

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 28th July, 2021

The House met at 2.36 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Museku) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON GARBAGE COLLECTION IN MAVOKO,
TALA/KANGUNDO AND MACHAKOS MUNICIPALITIES

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business to be transacted by Hon. Cosmas Kieti, Chairperson, Committee of Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, aware that Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides that, the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County; Informed that there was significant outcry from members of the public on uncollected garbage across the three municipalities of Machakos County namely Mavoko, Tala/Kangundo and Machakos; Cognizant that Standing Order 190(5) mandates sectorial committees to inquire into, investigate and report on all matters relating to their mandates;

Further, aware that pursuant to the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders the Committee on Trade, Economic Planning is mandated to oversight matters related to municipalities;

Informed that the Committee undertook site visits in the three municipalities to confirm the status of garbage collection and invited the Chief Officer, Decentralized Units and County Administration and Chief Officer, Housing and Urban Development to shed light on the issues raised and consequently compile a report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report of the Committee on Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization on Garbage Collection in Mavoko, Tala/ Kangundo and Machakos Municipalities.

I call upon Hon. Anthony Mulu to second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mulu.

Hon. Mulu: Thank you, Hon. Chair. I do second.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mulu. Hon. Cosmas Kieti you may read the report.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for this chance again. Report on garbage collection in Mavoko Tala/Kangundo and Machakos Municipalities. Hon. Speaker, with your permission, because Members have this report, I will skip introduction, preface if you allow and 1.2 on mandate of the committee because that one Members have and may be the Committee composition.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Start from there please.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. With your guidance, Hon. Speaker, I will continue.

1.3 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Hon. Speaker, the committee as currently constituted has 13 Members as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Hon. Cosmas Kieti | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Antony Mulu | - | Vice- Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Mark Muendo | | Member |
| 4. Hon. Peter Mutiso | | “ |
| 5. Hon. Moses Mitaa | | “ |
| 6. Hon. Josphat Kasyoki | | “ |
| 7. Hon. Joseph Musau | | “ |
| 8. Hon. Brian Kisila | | “ |
| 9. Hon. Abdirahman Ali | | “ |
| 10. Hon. Christine Koki | | “ |
| 11. Hon. Betty Nzioki | | “ |
| 12. Hon. Annastaciah Mutuku | | “ |
| 13. Hon. Judas Ndawa | | “ |

2.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Hon. Speaker, Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County. Further, Article 185(3) of the same constitution states that the County Assembly while respecting the principle of separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive Organs.

Hon. Speaker, based on the above provisions, the committee visited Mavoko, Tala/Kangundo and Machakos municipalities to assess the status of solid waste management in the three municipalities.

3.0 METHODOLOGY OF ACQUIRING THE INFORMATION

The committee sought to assess the status of solid waste management by conducting site visits to the Mavoko, Tala/Kangundo and Machakos municipalities as well as interrogating the sub-county administrators and municipal managers in the three municipalities.

4.0 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PURVIEW

Members noted that waste management is under the purview of the municipalities as the duty had been transferred from the Department of Decentralized Units to municipalities which are under the Department of Urban Planning and Housing. Staff in waste collection had also been seconded to the municipalities. It was also noted that municipalities have not yet been granted autonomy to operate on their own as required by law. Solid waste management in other towns remains under the Department of Decentralized Units.

5.0 SITE VISITS

5.1 MAVOKO MUNICIPALITY

The following issues were noted during the site-visit in Mavoko municipality.

Hazardous Waste

Members noted that there was public outcry on the management of dumping sites in the municipality, with heaps of uncollected garbage in markets being reported. It was further noted that the garbage contained hazardous material, including syringes, used condoms and diapers among other waste.

Sewer system

Members sought to know whether there was a proper sewer system in Mavoko municipality. The Chief Officer informed the committee that the existing sewer line is too small such that it is overwhelmed by the influx population in the municipality.

Staffing and supervision

Members sought to know whether there was adequate staff to assist in management of waste material in the municipality.

Baiting of dogs due to rabies

It was noted that a lot of dead dogs had been spotted within the locality. Members further noted that it was a good initiative to bait the stray dogs with poison, to curb the spread of rabies in the region. However, the municipality was not effectively disposing off the dogs and they were being left to rot by the roadsides, which was very hazardous to the local community.

Garbage bins

Members sought to know how many bins were available within the municipality and whether they were enough to cover the area. The committee observed that the Mavoko has 250 skip bins. They further sought to know how often the bins are emptied and whether there is a schedule for garbage collection as the garbage was often found piling. The Chief Officer informed the committee that the bins are collected frequently but when the skip loaders breakdown the collection process slows down hence spillage occurs.

Protective gear

It was noted that staff in the department dealing with solid waste management do not have protective gear. This poses a health risk to them and is a matter that should be addressed urgently.

5.2 TALA/KANGUNDO MUNICIPALITY

The following are the salient issues noted during the site-visit in Tala/Kangundo sub-county.

Garbage bins

Members noted that there were 100 skip bins within the municipality. Additionally, it was noted that the skip bins get full until they overflow. It was further noted that residents of Tala/Kangundo municipality throw their litter around the bins when they find them full. Furthermore, Members noted that whenever it rains, the bins emit a foul smell which in turn, causes environmental pollution and becomes a health hazard to Members of the public.

Transport of garbage

Members noted that the garbage from Tala/Kangundo municipality is normally transported all the way to Machakos. Additionally, fuel for the garbage truck is normally a challenge, which causes the waste to take too long before it is moved.

Dumpsites

On dumpsites, it was noted that there is need to have a dumpsite near Tala/Kangundo towns. It was further noted that the waste dumpsite in Matungulu needs was not fenced off and the same needs to be done to avoid health hazards to the surrounding community. Additionally, ownership of the dumpsite needs to be established to clear wrangles relating to ownership.

Hazardous Waste

Members noted that waste such as diapers are thrown in the bins and dogs litter them all over at night, which in turn leads to more health hazards. There was public outcry on the management of dumping sites in the region, with heaps of uncollected garbage in markets being reported.

Sewer system

Members sought to know whether there was a proper sewer system in the Tala/Kangundo municipality. The committee observed that there was no sewer line Tala/Kangundo municipality.

5.3 MACHAKOS MUNICIPALITY

Just like the other two municipalities, similar issues were noted. These include:

Hazardous Waste

Members noted that the management of dumping sites in the municipality was poor, with a lot of uncollected garbage in markets being reported. It was further noted that the garbage contained hazardous material, including syringes, diapers, used contraceptives like condoms among other waste.

Sewer system

Members sought to know whether there was a proper sewer system in Machakos municipality.

Protective gear

Like in the other municipalities, it was noted that staff in the department dealing with solid waste management do not have protective gear. This poses a health risk to them and is a matter that should be addressed urgently.

Garbage bins

Members sought to know how many bins were available within the municipality and whether they were enough to cover the area. The committee observed that there were 150 bins in the Machakos Municipality. They further sought to know how often the bins are emptied and whether there is a schedule for garbage collection as the garbage was often found piling.

We have a picture there.



Members of the Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization committee view a skip bin situated within Mavoko municipality.

6.0 COMMITTEE FINDINGS

1. Members laid emphasis on clean markets and empowerment of the administration so that they have authority to fully be in charge of the proper coordination of their dockets within the county so as to enable them undertake their duties efficiently.
2. The committee noted that solid waste management was a continuous process and has to be managed on a regular basis.
3. They also noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of people had been laid off from their jobs and as a result, had resorted to engaging in side hustles such as selling groceries by the road side. This had led to more garbage to be collected, by an already overstretched staff at the municipality.
4. The Committee recognized the need for sub-county administrators to engage with the village administrators, who are charged with the responsibility of notifying the municipality of areas that need their attention in as far as solid waste is concerned, and to pass this information on a regular basis to avoid instances where garbage lays uncollected for long periods of time.
5. The Committee further noted that regardless of who is in charge of waste management, the County Government as a whole has a duty to serve the members of the public and ensure that proper services are provided at the right time.

7.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the site visits and the findings, the committee recommends as follows:-

1. Each municipality should be independent with its own assets and by-laws because they have different needs.
2. Skip bins should be fabricated in such a way that when it rains, the water can flow freely to the ground to reduce rusting of bins and emission of foul smell from the bins.
3. Municipalities should have a separate budget from those of other departments in the county.
4. Tractors that were bought for ploughing can also be fabricated to assist in garbage collection if dumpsites are near the municipalities.
5. Each municipality should have its own dumpsite, and the County Government should budget for and procure for those without.
6. An inspection team should be established for identifying the filled bins for collection and emptying.
7. Members of the public should be sensitized on management of waste before collection.
8. Penalties/fines should be imposed on those caught dumping in undesignated areas.
9. Broken down garbage collection lorries should be repaired as soon as they break down to avoid cases of waste heaping all over the major towns.
10. The County Government of Machakos should engage development partners in solid waste management.

11. Revenue collected from municipalities should be ploughed back to assist in giving services to the residents of those municipalities.
12. The municipalities should develop monitoring cards to help in supervision of garbage collection whereby records are kept, outlining the time it takes between reporting and taking action in as far as garbage collection is concerned. This way, they are able to monitor how often the garbage is collected and how efficient the staffs are.
13. Suggestion box - Members noted that it is important that the department installs suggestion boxes within the municipalities to help in collection of views and suggestions from Members of the public.
14. Collection of garbage - Members agreed that each municipality should have proper machinery for collection of garbage.
Further, there should be separation of solid waste and other types of waste when it comes to garbage collection.
15. Staff collecting garbage must be provided with protective gear.
16. The staff should also be examined by public health officials for medical fitness.

8.0 CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hon. Speaker, I wish to appreciate the Committee members for their dedication during site visits, committee sittings and compiling of this report. Hon. Speaker, the Committee is also grateful to the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly for the continuous and relentless support received as it discharged its oversight mandate.

It is therefore my duty, on behalf of the Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization Committee to table this report and recommend it to this Hon. House for consideration and adoption. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I can see attached here there is a document called proposed solid waste management system from Machakos County; is that part of the report or it is just an appendix.

Hon. Kieti: In one of the committee recommendations, in No. 10; the committee recommended that the County Government of Machakos should engage development partners in solid waste management and we were able to research and we managed to get one of our sister counties that is the Nairobi county, they were able to get a development partner JICA and our wish as a committee is that the county government of Machakos copies what is happening in Nairobi and that is why we have given this as an attachment so that members can know what is happening in Nairobi as far as garbage collection is concerned. So, ours is just a recommendation that we can adopt that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Chair.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Judas Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will start by applauding the committee and more so our able chair, Hon. Kieti for coming up with this brief and elaborate report on garbage collection. Mr. Speaker, I happen to be a member of this committee and I also took part in the compiling of the report and I attended the site visits which are mentioned in this report. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say the report gives exactly what is on the ground; we went to Machakos, we went to Mavoko and also Tala/Kangundo and the situation Mr. Speaker is the same, whatever is happening here is also happening in other municipalities.

So, it is my wish and my request that those who are mandated to man or those who are supposed to be addressing the issue of garbage collection, I demand that they be more serious on this issue. Our Constitution is very clear in Article 42, provide that every Kenyan is entitled to stay in a clean environment so if we don't take care of this, it means now the rights of the residents who are in Machakos are being infringed on. So, Mr. Speaker the issue of this garbage bins that are always full but the issue of picking them to take the garbage to the dumpsite takes long.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would request that the municipalities are the ones those are managing this, they should ensure because I understand one of the challenges, the report we got from the managers of the municipalities is that most of the times they are lacking fuel. The trucks are there but no fuel. Mr. Speaker, I would just go by what the report has suggested; the municipalities should have their extra budget on the issue on garbage collection so that we have fuel throughout and as you are aware Mr. Speaker and Members are also aware, the issue of garbage collection is a need which recurs even after satisfaction.

We can empty the bins today and in the next three day they are also full again so the problem recurs. So, since we know this problem recurs, let us have adequate fuel, let us have adequate budget so that we can ensure that our people live in a very clean and safe environment. Mr. Speaker, I was saying it is well known that we call Machakos the place to be and we say Machakos is No. 1; let us be number one in all aspects. The issue of garbage collection let us give it priority.

Then the other challenge I saw Mr. Speaker, when we talk of this waste, the municipalities are only dealing with one department on the issue of solid waste and it is not clear from the report we got from the Municipal Managers, who is supposed to manage the liquid waste because the report has only talked about solid waste and there is another waste we call liquid waste so let us encourage the municipalities to work to ensure that both problems are addressed.

Then the other issue Mr. Speaker, from the report you have seen the Clerk Assistant, I don't know whether the Clerk Assistant who was typing the report, he is saying that you get condoms there, there is a word left, it is 'used condoms' and we made it very clear. Whatever we are getting in those bins, they are 'used condoms' and these young kids are coming there blow or put pressure in those used condoms. So if we don't address the issue it means there is a danger, our children can get contaminated with a very serious disease.

The other issue of used syringes and needles; some kids pretend to be doctors and want to use the syringes so one can end up injecting the other and thus infections. So let us ensure that once the bins are full, we pick them. During the rainy season, Mr. Speaker if that remains full for about two days and it has been raining all through, it means now it was solid waste and now solid waste plus liquid waste because the solid waste is going to remain there and the dirty is going to flow like liquid waste. So let us ensure that this problem is addressed.

Then, Mr. Speaker the other issue I have seen, Mr. Speaker, whoever is going to be handling this, there is an element of negligence. This is omission or commission. If you do something that you ought to have done and you do it the wrong way, that is negligence. If you fail to do a certain task that you have been assigned to do, that is negligence. So Mr. Speaker, I can see this element of negligence by officers who are supposed to be doing this. We know we are living in a world of limited resources, we may not have enough staff, but the issue of environment, let us be more serious so that we can avoid this unnecessary diseases.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, it was our proposal that we partner with other people so that we can address this and it was also our proposal that incase the problem or the issue of garbage collection is not managed well we can also think of contracting this service. As you are aware Mr. Speaker, the Counties follow what we call public procurement procedures and if the truck breaks down, you have to follow that procedure and because of that bureaucracy, that is why we have delays in repairing our trucks, in getting some essential goods which are required.

So in case we see the problem taking long, we propose that we contract the issue of garbage collection because if a contractor is given that job, the moment the truck is broken down, he will eventually look for alternative truck so that the problem is solved. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I support the report.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kamulu.

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will start by thanking and appreciating the work which has been done by the committee which is very elaborate and well done. Hon. Speaker, I am very much impressed by the recommendations which the committee came up with especially No. 1, where they are recommending that, each Municipality should have an independent assets. Mr. Speaker, this will be very good because if it is lorries or tractors or even the workforce if each municipality will have its own, that one will be very good because if they keep on borrowing from each other, the tractors could be committed and garbage continues to pile up.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned with No. 4 which is actually on collaboration with other departments especially the tractors which are used in the county for ploughing. The tractors plough once and after that, they just lie idle within the county so if they can be utilized in that manner, I think they will have solved the problem. No. 5 Mr. Speaker, is about the dumpsites. In fact, it is true that each municipality should have its dumping site because it is uneconomical to transport waste from Kangundo to Machakos; it is wastage of fuel and so forth. So an independent dump site is necessary.

Mr. Speaker on the same we should not dwell particularly on municipalities alone because we have other regions such waste is not there so I recommend that we can also have such dump sites in every sub-county and also a lorry which can actually empty the waste which is within sub-counties as we work on the municipalities. Hon. Speaker. No. 6 is on the inspection team. This is also necessary because they will identify where the bins are filled but I recommend that the bins can have phone numbers from a centralized point actually from that inspection region where the people on the ground can call when the bins are full so that that they can come and empty them.

Hon. Speaker No. 15 is very crucial especially on the health of the workers. The recommendation on protective gear is very necessary whereby the workers can be provided with aprons several pairs for hygiene purpose, boots and gloves are very necessary so that they can be healthy as they operate. Hon. Speaker, this is very good report and if the County adopts it, I

think the municipalities will be clean and we will be living in a very healthy environment. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you very much. I first want to appreciate my chair Hon. Kieti for tabling the report; I also want to appreciate my colleagues in the committee for availing themselves while we were doing site visits. I want to inform the house, I am trying to search for the gazette notice by H.E the Governor, earlier this year. He transferred some responsibilities from DU to municipalities and it was gazetted so that Hon. Speaker the municipalities can run affairs by themselves. We had actually complained because as per the Charter, these municipalities were supposed to be independent but in between some responsibilities remained with the DU department.

As such as collection of garbage so it a norm that when there was a problem you call Machakos for them to send a skip loader to Kangundo to empty the bins and the Charter was very clear, when we were forming these municipalities; they were supposed to run independent budgets and the budgets were to cater for any function the municipalities were supposed to undertake.

Garbage collection is one of them and I this thing happened before the FY 2020/21 and the main challenge which arose was issues to do with budget because yes he had transferred the responsibilities to municipalities but allocations for the funds had been done to the DU and I remember very well through our able chair we called the Chief Officers both DU and Trade and Mr. Speaker you belong to the budget committee and you very well that some funds have been taken even the staff have been sent to municipalities so I believe there is need also to upgrade the report and capture the current state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker, once they undertaken the changes which we have recommended as a committee, I believe issues to do with garbage collection, both solid and liquid, will be solved if they implement to the letter and the Implementation Committee is very active. I also belong to that committee because we need to make follow-up on this issue and especially independence of municipalities because once they are independent, then we will now narrow our attention to where we need to take our complaints and I speak this as host of a town which is within municipalities and I now the challenges we have faced with municipalities and I must accept that there are changes and I have seen happening and must appreciate they cannot be overnight, changes like management of solid waste collection and nowadays we even have numbers.

I remember last time when there was a problem I advised Hon. Mutiso where to call. I advise him where to call since I had the same problem earlier and got a solution. So I believe there is improvement and I know through our able Chair and the committee, we will be able to bring these changes and will push the Executive where possible to see that they implement.

On the issue which had been raised by Hon. Kamulu, because even towns like Kathiani and Matuu don't belong to municipalities but through this committee there was a recommendation that apart from what was bought by municipalities, because when municipalities came, they bought their machineries but we had machineries which were being used by the municipal council. We had had suggested that those machineries can be transferred to the towns which need such services and now they engage different staff because they have seconded the current staff to the municipalities, they need to employ more so that the other towns are also taken care of.

So Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the committee, I think we are progressing well and I applaud the committee and I hope that the Executive will be able to implement whatever we have suggested. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I happen to be the MCA Tala Ward which falls under the Tala/Kangundo municipality. Hon. Speaker, in fact, this is a very good report and we are appreciating the good work of the committee for Trade and looking at the recommendations, it is really covering the challenges and the problems that the three big municipalities are facing. Hon. Speaker, I have taken note of the other Members and what I want to add is that garbage collection or garbage is produced daily and therefore it needs a lot of attention. When I say that I happen to be the MCA under Tala/Kangundo Municipalities, the problem I have been facing is that I have been getting calls from the residents and from the people doing businesses in Tala and the complaint is in regard to the dustbins filling within a day and especially on the market days on Tuesdays and Fridays and at times on Fridays if the garbage is not collected on Saturday, reaching on a Monday you find that the whole of the market is really smelling.

So Hon. Speaker, what I am stressing is that we should have additional staff because I know for sure the committee has also mentioned about the number of staff are few. Actually, as we are talking, we are talking about Machakos County having a ballooned wage bill but there is need for additional staff in regard to garbage collection within the three municipalities and even within the other towns within Machakos County. So on that regard Hon. Speaker, let me talk about the personnel; we have shortage of personnel. Secondly, let us speak about the equipment; in regard to the report, they have talked about shortage of fuel but at the same time what I want to add is that the lorries and skip loaders are wearing out and that is another area the committee was supposed to report on.

The equipment that we having, the skip loaders and the lorries are wearing out and when we come to fuel, refueling is another problem because when you call the managers they tell you "fine we have the equipment, the drivers are ready but they have shortage of fuel." So, when we are talking about shortage of fuel it means that they need to be given additional budget. So that as I said garbage collection is a daily production, so that when they enough fuel and the equipment is on the road, there will be no problem of the bins getting filled within a day.

Again Hon. Speaker, it is also important to look at the welfare of those staff. At times, when a report comes to the Managers, you find that even the staff need to work on Saturdays and Sundays and when you talk to those workers, they will tell you in a fact they normally work on Saturdays and Sundays and they are not paid overtime. So this is one of the departments where the workers are demoralized; we cannot hide that. If you happen to question those staff who work in that department, they are very much demoralized because they are forced to work on Saturdays and Sundays and again it is also important we note especially if we have VIPs coming to Machakos County, let us say on a Monday, and those municipalities the dustbins are filled, the workers are called.

At times they don't go for Sunday services and Sunday is a very important day for the workers to rest but because of those concerns when a visitor is coming they are forced to work on Sundays and when you ask them, they are not given anything like overtime. So this is another area where we are supposed to motivate our workers because they are our brothers and sisters in Machakos County and they have families.

In that regard Hon. Speaker, this is a very good report, it has taken all the challenges and coming to it, Hon. Speaker I would also request this committee and Environment Committee to be taken to overseas areas where they should go for benchmarking in regard to recycling because Machakos County is growing and the Municipalities are also growing and this is where we want our committees to go out and seed what happens in this other municipalities.

(Applause)

I know when they go out they will come out with recommendations like recycling machines, they will find out what happens in regards to sewerage. In Tala/Kangundo there is no sewerage system and those towns are growing. So it is a concern Hon. Speaker, the Assembly should find and make arrangements for these committees to go to those countries like Sweden, Denmark where they will go learn and bring a report and good recommendations so that we may go for those recommendations. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mbevi.

Hon. Mbevi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the committee because if actually I may say it the most affected area in this issue of garbage collection is Mlolongo in the whole county because of population in the area and the rate at which the garbage is produced because that is town and especially Mlolongo we don't have too much expansion public area for the occupation of the town. So I wish to say that some of the points I had and concerns most of them have been raised by Hon. Members like the change from the county to the municipality probably my wish would be that we expect some change because in the county, a lot of garbage has been left uncollected and with Mlolongo being densely populated, it is really a very serious menace.

So I wish to say that the system used, even if the department is put under the Municipalities, there must be a way of how to handle the garbage collection and especially the bins because these bins are put next to people's businesses and I have witnessed several businesses closing down because of the bins being next to that business. So I wish if this could be done in a faster manner that is the change from the county operations to municipality because it is really affecting most of the residents in Mlolongo.

Otherwise these bins are being placed along the roads and in our area in Mlolongo the roads are so small, very few because of the plots; actually I can say probably the fast growth of the town has resulted to overpopulation of the roads. So you find that when the bins are along the roads, actually I have two to three cases of people who have been knocked by moving cars because of the bins because once the bin blocks you as a pedestrian walking along the road and probably a car is coming, you will be forced to walk in to the road because of the blockage by the bin and in the process a motor bike would pass and injure that person. Actually I have three cases caused by the bins being put on the road, so I think it will help a lot on that and jams on the road.

There is a lot of jam in Mlolongo especially in the morning and evenings because of rushing to get to work. So you find that when these bins are forcing the population in Mlolongo to the roads, the vehicles will pile up and so there is a lot of delay with people who go to work in the morning probably leading to somebody getting sacked; you never know.

So it is important that we come up with a different strategy of the bins and the best is to have enough trucks that ferry the garbage on a daily or hourly basis because these bins are actually a problem themselves being on the roads. Once they do the change, probably the municipalities may come up with a different approach on how to handle the issue. Otherwise, they have a lot of smell even after emptying the containers, the smell still remains and you find that there must be another method of collecting the garbage to avoid a lot of problems to our people.

My other humble request is on the purchase of the vehicles. Sometimes you find some trucks which are being purchased, probably we do not have local companies running those trucks and a lorry might break down because of a pipe and since we do not have those spare parts locally getting the spares abroad may be very expensive and takes a lot of time which will cause the garbage not being collected in the right time. So in future I wish the procurement people procuring the vehicle it is good for them to consider the local companies which have spares ready and available.

My last comment is on the garbage dumping site; I also mention it in this House. We buy trucks and prepare all these bins and we do not have a designated place for the dumping in Mlolongo. You wonder how the plan was because even when you build a home in most cases you find someone has already build a toilet because it is very key. We should have garbage collection which is planned earlier before the collecting. Before planning the buying of the vehicle, before planning on the bins, we must plan on the dumping sites because the garbage will not remain in the trucks. It is very shameful for us and Mlolongo residents with all that garbage collection without a dumping site.

Actually, Hon. Speaker, most of the dumping in Mlolongo is done on people's properties and plots. I have over 100 retirees who bought their land next to Mulinge Scheme. Once you retire and you wish to go and build your place, you find the finances required to do away with the dumping is more than the money you had budgeted to build the House. It is a very crucial issue in Mlolongo because a lot of people have lost their properties to dumping. I have a case of woman who had property in Mulinge Scheme and it is fully dumped. The estimate she was given to remove the dumping was Ksh. 1.8 Million because it has been a dumping place in Mlolongo for over 10 years. So look at such inconvenience to a lady and she is a single lady who had bought that land for her retirement home.

So my humble request to the House is to see how the system of dumping garbage can be changed and ensure our people are doing business in healthy places. Many of my residents on Mlolongo have closed their businesses which they have paid licences to and when you go the municipal offices to complain they do not respond and I am sure they do not respond because they lack an alternative. So once the change is done from the County to municipality, it is important to have the affected MCAs involved and help to give ways and solutions on how to go about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. King'ori.

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I have a few issues; one is distribution of bins in Mavoko. It was not done equitably because in Muthwani, a place like Githunguri does not have any single garbage bin and it is an area which is populated. So, that should be looked in to

and we had over 100 bins which were lying in Athi River. In Mavoko because when we talk of Mavoko sometimes people think it is only Athi River Mlolongo but we also have Kinanie and Muthwani which is part of that Mavoko Municipality.

It is the high time the County Government gives priority to all wards that all in those municipalities because with resource sharing, they do not do it equitably. Like the last budget we passed on KUSP money, they did not give it to Muthwani which was biased and we have talked about it several times. It is the high time the County Government thinks of how to deal with issues on distribution of resources in our areas. When we distribute resources in a particular area only means others are left behind, yet they are part and parcel of that area.

Like in Katani, they even asked for a grader so that this people can benefit because of the quarrying activities in our areas so we need to see how we can channel more money in those areas that produces a lot of waste so that we do not have one section that is benefiting and others are not.

On the side of machines, I think we have no machines in Machakos but scrap metals, scrap cars and lorries that are used to carry bins because we are in a modern world where we should have self-loading vehicles to carry our bins. We do not need to employ more people we need to have modern equipment to do that job for the County. When time comes, we need to modernize all those vehicles that are carrying bins in our area and they are even more cheaper than what we are having right now because I have just checked in the internet. How much it costs, how it is done and I ask why we should spend money on trucks that cannot load themselves; it does not add up, Hon. Speaker.

Lastly, I want to say that the team did a good job but it is now their duty also to push for equitable distribution in every sector that is dealt with by the municipalities including roads which is also important on that business of collecting bins. In my area I have several towns like Muthwani which is a large town and they do not have a single dust bin and they do not have good roads to pass. A town like Ndovoini which is the centre of Muthwani also needs to be checked and the several towns which are mushrooming in my ward---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of information Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Hon. Speaker, I would like to inform my respected brother that Hon. King'ori, we have the current machines which are compatible; those big lorries the scape loaders are compatible in the sense that they compact the garbage, the replenishable garbage we have got those lorries that are really compacting even at the site of collection.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Alex. I think the information has been received by Hon. King'ori.

Hon. King'ori: Well-informed, Mr. Speaker. I saw them in Tala when they were being launched by the Governor but those are just old systems and not the modern system; that is what I am talking about. We need advanced machines not the old used machines like the ones we launched in Tala last time. I know what he is talking about but I am talking of self-loading; they just need to load themselves but the ones in Tala is manual; that is not what we need, Hon. Speaker.

(Laughter)

I get Hon. Kamitu but we are more advanced in technology nowadays. I was talking about mushrooming towns in my area that do not have bins including Katani where we have a big population living there and need these bins but now we do not need those bins again, we need to go to cans where each and every person should get a can and the collection is done daily all over using those equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Can I call the mover of the motion to respond?

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start by thanking the Hon. Members for actively participating in this motion and giving guidance also to the Committee. I want to say that Machakos has a slogan or I don't know whether it is a motto 'the place to be' and if we want to reach there, then that place should be very unique to attract investors because as Hon. Members who are within the Municipalities, you have heard the passion with which Hon. Dan of Mlolongo was handling the matter of garbage and the skip bins that are blocking the pathways.

For that place to be habitable, we need to address the issue about cleanliness and to achieve that we need serious manpower that will engage in daily collection of the garbage being produced and I thank Hon. King'ori, he has addressed that issue very well. In fact with that new technology of lorries that are able to load themselves, a town like Mlolongo may need one and so is Machakos. They might be expensive but with time it is cost-effective and it will handle the issue of garbage collection within those places.

So, what we are lacking is proper planning and seriousness in handling matters within our County and it is my wish that we get a government that is cognizant of the fact our people need to live in good places and once we have clean environment, we will attract more investors and people will be ready to live in that place which we call 'the place to be.'

The issue on dumpsites is very clear; when we talk about the fuelling of the trucks it is being brought about by one, the dumpsites are very far. So imagine a lorry carrying garbage all the way from Tala to Machakos. I wish we had a dumpsite near, somewhere in Matungulu where a lorry can do about five trips instead of doing a single trip to Machakos and by so doing if we have dumpsites near the major towns, it will also reduce the cost and we will be able to save on fuel and our towns will remain clean. I go back to the matter of proper planning because without it then we will start buying the lorries to carry the waste and we do not have a place to take the waste as one of the Hon. Members cited.

Recycling is also a new technology that is taking care of waste, both solid and liquid and I wish that we can adopt the same within our county because it will save a lot. Remembering that our County is the dormitory of Nairobi City. Most of the people working in Nairobi sleep in our county. With that we need to plan well so that we get more and by so doing we will make our people rich.

Otherwise, I wish to thank the Members of my Committee and the secretariat, office of the Clerk, the Speaker for giving us an opportunity to address this matter of garbage and also thank Members for actively assisting us in coming up with the points on how best we can improve the issue about garbage collection.

Not forgetting that garbage collection we also have an issue in our box, Mr. Speaker before I sit down have remembered that; we got a report that in Machakos Level V, our mortuary does not have enough attendants and we should also have respect on those people who have

departed. For us to be attractive, we also need to improve on that so that that place is also a 'place to be' and where we can long to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Kieti.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Thank you very much, Hon. Members. One thing I would like to point out is that we cannot over-emphasize on the issue of independence of the municipalities as it has been pointed by Hon. Members through the Charter. Why that Charter was saying that municipalities need to be independent and we passed it, and it is important to look at that Charter realistically and critically. You will find that the kind of independence the Charter is talking about is two-fold.

When you talk about budget allocation from a county government and you are not involved in the revenue collection of the same area, then those two do not go hand in hand. To be truly independent there has to be mechanisms of having the boards empowered to run their affairs wholly which means revenue collection and expenditure at the same.

What is happening is that, regardless of the budget we give them whatever resources are collected from the municipalities once they go to the County Revenue Fund, they can be redirected elsewhere because they have gone to a common pool which can be reallocated anywhere. If we say that the boards are independent they are collecting revenue and at the same time they are being held accountable for the services they are giving the people, then they will be heading in the right direction.

For example, currently the municipalities boards which we have, have no powers whatsoever; everything is still being controlled from the Executive and we now want to hold them accountable for anything. The budget which was allocated to them has only created a vote-line within the department of Decentralized Unit but who is in charge of signing that vote line? It is still the Chief Officer in charge of that specific Department.

We have not said now we have created a department called municipalities and need that person who is in charge of that municipality, the officer who is responsible for signing out the budgetary funds for that municipality. So long as we have allocated funds but created a vote-line and within Decentralized Unit and called it municipalities; still the approving authority is the Chief Officer and if he decides not to approve he will not approve. In other words, that independence that we are seeking of the boards will not have been achieved wholly. So it is important to look at the charter and see how it was meant to be operationalized for these boards to truly independent.

The other item is something which was mentioned by Hon. Ndawa on franchise. The only way to make sure that this thing works properly is to privatize it. All these problems we are talking about; vehicles which are not working, no fuel, and dustbins placed in the wrong areas, all those are going to go away. You privatize, the person will get his own vehicle, he will be given standards with which to meet, key performance indicators (KPIs). Nairobi is a city and it has franchised; if you look at that report I was referring the Chair to, you will find that JICA together with Nairobi City went and contracted this out and after they contracted, for better waste management the residents of the designated areas where required to segregate their waste, each to be disposed in a different colour-coded bag.

Once you franchise it out even now, separation of waste what can be recycled or cannot will be achieved because this private person will provide the tools: the bags, the bins and they will be able to recycle themselves.

The final thing I have heard is on Kenya Urban Support Program; I have heard you mentioned about Muthwani and yes it is true that these things have not really been done equitably like you have said but we hope that going forward such will be achieved. We have a year to go and once that year is over then we will be able to get a different administration which can be able to give different directions as far as these things are concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Members and the House stands adjourned to resume on 3rd August, 2021 at 10.00 a.m. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

The House rose at 3.54 p.m.

