

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS
OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023

The House met at 11.11 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Kiusya) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
VISITING DELEGATION FROM COUNTY
ASSEMBLY OF ELGEYO MARAKWET

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of the following Hon. Members of County Assembly of Elgeyo Marakwet of the Select Committee on Members' Welfare, Catering and Library Services and Staff who are here on a benchmarking study tour;

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|--------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (i) | Hon. Tabitha Kimoning | - Head of the Delegation |
| (ii) | Hon. Evans Kosgei | - Member |
| (iii) | Hon. Jeremiah Kibiwott | “ |
| (iv) | Hon. Victoria Lai | “ |
| (v) | Hon. Stella Bowen | “ |
| (vi) | Ms. Millicent Jebet | - Clerk Assistant |
| (vii) | Ms. Rael Rotich | - Human Resource Officer |
| (viii) | Mr. Derrick Bartai | - Procurement Officer |
| (ix) | Mr. Elkana Koech | - Procurement Officer |
| (x) | Ms. Judith Komen | - Hospitality Manager |
| (xi) | Ms. Mauryn Koech | - Hansard Reporter |
| (xii) | Ms. Eddy Kosgei | - Serjeant at Arms |

(Applause)

Thank you, Members and staff, from Elgeyo Marakwet to our Assembly and to this plenary sitting.

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NGILUNI
SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KITUI COUNTY

Further, I acknowledge the presence of teachers and students from Ngiluni Secondary School in Kitui County who are here on a learning exercise.

(Applause)

I take this opportunity to welcome all our visitors to this Assembly; feel very much appreciated and welcome. Thank you, Hon. Members.

PAPER LAID

ANNUAL OPERATIONS REPORT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY
SERVICE BOARD OF MACHAKOS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2023

Hon. Speaker: May I invite Hon. Felix Ngui to come forward and lay down the papers. Hon. Johanna, you are holding his brief? You are welcome.

Hon. Johana Munyao (Mutituni/Ngelani, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the Chair, the County Assembly Service Board, Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023; the Report of the County Assembly Service Board of Machakos on Operations for FY 2022/2023. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member.

(The Paper was laid on the Table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ANNUAL OPERATIONS REPORT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY
SERVICE BOARD OF MACHAKOS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2023

Hon. Speaker: May I again invite Hon. Felix Ngui; I believe Hon. Johanna is holding his brief to come forward and give a notice of motion.

Hon. Johana Munyao (Mutituni/Ngelani, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the County Assembly Service Board is established under Section 12 of the County Governments Act, 2012 as read together with Section 8 of the County Assemblies Services Act, 2017;

Aware that Section 36 of the County Assembly Services Act, 2017 requires the County Assembly Service Board to prepare and submit a report, on its operations and activities, to the County Assembly at the end of each financial year;

Further aware that Section 36(2) of the Act stipulates that, the annual report shall in respect of the year to which it relates contain:

- a) The activities the Board has undertaken;
- b) An evaluation on the extent to which the values and principles referred to in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution are complied with in the public service;
- c) Information relating to performance of the Service and attendant challenges; and
- d) Any other information that the Board may consider relevant.

Hon. Speaker, acknowledging that aware that during the financial year 2022/2023, the County Assembly was allocated a total of

Ksh. 1,488,346,181 from the Exchequer which comprised a Recurrent budget of Ksh. 865,126,181, Development Ksh. 318,500,000 and other recurrent transfers (loans) Budget Estimates of Ksh. 304,720,000;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion THAT this House discusses and approves the report of the County Assembly Service Board of Machakos on Operations for FY 2022/2023.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member.

STATEMENT

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FOR 3RD AND 4TH OCTOBER, 2023

Hon. Speaker: May invite Hon. Nicholas Nzioka the leader of the majority to proceed and make the statements.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on Monday, 2nd October, 2023 to prioritize business for the House as forwarded by Committees and Hon. Members pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151(6)(d) . The Committee balloted business as follows:

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- a. Statement on the Operationalization of Kangundo Bus Terminus by Hon. Dickson Maundu, MCA Kangundo Central Ward.
- b. Motion on pre-natal and post-natal care by Hon. Ruth Wanjiru, Special Elect MCA.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Report on the Annual Operations of the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) of Machakos for the year ended 30th June, 2023 by Hon. Felix Ngui, Vice Chairperson CASB.

Wednesday, 4th October, 2023

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Motion on garbage collection and solid waste management by Hon. Jeremiah Kaloi, MCA, Athi River Ward)

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Majority Leader.

STATEMENT SOUGHT

OPERATIONALIZATION OF KANGUNDO TOWN BUS TERMINUS

Hon. Speaker: May I also invite Hon. Dickson Maundu, MCA Kangundo Central ward to come forward and make a Statement on the Operationalization of Kangundo Bus Terminus

Hon. Dickson Maundu (Kangundo Central, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides for County Transport including public transport as one of the functions of the County Government;

Aware that the former Tala-Kangundo Town Council constructed a well-equipped bus terminus in Kangundo town where vehicles can start and or end their journey; Further aware that this terminus has never been fully operationalized forcing passengers boarding Matatu from different places to Kangundo town and its environs to alight at nearby Tala Town despite there being Saccos which have been licensed to ferry passengers directly to Kangundo Town;

Noting that there are numerous benefits that come along with well-maintained and active bus terminus in a region ranging from growth of businesses around the area to being good source of County revenue. Hon. Speaker, the residents of Kangundo are not enjoying these benefits and the County Government is losing revenue that it would have gotten from this venture;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to seek a Statement on what the County Government of Machakos is doing to ensure that Kangundo town bus terminus is fully operationalized.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dickson. Now at this point, I would like to invite members to make remarks or ventilate on that matter briefly then you proceed. Hon. Mbuva, then Hon. Dominic; in that order.

Hon. Charles Mbuva (Kangundo West, GDDP): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to be the first one to make my contribution or speak to this Statement. Madam Speaker, I happen to come from the same sub-county as Hon. Dickson who is seeking this Statement. Madam Speaker, this is what you can call under-utilization. Kangundo town is one of our major or major towns in this County, which has the best-built bus park but if you went to that place today, you would wonder whether this was a project ill-conceived conceived.

For some unknown reasons, public service vehicles, which ply from Nairobi, ostensibly to Kangundo end their journeys at Tala market and this has been strange and has even gotten passengers sometimes feeling shortchanged or traumatized because a person who is visiting that area, let us say a person who is with new boards a vehicle at whatever stage in Nairobi and the board which indicates the destination of this vehicle says Kangundo only for them to arrive at Tala and they get the usual statement; *mwisho wa gari*.

Passengers are left with no option but to board other different means. You can imagine riding a shuttle from Nairobi, dropped at Tala and you have to board a boda boda to complete the remaining seven kilometers to Kangundo. Together with that, we don't know the reluctance of the County Government to force that vehicle have to use the bus park because some of the places where these passengers are dropped, the County Government has no means of collecting the revenue. It is in Tala town where everywhere is a stage and where there is no even a mechanism of collecting revenue for the county government.

So, Madam Speaker Kangundo Town is a renowned town actually the name Kangundo resonates with the history of this country. It is the place where one of the people who fought for the independence of this country comes from but because of this, there is a situation where now the business and things which would have happened in Kangundo are strategically relocating to Tala including this bus terminus been underutilized.

I submit that there is need to go and see what should be done to make use of that bus terminus otherwise it is going to be a marketplace. That is where people now are planning to relocate the *mama mbogas*, the people who roast maize the people who sell tree seedlings and you ask yourself; was this the intention of this terminus? Madam Speaker, I submit.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mbuva. Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Dominic Ndambuki (Kathiani Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker Kathiani central ward neighbors Kangundo Sub-County. Hon. Speaker, when the bus terminus at Kangundo town, is non-operational, that in itself affects the economy of Kathiani Sub-County in a way, Madam Speaker, because transport being the nerve of economy enhancement in areas that will affect the people of Kathiani who produce goods that need to be sold at Kangundo. There being no terminus Hon. Speaker, our people have challenges transporting those things to Kangundo because they will need to get *matatus* and the *matatus* are not there because the terminus is not operational. Therefore, Madam Speaker this Statement is timely and I support Hon. Dickson. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic. Hon. Mwonga then Hon. Douglas in that order.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. With your permission allow me to congratulate Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly Members and staff who have chosen to come and benchmark with Machakos County Assembly. To come and benchmark with Machakos County Assembly means in rating we are somewhere. I did not say they are behind Machakos but you go to benchmark so that you can borrow some practices from the area you are going to benchmark so that when you go back you put them into practice.

Madam Speaker, I want to support the motion by Hon. Member for Kangundo---

Hon. Speaker: It is a statement.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: When did you shift? Okay you can say your point of order.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you. I was shifting because when I was seated there I was not confirming I think Hon. Member Mwonga is out of order; he is not properly dressed because he is dressed in a good tie, good coat, very nice shirt but on a jeans trouser.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, actually I do not think the Hon. Member is getting use of the medical cover.

Hon. Speaker: Do not take that direction.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Why I am saying so, Madam Speaker, is because maybe he has some problem with his eyes. I am not dressed in jeans; from where you are seated Madam Speaker, the trouser is not jeans. Madam Speaker allow me to finish; it is only that the Member is a first timer in this Assembly. I am in a broken suit Madam Speaker.

(Laughter)

Back to the Statement of the Member. Madam Speaker I am supporting the Statement and say even if the County Government of Machakos has no laws or regulations---

Hon. Speaker: I have to make a ruling on that matter.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Okay; thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I want to make a ruling that the Member is properly dressed before this House. He should proceed and conclude.

(Applause)

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Because I have taken long I am supporting the Statement. Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Douglas Musyoka.

Hon. Douglas Musyoka (Masii, MCCP): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Madam Speaker let me first take this opportunity to welcome our colleagues from Elgeyo Marakwet County. This is Machakos County, the place to be. I am happy that by the end of your tour across Machakos County you will have something to learn and not only little but much. Machakos is the place to be; welcome.

Madam Speaker, I stand to support the Statement sought by Hon. Maundu on actualization of Kangundo bus terminus. Madam Speaker, you are aware that the County Government of Machakos, some years back established what we call municipalities. We had the establishment of Kangundo/Tala Municipality. Madam Speaker, a lot of resources in hundreds of millions have been used to establish Kangundo bus terminus. Madam Speaker, it is of great concern when our County Governments are spending millions and millions of shillings in establishing these very important infrastructure and then you find out that *Matatus* are just terminating their trips in Tala town then our people are told *mwisho wa gari*. I do not find it fair Madam Speaker.

We need to push our officers through the department of revenue collection and also inspectorate so that all these *Matatus* are forced to ferry passengers from Nairobi Afya Centre all

the way up to Kangundo. Madam Speaker it happens that Mwala Sub-County borders Kangundo and our people have been relying using *Matatus* from Kangundo to Nairobi. Mwala-Kangundo-Tala to Nairobi route.

Madam Speaker I do not find it fair when our people use a *matatu* from Mwala to Kangundo they are forced to use other means of transport more so not to say bodaboda. You know the risk which is been posed by these bodaboda operators Madam Speaker. Our people are being forced to use a bodaboda all the way from Kangundo to Tala to catch up another Matatu. I support the Statement, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Muoki wa Musila then Hon. Mbula.

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would rather look at it as much as I want to support the Statement. I would want to look at it at an economic point of view. These buses terminating their journeys at Tala, you create another opportunity for a different person to ferry that particular person from Tala to Kangundo. Let me finish my point.

What we should be even more concerned with is why Kangundo is a terminus. Rather we would be looking or we will be agitating to have Kangundo-Mwala road being tarmacked so that vehicles can now take that route from Nairobi through Mwala-Kangundo and as such that facility at Kangundo can be well utilized.

Another way I am looking at it we should not be static in our thinking or planning. If today we found this particular building underutilized or not being used properly what stops us from doing another business in this building and then we create another building elsewhere? I am talking about let us not look at it not from the box of Kangundo terminus only being appropriate for buses; we can still use that facility for other way. To use it better let us create a road from Kangundo all the way to Mwala and as such we will be using that facility properly. Thank you, Madam Speaker I support it but then think bigger.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Mbula.

Hon. Constance Mbula (Nominated, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want first to congratulate the Member who came up with this statement. It is actually quite overdue and I think it is a well-planned thing. Madam Speaker, I happen to come from those sides and before I have experienced such kind of transport. What we are saying or what the Member is concerned about is a passenger will pay a matatu from Nairobi. You are told you are going to Kangundo but you alight in Tala. So a new person or somebody going to see his relatives in Kangundo will get to Tala and is told *mwisho*. So this person wonders *mwisho wa* where? Is this Kangundo?

Although it is not a long distance from Tala to Kangundo but I think Madam Speaker it is quite unfair for anyone to pay full fare and you are told to alight half way. I think most of us may not have travelled in public means but they are chaotic. You cannot argue with that conductor because he has told you, you have reached *mwisho* and you have not. You do not even know where Tala is and you are told this is Tala and then you have to find your way to continue to Kangundo.

It is very important we find a solution to this kind of transport and do what we can. We are saving our brothers and sisters. Imagine that *mboga* woman carrying a *kyondo* of vegetables from Gikomba she is going to sell them at Kangundo and then you are told alight at Tala. Where

do you take them; *hauna kibanda huko* it is just another stress. So Madam Speaker I wish we could find a better way of that kind of transport. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. I will take three and then we conclude on that matter. I want to start with Hon. Katiti, Hon. Maeke then Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, I want to welcome Members from Elgeyo Marakwet whom I believe they are from my party majority UDA, so welcome to Machakos County.

(Applause)

Back to the Statement, I want to thank the seeker of the Statement because this is timely. As much as we want to ignore the operationalization of Kangundo bus terminus, it is also paramount to see the economic value that kind of bus terminus will bring to that sub-county.

Now we are talking about Tala which is another Ward and Kangundo Central is another Ward and still needs its share in terms of economic value.

The other thing we should ask ourselves why the matatus are terminating their journey at Tala rather than Kangundo and what I am hearing from the Members around there, there is no bus terminus in Tala. So the County Government of Machakos should come up with a policy and Regulation that could guide the operationalization of that bus terminus in Kangundo. I come from Muthetheni in Mwala Sub-County if that bus terminus opened I know majority of our people who even go and shop in Tala will have a shorter way to begin their journey in Muthetheni then all the way to Makutano and then to Tala passing through Kangundo.

My suggestion is let us open that bus terminus and if there is negligence, corruption or may be ignorance, let it be guided and checked and then make that bus terminus operational. I support the seeker of the Statement. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Maeke.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I represent the people of Kalama and elected by CCU. I want to stand to support that Statement, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Douglas Musyoka (Masii, MCCC): Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Who has the point of information? Hon. Douglas?

Hon. Douglas Musyoka (Masii, MCCC): The Hon. Member is not elected by CCU. He is elected by the great people of Kalama on a CCU ticket. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Yes on a CCU ticket.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you; I accept the information. Thank you very much Madam Speaker and thank you Hon. Douglas for that information. Madam Speaker,

as I was saying I would also want to thank and welcome our Members from Elgeyo Marakwet; feel welcome and we feel proud for you coming even benchmarking with us. Just loosely translated we shall also one day revenge; we shall also come to your place and do the same.

Madam Speaker, from what the Hon. Member has sought he is speaking about operationalization. This is a bus terminus that was constructed but has not been officially opened. What has that caused? It has made the buses to be ferrying people around Kangundo from wherever they come from. When we start now putting *mwisho wa lami* argument from Tala I think the seeker of the Statement was not talking about Tala terminus but he was talking about a terminus in Kangundo whereby people are not using it and the outcome for that is you find Matatus are carrying passengers from wherever, either they are few matatus or there are two matatus, they are not using what has already been constructed there.

Madam Speaker, that problem is like a problem cutting across all our counties and I believe even the Statement should also be extended to Machakos because come in the afternoons or in the evening hours you find people also ferrying people from wherever, here in Machakos. You will find that matatus are carrying from the offices here in County Executive offices and you find that matatus are there. They are all over and it is as if this menace of matatus not utilizing this bus terminus and I have never been in matatu business but Madam Speaker I want to tell you that there are a lot of cartels and a lot of things that happen in the matatu industry. So there is a need and a quick solution is needed so that, that may be operationalized.

Another thing, Madam Speaker, you remember the same Member sought a Statement about tarmacking and I believe now after they do tarmac of the Kangundo-Mwala road which we debated in this House and it was passed and I believe probably the Implementation Committee Chair should tell us where the progress of the report about because we sat in the House several months ago and nothing has happened and as a House that will be the only thing that now will be.....because as a House we cannot compel people to take business.

How will we tell people to go and take businesses to ply the Kangundo route and it is upon the Members also to ensure that have economic activities. It is economic activities that attract people. Why will I go to Kangundo because even if you just try to get some economic activities in Kangundo that will make people to not stay at Tala but want to go to Kangundo. Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Of course what is being sought here is actually to operationalize a terminus that is already built. I feel like it is easier to talk about operationalizing than talking about building so this should be very easy matter to handle. Hon. DS, you will conclude then we move to another agenda.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me also to welcome students from Ngiluni secondary school; the students and their teachers I think they are still in the gallery and are from Kitui County I believe and they chose to come to Machakos County Assembly to follow our proceedings so they are welcome. I will also welcome our colleagues from Elgeyo Marakwet and their members of staff who have also come to benchmark with us here. We will also find time to come to that end also to benchmark as Machakos County Assembly so feel welcome.

Madam Speaker, on today's Statement that has been sought by Hon. Member from Kangundo, I do support that it is good and it is the right time now the County Government follows up with projects that were initiated, some were complete just like the Kangundo bus terminus which is complete and just needs operationalization and with that I think the County Government should be fast to do such a small thing and make sure that that bus terminus is operational so that the money that was spent there may be utilized by people from Kangundo getting services.

Madam Speaker, Kangundo is among the oldest towns in Machakos and it now needs some strong Members who are now reminding us of that town otherwise it will be swallowed by Tala. You remember it is just the other day when we also secured the Members from being swallowed by the Matungulu MP but now it seems like they have now woken up and taken charge and we are going to support and make sure that Kangundo also as a sub-county and as a town is operational, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Point of order, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, is it in order for somebody of the stature of the DS to mislead this House or to insinuate that the MP Matungulu wanted to swallow the Hon. Members from Kangundo sub-county. Is it in order, Madam Speaker?

Hon. Speaker: It is not in order. Clarify that.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Madam Speaker---

Hon. Everlyne Nzeki (Kangundo East, MCCC): Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Mheshimiwa Everlyn.

Hon. Everlyne Nzeki (Kangundo East, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to make it clear that personally I was not swallowed; I will never be swallowed, I belong to Kangundo and I know my boundaries.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Evelyn. That is the clarification I have put to DS to make it clear that no one was swallowed. Clarify that point.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a matter of fact, the MP was heard talking of the same.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Point of Order, Madam Speaker., Madam Speaker, this is a matter that you have ruled.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mwonga, can you have your seat.

(Hon. Mwonga took his seat)

Hon. DS, it is clarification.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Yes I am informed, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: What I want you say to restrict yourself to is the issue of being swallowed because it is not true; you are in order when you continue pursuing that matter.

Hon. Stephen Mwanthi (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Although, Madam Speaker, I was through with my submissions on the Statement, the conclusion was; we will push and help them get that bus terminus operational, Madam Speaker, as they also stay put towards that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. DS. So this matter is exhaustively ventilated on and because of its sensitivity, I commit the Statement to the Committee on Decentralized Units and County Administration but there are timelines you have to report before the House on or before 17th October, 2023 because of its sensitivity. Thank you very much, Members. Next order.

MOTION

PERINATAL AND POSTPARTUM CARE TO PREGNANT WOMEN

Hon. Speaker: May I now invite Hon. Ruth Wanjiru, Special elect, MCA to come forward and move the motion on approval of motion on prenatal and postnatal care. Proceed Mheshimiwa.

Hon. Ruth Wanjiru (Nominated, CCU): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker that aware that according to the world Health Organization, globally 10 per cent of expectant women and 13 per cent of women who have just given birth experience a mental condition referred to as perinatal and postpartum depression which is higher in developing countries with a prevalence of 1.56 per cent during pregnancy and 19.8 per cent after child birth;

Further aware that women who go through stillbirth and those that lose their children during delivery are taken to the general maternity ward where other mothers with healthy babies are recovering causing them mental anguish adversely impacting their mental health;

Noting that integrating mental health care into primary health care settings requires training in psychiatry---

Hon. Speaker: Serjeant at Arms, there is some noise coming from somewhere. Make sure that silence is maintained. Proceed.

Hon. Ruth Wanjiru (Nominated, CCU):

Noting that integrating mental health care into primary health care settings required training in psychiatric care and providing consulting support to primary care providers considering that they are not enough mental health providers to meet the current and growing need for mental health services;

Appreciating that Section 6(1)(b) of the Health Act 2017 provides that every person has a right to reproductive health care which includes the right to access of appropriate health care services that will enable mothers go safely through pregnancy, child birth and the postpartum period which should include the integration of mental health in prenatal care as recommended by the national mental health task force in its mental health and well-being towards happiness and national prosperity report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that the Assembly urges the department of health and emergency services:

1. To ensure that all county health facilities with maternity wings have a separate ward for recovering of mothers who have gone through stillbirths or those that have lost their babies during delivery.
2. Facilitates continuous mental health training and provision of counselling support in the post-natal wards for all primary care providers in all Counties.
3. Establishes counselling facilities at all county health facilities with maternity wings to provide counselling therapy to mothers who lose their children through a miscarriage during delivery and through stillbirth.
4. Establishes counselling facilities at all County health facilities with maternity wings to provide counselling therapy to mothers who are suffering from perinatal postpartum depression.

Madam Speaker before I call a Member to second the motion, I beg your indulgence to paint a kind of a vivid picture of what I am talking about. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Ruth Wanjiru (Nominated, CCU): Thank you. Hon. Members, this motion is all about the well-being of mothers in our County. As we all know at the moment a woman realizes that she is expectant, she begins to paint a picture of how the future will be with the little one in their life. They proceed even to shop for the baby to do everything to make a new addition to the family have a comfortable life. I want to acknowledge that we have made strides where the prenatal care during pregnancy is concerned we have very special care for women who are pregnant; we have medication for that, we have checkups whereby the women go to the facilities and maybe get their blood pressure checked, the position of the child and everything.

Madam Speaker, my main concern is about the postnatal care whereby I feel like we have not made the required strides to take care of the women who have lost their children. In most cases, when a woman gives birth to a child and they die which we call infant mortality it is only not a loss, they do not only lose their child it could also mean losing themselves because a child is a part of that woman. So when you lose that child it comes with emotional agony, it comes with a lot of feelings that cannot be explained. The feeling of loss, the feeling of guilt at times whereby they feel they could have done so much more to avert that and my suggestion is that when they are at the hospital and they have gone through that loss that they should not be kept in the same ward with the women that have had their babies and they are busy trying to like breastfeed their children.

You know when you give birth to a child whether the baby is alive or not there is the production of milk you are going through very painful; it could even lead to mastitis whereby your breast is full of milk you do not have a child and yet you are put in the same ward with women who have their babies in their arms.

From where I stand, Madam Speaker, it could cause trauma, mental anguish and my suggestion is that we have a separate ward for such women so that they can be given specialized care whereby we can have specialized counselling sessions not only for the women but also for their spouses and families because even when such a woman re-integrates into her family knowing that they were all expecting to have a new addition to the family, it is not easy and you know the styles of grieving are different for the mother and for the spouse or the partner.

So I am suggesting we have a separate ward for such women so that they can have personalized care; they can have specialists coming to counsel them. I am also suggesting that in such wards the visiting hours will be different whereby they can be allowed to have constant visitors who will also attend the counselling sessions with them so that once they go back to society, we do not lose them. You know, it could lead to depression especially when you have lost a child and your neighbor on the other bed is breastfeeding their child; it causes mental anguish and Madam Speaker, I thank you for the additional minutes. I will now like to call Mheshimiwa Dee Kivuva to second this motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Mheshimiwa, Mheshimiwa Dee Kivuva.

Hon. Dee Kivuva (Nominated, WDM-P): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First before I second I want to welcome Elgeyo Marakwet to benchmark with us and that is where Chair CAF who is their Speaker comes from, Hon. Sabulei. They have come to benchmark where the Vice-Chair of CAF our Hon. Speaker is.

(Applause)

So feel welcome you will get so much from the Vice Chair CAF. I am also a member of CAF so you see me after this behind the tent.

I want to second this motion by the Hon. Ruth and Madam Speaker, I know that you personally know I have a special place in my heart for children. I only cry for two things; when a child is in pain or when a nice song by a choir, not by Kimangu Boys but by a choir is sung. In this case, a mother carries a child for nine months and nowadays there are baby showers. A baby shower party is a party to prepare the mother to welcome a newborn and you pass through all that then you have a stillbirth. It is a very painful experience. What the Member forgot is even the father of the child goes through the same.

So as we provide a special ward for the mother, let the father join the mother in the ward so that they can be counselled together because you counsel the mother, she will heal and join the grieving father at home and the process will come back to zero. So I want to propose

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Point of order, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am wondering whether the seconder of the motion who has not yet seconded the motion is trying to bring an amendment to the motion. Is it in order?

Hon. Speaker: It is not in order. Proceed with seconding the motion.

Hon. Dee Kivuva (Nominated, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member who you forgave for the jeans did not get me second the motion. I seconded the motion. I am not adding anything new; I am just proposing that---

Hon. Speaker: Maybe you can just second then you can contribute later.

Hon. Dee Kivuva (Nominated, WDM-K): I seconded, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: You seconded?

Hon. Dee Kivuva (Nominated, WDM-K): I seconded then I requested that I add something. That is what I am adding.

Hon. Speaker: Okay.

Hon. Dee Kivuva (Nominated, WDM-K): So in short I---

Hon. Speaker: As you proceed with clarifying, do not amend the motion because the motion does not include the fathers. It is very clear.

Hon. Dee Kivuva (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Some of the fathers are here but let me say this; I am a Member of the Health Committee and I will support and I know you will commit this to the Health Committee and I will support it wholly at the committee level and it is long overdue. Let us have those special places in our hospitals from level one to dispensary to Level IV to take care of those apining mothers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dee. Hon. Anastasia. Sorry we had not started the debate. I will give you an opportunity.

(Question proposed)

I invite the Members to debate this motion. The floor is yours Members to debate the motion. I start with Hon. Anastasia then followed by Hon. Katiti, Hon. Everlyn, Hon. Don, and Hon. Zora in that order. I hope you have heard the order.

Hon. Anastasia Mutevu (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support this noble motion by my colleague Hon. Wanjiru. First, before I support I would like to welcome the County Assembly of Elgeyo Marakwet; the County that we challenged so much in our table tennis during our last CASA games and they are our good friends for table tennis.

Welcome so much to Machakos County Assembly and Madam Speaker, I am trying to imagine a mother going through the pregnancy period, I know you are a mother and you know what we go through and then you get a stillbirth and then you are taken to that normal ward where the other mothers are breastfeeding their babies. It is really mental torture and that is exactly what happens in our hospital Machakos Level V.

This is a very noble motion to this Hon. House. We as mothers and also Hon. Members of this County Assembly we will be very happy and even it will to our satisfaction that this motion is immediately implemented so that those mothers actually get the right ward and also get the right counselling. Hon. Dee has said that they should be counselled with the fathers but what this mothers go through they really need the best counselling. I do support the motion and congratulations my twin for this noble motion. I do support and thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Anastasia. Who is your twin?

Hon. Anastasia Mutevu (Nominated, WDM-K): Actually Hon. Wanjiru and I were born on the same date over different month but the same year. She is my twin.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, for the information. Hon. Katiti.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the mover of the motion because I am not a mother but I still see the pain they undergo and the frustration most of the mothers undergo after giving birth. I know having a baby comes with so many feelings. Sometimes it comes with feelings of love, joy but mostly to majority who are from those families who are low income earners it comes with frustrations. The mover of the Statement---

Hon. Speaker: The motion.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): The motion is seeking that the County Government of Machakos can provide an alternative facility that can help these mothers heal after giving birth. It is essential that as the County Government of Machakos we have those counselling facilities in every dispensary or hospital that has a maternity wing so that we can take care of these mothers.

Lastly, I know these mothers, some of the frustrations they have is the ability to take care of their babies because of the money that they have. The other thing is the ability even to cope and to live with the fathers because I still believe some of us are part-time fathers and we are not there to share with them the pain that they undergo once they give birth. So it is essential that these facilities are provided by the County Government of Machakos. I support the motion and I say this is timely and should be implemented soon. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Evelyn.

Hon. Evelyn Nzeki (Kangundo East, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First let me take this opportunity to welcome our colleagues from Elgeyo Marakwet and also students and teachers from the school they come from. I stand to strongly support the motion. I want to applaud Mheshimiwa Wanjiru for this noble motion. It is talking about life. It is touching the heart of every mother in this world because it is talking about the importance of taking care of a mother who has given birth. Postpartum is a serious illness that affects every woman who has given birth especially if the woman has given a stillbirth.

It has an impact on their own self-esteem, even the way they approach life and death it becomes different. They experience grief, fear, anxiety and suffering especially if a mother has a stillbirth and you have under gone Cesarean Section. You can imagine going on to nurse a wound without the bundle of joy that you have been expecting with your family for nine months. So the idea of coming up with a facility for counselling, I strongly support for those women to be taken care of in their own ward whereby they can be talked to with their spouses so that they may at least go home with their hearts being healed a bit.

If Machakos County Government can come up with such a facility indeed it will have taken care of many women in this county. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Evelyn. Hon. Paul.

Hon. Paul Wambua (Kibauni, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to welcome our colleagues from Elgeyo Marakwet County. *Karibuni sana* Machakos. After we interact and you finish the business you are doing around, get into any hotel or bar have a drink and pay so that you also leave a few shillings around. I also want to welcome our students; ensure you learn adequately. I will not tell you that you are leaders of tomorrow but you will be in these positions in the very near future.

Also want to thank the mover of the motion, Mheshimiwa Ruth Wanjiru. It is a very important topic especially to mothers and real fathers. When I say a real father; I count myself among them. In our tradition when a mother lost a baby during birth, there were counselling

sessions that were carried out by the grandparents and for the men by the grandfathers. What I know our men were being told, because we cannot separate the issue of parenthood and say it is only one parent who hurts most. The men were being told by the grandparents; give her a very short time to heal but then go back there and give her another child.

Madam Speaker, as the mover of the motion said, we cannot separate and I insist that we will not separate this issue and say it is a woman's issue only. Personally, I am a man who has attended all my children's births. I have been in that ward and I have seen other people lose their children in the process and is not a small thing to carry as a person.

So I would very much support this motion and also apart from having those separate wards for the mothers and fathers, the County also needs to help these parents who have lost their babies at birth to dispose those foetuses. I have been involved in a case where someone lost their baby and now the hustle of disposing the baby also follows them. So it adds to the trauma and I also urge if the County can also cater to the cost of disposing these foetuses to lessen the burden of trauma. Thank you, very much Madam Speaker, I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Paul. Hon. Zora.

Hon. Grace Bahati (Kyeleni, IND): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this important matter. Thank you so much Mheshimiwa for coming up with a matter as women go through. Personally, I might not be a parent but I had a grandmother, may her soul rest in peace. She was a midwife in Kyeleni ward and she has helped so many women be able to deliver their babies.

From the experience of course growing up, I used to see how women would come...as a child I would not see but I could hear the pain and the trauma that the women were going through and I can only imagine for the nine months and especially with our generation where baby showers have become such a big thing and the investment that goes in. We go celebrate our friends and by the end of it you hear they were not able to come back home with their bundle of joy.

I have seen the trauma they go through not just the women but also their partners and their parents and friends at large. As the motion states, I can only imagine you do not have a baby and you are taken back to the same ward where you are seeing people coming with balloons and juices and there is a mother there nursing their baby and at the same time you are there mourning the loss of your child.

This is one of the most important motions that needs to be activated and implemented with immediate effect. Not just that we are also protecting future mothers like myself God forbid if such thing ever happens, for the future young women who are looking forward to be mothers. I do support this motion and I would really love for our Health Committee to follow up on the same matter and also Implementation Committee to make sure this motion is fully enacted. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa Zora. I want to give more Members to ventilate; I will start with Hon. Digital, Hon. Catherine and we conclude with the Majority Leader. Mheshimiwa Mulinge, you want to say something? Then you will be the last and let us move faster.

Hon. Wilson Ndunda (Kangundo North, IND): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support this Motion and I thank our colleague Hon. Wanjiru for this kind of thought. Our hospitals have cases where such kind of issues come before them and as many Members have said, it is critical after giving birth you lose a child. Sometimes, it is like the attendants look at you like you are not worthy and it is an unwanted situation.

I support this motion by commenting that if possible, let these facilities have enough toilets within reach. For example, a young lady who has given birth through Caesarean Session and she cannot walk to a distant place. She needs support and care. Therefore, let these facilities have enough toilets, enough beds and be in good condition. By doing so, our women will be in better places and they are going to accept themselves as they continue healing. Thank you. I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Catherine and take the shortest time possible.

Hon. Catherine Muia (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me welcome our dear friends and colleagues who have just come from Elgeyo Marakwet County. Welcome to Machakos Assembly and even the students I love kids so much and I love education. Thank you for coming to learn. I support this motion and I thank Mheshimiwa Ruth Wanjiru for coming up with this motion. I am a mother and I know what it means to be faced by such a predicament. I am a victim and I know what it means.

Much has to be done in our facilities and it will start with our health facilities in Machakos Level V so that mothers can be taken care of. It is very traumatizing for young mothers maybe your daughter or young mothers who have been married in some homes. Maybe it is your first born and you lose that child; not many homes can understand how come you have gotten such a case. Others take these issues not to be straight forward but I am supporting this motion by saying that much needs to be done so that if a mother gets such a predicament of losing a child, counselling must be done. That facility should be well-equipped as the other members have said so that these young mothers can understand it has happened and life has to go on.

The previous contributors have spoken much about this and I know if such improvements can be made in our hospitals, these mothers can be taken care of. Many have been traumatized and had to be put on medication because carrying a baby for nine months and expecting all the shopping and nowadays our girls are talking of baby showers; during our times it was not baby showers but we tried to prepare ourselves. It is very bad when it comes to such a case.

These young mothers who have lost their children, this Motion should be implemented as soon as possible so that these mothers can be taken care of and be counselled. I support this motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Catherine. Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you Madam Speaker. I support the motion by Hon. Wanjiru because looking at statistics world over, one of the biggest causes of death nowadays is mental health and partly I think it is because one the issue that she is raising about loss of a child at birth. So, it is a timely motion, we need to support it but also, we

could do more as an institution to prevent the frequent occurrence by ensuring the prenatal health services are enhanced so that mothers are able to access them.

Especially at the village where people are not able to access services like the ones that can be accessed in Machakos Level V. I am thinking of a small village in Ndithini or in Mwala where we have a health facility but we do not have nurses, no doctors or the basic equipment. So, I would urge as we think about counselling an already wounded woman because of loss a child, how could we try and prevent more of these deaths occurring by overall improvement of the health services.

I support and I hope it is going to be implemented immediately and lastly but not the least, allow me to welcome our colleagues from Elgeyo Marakwet and I wish you a good and enjoyable stay in Machakos. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Mulinge and be brief.

Hon. Joseph Mulinge (Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, MCCP): Very brief! Thank you, Madam Speaker. First, I congratulate the Hon. Member for bringing this good motion, touching the issues of the community; she is a true mother. Madam Speaker, it is a fundamental right of every citizen including mothers to good health. We know that post natal care is very important and if it is taken with the right energy, we will solve every problem that our mothers face like post-natal depression and post-natal anxiety which now causes the mental problems.

Madam Speaker, if we do little research within Machakos County, you will find most of the people with issues of depression are mothers and the cause of the depression is because they were deprived some of their rights. This problem starts when the pregnant mothers are not given the right prenatal care and because it involves even counselling them before and after getting the child this is what you are supposed to do. Because of our medical team not doing the way they are supposed to, they increase the chances of having mothers who lose their baby after birth.

I support the motion and one of the reasons I am supporting is because we need to encourage mothers to give birth to as many children as possible because we know Machakos County as compared with other Counties is rated as a County with low population. And because I know very soon, we will be having a motion in the National Assembly where they will be saying one shilling one man. Madam Speaker it is very easy and we are saying; let us separate these recovering mothers with the ones that have babies. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Mheshimiwa. I want to invite the mover of the motion to come and reply.

Hon. Ruth Kamau (Nominated, CCU): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the issue of giving birth to many children, I will not comment but I would like to thank the Members for their input. What you are simply saying is that let us give the recovering mothers good space and atmosphere where they can be treated with utmost compassion for optimal recovery. Let us give them space where they can go for counselling; let us give them a special place where they can also get clinical follow up from the medics to find out why it happened to avoid a recurrence of the same so that we can have a population of healthy women.

As for the fathers, please you are not left out because if it is a special ward there will be special circumstances where the partners and spouses will be able to come in to the counselling sessions because for a family to be healthy, we need a healthy mother and a healthy father and a

healthy child. I thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity to move that motion and as I finish, I would like to finish with a quote that says; a mother holds the hand of the little one for a while but we hold their hearts forever. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Mheshimiwa. Very good message there.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: The House adjourns to Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023 at 2.30 p.m. Thank you, Hon. Members.

The House rose at 12.35 p.m.