

# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS

### OFFICIAL REPORT

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024**

The House met at 11.15 a.m.

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

### PRAYERS

### STATEMENT REPLIES

#### DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS TO FARMERS IN MASINGA CENTRAL WARD

**Hon. Speaker:** May I at this point invite Hon. Charles Mbuva the chairperson committee on Agriculture to come forward and respond to a statement that was asked by Hon. Mwonga. You are welcome.

**Hon. Charles Mbuva** (Kangundo West, GDDP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, Standing Order 41(3) provides that where a member requests for a statement from the Committee Chairperson relating to matters under the mandate of the Committee, the Speaker may either appoint a day for the statement or direct that the statement sought must be restricted to matters within the mandate of the Committee and which have been exhaustively dealt with and concluded by the Committee or where the Chairperson is authorized by members to issue preliminary reports to the House.

Hon. Speaker, on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 during the afternoon plenary sitting, a Statement on beneficiaries on distribution of seeds to farmers in Masinga Central Ward by Hon. Joshua Mwonga, MCA, Masinga Central ward, was sought seeking the following:

1. A list of beneficiaries from Masinga Central ward?
2. The criteria used to identify the beneficiaries in Masinga Central ward?
3. How many kilogrammes were given to each beneficiary?

Hon. Speaker, in response to the above Statement, the committee requested from the Chief Officer, Agriculture and Food Security and the department responded to the aforementioned statement through a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 as follows:

Total seeds received 559 bales which amounted to 3,416 Kgs maize seeds.

#### **Varieties received**

DH 02	- 12,696 Kgs
H 513	- 720 Kgs
TOTAL 2Kg Packets	- 6,708

Distribution per ward is as per the table below:

**DISTRIBUTION PER WARD**

	WARD	Amount received and distributed (2Kg packets)	Variety	Beneficiaries		
				Adult Male	Adult Female	Total beneficiaries
	Masinga Central	1620	DH02	1081	2159	3240
	Kivaa	1272	DH02	948	1596	2544
	Ndithini	1272	DH02 H513	784	1760	2544
	Muthesya	1272	DH02	706	1838	2544
	Ekalakala	1272	DH02	870	1674	2544
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>6708</b>		<b>4389</b>	<b>9027</b>	<b>13,416</b>

Further, the Committee noted that the above response was generalized yet the statement had requested for Masinga Central Ward specifically, the criteria used to identify the beneficiaries was omitted and the attached list of beneficiaries had blank and blurry pages. The Committee through a letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2023, a reminder one (1) dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 and a second reminder dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 requested for the stated clarification. The Chief Officer in a letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 provided the following responses:

1. A list of beneficiaries from Masinga Central ward.  
*Response:* the list of beneficiaries is compiled and in a soft copy. The total number of beneficiaries was 3245(see attached copies)
2. The criteria used to identify the beneficiaries in Masinga Central ward.  
*Response:* we have Ward Agriculture Development Committee (WADC) which has been the structure used in the Department since devolution in implementing the two programs, the free seeds /seedlings and free tractor service.

This is the committee which was revised for use at Ward and sub-county levels. Additionally, faith based organization representative and Lead Farmer Representative(s)

The composition of the WADC

- Ward Agriculture Officer
- Ward Livestock Production Officer
- Ward Veterinary Officer
- Ward Cooperative Officer where possible
- Ward fisheries Officer
- Ward Coordinator
- Ward Administrator
- Assistant County Commissioner
- Farmer Representative
- Faith-based organization Representative
- Political leaders

The list from the Wards are ratified and endorsed by the Sub-County Committee which is similar to the above in terms of composition and then forwarded to the County Director of Agriculture for implementation.

3. How many kilogrammes were given to each beneficiary?

*Response:* 1Kg which is one packet of 2Kgs issued to two beneficiaries to share.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Charles Mbuva for that response. I wish to call upon Hon. Joshua Mwonga to state whether the response is satisfactory or not.

**Hon. Joshua Mwonga** (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, I want to start by congratulating the Chair and I also want to inform the Chair that I am a member of that committee. In the recent reshuffles, I was move to the Agriculture committee and when I appeared in that committee for the first time, this was the agenda on the table and I appended my signature to the report. I am satisfied. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Mwonga, for that very good response there that you are really satisfied with the Statement. Mheshimiwa Brian.

**Hon. Brian Kisila** (Makutano/Mwala, MCCC): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity. I want to commend my brother Hon. Mwonga. This is the place to seek Statements and this is the place where we have been given mandate to come and seek statements and I like the energy Mheshimiwa Mwonga and that Statement is well sought and well explained. Madam Speaker, I have listened, in fact to commend the chairman Agriculture Committee. Madam Speaker, maybe we are not privy to this but there is a lot of work this department of agriculture is doing. It is only that we are not making or he is not shouting about it but there is a lot of work which department of agriculture through the Chairman and the Executive are doing.

I want to quote a few issues in fact which I want to highlight here. In my ward we had outbreak of a disease which is commonly called lumpy disease which is called in Kikamba *ikundu*. When I mentioned this the chairman, he moved very fast and I must say that within of a span of three weeks in Mwala we have been able to vaccinate over 300 cows, goats and sheep and I must say that since that vaccination started we are seeing a drop in the infection levels. This is something we need to comment the agricultural committee and I want the Chairman to continue with that energy and at the same time there is a lot of good news in the coffee sector which the Chairman is also not talking about.

The Executive has done a fantastic job on coffee sector, on milk which I think Chairman you need to start shouting and you need to compliment the Governor for the work she is doing. Lastly Madam Speaker there is also very good news happening on the seats. In fact, today I can say, we are becoming food-secure because what you have said exactly happened in my ward and if we go further and incorporate the Assistant Chiefs and the process is very transparent, I am urging the Chairman, if budget allows, if you can add more seeds and seedlings so that our people can become more food-secure.

Lastly, I was having a chat with the Chairman and in Mwala and especially in low lands of Yatta and Masinga are biggest source of income in livestock. I am urging the Chairman, if he can do two things and he has told me he is going to do it and that is Artificial Insemination for our cows so that we can start getting good breed of our livestock and there is something Mheshimiwa Mulu Mutisya started with President Moi. In Mwala we have over a 120 cattle dips which died after Mheshimiwa Mulu and President Moi also died. So they died with them. So I am urging the Chairman of Agriculture Committee to see if they can revive these cattle dips so that our people can benefit. Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank Chairman for doing a good job.

This is the way to go. This is the House to ask questions, this is the place to ask questions and Mheshimiwa Mwonga I stand with you fully. Thank you, my brother for seeking such a good Statement; please continue seeking Statements here so that they can be clarified. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Brian and the committee has done a commendable work. We need to applaud them for that.

*(Applause)*

Let the Committee take in consideration the concerns that have been raised by Hon. Brian Kisila on Artificial Insemination and cattle dips. Hon. Kavyu.

**Hon. Francis Kavyu** (Kinanie, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also want to join the rest in appreciating the good work done by the team on agriculture but may be on different note, I think over and over we have insisted in terms of timings because between November and now it is almost May and the seeds which the Hon. Member was seeking answers on some are already in the markets because they were already harvested. So for depending on the urgency of some of the matters, we request that at least the duration taken before a response is given be shortened even if it means allowing and facilitating the committees to work extra.

That was November may be there was a portion of people who had not received and maybe that is why the Member was seeking the Statement so that they can get the remedy and it is the same case for all because the like now we are experiencing heavy downfall, if a Statement is sought on what remedy needs to be taken and it takes months like the cases of flooding if the response comes in July then the intended purpose of the Statement will have been overtaken by time.

So we improve on the response turn-around so that we can also get value because if it is late the response might be good but the remedy or the response that was required might already be overtaken by time. Thank you and I also want to appeal to the entire House, for this House to be functional let us borrow a leaf from the agriculture committee. Let us work as a team and whenever a committee has a business it should not be the Chair or a few Members coming. If it is finance, agriculture whenever we have business in the House then it is very important for also the Chairperson as they represent the reports to have the other Members of those committees fully backing the Chairperson when presenting in this House. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, very much, Hon. Kavyu. I have also noted that the Statement was actually requested on 7th November, 2023 and the response is coming in April, 2024 and it

has taken awhile. As Hon. Kavyu has put it sometimes a Statement can take so long that its objectives are overtaken by time. Let us look into it that we make sure that we respond in time not to lose the very meaning of the Statement. Thank you. Hon. DS then Hon. Ndawa in that order.

**Hon. Stephen Mwanthi** (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I start by applauding the committee and the work that they have done. Madam Speaker, you will realize that when this statement was being sought the perception was quite different. The seeker of the Statement had insinuated that seeds or farmers were ferried from Ekalakala ward to Masinga and it was like Ekalakala ward farmers had gone with all the seeds only to realize that Masinga Central ward had gotten the lion's share on that seed distribution. I appreciate that the Hon. Member has also accepted the response from the committee but now you find the problem is what was planted to the residents.

It was like the residents got nothing. What they were told then but now the good thing is that the truth has come out that the distribution was fair and Hon. Member has accepted that. So we do appreciate the work that is being done by the agriculture committee and the department itself. There are several other things that have been done by that committee and appreciating that these seeds was fortunate that the seeds were very good and in fact farmers got a very good harvest with the seeds that we got that season so if our farmers could get the same next time Madam Speaker, I can tell you Machakos County would be completely food-secure. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. DS. Hon. Ndawa.

**Hon. Mbili Ndawa** (Matuu, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and before I comment on what I want to say I want to inform you and the House that the chamber is not properly lit. We have Members of different ages so it is good to ensure that we have proper lighting. These bulbs were installed during the First Assembly and up to date and they have gone on fading and in the next financial year maybe it will be dark and there is need to replace it so that especially when Members are reading reports here they can be able to see clearly.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Speaker:** That is noted, Hon. Ndawa.

**Hon. Mbili Ndawa** (Matuu, MCCP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again I would want to say congratulations to the Chair and the committee for very positive response to the Statement sought by my immediate neighbor and my brother Hon. Mwonga and I want also to congratulate him for playing the game in the right field. Hon. Speaker, if all of us can have that discipline, if it is football we go to the football field, if it is hockey we go where hockey is played, I am very sure we will have a lot of sanity in this County. Hon. Mwonga has seen sense.

The issue of requesting issues at burials and other places now he has brought it in the right forum and I am very sure he can attest now that the noise he makes in burials he does not get any answer but here now he has received a very positive response and it is not Hon. Mwonga alone, all of us including myself. If we want answers, this is the right forum where we are supposed to raise issues.

Again Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the Executive for the distribution of the seeds that was done that time Hon. Speaker, even in Matuu we received and we want to say thank you because the type of seeds they brought was the best compared to other years. Last season our farmers harvested a lot and that is why you do not hear any noise. At least residents of Machakos are a little bit stable so we request that we continue with the same spirit.

The other issue that I want to share is that we need to also look at the list of the beneficiaries who get the seeds. We may find ourselves giving the same team. Come next season the same team. We need at least to change and if we gave farmer A, B and C seeds last season and they harvested, why is it that next season it is them to benefit again? Who will give the other members of that locality so Hon. Speaker, I am requesting the agriculture committee to work closely with those who are in the field to ensure that the list changes so at least every house can get something.

There is a Kamba saying especially in Mwala *kila nyumba kalila* (every house, some milk). So it is good we make sure every person gets of course there are those who are stable and do not need but there are others who are not stable and they do not get so it is good to consider them. Otherwise the government of Machakos has assisted farmers and we need to ensure that since in the manifesto of the H.E the President and the manifesto of H.E the Governor there was the issue of food security. We need when we are coming up with the next budget we consider that.

In fact, if you empower people on what we call food security you will have solved many problems because when our residents have enough to eat even the diseases will reduce. So I propose in the next financial budget we increase budget for agriculture and I request the Chairman that as you are trying to vaccinate the animals in Mwala remember we have animals in Matuu. Mheshimiwa Kisila has commended you on a good job but I am discrediting you because my farmers in Matuu did not get that service. I am requesting that you also be considerate as we have said g every house needs some milk. So as you give milk to Mwala ensure you also give milk to Matuu residents otherwise the Statement has been well responded to. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Member. Very good concerns there. Having said that I think the Member who had requested the Statement has already expressed satisfaction and thank you very much.

#### COUNTY GOVERNMENT MITIGATION ON FLOODS IN KINANIE WARD

At this point, I wish to invoke Standing Order 1 to allow Hon. Kitetu to lay a Statement that had been requested by Hon. Kavyu the response was expected to day but it is not in the Order Paper so I wish to allow Hon. Kitetu to come forward and respond to that request by Hon. Kavyu.

**Hon. Fredrick Muia** (Ikombe, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, the following Statement was sought on the floor of the House on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 by Hon. Kavyu and was committed to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

What are the short term and long term measures the County Government is undertaking to:

- a) Ease mobility in the affected area given that the soil in stated areas is black cotton soil which at this time is water logged and movement in the area has been very

difficult.

**Hon. Joshua Mwonga** (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, I am rising under Standing Order 41 and the Member should be seated because I am on my feet.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Member, have your seat.

*(Hon. Fredrick Muia took his seat)*

**Hon. Joshua Mwonga** (Masinga Central, WDM-K): I have said I am standing under Standing Order 41 that is on Statement. The Member is responding to a Statement which was sought by a Hon. Member and Madam Speaker, I think it is in order that all other Members should be having that response because it is a response that we will have to react to.

**Hon. Speaker:** I stated earlier that this statement was not in the Order Paper today but I just invoked Standing Order 1 to be able to proceed and deal with it so that we do not take a lot of time. We have said we do not take a lot of time on Statements that have been sought. I suggest Hon. Member that you just listen keenly and hear what the Member has to say.

**Hon. Fredrick Muia** (Ikombe, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, I proceed.

- a) Ease mobility in the affected area given that the soil in stated areas is black cotton soil which at this time is water logged and movement in the area has been very difficult.
- b) Prevent excess storm water from flooding into the roads and villages and their related risks.
- c) Ensure that the structures constructed within the area have undergone due process of approval.
- d) Ensure individuals and companies undertake backfilling of any excavation done after excavating murrum or building stones.

Consequently, the committee wrote to the Chief Officer, Environment and Natural resources via a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 Ref No. MKSCA/PCS/CMM/ELENRV/VOL.1/46 requesting him to submit a report on the above sought statement which up to now, a response has not been submitted to the Assembly.

In its own initiative, the committee further conducted a site visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024 to Kinanie Ward to assess the extent of the effects of the floods and is in the process of a compiling a report on the same.

Hon. Speaker, I therefore request that this House grants the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources seven more days finalize its task. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. In fact, Hon. Mwonga who has left the room actually the Hon. Member was requesting for extension of time because they have not received a response from the Executive on this matter and therefore I take this opportunity to grant the same. Seven days are hereby granted so that in the next seven days that should take us to 30<sup>th</sup> of this month you bring a response to this House. Thank you, Hon. Members.

## MOTION

## ESTABLISHMENT OF SPORTS INCUBATION CENTERS

**Hon. Speaker:** May I at this point invite Hon. Anastasia Mutevu Special Elect Member to come forward and move that Motion.

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

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Machakos County has a wealth of untapped sports talents amongst the youth when fully developed can be a source of income;

Further aware that Section 8 of the Machakos County Youth Empowerment Act, 2022 provides that the government shall; in collaboration with other stakeholders promote talent development for the youth through rehabilitation of talent development infrastructures such as incubation centers;

Noting that the same Act in Section 6 has proved that there is youth development initiatives which the relevant department shall ensure that the youth are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, values and attitudes on socio-economic and political dynamics to enhance their capacity as youths and improve their living standards;

Recognizing that many young people who could excel in sports have fallen victim to anti-social behavior like indulging in alcoholism, crime, drugs and substance abuse;

Cognizant that Kenya Table Tennis top ranked player Brian Ndunda Mutua honed his skills at Mwala Table Tennis club and has continued to play in global tournaments as well as many talented athletes like Cosmas Ndeti and Caleb Mwangangi among others who have emerged from Machakos and scaled high heights internationally

Appreciating that the County Government has Vocational Training Institutes in all eight sub-counties and they can be used as sports hub centers for indoor and outdoor games to nurture talent of young people in all sporting disciplines so that they can make a living from sports.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion THAT this House discusses and approves the Motion that the relevant department of the County Executive establishes sports incubation centers within Vocational Training Institutes, implements the youth centers established at Section 9 of the Machakos County Youth Empowerment Act, 2022 to nurture sports in the County.

I call upon Hon. Catherine Kyee a member of the Committee to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Mutevu. Hon. Catherine Kyee you are to Second.

**Hon. Catherine Kyee** (Nominated, WDM-K) seconded.

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

*(Question proposed)*

May I now invite the Members to debate this Motion? Members it is your turn. Hon. Majority Leader.



**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to start by congratulating Mheshimiwa Anastasia for bringing up the Motion which would improve, enhance and make sports part and parcel of this society. From the word go, she seems to target the young people who have the energy and the time to engage in such sport.

What I like about it is that she seeks to integrate incubation of sports and vocational training so much so that if you are looking to become a plumber you can engage in extra-curricular activities like basketball. If you are looking to be a mason you can engage in football because most of the time we are blaming our young people that they are going to their bases and during their time in bases they are engaging in not so much good things. It is part and parcel of making sure we capture the so much time they have in their hands so that they do something constructive.

Apart from that sport is paying a lot of money. If you look at the sports industry across the globe you will find that most of the professions cannot earn as much money as sports does. A case in point is one Christiana Ronaldo, a professional footballer who plays in some league in Arab world and this guy at 39 years is making almost Ksh. 10,000,000 a week. He earns \$ 500,000 in a week and if you translate that is a lot of money. If we can have our own kids trying to look at sports from an economic model then we will even be creating jobs for them.

On Sunday there was a young man from Mbooni who won the London Marathon. He has been incubated in Mbooni and he was representing Kenya in London. What we are saying is that we can incubate young people from sporting perspective and they can represent us within the County, outside the County and also international arena. We can help them to be good example to other young people but also make a living out of it.

Mheshimiwa Anastasia thank you for thinking about that and we hope the County Government will be able to accelerate and put it in the next level. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon. Ndaka then Hon. Digital then Hon. Kavyu, in that order.

**Hon. Jackson Ndaka** (Tala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me start by thanking Hon. Anastasia Mutevu by saying this is a very good initiative but Madam Speaker, I have one concern as I support the initiative. There were stadiums which were being constructed last year and I have only one stadium in Tala called Tala Township. The works were started last year and it is now done only 40 per cent and the contractor has already deserted the works.

My concern is if the residents and youths of Tala do not have a playing ground and yet there was a contractor who was set to do the works. If you visit that ground today you can compare it with Ahero irrigation scheme in Kisumu because the land is very green, full of water and it seems there is no concern to finish that ground. It is now my appeal to the Sports Committee to visit that ground and make total recommendation to the executive to finish that ground as we move to the next step. As I sit down I support the initiative by my fellow MCA.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Ndaka. It is a concern to have the stadiums completed the ones that are incomplete. Hon. Digital.

**Hon. Wilson Ndunda** (Kangundo North, IND): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate and echo my colleague Hon. Anastasia Mutevu for this noble idea especially towards

our young generation. On these measures you find that our youth indeed need this activity than yesterday. Basing on measures whereby you find almost every elected leader here conducts this form of forum or activities in his Ward by encouraging the youth to be active and also to sensitize them to ensure that they are not involved in illegal activities like drug abuse.

In the same case as my colleague Majority Leader has stated, this helps our youths to be talented and they can study what they can be good at. This is very important if we have these centers; for example like in my Ward there is a government land at Kwa Katunga and you find it is more than 20 acres and the community had proposed it to be a youth center whereby it can activate this form of activity in terms of the sports.

It is very important because by encouraging this in every Ward to have one case of sport centers and all that you find that we are going to make generation as well whereby you find in this form of talent we are going to model our community not only in one forum but also in all collective activities like athletics.

Last month my colleague from Kangundo Central had such activities like athletics and there was form of rewarding. Youth were encouraged to be part and parcel of this. I support what Anastasia Mutevu is bringing in this Assembly so as to ensure our youths are very active and they study and get better knowhow of their future. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support.

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

**Hon. Francis Kavyu** (Kinanie, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the Motion that has been moved by Hon. Anastasia Mutevu and also inform the Hon. Member who has spoken we do not have Mutevu in this House we have Hon. Mutevu. On the issue before the House it is a very brilliant idea and it will contribute to a larger extent in ensuring that our people are empowered. Madam Speaker as we think of establishing incubation centers, I think we are aware that we have Mavoko, Kinyui, Masii and Ikombe stadiums that were targeted to achieve the same objective.

To date for instance like in Mavoko only 10 per cent of the works were done. Madam Speaker I will recommend that before we start doing an entire new structure, let us see how Mavoko, Kinyui, Ikombe and Masii Stadium. Kinyui is in Matungulu. If those stadiums are done to the best standards, I think they can serve the similar objective that the Hon. Member is seeking to achieve. For instance, if you look a place like Mavoko in Mlolongo/Syokimau we have a population of close to 500,000 people and 50 per cent of that population is young people, we do not have a single public place where these young people can go and play. The incubation centers might be good but there is the immediate need that we need to ensure that at least every Ward has a place where these young people can go and do the basics.

The other thing that we might need to relook at it is the aspect of where the incubation centers will be set. If we target to have them in our vocational centers where they are also learning and students who come from different areas, it might have a challenge in terms of the management and the security aspect of the students who are being trained in those schools.

It is a good idea but we can look on ways on how we can utilize the public spaces that we have so that we can have these incubation centers and also challenge the committee concerned. We can have the Committee facilitated to go places like in the Rift Valley where we have these talent incubation centers and get the details on where is the best place or what are the conditions that facilitate that good environment for the people from that side to thrive.

The signs and the intentions are there that in Machakos, Makueni and Kitui Counties there is that potential for us to generate great athletes. A place like Misakwani I think it is a very ideal area in terms of acclimatization. If we are thinking of setting such clinics we also need to get the basics right. It is not just a case of doing each in every Ward. If the target is to have athletes who can endure and withstand that pressure that comes with coping with the climatic conditions then we also need to get it right even if it means doing one for the County where athletes can come.

That will help us achieve the objective but it is a brilliant idea and I fully support because sports is an economic activity nowadays. It is not the ages where sports were seen for leisure or something used to pass time. As we were growing up, you could be severely punished by parents just for going to play football but that narrative is changing and we appeal; for example, in Tala, the Hon. Member has been complaining. The reason why he has not advanced in terms of football skills is because there is no field but I do not think he still has the potential to reach and make money like Cristiano Ronaldo because of the age but we can do for the future of those who will come after him. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Member. Those are good insights. Hon. Deputy Speaker then Hon. Ndawa and Hon. Kitaka.

**Hon. Stephen Mwanthi** (Ekalakala, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion that indeed as a county we need this sports incubation centres to help nurture talents that have not been tapped out there. I have been monitoring our youth and some who have talent, as a county we have not been supporting them in any way. I will give an example of two boys who were identified by former Masinga Central MCA, Hon. Tariq and because we worked together and I have been following them we have one boy by the name Kithome who will be playing in Bahamas next week.

We got another one by the name Daniel Kyumbe. That boy won relays in Serbia like two weeks ago. I believe we have so many other different talents not only in athletics but in all other fields. If as a County Government we could invest in those talents, we could have some of our youth who are languishing out there with drugs we can be helping them succeed in their lives and earning a living with those talents in sports. So, I support such motion and request the County Government budgets for those incubation centres so that we may start tapping those talents with our youths. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mbili Ndawa** (Matuu, MCCC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to participate the business before the House and I will start by congratulating our colleague and I call her the most able Chair of Education. This motion is timely and I am very sure what the statement seeks to achieve if we go by that I am sure we will get a lot of benefits for our young ones. The motion is very clear and I have heard what the colleagues who spoke before me but if I was marking Madam Speaker, I would give them irrelevant. I would just cancel and say irrelevant because the motion is specific on vocational training centres and the mover of the motion has gone ahead and said we have at least one vocational training centre in every sub-county. So, as per the motion, we may not require a very huge budget to have what is requested done because we already have existing vocational centres.

What we need to do is to agree and set a small budget to ensure that in every centre there is an incubation centre. Hon. Speaker, there are those who are enrolled in those vocational training centres and others who are not members of that school. The seeker of the motion is requesting that we also accommodate the talented young ones who are not in the vocational training centres so that they can nurture their talent there.

I want to support the motion 100 per cent and call upon our youth, as we establish these incubation centres, let them come out. We may establish the centres and fail to get the youth. Hon. Speaker, even when Jesus was taking disciples, he did not go for them at home; those he took where found doing something. Let these young ones come out so that they can be identified in those fields. If it is football, we should see them playing it. If it is another cadre, let us see them playing.

So, Hon. Speaker, the motion is timely and good and I support. I request the budget committee, we are about to pass the budget and some of the motions that we have passed in this House have to be backed by budgets. It is good we take stock of the motions that have been passed by the House so that as we sit as budget committee, the Chair can also consider including something to support the initiation of the proposed projects in the motions. Hon. Speaker, I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. I can see the mover of the motion is consulting with the Chair of Budget Committee already. Hon. Kitaka.

**Hon. Francis Kitaka** (Ndalani, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the motion that is seeking to help our young men and women to nurture their talents through the establishment of the incubation centres. We have youth in our societies, sitting idle because of the economic times that we are facing as a country hence there is a reason for us to get some areas and space for them so that they can practice and come out in their areas of interest for their own mentorship.

However, the mover is suggesting that we host these particular centres in our VTCs. Many of our VTCs are not in good condition and I wonder how we are going to make it work by using these centres. This will require a collaborative approach between the department of Sports and Education so that we can identify the spaces and come up with a budget required to make sure we achieve the intended good purpose of this innovation of incubation centres.

It will be an opportunity for us to be creating areas where we can absorb those who have not had an opportunity to use the VTC centres because there are people who are not good in academics but good in skills and talents. As I support this motion, I would request that House that when the time comes for us to allocate resources for this noble activity that needs to run across our county.

It is important that we sit and discuss and make sure that we have proper arrangements so that we do not start a program that will abort before we achieve what we want. Otherwise, I support, thank you very much.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Ndaka you have already spoken and you are barred by the Standing Orders to speak again. Hon. Wanjiru.

**Hon. Ruth Kamau** (Nominated, CCU): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to start by congratulating Hon. Anastasia; this is a brilliant idea which if done in a good way would impact

the society and the youth. I wish to emphasize what the previous contributor has said that not all minds are academically inclined, it is common knowledge and that is why the ministry of education in their wisdom changed the education system to the CBC where they provided space for co-curriculum activities to thrive, hence giving an opportunity to the ones who are not academically inclined to also thrive and shine in their field.

This is a good idea regardless of where the incubation centres will be placed. As we budget for the same, we also need to put in mind that we will need trainers because some children are talented but they have not been exposed to trainers to better their skills. Even when you are talented, you need skill so that you can be able to compete in the international platforms. Madam Speaker, I support and it is my prayer that we do not just support motions and do not implement them. There are many motions that have been approved in this House but they are yet to be implemented. It is my prayer that we do something so that as we leave this House, we leave a legacy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Wanjiru. It is emerging that this motion is overwhelmingly supported and it is a good idea that we need to move and have it. Save for the challenges of budget and all that, that is something we can cure because we are the makers of the budget. At this point I wish to call the mover to reply. Hon. Anastasia.

**Hon. Anastasia Mutevu** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Members in a very special way for supporting this motion which is a very important motion. I did good research before bringing it to the House and according to research which was brought to a GBV centre last time, it was reported that Machakos County had the highest early pregnancies with our girls and I imagine that if we could be having these centres, they could help our girls to get busy and not forgetting the boy-child. You know I have a special touch with the girl-child.

Our Education Committee we also did research on our VTCs and we found that they have a lot of unused land and if we could tap this and bring them to our vocational centres, they have land in at least every ward. I am very sure it can be actualized despite that we have the stadia. The stadia will be complete; they have a budget for that. I am in the sports committee, we visited Kinyui, Ikombe and Mavoko stadia and they are in use. The only one we have not visited is the Tala stadium and I am very sure the Governor is equal to the task.

So, the Budget Committee, we plead that you support this with a small budget so that we can achieve this. It could be of help to our youth. I come from Mavoko and it has many youths who are idle and have rich talent. I play table tennis and we do not have anywhere else apart from the County Assembly where can do our practice. So, thank you Madam Speaker and Hon. Members for supporting my motion.

*(Applause)*

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

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Speaker:** The House adjourns to 23rd April, 2024 at 2.30 p.m. See you then Members.

The House rose at 12.13 p.m.