

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

The House met at 10.29 a.m.

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

PRAYER

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**  
SENSITIZATION ON COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF  
MACHAKOS STRATEGIC PLAN JULY, 2023 – JUNE, 2028

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) is in the process of developing the 3<sup>rd</sup> County Assembly of Machakos Strategic Plan for the period starting 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 and ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2028. This strategic plan will be the blueprint that will guide the direction to be adopted by the County Assembly during the 5-year period in pursuit of its constitutional mandate. Hon. Members, we will have an engagement on the Strategic Plan beginning at 2.30 p.m. today at the cafeteria. All of you are expected to attend. Thank you, Hon. Members

USE OF BIOMETRIC IN THE HOUSE AND COMMITTEES

Hon. Members, we will start the biometric use in all our committee sittings and plenary beginning from Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023. The reason behind that is obvious. Members, thank you.

**STATEMENT SOUGHT**  
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL WITHIN THE COUNTY

**Hon. Speaker:** May I invite Hon. Joseph Mulinge to come forward and make his statement.

**Hon. Joseph Mulinge** (Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, aware THAT Article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 states that the County Assembly, while respecting the principle of separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee Members and any other County Executive Organs;

Further Aware THAT Section 22(1) of the Machakos County Environmental Act, 2022 states that it is the duty of the County Government to dispose domestic and street waste whereby the director shall ensure the collection, treatment and

disposal of all the waste and street waste or other waste generated or otherwise arising within the county;

Hon. Speaker, the skip bins provided by the Machakos County Government for both domestic and street disposal waste have filled up and overflowed to the ground. Aware THAT garbage has not been collected for the last one month, causing air pollution which is hazardous to the community;

Hon. Speaker, pollution can profoundly affect air, water and soil hence resulting in global warming, infertile lands and environmental degradation. In addition, environmental pollution may cause several health complications, transmission of diseases such as respiratory diseases, heart problems and cancer;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to seek a Statement from the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change on what measures the department has taken to ensure proper waste disposal within towns.

Madam Speaker, to add on the content of the statement, the ward I am representing, Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, the menace of garbage taking long period to be collected is dire and wanting and to capitalize on what I am saying, last week but one there was a carcass of a cow that was within an area near university. That cow decomposed and I took the issue with the concerned department but up until now, the carcass has not been removed. At the same time, the skip bins provided are full and they have started being blown away by the wind. For the garbage to be collected, I must follow the department concerned.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, there is a proverb which says, cleanliness is next to Godliness and if this situation is not well addressed it, means that the people within the municipalities and from Muvuti Kiima Kimwe, we might be far from the God. The reason I am saying so, we know these garbage will cause many hazards and the punishment of the hazards is sickness. So, Madam Speaker, I am seeking this statement from the department concerned to take the matter with seriousness and because I am within a group of municipalities, this problem is in the whole county. Thank you so much.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Member. This is a very important statement for us and I am sure you have something to comment or even act on it and I invite Members to ventilate on this matter. It is affecting all the towns in Machakos County. So, can I have comments? Mheshimiwa Kavyu.

**Hon. Francis Kavyu** (Kinanie, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker and *Mheshimiwa* Mulinge, for highlighting the issue although I was trying to jog my mind to find out this Proverb is from which quarter, but back to the matter that is before us; I want to concur with what the Hon. Member for Muvuti Kiima Kimwe has raised because this is becoming not just a menace but a disaster, because Machakos Town, Muvuti, Muthwani, Kinanie, Athi River and Mlolongo/Syokimau areas fall under the municipalities and the spirit of coming up with municipalities was to ensure efficient and quality service delivery to the people within those areas, but, it has not been the case and I kept asking myself, there was a time we were discussing about having additional municipalities within the county.

So, are we going to transfer inefficiencies or in what way are they going to benefit our people if a simple thing like ensuring our towns are clean is not well taken care of and it is not just a case of the dust bins; if you look at our public toilets that are supposed to be serving wananchi and are purely run and operated by the Department of Tourism at the county level, for instance the one in Kyumbi, that is a junction that serves people from Nairobi, Mombasa, people

on their way to Makueni but since April, that toilet has not been operating and what that has resulted to is a piece of the land that is next to the market has been substituted as a toilet.

If you make a stopover at Kyumbi Junction, Mutula farm has been converted into a public toilet. Somebody gets out of a vehicle, they rush there and because the toilet is closed, they rush to the nearby bush to respond to that call of nature. What we are asking as an Assembly, is it a case of lack of proper planning or financial issues because anytime you make a follow-up, the response that normally comes is that we do not have fuel or the vehicle that is supposed to do the job is not in good condition.

So, if the county is not able to sufficiently address the issue of waste management within the county, then it is the high time as an Assembly we come up with a regulation and the county department that is responsible formulates a policy document that will allow for establishment of private waste management entities that will be licensed by the county to perform that function, because we cannot continue trading the lives and wellbeing of our people at the expense of inefficiency because that is the best way we can describe it.

We gave a budget and allocated the department sufficient funds for them to deliver to the people of Machakos and to ensure that the agenda of the government is achieved responsibly; the concerned department must be held accountable, and I think they have been invited to committees and there is no action.

So, Madam Speaker through your permission, we want those in charge of the municipalities to be invited in this House with the respective CEC members responsible for waste management and explain clearly to the people of Machakos and this House why they are not able to discharge their mandate adequately because any time in instances when Her Excellency decides to go round, that is the only time the issue of waste management is addressed. Immediately she retreats back to her office, we go back to factory settings and it becomes an issue of dirt everywhere.

So, we want to know these people who cannot perform their duties without close supervision because our people are suffering and this should also include the department of Public Health because in our towns, and I think it is against the regulations, nobody is supposed to rear animals within our towns. But you go to Kyumbi, you walk around here in Machakos, go to Athi River, you will find people rearing pigs that are allowed to move around within our markets and they are not even confined anywhere but anytime those issues are reported by the members of public, the laxity in addressing the issue is on another level.

We request that instant measures be taken to ensure there is consistency and an efficient way of ensuring that our towns and every corner of Machakos is clean and conducive for businesses to operate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Maitha then Hon. Ndeti.

**Hon. Dominic Maitha** (Muthwani, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, the issue of garbage waste disposal in Machakos is becoming a very big issue and I recall sometime back, it was discussed in this House. To support and echo the sentiments of the statement sought by the Hon. Member for Muvuti ward, we will have to relook some of the key issues that are affecting service delivery in our county. The Machakos County Waste Disposal Act is in place but the big question we need to ask ourselves is, is it functional?

Right now, we are trying and the Hon. Deputy Speaker has been pushing to have more Acts passed by this Assembly but it goes back to asking ourselves one question: should we continue passing more Acts, yet the ones that are in place are not being implemented?

Hon. Speaker, our municipalities are losing value. I belong to a group that hosts all the municipality members of County Assembly of Machakos County from Mwala to Machakos to Mavoko and Kangundo and the song is the same; garbage, garbage, garbage everywhere. And the simple thing which sounds so irrelevant when you enquire from the department concerned it is just, 'we have no fuel.'

Madam Speaker, for how long are we going to entertain this issue? These very flimsy answers of no fuel yet petrol stations in Machakos County are full of fuel. We need to ask ourselves those deep questions and if it needs stopping major activities in the county to address the issue of fuel first, we need to do that.

So, I am in echo of what Hon. Member for Kinanie has said; we need to summon the persons in charge of all municipalities to come and respond to this House as to why this issue is becoming critical. If you recall, I sought a statement last week about disaster preparedness by the county. One of the major contributors to blockage of our drainage channels is lack of proper waste and timely collection and disposal.

I will not even wish to speak about my ward, Hon. Speaker. If you go to a town like Mlolongo, you will even ask whether there is a government in place. Mlolongo is in serious waste menace. If you go to Athi River, it is chaotic. If you trickle down to Kinanie like today in the morning I passed through Athi River, it is seriously bad. When you check the river, what is there are plastic waste, the water is dark and it is cascading all the way down to Yatta, Mwala to Matungulu and we expect our people to use the same water.

I do not wish to belabour but Madam Speaker, this issue needs to be settled once and for all. It is the high time the persons in charge of municipalities come and respond on the issue making them not collect garbage. Muvuti Kiima Kimwe and Machakos Central Ward are the face of the County Government; sometimes I pass through the road behind the Cereal Board going to the county garage and you find waste that has not been collected for a month. Honestly, this is a town that ought to be the cleanest because it is within the proximity of Nairobi but it is the other way round, Madam Speaker.

It is the high time this House takes serious measures because if this matter is not mitigated, it is going to result in risky health hazards. If our environment is not clean, then why do we need to revamp our hospitals with medicines? We do not have to because one of the key contributors to health hazards and having massive influx of patients is because of poor environment

So let us address this issue once and for all within the shortest time possible so that those municipality representatives in those offices can come and tell this House what is the problem. If it is the issue of fuel then we need to relook into the issue of fuel then we call the CEC, Finance to tell us what measures he is taking to ensure that fuel is sufficient for the departments that are always complaining about fuel. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Member. That is great input. Hon. Majority.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you Madam Speaker. I also want to thank Mheshimiwa Mulinge for seeking this statement. I also remind all of us that it is our constitutional right to have a clean and healthy environment, that is Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya and The Environmental Management and Coordination Act, 1999 and I believe it has been revised several times. It also requires those tasked with the responsibility to make sure that every Kenyan has access to a clean and healthy environment.

I also want to say that we must also not look at solid waste management or whatever management of waste in isolation. It is not only about collection; solid waste management is a chain of so many activities. I want to submit to this House that until and unless we educate our people on how to manage their waste, we are caught in this vicious cycle of drop, the government is going to do something about it.

I would submit that first of all, we need to do a very deliberate public engagement and environmental education on how to manage our waste. My academic background is the core of environment. It happens that waste is not always waste; at one point what you are calling waste, after I am done with this bottle, it immediately becomes waste, but I will tell you this is a raw material for another line of production. So waste is not always waste.

What I am saying Madam Speaker is, we must start finding value in what we are calling waste. I take for example in my household; personally, I do not always have a lot of waste. Why; because I am able to separate my waste at the source. So these plastic bottles, I would want to submit to this House, Madam Speaker, this is a source of money and a lot of young people are doing this business.

The paper I am holding, after I am done with it, it is easy for me to drop it down, but if this Assembly, first and foremost, could have a shredder because maybe we are holding sensitive information and shred this paper and instead of burning it there where I see them burn, try and collect it and allow someone to come and pick it as what we are calling waste as an Assembly, it is a raw material for an immediate production line. We could be saving the environment and also improving. Once you burn, there is a lot of carcinogen from the smoke. One way of ensuring the whole chain of solid waste is what I am calling three Rs. The first R is to reduce what you could be calling your garbage. We buy even unnecessary things that we do not need.

The next and most important in the chain is reuse because these bottles can be used for a lot of things but there is also recycling of materials. I would wish the department that is concerned with solid waste management can first of all put more effort on environmental education so that the people who are in our habitats can see value in solid waste.

Having said that, it is the duty of the department concerned to ensure we do not have garbage uncollected for a whole month. I happen to share closely with Mheshimiwa Mulinge geographically our Wards. As alluded also by the earlier speaker, Mheshimiwa Kavyu, those of us, and I am not saying there are no solid waste management or pollution issues in other wards, those wards in an urban set up are more likely to suffer the more because of uncollected garbage.

So, I urge the department to change tact. Also Madam Speaker, I want to inform you that I also have the benefits of having worked in Government and having worked in the department of Environment. In fact I was in charge---

**Hon. Speaker:** Mheshimiwa Majority Leader, you may sit.

*(Hon. Nzioka took his seat)*

### **PROCEDURAL MOTION** EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

**Hon. Dominic Maitha** (Muthwani, WDM-K):

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT Standing Order 27(2) provides that the Speaker shall interrupt business at 12.30 p.m. for the morning session;

Aware THAT Standing Order 27(3) provides that the House may resolve to extend its sitting time;

Aware THAT Standing Order 27(4) requires Motion to extend sitting time to be moved at least 30 minutes before the time appointed for adjournment.

Hon. Speaker I beg to move the Motion THAT the House resolves to extend its sitting time until the business is concluded.

I wish to call Hon. Katiti to second.

**Hon. Boniface Katiti** (Muthetheni, UDA): I second.

*(Question proposed)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Let us proceed, Mheshimiwa Nicholas.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I was saying, I have the benefit of having worked in the department of environment. I want to blow my own trumpet Madam Speaker, if you allow me.

In 2009, Machakos town was declared the second cleanest town in Kenya and I was in charge of that cleanness. Indeed the then minister for public health and sanitation the Hon. Beth Mugo invited us to Nakuru and we received a gift of Ksh. 1 Million.

*(Applause)*

When we came back, because I was the director in-charge of Environment, the then Town Clerk, Mr. Stephen Mbondo gave me some night out to go and rest because I had worked for a long time.

So, what I am saying is the current situation can be revised and I have two suggestions. One, we are using the wrong equipment to collect our garbage. If you look at the trucks our people are using from the ground to where they are for you to transfer the garbage, it is almost two meters, so they can only do one trip. I can assure you, if you look at these skip bins, they are not meant for waste that is not separated. The skip bins are meant, for recyclables, bio-waste and metal so that when you come and pick waste, you are picking for a specific waste. Now we have mixed waste. What does that do to the skip bins? You will allude to the fact that the skip bins that were bought I think 12 or 18 months ago are all rotten.

What you find is there is some green liquid oozing from skip bins which is a hazard. We need to rethink how we are going to separate our waste and the right equipment to use to collect. Madam Speaker the time we used to be number two or one in cleanliness, we did not collect the waste during the day. We collected the waste during the night and the night shifts were better in collecting waste than the day shift. Why? We have less traffic so you have very little inconveniencing you in collecting.

Once we used to work at night, in the morning the businessmen would come and find a clean town. So there are solutions; we can offer solutions but also to say that just imagine if it was to go out in the news that the reason we do not have a clean town or a clean city is because we are lacking fuel yet this House every other time we are saying that budget is allocated for fuel.

So unless someone is sitting on the budget or they are not using the budget for the right purpose, then we need further explanation and with that Madam Speaker, I support the seeker of this statement. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Maybe before you sit down, I missed something on the three Rs what was the third one?

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): First R is reduce, the second one is reuse and the third one is recycle.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): There is a difference between reuse and recycle. I know Members agree with that. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much Mheshimiwa. I can see many hands up and I would request Hon. Dee to commence then Hon. Ndwiki, Hon. Katiti, Hon. Evelyn; in that order and then we finish.

**Hon. Mutisya Kivuva** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have always thought addressing from here you get permission from your Chair but I am here.

**Hon. Speaker:** You are welcome.

**Hon. Mutisya Kivuva** (Nominated, WDM-K): I want to acknowledge good services of our Majority Leader which has been lacking and we can make good use of them in the Assembly. So sometimes Majority, I propose, when you are not in your Chair you can help in cleaning the Assembly. The next one is, Madam Speaker, our town is extremely very dirty.

**Hon. Speaker:** The town?

**Hon. Mutisya Kivuva** (Nominated, WDM-K): The problem is we might blame the County Government but I want to blame ourselves because we have left our job and joined them. We must be holding the Executive accountable for them to deliver.

Currently, Madam Speaker, when schools close and you go to the bus stage, the only public toilet was allocated to a former MCA and children are charged a small fee for short call. You can imagine children are going home *na fare ya kukopa* then *anaambiwa toa* Ksh. 10 *ndio uende ujaribu hiyo maneno ingine*. It is very bad and it is pathetic, that is why you see the fence of Level 5 Hospital has a lot of maps. You know when you urinate on the wall, it does not dry very quickly; you will find all nature of maps on the wall of the Level 5.

If you go to *sokoni*, I happened to go there when the Decentralized Unit Committee was visiting. We have two toilets at the wholesale market. The County Government toilet which has been put used a lot of money but it is not operational. Next there is another one where you are charged Ksh. 10, so it is on our side that we are not doing oversight. If we oversight very well Madam Speaker, we will make the County Government work. I submit, thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mheshimiwa. Hon. Ndwiki.

**Hon. Daniel Ndwiki** (Mlolongo/Syokimau, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support my brother, MCA Muvuti /Kiima Kimwe for seeking the statement. Madam Speaker as you know, I come from Mlolongo where garbage mess is leading in this Machakos. Madam Speaker, in less than one year, there was *kipindupindu* outbreak in Mlolongo and we lost several members of the community who happen also to be my voters. That was a sad incidence because Madam Speaker, if we lose the members of the community because of health-related diseases like *kipindupindu* Madam Speaker, we are heading in the wrong direction.

Madam Speaker, I support this statement and urge the relevant department to do what it takes as you know Madam Speaker, we are heading to the rainy season and when it rains, we have pupils from school; the children are hungry, they pass through the *takataka* trying to look for something to eat in those dust bins. This is true Madam Speaker and at the end, they get sickness from that place. Also Madam Speaker, those bins are located near households and businesses in Mlolongo.

Once they are filled up, the dirt spreads to the nearby households and businesses. We also have the effect of odor that comes from those places and it is disturbance to the people who live in Mlolongo and areas with such garbage. So Madam Speaker, I think the concerned department should wake up and do what is necessary.

We have many options to solve this mess, Madam Speaker. First, we can work with the private sector like in my place and other places with such problems. We have very many youths who are jobless; we can incorporate our youths in cleaning our towns, Madam Speaker.

I remember Madam Speaker, the government assured us of the willingness to work with private sector to bring service to the community. So Madam Speaker, this is the high time that self-help groups, youth groups and small companies from the private sector are incorporated. During the time of *kazi kwa vijana*, our towns were clean because the *kazi kwa vijana* helped us in cleaning the town but now once it was stopped, we have a lot of problems of unclean towns. Madam Speaker, I propose that the County Government of Machakos works with the private sector to ensure that our cities are clean.

We should have designated places for the dust bins to be put. Madam Speaker, if you travel to that place, you will be surprised because there are maggots, small white insects, they move from those dustbins and enter in our houses. They cause health hazards in that family or those residents. That is why Madam Speaker, in Mlolongo dispensary medicines are supplied quarterly but they take only three weeks. So in quarterly year you find in Mlolongo dispensary it is only three weeks you will find medicine or drugs in that dispensary. The rest of the two and half months you will not get any treatment because of those health-related diseases.

So Madam Speaker, I support this statement and I would urge that the relevant ministry acts with speed especially before the rains because if it rains, those *takatakas* will become more messy than now when it is not raining. So, I support and I urge the County Government to move with speed and do what is necessary to save the lives of our people. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, very much, Hon. Ndwiki. Hon. Katiti then Hon. Everlyn.

**Hon. Boniface Katiti** (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the seeker of the statement; it is a nice one. Madam Speaker, one thing that excites me so much and I think also excites many others in this Assembly is the narrative where once you see a lady before even you know her character, the first thing that attracts her to you is her outfit. That I



want to link with the litter that is in Machakos Town. We cannot even attract an investor and now we are looking forward when our County will be an economic hub for any other person from other Counties.

Time has come that we must clean our town. Sometimes I walk around those waste bins and sometimes you find a cow having climbed on top of that waste bin just eating the waste. I do not know the modality it uses just to climb on it so that it can fit on it. That means there is a lot of incompetence and ignorance of the people that are concerned and the department should be held accountable for what is happening in our town.

The other thing, I have heard the Majority Leader has confessed that in 2009, Machakos Town was the second cleanest town in Kenya. Now he is the MCA of this town; the modalities and procedures and everything that they used now he is able and is there to bring them forward and tailor it to the right people so that even they can understand what happened and the modalities that they used to make Machakos town the cleanest place and the second one in the country. So, I support the speaker of the statement and I say as MCA Mlolongo has said, it is good sometimes to invite private sectors to do some of the jobs.

I have lived in Nairobi for some time and I know some people have been given those tenders and you find Nairobi now is one of the cleanest town. The second thing, if we can emulate what Rwanda is doing if we do not have money and you are here as people and the residents of Machakos County, then we can have a day of general cleaning so that we can clean our town and be a nice place for everybody. So, Madam Speaker, I support the statement.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mheshimiwa. Hon. Everlyn.

**Hon. Everlyn Nzeki** (Kangundo East, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker and the House at large. First, I want to applaud the Hon. Mheshimiwa Mulinge for the statement he has sought concerning garbage collection. Apart from garbage itself, there is also the issue of trench cleaning. As you walk around almost the whole of our county, all trenches are full of all kind of dirt and most of them are blocked, even the sewer lines. I wonder what will happen incase El-Nino starts today because it is already showing signs.

I do not want to be a prophet of doom but if it starts today, cholera will be the song of the day in Machakos County. So, I think the statement should be a wakeup call for the department concerned to take the necessary measures, especially for El-Nino preparedness. However much they want to prepare for El-Nino through de-silting of the dams and the building of the weirs, they should also think of the health of the people of Machakos County through cleaning our county, collecting all the garbage and unblocking all the sewer lines and also cleaning all the trenches.

Recently, I have gone to Nairobi County; that county has really cleaned its trenches and collected all the garbage as a way of El-Nino preparedness. So, it is my plea if Machakos County needs to go and benchmark on garbage collection and solid waste management, so be it for the sake of our people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Everlyn. At this point, I wish to point out that from what we have discussed here, it is clear that we have the powers to oversight and make this town clean and as I commit this statement to the Environment and Natural Resources committee, I wish to ask that particular committee to incorporate all the recommendations that have been made by this House into that particular report they are supposed to present before this House within fourteen days including recommending to call in-charge of the Municipalities to

appear before the House and others that have been mentioned by Members. Therefore, as I conclude I commit this particular statement to that committee of Environment and Natural Resources. Yes?

**Hon. Francis Ngunga** (Mua, MCCP): I sit in the committee on Environment and I do not know whether Madam Speaker that lies in our docket because that is where you are committing that business. I would want to seek whether it is in the committee on Environment or the D.U?

**Hon. Speaker:** Is this mandate within that---

**Hon. Francis Ngunga** (Mua, MCCP): There is a new committee that was created that took some part of the environment's mandate.

**Hon. Speaker:** Which one is that?

**Hon. Francis Ngunga** (Mua, MCCP): The committee on DU was created and given some chunk of the mandate of Environment.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let me be guided by the Clerks. Yes, Mheshimiwa.

**Hon. Dominic Maitha** (Muthwani, WDM-K): I just want to inform you that the department on garbage collection is under DU

**Hon. Speaker:** It is under DU. Thank you very much for that guidance.

**Hon. Joseph Mulinge** (Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, MCCP): Point of information.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes Mheshimiwa Mulinge you can say something before I make a ruling.

**Hon. Joseph Mulinge** (Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, MCCP): Madam Speaker, at the moment we have a Chief Officer of solid waste under environment but on DU, the department collecting the waste is the decentralized unit under municipalities.

**Hon. Speaker:** I did not get that one. The decentralized units what did you say about them?

**Hon. Joseph Mulinge** (Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, MCCP): I am saying, earlier on the department for collecting garbage has been under D.U but at the moment,, we have a chief officer of solid waste under department of Environment.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Point of information

**Hon. Speaker:** Majority Leader.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Madam Speaker I think that is where the confusion comes from, I would say this and I might be right or wrong Hon. Members,

so do not kill me on this. I think we have a Chief Officer under Urban Planning and he is in charge of municipalities and they say they collect solid waste in municipalities then there is also the Chief Officer under environment and they say they collect garbage in rural areas.

So, I think you are in order to rule that all of them they come here and give their output what exactly do they do, so that the Chief Officer for urban planning should also be here because those under municipality, the municipal manager work under the Chief Officer, urban planning. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much; I think the best thing is just to have these two committees work together. Is that in order, members? Mheshimiwa Ngunga you do not seem to be---

**Hon. Francis Ngunga (Mua, MCCC):** Since I raised that issue Madam Speaker, naturally when we have that kind of thing, we are guided by the Standing Orders.

**Hon. Speaker:** They are overlapping.

**Hon. Francis Ngunga (Mua, MCCC):** They are overlapping so the Standing Orders will guide where the business goes. After you have read and you see that this committee has more weight than that that is where the business goes.

**Hon. Speaker:** From what it is, both have waste management.

**Hon. Francis Ngunga (Mua, MCCC):** We can have it in environment. I will be there.

**Hon. Speaker:** I want to combine the two, because each of them has a component so they need to work together. So therefore, some amendment there, the statement is committed to the two committees; committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Decentralized Unit committee. Both of them will work together to bring us a response within 14 days it is so ordered. Thank you.

## MOTIONS

### UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY COSTS

**Hon. Speaker:** May I at this point invite Hon. Anastacia Mutevu, Special Elect MCA to come forward and move a motion on utilization of solar energy. Proceed Mheshimiwa.

**Hon. Anastacia Mutevu (Nominated, WDM-K):** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT the energy sector remains a critical enabler for achieving Kenya's socio-economic objectives, and has been identified as a key input towards achievement of sustainable development in the National Policy Framework;

Further aware THAT the cost of electricity has gone up considerably and is consuming huge amounts of County budget.

Informed THAT the recent Africa Climate Summit (ACS) 2023 in Nairobi recalled that seven years to the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda, 600 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity;

Further aware THAT the Africa Union (AU) committed to focus economic development plans on renewable energy generation during ACS 2023;

Aware THAT the Last Mile Connectivity project of the National Government has achieved great success to expand the national grid but the cost of electricity is still high;

Noting THAT solar energy is a sustainable alternative source of power compared to the costly electricity from the national grid;

Cognizant THAT street lights, floodlights in market centers, water pumps and other county social amenities are powered by electricity supplied by Kenya Power resulting to an economic burden;

Informed THAT solar energy generation in the County will cut costs of the ever increasing electricity and only requires purchase and installation of solar panels for use over a long period of time.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the Motion THAT this House resolves that the County Government of Machakos utilizes solar energy in all its social amenities to reduce the cost on electricity bills and avoid the frequent power disconnection witnessed in the previous years.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now I call the Hon. Member for Muthwani Hon. Dominic Maitha to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon. Maitha.

**Hon. Dominic Maitha** (Muthwani, WDM-K) seconded.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Speaker:** I now invite the members to debate this motion. It is your turn members to debate this motion. Hon. Douglas Musyoka.

**Hon. Douglas Musyoka** (Masii, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion by the Hon. Member Anastacia Mutevu. Madam Speaker, as you are aware, the cost of living in this country has skyrocketed and majority of our people cannot even afford electricity bills.

Madam Speaker, I know in your house you use electricity and even in my own home I use electricity. Some years before, not even some years two or three years before, in my home I was paying my electricity bill of between Ksh. 1,000 to Ksh. 2,000 per month and everybody here can bear me witness. As I stand here Madam Speaker, I am not in a position even to pay for my electricity bills. I am getting a bill of between Ksh. 8000 to Ksh. 16000 in the same house where I was paying an electricity bill of between Ksh. 1,000 to Ksh. 2,000 per month.

Madam Speaker, the same case is even happening in our own county. Some few years before because maybe I used to interact in close relation to our immediate former chief officer for energy of this county of Machakos, Machakos county alone was paying a bill of between 15-16 million per month on electricity bills. Today I am aware that the County Government of Machakos is paying not less than 30 million per month on electricity bills.

Therefore, Madam Speaker being of constant mindset and of sound mind I would support over 100 per cent what Mheshimiwa Anastacia has proposed, that the County Assembly of Machakos approves this motion that all social and public amenities within the county of

Machakos be converted from using electricity to solar energy. We understand that the initial cost of solar installation is a little bit high but you cannot compare it with the monthly bills that we are spending to pay millions and millions of shillings towards electricity bills.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I support the motion and maybe to make an addition since I am a specialist also in solar energy, the only challenge that we have had before was storage of power when you are using solar but technology is advancing. Currently, we have the lithium ion batteries which are the latest technology in storage of power. A single battery of 10,000kwh is costing between 240,000-480,000. I know it may sound a little bit expensive but if we have two batteries installed to supply all the buildings within the Assembly, Madam Speaker, we will be sorted once and for all.

So I stand to support the motion. It is a good motion if adopted in Machakos County. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Which battery is that?

**Hon. Douglas Musyoka** (Masii, MCCC): Lithium ion battery. It is the latest technology.

**Hon. Speaker:** Okay.

**Hon. Douglas Musyoka** (Masii, MCCC): And even I can assist you Madam Speaker if you need solar in your house. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** I am just asking for those who did not hear. Okay. Thank you very much, Mheshimiwa. Hon. Maitha.

**Hon. Dominic Maitha** (Muthwani, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, I would not even wish we dealt so much on this matter. It is just a matter of putting the question, reason being I just want to relate this matter to the current Kenya scenario whereby sending M-pesa money through cellular phone via Airtel and no reservations are there, you find we are being told it is one shilling but we still insist to send money through Mpesa and pay fifteen shillings. It is quite ironic, Madam Speaker. The profits and benefits of solar energy are explicit unless someone does not want to see, you be forced to see.

Madam Speaker, travelling all the way from Nairobi to Machakos currently all big factories, major factories including factories like Simba Cement, Mombasa Cement, major factories along Mombasa road have switched to solar. Who are we as a county to resist the same? If there is a project that has really touched my heart, Hon. Speaker in terms of proper and efficient utilization of solar, it is a project I visited last week in Kalama ward.

It is magnificent Madam Speaker what I saw and the able clerk is here he can testify and the Hon. Members whom we visited Kalama. It is proper utilization and efficient utilization of clean energy solar panels; water is being pumped in Kalama ward from a very deep trench almost about a kilometer and something, Madam Speaker, and the dam is deep down there in the stream and they are using solar panels; solar power to pump water to the residents of Kalama.

In fact, Madam Speaker, this House should be given a day to go and experience what we saw in Kalama so that we can reciprocate the same even back in our wards and in different departments of this county. One, It was a donor-funded project and it is marvelous and proper utilization of resources, Madam. If you go there Madam Speaker, you will attest that it has been used properly.

So Madam Speaker, this issue is straight forward. I want to give a practical example; *mulika mwizis* in our towns are meant to create a clean, safe and lit environment at night for our business people to do business and be safe but of recent times, Machakos Town has experienced serious power outage. I do not think that any single day goes in Machakos County without power outages and those who reside around Machakos town can attest to that.

Whenever there is power outage, the *mulika mwizis* that we have stored in Machakos County in all the towns become useless Madam Speaker but I usually refer to a smaller solar panel I have installed in my own home. Whenever power disappears, it supplies us with electricity and they go for as little as Ksh. 5,000, Madam Speaker, however much the Hon. Member for Masii is trying to say that they are expensive.

Madam Speaker, currently solar is very cheap, solar street lights like the ones which were installed by the municipalities and the world bank projects in most of the municipalities in the wards they are given value for money and it goes at around Ksh. 35,000 Madam Speaker and those solar panels have served for almost five years, Madam Speaker.

In Machakos town for example, if you get a bill for one of the neon lights that are being used, one single neon light Madam Speaker, currently 250 watts the minimum monthly bill, minimum for that light is about Ksh. 10,000 one single one and a single post has about 4. So Ksh. 10,000 multiply by four, that is Ksh. 20,000. If you multiply by 12 that is Ksh. 480,000 per single pole with four different sided neon light *mulika mwizis*, Madam Speaker. If that is one going with Ksh. 480,000, Machakos town ward, giving an example has got over 200 *mulika mwizis* so if you multiply 200 times Ksh. 480,000, Madam Speaker that is almost Ksh. 96 million in a year, Madam Speaker, if my mathematics serves me well.

So, Madam Speaker we just need to change and I do not know why we resist so much to change. I thank the department of Energy; recently being a member there, they brought a proposal to solarize. They started with Kathiani Hospital; they started with the Governor's Office. However much, Madam Speaker, the bills might be given high cost. When you go to the market and enquire about solar, it is not expensive as people purport.

So, Madam Speaker, I am supporting this motion in totality that if we must use power, let us use power where necessary. If you go to small towns, and I want every Member to reason with me, I come from Kaloleni, where it is represented by Hon. Commissioner Mheshimiwa Johanna, there is a small shopping center with two shops called Kiumoni. That is where I come from.

That market has two shops. I doubt whether even those two shops pay license to Machakos and I am not exposing them and if at all they pay Madam Speaker, the maximum they pay in a year is around Ksh. 3500 per shop so the two of them will pay Ksh. 7000.

Already as we are speaking, there is a *mulika mwizi* that has been installed there for the last five years with four lights and business activity at night is almost zero. If that *mulika mwizi* as I had earlier proposed is paying a maximum of Ksh. 10,000 in a month for the four multiplied by 12 months is Ksh. 120, 000. Yet the shops are paying Ksh. 7000 for licenses. How are we reasoning Madam Speaker?

I want to support this motion in totality and say that it is at this point in time that Madam Speaker, we need to move with utmost speed and make sure that one, starting even with our street lighting system, let us switch to solar. The amount of money we can invest in a year Madam Speaker, is almost half of what we are paying in power bills. In fact the Hon. Member said we are paying a power bill of about Ksh. 30,000. The information I have as at now as a Member of Energy department is we are paying to a tune of Ksh. 69 million per year for electricity bills.

Madam Speaker, if we take half of that amount which is Ksh. 30 million and install solar all our towns and entities, Madam Speaker, we will have done great justice to this county and the rest of the money that has been saved can be pulled into development. That money can even be used to fuel the skip bins tracks that we have just spoken about now that are lacking fuel Madam Speaker.

Last but not the least, we have had practical examples of boreholes that have been done in the county. Madam Speaker, almost all boreholes in every ward in this County are being supported by solar power. Why haven't we learned from that? If the solar panels that have been installed in all the boreholes within the 40 wards in Machakos County are giving us service and value for money, then why are we resisting to that Madam Speaker.

I do not want to speak much; I want to say Madam Speaker, solar right now is everywhere. The advantage we have, most of the wards in Machakos County are blessed with enough solar to satisfy the need for the solar energy that is required. It is the high time that this Assembly moves with speed and makes sure that the executive switches its operations and energy requirements in Machakos County by utilizing 60 to 70 per cent of all the power that is required in Machakos County by embracing solar energy. I support, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much Mheshimiwa. I think for us to appreciate what Mheshimiwa has just said, we need to visit Kalama as a House to find out what is happening there and then appreciate this solar issue. Thank you, very much. More contributions? Mheshimiwa Katiti and Mheshimiwa Kaloi after that.

**Hon. Boniface Katiti** (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the mover of the motion. Times and technologies do change. I think there was a time of renaissance and the birth of knowledge. We came to times of invention then currently maybe we are in times of innovation. I say this because we cannot rely so much on electricity because it has its challenges in terms of use.

Right now in my area Muthetheni ward, I have a borehole. Every month, they pay between Ksh. 32,000 to Ksh. 40,000 and it becomes very unsustainable to them. Every time, they are here at the power company pleading so that they can be given extension to pay those bills because otherwise the power will be disconnected by Kenya Power Company.

So I support the mover of this motion and I want to say something about the cost of the solar lights. Currently if you go to the market and you enquire about the cost of one solar street light, the maximum amount you can be given....a solar light with camera is Ksh. 12,000 so installing those solar lights in this town even where I live that street is powered by solar and they are good and they give us enough light. So I support the motion and I say that this county should embrace and move with speed to power the county fully with solar power. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Kaloi then Hon. Mulinge.

**Hon. Jeremiah Kaloi** (Athi River, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The motion is coming at the right time and I congratulate Hon. Anastasia for coming up with this motion. In our urban towns, people are under risk especially because the KPLC guys are going around these centers disconnecting electricity. So issues of insecurity are very common in our areas. Because KPLC without notice are going to these urban centers disconnecting power, reason being no

meters and our people from the energy department wait for these KPLC people to go and start reconnecting again which is also a risk to them.

My request is, we can also start as an example from our ward offices because our ward offices are not connected to power. Why doesn't the Assembly start by installing solar to our offices and by doing this, we will be setting a good example and ensuring the security of those offices is in control?

In Athi-River for example in my office, I experience a lot of theft; twice if not thrice. This is due to lack of electricity. Why can't the Assembly start by connecting all these offices with solar energy? Madam Speaker, the motion is coming at the right time. We need to put our business people in good risk for their goods and services they are providing to our people, so that even the money the County Government is paying on these bills is reduced. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Kaloi. Good point there. Hon. Mulinge.

**Hon. Joseph Mulinge** (Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is a verse though I am not very conversant which says, "you have eyes and do not see, you have ears but you don't hear." Madam Speaker, one of the blessings the County Government of Machakos has it to be within the Equator. It is blessed with sunlight as compared to some of the other Counties whose blessing is cold.

Madam Speaker, the only way we appreciate the blessings of sunlight that God has given us is to shift from electricity power which has various disasters to the environment, knowing that to produce power we are using fossils and nuclear energy that has effects to the environment. At the same time, to produce power, we use water and one of the hubs of producing power is Machakos, that is those dams down there.

Madam Speaker, I will support the motion. It is very important because we know solar energy is a renewable source. It is not exhaustive; it is cheap and by using it, even the cost of maintenance as compared to electricity is cheap. Even using solar panels, we are aligning our county to the current technology.

Madam Speaker, I am supporting the motion but the County Government on floodlights shifted to using solar energy but now the budget which is allocated to the department of energy is very little because the information from the people in that department, every ward they are putting only one solar floodlight and the argument is one, solar energy consumes between 800 to one million. So as much as Madam Speaker, we might be planning or wishing to go to heaven, the first factor to consider is the available resources. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much and to add to what you have said, the sunlight we get is free. God has given it free to us and only very little is required for installation and maybe maintenance. So we should thank God for that. Thank you, Mheshimiwa, for your contribution. Hon. Nicholas Nzioka.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I rise to thank Mheshimiwa Anastasia for being timely in reminding us on the need to convert to alternative clean source of energy. This is the way to go. Sustainable development goal number seven is about by 2030 all or most of us to have seen the sense, safety and cleanness and sustainability of clean and affordable energy.

By clean, I mean green energy, green not the color but the way they are coded. Solar energy, wind energy, hydro energy and as such. So it is a global thing that we adopt solar energy



because of the risk associated with power energy as it is. Just recently in Nairobi, the whole world was here Conference of Parties on Environment (COP23) and one of the issues the African delegation was raising is about the main consumers of electricity being the big economies but we are the ones feeling the effects.

So it is globally recognized that solar is the way to go so it is globally accepted that solar is the way to go. There are also some gains to have when you adopt solar energy. The County Government of Machakos could apply for what they call climate credit. The more they convert into solar energy, the more money they can earn through climate credits which is a global fund for people who are protective of the environment and mindful of the dangers of not so clean energies.

Of course I have heard Hon. Colleagues talk about inefficiencies due to the frequent disconnection of electricity. Mheshimiwa Kaloi has alluded to the fact of insecurity but I also want to bring in a very sensitive issue.

Madam Speaker, most of our day schools, the children go to school between 5.30 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. especially those who walk on the streets and once this electricity is disconnected, it becomes a very big challenge for these young boys and girls who have to wake up very early to traverse across their village or across the roads to go to school. So let us also think about this sensitivity about the young boys and girls who go to school.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, you could be the first Speaker to leave an environmental legacy in an Assembly in this country. If the new building comes to be during your time, I wish and I pray that through your leadership you insist that the main source of power is solar and then we can have any other back up. I know so many Assemblies will come to benchmark.

Let me say this, that just recently, this Assembly's electricity was disconnected which was not good and I do not know how you can disconnect solar. There is no magic unless the sun does not come out for so many days so then your back up is exhausted. So I pray that during your time, the new upcoming assembly and any other building here you solarize and out of this motion also, we may want to start a proper solid waste management in this Assembly. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Majority Leader. May I now invite Hon. Anastasia to come and reply?

**Hon. Anastasia Mutevu** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Members of this House for supporting this noble motion. Believe with me that the solar energy will cut down the cost of electricity which is very high and also Hon. Speaker, plus this Hon. House we will look forward for the county to implement this and also the County Assembly ward offices.

So, as you have put it Madam Speaker, solar energy is free and only little is needed on installation. Thank you so much Hon. Members for supporting this motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, very much.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO ATTEND  
ENGAGEMENT FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT OF

## MACHAKOS COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2028

**Hon. Speaker:** May I invite Hon. Nicholas Nzioka, Majority Leader, to proceed with that motion.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K):

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT the Second County Assembly Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2023 lapsed on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023;

Aware THAT there is need to fast-track the development of a new strategic plan; Further aware THAT the County Assembly Service Board has planned for a sensitization programme for members on the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> County Assembly Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2028 and aware THAT Standing Order 25(4) provides that despite the adjournment date as scheduled in the approved Assembly Calendar, the Assembly may by resolution, alter its Calendar or the adjournment date;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the Motion THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 25(4), the Assembly resolves to adjourn the afternoon sitting of today 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 to allow Hon. Members to hold an engagement forum on the development of the third Machakos County Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2028.

I call upon Hon. Anastasia, Special Elect and the first Member of the Speaker's Panel to second the motion.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Mheshimiwa. Hon. Anastasia.

**Hon. Anastasia Mutevu** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Anastasia.

*(Question proposed)*

I now invite the Members to debate this motion. It is your turn Members. Hon. Kavyu? Or I did not see your hand up? I put the question? Thank you.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

### ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** The House Adjourns to Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 10.00 a.m. Thank you, Members.

The House rose at 11.59 a.m.