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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

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Wednesday, 24th April, 2024

The House met at 9.30 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, there is no quorum. I direct that the Quorum Bell be rung for ten minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

You may stop the Bell. First Order?

PAPERS

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

Reports of the Auditor-General and the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2023, and the certificates therein in respect of:

- (a) South Nyanza Sugar Company Limited;
- (b) Shanzu Teachers Training College;
- (c) Kenya Literature Bureau;
- (d) Kenya Fishing Industries Corporation;
- (e) National Mining Corporation;
- (f) Kenya Pipeline Company Limited; and,
- (g) Malindi Integrated Social Health Development Program Phase Two.

Thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

EXPANSION OF MAJOR ROADS IN THE COUNTRY
TO DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Member for Nyandarua, Hon. Faith Gitau.

Hon. Faith Gitau (Nyandarua County, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

THAT, aware that the Kenya Roads Act, 2007 provides for the establishment of road authorities responsible for, among other functions, the management and development of roads under their respective purview and for developing and providing adequate transport infrastructure that guarantees safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services across the country and beyond; further aware that the First Schedule of the Kenya Roads Act provides for the classification of national trunk roads into Classes A, B and Class C;

recognizing that the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution assigns to the national Government the function of the construction and operation of national trunk roads; noting that a significant portion of highways in the national trunk road network are currently single carriageways; concerned that single carriageway roads pose multi-faceted challenges including traffic congestion during peak periods which limits movement of people, goods and services across regions and increases vulnerability to road accidents; further concerned that the lack of footbridges and safe pedestrian crossing areas on those high-traffic roads has been a leading contributor to the surge in road accidents in the recent past; cognizant of the duty of the Government to provide a reliable transport system for efficient traffic management, economic development and bolstering inter-connectivity among all regions in the country and beyond; now therefore, this House resolves that the Government, through the Ministry of Roads and Transport, undertakes an expansion programme of national trunk roads with a view of upgrading all classes A, B and C roads in the country from two-way lanes to dual carriageway (one-way roads) with the necessary infrastructure that include footbridges, safe crossing zones at regular intervals, proper drainage systems, and other requisite infrastructure for their optimal operation.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next Order.

REQUESTS FOR STATEMENTS

ALLEGED DUMPING OF TOXIC AND NUCLEAR WASTES IN NORTH-EASTERN REGION

The Deputy Speaker: The first request for statement is by the Member for Wajir South, Hon. Mohammed Adow.

Hon. Mohammed Adow (Wajir South, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining regarding alleged dumping of hazardous nuclear waste in the north and north-eastern parts of the country.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, there have been claims in the recent past that sometime in the late 1990s, the Government of the late President Daniel arap Moi, through the Ministry of Energy, okayed the dumping of toxins including nuclear waste in the north-eastern region. Research has proven that nuclear waste is associated with high cases of cancer. Owing to the harmful effects of nuclear waste, the claims of nuclear dumping in the north and north-eastern regions have stirred discomfort and health challenges which include an epidemic of cancer, especially among residents who believe that the rampant cases can be traced back to the dumping of nuclear waste.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, it is against this background that I seek a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining on the following matters:

1. Could the Committee undertake an inquiry into the alleged illegal dumping of hazardous nuclear waste in the north and north-eastern parts of the country, including its environmental effects and the association with high cases of cancer that are reported in those parts of the country?
2. State the measures that the Ministry has put in place to ensure that the residents of that region, whose land was illegally used for dumping of hazardous nuclear waste, and whose health has been directly affected by the harmful chemicals, are fully compensated.

3. What regulatory frameworks has the Government put in place to ensure that all hazardous wastes, including nuclear waste in the country, are securely disposed without causing harm to humans, animals and the environment?

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining or any Member of the Committee? Since there is none, the Clerk's desk to ensure that it makes its way to that Committee.

Next, we have the Member for Likoni, Hon. Mishi Mboko.

COMMENCEMENT OF MOMBASA GATE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 44(2)(c), I wish to request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure regarding the commencement of the Mombasa Gate Bridge Construction Project.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Government of the Republic of Kenya, through the Kenya National Highways Authority secured a loan agreement, with the Government of Japan through the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), to construct the Mombasa Gateway Project in 2019. The primary objective of that project was to establish a road connection between Mombasa Island and the South Coast which currently relies heavily on ferry services for transportation. The bridge would improve traffic flow and accessibility to the South Coast thereby fostering economic development in the region. However, various challenges have delayed the initiation of the construction, prompting concerns regarding its status and implementation.

It is against this backdrop that I seek a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure on the following:

1. Could the Chairperson provide details on the loan agreement between the Japanese and Kenyan governments for the Mombasa Gate Bridge Construction Project, particularly the total funding provided and repayment terms?
2. Could the Chairperson state when the construction will commence, noting that there were timelines for commencement in the year 2021 and for completion to be within 36 months?
3. Could the Chairperson clarify whether the Mombasa Gate Bridge Project loan agreement was among the current restructured mid-term loans and, if so, provide details on the restructuring?

I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Is the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure here?

Hon. George Kariuki (Ndia, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. We endeavour to supply a response probably in two weeks or any opportunity earlier than that.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Next Order.

MOTIONS

PROVISION OF SAFETY NET FOR CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES

THAT, aware that Article 21(3) of the Constitution provides that all State organs have the duty to address the needs of vulnerable groups within the society; further aware that the persons with severe disabilities cash transfer

programme (PWSD-CT) is one of the four cash transfer programmes that are implemented by the Government as part of the overall social protection interventions; noting that caregivers undertaking the immense responsibility of providing daily care and assistance to persons with severe disabilities (PWSD) are oftentimes the immediate family members of the PWSD; concerned that, this causes a disproportionate burden on those families as persons who would otherwise be engaged in gainful employment or other activities to provide for the families are limited by those immense responsibilities; further concerned that, that loss of income opportunities and resources exacerbates the challenges that are faced by those families; cognizant that, the Government ought to take action to recognize the invaluable contributions of caregivers and support them in caring for individuals with severe disabilities; now therefore, this House resolves that the Government, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, recognizes primary caregivers of persons with severe disabilities (PWSD) as a distinct category requiring social protection and support, and further, develops and implements a cash transfer programme for those primary caregivers.

(Moved by Hon. Dorothy Muthoni on 13.3.2024 – Morning Sitting)

(Debate concluded on 17.4.2024 – Morning Sitting)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let us go to the next Order. The question will be put another time.

(Putting of the Question deferred)

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITY BOARDING PROTOCOL FOR KDF PERSONNEL

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Mover, Hon. Ruweida.

Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East, JP): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, aware that Article 239 provides for the national security organs, including the Kenya Defence Forces; further aware that the Kenya Defence Forces and Kenya Special Forces play an indispensable role in promoting and safeguarding national security in accordance with the Constitution; recognizing that members of the Forces face life-threatening risks as they carry out their duties to protect our citizens, particularly in high-risk and volatile areas; noting that there is currently no token of appreciation for the remarkable dedication, service and sacrifices made by the Kenya Defence Forces and Kenya Special Forces; acknowledging that it is important to accord special privileges and honours to our military and veteran personnel akin to the practice observed in other countries including being allowed to access services like banking hall and boarding of flights ahead of the general public; further acknowledging that this practice would not only instil a sense of pride among the Kenya Defence and Kenya Special Forces personnel, but also enhance their morale and motivation, thereby boosting their performance and commitment to our national security; cognizant of the fact that there exists no national policy or framework to facilitate the implementation of such a practice; now therefore, this House urges that the national Government, through the Ministry of Roads and Transport, encourages local airlines to establish a priority boarding protocol for the Kenya Defence and Kenya Special Forces

personnel which grants them the privilege to board local aircrafts before the general public.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to move this Motion. It is my belief that Members will debate it soberly and support.

I wish to convey my condolences to the family of the immediate former Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Ogolla and the other departed KDF officers. Indeed, as a country and residents of Lamu East Constituency, we have lost great men and women who had passion and desire for a peaceful country and secure Lamu East Constituency.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I wish to state that Lamu County and in particular Lamu East Constituency are the most affected by the issue of insecurity because of the *Al-Shabaab* militants. Therefore, the residents of Lamu East are deprived of essential Government services and basic rights. Schools in Basuba Ward have been closed for more than six years. Hospitals are without doctors and medicines. Our roads were rendered impassable and Government aid cannot reach our people because of insecurity. It is only through KDF that schools in Basuba were re-opened; medical personnel and medicines can reach the residents; boreholes are being constructed; and teachers of Basuba ward are airlifted to schools and back home during mid-term break and end of term. In fact, KDF are the source of livelihood for the people of Lamu East Constituency. Without them, life will be very miserable.

In his address to the nation, His Excellency the President while conveying the news of the sudden death of immediate former CDF and other military officers reiterated that selflessness, dedication and commitment of our men and women in uniform is important while they serve and protect this nation against any external attack to citizens and their property. Immediately after his remarks, my colleagues in Parliament joined the President in mourning and praising the services of the deceased officers and their dedication to their beloved nation. While I welcome the move by my colleagues in mourning and recognising the important role that KDF is playing in safeguarding our nation, I wish to request that we celebrate and honour them while they are still alive.

It is disheartening that Kenyans only wait for someone to die so as to praise them and yet, we are doing nothing to honour and celebrate them while they are alive. It is very crucial to recognise the selfless and dedicated services by those officers. They exhibit unwavering commitment, courage and sacrifice despite the numerous challenges and risks that they face in the line of their duties. I request through this Motion that we allow those men and women in the military to have the privilege of boarding airplanes, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and being served in banking halls without subjection to the routine queues. In doing so, we are going to motivate them to work even more to ensure peace and harmony prevail in our country.

Finally, the work of KDF is not restricted only to Lamu East and West Pokot, but everywhere in this country. In this regard, I request all Members of this House to pass this Motion as it is and collaborate with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to come up with the necessary legislation to ensure that legal provisions are set. This will allow the members of KDF and Special Forces to be given priority in our airports, bus stations, banks and all other public institutions where they go to seek services. I, therefore, urge this House to support this Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move and request Major (Rtd.) Bashir to second.

Hon. Major (Rtd) Abdullahi Sheikh (Mandera North, UDM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

I thank Hon. Ruweida for bringing this Motion which generally talks about priority boarding protocols for Kenya Defence Forces, Special Forces as well as the veterans. First and foremost, let me also join Kenyans and especially this House in paying my tribute to the late General Ogolla and the other officers who died in a tragic aircraft accident. Kenya and, indeed,

the Kenya Defence Forces have lost a gallant general in the name of General Ogolla. I am pretty sure that his life was well-lived while he was in the military.

We need to articulate some of the things that he did when he was alive. This protocol is one of the things that this House can do in his memory and that of the officers. General Ogolla was actually the first general in the history of Kenya to die in office and not just die in office, but to die in active duty. It has not happened before. That shows that he was one of a kind. He liked going to the field to be with his troops at any time when he had an opportunity and space.

Coming back to this priority boarding protocol for Kenya Defence Forces and the veterans, it is very critical because it is a way of honouring the men and women who serve our country, defending our borders and engaging in activities that threaten their own lives while ensuring that the lives of Kenyans are protected both within and outside the country. This kind of priority protocol is observed in other countries. It is something that honours the men who have sacrificed their lives. Remember some of them are sent outside the country and to places within the country for a year or six months without being with their families, relatives or communities and yet, they do their job, come back, and ensure that our country is safe. This protocol might not be so much, but it is a way of honouring our men, especially the Kenya Defence Forces, who sacrifice a lot.

There is so much that they do that the Kenyan public may not be aware of. When we see them in barracks, we might think that they are just there. But let us remember that continuously, those guys are either out in the field, out in training, out in operation areas or outside the country serving in UN peacekeeping missions. I speak from a point of information and knowledge because as I stand here, I am a former Kenya Defence Forces officer. I served in the Kenya Defence Force, and I know what it takes to become an officer or a member of the Kenya Defence Forces. The sacrifice that they make to contribute to the security and well-being of Kenya is enormous.

Therefore, I urge the House to support the priority boarding protocol as a way to honour them. What they do for this country, as I said earlier, is enormous. Of course, it is part of their job, but the sacrifice is too much. I plead that this protocol be supported and approved by this House so that the Ministry and the Government department concerned can take up from there. In other jurisdictions and other countries at the airport, you will hear announcements being made for military personnel and military veterans to go forward. In some airports, where it is listed for priority boarding passes for business class, UN or diplomats, there is also a spot for veterans. They are at the same level with the diplomats and other senior personnel. This can happen also in Kenya because it happens in other countries in Africa, in Europe and in America. It is important that we also do the same to honour our men and women in service and those who have served, just like some of our colleagues here who have served in the military, myself included, so that we can say we did our job, we did our time in the Kenya Defence Forces and those who are continuing are also doing the same work.

As I second, I plead with the House to ensure that the priority boarding protocol for Kenya Defence Forces and veterans is passed so that we can honour them.

Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Melly, what is your point of order?

REDUCTION OF DEBATING TIME

Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet, UDA): Thank you. Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise under Standing Order 97(1), noting that this is a very important Motion and it has a lot of interest to the Members.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move:

THAT, notwithstanding the resolution of the House made on 14th February 2024, this House limits the debating time to five minutes per Member according to that particular Standing Order.

We are still in a mourning mood and there is a lot of interest in this Motion. Therefore, by allowing a Member to talk for ten minutes will actually reduce the number of Members who will speak. I propose that we reduce the talking time allocated to five minutes per Member.

I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

(Question, that speaking time be reduced to five minutes, put and agreed to)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So, it will be for five minutes per Member. We will start with Hon. Haika.

Hon. Haika Mizighi (Taita Taveta County, UDA): Ahsante sana Naibu Spika kwa kunipatia fursa hii ili nichangie Hoja hii. Kabla sijaanza, naungana na Taifa la Kenya na Wajumbe wenzangu hata nimuomboleze shujaa Generali Ogolla ambaye tulimpoteza. Natoa rambirambi zangu binafsi na za watu wa Taita Taveta kwa familia ya Generali na Taifa lote la Kenya na majeshi yote ya nchi hii. Nasema pole. nGenerali Ogolla ameombolezwa kama mweledi katika kazi yake. Vile vile, alikuwa kipenzi cha wengi; wakubwa kwa wadogo, maskini kwa tajiri, na watoto kwa wazee. Pole sana kwa wote wanaomboleza.

Nikirejelea mada yetu ya leo, ningependa kumpongeza dadangu Mhe. Ruweida kwa wazo hili zuri. Hili ni jambo ambalo lingefanyika kitambo sana. Kwa hivyo, ni vyema tulifanyie kazi sasa ili lianze kutekelezwa. Maafisa wa jeshi hufanya kazi kubwa sana katika nchi yetu na wanastahili heshima ipasavyo. Hatuwezi kusisitiza umuhimu wao zaidi. Tunapaswa kuwapa kipaumbele katika huduma mbali mbali. Kwa mfano, wanastahili kupewa kipaumbele wanapoabiri ndege na wanapoendea huduma za benki. Tumetembea nchini mbali mbali Ulaya na hiyo ndiyo hali ilivyo. Kwa mfano, kule Marekani, wanajeshi hupewa *discount* maalum. Hapa Kenya, bado hatutambui maafisa wetu.

Hoja hii imekuja wakati mufti kabisa na inapaswa kuungwa mkono kwa sababu inayo mapendekezo ya heshima kwa wanajeshi wetu. Ni vyema tuwahseshimu tukilinganisha na huduma wanayoipatia nchi yetu. Wao hulinda nchi na kudumisha amani. Kwa hivyo, hili ni jambo rahisi sana kwetu.

Naunga mkono Hoja hii. Ahsante sana Bi. Naibu Spika.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Raso.

Hon. Dido Raso (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much Hon. Deputy Speaker. I also thank Hon. Ruweida for bringing this important Motion. Those of us with a military background acknowledge that soldiery is one of the oldest professions. The word 'soldier' comes from the Latin word '*solidus*', which was a gold coin used to pay soldiers who fought in the Roman army. A soldier is a man or woman who fights for their government and carries weapons, risking their lives in the process. This Motion speaks to the heart of the country. We must see the good things about our country and celebrate them.

The KDF (Kenya Defence Forces) is deployed to areas that are experiencing conflict and unrest. When they arrive, Kenyans feel safe and reassured as the KDF is known to restore normalcy and bring peace to the affected areas. This is a testament to the high regard and confidence that Kenyans have for their armed forces.

This Motion now addresses what civilised nations provide or give to those who pay the ultimate price for their countries. We used to believe that generals walk on water because of the protection and security they are provided with. They were always guarded and their headquarters and transport were well protected. When General Ogolla visited his troops in Marakwet, he was simply fulfilling his duties as a General, which included visiting the troops and assuring them that their work was noble and that they were protecting the life and property. This was his message to both the soldiers and the citizens of Kenya. In the process, he and the men and women accompanying him lost their lives.

Many people are wondering how the General died in that aircraft. There is a lot of speculation around it. However, I want to emphasise that based on my experience while working in the KDF and being close to many great generals like General Tonje, who served Kenya with distinction, generals travel in safe transport that is well-maintained. They are driven by first-class drivers and flown by the best pilots in the forces. For this reason, we should allow KDF to conduct a proper investigation concerning what happened.

Finally, as Kenyans, we must begin to appreciate those who give their lives for our safety. When we talk about KDF, we are not talking about any other armed force. We are talking about the safety and sovereignty of the Republic of Kenya. In America, when airlines are calling for boarding...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Allow him one more minute.

Hon. Dido Rasso (Saku, UDA): In America, when airlines are calling for boarding, they first call the veterans and those in uniform. This is how much they respect their soldiers. Therefore, I urge my Honourable colleagues to support this Motion so that it becomes etched in our laws. As a country, we should be known for respecting and honouring our armed forces.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Member for Vihiga County, Hon. Beatrice Adagala.

Hon. Adagala Beatrice (Vihiga County, ANC): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I also stand to support this Motion by Hon. Ruweida on the establishment of a priority boarding protocol for KDF and the special forces personnel on local airlines. Those brave men and women have dedicated their lives to protecting our country and its borders, and ensuring our safety as a nation. It is only fitting that we honour them by providing them with that privilege.

Since those officers work in various stations across the country, I hope and believe that the Government, through the concerned Ministry, will look into this. This will ensure that our Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) are given priority in boarding at the airports and buses. As a result, the officers will reach their designated work stations early enough and deliver their mandate effectively.

I would like to use this opportunity to send my condolences to the family and friends of the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and other officers who perished last week in the military helicopter crash. On behalf of my family and the people of Vihiga County, I send my condolences. It is very sad to us as a nation.

The men and women who serve in KDF should be given the necessary respect and priority in everything. This will ensure that they lead comfortable lives and ease their movements around. We have visited other jurisdictions in the world and seen how their service men and women are given priority in everything. Hon. Ruweida has brought this Motion at the right time. I support it and urge other Members to support those men and women who do great work for our nation.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The next chance goes to the Member for Samburu West, Hon. Lesuuda. She is not in the Chamber. Hon. David Ochieng', Member for Ugenya.

Hon. David Ochieng' (Ugenya, MDG): Thank you so much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I thank Hon. Ruweida for bringing this timely Motion.

It is a shame that this kind of a protocol is something that we have to discuss on the Floor of this House. This should be something that goes without saying. How we treat our armed forces and other people who serve the country is very important. Our military has been on the spotlight in the last few days. Throughout our processes in the country, starting with budget-making, we endeavour to ensure that our defence forces are very well taken care of. In my opinion, the important thing for us as a country is to live by what is set under Article 10 of the Constitution. This should be the beginning and the end of how we run the affairs of the country. The day we decide that we will run this country based on a shared set of values, principles, patriotism, integrity, taking care of each other and ensuring that all of us grow together to build the country, we will get it right. This is the best way to treat all our citizens.

It has been so disheartening this last one week as we mourned the CDF, who is a gentleman par excellence. He was a cool guy who could not do an offence. However, speculation is now rife about how his death occurred. For example, there is fatigue in the military. Many people are using military aircrafts or there was a helicopter that was supposed to have carried the CDF, but it did not. This is happening because we are slowly trending on a very dangerous path. We are almost politicising our military. One thing that we have done very well as a country is to keep our military off politics. I wish this remains so. I advise all politicians in this country, from the top all the way down, to keep the military out of politics. Let us endeavour to ensure that they remain as they have been: professional, with integrity and doing their job the way they do. The whole world respects our military. We cannot bring that image down. Doing what Hon. Ruweida is proposing here will be one of the ways of honouring our soldiers in the country.

The second way will be how we recruit military staff. In the last six years, we have had issues with their recruitment. This is an area that should be handled. We should always ensure that part of our public service is left to be run like the clock-work. It is the best we can do for the country. Kenya is not only a small country but also, it has probably the biggest military in this part of the world. If anything happens that undermines their integrity, preparedness and stature as a formation, it will be worse for this country. I request those who are concerned to take action. I believe that this should just go without saying. As we often see when we travel, the people who work for airlines ask for your name when you get to the airport. For example, I say my name is Hon. David Ochieng', Member for Ugenya. They then ask for your identification card. If you do not have it, issues will arise. At that point, you tell them you have a copy in your phone. Everyone has now embraced technology. However, the airline staff will still refuse to accept the digital copy. This is largely because of the loss of values and things that bind us and which we share. I repeat that, if this country can live under what we agreed to do under Article 10 of the Constitution, then we can go very far. I request the concerned parties, that is, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), and the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) to ensure that people understand and know what is set out under Article 10 of the Constitution and let Kenyans live by it.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I support the Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Beatrice Elachi, Member for Dagoretti North.

Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to appreciate and thank Hon. Ruweida for bringing this Motion. We need it to ensure that we bring back sanity to our country on how we respect those who render their services to us.

Even as we continue eulogising our CDF and all the other military leaders who have led us in different countries, especially those who have fallen in Somalia, we need to respect them. Let us imagine what their wives and children go through. The request here is to see how the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Public Works and airlines can establish priority boarding protocols for the KDF and Kenya Special Forces. However, we need to look beyond that. After

a father has passed on while fighting for our country and flying that flag, what else can you give his child? How can we ensure, in this House, that those families continue getting support from Government, so that their children can finish school and move on?

Even as I support this Motion this morning, I emphasise that there is need to support the families of our military. In the United States of America (USA), there is nobody who is as special as a person who has defended their country. When the American troops come back home, they find that their families are protected. They are also always remembered. There is even a holiday, in the month of May, where they are celebrated in thanksgiving. The country comes together to remember their heroes. However, after we have buried our CDF, that is the end of it. We do not remember anyone. We do not even remember the family. Nobody will remember Ms. Aileen Ogolla. Maybe the only people who will remember her are the ladies and families within the military who were with her when she got married. It is time we changed our attitude and respected every leader, be it the former President or whoever. Let us respect and honour them. It is even worse when a soldier has fallen in the line of duty. That is when we must accord them due respect and remember their family.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gladys Boss) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng') took the Chair]

I eulogized the late Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Gen. Ogolla, yesterday. For some of us who had the opportunity to see both his sides, as the CDF and as a normal person, how I wish we could understand what happened on that day. It has never happened in our country. We are taking it for granted and yet, nobody even remembered that some soldiers perished in a similar manner in the northern part of Nigeria two years ago. They experienced a similar tragedy where they lost all their soldiers. It happened in the same month two years ago. It has now happened to us.

As I support this Motion, I hope that we will set priorities and come up with a policy. If the best people in the army are retired, we should ask them to come and support us. We do not need to retire them, but we should instead bring them back to use their expertise and give them some duties. They will support us. They are the best engineers. We are currently struggling with floods. I ask my Governor to go and look for the retired military generals and engineers to come and support us in Nairobi. You will see things changing. While we do all that, let us remember their children in school. Also, let us set priorities.

We must learn from this tragedy going forward. One of the victims was a young man who was 29 years old. Can you imagine what state his wife and children are in? They need something to support them. As I continue praying for the General's soul and the souls of the others, let us support their families.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion. I hope that we will clear the banditry menace in Pokot. That is what they deserve.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Member for Kwanza.

Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi (Kwanza, FORD-K): Hon. Temporary Speaker, *ahsante sana*. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. First and foremost, I take this opportunity to send my heartfelt condolences and those of my family and the people of Kwanza and Trans-Nzoia County to the family of the fallen hero. Gen. Francis Ogolla is a hero to me. He will go down in history as one of this country's heroes. I saw the funeral clips, and even looking at the way he was buried, he was truly a hero because he died on his way to protect or, at least, oversee what was happening in that volatile area. The risks he took were evident, and he passed away. I take this opportunity to say *pole* on behalf of my people.

This Motion is very appropriate because members of the armed forces risk their lives to protect innocent Kenyans. It is only fair that we encourage other Kenyans to get into the armed forces and protect us in future and for prosperity. Therefore, this Motion is quite appropriate so that when one is serving or has served in the armed forces, they are accorded the necessary respect as the Mover of this Motion has suggested. We will treat them as exceptional.

I have travelled around the world and in many airports, there is a very important person (VIP) section. During the boarding of the flight, the announcer always gives priority to VIPs. That does not happen in Kiswahili-speaking countries. We do not do that in Kenya, Tanzania or other places. I have seen that in English and French-speaking countries. I also saw that in South Korea. They recognise the armed forces, particularly those who have retired and those who are currently serving. They are given first priority even in terms of sitting. You will find them sitting in very comfortable seats in the plane. We should do that because we lead by example. If we have seen this happening elsewhere, what stops us from doing the same here?

However, Kenyans are funny. Some people take advantage of such privileges even where they are not supposed to. Some may take advantage and pretend to be a brother to a lieutenant colonel to get a better seat. We should not allow that. However, let us give those men and women in our society special recognition so that others will also be encouraged to join the armed forces. That is all we need to do. We have seen the risks they face. Gen. Ogolla and other fallen heroes died because of doing their work.

I also suggest that they should be given some special awards at their retirement so that others can be encouraged to work hard for our country. I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Member for Tinderet.

Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support this Motion by Hon. Obo, Member for Lamu. This is a timely Motion noting that we have recently had a spate of accidents involving our military aircrafts. The Motion before us seeks to motivate and recognise our military personnel who play a key role in securing this country on land, sea and air.

Our military is internationally renowned for securing peace in various parts of the world, including Namibia and Bosnia. Giving them precedence or priority during boarding of flights is not asking for too much. Recognising them and noting that they are men and women who have served with dignity is quite in order. The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Civil Works, through the Civil Aviation Department, should quickly come up with a policy to recognise and motivate our veterans.

I remember Gen. Opande who served on a peacekeeping mission in West Africa. His reputation made Kenya to be highly regarded in that particular region when he served as a peacekeeping leader in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region. Our uniformed officers have served in Namibia and many parts of the world, and they have done very well. So, this particular Motion needs to be moved with speed so that we have a policy framework that is going to assist us in making sure that we recognise, respect, and give them priority.

Secondly, our men in uniform need to serve with modern equipment. I want to implore this House. We are at the Budget making cycle and this is the time we need to have modern aircrafts and equipment that matches the status of this country. We lead in the region in that particular aspect. When the nine gallant soldiers passed away through a tragic aircraft accident, it was noted that the aircraft was about 60 years old. That is in itself embarrassing to our country. It is upon this House to allocate resources. We can even have lesser equipment, but very effective and safe. Instead of having a very old fleet where you scavenge on old aircrafts... Those are very dangerous flying machines. I remember in the last national exams, one of the rotors flew off and killed one of the examiners in North Eastern. That is indicative

that the kind of aircraft that we have is very old. It needs proper servicing. For those that are very old, they need to be retired just like what other nations are doing. You retire them and get modern equipment.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, you need to also note that it is very important to honour those officers when they are alive and in service.

(Applause)

Treat them with dignity and respect before even giving them a very good send off. When they are alive and old, we need to come up with a way of respecting them as veterans just like the USA and other western countries do.

I support the Motion. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng): The Hon. Member is called Hon. Ruweida Obo. She is the Member for Lamu East.

Member for Likoni.

Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I stand to support this Motion, by Hon. Ruweida to establish a priority boarding protocol for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and the Special Forces.

First, let me send my sincere condolences to the families of our Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) the late General Ogolla and the other gallant soldiers who perished recently. May their souls rest in eternal peace. Our KDF personnel are very important people. While performing their duties most of the time, they do it in very risky areas. If Members of Parliament, Cabinet Secretaries and other personnel from the public sector can get some priorities, especially in certain areas like the airport, railway, banking halls and bus stations, why not our gallant soldiers? Those are people that need to be recognised, motivated and honoured.

Apart from giving them priority in certain areas, we need to ask ourselves: What is the risk allowance given to our gallant soldiers, especially when they go for operation in risky areas? I was shocked one time when I was consulting some personnel from the KDF. They said some get Ksh600 and others Ksh1,000 as risk allowance. That is very little compared to the work that they do and the risky ventures they expose themselves to. Of importance, our soldiers and Special Forces are not only performing security and peace keeping missions, but they also go an extra mile, for instance, during conflicts and acute crisis. I witnessed that during the Kaya Bombo clashes in Coast region and the Molo clashes. They intervene and go an extra mile to ensure there is peace. They ensure that those people who are affected get food, medicine and so many other necessities.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, from what Hon. Ruweida has just said, our KDF personnel perform special programmes and projects in Lamu, Pokot and North Eastern. They have done so many social programmes like the intervention in schools and health services. It is high time we put in place a framework in terms of legislation. Do we formulate some policies or we keep some regulation just to ensure that the welfare of our soldiers is taken care of?

I am looking at those who go for peace keeping missions, for instance, those who went to Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I have a good example. I am married to a KDF man and he was among those who were attacked during Kulbiyow attack. He lost three of his fingers on the right hand and to date, he has not been paid. We have been following that matter. It is almost four years and yet, he has not been paid. More so, many other gallant soldiers who lost their lives, their families have been going up and down looking for their dues, but they do not have it to date.

It is high time we gave them priority in areas of protocol, but we also need to research and know about their welfare. Those men and women work day and night in remote and risky areas. How is their welfare being taken care of? I am looking at those who perished recently

with CDF Ogolla. I do not know what is going to happen. I know something is going to happen from the Government, but after how long? What is the time frame that the family is going to wait for the payment? What is the timeline for them getting their dues? That is another area which we need to know. If we do not legislate or rather put some policies in place, then it will remain the way it is being done lately.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this Motion has come at the right time because we are still mourning.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng): Member for Sirisia.

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for giving me a chance to also contribute on this. I want to thank the Member for Lamu East for coming up with this Motion.

First, I send my condolences and that of my family to the family of CDF General Ogolla and the other nine who perished in the helicopter crash. Many Kenyans do not know the importance of our military. They see them and think they are like the police or any other uniformed officers. As one of those who worked in the military, I know those officers need to be respected. They look after this country. They also keep peace in other countries. I was in Namibia at one time. They leave their families and go to work wherever they have been given orders to go and work. They need to be recognised and respected because of the hard work that they do.

We are peaceful in this country because of the military. Our country has peace. There is no war. That is why we are enjoying everything. The military officers are always training every day. As we speak, they go to train from 900 a.m., even when they are in camps. They are training to wait for anything that may attack our country. They are always ready to make sure that peace is maintained in our country.

The day we saw General Ogolla and other nine officers perish in a helicopter crash was sad. We are still mourning. This country needs the military officers. I worked with the Member who has brought this Motion. Ladies had a difficult time during her time in the military. They were not allowed to get married, unlike today when they can be married while on duty. Ladies in the military went through other challenges that time. As human beings, sometimes, they have desire of wanting to meet a man. However, they could not be allowed. Hon. Members in this House do not know how difficult it was during that time. *Mheshimiwa* here should have said how difficult it was for ladies in the military during her time so that other female Members can know and realise that she went through a very hard time.

With those few remarks, I support this Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): I do not know what you have not said that makes only you know what you are laughing at. The Member for Gilgil.

Hon. Martha Wangari (Gilgil, UDA): I join my colleagues in eulogising the loss that we had. The last one week has been a dark one since we lost our Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and nine other officers. I was honoured to work with General Ogolla as the CDF in the Departmental Committee on Defence during the 12th and 13th Parliaments. It is quite sad how we lost him. I was honoured to go to Ng'iya village for the final farewell of the General, hosted by Hon. Samuel Atandi. Right from the drive from the airport, you could tell how not only the family, but also the community at large felt such a loss. It is quite something because this is the first General we have lost in office. I join in asking that investigations be done so that this information can be relayed to the public. It is important for the country to move on. I echo what Hon. Rasso said earlier, that areas with the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) are safe. In Gilgil where I come from, we host two of the oldest barracks.

When we had skirmishes in the Rift Valley in 2007, Gilgil was the safe haven that many people found because the presence of the army there ensured that there was no fighting and skirmishes. That is why many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were settled in Gilgil. They

were settled in Pipeline, Wendani, Ebenezer, Miti Mingi, Kikohey and Mbaruk because of the peace that prevailed there at that time.

I congratulate Hon. Ruweida Obo for bringing this very important Motion here. It is simple; that we give them their flowers when they are alive. It is okay to mourn them. What are we doing to the ones who are here? Some of the things that Hon. Ruweida has proposed are not capital intensive. They do not need so much money nor a budgetary allocation. They just need goodwill. As has been said, you will get to see special discounts in shopping malls of other countries for soldiers and veterans who served in the military. This is not hard to do. It is something we should make a declaration on and implement.

From here, I hope that this Motion will be passed overwhelmingly. More importantly, the Committee on Implementation should take it up. This House assents to many Motions, but the implementation is slow. The recommendations are not followed up and done. I hope that the Committee on Implementation will pick it up. It should also ensure that our military officers get priority services in places like banking halls, airports, the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and other areas. We can accord our military men some of those benefits to honour them while they are still alive.

I join the Speaker of this House who gave a directive and a comment yesterday after making his Communication. Many other Members spoke. We must look at the fights and the banditry that is going on in the North and in Kerio Valley because General Ogolla was a celebrated fighter jet pilot. He has fought many wars outside this country, only to die in a helicopter within the borders of our country. He was in the Kerio Valley because we are not able to maintain peace. We have the national and military intelligence. Somehow, we have contained the headless and faceless *Al-Shabaab*. However, we have not been able to deal with bandits.

As the Speaker and some of us have said yesterday, it is time the leadership in those areas and affected counties like Turkana, Samburu, West Pokot, Baringo and Laikipia take action to ensure that we wipe out banditry so that we give our children a chance to go to school. We should give area residents, especially the women and children, time to have their families together. The people who suffer most are women and children. That way, we will be honouring the General more. He was there to ensure that these children go to school. Many people were asking why the General was out there looking for schools. If you knew General Ogolla, he was a hands-on leader. He wanted to know exactly what the soldiers are doing in the field and how they are implementing what has been decided - reconstruction of schools, redoing roads and other related things. That is how he met his death. He was doing what he really wanted of his soldiers.

I eulogise and join the country in mourning those fallen soldiers. I also support Hon. Ruweida's Motion. After passing it here, it should be implemented as early as yesterday. Congratulations, Hon. Ruweida Obo, for bringing this Motion to this Floor.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Thank you. Member for Alego Usonga.

Hon. Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga, ODM): Thank you. I rise to support the Motion by Hon. Ruweida. The role of the military in public affairs has expanded a great deal in the recent past. Today, the military is involved in many of our public affairs and the management of public institutions. Some institutions were collapsing. The military had to be inducted to help in reviving those institutions. An example is the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC).

When I was growing up, it was possible to join the military and retire without going to war. Some of the challenges we are facing today such as local terrorism were not there. Today, the military is doing much more than in the past. You can see that the military is involved in addressing homeland security. That was not there before. We recently did renovations in this

Parliament. I was told that the military did them. Even the renovations in State House were done by the military. The military today is part and parcel of our lives. When we look at them, we should not see the ordinary military whose work was to go to war and peacekeeping. We even have better engineers and doctors in the military. As a country, we need to look at the military as that department of Government that can do much more. There is a need for the country to take care of the military more than has happened before.

Right now, we have a doctors' strike. If we had invested more money in training military doctors, they could come in handy especially when there is a strike and disagreements. The military by their training is more disciplined. They are more likely to serve Kenyans than other public institutions. Yesterday, I spoke about what ails the military – corruption. This is a fact. If you look at the way military officers are hired today, it is political and yet, it is supposed to remain apolitical. It is supposed to be an institution that does not serve any political interests. When it comes to hiring, politicians like us run around with recruitment forms, picking people all over and sending them there. We are spoiling a very serious institution that is supposed to serve Kenyans without any political bias. We should not tire to talk about some of these things because we need to ensure that the military remains a serious institution.

If you look at countries like Zimbabwe, they respect the military and veterans. I remain a very strong fan of the former President of Zimbabwe, the late Robert Mugabe, who decided that military veterans had to own land. He took land from British settlers and gave it to war veterans in Zimbabwe. As a country, we are not taking care of our military and veterans. We need to do much more than what has been proposed by Hon. Ruweida. We need to find ways in which we can take care of our veterans. We are here and the safety we are enjoying is because there are some people that are thinking about our security. If you look at the kind of things that are happening in Lamu and the *Al Shabaab* menace, the people taking care of us are the military. Our safety is in those people's hands. As a Government, we need to do much more and take care of their families.

Lastly, the recent accident that claimed the life of the Chief of the Defence Forces and many other officers was very unfortunate. We must say that it was very unfortunate. The incident needs to be investigated so that we are given the reasons why it happened. If that is not done, the incident is likely to taint the image of our military. Our military has been respected in the region. If the CDF can be killed in that manner and thorough investigations are not done to know the reasons why it happened, then we are going to start tainting the image of our respected military. I urge the Government to ensure proper investigations are done and we are given reasons why that incident happened.

I also send my condolences to the family of Sergeant Clifford. Two officers from my constituency passed away in that tragedy. One of them is the CDF, whom we have already buried. We are going to bury the next one on Friday, 26th April 2024. That is Sergeant Clifford Omondi. I pass my condolences to his family.

Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Thank you, Member for Malava.

Hon. Malulu Injendi (Malava, ANC): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to also support this Motion by *Mheshimiwa* Ruweida. This Motion is timely considering what is happening in the country, following the passing on of our General. These are special persons in the country. On recruitment, they volunteer their lives to defend the country. When you compare those persons to, say, teachers, doctors and even myself, we do not readily offer our lives to die for the country as they do. Kenyans should know who the military are and treat them with a lot of respect and honour. Hon. Ruweida is proposing that when it comes to travelling, they are given preferential treatment unlike most of us who have not offered our lives to die for the country. However, as much as we have this proposal, maybe, this is a moment for Kenyans to reflect on the lives of the personnel who serve our country and

volunteer their lives. They know that if they serve to the end, to the age of 62 or 50, well and good. Otherwise, they are ready to die.

When I look at the military personnel who may have time to travel by air, it could be a very small percentage. Most travel by roads in lorries. I would urge the new CDF to consider them. When I come to Nairobi from the western part of Kenya, for instance, I usually see military personnel in lorries travelling to whatever areas they are posted to. I keep wondering because I know that our Defence Forces have buses. Why do they not travel in comfort in buses? This is something we need to focus on.

I have also lost quite a number of officers at the lowest level in the Forces. After they die, their children and wives remain in poverty and suffer throughout. It is something that the Forces can consider. These are persons who sign at entry into the Forces that they will serve and defend the country. When they pass on in the course of their duty, the Forces can consider taking care of their families.

The former army officer, Hon. Waluke cited a situation where female officers in the Forces were not having time to even make love because of the kind of rules that were there. This is still happening in the Forces, but at a different level. The way the officers are living in the camps is a challenge for them to make love. They stay in groups. They stay in what we may call dormitories. They live in tents. Therefore, they do not have time to meet with their spouses and children. Those are persons that the country should treat with a lot of favour and honour because they have offered and sacrificed their lives to serve the country.

As much as we want to give them priority in flight boarding, maybe, it is a moment for us to look at their salaries. When teachers have a problem with their salaries, they can go to the streets. Doctors are currently on the streets. They make their welfare known to the country and everyone empathises with them. However, those are people who never go to the streets or complain loudly anywhere. Sometimes, their lives are pathetic.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Member Turkana West, Hon. Epuyo Nanok.

Hon. Daniel Nanok (Turkana West, UDA): Ahsante sana, Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili nami niweze kuchangia Hoja hii.

Kwanza, ningependa kutoa rambirambi zangu kwa jamii ya Jenerali Ogolla pamoja na maafisa waliofariki katika ajali ya ndege iliyotokea kwenye Kaunti za Elgeyo Marakwet na West Pokot. Imekuwa huzuni kubwa nchini kwa sababu mmoja wa waliofariki alikuwa kiongozi mkuu wa Jeshi letu la Kenya. Na mambo kama hayo yanapotokea, yanatukumbusha mambo mengi kuhusiana na wanajeshi wetu. Ndiyo maana tunaweza kuongelea mambo ya askari wetu na namna wanavyoshughulikiwa katika nyanja tofauti humu nchini na kule nje.

Nikikumbuka tu kwa ufupi maisha ya Jenerali Ogolla, niliwahi kukutana naye mara mbili hapo awali nikiwa Mbunge, na yeye akiwa Naibu wa Jenerali wa Kibochi wakati huo. Alikuwa mwenye heshima na ukakamavu kazini. Alifahamu vyema kazi yake. Alinikalia mwenye kupenda kazi yake na maadili yake. Kwa hivyo, nchi hii imempoteza Jenerali ambaye angeitumikia kwa kujitolea kabisa.

Kenya na jeshi lake la KDF liko na umaarufu duniani kote kwa kazi wanayoifanya iwapo kuweka amani katika nchi ambazo zimekumbwa na misukosuko kama South Sudan, Kosovo, Namibia au mahali popote ambapo wamepelekwa au kukubaliwa kuhudumu kama *Peacekeeping Force*. Na kwa sababu hiyo, wanastahili heshima zetu kama nchini ya Kenya. Wanastahili pia kupewa motisha tofauti tofauti. Na ndiposa, naungana na Mhe. wa Lamu Mashariki kwamba sio jambo kubwa sana kwa wanajeshi kupewa nafasi ya mbele wanapoenda kupanda ndege ama wanaposafiri katika ndege zetu hapa nchini wakielekea nje.

Hiyo heshima ni jambo ndogo bali ni motisha kwa wanajeshi wetu. Ni utambulizi wetu kwao kwamba pia nao ni watu wa maana katika nchi yetu. Naunga mkono Hoja hii.

Kwa kumalizia, jeshi liko na sifa isiyofaa kuondolewa kwa wananchi wetu. Kwa mfano, wanapopeana nafasi za kazi nao pia wadumishe heshima yao. Tunawasihi wawe na usawa kwa kuajiri haswa kwa wale wanaotoka Kaskazini mwa Bonde La Ufa. Watu wetu wanapenda hiyo kazi na pia wako na ujasiri.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Vyema, na ahsante. Sasa twende Samburu West.

Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion that was tabled by Hon. Ruweida.

I believe it is timely and important for us to acknowledge and appreciate the work that our military officers do to ensure we enjoy safety as a country. They have done a lot of work by putting their lives in danger and ahead of all of us as a country. What Hon. Ruweida is asking for, if you were to ask me, is just the bare minimum in ensuring that we recognise them and appreciate their work. It makes them feel appreciated and have some level of prestige.

I also take this opportunity to pass my sincere condolences to the family of the late General Ogolla whom we lost as a country. It was not any ordinary death but one of a committed General who passed on while on active duty in the North Rift, together with all the other military officers. I wish quick recovery to the survivors.

Once the military is tainted in any single way, even for us as a country, it raises a lot of doubts. We know that a CDF is not just any ordinary officer to lose in the circumstances that we did, and with the kind of speculations that are there - that we have lost many officers in the same manner - it is not possible that, as a country, we can have military officers travelling in outdated military aircrafts. If it is so, then, it is not a way to honour them. And as Hon. Ruweida has stated, military officers do a great job to ensure our safety. We must, therefore, accord them the same respect as a people, and as a country. The investigations into the deaths of those officers are very important so that any speculations in the public domain can be put to rest.

The fact that we have lost a whole CDF in the North Rift while going to inspect schools as a result of insecurity in the area, it is time we said enough is enough. We should put concerted effort as leaders, multi-agencies and security officers to ensure that we have peace and security in those regions so that the military can focus on securing our borders, securing our country and not reduce them to doing work which our police officers can do. The military should do the work that is designated for them. If we had peace in the North Rift, probably, General Ogolla would have been with us today. He would have been doing other duties that are his responsibility. We respect the work that they do to safeguard us. But I want to say that the multi-agency teams that are deployed in North Rift should each do their duties. Initially, when KDF was sent anywhere, civilians could see their uniforms, and respect it. We knew the Army was in the area. Civilians used to respect them, and nobody would go about harassing and killing the people while a KDF camp is next to civilians. We have to see how to raise the bar for our KDF and military officers so that they can feel motivated and regain their glory and respect among the civilians.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Next is the Member for Sigowet/Soin.

Hon. Justice Kemei (Sigowet/Soin, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this important Motion. At the outset, I give my full support to this Motion that has been brought to the House by Hon. Ruweida. This Motion comes at a time when this country is in deep mourning following the loss of Gen. Ogolla and the other soldiers who were with him in the helicopter crash in the North Rift region. I take this opportunity to condole with the families of Gen. Ogolla and all the other soldiers that we lost in the crash and to appreciate the work and sacrifice they have given to this country. I assure their families that Kenya is with them during this very sad moment.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, we must appreciate the services that are provided by the defence forces to our country. As much as this Motion speaks of boarding in airlines, we must extend the respect that we give to our soldiers to all the other public services. Recently, I was in the United States of America and before the first-class passengers are allowed to board, the first opportunity is given to members of the defence forces and their families. That is the kind of respect they are given. I have also travelled to the United Kingdom and Poland and the same respect is accorded to soldiers. We need to go beyond what we legislate to give utmost respect to our soldiers whenever we meet them in their official attire and their private capacities so that they know that their sacrifice to this nation is not in vain.

Secondly, the armed forces in our country have certain specialised skills in matters engineering, technology and all fields that support human endeavour and advancement. We must allow them to provide us with services in hospitals and other institutions where critical services are being provided.

Finally, as we honour Gen. Ogolla, we need to ask for proper investigations so that there is no room left for speculation following the helicopter crash.

I support. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Next is the Member for Karachuonyo.

Hon. Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Let me begin by thanking and congratulating the Member of Parliament for Lamu East for bringing this Motion. It is a noble Motion that concerns one of the most important people in this nation and his team, which is continuing with the work that they did together. I send my condolences to the family of the late General. It is unfortunate and untimely that we are condoling with the family of a person who ought to have been with us today. I send my condolences to the family, relatives, friends and Kenya at large. Based on the eulogies I have heard, the General played an important role and he has left a gap that may be difficult to fill. We gave respect during the sendoff of the late, but I am not quite satisfied because I saw something that was surprising. Kenyans are used to giving chances to the relatives of the late to also say something during the send-off of their departed ones. I may not be conversant with the military protocol regarding the send-off of a top military general. Despite the protocol they followed, I feel that they ought to have recognised the person who gave birth to the General. We were told that his father is still alive and is currently 100 years old. That alone is a gift to the family. I thought that Kenyans ought to have known that the man who is 100 years old is the father of the person we were celebrating on the burial day. This was a conspicuous absence which left us completely surprised.

Having said that, there is a lot of speculation, but I do not blame anyone because the General was not just one of the soldiers. He was the top man in KDF. He was a very important person in the process. His sudden departure leaves a lot of concern and it is my feeling that a thorough and proper investigation must be done. This will give Kenyans closure that his end was not caused by anyone, but given by the creator. We are often told that accidents never occur but are caused. Was this one caused? That is what we want investigated. I can see my time is up.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Hon. Member, you did not say anything about the Motion. We will now have the Member for Shinyalu.

Hon. Fred Ikana (Shinyalu, ANC): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to support the Motion that has been brought to this House by the Member for Lamu East, Hon. Ruweida. We all understand that our men and women in uniform are working day and night to ensure that they not only safeguard our territorial boundaries, but also

our property and lives. I, therefore, fully support the Motion that it is high time we looked into various ways and measures to appreciate the sacrifices that are made by those people.

I also take this opportunity to condole with the families of all our fallen heroes starting with Gen. Ogolla and all the officers who perished alongside him in the air crash, including my county mate, Captain Litali. As a country, it is high time we looked at how best we can support those families. Even though it is very difficult to fill the void that has been left by their loved ones, let us ensure that we ameliorate their situation. We can do this by making life bearable for those who have been left behind by those wonderful people who safeguard our country.

I propose that we consider making 18th April a special day in this country so as to honour all our living and departed veterans who sacrificed their lives to serve this country and those who have died in the course of their duty. We all know that General Ogolla was the first serving CDF to die in office and on the line of duty. What an honour it shall be if we dedicated at least one day in our calendar - 18th April - to celebrate and honour him together with all the other veterans.

I also urge that we review the travel protocols of all our very important persons (VVIPs) like His Excellency the President, the Deputy President, Cabinet Secretaries and our Hon. Speaker. Safety is always paramount when the wonderful people who serve our country selflessly are traveling around the country and across the globe.

With those remarks, I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Member for Buuri Constituency.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. First, I want to express my sincere condolences on behalf of the great people of Buuri. You know very well that the late General Ogolla was our in-law. I also pass our condolences to the family of the other nine fallen soldiers who went to be with their maker while on duty.

The Motion in the House is on local travel protocols. This is one of the privileges that our KDF need so as to restore their dignity. Those people sacrifice their lives to defend our territories and install peace across our borders. They are called upon in the international arena to ensure that there is peace and tranquillity in the world. I am so proud of our KDF.

We should not only be talking about their local travel protocols. I urge that we must have a policy where our soldiers, whether retired, veterans or serving, while on private travel, they should enjoy some travel discounts. There are lounges in airports across the world which should be made accessible to them. They are great people. They also need to access first class facilities available in all the hospitals in this country.

The fallen soldiers have left behind families. As a country, it is high time we started thinking of creating a special fund to cater for families of fallen soldiers. I know in some counties, retired veterans have gathered together and formed associations. We should encourage the Government to partner with them so as to create special recreational facilities in almost every constituency in this country. This is because every constituency has so many serving and veteran soldiers. Such facilities will be places where people feel at home. Our veterans can be meeting there after retirement to enjoy together as a group of people who sacrificed for this nation.

We need to address the issue of special insurance coverage for our KDF. Those people are in the front line. They offer their lives and blood for this country. As such, we need to be a caring nation. General Ogolla was an avid golfer and I religiously played with him for many years. He was a humble and good man. He had married from my community. So, we need to insist that planes used by such VIPs should be fully serviced and maintained properly.

I agree that KDF officers need to be given special attention not only in terms of flight protocols, but in all other places. Those men and women serve us while we sleep.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Hon. Members, join me in welcoming in the Public Gallery, a group of students from various universities in Starehe Constituency. They have come to follow the proceedings of Parliament today. They are welcome this afternoon.

Thank you.

(Applause)

The next chance goes to the Member for Busia County.

Hon. Catherine Omany (Busia County, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

First of all, I want to mourn properly, so that I can come to terms, accept and finally move on. The General has left. He was buried but the truth has not been buried. We need a thorough investigation by trusted people.

I have been looking into the lifestyle of a soldier in Kenya. It is pigeonholed and they do not have a life. Everything about a soldier is grim news. It wounds me more to see how easily people can bury a General and forget immediately, and then come up with narratives that give us deeper scars.

True soldiers, especially those in Kenya, are exposed to toxins. I do not know how they protect themselves or what protective wear is provided to them. Most of the times, we see them in easy, simple fabrics. The uniform they wear is not protective enough. Some of them work in intense cold areas or hot areas causing them to be dehydrated until they collapse. This is not because they are weak, but they suffer from an electrolyte imbalance in their bodies or dehydration. What they are paid is not enough for anybody to carry out such duties. Their safety is of concern because they go through Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Most of the soldiers in the villages, including those who have retired, either look crazy or mad. Something is just amiss about them. This is because of what they faced day-in, day-out during their working days. When I look at a soldier’s payslip in comparison to what he does, they are oceans apart. We should improve their lifestyle, livelihood and where they stay. In Busia, I see some round, rusted shanty and hut-like houses that should not be occupied by any human being. Unfortunately, that is where our soldiers live. On what happened the other day to a whole General in that helicopter accident, I do not think anybody bothered to look into the mechanical issues and other issues. To me, it is still a myth. I need somebody to unfold it and put every detail in the open so that, as I mourn, I can finally accept.

Our soldiers are suffering, both at low and high-ranking levels. They need us to look into their status with more keenness as human beings.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Member for Marakwet West.

Hon. Timothy Kipchumba (Marakwet West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion on the establishment of a priority boarding protocol for KDF and Kenya Special Forces personnel on local airlines. I also wish to thank Hon. (Capt.) Ruweida for such a progressive Motion that she has brought before this House.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this is a perfect Motion in honour of the departed Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), General Ogolla. On behalf of the people of the Marakwet community, in whose land the CDF died, I wish to convey my deepest condolences. It is unfortunate that we lost the CDF in our land. I believe that the death of CDF Ogolla should serve as a pointer to the serious insecurity issues that we have in the Kerio Valley. Of course, we cannot solely

attribute his death to the insecurity issues, but he was on a mission to ensure that the valley is stable. That Valley of Kerio, which took away the life of General Ogolla, is land under a militia. I hope we shall sit down as a country and rethink on how we can stabilise the security situation along Kerio Valley. It is a challenge that we must sit down as a country to discuss broader ways to stabilise Kerio Valley, which is prone to insecurity and which is currently under a militia. I hope this Government will take proactive action to ensure that, that particular area is safe to prevent incidences that lead to loss of lives.

I rise to support the letter, intent and spirit of this Motion. I was brought up by a military father. Therefore, I know the challenges that the military personnel face in this country. Sometimes, they do not get the fair share of the cake in terms of their input to ensure our safety and that of our borders.

The loss of CDF Ogolla is a tragedy of monumental proportion. This is a man who has been eulogised as a distinguished military officer whose life inspired so many people, not only as a military officer, but also the way he lived. He was a gentleman. He is a gentleman and he shall remain a gentleman par excellence. His memoirs and name should be permanently inscribed in the annals of the history of this country. His name should be permanently inscribed in Kenya's hall of fame as an officer who served this country with honour, distinction and integrity.

In so far as the Motion is concerned, and in terms of order of precedence, it will not give us a solution. It should be acted upon. The way to do that is to pass a subsidiary law. I have seen the Order of Precedence Bill, which has been pending before this House since 2014. We need to reconstitute and resuscitate it so that Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) officers can be recognised in order of precedence. It is unfortunate that, sometimes in this House, we recognise people who do not deserve recognition. I believe if that Bill is brought back to this House, we will pass it and ensure that we give a befitting order to the KDF so that their place in this country is reserved.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Well said. Member for Luanda.

Hon. Dick Oyugi (Luanda, DAP-K): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also add my voice to this important discourse on the Motion on the establishment of a priority boarding protocol for KDF and Kenya Special Forces personnel on local airlines.

First and foremost, on my behalf and that of the people of Luanda, allow me to pass my condolences to the family of the late Gen. Ogolla and the nine other KDF officers who perished in that very unfortunate accident. The accident led to the loss of lives of great men and woman who served this country with great dedication and loyalty. It is unfortunate that, at a time like this, we can lose our dear ones and, more so, great men who are committed to work for this country – men and women who sacrifice so much, including risking their lives for the sake of our own peace. Together with the people of Luanda, I stand with the families of the fallen soldiers at this point in time.

Secondly, allow me to also thank Hon. Ruweida, who has come up with a Motion that will go a long way in recognising and appreciating our soldiers. It is a fact that the military and our soldiers play a great role in ensuring that our borders are safe, and there is peace and tranquillity in our country. This is a group of people who are rarely acknowledged despite the fact that they sacrifice most of their lives in risky environments. They work in very volatile situations and they, sometimes, lose their lives defending this nation.

Therefore, the idea of establishing a priority boarding protocol for those great people is very much welcome. I stand to support and say that, indeed, it is high time we acknowledged and accorded our gallant men and women an opportunity to be treated differently from the general public. I like the idea that we give them priority in local airports and banking halls. The

same should extend to our medical facilities and at any other place that those great men and women will go to seek for services.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, as you said, they need serious motivation. When we sleep in the comfort of our houses, more often than not, those men and women are out in the field protecting our borders. When we enjoy the privileges that come with the offices that some of us hold, those men and women are never recognised and acknowledged.

Therefore, this Motion is timely and, more so, at a time when this country is mourning the loss of its dear ones and the loss of a General who was admired as a great mentor who lived beyond what people expected because he was such a humble man. The Motion has come at a time when we need to acknowledge and reward those people.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, as we talk about the establishment of priority boarding protocol for KDF and Kenya Special Forces personnel on our local airlines, let us also look at the kind of equipment they use. It is unfortunate that, at this point in time, our soldiers continue using old and outdated military equipment. It is high time that this country looks at the welfare of our soldiers. I believe if we were using modern military equipment, maybe, we could not have lost our dear soldiers in the recent incident.

With those remarks, I support the Motion and congratulate Hon. Ruweida for coming up with this good idea in time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Member for Kisauni.

Hon. Rashid Bedzimba (Kisauni, ODM): Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia fursa niongeze sauti yangu katika Hoja hii.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Hon. Dawood, this was your chance but you keep on fidgeting and raising your hands. That is why I have not given you a chance to contribute. If you sit down and keep your cool, you will get your chance. It does not work like that.

Hon. Member, go ahead.

Hon. Rashid Bedzimba (Kisauni, ODM): Ahsante sana Mhe. Spika wa Muda. Kwanza, nampongeza Mjumbe wa Lamu Mashariki kwa kuleta Hoja hii. Anataka maafisa wa jeshi wapewe heshima zao. Ameleta Hoja hii kwa sababu ya mchakato unaoendelea katika eneo bunge lake. Pale ni karibu na msitu wa Boni. Anawaona wanajeshi wakihangaika na hawalali. Wakati wa mafuriko, wanaishi katika mashimo yaliyo na maji, wakishika doria kuhakikisha kwamba adui haingii kwetu. Kwa hivyo, kuwapatia heshima wanajeshi ni vyema zaidi. Ni watu wanaojitolea kukaa mbali na familia na watoto wao. Wanarudi baada ya mwezi mmoja au miwili. Kwa hivyo, ni vyema sana wapewe heshima zao.

Hoja hii inasema maafisa wa jeshi wakipanda ndege, wapatiwe kipaumbele. Ni kweli mataifa mengi sana nimeenda, hata Uturuki, wanapewa kipaumbele. Wakiwa ndani ya ndege ya abiria ama ndege ya aina yeyote, chochote cha usalama kikitokea, wanaingia kazini. Hawawezi kusema wako katika likizo. Kwa hivyo, ni vyema wapewe nafasi hiyo, ingawa si wanajeshi wote wanapanda ndege. Kuna wengine wanapanda matatu. Wengine wanatembea. Tutafute njia ya kuwaheshimu na sio tu wale wanaopanda ndege. Hata wale wanaotembea wapatiwe kipaumbele katika ofisi zote za Serikali zinazotoa huduma. Chochote kikitokea ni lazima kitangazwe na wanajeshi wote waambiwe warudi kambini saa hiyo na kuelezwa kilichojiri. Ikiwa ameenda Huduma Centre ama ofisi ya Serikali, apatiwe kipaumbele na familia yake na atoke mahali pale haraka.

Pia, sisi tunataka kuwapatia heshima na wao waendeleo kuwa na heshima. Tunawaheshimu wanajeshi wetu sana. Tangu tupate Uhuru mwaka wa 1963, kumetokea upuzi katika Serikali mara mbili. Hii ni wakati wa hayati Rais Kenyatta na wakati wa hayati Rais Moi, ambapo kulikuwa na mapinduzi madogo kwa muda mfupi tu ya walevi. Wanajeshi wengi sana wanaheshimu Wakenya. Tunawashukuru sana. Naomba Mhe. Ruweida, ambaye ameleta Hoja hii, asisahau vikosi vya usalama vya ndani. Angevijumuisha kwa sababu kule nje

tunalindwa. Hatuwezi kuwa na maendeleo kama hatuna ulinzi wa nje. Lakini, kuna vikosi vya ulinzi wa ndani ambavyo havilali. Nilifanya kazi katika kikosi cha General Service Unit (GSU) miaka tisa. Najua kazi ngumu wanayofanya. Wanaishi msituni mpaka wanafanana na nugu. Kuna wakati tulikuwa Chepchoina tukipambana na wezi wa mifugo. Kukatokea shida Mount Elgon kule juu na sisi tulikuwa katikati. Tulisikia kelele za wananchi kule juu. Ikabidi twende kule juu. Wale majambazi walikuwa wanarusha risasi kuja chini - risasi ambazo zilikuwa zinawaka moto. Lakini, tulienda kuokoa maisha. Kwa hivyo, hata vikosi vyetu vya usalama wa ndani vinapata shida sana. Ni vizuri waingizwe katika hiyo kombo wapatiwe heshima zao.

Naona muda wangu unaisha. Huduma za afya kwa askari ni muhimu sana. Askari wengi wakistaafu wanakuwa wagonjwa sana. Hawawezi kupata matibabu kwa sababu hawapati fedha za kutosha. Kwa vile walifanya kazi katika vikosi vya ulinzi wa usalama wa ndani na nje, hata kama wamestaafu, wapatiwe huduma ya afya kwa sababu wengi wao huwa ni wagonjwa. Nimepiga *attention* miaka tisa mpaka nasikia kiuno kina taabu, lakini inabidi nijitibu mwenyewe. Serikali inafaa kuchukua jukumu hili. Hawa watu wana familia. Watu wengi katika familia zao wanarandaranda na hawasomi maafisa wa polisi wanapostaafu. Tuwasaidieni.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Vyema. Member for North Imenti.

Hon. Dawood Rahim (North Imenti, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I raised my hand because you counted the Members and you told me that you were following the list. I raised my hand because I wanted to speak according to the list. This is not the first time you are doing this to me. I am a senior Member as well. I have to be respected as well. However, that is not the question today.

I join my colleagues in supporting the Motion. It is not just KDF personnel who should be given priority, but also all uniformed officers. I believe even the police officers who guard us at night when we are sleeping need to be respected.

As Hon. Bedzimba has said, even GSU officers who fight the bandits are officers who need to be respected. We should not only give them priority in boarding aircrafts. Many of them cannot even afford to travel by air. We need to give them special passes to access medical care and get priority in lining up, even when there are Members of Parliament. When they go to a banking hall queue, if there is an emergency, who will protect the people? We need to establish those priority protocols. It is a pity that we lost Gen. Ogolla and his colleagues. The only thing people who were there thought of was to steal the items of the dead soldiers and those who were fighting for their lives. We need to get over this habit where people steal from people who are involved in accidents. It should prick the conscience of our people in this country. How far can we stoop low?

If there is an accident today on the Meru-Nanyuki Road or Meru-Nairobi Road, many people will rush there. We are not saying that we want to have accidents. Some of them will help, but some of them will help themselves with watches, wallets and personal belongings of the accident victims. We condole with Gen. Ogolla’s family because his wife comes from Meru County. We are sorry to her and the family. We also need to remember that there are nine other soldiers who died together with Gen. Ogolla. There was Capt. Sora Mohamed, who was buried the next day; Brigadier Swale Saidi, Col. Duncan Keitany and others. We need to remember all the soldiers who died on the line of duty as well as the ones who are dying. As we speak, we have a burial in Buuri Constituency of an army officer who was killed by bandits who were stealing our cows and goats in Meru County. We need to get to the bottom of this and see how we can do more for our uniformed officers because they deserve it.

I congratulate my sister, Captain Hon. Ruweida, for bringing this Motion because it is right. However, we need to add that all uniformed officers, not just the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), should be provided with ‘very important person’ (VIP) status wherever they go so that they can be served first.

I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Member for Isiolo South.

Hon. Bidu Mohamed (Isiolo South, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to air my views.

First, I want to take the earliest opportunity to send my condolences, and those of the great people of Isiolo South, to all the fallen soldiers. In fact, one of them came from my area. We always pray that God will rest their souls in eternal peace.

What is happening in Kenya is now becoming more or less monotonous. The death of distinguished persons due to plane crashes has happened before. This has to do with cattle rustling and clan rivalry. How long will we keep sending dignitaries to sort out some of those barbaric issues like cattle rustling and ethnic clashes? The end result is that lives are lost. We have lost enough people. I do not know how long we will have to wait before we deal with some of those barbaric cultures of clan rivalry and banditry.

I thank Hon. Captain Ruweida for moving this Motion. It is timely because the mood of the country is on the KDF due to the deaths of its personnel. It is high time we thought about giving them this priority boarding protocol. It is the least we can do. It rewards and motivates them, and ensures they are recognised wherever they go. We have done very little to motivate them. We have seen them in the battlefield in Somalia. We have heard how they lose their lives in many places trying to defend us. Giving them this small token of appreciation is proper.

I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Member for Kwale. Hon. Masito, this is your opportunity.

Hon. Fatuma Masito (Kwale County, ODM): Hoja iliyo mbele ya Bunge hili...

(Technical hitch)

Mhe. Spika wa Muda, nitaanza kwa kutoa pole zangu kwa familia za wale wanajeshi waliofariki hivi majuzi katika ule mkasa wa ndege. Haitakuwa vibaya kwa Serikali kuangalia na kuchunguza kwa kina...

(Technical hitch)

Pole kwa familia. Hoja hii inawaangalia ndugu zetu.

(Technical hitch)

Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili nitoe pole zangu kwa familia za wanajeshi wetu waliofariki hivi majuzi katika ule mkasa wa ndege. Nasema pole sana. Kama Waislamu, tunaamini kuwa kuna mauti na kila mtu aliyezaliwa lazima siku moja atafikiwa na mauti. Hakuna kitakachobaki katika dunia hii. Lakini mauti yakitokea kwa njia ya kutatanisha, si vibaya uchunguzi ukifanywa ili ijulikane kiini cha kifo kile.

Hoja hii iliyo mbele ya Bunge hili ni ya kuwasaidia ndugu zetu wanajeshi walio nje na ndani ya taifa hili, na kuwapongeza kwa kazi nzuri sana wanayoifanya. Lakini naona Serikali yetu bado haijawatambua. Wanajeshi wanafanya kazi ngumu ya kujitolea ambayo hata mimi na wewe tukipewa, nina uhakika tutaona ikiwa ngumu. Wanakaaa nje siku nyingi au masaa mengi mbali na familia zao. Ingekuwa kazi ngumu kwangu kukaa mbali na familia yangu ili kuhudumia taifa. Ningependa Serikali iwaangalie wanajeshi ili wapate heshima mahali popote wanapotembea na wapate makaazi mazuri. Waheshimike wanaposafiri na wanakoishi. Utapata hata sehemu zao za makaazi na malazi ni duni sana. Ingekuwa vyema ikiwa katika hali ya kuwaheshimu kwa kazi ngumu wanayofanya, wapewe *priority* kila mahali wanapoingia. Hawa

ni ndugu zetu, tunaishi nao, na tunajua kazi wanayoifanya ni ya kujitolea lakini mishahara yao ni duni sana.

Pindi wanapostaafu, mara nyingi maisha yao huwa duni kwa sababu ya yale mapato waliyokuwa wakipata walipokuwa wakihudumia taifa hili. Nimekutana na wanajeshi wengi sana ambao wanaishi maisha ya uchochole. Miaka imesonga na hawawezi kufanya kazi yoyote. Wengine wameshastaafu kutoka kwa jeshi lakini wanatafuta vibarua katika hoteli kule Pwani. Unapata bado wanatafuta vibarua kama *security officer* katika hoteli. Ni jambo la aibu. Tungependa wakistaafu waishi maisha mazuri na watoto wao. Watoto wao pia wapate elimu na maisha yaendeleo vizuri. Hakuna watu wengine watakaowatetea isipokua Bunge hili. Kwa hivyo, lazima tudumishe na tungeneze sheria maalum ya kuwalinda ndugu zetu wanajeshi.

Naiunga mkono Hoja hii iliyo mbele ya Bunge hii iliyoletwa na dadangu, Captain Mhe. Ruweida, Mbunge wa Lamu Mashariki.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Member for Kilifi North.

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion by Hon. Ruweida Obo.

Our armed forces deserve a lot of respect. They sacrifice a lot to ensure our country is safe within and without our borders. Therefore, we should give them just that one privilege when it comes to boarding flights. In other jurisdictions, you will hear women and children being given first priority, and then the armed forces and senior citizens. Let us give them that priority protocol and recognition so that they do not queue like any other person.

I would like it to even be expanded to other places like banks. A general should not queue when he comes for service because he has already sacrificed a lot. Those people are always in the firing line. We would like to accord them that, but more importantly, is to look at the welfare because this is part of the welfare of our armed forces. The greatest welfare is to accord capacity to use equipment that is safe, equipment that is solid, not equipment that will back-fire on them. For example, we have had very many accidents, especially air accidents involving equipment, machinery or aircrafts especially for the armed forces and the police. We have lost a significant number of officers. As a country, we must review that, so that our military are accorded equipment that can help them manage their trade better.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, as we take care of the military, we also need to take care of our State officials. I have looked at the presidential jet, and it has been there for more than 40 years. In the books, probably it is written-off but, because we are a country that we are, we still want our President to travel on the same presidential jet. That presidential jet is piloted by the Kenya Airforce. The people who work in that presidential jet are Kenya Airforce officers. Just like we want to buy equipment for those others, we also need to give the officers who man the presidential jet a jet that can assure them of their safety as they travel from one place to another carrying the President and his entourage. We must, as a country, budget for a new presidential jet so that we can retire this current one and have another one. This House has the responsibility of putting a budget line and the first budget so that...

(Hon. Ndindi Nyoro consulted loudly)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Hon. Ndindi, I want you to listen to Hon. Baya because he is speaking to you.

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, please, sit closer to me here so that you can hear what I am saying. I am saying that Hon. Ndindi Nyoro and your Budget and Appropriations Committee need to put a budget line in the current budget to start budgeting for a new presidential jet even if it is not Hon. William Ruto who will use it, but the next president of this country should be secured. His flight should be secured by having a new

presidential jet. This one that is being used is an old machine, an old equipment that must be retired and probably put in the museum so that the people who never knew about the late Hon. Daniel arap Moi, who never saw his reign, will credit him for buying that jet at that particular time. Even Hon. Ruku can go and see that jet because he was not there during the late President Daniel arap Moi's time. I want to emphasise that we have an obligation to provide the President and his entourage a safe equipment in the air as they travel to represent this country. That we must do with urgency and I think we can find the money to buy that new equipment, including the Deputy President's plane. I have travelled with him once and I know the quality of that aircraft. It needs to be replaced so that we can keep everybody safe. If we want to keep our armed forces safe, let us give the Head of State, who is the Commander-in-Chief, also a safe equipment to travel in within the country and outside the country.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Hon. Member for Mosop. Hon. Ruku, your chance will come definitely.

(Hon. Ruku stood up in his place)

Hon. Ruku, you are out of order totally. Resume your seat.

(Technical hitch)

Hon. Member for Mosop, come and use this microphone that is on.

Hon. Abraham Kirwa (Mosop, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Allow me first of all to send my sincere condolences to the families of the soldiers that we lost last week. I want to sincerely send my condolences to the family of Gen. Ogolla and the rest of the soldiers who were involved in the helicopter crash while they were in the line of duty. It is very unfortunate that we lost very valuable people in this nation just because of mechanical errors. The Deputy Leader of Majority Party mentioned the concerns he has over the plane that is used by His Excellency the President and his team, which makes me wonder if we are safe. The soldiers serve this country every single day. They go to risky areas and sacrifice their lives on behalf of the people of this country. We lost Major Sawe from my constituency. We come from the same village. He was a young man who has served in the Kenya Defence Forces for quite some time and he has helped many people. It is very unfortunate that we have lost such a talent at a very young age. I also want to send my condolences to his wife, his children and the people of Mosop. We have lost a very crucial individual who contributed a lot to the development of our constituency. We also mourn the rest of the soldiers who lost their lives in that particular crash.

I want to also support this Motion by Hon. Ruweida for two reasons. One, the soldiers sacrifice too much, but we do not really appreciate what they do. In most of the countries, when you travel, they give first priority to those who have served the country, those who are in service and those who have even retired - both active and retired. Before anybody else boards, either the first class, they allow the servicemen to board first. They do that because they want to appreciate what the soldiers have done or the services they have rendered to their nations. So, this particular Motion is urging the national Government, through the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Public Works, to encourage the local airlines to establish priority boarding protocol for the Kenya Defence Forces and also the Special Forces. I support the Motion because it is the least we can do. Every time we are asleep, most of those people do not sleep because they want to make sure that our nation is safe and most of the time, we truly do not think about them. When they come home, we want to celebrate them, but we do not just give it back. Most of them, once they retire, they live very horrible lives because the salary is low and they were not prepared. So, when they get sick, they have to result to many other things. I

want to support most of the Members who have suggested that we establish a health insurance programme for servicemen so that years after they have retired or have gone home, they will continue to access good medical service that is going to make a difference in their families and for them because they sacrificed a lot during their time in service. So, I support this Motion to give them priority boarding in all airlines so that they can feel they are appreciated and have done a great thing for this country. So, I support the Motion. I also pass my sincere condolences to the affected families.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Member for Nyeri.

Hon. Rahab Mukami (Nyeri County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I stand to give my condolences to the family General Ogolla and our soldiers. We in Nyeri County also lost one soldier, Major George Magundu.

I also want to support the Motion, considering the members of the forces face life threatening events as they carry out their duties in those areas. I urge the leaders to come together and see how we can have peace. You can see we have lost our soldiers and we have been losing children and women. It is also important to accord special privileges to soldiers as they are our brothers and sisters.

I also urge the leaders in this House to stop playing politics. People are saying that, maybe, there was something that led to what happened. We urge our leaders to allow the Government to do investigations. We need to consider the families of General Francis Ogollas and the other soldiers. We need to be sensitive. We have had chaos all along in Baringo and West Pokot. We have the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity and I urge the Chair and Members of the Committee to come together and visit the areas to know exactly what is happening.

Finally, I congratulate Hon. Ruweida. This is long overdue. Let us support our soldiers and our families. I am sure things will be fine.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Member for Migori County.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

First, I congratulate my sister for bringing this Motion to the Floor. We thank the Almighty God for the families that lost their beloved ones. He gave them strength. We ask Allah to give them more strength.

As much as I support the Motion, the plight of our soldiers is not just giving them the protocol that they deserve. They deserve respect. Respect starts from the highest to the smallest office. Without being referred to as politics or politicians, we owe Kenyans and General Francis Ogolla an apology in his death. We saw him being blamed on something only God knows whether he did or not. A dead person is given respect in the African community. I think it is very wrong for someone to come out and mention things about General Ogolla and yet, sit and wipe tears. It is a mockery to the dead and God.

I request the Government of Kenya to apologise to Kenyans and respect that the KDF does not do politics or eat, practise and dance with politicians. They are out there to protect our land and us. They deserve the highest order of dignity. On behalf of the Government of Kenya as the Woman Representative of Migori County, I apologise to Kenyans and the family of General Francis Ogolla. The Christians who worshiped with him said that he was a man of integrity and that he valued his job more than anything. You can see how much he valued his country in his lifestyle. It is absurd what people are saying. I request God to forgive us for mentioning him in the manner we did in his death. Allah, please, forgive us.

This is the first time we have lost such an important person of the defence team in the history of Kenya. Other than his immediate family, I am wondering what else the Government

thought about the emotions shed during General Ogolla's death. He worked with a certain family for 40 years. In particular, I saw a lady who wept with a lot of pain. I do not know how close she was to her boss. I am imagining how many of them were weeping inside and prayed wishes that their General lived. I am requesting the Government to offer emotional support to the defence team, especially those seen crying bitterly and sadly about the loss of the General. Let us support them emotionally. It is not right if we leave them that way. That is a very sensitive area, knowing that he had lived with them there for 40 years.

Hon. Ruku GK (Mbeere North, DP): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): What is out of order, Hon. Geoffrey Ruku?

Hon. Ruku GK (Mbeere North, DP): I think it is not appropriate for the Member to bring in a lady who was mourning and cast aspersions that the lady was extremely close to the General, in a manner that she would want to know. It is important to leave the family of the late Ogolla to mourn in peace.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): That will pass.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): I would like to repeat that because he has commented about it. It might go out the wrong way. Please, give me the honour to do so.

My dear brother, *Mheshimiwa*, I meant that was his staff. She was a junior officer. They had a relationship at work. The way the lady was weeping, she deserves to be supported emotionally. It is not only her. There were men in uniform who were weeping. They deserve emotional help. Please, do not bring petty issues to a major issue like this. Be sensitive enough and use the right words when I am using the right words. I am pissed off with that statement because I am a Muslim woman. I know how much we respect our fellow women. That is insensitive of you.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Member for Mbeere North, this is your chance to contribute to this Motion.

Hon. Ruku GK (Mbeere North, DP): Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

First, I congratulate Hon. Ruweida for bringing this Motion. It is very timely, when this nation is going through some challenges as far as the security of our nation is concerned. Motivation within the military service and the security sector is extremely important.

How do we achieve motivation in the military? One, former General Tonje came up with key rules that are still guiding the military to ensure the position of the CDF was rotational between periods of four years. We go to the Kenya Navy, the Kenya Air Force and after that, the Kenya Army. This is meant to increase motivation within the military service. This Motion also ensures that the military conducts its constitutional mandate to defend this nation from external and internal aggression in the most appropriate and effective manner. Therefore, it is important to support.

I was in the late General Ogolla's burial in Siaya. I attended the send-off. It was a very dark day not only for the people of Siaya, but also to all family members who lost their loved ones in that crash. They come from different parts of this country. It is important that we have improvement of military equipment. Not only the arsenals, but also the day-to-day equipment that they use, the aircraft and the vehicles. This House should be accountable on the budget that is allocated towards the improvement of equipment each year. It must be accounted for properly. This is not just for generals and servicemen who work in the military. It is also for the Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces. The aircraft the Commander-in-Chief uses must also be modernised. It is true that the Air Force 1 the President uses cannot transfer him from Kenya to New York or Europe. Indeed, it is not a very safe aircraft.

At this point, it is good to congratulate the late President Moi for ensuring military discipline. Kenya's military is one of the most disciplined forces not only in Africa, but also in the world. This is through the efforts of the late President Moi, other presidents who have served this nation, and the Generals who have also served the nation. It is not only in the military, but also in the Police Service. It requires ring-fencing their budgets to be used properly. We have quite a number of challenges as far as the Police Service of this nation is concerned. We need to move with speed as a House and ensure that those in charge of security, whether in the military or police service, are well-resourced, including those in the National Intelligence Service (NIS), to ensure the security of our nation is a priority. That is the only way we can grow our economy. That is the only way investors can come to this economy. Our economy will be predictable, and will be creating more jobs for the youth and future generations.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): This chance goes to the Member for Narok North.

Hon. Agnes Mantaine (Narok North, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion on the establishment of priority boarding protocol for KDF and KSF personnel. I support this Motion because it is very important to our soldiers. Those are people who do not sleep and are never with their families. They are always away from their families. We sympathise with our relatives who are soldiers. They have no time to develop or be with their families and take care of them. As Members of Parliament, we should look at this issue and take care of their welfare. After retirement, they are overused by the work that they do in their career. When they return home, they cannot do anything else. When they retire, they are not healthy because they have no insurance to go to the hospital. We should look at them as our brothers and appreciate the work that they do. We can appreciate the work they do by making sure that we look at their welfare. The conditions they live in are not very good. It is time we take a step to ensure they live the way the other Kenyans live. I thank the Member for Lamu East for bringing this Motion. It is an important one, and I support it.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Thank you. Member for Sotik. Hon. Elisha, you have to put your card in. You will not get a chance to speak if you do not have a card. You can be sure about that. Just go up there, and they will give you a temporary card.

Hon. Francis Sigei (Sotik, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to this very important Motion. From the onset, I join my colleagues in condoling with the families and the nation on the loss of our gallant soldiers in the helicopter crash. While I condole with the families and relatives of all the ten soldiers who passed on, I want to single out General Ogolla. I watched the funeral service from the beginning to the end. What came out is that he was one of the best soldiers in this country. On behalf of the people of Sotik, I request that as part of honouring General Ogolla, one of the streets in Nairobi be named after him, so that he can remain part of our history.

I had an opportunity to work closely with soldiers when I had a tour of duty in northern Kenya. I want to attest that they work in very difficult situations. You cannot understand what they go through out there. I have seen them, and I know what they go through. When the Member for Lamu East brings this very important Motion, I laud and thank her. The Motion is very timely. I also worked in West Africa, and I managed to visit those soldiers when they were on a mission in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The kind of honour they are given out there is unparalleled. In Liberia, for example, people talk about Kenyans not because of ambassadors, but because of the soldiers who worked there. They worked very well and served this country

very well. Others have worked in other places like Yugoslavia and Somalia, where they have gone through a lot of hell.

When we ask for travel privileges for those Kenyans who work very hard for this country, I do not think we are asking for too much. We are just asking that they be given those privileges. I want to ask the Member for Lamu East to consider benchmarking so that we know what happens in other countries. How are soldiers given privileges in other countries? When you travel, you realise that soldiers from other countries are given better privileges through airports. Our soldiers are not given the same privileges. I believe this Motion can be discussed more so that we can know what can be done. We want the best. We thank the Mover of this Motion, and we want her to go further and give us the best practices in the world so that Kenyan soldiers can be given the best. We also need to look at the lives of families that are left behind because they suffer. The Government needs to look at this issue so that the families can live better lives.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Member for Gem.

Hon. Elisha Odhiambo (Gem, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support the Motion by Hon. (Capt.) Ruweida Obo. She illuminates the importance of our military in securing the safety of this country and ensuring that our borders are safe. The role they play for the country is a sacrifice in itself. I agree with her that soldiers should be given preference regarding boarding protocol on local airlines.

Allow me to express my condolences on the passing of General Ogolla. I had a rare privilege on 7th October 2023 to share a meal with him and the President and Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya in his House in Alego, Siaya. Hon. Caroli was also part of the delegation that visited General Ogolla. The wife and the family, together with their relatives, welcomed us to the home of General Ogolla with a lot of hospitality. We had a good meal, and we shared a lot of jokes at that moment. So, my heart goes out to Gen. Ogolla, a man who had a great demeanour and a humble heart. As a community, we have lost a great son of the Luo land. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you.

Hon. Members, allow me to welcome the Africa Youth Leadership Forum officials to the Speaker’s Gallery. This is a forum consisting of Secretary-Generals of universities in the country, including – it is a long list – Brian Wekesa, St. Pauls University; Christopher Nyakundi Thomas, Kabarak University; Peter Wekesa, Africa Nazarene University; Levis Omuso, Machakos University; Wekesa Tibo Ramadhan, University of Embu; Muuri Mzalendo, Tharaka University; Arnold Nyanganya Omayo, Scott Christian University; Remmy Ouma, Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU); Kennedy Wangari, Strathmore University, Mwangi Peter Mbugua, Marist International University College; Carlos Abich, Mt.. Kenya University; Baraza Philip, Presbyterian University; Alex Njoroge, South Eastern Kenya University; Shisia Baraza, Kiriri Women's University of Science and Technology (KWUST); Gati Lavender, Kabarak University; Lamesh Asena, University of Nairobi; Sharon Musyoka, Technical University of Mombasa (TUM); Rodney Kipng’etich, KCA University; Timothy Gitonga, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT); Emanuel Yego, Machakos University; Kennedy Daudi Musyoki, St. Pauls University; Felix Maina Mchai, Pan African University (PAU); Ogise Brian, University of Nairobi; Mark Brian Mukundi, Africa International University; Lewis Protus, JKUAT and Michele Mwaura, Kenyatta University. They are accompanied by their secretariat members. I wish to welcome them to Parliament this afternoon and all our proceedings.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng): At this point, I will ask Hon. Osoro – and I am told he is an interlocutor - to say a word in one minute.

Hon. Silvanus Osoro (South Mugirango, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I want to welcome the student leaders – the secretary-generals from the 25 universities of our country. These students came for a mentorship programme that is organised by the Bunge Fellowship that meets every Wednesday from 6.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Last week, we had the Chairman of the mentorship programme. The Mentor then was Hon. Elachi. Today, the Bunge Fellowship in its wisdom felt that I should take the lead in terms of mentorship and be assisted by Hon. Kaguchia. I welcome them and wish them all the best as they continue pursuing their dreams. I want to tell them that, today, they may be seated at the Speaker's Gallery but, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, they will find themselves in the plenary by God's grace.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng): Hon. Oluoch, this Motion has run its course. I now call upon the Motion's Mover, Hon. Ruweida Obo, to reply.

(An hon. Member spoke off the record)

She is well advised. She is going to do what you need her to do.

Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I will donate one minute each to five Members. Hon. Antony Oluoch, the Member for Mathare. *Hayuko?* Okay. Let me go to the next one. Hon. Harrison Kombe, Member for Magarini. One minute.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): How many minutes are you giving, Hon. Ruweida? Call all the Members out so that we know them.

You have mentioned Hon. Antony Oluoch and Hon. Harrison Kombe. Who is the next Member?

(An hon. Member spoke off the record)

It is her chance to say what she is giving. It is not for you to say.

Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Hon. Antony Oluoch, Hon. Harrison Kombe, *Mheshimiwa* Shakeel Shabbir and Hon. Pauline, Member for Samburu County. I can add two more because *Mheshimiwa* Osoro has already spoken. The two gentlemen there. So, five Members, five minutes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Thank you. Hon. Oluoch.

Hon. Anthony Oluoch (Mathare, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Ruweida for giving me this one minute and bringing this Motion. I join the rest of Kenyans and my colleagues in condoling General Ogola as well as the other nine gallant soldiers who lost their lives. Apart from the Motion that we have put on the order of precedence in terms of protocol for boarding, I would like to suggest that this Motion must not remain as a Motion. This Motion must look at other regulations, including the order of precedence and the circumstances in which the propositions and ideas that are brought here can be brought in by way of an amendment Bill. We must also look at other travel protocols. Who accompanies the CDF when he goes on such visits? What kind of visits must he go to and not go to? The 707 Boeing airplane has now been subjected to a test, meaning that we must look at...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Hon. Kombe. You have a minute.

Hon. Harrison Kombe (Magarini, ODM): Ahsante Mhe. Spika wa Muda. Ahsante Mhe. Ruweida kwa kunipatia dakika moja nami nipate kutuma risala zangu za rambi rambi kwa jamii zilizoondokewa na wapendwa wao. Mbali na kuwapa nafasi maafisa wakuu wa jeshi

katika kuabiri ndege, hali hiyo pia ingefanywa kwa maafisa wengine ambao bila uwepo wao, haitakuwa rahisi kwa afisa wa jeshi kufika ngazi ile. Nizungumzapo, tuna maofisa katika ngazi ya elimu na udakitari ambao wanastahili kupewa heshima katika huo mwongozo wa ni nani anastahili kuja mwanzo. Kwa hivyo, haya yawekwa kwa fikra. Tutakapopata Mswada wenyewe, tutazidi kuuchangia.

Ahsante.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Hon. Shakeel.

Hon. Shakeel Shabbir (Kisumu East, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I thank Hon. Captain Ruweida for giving me one minute. I want to give my condolences to the Army on the loss of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) staff.

I support the proposal, but it only talks about the boarding protocol. I often see army officers in uniform sitting outside the VIP lounge waiting to board a plane. I think we should extend this particular privilege to the VIP lounge. If the VIP lounge is allowed... We have a domestic VIP Lounge at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, which seems to have been taken over by Kenya Airways. They have never paid anything to the local...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you. Hon. Pauline Lenguris.

Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to send my condolences to the family of General Ogolla and the other soldiers who lost their lives in the tragic accident. I say *pole* to the families. This tragic accident should send a strong message to the Government. If we had peace in the region where the accident happened, I am sure we could not have lost the lives of the soldiers. Counties that have lacked security for a long time... We have lost so many young people. That should send a clear message to the Government that we need to invest. We need to restore peace within counties that have fought for a long time, and take care of the people who are losing their lives and properties every day. So, I eulogize with the family...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Hon. Munene, please be mindful of others. You only have one minute.

Hon. Patrick Ntwiga (Chuka/Igambang'ombe, UDA): I want to eulogise General Ogolla and the gallant soldiers that we lost in that tragic accident. We should also learn lessons from it.

This is not the only outdated and old aircraft that the Forces and other senior people in this country use. We should, therefore, not wait until we have another accident involving the forces or a senior Government official and then start looking startled. I believe that even the plane that is being used by the President, the Deputy President, and other senior people in the forces is outdated.

Secondly, we lost those soldiers because of banditry issues. It is, therefore, the right time for the Government to crack this issue once and for all.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Thank you.

Hon. Ruweida, you have two minutes to wind up. You gave out all your time.

Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East, JP): I just need a few more minutes. Four minutes would be enough. You can give me a minute more.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): You will get two minutes because that is what you have now.

Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East, JP): I need time to continue.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I would like to clarify that the title I carry of “Captain” is not from the Forces. I am a pilot by profession.

I want to thank the Leadership of this House and all the Members for their contributions. For sure, the role of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and the Special Forces cannot be over-emphasised. For Members of Parliament to be in this House and carry out their duties normally,

they require some people on the ground to safeguard them and their property, and they are none other than the KDF and the Special Forces who are, at this moment, working in the forest.

Many soldiers have died in the line of duty before that incident with General Ogolla and the other officers. In some countries, when officers go on missions and other men take their wives, such men are given heavy punishments by the courts. But here in Kenya, there is no such provision. The problems that our officers go through are shocking, and some remarks have been made by politicians in this country. I did not have any intention of neglecting the police in my Motion. In fact, the Special Forces are the police who have undergone specialised training. We want to show appreciation to those who work in the forests and stay there so that we can do our work.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, when I introduced this Motion in Parliament, the late General Ogolla was very happy. Several other senior military officers called me and appreciated the initiative. They said that the country was heading in the right direction because this Motion seeks to cater for their welfare. Some of them were grateful that someone appreciated their work. This Motion is a small initiative to promote the appreciation of the work that our KDF and Special Forces do. The things that are proposed in the Motion are happening elsewhere, like the United States of America, which, for example, has a military desk that is established in the airports to serve military officers just like diplomats and the United Nations (UN) staff.

Finally, implementing this Motion does not require any funding from the Government and, therefore, is cost-free.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Thank you.

Hon. Members, the decision on this Motion will be made the next time it is slotted in the Order Paper.

(Putting of the Question deferred)

Next Order.

BILL

Second Reading

THE PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNSHIP BILL (National Assembly Bill No. 63 of 2022)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Thank you. The Mover of the Bill is Hon. Naisula Lesuuda.

Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

I beg to move that the Public Service Internship Bill, (National Assembly Bill No. 63 of 2022), be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the input of this Bill is to establish a legal framework for the regulation of internship programs within the Public Service. Article 55 of the Constitution provides that the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programs, to ensure that the youth have access to inter alia relevant education, training, and employment.

This Bill seeks to ensure the provision of a monthly stipend, insurance, and other entitlements to persons engaged in internships within the Public Service for the duration of the internship program at the national Government and county government levels. The provision

of a stipend to interns is necessary as they contribute to the manpower of the organisation by offering their professional skills as apprentices.

This proposed Bill comes after a crucial time in this country when our doctors and intern doctors are on strike. They are demanding payment commensurate to the work that they do. I do not want this conversation to hinder the debate or our mindset to be tied to the issues of intern doctors when we will be looking at this Bill. We should look at interns across the Public Service sector in the national and county governments.

It is important to note that I started working on this Bill in the last Parliament. I revived it in the 13th Parliament because I knew the great important role our interns play in offering services to our country. I remember when I joined the national broadcaster, the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) after I had finished my Bachelor's degree. After I was recruited, I was required to pay Ksh1,000.

I had just completed my education and was looking forward to gaining some skills and expertise in the field that I had studied. I was still paying my school fees, and I did not have anywhere else to get the money. I was expected to have money for transport to work, and again, the institution that had offered me an internship required me to pay them Ksh1,000.

In the position that I was in, I managed to afford lunch, transport and even dressing. You are supposed to dress appropriately when you are going to work. But some of my colleagues could not afford that Ksh1,000. My experience as an intern formed the basis of my thinking that institutions and the Government need to pay interns when they employ them. They are not contract employees, but the manpower they provide is enormous. In some institutions, you will find that the interns put in so many hours compared to those employed or on contract. Yet, they are not given even a single cent to motivate them for their work.

I remember when I was an intern, I decided to give my best. I wanted the institution not to get rid of me at the end of my internship, but to employ me because of the kind of work I had put in. I ensured that I worked so hard, just like those employed. When my internship ended, I was offered a job at KBC. So, we cannot ignore the role that interns play. One of the debates that has been coming up, and what I have been hearing from most of my colleagues when we debate, even about intern doctors, is that we want to compare professions. We have just finished a Motion here regarding the military and our uniformed servicemen and women, and we have discussed the critical role that they play in this country.

If you again look at the doctors, you will see the critical role that they play. Same with the teachers. So, for me, it is always a debate, and that is what we should look at as a country. That is because others are also debating why Members of Parliament earn a certain amount of money or why judges are asking to be considered for pensions. The argument, however, should be that each profession should be looked into as the profession that it is and the service that the profession offers. You might be unable to quantify or say that a Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) does the same job as a doctor. No. Let us look at the doctor as a doctor and a teacher as a teacher and the role each profession performs in this country. That is because each profession in this country is key and plays a critical role in the socio-economic development of our country.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng'): Hon. Member for Samburu West, I hate to interrupt you. I know you are on a roll already, but you will pick it up from there the next time this business is put on the Order Paper.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. David Ochieng’): Hon. Members, the time now being 1.00 p.m., this House stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 1.00 p.m.

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