. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you but those are proposals that perhaps will come out of a committee that we will soon form. Conclude Hon. Chairperson.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the house at large. I want to appreciate Hon. Members for really supporting this motion. I have seen all of them have a heart of loving the people of Machakos. Mr. Speaker, I will ask you to put in place a committee because if we say the whole house, some members will not even go, where they are supposed to go. We want serious people, Mr. Speaker. This is a very serious matter and we want it to be given to certain people who can really and who are willing to do the work, Mr. Speaker. I want to say we are here for the people of Machakos and we really want to help our county. The way we are going Mr. Speaker, things are not good and we want a long term solution, Mr. Speaker, so that our people and the county government of Machakos can benefit.

Mr. Speaker, it is not only revenue places but also, Mr. Speaker, you know there are a lot of approvals, mostly in Mavoko Sub-County and some of the investors are not paying the building approval fee. Mr. Speaker, we want everything to be put in place and we know where really our money is going. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you the Hon. Members in conclusion, let me proceed and put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, on Thursday, afternoon I will deliver a ruling on the committee. A special purpose committee that will drive the agenda of the motion, that is on Thursday afternoon and the terms of reference.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. In absence of any further business, the house adjourns

The House rose at 4.04 p.m.