

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 19th June 2019

The House met at 9.30 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we do not seem to have the required quorum. I, therefore, order that the Quorum Bell be rung for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

Order, Members! You can now take your seats. We have the required quorum and, therefore, business will begin. Hon. Members, the systems are faulty. So, we will see ways of trying to make sure that business progresses unhindered. In the meantime, I am informed that the system will be coming up quite soon. For the time being, we will organise other means of communication.

ORDINARY QUESTIONS

Question No. 274/2019

HARASSMENT OF STAFF BY ADC MANAGEMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I am informed that the honourable Member had requested for deferment of this particular Question. The Member is bereaved following the passing away of a relative. Therefore, we will put it at the next available and convenient time for both the Member and the House.

(Question deferred)

Next is the Member for Baringo Central, Hon. Kandie.

*Question No. 275/2019*REDUCTION OF POLICE ROADBLOCKS
ALONG NAIROBI-NAKURU HIGHWAY

Hon. Joshua Kandie (Baringo Central, MCCP): Hon. Speaker, I rise to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of national Government:

- (i) whether he is aware that there are numerous police roadblocks manning the Nairobi-Nakuru Highway which end up disrupting traffic flow and greatly inconveniencing motorists and traders; and,
- (ii) what measures the Ministry is putting in place to ensure that traffic flow is enhanced along the Nairobi-Nakuru Highway and the number of road blocks is minimised.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Very well. That particular Question will be replied to before the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security.

The next Question is by the Member for Rongo Constituency, Hon. Abuor.

Question No.276/2019

NON-PAYMENT OF RETENTION MONEY TO CONTRACTORS

Hon. Paul Abuor (Rongo, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to ask the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Planning:

- (i) whether he is aware that contractors' funds retained at the District Treasury of the former Kisumu East District which is ordinarily payable upon expiry of "the defects and liability period" (popularly referred to as retention money) for many projects undertaken in the area cannot be traced nor accounted for, thus most contractors who have undertaken Government projects in the said area are yet to be paid their outstanding balances; and,
- (ii) when the Ministry will settle those balances and pay the affected contractors.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Question will be replied to before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. I must commend that particular Member, Hon. Members. As you can see, he is a tech-savvy Member. He actually read out his Question from his phone. That is the direction we are headed to. We are determined to make this Parliament paperless. So, that is good effort by the Hon. Member.

Let us have the next Question by Hon. Bishop Kawira Mwangaza, the Member for Meru at large. You will have to come closer to the Dispatch Box.

*Question No. 277/2019*CONSTRUCTION OF STALLED
KIRINGWA IRRIGATION PROJECT

Hon (Ms.) Kawira Mwangaza (Meru CWR, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to ask Question No. 277/2019. It is directed to the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation:

- (i) whether he is aware that the construction of Kiringwa Irrigation Project in Tigania, Meru County has stalled since 2016; and,
- (ii) what measures the Ministry is putting in place to ensure that the said project is completed on time and when this will be done.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Very well. That particular one will be replied to before the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

Hon. Bishop Kawira, next time, you should be able to read your Question from your phone or, at least, from the gadget that is provided for you there. You can also let it be all the way to the church that you lead. Make it as paperless as possible.

Before we proceed to the next Order, I have noticed that Hon. Gikaria was actually in the House, but I could not trace him because of the issue of the gadgets in the House that were not working. I, therefore, give him an opportunity to move his Petition. I am aware that he was already in the House, but because I was not able to pinpoint him from where I am... He is the Member for Nakuru Town East Constituency.

PETITION

INVESTIGATIONS INTO LAKE NAKURU AIR CRASH

Hon. David Gikaria (Nakuru Town East, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker for your indulgence.

I, the undersigned, on behalf of residents of Nakuru County draw the attention of the House to the following:

That, on 21st October 2017, a plane belonging to Flex Air Charters crashed into Lake Nakuru, claiming the lives of all five passengers on board;

That, whereas the bodies of three passengers were recovered, the bodies of two persons, namely Mr. John Mapozi and Mr. Sam Gitau are still missing, causing undue distress to the affected family Members, who have never been able to give their loved ones a befitting send-off;

That, there has been lack of official communication from the National Disaster Management Unit and other Government agencies to those families on the recovery status of the two bodies, and on the matter of compensation to the affected families;

That, efforts to have these issues addressed by the Disaster Management Unit have not borne any fruit; and,

That, the issues in respect of which this Petition is made are not pending before any court of law, constitutional or legal body.

Therefore, your humble Petitioners pray that the National Assembly, through the Departmental Committee on Transport, Public Works and Housing:

i) Intervenes to have the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Housing and other relevant agencies inquire into this matter and establish the cause of the crash;

ii) Recommends that the affected families be duly compensated for the loss of their loved ones; and,

iii) Makes any other recommendations it may deem fit in the circumstances of the case.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Very well. This being a Petition, if there is a Member or two who want to speak to it, I would be happy to give them the opportunity. Since I am not able to see the names of the Members who are interested, probably we will try the older method of standing from where you are and catch the eye of the Speaker. We will try what used to happen in the Ninth, Tenth and the previous Parliaments before this technology came into place. I see no Member is interested to speak to this particular one. So, we will move on to the next Order.

MOTION

DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD SAFETY CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, concerned that available reports indicate that on average, road traffic accidents in the country cause an estimated 3,000 deaths with many other victims injured and maimed as a result, thus placing Kenya among the countries with the highest road carnage globally; further concerned that it is estimated that the cost to the economy from road traffic accidents is in excess of Kshs300 billion annually according to the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA) Road Safety Status Report (2015); aware that legislation and policies in place to a large extent addresses the key road safety risk factors and the challenge is in implementation and enforcement; cognizant that road safety awareness would help in combating road accidents in the country; acknowledging that Section 4(2) of the National Transport and Safety Act mandates the NTSA to develop and implement road safety strategies and facilitate the education of Members of the public on road safety; recognizing that schools provide the largest and most concentrated group of members of the public who can benefit from road safety education; this House resolves that the national Government urgently develops and implements a mandatory and examinable curriculum for training of students and pupils in primary and secondary schools on road safety.

I propose Hon. Babu Owino to second the Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: That was fairly short. So, let us have Hon. Babu to second the Motion.

Hon. Babu, please come to the Dispatch Box.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the Motion on...

(Hon. Aden Duale spoke off-record)

Hon Duale, relax.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Order, Hon. Members! Please give “Hon. Babu Ochieng” time to second the Motion.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): What is happening in this House, Hon. Deputy Speaker? There are many devilish activities going on. It is “Hon. Babu Owino” Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the Motion on training of our pupils or students to be drivers at the level of primary and secondary schools. We find that in our driving schools, we only take a maximum of two weeks.

(Loud consultations)

Let me just talk about it please.

Hon. Ali Wario (Bura, JP): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is it Hon. Wario? Come to the Dispatch Box. Order, Hon. Babu! Resume your seat because we cannot have two Members standing.

Hon. Ali Wario (Bura, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. Have you heard, Hon. Babu Owino say that there are devilish activities going on in this House?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Unless he can substantiate, he will have to withdraw and apologise to the House profusely. You know in this House, we have Sheikhs like Hon. Wario. They would be very interested in casting out any demon. “Hon. Babu Ochieng”, you know there are some words you throw left and right...

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, it is “Babu Owino”.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Babu Owino, the Member for Embakasi East, would you like to withdraw this one?

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I think mentioning the word “devil” is parliamentary, because there is the devil and God even in church. Saying that there are some demonic activities...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: No!

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): You cannot force me to withdraw something which is in order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Babu Owino, you are doing a very honourable duty to this House by seconding a Motion. Please, do not get into these other side shows. You withdraw that.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): When I talk about the devil, is it parliamentary language or?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let us forget the devil for the time being. Let us work on seconding. Withdraw that particular bit.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): I withdraw.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Perfect. You are now in order. Proceed.

Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess, JP): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Hon. Pukose?

Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. You know Hon. Babu Owino is my friend. I did not want to interrupt him. But when he was seconding the Motion, he talked about driving being introduced in primary schools.

(Hon. John Mbadi consulted loudly)

The HANSARD can bear me witness. The Leader of the Minority Party should relax. You were not listening.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order?

Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess, JP): My point of order is this. Whatever the Member says has to be relevant to the Motion. I would like him to start all over again.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: But you did not give him time to develop his seconding. Let us give him an opportunity. You are the one who is out of order!

Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess, JP): No! I am never out of order. I listen and the HANSARD can bear me witness.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So, let us have Hon. Babu Owino.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, we can now confirm that what I was saying is true.

I rise to second the Motion on development and implementation of a curriculum for training students and pupils in schools on road safety.

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is it Hon. Members? We cannot be excited about... You are really interrupting the Hon. Member. You are not giving him an opportunity to develop his seconding.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): This is very sad.

Hon. Gichimu Githinji (Gichugu, JP): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is it, Hon. Member? Let us hear what you have to say.

Hon. Gichimu Githinji (Gichugu, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. It is not within my intention to interrupt the Hon. Member. Orders that are made by the Speaker of this House are not usually made in vain. You have already ordered that the Hon. Member withdraws and apologises. The Hon. Member has indicated that he has withdrawn, but he has not apologised.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: No, he did not say that.

An Hon. Member: As Members of this House, we need to hear an equivocal apology so that we can move on.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I heard Hon. Owino. Once he withdrew, I did not want to pursue it any further. What he said thereafter in my opinion did not specifically lead to the exact same thing he had said earlier. So, please, allow Hon. Babu Owino...

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I will not apologise. Apologise for what?

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Now you know, Hon. Owino...

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): I have withdrawn, but I have not apologised. Why do I need to apologise? Why must you force me to apologise? I have the free will. Even in heaven, you are given a free will to choose. I have the free will to choose whether to apologise or not. I choose not to.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You see Hon. Babu Owino, I had given you an opportunity to withdraw and you did it. I expected an apology for what you said. You know it is not something you can substantiate. Now that you could not substantiate, and I had not really bothered to look for the second issue that I was trying to pursue, you have gotten into the trap yourself. So, you will have to apologise.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, rationally speaking, using the word 'devil' is parliamentary.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I do not want the description of that for now. You really have to.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: And apologise!

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Thank you, but you have said it.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Anyway, proceed, Hon. Owino. Please, do not get into sideshows anymore.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the Motion on development and implementation of the curriculum for training students and pupils in schools on road safety. Most road accidents in our nation are caused by careless driving. This is as a result of some drivers who learnt driving through the backdoor or on road signs. You find that in our society that the drivers we bring up, even in the so-called *mtaas* in our areas are people who go on a squad basis. "Squad basis" means a trained driver or a semi-trained driver driving a *matatu* and on reaching a particular stage, he leaves it to another person to take over. So, most of the people in our society get trained on such basis. Due to that, there are too many accidents.

Deaths that are registered on our roads are too many because of our carelessness. Strict rules are never followed. I, therefore, propose that such training is brought to our pupils at the primary level so that they can do theory, and at the secondary level, they can go through a practical lesson. With that they will grow up knowing... Experience and continuous studying of road rules and regulations will enable us to follow them in the foreseeable future and minimise such road accidents.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker: You second?

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): I do, with all my body parts.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: When you say 'I do', it is not perfect. That is for marriage. Say you second.

Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East, ODM): I started by saying "I second" and I have finished by saying "I second".

(Question proposed)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let us start with the leader of Minority Party.

Hon. John Mbadi (Suba South, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. I am concerned that the Mover of the Motion that I consider to be important for the safety of our people and, to a large extent, that is going to protect our children who will be educated on matters safety, did not do justice to it by only reading its terms. He did not take time to persuade the House to support the Motion. Even though the Motion is self-explanatory at times it is important for the Mover to put across the points so that Members can get persuaded and swayed to support the Motion. That is the essence of moving a Motion.

Having said that, it is not in doubt that our country is facing a crisis in the transport sector. It is a crisis that is caused by people who blatantly flout rules and regulations. People who are supposed to implement rules are also involved in bribe-taking and are compromised to a large extent. This country does not lack laws, rules and regulations. The only thing is that those who are charged with the responsibility of implementing and effecting them are not doing their work properly.

The aim of this Motion is to take the debate from actual implementation to sensitising and educating the populace of the country to understand and appreciate the importance of rules and safety on our roads. We are all aware of the problems that we face on our roads, starting from what we now call *boda bodas*. You will find four school-going children being carried without helmets on a motorcycle that is driven at high speed. This is posing serious danger to, not only those children, but to other road users. Therefore, it is important that we start from early stages of life to educate our children on the importance of road safety, so that they can grow up knowing what they need to do.

In that case, they will grow up cultured in a manner that they would avoid risky ventures that will expose their lives to danger. More importantly, they will not partake to those risky ventures and will avoid compromising the law enforcement officers.

So, it is important that a curriculum is developed in our schools where training on road safety is made mandatory even if it will not be examinable. I can remember when we started schooling in the early years – and I know it may not be early to some Members in this House but to some it was too early – we used to have morning devotions in schools. There was a compulsory Christian lesson in our schools. That needs to be done. I do not know whether it is still there in our schools. We used to have a day in a week when we read the Bible and appreciated the Creator. We need to have such in schools today and a system where our children will be taught and trained on road safety.

I cannot over-emphasise the cost to the economy and the effects of road accidents in this country. We are all peoples' representatives and I am sure a day will not pass and if it does, a week will not end without a Member of Parliament being asked to contribute to medication for those who have been involved in road accidents.

Before I conclude, on the law enforcement officers, any time a policy is brought up in this country it does not end up helping to solve the problem for which it was created. In fact, it is a way of creating an avenue for law enforcement officers to harass people, motorists and motorcyclists. They end up using it as a platform for bribe-taking.

On Thursday last week, the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury talked about licensing of motorcyclists. However, whereas that may be a noble cause, I see it as an avenue for the law

enforcement officers to harass *boda bodas* and take bribes from them. That policy will not achieve its intended purpose. So, when this House will be debating the proposals that were brought by the CS, we must look at them holistically.

I support the Motion. What I do not know is how soon it will be done because the Motion is talking about resolving, meaning that the House is to take a decision. We are not urging. Therefore, I expect the Executive to make sure that the Motion is implemented to realise its objective.

With those many remarks, I support the Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Nominee 001.

Hon. David ole Sankok (Nominated, JP): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this noble Motion. We are losing many people through road accidents which are caused by human negligence, especially by drivers. Apart from losing lives, my club of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) keeps on ballooning because of road carnage. Every now and then when we have a road accident, the media and the citizens of this country concentrate on the number of deaths. Those who are maimed become a burden to our society because some of them will require wheelchairs, crutches and tax exemptions. They would also like to import duty free vehicles. All these things make them become a burden to our society. When we increase the number of Persons with disabilities (PWDs), we also increase the competition for some of the resources and benefits accorded to PWDs. Our club is the only one that is full. We do not want any more members because we do not want competition when it comes to the benefits that we have been given by the Jubilee Administration. We want to share the benefits that we have with those who are already disabled and not those who are joining us to increase the population of PWDs. That is why we pray to God every now and then that there should be no road accidents.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, if the number of PWDs increases, it means my chances of becoming a nominated Member in 2022 will decrease. So, we do not need this increment.

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker, a pilot who flies an helicopter of two passengers has known qualifications, say, from secondary school and has definitely undergone thorough training. A pilot of a fixed-wing aircraft of, say, six passengers, is a person who attained, perhaps, an A or a B plus in secondary school. What about the drivers of buses that carry more than 40 passengers? They do not have any known qualifications. We do not even know the schools they went through. We just license them to be carriers of a number of passengers that is 10 times more the number of passengers a pilot carries in an aircraft. It is high time we seriously thought of road safety.

Training should start in primary schools. By the time our kids get to secondary school, they will be aware of road safety procedures and road signs. Sometimes, accidents are caused by drivers merely assuming road signs, zebra crossings and so on. I support this Motion because it is very important for our children to learn road safety procedures.

The problem lies in licensing through the NTSA. It has become another den of corruption that is full of cartels. They license anybody as long as they can get a kickback. I have a case in point where a matatu Sacco in Narok has been registered since 2014 without going through the normal process. I will bring a petition on that matter to this House. All indications are that the

matatu Sacco I am talking about does not meet the required qualifications as per the law and yet it was registered. Probably, they gave some kickbacks. This is the worst form of corruption.

We need to inculcate this kind of behaviour in our pupils right from primary school level so that, by the time they train as drivers, they will be having the basic skills on road safety. That way, it will be easier. Even if, say, they get license through dubious means, they would have been trained on road safety from that tender age. It is disturbing to have such a high number of casualties through road accidents and yet, the cause is neither our roads nor mechanical faults but human error.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I support and urge Members to do the same. Hon. (Dr.) Nyikal and (Hon. (Dr.) Pukose, who normally deal with road accident patients need to support this Motion.

I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Before I give the next Member a chance, let me recognise, in the Public Gallery, pupils from St Mary's Nyamagwa Girls Primary School, Bobasi Constituency, Kisii County.

Let me give Hon. (Dr.) Pukose this chance. I will try as much as possible to look out for Members who want to contribute because I cannot see anything from here.

Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess, JP): Thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker. I support this Motion by Hon. Osoro on introducing road traffic regulations and laws to our young children in the curriculum, both at the lower and higher levels.

If you walk in our major cities and towns, you will be surprised that both pedestrians and vehicles are competing for the same space on the road. People are not cognisant of the fact that road traffic rules must be enforced. You will find that when the lights indicate "red" the *wananchi* and vehicles both want to pass. When the lights indicate "green" for the vehicles to go, you will find pedestrians also struggling to pass on the same road. That is a very bad habit.

I travelled to Pretoria, South Africa. I realised that traffic lights are called "robots" there. Whether there is somebody crossing the road or not, you will find people obeying traffic rules. At one time, while we were waiting for the lights to turn green for us to cross the road, one young man crossed the road because the road was clear. He did not pay attention that the traffic lights were showing red. We decided to say "*habari*" to him and he replied "*mzuri*". I asked him where he comes from and he said Kayole. He asked me, "How come you have recognised I am a Kenyan?" I told him: "It is because you crossed the road when the lights were indicating red". So, we have bad habit as Kenyans. It is a Kenyan culture not to obey traffic rules.

Even at weekends when you find that a road is not too busy and the traffic lights are indicating that you should not cross, you will find a mad driver driving all the way with speed. This has caused many road accidents. We have people who have been maimed as a result of the carelessness that Hon. Sankok has talked about, even though he has talked about efforts not to increase the number of people with disabilities. That is a good message but we know that disability is not just caused by road accidents. There are also diseases and other factors that bring that into play.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, introducing the curriculum at primary and secondary level will be the way forward for us, as a country. You will find that people only learn about traffic rules, signs and traffic regulations when they go to driving schools. Otherwise, any other people that have not gone to traffic school at times find it very hard to understand road signs. So, this is a very timely Motion that will inculcate the culture of obeying traffic rules.

During dry seasons, people from Hon. ole Sankok's place throng Mombasa Road and other places in the city to graze their cows. This is where I will ask Hon. Ole Sankok to begin from. He needs to educate his people. This is because when his people bring cows to look for grass and water in the City of Nairobi, they interfere with traffic. This gives you a picture of how much people understand traffic rules and by-laws of towns and cities. All these issues affect us, as a society.

With those few remarks, I support this Motion. I am hoping that it is not just going to end up as a Motion. Hon. Osoro should look at the possibility of bringing a Bill or amend the various Traffic Acts or Education Acts so that we can actualise this Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, with those few remarks, I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I will be calling two Members in a row so that they can prepare to come closer to the Dispatch Box. That Member there should come to the Dispatch Box. He should be followed by Hon. Ngunjiri of Bahati. Please, do not cross the Floor. You are okay. Come to this one. There is a Dispatch Box on both sides of the Floor. Even Hon. Ngunjiri should come closer to the Dispatch Box. Hon. Members, let us be brief because I am not able to look at the time you spend here and I might end up cutting you short.

Please, proceed.

Hon. Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I think the traffic rule affair is very important and we need to give it the importance it deserves. A number of times by the end of each year, we are given statistics of fatal and non-fatal accidents. The deaths occurring as a result of road accidents can be avoided. Therefore, it is not just school children who should be trained about traffic rules but everybody, so that we can obey them and avoid accidents.

The motor vehicle drivers and riders of motorcycles should be occasionally trained even if they were previously trained and hold licenses. This will renew their knowledge of traffic rules. If we do this, we will avoid deaths. I know there is an issue about insurance for *boda bodas*. Sometimes, looking at these issues, you begin to wonder the number of people who are limping or have been maimed as a result of road accidents and yet nobody pays them. We need to have a good insurance which will compensate those who get involved in accidents that impair them physically.

I support the Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: As Hon. Ngunjiri proceeds to contribute, let me recognise, in the Public Gallery, pupils and students from Ikurungu Secondary School and Kirwara High School both from Mwea Constituency, Kirinyaga County. I can see their active Member is seated pretty to my right.

Hon. Kimani Ngunjiri (Bahati, JP): Ninakushukuru Mhe. Naibu Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili niweze kuchangia hili jambo muhimu sana katika Kenya. Kwanza, ninaunga mkono mjadala huu kwa maana ni muhimu sana. Lakini ningependa kurudi nyuma kihistoria ili tuweze kuelewa hili jambo la ajali na sheria za barabara.

Ingawa ninaunga mkono, kuna mambo machache ninataka kutaja. Nilipata *driving licence* yangu mwaka wa 1972. *That is the time I got my driving license*. Ingawa tunasema watoto wafundishwe sheria za barabara, kuna mambo nyeti ninataka kuyataja na ninajua Wabunge wezangu watayaunga mkono. Jambo moja ni kwamba hata kama *Ministry* ya Matiang'i imeleta jambo hili, ijue *imefail*.

Hii ni kwa sababu wakati nilipochukua *driving licence*, *traffic officers* wakikusimamisha kwa mkono, lazima ungesimama. Kabla wafike kwa gari, wangekwambia uwashe taa, upige *dim*, uweke *signal* na upige *wiper*. Akimaliza, angeenda nyuma ya gari na kusema ukanyage brakes ili angalie brake *lights and parking lights*. Tena angekwambia uweke *hand brake* na atingishe gari. Tunataka kutengeneza sheria mpya lakini zile ziko zikizingatiwa kwa njia nzuri *zitareduce accidents* katika nchi yetu.

Hatujalitilia hili jambo maanani kwa sababu ukiangalia miaka ya 2007 na 2008 wakati wa *crashes*, watu zaidi ya elfu moja walikufa. Na dunia nzima ilisimama *to condemn* na kusema hayo mambo ni mabaya. Lakini watu zaidi ya elfu tatu wakifa kupitia *road accidents*, hatuwezi kusimama kama Serikali na kuuliza ni kwa sababu gani.

Leo ukipata *traffic officers* barabarani na usimamishwe, kitu cha kwanza kuulizwa ni *driving licence*. Kwa nini? Kwa sababu hiyo ndiyo wanawekewa pesa. Kama dereva anapeleka gari mpaka mahali *traffic officer* yuko, inamaanisha anajua kuendesha gari. Kitu cha kwanza anachopaswa kuangalia ni *tyres* na *stands* za gari. Pili aangalie kama hiyo gari iko na shida yoyote halafu aangalie *insurance* ndio aulize maswali mengine.

Wabunge wenzangu, hata tukipitisha hii Hoja ambayo ninaiunga mkono, kama Matiang'i ambaye anasimamia polisi na *traffic officers* hatasimama imara ili sheria ambazo ziko ziweze kufuatwa, *then* inaonekana tutazungumza mambo mengi na watu wataendelea kutotii sheria.

Kuna mambo nyeti ambayo yanaendelea siku hizi. Tunapitisha sheria lakini watu wa *boda boda* wanapita *right, left and any side or corner of the road and can go in any direction*. Kama barabara ya mahali fulani ni moja, wanatumia *wrong side*. Hizi sheria zinastahili kufuatwa.

Lakini kuhusu *traffic rules*, hatujasimama imara. Tunasikia kuna uufisadi na pesa ambazo zinapatianwa huko chini zinakuja zikitambaa mpaka juu na hii ni unyonge. Lazima tuseme *enough is enough* na tuchunge watu wetu. Tusiangalie vifo vya watu 3,000 kupitia ajali za barabara peke yake kwa sababu inaweza kuwa mzee au mama amewacha familia na watu wengine wanakuwa viwete. *This is a big burden for this country*.

Ninaomba Wajumbe walitilie hili jambo maanani kabisa. Matiang'i anapaswa aje ili atuambie ni nini kinapaswa kufanywa katika barabara zetu ndio sheria zifuatwe. Tusipofanya hivyo, kuna *effects* za vifo vya watu 3,000 na tukiangalia vizuri ni kama tumepoteza watu 50,000. Hii ni kwa sababu wengine wanameza dawa ama wamevunjika miguu. Na mambo hayo yote yanatumia pesa nyingi za Serikali wakati tunatafuta pesa za kujenga *economy*. *I think* kuna shida, na ninaomba Wabunge wezangu tujadiliane kwa ukweli na kuuliza shida iko wapi na tutafanya nini. Sisi zote tungependa mambo ya vifo yafike mwisho na watu wafuate sheria.

Ahsante sana Mhe. Naibu Spika kwa kunipatia hii nafasi.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So, I will give two Members. I will start with the Member for Mwea and then go to the Member for Mwingi West. Order Members! You will have your time as long as Members are brief I will give everyone a chance.

Hon. Josphat Kabinga (Mwea, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this very important Motion from my friend Hon. Osoro. Some Motions look simple but this one is very important. We are talking about an economy that has lost to the tune of about Kshs300 billion when we do not have a single activity that can generate the same.

Therefore, I take this Motion very seriously. I hope that once it is passed by this House, it will be taken up by the Committee on Implementation. I also hope that it will not go to the

shelves like other Motions. It will be implemented immediately. This is well within the mandate of the NTSA. The Motion will help it reach out to as many people in this country as possible. We are talking about introducing a curriculum in our primary and secondary schools at very early stages, skills on driving or awareness on road safety. This will help a lot. I borrow a leaf from technology. Our children should be made aware about technology from early stages. We are now starting to get gurus in technology in this country. We have even started to export some of them to other countries because they have grown with technology all along.

By introducing road safety, driving awareness and skills, and also simple mechanics of a vehicle, we will not only expose those children to what they expect to come across in their future, but also make a lot of saving by having a population that is fully aware of the dangers of poor driving. Those will be people who know their right in as far as road usage is concerned. We will reduce accidents in this country. We will also reduce costs incurred by some of us when we go to driving schools in old age.

We are also telling those children, at very early stages that there are dangers in touching the steering wheel of a vehicle and that there are dangers in using motorcycles. When they grow and become drivers and *boda boda* operators, they grow with a culture. Through this Motion, we will develop a culture in our community that will be growing, understanding and knowing the need for people to use our roads in a safe manner. I support this Motion.

I encourage Hon. Osoro not to just move this Motion, but also to follow it up to its implementation because it is a very important one.

As I close, I must speak about our *boda boda* industry. This is an industry that I support and one that we all agree on. The importance of *boda boda* and its contribution to the economy was alluded to by our Cabinet Secretary in his Budget Policy Statement. It is high time that we took that to another level. It is high time that the Government came up with a fund that will not only support *boda boda* in their insurance, but also support them to acquire licences in the simplest manner.

In my constituency, I have taken it upon myself to start a driving school that will help those young men and women to continually go for their driving licences having realised that my NG-CDF is not enough to individually support those young men. We will be starting this school. I have already applied to the NTSA. I hope the Authority will not only give us the license, but also give us total support so that the 8,000 *boda boda* operators in Mwea could one day claim to have their licenses.

On insurance, we hope that instead of the Government just instituting a law for the *boda boda* operators to acquire comprehensive insurance, we will create a fund that will subsidise them to have this insurance at a cheaper rate so that all can be covered. If we do this, we will save a lot of funds for this economy. I support this Motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next is Hon. Charles Nguna Ngusia, who is ordinarily referred to as CNN. That is for avoidance of doubt so that you do not confuse Mwingi West and Kitui West.

Proceed.

Hon. Charles Nguna (Mwingi West, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank Hon. Osoro aka *Sura Mbaya* for moving this Motion. I would also like to congratulate Hon. Nixon Korir for seeing it wise to move to the right side of the Government.

[Hon. Deputy Speaker
(Hon. Moses Cheboi) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Hon. Patrick Mariru) took the Chair]

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): What is your point of order? I heard you being referred to as Hon. CNN. Please assume your seat.

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. Is it in order for the Member to refer to me as *sura mbaya*? Does he look at his *sura* before he looks at mine?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): That must have escaped my attention to the extent that I know that there is no *sura mbaya* in this House. We only have Hon. Members unless *sura mbaya* is the actual name of that Member.

Hon. Nguna!

Hon. Charles Nguna (Mwingi West, WDM-K): Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I would like to put it clear that Hon. Osoro has already accepted this name and it has always been circulating among the Members that he is called *Sura Mbaya*.

I would like to start contributing to this Motion by saying that knowledge is power and sometimes we have to acknowledge that information is liberating. I would like to support this Motion. Let us not introduce it in schools for the matter of being a subject. It can be introduced as a title. Many of our people in this country, especially pedestrians and cyclists, suffer because of lack of knowledge. If at all we introduce this, we will be able to read road signs and recognise when we are supposed to use pedestrian crossing.

I have realised in this country that most of the time, motorists do not respect pedestrian crossings especially in major cities. You will see a person speeding when he is approaching a pedestrian crossing. It is because that driver has not been to school.

If this Motion is approved and implemented at secondary and primary levels, many people will have what we call knowledge of road usage and driving. I have even observed in highways that most people do not even know the rule of keep left. We have been saying that our traffic rule is keeping left but, most of the time, they do not practise it. Out of this ignorance, if we can treat this disease through educating our people, I am sure it will help a lot.

With those few remarks, I would like to support the Motion and encourage the Member to actually make sure that this is implemented in our country.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Before I give the Floor to Hon. Waluke to my right, allow me to recognise, in the Public Gallery, students from St. Marys' Nyamagwa Girls' Primary School from Bobasi Constituency, Kisii County; Upperhill Academy Morit from Bureti Constituency, Kericho County; Kauga Primary School from Kinangop Constituency, Nyandarua County; Thika Road Christian Academy from Kasarani Constituency, Nairobi County and, finally, Little Hands School from Naivasha Constituency, Nakuru County. They are all welcome.

Let us have Hon. Waluke.

Hon. John Waluke (Sirisia, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me a chance to also contribute on this Motion. At the outset, I thank Hon. Osoro for bringing it. I support the Motion because it is important to us and to the people of this nation. Drivers forget the rules when they drive for some time and they need refresher courses, as Hon. Osoro has proposed. There have been unnecessary deaths. You can imagine you have paid a driver to take you home in a taxi, or you boarded a bus or a *matatu* and then you end up dying. It is very sad for somebody's life to be shortened like that. We lose 3,000 people in the country every year. We can control these accidents by taking drivers for refresher courses to remind them of the Highway Code. Some of them are just *matatu* touts or conductors who just practise or learn to drive from time to time.

For a long time, the Government has been paying Kshs300 billion to the families of the 3,000 people that we lose every year. The Government can save that money for other things if our people are reminded or educated on how to drive and adhere to road rules.

One day, I was driving around the Serena Hotel towards Hurlingham and I stopped because pupils were crossing from Serena Hotel towards Uhuru Park. Just when I stopped, somebody in a Range Rover came and knocked one boy down. I felt so bad. It is not just *matatus* or bus drivers who do not know the Highway Code. Even some Members of Parliament do not know. They just take things for granted. It is important for us to be reminded.

The police are also not doing their job well. These accidents are mostly caused by reckless police officers on our roads. I have done my research and discovered that many *matatus* are owned by traffic police officers. When a *matatu* driver is arrested by another police officer, the officer will just call to inform the owner that his driver has been arrested because he has caused an accident. They will just leave him, and he gets away scot-free. Maybe, he has caused death and people are injured, but action is not taken because the vehicle belongs to a police officer.

It is said that when a traffic commander sends police officers to the road in the morning, he gives them a target of, say, Kshs100,000, which must be taken to him in the evening. It must stop. I say this as the Vice-Chair of the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security. We have taken action on this. We wrote a letter to notify the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government that we want to talk about the traffic police section.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Let us now have Hon. Korir.

Hon. Nixon Korir (Lang'ata, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion on development and implementation of a curriculum for training students and pupils in schools on road safety.

Road safety should be basic knowledge. You will appreciate the fact that currently, on our roads, you will find very many drivers who do not know the meaning of a yellow line, a white line, a dotted line or how to enter a roundabout. This Motion will help in educating members of the public from the primary level of our school systems so that they can acquire knowledge on road safety. Road safety should not only be known by drivers, but also by pedestrians and passengers.

The Motion by Hon. Osoro is very good because members of the public at large, and not just drivers, will get knowledge on road safety. For example, most passengers being transported to whichever destination in this country trust their drivers to be right. Even when a driver overtakes at a corner, they believe he is right. With the knowledge on safety, passengers can also correct drivers and question them when they overtake at corners or where there is a continuous yellow line. These are some of the things that this Motion will help with.

When we were in primary school, we used to be taught about how to pass a Motion, a Bill or how to debate in Parliament. Some of us did not anticipate that we will one day be in Parliament. It was just basic knowledge on how to pass a Bill or a Motion, support a Motion and debate in Parliament. That knowledge is now coming in handy now that we are in this House. Basic road safety, like the meaning of a continuous line, how to enter and leave a roundabout and not to change lanes in a roundabout should be basic knowledge for everyone. A kid in primary school should be able to tell if a driver is doing it well or not.

I support this Motion because just as the Mover has said, we are losing many lives because of recklessness on our roads. Some pedestrians just cross the roads even when the lights are red not because they do not know the lights are red, but because they just look at the road and if there is no vehicle, they decide to cross. I remember when we were in primary school - and I do not know if they still teach that - we were taught that before you cross a road, you first look to the right, the left, the right again and then cross over the road. That is the basic knowledge that we need to inculcate in members of the public. The best place to do it is at the primary and secondary school levels. So many families are suffering and people are in hospital. Some have been maimed while others have lost their lives. Some people have been left widows or widowers because of accidents caused on our roads.

Most of the accidents on our roads happen because of negligence or lack of knowledge. In order to help protect members of the public, we need to ensure that every member of the public is aware of road safety. They should know that in such a road, you are supposed to drive at 80 km per hour or if you are on a highway, you are supposed to drive at 100 kilometres per hour. They should be able to tell a driver that he or she is over-speeding even before the traffic police do so.

We are aware that traffic police officers in this country do not help in terms of correcting drivers. They wait to punish. The idea should not be punishing, but preventing accidents from happening. We should not use a speed gun so that we can arrest people. We should have mechanisms to ensure we do not have drunk drivers. We should not wait for the drivers to get drunk, drive and then arrest and punish them. For example, we should ensure that alcoblows are not at the end of the journey, but at the beginning. We should ensure that most alcoblows are closer to the bars than home. You will prevent accidents from happening when alcoblows are closer to bars and not homes.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I support the Motion.

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Hon. Members, I will start with Hon. Gladwell. I will come to that end after I go to my left side. You will get a chance to contribute.

Hon. (Ms.) Gladwell Cheruiyot (Baringo CWR, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. Currently, we have challenges with pedestrians, how they walk along the roads and how they cross the roads. This is more so our innocent children who are affected because they do not know how to go about it.

As much as we want to start this training, we should show our children how to cross the road. It is also prudent for the people who make roads to put the right signage. That is where the problem is. When you are driving along a road, you do not know where a school is. Apart from a signboard of a school, you rarely see the signage to show that children are crossing the road. Even if we train our children, what will happen to the drivers?

We also need to concentrate on the health of the drivers. Drivers need to have a clear view of the roads. We have drivers with poor eye sight on our roads. As much as we want to train road users, our drivers should be checked on their eye sight and minds from time to time to see that they are capable of driving safely for the safety of their passengers and other road users. It is unfortunate the way we use roads in Kenya. When we look at a country like Thailand, specifically Bangkok, traffic is heavy but people are calm unlike Kenyan drivers and road users who are anxious. We always want to be in front.

The most challenging part is the *boda boda* industry. It has helped many youth, changed their lives and gave them employment. We need to help them ride well. When driving, you get motorcycles overtaking you from the left side when you are indicating to go to the left side. This causes collision.

Currently, many people are sick, amputated and others have died in hospitals. Some hospitals have even isolated wards for *boda boda* accident victims. This Motion has come at the right time. It looks short, but it is very important. If we are going towards Universal Healthcare (UHC), it is important that we start from the preventive part of it before we go to the curative part.

With those few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

(Applause)

(Four Hon. Members stood up in their places)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): I can see all the four Members are standing. Let us start with Hon. Wanyonyi. Hon. Elisha, I can assure that you will still get a chance to contribute. You will be the next one to contribute when I come to the left side. I will get to the right side. Do not worry, Hon. Member because you will get a chance to contribute.

Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi (Kwanza, FORD-K): Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute. I also want to thank Hon. Osoro for coming up with this Motion. We should support it.

First, we have a serious problem in this country. Hon. Osoro said that 3,000 people die every year. I can attribute that to careless driving on our roads. I can state in this House that 90 per cent of accidents on our roads are as a result of careless driving. The signs on the roads are not meaningful any more.

The last Parliament, in which I had the privilege to serve, suggested and passed a Motion that said that we should have a lane dedicated specifically for emergency cases. We should fast-

track that. If you go to other jurisdictions, you will find that there is a lane designated specifically for emergency cases. That is a no-go lane where we have ambulances, police cars or people rushing because of emergencies.

I drive on the road between here and Kitale, which used to take me less than four hours to get there at normal speed. You take more than eight or nine hours to get to Kitale today because people break the laws left, right and centre. You will find a truck which is supposed to be on the last lane on the first lane and a policeman allows it. You wonder whether this guy went to school or knows road signage.

In essence, when you are driving on the highway, the trucks are supposed to be on the extreme left. I get uneasy on the road when I see a truck on the right side of the road in places like Salgaa, between Nakuru and Molo where we have had many accidents. We said in this House that we must have, at least, two or three lanes there. They have done something about it now. However, once you get there, you get amused. If you travel from Nakuru to Eldoret, you will find a truck on the right side of the road and the two lanes on the left side of the road are empty. The problem we have in this country is that we spend a lot of money. Hon. Osoro said that we spend Kshs300 billion annually on hospital bills. We should use half of it for refresher courses which should be mandatory for drivers after every five years. It is time we enforced this law because it appears that our road users do not know what to do when they get there.

A Member has said that when a policeman stops you, the first thing he asks for, before checking whether the car is roadworthy, is the driving licence. What has that one got to do with driving because for you to drive, you must have a driving licence? However, some people may not have driving licences. You will find that a vehicle is defective or it is very good and yet he is asking you for things which are very irrelevant. I want to support the Motion by saying that it is time for us to implement the law because we are spending a lot of money on mortuary and hospital bills. It is time we spent part of that money for refresher courses for all the drivers after every five years or whatever time we pass in this House, so that we can have few problems on the roads.

In my constituency, I want to say without fear of contradiction that I support over 74 *boda boda* youths for driving lessons after every three months. It has worked out very well because my fear has been that I have been spending a lot of money on mortuary and hospital fees. A parent runs to me saying that his or her son crashed with a *boda boda*. Therefore, Members should take a cue from me and those who have the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) money should set aside some money to train *boda boda* riders countrywide on road safety. It does not matter where one is. A *boda boda* may hurt one person or cause an accident when one is riding to, say, Nyeri, Mombasa or Kitale. So, let us use part of the money to train *boda boda* riders. They are eager to learn and this is an industry that supports them.

With those few remarks, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, let us fast-track this issue. I thank Hon. Osoro for coming up with this Motion. We will support it to the end and see it implemented as soon as possible.

Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): On my right side, let us start from the far end with Hon. (Prof.) Zadoc Ogutu.

Hon. (Prof.) Zadoc Ogutu (Bomachoge Borabu, Independent): Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

I find the Motion interesting in helping us reflect back from where we have come from as a nation. We have come from a situation where rules and regulations were observed and the country ran quite successfully to the current situation where we appear to be in total confusion. That is why the Motion is important as it gives us a chance to reflect on how we can best implement, but not develop road safety regulations because they are already in place.

Today's Motion focuses on pupils and students. I support the Motion because students travel a lot in this nation. They move to different schools for various activities and go for trips, as we see many of them here today. So, it is important for us to understand what it requires to be on the road.

Kenya, as a nation, has seen the use of roads increase especially in the recent past. Devolved governments have constructed many new roads in the rural areas. The roads expose our pupils to other road users including *boda boda* riders and *matatu* drivers. It is important that our youth know their rights when they are on the roads, but also be cautious when using them.

In supporting the Motion, everybody who uses roads needs knowledge and pupils are not an exception. As they travel between home and school daily, they need to be aware how to use the roads.

Other than emphasising the need for road safety education in our schools, we also need to think about conducting road safety campaigns. The NTSA as the organisation mandated to such campaigns is at the centre. I do not think pupils, especially those in the rural areas, have any idea on how they should use roads. The need for such knowledge becomes critical especially when they move from rural areas to urban areas. In my constituency, I have had to carry many bodies back to the village of youth who have come to Nairobi, but cannot tell which side of the road to use.

The Motion emphasises the need to implement road safety regulations right from primary schools and re-emphasises the need to make it a component of the curriculum that is examinable.

I support the Motion. It is important and timely. Thank you very much.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Before I give a chance to the next speaker, allow me to recognise students from St. Francis of Assisi Kirwara and Ikurungu Secondary Schools, Mwea Constituency, Kirinyaga County. Both schools are welcome to the National Assembly.

Hon. Elisha Odhiambo, you have the Floor.

Hon. Elisha Odhiambo (Gem, ODM): Thank you Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give my views on Hon. Osoro's Motion.

From the outset, we are not doing very well. At a time like now last year, we had lost 445 Kenyans in road accidents. In 2019, up to now, according to an NTSA survey, we have lost 485 people. It, therefore, means that nothing is improving. According to a World Health Organisation survey, the country loses between 2,000 and 13,000 Kenyans every year. This is something that calls for urgent and affirmative action so that we do not lose as many Kenyans as we are.

On 8th July 2018, a bus travelling from Siaya to Nairobi veered off the road at Nyagondo, and killed a 13 year old child and injured 40 other people. On Monday, 17th June, at Sagana in Kirinyaga, Mr. Kenneth Mwaura was killed by a police vehicle that was going to Nyeri. I pass my sympathies to the family of Kenneth Mwaura for that loss.

This Motion comes at a time when the country needs to mainstream good norms for students both in primary and secondary schools. As those who have studied education will tell us, initially, education was supposed to offer four skills. The most important of the skills was the normative skills so that children in primary are taught safety norms as they grow and nurtured as better Kenyans.

The second one was the creative skill, which may not be relevant for road safety. The third foundation skill of education that was to be offered to students was the psychomotor, which is equally relevant. The fourth skill is cognitive and is important. It is at primary school where students develop mental capabilities and capacities. So, if we nurture them well by imparting good norms in the context of road safety, we can be sure that we will be leaving a progressive country for the future where not many people will be dying because of mere carelessness on Kenyans roads. We have many people in hospitals today who have been maimed by motorcycle riders. We have many others who have been maimed by careless drivers yet the careless drivers and motorcycle riders walk free while their victims suffer in hospitals.

It is, therefore, good that this Motion has come at a time when we are developing a new curriculum thus it is important for the curriculum developers to consider the right norms and psychomotor skills, so that we leave behind a generation that is conscious of road safety.

I support the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Let us now have Hon. Mwirigi.

Hon. John Paul Mwirigi (Igembe South, Independent): Thank you Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support the Motion. I thank Hon. Sylvanus for bringing this important Motion to the House. It is the right time for the Motion. The current NTSA report indicates that 2,000 to 3,000 people die in road accidents each year. If the curriculum is introduced in primary and secondary school levels, we can tame the accidents. The accidents are caused by lack of knowledge on how to use road signs and how to obey traffic laws. If road safety education is introduced in primary and secondary levels, our pupils will have knowledge on how to use roads.

Most of the accidents in Kenya are caused by carelessness and lack of knowledge. You will notice a pedestrian who lacks knowledge on the correct way of using a road as well as a driver who does not have correct information on road safety as issued by the traffic department. This will help *boda boda* riders since this is an upcoming industry where we have many young people. Many *boda boda* riders get into the business straight from high school and others from university. It means that when this knowledge will be imparted on them, they will have prior knowledge to use when operating their *boda bodas*.

I would like to urge my fellow Members to support this Motion. Let us not only support the Motion, but ensure that it is implemented, so that students and pupils can have this knowledge. This will help us curb road carnage.

With those few remarks, I support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Let us start with Hon. Richard Ken Chonga. The other Members will also get a chance.

Hon. Ken Chonga (Kilifi South, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion regarding road safety education. I congratulate the Mover of this Motion, Hon. Osoro. As we sit here today, we can agree that

among the major causes of death in our country apart from diseases, accidents are taking the toll. Road accidents have taken more numbers than even AIDS, cancer or any other disease. For that reason, therefore, it is very important for us to look at the main causes of deaths by our Kenyan people. I strongly support this Motion.

In Kenya, the major causes of accidents have been well identified and human error is leading on this. We have drunk driving, carelessness, speeding, overloading, mechanical problems and corruption. These are the main causes of accidents on our roads. With all these reasons, if you look carefully, you will agree with the Mover of the Motion that there is need for people to be trained to understand the causes of accidents on our roads.

On Sunday afternoon at 3.30 p.m., I was driving from Kilifi to Mtwapa. On reaching Vipingo Ridge, I witnessed a grisly road accident which could have been avoided. Some goats were crossing the road from one side of the ridge to the other side of Vipingo Estate, a *matatu* that was carrying students was coming from Mtwapa to Kilifi and another *matatu* was coming from Kilifi to Mtwapa. The one coming from Mtwapa tried to avoid hitting the goats. By the way, the *matatu* was speeding because I could see it. In the process of avoiding to hit the goats, the driver crashed head-on with the *matatu* that was coming from Kilifi. I was personally involved in the rescue mission. On the spot, no death occurred, but by the time we got some ambulances to rescue those who were involved in the accident, we had lost three people. This is an accident that could have been avoided.

In my conscience, I asked myself who is supposed to be spared. Are they the goats or human beings? The driver opted to save the lives of the goats only to cost three lives of human beings. Apart from the three who died, many others were maimed in the process. I support this Motion strongly.

There is one Member who contributed and said that there is need to educate our *boda boda* riders on road safety. We know very well that before the *boda boda* industry got into Kenya, people had to walk long distances to get to their destinations. The *boda boda* sector is playing a key role in the transport sector in our country, but the challenges are many. Most of the *boda bodas* riders are not trained. You will find one is trained for three hours and in the fourth hour, he is already on the road. He lacks any information of what is supposed to be observed on the road. He is completely naïve even about his safety on the road.

Therefore, training is not supposed to be for those who are directly involved in riding or driving. It is supposed to be for everybody. I have seen accidents which are caused by drivers' naivety. In a spot where many people are crossing the road, some drivers do not even take cognisance of that. They just drive at very high speed. This is one of the reasons why we are saying they should be trained. However, it is not only the driver who should be trained. Even the students and the general public should be trained because we are training people for safety of human beings.

With those many remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): We will start at the far end coming this way. Hon. (Dr.) Mutunga, you do not need to face the back. It is you who has the chance now.

Hon. John Mutunga (Tigania West, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I was facing the back because I wanted to know who was at the far end, but I am grateful that, at least, you have given me an

opportunity to join others in supporting this idea of introducing training for our safety in primary and secondary school curriculum. I have not forgotten anything that I was taught in primary and secondary schools. This is the prime age of learning. This is when the brain is at the highest in terms of receiving or keeping information.

Therefore, introducing the curriculum at this point in time will help us a lot in making sure that we have individuals who will never forget what they have learnt. There is also need for us to have continuous advocacy on road safety. What the NTSA is doing is not sufficient. Either NTSA is not sufficiently funded or it has some reasons why it is not doing its work the way we expect. We would like to see continuous advocacy on road safety issues and the nitty-gritty on road safety where people normally make mistakes.

Currently, this is not happening and I would like to see it as a backup to the training. Even if we do the training, there will be need for reminders. Training will cushion adherence to traffic code and regulations that are supposed to be observed on the road. People are not serious when driving. If you are on a super highway, you will find that the fastest vehicles are keeping left instead of keeping right. If you have to pass vehicles uphill, you will also find that the fastest vehicles are the ones that are using the climbing lane. So, we are doing things in an opposite manner. I do not know whether it is lack of training, ignorance, non-adherence or defiance to adhering to traffic rules. I would like to emphasise that there is need to adhere to traffic rules or code of conduct so that we can use our roads in a safer way.

Training our children at this point in time is preparing them to become powerful global citizens. Powerful global citizens mean people who are informed and empowered with knowledge. Our children will travel far and wide and we wish and hope it happens. When you go to other countries, like the right hand keeping countries in terms of driving, you will have challenges keeping the vehicle on the road. Normally, people try to remain in the middle of the road and the turnings can confuse someone.

I remember I drove in Japan and I had issues with keeping the vehicle on the road. It is important for us to train our children so that they can become better even out there because we do not expect them to live in this country forever. The rules of different countries change particularly when it comes to changing lanes.

There is need for us to look at what we are doing in terms of roads in urban centres. We need to fully designate emergency lanes. The emergency lanes need to be marked and blocked for that specific purpose and use. Sometimes you realise that when there is need for emergency response, our roads are blocked and ambulance and fire safety vehicles cannot access the buildings that are burning. Therefore, it is very difficult. In Nairobi, we are designating some roads as one way. That is the way to go. It is the way the world has gone. We need to emphasise a lot more on that.

There is a project on monitor cameras. We are wondering, as Kenyans, when it will ever move from the trial stage or pilot stage to the actual implementation stage. We have seen many cameras on roads out of Nairobi. Now they are in Nairobi and its environs. We believe that this project must have yielded some resource at this point in time. It is only that these cameras and the actual follow up of what they record that can caution careless drivers that do not adhere to regulations. I would, therefore, expect that this project will give us results so that we can move forward.

This training should include such nitty-gritty, so that our children will understand why we have the cameras. If you go to other countries, you will never find a police officer on the road. You will always find cameras monitoring speed and carelessness on the road use.

Finally, there was a time this country had adopted the policy of removing certain vehicles from our roads. I know Kenyans like to own cars and I know it is good for us to drive, but I would like to see a situation where something happens that is closer to those countries that sell vehicles to us. They sell vehicles to us as second hand vehicles because they are not road worthy. If it has stayed for more than five years on the road, that vehicle is removed from the road. I am not trying to say that Kenyans should remove all the vehicles from the road, but we should have designated roads for designated age of vehicles if we do not look at the extent to which the vehicles pollute the air.

I support, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): I can see the Member for Seme. You shall get a chance. But before you, we must give an opportunity to Hon. Nyenze. Before Hon. Nyenze speaks, allow me to recognise in the Public Gallery, students from Kitui School, Kitui Central Constituency, Kitui County, and Glory Elite Educational Centre from Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi County. Both schools are welcome to observe the proceedings of the National Assembly.

Hon. (Ms.) Edith Nyenze (Kitui West, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Hon. Osoro for this good Motion on introduction of curriculum for training pupils and students on road safety. Let me also note that this training is very necessary because it will assist pupils to know the rules, the traffic code of conduct and how to behave on the roads. At that age, pupils and students will develop a culture which will help the whole society. Children are the ones who grow to become drivers and road users. With such a culture, our country will raise citizens who observe rules and regulations as you have seen in other countries.

Let me also note that this training will protect our children as passengers. Many of our people do not use our roads the right way. We expect that Kenyans would change from worse to good, but it is like we are going the opposite way. These days, you just see people crisscrossing the roads while vehicles are moving and it is the drivers who take care of pedestrians. Pedestrians are not careful at all. They just cross the roads. Therefore, this Motion is important because it will help our people to develop a culture of observing safety on our roads.

I would also expect the NTSA to come up with campaigns before such policies are implemented. I know it will take time for students to be educated right from primary to a point that this culture is developed, but I expect the NTSA to come up with some campaign strategies. These campaigns are meant to jump start our Kenyan people to know that there is danger in misuse of roads. Such campaigns would ensure that we reduce road accidents. About 3,000 people are reported to die annually from road accidents. We do not have a report of the injured ones, who were bread winners in their families and can no longer continue with their duties. I expect that before this culture is developed, the NTSA should come up with some campaigns to create awareness so that Kenyans can know that people are dying while others are losing employment because of accidents.

With that, I support Hon. Osoro on the introduction of a curriculum of training of students and pupils in our schools.

Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Very well. Before I get to Hon. Baya, we will go this way. Hon. Member, you will still get your chance. Let us proceed this way. We will have Hon. Rasso, the Member for Saku. You are not too many. You can be sure that you will get a chance to speak.

Hon. Ali Rasso (Saku, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. From the outset, I want to thank Hon. Osoro - I have not been seeing him in this House - for this important Motion for this country. Although he has already stated it, it is about students' and pupils' education. That is key. It is important for the people of this country to understand that one of the ways to save lives will be when all and sundry understand road safety.

One of the problems in this country is that we form institutions like the NTSA and other organisations funded by public coffers and as soon as they come to being, they experience corruption and conflict within them. The institutions begin to fight. Since the formation of the NTSA, just a few years down the line, we have seen a lot of changes on our roads, particularly on discipline, road safety measures and road marking. When we construct our roads, one of the things we must take into consideration is safety for both pedestrians and motorists whether they are motor cyclists or *boda boda* riders. Our roads are designed and made with the intention of serving only those who drive cars. Most of our roads do not have pedestrian walk-ways. Both motorists and pedestrians struggle to occupy the road space of 10 metres.

When road contractors, particularly the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) and the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) construct our roads, they must take into consideration the fact that roads are not just for motorists, but also for pedestrians. We, as Members of Parliament, travel a lot and see the work of traffic wardens all over the world. In this country, if we did not have traffic wardens across Parliament buildings and at the Haile Selassie Avenue/Uhuru Highway Roundabout, we would be having chaos. As much as we need traffic lights and zebra crossings for pedestrians, we also need to give traffic wardens their space so that there is a seamless flow of traffic.

Road markings, Michuki rules and *boda boda* regulations are some of the areas we can say we made some progress and then took two steps backwards. The Michuki rules provided that all passengers on public transport and private vehicles must have their safety belts on. Those safety belts, even in our own cars, save many lives, but we take them for granted.

As far as the youngsters are concerned, when they travel long distances of 600 to 700 kilometres, for example, from western Kenya or north eastern Kenya to Nairobi they get tired. Students are booked at a hostel in Nairobi, 500 kilometres away, as they make the arduous journey. So, as we try to improve the Traffic Act to support this Motion, which I believe is important, I call upon teachers to take the safety of young learners into consideration as they move with them around the country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Hon. Nyikal, the Member for Seme Constituency, you have the Floor.

Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal (Seme, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Let me start by congratulating Hon. Osoro for bringing this important Motion to this House. This is a serious national issue in terms of economics and

health. That is how we should look at it. Road accidents are a major cause of illness and death in this country.

The Mover has indicated that about 3,000 people die annually. In fact, the World Health Organization concludes that that may be a lower figure. It could be as high as 12,000-13,000 in a year. Apart from people dying, being maimed and disabled, it is a major factor in the cost of health in this country. It is a major disease burden to the nation. If you visit some wards in hospitals across the country, you will find some that are designated "Accident Wards". People with fractures stay in hospitals for months and years. If they are to be treated, it will be expensive. It will be an expensive surgery with implants that many of them cannot afford. We will have to conduct Harambee for them.

This has been made worse by our transport system, particularly the coming in of *boda boda* and *matatus* transport systems. Needless to say, these are systems we cannot do without. We do not have a proper public transport system. However, the side effect of it is the major cause of deaths and injuries. Unfortunately, most of these deaths are of young people as studies have shown in this county.

In fact, in Thika, a study was done not long ago, which showed that 98 per cent of the people who die from *matatu* road accidents are young men below the age of 30 years. We cannot afford to lose such young people.

Road traffic accidents are a major factor in health. In fact, it is part and parcel of the non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cancer. In countries that have tamed communicable diseases like malaria and typhoid, this becomes a major morbidity problem. Legislation will definitely work. The previous speaker talked about the Michuki rules. I was in the Ministry of Health then. We could demonstrate clearly with data of admissions at hospitals along the highways. When the Michuki rules were complied with, there was a significant reduction in the number of people admitted and those who died from road traffic accidents. So, there is no doubt that if we abide by traffic rules, we will not only save people's lives, but we will also reduce our spending on health.

In other countries, road traffic rules are considered part of the data for health. In fact, they have data like the number of people found drunk while driving, which is a significant health matter. The number of drivers who are found drunk while driving and the number of drivers who are found without licences is data that is used for health planning. The number of riders without helmets is useful data. People take the issue of helmets for granted. Both the rider and the passenger take helmets for granted, but it is probably one of the biggest causes of deaths in accidents involving motorbikes due to head injuries. In fact, in some countries, motorbike riders are referred to as "organ donors" because they have severe head injuries and they die while the rest of their bodies are still okay. In those countries, they actually gather their organs for transplants. We do not want to get into that.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, we are aware of the economic impact. The Mover has talked about losing Kshs300 billion a year, but that is at the national level. At the family level, this is a major impoverishing factor. In some families, a single accident will cause them to lose a bread winner. Others die or get disabled leading to great economic losses because of the catastrophic spending families get involved in. They spend what they cannot afford and they get impoverished. A family may have been doing well, may be, with a small shop and were

managing well, but when their kin is involved in an accident, the person stays in hospital and after that it becomes a destitute family.

Worse, it reduces the cost of productivity for those who are in employment through absence and loss of man hours, reduced capacity to work and by the social vulnerability that arises. Remember we have a social protection system. Looking at issues of road traffic accidents will definitely reduce our expenditure in social protection.

I, therefore, support this Motion because public education is a very important factor when information starts early in age. So, if we start to educate children about traffic in schools, we hope we will then produce a generation that is sensitive and behaves in a healthy and reasonable manner as far as traffic is concerned.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, as legislators, we have a big role. The first one is to support this Motion. More than that, we should look at broad inclusive legislation that looks at all aspects of road traffic accidents. I just want to remind ourselves that not long ago, a Bill failed in this Parliament, namely, the Nairobi Metropolitan Transport Authority Bill. I know there are reasons that made us kill that Bill, but that is something that the City of this country needs. It needs a transport authority that looks at public transport. You cannot run a city on *matatus* and *boda bodas*. It is done nowhere in the world. There must be a public transport system in a city and that is something we must do.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government must work together. The Road Safety Kenya Project, where the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, the World Health Organisation and other bodies are involved... They should take this matter seriously and help the country to develop policies, strategies and plans that will address the issue.

With that, I support the Motion by Hon. Osoro and urge that we move further and get better legislation.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Very well, the good thing about where I sit is that I am able to tell who came after whom. So, Hon. (Prof.) Sheikh is pushing to speak before even Hon. Munene and Hon. Mbai, who he found here. Of course, Hon. Jennifer is pushing the gender card and she will also speak. So, let us have Hon. Munene first.

Hon. Munene Wambugu (Kirinyaga Central, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this chance to add my voice in supporting the Motion by Hon. Osoro.

From the outset, this Motion is very timely. What humbles me is that Hon. Osoro is proposing a mandatory and examinable curriculum on road safety in our schools. The only reason I can sing the national anthem even when I am asleep is because it was taught to me the first day I went to school. So, if we start impacting or training our young students about road safety when they go to Class One or nursery, all the way to secondary school, by the time they are out of secondary school, they will have an understanding and eventually we will have a generation which is aware about road safety in Kenya.

There is this misconception that it is only motorists who are supposed to know about road safety. Everybody, even pedestrians, needs to know about road safety. It is not surprising that majority of Kenyans do not know our road usage rules and regulations and yet it is presumed that ignorance of law is no defence. You have seen a situation where you are just driving and someone suddenly crosses in front of you and you wonder where they are coming from. When you ask them, especially in urban centres, they tell you that you can also see them. That is the

Kenyan attitude. We need to change this attitude and inculcate the idea that it takes motorists and pedestrians to avoid accidents.

Also, how do we construct our roads? In the upcountry set up, our roads are very narrow. There are no pedestrian walk ways or zebra crossing and yet we expect children in Class One to go to school and use the same road with motorists even without any knowledge on road safety and usage.

This Motion has come at the right time. It needs to be supported by all. It is good for our country so that everybody is taught about road safety. When it comes to the cost of implementing the Motion, it is almost nil because already the infrastructure is available. It is just an issue of developing the curriculum since teachers are already there. Additional teachers can also be trained so that they can teach students. So, the cost implication for implementation could be almost nil and yet it would be great in terms of its effect on Kenyans. We can save a lot of money that is lost when accidents occur.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Before I get to my left, let us have Hon. Mbai.

Hon. Nimrod Mbai (Kitui East, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for the opportunity to add my voice to the Motion by Hon. Osoro. We all reside in this country and know the rate of deaths and maiming caused by road accidents. This calls for some serious action. We can tell the disparity between the rates of accidents in Kenya and other countries such as our neighbours in Tanzania and other countries with more vehicles and worse roads than us. This tells us that there is a social problem we need to fix. As the Motion proposes the introduction of training in road safety and pedestrian use of roads in the curriculum of primary schools, secondary schools and colleges will give our children and every Kenya an opportunity to get socialised in road safety from early ages.

This is the only way of curbing the unnecessary challenges we have on our roads. It is alarming and the Government has tried from the Michuki rules to the very recent ways of kneejerk cracking down of road users on the wrong side of the law, but this has not worked. The inculcating of this culture in our kids from early stages in their life through a Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) programme in our education system will help.

We have seen the Government introducing free secondary education and paying or giving loans to technical training colleges. The cost of getting a driving license is far above a normal youthful person in this country. A young man who has just finished his Form Four and attained 18, 19 or 20 years would like to get a driving license but the parents cannot afford to pay for him. Maybe he would like to ride a *boda boda* or drive a Probox to earn a living, yet such a man cannot afford the fees of a driving school.

In the same Motion because the Government has provided free secondary education and technical education, we should add driving skills to be included in the free programmes being given by the Government. This is reasonable because 90 per cent of the young men out there riding *boda bodas* or driving a Probox went through the free secondary school the other day. So, in the same spirit they should go through a free or Government paid driving programme and get a driving license.

With the culture of road safety training from the early age and also proper training to get a driving license at an affordable cost or one which has been taken care of by the Government, I

think we will be in a position to reduce the number of accidents on our roads and all the challenges we are seeing. We have seen people lose their lives within a twinkle of a second just out of a small driving or pedestrian mistake. We have challenges being faced by drivers and other road users. Somebody doing things in the wrong way by trying to cross the road calls a person across the road or helping kids to cross the road. All these people will need to be trained on the curriculum.

For those out there who cannot be taken back to school to be trained on this, I believe the NTSA which is under the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government will take this matter up. They need to sensitise people and provide a forum where they can benefit from free training. I have always felt frustrated since I joined this House. When we discuss issues and forward them to the relevant departments they are never implemented.

We have become a House of giving suggestions to some authorities which cannot listen to us. We have been elected by the people and when we say they should be given opportunities to take advantage of or to be given free driving lessons and get free driving licenses, I do not think we should beg for this. It should be a directive from this House because it will minimize the challenges we are facing from the *boda bodas*.

In the same spirit the enforcement agencies are well trained and are doing very well, but we have seen some crackdowns which also occasion an increase in road accidents. For example, NTSA and the Traffic Police who decide to do an ambush on Mombasa Road when motorists are not aware, to crack down un-roadworthy vehicles. You will see vehicles turning back, others using funny routes or others over-speeding to run away from the police. I think the police needs to come up with a proper policy and programme of enforcing rules instead of just coming up with knee-jerk emergency ways of curbing this. This is especially during the holidays like Christmas and national holidays. This is the time when traffic is too high because everybody is rushing home with their families and then you find a snarl-up on the road of several vehicles because the police have just erected an abrupt barrier to curb un-roadworthy vehicles. This is the case and yet they have been on the roads throughout the year. Why should they wait until very late to ambush them abruptly? As I support, I want to request the Committee on Implementation to follow-up and ensure that this Motion is implemented to the letter once it is passed.

Thank you, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Yes Hon. Memusi.

Hon. Memusi ole Kanchory (Kajiado Central, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this Motion. Let me start by congratulating Hon. Osoro for bringing it. What has been said cannot be gainsaid. Road safety in this country has not been taken seriously as it should be. Kenyans are made to think that road safety is an issue of the police. Road safety matters are not just personal issues but national issues.

My colleagues have talked about the far reaching effects of accidents. We have many people who have been maimed and others who have lost their lives. We have people in this country who have spent millions of shillings training in different fields, yet they have lost their lives through road carnage. Therefore, this Motion to train students at a very early age will curb this.

I also want to challenge Hon. Osoro to take this Motion further and turn it into an Act, because as a Motion we can contribute here and say very good things, but implementation of the

same might not be possible. The Hon. Member has a very good idea and he should go further and consult other stakeholders in the education sector for example, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) because this is something if this House passes as an Act will be anchored in the Education Act.

Implementation of this Motion will help this country to not only curb road carnage, but also make this country very attractive. You can imagine a workforce where everybody can drive. Right now, I am driving myself because my driver fell ill. Therefore, anybody else in my office would have driven me. I think this country will be very competitive if everyone can drive at any given time. Of course, as the country becomes competitive, investors will also be attracted to it. So, as a matter of urgency, the Member should turn this Motion into an Act immediately it is passed, because this is something whose fruits will be seen immediately. I support the Motion and thank the Hon. Member.

With those few remarks, I thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Before we go to Hon. Sheikh, let us have Hon. Jenifer Shamalla.

Hon. Shamalla Jennifer (Nominated, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion and congratulate Hon. Osoro. If you look at what is going on in this Republic, the recklessness on the roads is staggering. It is only in Kenya where you will see somebody attempting to cross a four-lane highway and there is a bridge that has been provided. I wonder if this is just sheer rebellion or madness. I have no idea. It could also be lack of education and lack of understanding. Actually, you need to be educated to cross a road. I remember when I was growing up, we were taught to look right, look left, and look right again and then cross.

Along with the Motion, we should think out of the box and have other noble ideas especially with regard to the amendments of the Traffic Act. In other countries, the traffic police officers actually wear body cameras. Perhaps, this is the way we may go. I say this because increasing fines has not been a deterrent. I remember the Traffic Act says that, if you pass or curve through a petrol station, the fines will be Kshs500,000. We continue to see people passing through petrol stations and nobody is fined. I do not have the evidence, but I suspect it is the bribes that get higher.

The other thing which we must try to understand as a people or as a House is the rage and the stress that we see and observe on the roads. One wonders. Kenyans are generally known as extremely polite people, especially in the hospitality industry. I am sure when tourists come to this country they wonder whether the people they see on the roads are the same people they meet in the hospitality industry. What is the cause for this?

I really believe that this must be addressed holistically with the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) for students. The private sector must also play its role. The media must also play its role. Just before the 9.00 O'clock news or earlier, especially for children on Saturday afternoons, let us have some sort of civic education on crossing the road and following traffic rules and regulations. I think the two go hand in hand; a curriculum for the youth and also an understanding of this rage and stress on the roads.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Let us have Hon. Jared Okelo.

Hon. Jared Okelo (Nyando, ODM): Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I thank you very much. At the outset, allow me to congratulate my brother, Hon. Silvanus Osoro, who has come up with this Motion. Hon. Osoro is a very dear friend of mine although lately he has been pondering to the wrong side of our political history that has consequently made my President very nervous and angry. However, I congratulate you for bringing this most incisive and timely Motion.

The Motion on development and implementation of curriculum for our dear pupils and students is very important. If anchored into law, this can be a way of addressing the inherent complexities surrounding road carnages and road usage within this Republic. We have lost too many people, some of whom would be playing a very pivotal role to the productive sector of this country. We lose them because of carelessness on the usage of our roads. We have lost too many young people and senior citizens in deaths that could have actually been avoided. However, because of our carelessness, we have had to bury a very productive lot of our country.

A lot has been said about the need to erect bumps in front of schools that border highways or other roads. For instance, the school that I went to, Nyalenda Primary School, in Nyando Sub-county, Kisumu County, for the last three years, with the re-carpeting of Mau Summit-Kisumu-Kakamega road, has lost over 20 children right in front of the school gate. We have made necessary noise in this regard. If we had bumps erected, we could have avoided deaths of too many children within such a paltry amount of time. We should still make it a law that, apart from the signage on children crossing the road, they are followed. This is because drivers constantly ignore such signage. So, we need to do more than just the signage.

We also need to improve the road user behaviour by inculcating positive attitudes. There are people I have heard say that vehicles have “eyes” and, therefore, they can just cross the road. Just because the vehicle has lights, they misinterpret the lights for eyes. The behaviour of our society as far as road usage is concerned is deteriorating and a lot more needs to be done.

I would suggest that from age four going forward, children must be taught on road safety and the usage of roads or traffic rules for that matter. If done from that point and it moves to primary school and escalates to high school and other tertiary colleges, perhaps even university, this will be for posterity. This way our country will have to contend with fewer deaths that are related to road accidents.

Our people have had to sell their properties just to defray hospital bills. We have had people sinking in deep poverty just because somebody who is a family member was involved in a road accident.

Lastly, I would like to recommend. It is known that videos or table top pictorials always sink information better than just word of mouth. So, while coming up with this idea, let us ensure that we have those digital gadgets that children will see and connect with so that they can move forward in a better fashion. This will help in promotion of knowledge and understanding of traffic rules and situations on our roads.

Once again, I congratulate my brother, Hon. Osoro, for coming up with this most incisive Motion. With that, I support it.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Patrick Mariru): Let us now hear Hon. Sheikh.

Hon. Mohamed Mohamud (Wajir South, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I stand here to support this Motion. I congratulate Hon. Osoro for bringing up this

Motion. This is a very important Motion for our children, our generation and our country. The reality is that child safety is an important thing in our country. Road safety is an issue that has not been looked into considerably. The main reason is that the laws that govern road safety have not been enacted properly. Road safety in schools is the precursor for training our future generations on issues to do with their safety and survival. Once this is included in the school curriculum, children will be well aware of their safety so that they can take care of themselves.

The WHO observes that nearly 3,000 to 13,000 lives are lost to road carnage in this country. Majority of these occur because of issues to do with road safety and observing rules. The 13,000 lives lost are mainly through issues of pedestrians, motorcyclists and people walking along the road paths. What makes me wonder is that road signs are quite peculiar to this country. Why do I use the term peculiar? It is peculiar because in other parts of the world, road signage is clearly seen, but in this country that seems not to be the case. Although we are not zebras, the terminology zebra crossing has been used in many parts of this country. It is ideally a crossing lane. The crossing lanes that used to be called zebra crossing are hardly recognised by motorists when they are driving. That calls for immediate action to ensure that any driver who does not abide by that rule for the safety of society should be reprimanded. Their licenses should be suspended, cancelled or put into question so that people can understand that laws must be observed.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Hon. Patrick Mariru) left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Hon. Christopher Omulele) took the Chair]*

Investment in road safety has been barely touched. It is barely a scrap in the Budget. Therefore, I urge that a considerable amount of funds are allocated to this. Funding for a curriculum on road safety is the other thing that needs to be looked into. Schools and the education curriculum should be supported and road rules set in schools. Our young children who are currently in school will be future drivers in this country when they are of age. When I turn 80 or 90 years old - if I get that lifetime - I will be safe simply because I contributed to this legislation to ensure that road safety is inculcated in the curriculum at an early stage. Therefore, when they become grownups, they will be good and reasonable drivers who will observe the laws of this country. It is all about observing the law of the country and inculcating it in young children at an early age so that when they grow up, they can continue to observe them among other laws in this country.

Before I conclude my contribution on this Motion, I must emphasise on the role of the NTSA. The role of the NTSA in the safety of our children and society on roads is something that needs to be looked into. While we have enacted laws that oversee that Authority, it needs to be strong and focused. It should be one that is free of corruption and examines things through the lens of the law. If we observe this through the lens of the law, we will ensure the safety of our children, society and communities.

I also want to emphasise on helmets. Riders that do not have helmets really frustrate many of us. It frustrates our society. Many of our communities fall into the trap of poor road safety and rules that are not observed. Laws must govern this country and society.

I want to see this Motion being enacted into law.

Therefore, I support it.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Very well. Hon. Jared, have you spoken? Let us have the Member for Njoro. It does not matter. The Speaker has a choice on who will speak after the other one.

Hon. (Ms.) Charity Chepkwony (Njoro, JP): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for protecting me.

(Hon. David Sankok spoke off the microphone)

I understand. I do not want to say much.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Member for Njoro, do not worry. Everybody will speak. Even 001 knows. We are too few, so we will all speak. Proceed.

Hon. (Ms.) Charity Chepkwony (Njoro, JP): The problem with 001 is that sometimes he even likes speaking on behalf of women.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, let me start by congratulating my colleague, *Mheshimiwa* Osoro for coming up with this Motion. Students and pupils need to be trained on road safety. I rise to support the Motion because majority of the population is in secondary and primary schools. If we train students and pupils in those respective institutions, we are preparing them to be cautious and to have information. We all know that information is power. If students and pupils are empowered on the road signs and we prepare them psychologically at that stage, we are preparing another informed nation. This will in future be the basis of the reduction in the accidents and injuries we have seen in this country.

I would like to remind Members of Parliament that majority of us have gone to very many burials caused through accidents. Sometimes we have gone to burials where we have even buried young children who died while in the process of crossing a road to go to school. I rose to support this Motion because I realised it will be a game changer in this country. We will give our children a good platform to be properly equipped, raise serious safety awareness and teach them the meaning of road signs.

Our drivers also need annual refresher courses through their bosses so that they can also be cautious on how they drive in this country. I do not want to say a lot because my colleagues have said a lot. But I will still emphasise that the contractors who make these roads nationally must be very cautious and make sure that we have clear road signs and visible bumps on roads near any school be it primary, secondary or a college. If we take these precautions, we will make the country grow because we shall have minimised many losses. Therefore, I rose to support that idea that when we train our students and pupils in relation to road safety, we give good information and equip our children. We are also sure that in future, we shall get students who were fully equipped when they were young.

Lastly, I shall finish by saying that when we train pupils and students, and they get information, it will be “*mtoto umleavyo ndivyo akuavyo*”.

Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Let us hear the Member for Siaya.

Hon. (Dr.) Christine Ombaka (Siaya (CWR), ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. I would like to add my voice to this very important Motion on road safety. As it has already been said, education is power. It gives you information and skills and you know how to use whatever you are being educated on effectively.

It is important that we train students in both primary and secondary schools and even those in institutions of higher learning on road safety because we know the consequences of bad use of roads. Accidents not only cause deaths, but also maim people for life. We also know that people incur huge medical bills and others get traumatised. Family members go through trauma as they treat their sick children who have been involved in accidents. If we train young people on road safety, we are actually providing safety to them, so that they can take responsibility on how to cross a road or how to allow others to use a road.

A road is not only used by students but also by drivers. They will know their rights to cross roads and at what time to use them safely. It is for this reason that I believe that too many lives will be saved once training takes place. It is not only our students at primary level who will be trained, but also adults in secondary schools. I wish we can add university students and other members of the society. When a child is crossing a road and is hit by a vehicle, it is an adult who hits him. So, we also need to train the public and drivers on road safety. We should not only know how to drive a vehicle, but also the rules of the road. You should know when to cross a road and when to wait for a car to pass. Those rules are very important.

As we train young people and come up with good curriculum for training, those who construct roads must give proper signs on the danger zones and where bumps are. I have hit my car badly very many times on a bump that is not visible simply because it is not marked. There are also dangerous corners which do not have signs. The road contractors must obey or at least educate people on where the road is dangerous and where rivers, bumps and sharp corners are so that people start avoiding them a little bit earlier. They should also give people information on where danger zones are.

I see many small children holding each other's hand as they cross the road and they cross without looking right or left. That is also an indication that the children are not aware of when to cross the road. They think that they can escape oncoming vehicles by running across the road only for them to meet the vehicles head on and get crashed. That is why education is power and key to empowerment.

Training is necessary. I support the Motion because of the consequences that are severe, traumatising, very expensive and easy to address. Once the training process is done, we will address death rates caused by road accidents. They will be few because we will not have too many road accidents as we move on with our lives.

Lastly, I want to say that the bit about examination is interesting. It is a good point. It is an examinable curriculum, but there should also be the practical part of it. It will be interesting. I am a teacher. I would like to be part of the curriculum making process and ensure that the training curriculum is examinable, not only theoretically, but also practically. We should test the level of road signs knowledge among school children, and the level of safety consciousness among drivers at practical level. This is a very good Motion and, therefore, I laud the Member who brought it.

With those remarks, I support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Sophia Noor, the Member for Ijara, you have the Floor.

Hon. (Ms.) Sophia Noor (Ijara, PDR): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me a chance to contribute to this very important Motion on safety on our roads. We all know the kind of problems that our people face on the roads and the kind of terrible accidents that have happened in this country. We have lost a lot of human resources on our roads and yet we have invested too much on them. Unfortunately, day in day out, we get an accident that brings terrible impact to the society.

A terrible accident happened recently in my constituency. A family that was very wealthy that morning was destitute in the evening. They went down the poverty line. A vehicle just knocked their livestock and that family became destitute. It is important that we introduce safety rules in our schools.

When I was growing up in school, I remember we were taken to the roads by our teachers. We were told to look left, right and left again and then cross the road. At that early stage of this country, there was safety education in schools. However, in between, we lost something in this country, particularly in our education system and how we nurture our children. It is important to re-introduce safety education in our schools. If we train the public and they become aware and understand road safety, we will reduce accidents that occur on our roads by 70 per cent.

The other important thing is our City. People admired our capital City, Nairobi, in the 1970s and 1980s. If you go to capital cities across the world today, you will see that they have public transport which is neat and beautiful. You will never see the congestions that you see in Nairobi. We need to modernise our public transport system in this country so that we are like any other city in the world. We should not only do this in Nairobi but also in Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. All these cities need to have proper modern public transport system so that we do not have all the *matatus*, buses and *boda bodas*. The Government also needs to modernise our roads to international standards so that we have pavements for motorcycles and pedestrians like in other cities in the world. So, we need to modernise our roads and invest a lot of money in their construction. The amount of money Kenya invests on roads construction cannot be imagined, yet we construct our roads in the traditional way. Let us think out of the box by looking at ways other modern countries run their road transport.

Finally, this Motion is very crucial, important and timely particularly for our students and the country in general. One Member alluded to the fact that we always make crucial decisions that could transform the country to the next level, but they remain in the House. We always fail at the implementation stage. There are crucial decisions the House arrives at and makes recommendations, but they are not implemented. So, we urge the Committee on Implementation to pick up this Motion because it can be implemented immediately so that it is used across all schools. It is an important, easy and straightforward Motion.

I thank the Mover of the Motion. I support him just like the Members who have stood here today because we believe there should be safety on our roads.

Thank you very much.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Very well spoken, Hon. Member for Ijara. In the recent past the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development promised to introduce a modern transport system on Thika Road and

drew a line on the great road. I do not know how far that has gone to improve transport system on that wonderful road. Maybe one of these fine days, the Departmental Committee on Transport, Public Works and Housing will see it fit to inform the House the purpose of the line that was drawn on that road and its cost to the people of Kenya.

Let us now hear the Member for Keiyo South, Hon. Rono.

Hon. Daniel Rono (Keiyo South, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Motion by my brother Hon. Osoro on the development and implementation of a curriculum for training students and pupils on road safety.

I do not think it should only be for particular students. It should cover a wider area. We should even reach universities and even the public because road accidents cause mayhem and bring hell to families. Accidents also cause economic sabotage. For example, the Mover said that road accidents have cost the economy over Kshs300 billion. It is true. In fact, it may be more than that amount.

Motorcycles also cause mayhem on roads. In fact, they even cross pavements. I do know how the curriculum should be structured so that it includes motorcycles. You may be walking on a pavement only for a motorcycle to hit you when you are where you are supposed to be. So, no matter how we structure the curriculum, the motorcycle riders must also be educated so that they do not ride on pavements. We need to construct lanes for motorcycles just like we want to introduce the Rapid Transport System (RTS) in towns.

We also have issues on transport policy. If RTS is introduced in cities in Kenya, particularly in Nairobi, it should also be incorporated in the road safety curriculum so that when it is implemented it becomes all inclusive. On motorcycles, we need to make wearing helmets for riders and passengers compulsory.

I support the Motion and request that we implement it. We have been talking about it. We have heard about improving the transport system and road safety, but we hardly implement. We only talk. We need to talk and implement.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Yes the Member for Kabondo Kasipul, Hon. Eve Obara.

Hon. (Ms.) Eve Obara (Kabondo Kasipul, ODM): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion. I rise to join my colleagues in supporting it.

The Motion is timely and we cannot understate it. The statistics we have seen of people who have lost their lives through carelessness on roads or accidents over the years are worrying. It is not because we do not have rules and regulations or traffic that governs the use of roads, but because we have ignored as a people, to obey the rules and regulations in place. Even as we teach road safety in schools, we must ensure that Kenyans start obeying rules and regulations and law enforcers must enforce the rules in existence as we move forward.

We have people who have been involved in accidents and have been maimed for life. We know the cost of medical bills, not just for the individuals involved, but also for the Government as a whole. There are many accident victims in public hospitals at a high cost. The development of the new curriculum should be implemented for us to derive some benefits from it.

Some of the reasons given when accidents occur are unfortunate. People have been killed while crossing roads at wrong points. Issues of crowded matatus, buses and people not using seat

belts have led to deaths when accidents occur. Those who wear seat belt survive when accidents occur. We have heard that yet the rules are not adhered to.

We have kind of given up on adults, but I believe if we start inculcating road safety to young people at an early age, they will grow up to be responsible citizens. So, I support this Motion as it has come at the right time.

As to whether it is going to be examinable or not, that is debate for another day. I have been in the publishing industry and we have seen over the years that people do not take seriously subjects that are not examinable. So, it should be examinable and people given grades. As I said, they will grow up to be responsible citizens who will obey rules and regulations that are in force at that time.

I support. Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Osoro, time has now come for you to reply. I understand you wish to donate some of your time to the Members who have not spoken, but were keen to speak to this. You may indicate how many Members and how many minutes you wish to donate to those Members.

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I do not know how you understood that but it is true that...

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): I am a very perceptive person.

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): I wish to donate only two minutes per Member and there are two Members. I will start with Hon. Richard Tong'i.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): You have to list both of them. Hon. Richard Tong'i - two minutes, and the Member for Lamu East - two minutes. So, you will have a balance of about six minutes.

Hon. Richard Tong'i (Nyaribari Chache, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I also thank Hon. Osoro for such an innovative idea. Kenyans must come to a point where they do things not just for the police, but for posterity. We do it because it is a good practice. If you look at the practice on our roads, you will find that our children or consumers of transport use security features like safety belt or helmet only because they know there is a policeman ahead. That is not the way to do things. We need to inculcate values in our people's minds to appreciate that security is priority number one, not because we are doing it for the policemen.

I am for the idea that we start a curriculum that will train Kenyans on transport security features right from primary school to college level so that those who opt to take driving as a career would go for a refresher course to hone their skills.

The way it is done now, driving is left to school dropouts. It is left to people who cannot make it in education. That is not the way to do it because these are people expected to carry passengers' lives. Imagine a driver who is carrying more than 60 passengers in a bus and yet he is a guy who dropped out of school. His level of judgement and his way of making decisions is impaired already. But if we had these people trained right from primary school to college level, they would be better prepared to serve Kenyans a lot better in terms of making better decisions in road traffic. Because the road is shared by all of us, there will be pedestrians walking, motorbikes, buses and all manner of...

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Tong’i, your two minutes are over.

Hon. Member for “Amu East”, you have the Floor.

Hon. Ali Sharif (Lamu East, JP): Mhe. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ni “Lamu East”, na si “Amu”. Kwanza, ningependa kumpongeza Mhe. Osoro kwa kuleta Hoja hii hapa Bungeni.

Kwa kweli suala la barabara ni suala nyeti sana. Tunazungumzia uchumi nzima wa nchi. Kwa masikitiko makubwa, barabara zetu za Kenya... Kwanza, kabla hatujaingia katika suala la namna tutakavyo fundisha vijana wetu wakiwa shule, barabara zetu ni tofauti na za nchi zingine. Kwa hivyo, hata unapomfundisha mtu kuhusu barabara, zile barabara anazofundishwa na zile anaenda kukumbana nazo ni tofauti. Kitu muhimu ni Serikali kupitia wizara ihakikishe kwamba barabara zetu zimejengwa kulingana na mwelekeo na mwongozo unaotakikakana. Utapata mambo mengi ambayo yanahitajika kuwe na barabara. Udhaifu na makosa makubwa yanapatikana katika barabara zetu. Hii ndio sababu utapata ajali na matatizo mengi yanapatikana katika barabara zetu.

Swala la vijana kufundishwa maswala ya usalama ya barabara wakiwa shuleni ni jambo la muhimu na linahitaji kuangaziwa pakubwa. Kama nilivyosema, barabara nikipengele muhimu katika uchumi wetu ambao unatumika hapa nchini. Unapotembea mahali popote katika nchi hii, lazima utatembea katika barabara zetu. Ni muhimu vijana hawa wakiwa shuleni wafunzwe ili waelewe jinsi barabara zetu zilivyo na vile wanavyotakikana kutembea katika barabara zetu wakiwa wachanga na hata watakapokuwa wakubwa.

Leo watoto wadogo wakiwa katika shule za chekechea wanatumia barabara hizi kwenda shuleni. Utapata kwamba ikiwa vijana hawa hawatakuwa na elimu ama na ujuzi kamili kuhusu barabara hizi matatizo mengi yanachipuka. Itakuwa vyema vijana hawa wakiwa na ujuzi na uelewaji kuhusu barabara zetu. Jambo hili litasaidia pakubwa katika kupunguza maafa mengi ambayo yanatokea.

Kwa hayo machache, ahsante.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Vyema sana, Mbunge wa Lamu East.

Mhe. Osoro. Malizia sasa.

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I must say that I am very much perturbed by the support that the Hon. Members have given and the energy they have shown in this very important Motion. You will notice that several matters have been raised because we clearly have a challenge in our country. We contribute a lot to funerals that arise from accidents. We pay many hospital bills to patients who are borne out of accidents or through incidents of accidents. It is about time that we had a national dialogue with regard to accidents and road safety.

I do not really understand. When we were in school, you will remember that we learnt about the parts of insects. I am not really trying to undermine our education system, but we learnt about bunsen burners in high school. I am trying to find where I can use the parts of an insect, namely the head, thorax and abdomen in my real life, and yet it was very serious and examinable. We left very important issues like driving and road safety. It is about time we made this serious that we have a discussion on how we can have road safety as part of our curriculum that is examinable. That our primary school kids go through...

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Osoro, you are saying that you did not find any use in the understanding of parts of insects, and use of insects on earth.

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): Exactly, especially the head, thorax, abdomen and all those things. I do not understand why I...

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Osoro, for your own education, I want to tell you that that was the most important thing that you ever learnt. I want to inform you, if you did not know, if the human race is set on destroying bees on this earth, life will be impossible for me and you to live. Those insects are very important.

Hon. Silvanus Onyiego (South Mugirango, KNC): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I stand guided on that. I am not saying that learning about insects is bad, but going to the extent of learning about the parts of an insect where the legs, the thorax and the abdomen are located. That is the subject that I am raising. I am wondering why we could not learn the parts of a vehicle like where the pedal is placed.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for me if we can have that one as part of our curriculum, that we are learning about parts of an insect, then it is also important for us to have the parts of vehicles or very important things about vehicles examinable, just like the parts of an insect. I do not mean to undermine the lessons that we learnt. Therefore, in response it is clear from the mood of the House and from Members who have spoken that it is important for us to have this discussion and support our road safety education curriculum.

Last week alone in Nyamira County, we lost three students to road carnage because for them, putting on helmets while riding on a motorbike is for the police and that is the perception across the board. That we put on a safety belt because policemen will stop the vehicle. We will put on helmets and reflectors because policemen will stop us. People do not do these things for their own safety. That cannot only be taken serious when it is introduced in the education sector as part of a curriculum and as part of an examinable subject... As you all know, examination in this country is taken very seriously. People take time to study about education and whatever one learns at the lower level, be it primary or secondary schools can hardly get off your head. That is why I still remember the head, thorax and abdomen I learnt in class six.

Having said that, I beg to reply. Since you can notice that there is no sufficient Quorum to put the Question, I propose that you defer this under Standing Order No.53(3) to next time.

Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Very well. Congratulations Hon. Osoro. It is to be noted that it is not very easy for Members who are on their first term to do what you have done. So, we wish you a long and fruitful future in this great House and in our great nation.

I will acquiesce to your request and direct that the next necessary steps on this Motion will be taken when the matter will set down again for those steps to be taken.

I direct that we move on to the next Motion.

Next Order!

(Putting of the Question deferred)

MEASURES TO BRIDGE TRADE DEFICIT

Hon. John Waluke (Sirisia, JP): Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, aware that Kenya's trade deficit has been on the increase in the past few years with the financial year 2016/2017 deficit being estimated at Kshs1.1 trillion; noting that, the deficit is mainly attributable to the exports worth Kshs594 billion against imports amounting to Kshs1.7 trillion, driven mainly by the more than doubling of food and machinery imports amid slow-moving exports; concerned that, the widening deficit has continued to pile pressure on the shilling against other global currencies such as the dollar; alarmed that, the high demand for the dollar to fund imports has been forcing the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to intervene, depleting Foreign Exchange reserves even as the country continues to incur foreign debts; cognizant that the rising imports amplified by flat exports portends a difficult operating environment for local enterprises and farmers thereby denying Kenyans employment opportunities when locals lose out to foreign manufacturers and farmers; notwithstanding the effects of protectionism policies which contribute towards affecting local industries and farms abilities to compete in international markets; this House resolves that the Government urgently puts in place measures to bridge the huge trade deficit including by providing incentives to potential investors and farmers, supporting local production through promotion and protection of local industries and implementing competitive export promotion strategies.

Kenya's economy has been affected by precedence in trade balance deficit over a long period of time. Therefore, I urge this House and my colleagues to think of this trade deficit which I have brought to the Floor of the House today. For Kenya to achieve its blue print of Vision 2030 the Government has to undertake serious intervention to promote exports with an aim of arresting this situation or else the deficit will continue to widen.

One of the major issues the Government needs to tackle is the agricultural subsidy. If the country has food, I think the problems with its people will be minimised instead of importing food like maize and other food stuffs from other countries. This will reduce the cost of agricultural activities particularly of food in the country. This will enable us not to import maize from Mexico or our neighbouring countries like Uganda.

The Government should also invest and utilise the productivity sectors such as *Jua Kali* which employs millions of our youth. If the Government invests a lot in *Jua Kali*, I think our industries will not collapse. This is because as we speak many industries in this country have collapsed. For example, a sugar company like the giant Mumias Sugar Company has collapsed...

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Waluke, I am sorry to interrupt you but we have reached 1.00 O'clock. I have to interrupt you but you will still have 30 minutes to continue moving when this matter comes up again next time. Your Motion will have a balance of two hours and 53 minutes. So, you will kindly allow us to stop there at this time.

Hon. John Waluke (Sirisia, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Christopher Omulele): Hon. Members, the time being 1.00 p.m., the House stands adjourned until this afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 1.00 p.m.