

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

The House met at 9.30 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, we obviously do not have the required quorum. Therefore, I order the Quorum Bell to be rung.

*(The Quorum Bell was rung)*

Order Members. We now have the required quorum. Therefore, business will begin.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

#### WITHDRAWAL OF AMENDMENTS TO KENYA REVENUE ACT

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Order Members! I have a Communication.

Hon. Members, as you may be aware, the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill (National Assembly Bill No.12 of 2018) was published on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and read a First Time on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Bill, which is sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, contains amendments to 61 different statutes among them, the Kenya Revenue Authority Act of 1995. The Bill seeks to effect minor amendments to various acts that do not warrant the publication of a separate Bill.

I wish to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Leader of the Majority Party, requesting to withdraw the proposed amendments to the Kenya Revenue Authority Act (No.2) of 1995 from the Bill. This implies that the Bill will now proceed for Second Reading and other stages without making reference to the withdrawn statute. In this regard, I direct that amendments relating to the said statute be withdrawn from the Bill forthwith. I also request the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly to publish a consolidated and detailed public advertisement seeking the views of the public on various aspects of the two Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bills. The House is accordingly informed.

I thank you.

## PETITION

FAILURE TO DEDUCT AGENCY FEES FROM  
NON-UNIONIZED TEACHERS BY TSC

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** On this one, I see Hon. Member for Marakwet East.

**Hon. Bowen:** I, the undersigned, on behalf of members of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the members of the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET), draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT, Section 49 of the Labour Relations Act, 2007 provides for deduction of agency fees from unionisable employees covered by collective agreements;

THAT, in October 2016, the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) signed a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) 2017-2021;

THAT, the said CBA provided that teachers who are not affiliated to KNUT or KUPPET would pay a monthly fee referred to as agency fees to enable them enjoy the new salary deal and other benefits effected by the TSC from July 2016;

THAT, a copy of the CBA 2017-2021 was deposited in the Industrial Court which clearly stated that KNUT and KUPPET would draw agency fees from teachers who were not members of KNUT or KUPPET;

THAT, the Teachers Service Commission has failed to deduct the said agency fees as required by the said CBA;

THAT, efforts to resolve the matter have been futile;

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

Therefore, your humble petitioners pray that the National Assembly, through the Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Welfare:

- (i) inquires into the matter;
- (ii) causes the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to gazette agency fee to effect the deductions from non-union teachers who are already benefiting from the CBA; and,
- (iii) makes any other order or direction that it deems fit in the circumstances of the matter.

And your petitioners will forever pray.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Very well, that is committed to the relevant committee. I will give a chance to just a few Members. Let us start with Hon. Junet.

**Hon. Nuh:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me an opportunity. I rise to support the Petition. This is a very important Petition brought by Hon. Bowen. Unions are very important organisations in this country. There is a tendency that is cropping up that unions are almost being killed. It is unions that take care of the interests of employees of any organisation since employers do not. The issue brought through Hon. Bowen is very important and I urge the Departmental Committee on Education and Research to expedite that matter and report to the House as urgently as possible. The KNUT and KUPPET are not receiving their annual deductions from the TSC. This country wants to kill political parties and the organisations that fight for the rights of workers. We are going to become a monologue society that will be speaking to itself.

With those few remarks, I support. I want to congratulate Hon. Bowen. If his Petition goes through in the Appeal Court, the people of Marakwet East should bring him back to this House.

I support.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Let us have Hon. Omboko Milemba

**Hon. Milemba:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity. I rise to support the Petition by Hon. Bowen. I thank him very much for having talked on behalf of all the unions in this country. I want to plead with this Parliament, holistically so, to come and look at what unions are going through throughout the country. The Labour Relations Act was passed by this Parliament to protect the workers and worker organisations together with employers, but today, the Act is not being respected by employers. Unlike how Hon. Junet has put it, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that it is like unions are being killed. Unions are the greatest friends of the Government. In 1952 when we had the struggle for Independence and all political party leaders were in prison, trade unions took up the mantle to struggle for Independence until when the state of emergency was lifted and the politicians came back. So, I want to plead with the relevant committee to look at this Petition and see that trade unions get their monthly subscriptions. Currently, unions are suffering, especially the teachers' unions. It takes more than four weeks after the deductions are made for the unions to receive the money. These unions are now suffering. They are closing doors and are relieving some of their employees.

Agency fee is recognised by the UN Convention and it was adopted by the Kenya Government through an Act of Parliament. It is not punitive. The agency fees simply talk about the struggle of the unions and their negotiations. There are workers who are not members of unions. So, they are supposed to pay agency fee, which will not be above the normal union dues. It is the same as the normal union dues or below. This goes a long way to help the unions in arbitration, representation and lobbying activities for the workers. It is not a punitive thing. If any worker is overcommitted, there is a provision that it is not deducted until later when he has the ability to honour the payments.

With those many remarks, I want to ask the relevant committee and parliamentarians to help unions in Kenya so that they do not die. As I finalise, the amendments coming want to gag the unions further. I plead with the House to look at the fate of trade unions in Kenya.

I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. (Dr.) Pukose.

**Hon. (Dr.) Pukose:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I want to support Hon. Bowen's Petition. This is a very important Petition. We should protect the unions within our country. It is only Parliament that is not thinking about forming a union, but it is a right thing. It is only in Parliament that some of the basic rights, such as the right to have house allowance, are not enshrined in your contract. All other State officers get house allowance. How come Members of Parliament do not get house allowance? I think it is the right time that even Parliament should think of a union.

The other day, Atwoli talked of a union for the police, which I think is in the right direction. Therefore, I think it borders on criminality for the union to be denied their dues from the members.

So, I support this Petition.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** No Member has shown interest on the intervention slot because that is where I am supposed to pick from. Is Hon. Mabonga Mwambu of Bumula interested in speaking to this Petition?

**Hon. Mabonga:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I wish also to add my voice to this Petition from Hon. Bowen. Interestingly, when you look at the history of unions, they have done a lot to this country and other countries. Unions even bargain for the working environment of workers. They bargain for salaries. Whenever there is an issue of sacking of a worker, the union is always there to stand in and defend the worker. At times when you do not have a voice to speak on your behalf, just like what Hon. Pukose has said, you realise that the employer is likely to frustrate you along the way. So, my friend Bowen has brought a very important issue to the House.

This is the only House that can stand in and defend the officials of unions who are suffering out there. When you meet the officials, especially those of KUPPET and KNUT, they are struggling right now to even get their salaries. Some of them are even begging for food. It is very important that this House takes this Petition seriously and ensures that unions, regardless of what they are going through right now, are protected. The committee that is involved must come up with a structured way of dealing with unions without affecting more unions. More unions will come on the way, not only the teachers' union. With regard to what the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) Secretary-General was proposing the other day, how many police officers are dying and nobody speaks on their behalf? When a spokesperson of the police speaks, he only defends the employer. He does not even defend the rights of the police officers who are suffering in the field. So, this is a very important Petition and I request the Members to support it so that we can safeguard the interests of employees.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Lastly, let us hear the other gender. Let us have Hon. Mboko Khamisi Mishi. I do not know why your gadget is not working.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mboko:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I also want to add my voice to support Hon. Bowen Kangogo for this Petition. It is a very important Petition. You can understand employees in this country, be it medical personnel, teachers or lecturers. They have so many grievances. For them to get solutions to all these grievances, they need to have a platform and the platform is the union. Without this union, there could be so many rights which could be denied these workers.

The unions have assisted so many workers. You can imagine right now we even have a union for security guards. Home guards also have a union. Home maids also have a union. We need to support this Petition because it is very good. We need to empower the unions so that they can execute their work diligently. Without this union, we will not have a platform for communication, arbitration and even to solve problems which are being encountered by employees. I want to strongly support this Petition.

Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Sankok, of course, I am not going to give you an opportunity. Yesterday, you were found behaving in not so honourable manner. What was it about, Hon. Sankok? I am told you brought live animals to the National Assembly, thereby causing inconvenience to many Members. Maybe you would speak to that only and not to this particular one.

**Hon. ole Sankok:** Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. Let me take this early opportunity, if I caused some inconvenience, to apologise to the administration of Parliament together with Members of Parliament. This was the first goat to enter Parliament and it was unfortunate that it escaped. That is why it was running around.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** What was the goat coming to do in Parliament?

**Hon. ole Sankok:** The issue was that there was a game warden from the Aberdare Ranges who saw a person with disability left inside a bus as the rest of the entourage went to enjoy watching the scenery of Chania Falls. So, the ranger decided to take the little girl from Joyland Academy, Kisumu, on his back to the top of the Aberdare Ranges, so that she could also enjoy. Throughout my life, as I fight for persons with disabilities, I do not only punish or rebuke those who infringe the rights of persons with disability, but I also reward those who assist us in achieving those rights. That warden's story was circulating on social media, *#IfikieSankok#*, I saw it and decided to reward him. The only thing I could reward him with was a goat for soup so that he can regain more energy to carry more children with disabilities up the...

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Why did you bring it to Parliament? Why did you not take it to Aberdares?

**Hon. ole Sankok:** The hash tag has changed to *#IfikieUhuruMuigaiKenyattaforState commendation#* and *#IfikietheUN#* through the UN Convention on the rights of persons living with disabilities. That was the reason and I really apologise if I caused some inconvenience. However, I know they enjoyed because all of them were looking through their windows when the goat was running around.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, but next time, it will be more convenient to take the goat to a more familiar surrounding which is most likely going to be the Aberdares.

**Hon. ole Sankok:** I think that is why it was making a lot of noise. It was not familiar with the place.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Next Order. Hon. Machogu.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### REPORT ON IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR HON. MEMBERS

**Hon. Ombaki:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities on improvement of services and facilities, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Next Order.

## MOTIONS

### ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS TO ENCOURAGE UPTAKE OF COUNSELING SERVICES

THAT, aware that there are over 200 classified types of mental disorders, the most common ones being clinical depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); concerned that Kenya's mental health policy estimates that about twenty five(25) per cent of out-patients and about forty (40) per cent of in-patients suffer from mental health conditions with the most frequent diagnosis of mental illnesses made in general hospital settings being depression,

substance abuse, stress and anxiety disorders; deeply concerned that the current worrying trend of increased domestic violence among Kenyan families has resulted in suicides, deaths, injuries, psychological trauma, orphaned and unstable children; noting that the prevalence of mental disorders may also be attributed to the noted cases of suicide, homicides and violence at household level; further noting that despite the strategies and guidelines that the Government has put in place towards achieving the highest standard of mental health, prevalence of mental disorders remains high, this House urges the Government to urgently establish programmes and interventions to encourage uptake of counselling services among individuals, families and communities to mitigate effects of mental disorders.

*(Hon. (Ms.) Mumo on 18.4.2018)*

*(Debate Concluded on 18.4.2018 – Morning Sitting)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Order Members, on this particular one, the Motion had already been dispensed with. What remained was the Question to be put.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**Hon. Nuh:** On a point of order.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Minority Whip. What is your point of order or what is out of order?

**Hon. Nuh:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to draw your attention to a matter which I feel is of importance to this House before we go to the substantive Motion.

I am sure you are aware that there is a national conference going on in Kakamega and people are only discussing the good things that devolution has done. However, it is this House that appropriates funds for both levels of Government. It is this House through the Budget and Appropriations Committee that feels the pinch of how money is collected from taxpayers and appropriated to different parts of the country.

I was requesting that this House be given an opportunity, through your intervention, for a short time, so that we can talk about the bad things about devolution such as the way money has been stolen in the counties, misappropriated and the way devolution has not worked completely for the last five years. Lying to Kenyans in Kakamega that things are very good, roads have been done, hospitals are working and systems are okay is not good. I was requesting that you give an opportunity to a few Members to tell Kenyans exactly what the situation is. This is because constituencies are also found in counties. Every constituency is situated in a county. They are not found on planet Pluto.

It is hypocritical for governors and senators to converge in a city every one year and talk about the good things only and never tell Kenyans the sufferings they undergo through devolution. Devolution was supposed to improve the lives of Kenyans. However, the money that has been devolved...

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** So, what is out of order?

**Hon. Nuh:** There is nothing out of order, but there is something in order that you should grant us permission to discuss for 10 minutes.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Definitely I am not going to allow you that leave. You are a seasoned Member. You know many avenues which you can use to contribute on this one. In fact, we are almost getting into the Private Members' Motions. You have an opportunity to speak on issues that are relevant and if you are going to be discussing anything to do with devolution... In fact, the next Motion is going to be fairly relevant, but you can speak to it at that point in time. However, the way you are trying to get to comment on it from the backdoor is definitely out of order, but you have said something. You have been heard, but I am not going to sustain that kind of mischievous way of contributing.

If you want to seek leave of the House, you have the avenues. I also see Hon. Oluoch. Do you have something to say on that one? I see many Members have pressed the intervention button and I do not know what they want to say.

What is it, Majority Whip? This cannot be the right of reply such that the Minority Whip has spoken and you want to also speak. Anyway, let me give you an opportunity. What is it, Majority Whip?

**Hon. Washiali:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I just wanted to inform my counterpart on the Minority side that I was there yesterday. According to the CoG, they have not even planned that any Member of Parliament can be in attendance of that meeting. I was there and left Kakamega at 11.00 O'clock without an accreditation card. It is true, just the way Hon. Junet is saying, the money they are supposed to be collecting as taxes from the counties is not being collected. They are depending on the money that we appropriate in this House. How can we just be locked out in the decision-making of the money that we eventually appropriate? It is very disturbing.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, you have spoken and continue to speak, but I am trying to understand under what particular Standing Order you are now addressing the House. I thought you were saying that Hon. Junet was out of order. Now you do not seem to say that. You are saying he is in order. You know, the unfortunate bit about things in this House is that you are not allowed to say that your colleague is in order because if that is the case, it is always expected that they would have been in order anyway. You are only allowed to pinpoint when they are out of order.

**Hon. Washiali:** I wanted to conclude by seeking leave for us as a House to debate this and see how relevant these conferences are. They cost a lot of money.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** The leave is rejected since you have used an avenue that is not known to the Standing Orders of this House.

Let us have the Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. A.B. Duale:** Hon. Washiali comes from Kakamega County and it will be very unfortunate if he did not get a badge. We will pick it up with the CoG. I have looked at the conference programme and the Speaker of the National Assembly was supposed to be there yesterday. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I do not know why you did not represent him because he is away. I am supposed to be there, but I looked at the business I have on Thursday and I will not make it.

I think Members can use proper procedure to discuss this matter under Standing Order No.43. Hon. Pukose is a medical doctor and is very conversant with the Standing Orders. I want to go on record that there are about 15 counties which are facing serious humanitarian crisis. The Minister in-charge of that docket, his Principal Secretaries (PSs) and those 15 governors are just showcasing some items in Kakamega. There must be priority in this country. Imagine the Governor of Tana River County, which is worst hit by floods with over 15 villages submerged...

Hon. Junet is the Chief Whip of the Minority Party and he can come up with a Motion and the Speaker will give him time this afternoon to discuss it. Unfortunately, Hon. Junet, you have to follow protocol. Your party leader is currently addressing that conference. You have to be very careful knowing your party, you might lose your seat. When *Baba* talks, you are not supposed to say anything contrary to what he has said in Kakamega. In fact, I am just warning you. Please be very careful, you are not in Jubilee or the Wiper Democratic Movement -Kenya (WDM-K), where there is serious democracy. After you leave the Chamber, you might find your office is locked.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Nuh:** On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** I do not know why Hon. Junet wants to speak on this. There are many avenues of discussing this, if you really wish you can do it under Standing Order No.33 to seek for adjournment on a matter of urgent national importance or use the Zero Hour.

I have a problem with when you rise on a point of order having pressed your intervention button and when I listen to you, I find you frivolous. The substance may not be frivolous, but the formula you have used to address that particular issue is not proper. You must address the House properly. Do you want to react to what Hon. Duale has said? He has said you should watch the television before commenting. However, I do not think this is proper. You can proceed without watching the television or listening to the radio. You have a right to speak but speak to this House in a proper manner. What is it Hon. Junet?

**Hon. Nuh:** On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker. First of all, I want to thank you for your guidance on this matter. I will follow Standing Order No.33. I want to bring to the attention of the Leader of the Majority Party that when we are in this House, we are insulated from what other parties are saying outside there. We have come here to speak as Members.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Just hold on, there, Hon. Junet. You should not mislead yourself. You are only legally insulated, politically, I am not so sure. Proceed anyway.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Nuh:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, we are legally and politically insulated. This is 2018 and under the new spirit of the handshake, the insulation has gone higher. We are more insulated because it looks like everybody can say whatever they think. I was raising this matter just to bring it to your attention and you have directed me.

The Leader of the Majority Party has said that he was invited to speak tomorrow. Looking at the programme, they have written his name in small letters. That tells you how small he is in devolution. I am sure if he went there, they would have given him a back-row seat. He cannot sit at the front. Devolution is the soul of the new Constitution and it is under siege the way a former Police Commissioner said.

I will do a Motion under Standing Order No.33 and seek your indulgence to discuss devolution at a time when others are doing so in this country. We do not need to discuss it tomorrow when they finish. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Okay, that is really up to you, Hon. Members. These are facilities that are available to you. I have to put the record straight that it is not true that the CoG does not consider this House. I know of many times when they have invited the Speaker and he

has participated in some of their meetings. As the Leader of the Majority Party has stated, he was invited, whether in capital or small letters. If the Minority Party has not been invited, that is something we are willing to discuss, I can assure you.

Hon. Washiali has said that Members of Parliament were not invited. Sometimes it is better if we are more specific because the Senators are participating seriously. These are issues we need to discuss and if you want to speak to it, you have avenues, so proceed and do so because this is open to any Member.

Next Order!

ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL REGISTRATION  
CENTRES IN EVERY CONSTITUENCY

THAT, aware that every birth in Kenya must be registered by the Department of Civil Registration and documented through a birth certificate; further aware that subsequent registration of citizens and acquisition of documentation such as identity cards and passports, school admissions, registration of exams, and access to opportunities such as employment depends and relies on birth certificates; deeply concerned that the Department of Civil Registration Services has over time experienced backlogs in the issuance of Birth Certificates as a result of among other factors, inadequate personnel, unwillingness to embrace Information Communication and Technology (ICT), inadequate funding, and inadequate materials used in registration of persons; further deeply concerned that registration services are not easily accessible to majority of Kenyans owing to the few registration centers in place, this House urges the Government to consider establishing civil registration centres in every constituency and ensure full implementation of the Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Service Act, 2011.

*(Hon. (Ms.) Wanjira on 18.4.2018)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 18.4.2018 – Morning Sitting)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** This particular one is resumption of debate and the balance of time available to Members is 45 minutes. I received a letter from the Mover of this Motion, Hon. Martha Wangari, asking me to adjourn this debate because she will be absent. I did not think that was going to be proper because once a Motion has been introduced to this House, it becomes the property of the Members.

For the 45 minutes which are remaining, at least, 35 minutes belong to Members. What is available to her is 10 minutes, which she is allowed to reply. We can discuss this, but the issue of us adjourning this Motion on the basis that she will not be there, I will not allow. The Motion will proceed. For future reference, if a Member is not available to respond, he or she can appoint a Member to reply on their behalf. We need to move in an orderly manner. Hon. Members, let us proceed. We have 45 minutes.

I do not know if all these Members want to speak to this particular one. We will go in the order in which they have placed their request. Let us start with Hon. Chachu Ganya, Member for North Horr.

**Hon. Ganya:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I fully support the establishment of civil registration centres in every constituency in our Republic.

I want to commend Hon. Martha Wangari, Member for Gilgil, for this very timely and relevant Motion. Once it is passed, it will ensure the full implementation of the Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Service Act, which was passed in this House in 2011. This vital document called birth certificate enables Kenyans to acquire many vital documents. You need it to get an identity card (ID), open a bank account, get a passport and even register your children for their national examinations among many others. You can only acquire a document like an ID once you have a birth certificate. This enables Kenyans to benefit from many Government programmes and services such as social protection programmes where cash is transferred to orphans and vulnerable Kenyans, *Inua Jamii* cash programme and many other programmes.

North Horr Constituency is very vast. It is about 8 per cent of Kenya's land mass and over 38,000 square kilometres. It is larger than some of the four former provinces of Kenya that is, Central, Western and Nyanza and eight Nairobis put together. It has a diameter of 800 kilometres from one corner to the other. Even if you have one centre in North Horr, it will not serve my constituents well because people of Ileret have to travel over 600 kilometres to Marsabit Town, which is our county headquarters, to secure that vital document. They travel on very bad roads. There is no tarmac at all. Such times like now when we are experiencing very heavy rainfall, it might not even be passable for the next three months or so because they have to travel through the Chalbi Desert to get to Marsabit.

So, as I support the Motion that says that it is necessary to establish these centres in all our constituencies, I think some unique and vast constituencies like mine and Laisamis, Wajir and others should be considered to have even more centres if, indeed, Kenyans are to benefit from Government programmes. A birth certificate or identity card is not a privilege or a favour. It is a right for every Kenyan and our Government has a duty to provide this service to our citizens.

In other parts of the world – and I was fortunate enough to live in the United States of America (USA) for eight years where I went to school – even in small villages you can go into offices and get these vital documents. You actually apply for your passport through postal service. You do not have to go to Washington DC or any of those big cities for you to acquire those vital documents. It is possible to have those kinds of programmes in this country. Of course, we have a much smaller economy. We cannot say we can gain the kind of service that they provide to their citizens. However, we can do better particularly those of us who live along the porous borders whether it is the Kenya-Ethiopia border, the Kenya-Somalia border or the Kenya-South Sudan border. We are highly marginalised. Because of the foreigners who come into this country, even our people are treated as foreigners and it has become very difficult for Kenyans who live along these borders to acquire the documents.

Once this Motion is passed, I strongly encourage our Committee on Implementation to ensure that this service is available to Kenyans in six months. The National Assembly should provide enough resources in the Budget for us to ensure that whatever we have agreed and passed in this House, especially on the registration centres in every constituency, is fully funded and operationalised.

I support the Motion.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Next is Hon. Maanzo.

**Hon. Maanzo:** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important Motion on establishment of civil registration centres in every constituency. Civil registration is not only about birth certificates. Kenya has come a long way with this matter. There is a time when this was only obtainable at Sheria House in Nairobi and you would find long queues there. Eventually, it was devolved to some districts. Today, it is mostly in many county headquarters in the country. Recently, the Government encouraged, through primary schools, that all children in schools be equipped with birth certificates. Ordinarily, the birth certificate is obtained as soon as a child is born, especially if they are born in a hospital. The forms are available for registration and the child is registered at birth.

However, there is a huge backlog of Kenyans who have not attained this particular document over a long time. Recently, when the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government started the mass registration, Kenyans really went through challenges. They were forced to go and camp at the county headquarters for days and within no time, brokers emerged and started to assist some of these people who had covered a long distance. In fact, they started charging some fee, I think between Kshs500 and Kshs1,000 and in some cases Kshs1,500, which is an illegality. They were taking advantage of vulnerable Kenyans who were and are still under pressure to present the document urgently in schools.

The moment a school master in the village sends children away for a document, the parents will go to a great extent to make sure they acquire this document, hence the need to have these registration centres devolved to every constituency. Even the Member of Parliament can be involved in overseeing it with the assistance of the chiefs and other administrators in the grassroots. This document can be acquired easily by Kenyans. In fact, in some places, people are being asked for a small bribe to get the document. In other centres where people have been camping for days waiting for this particular document, the equipment for registration has been found not to be working. The computer is not working. In the case of Kitui, Hon. Charity Ngilu had to give assistance from her own office by surrendering the county equipment to the registration bureau so that they could utilise it to serve Kenyans fast.

The Government was not ready for the order it gave. They had not allocated the necessary resources and Kenyans found themselves in a difficult situation. For that matter, it is important that there are registration centres in every constituency. In the case of Makueni Constituency, I have seven quite huge wards. The logistics of getting to the headquarters of one district – because I have three districts – is quite a challenge. Although a lot of constituencies in Kenya are based on districts, there are other constituencies which have several districts in them, just like it is the case in Makueni Constituency. Even at the constituency headquarters, which can be registration centres, it would be prudent to go by districts and even later on further push it down to the wards. If we do that, we will have as many young children as possible being registered whether there is an order from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government or not. We are talking about a very important document. It is a primary document for one to get an identity card, for one to participate in Standard Eight examinations, and for one to apply for a passport.

I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Let us have Hon. Shurie Omar, Member for Balambala.

**Hon. Shurie:** Thank you so much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I wish to support the establishment of civil registration centres in every constituency. To be honest, the documents we are talking about are vital documents that Kenyans need. Unfortunately, they are not easily

available in our constituencies and the people we represent have a lot of difficulties in getting them. If I may give an example, they have to travel to Garissa Town and at times there are police road blocks and when they do not have the vital documents, they end up being arrested and sent back to the villages.

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

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

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I support the establishment of these offices so that they can reduce the hardship that our people go through. If possible, I urge this House to provide enough money for these centres and make sure that they are fully constituted at the shortest time possible.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): We shall have Hon. Iringo Kubai.

**Hon. Kubai Iringo:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. From the outset, I support this Motion fully in as far as decentralisation of these services, which are supposed to be offered by the Government to the constituency level, is concerned.

The spirit of devolution is here with us and we should embrace it fully in all spheres. This one is no exception. In the same spirit, we need to have services taken as nearest as possible to the people, especially the provision of essential documents. It is vital and critical that when one wants to get a birth certificate, it does not take time. It should not also cost much. Those offering the service must be efficient enough to issue the certificates.

We also need death certificates in the same breath as birth certificates. Our school leavers and other people have to travel very far away to the county centres and spend a lot of money and time to get those particular documents. With regard to land registration centres, there are people especially in my county of Meru, who travel for over 100 kilometres to Meru for their title deeds whereas we have offices which can be used to offer those services in every sub-county.

I keep wondering why the Government spends a lot of money to employ so many people, especially in the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), to take voter registration officers to the villages, market centres and bus stages. They camp in each and every roundabout so that they can register voters. Why do we not use the same energy, breath and resources to take those vital documents to the people who require them? The other day, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology said that for every child to be registered in a school, one should have a birth certificate. We know very well that in Kenya, there are so many children who are born at home and many parents are ignorant; they do not know about that certificate. The queues for collection of those birth certificates in this country show that we are very far away from giving the necessary services to our people due to not opening enough registration centres for these vital documents.

There are parents who wonder when they will get those certificates. You will find that in a whole sub-county or county, there are five, 10 or even fewer registration officers. When you have a queue of almost 1,000 people waiting for that document you do not do much; you do very

little. This is where corruption creeps in. The officers will find that they are dealing with many people and will try to capitalise on the urgency to get the document and that is where corruption comes in. Whoever pays the token or little fee the officers will ask for is the one who gets the document. To curb this bad habit in our society, every sub-county should have all the offices needed to serve our people. If we have the offices of the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC), Member of Parliament (MP), Officer Commanding Police Station (OCS), Officer Commanding Police Division (OCPD), let us have all the other graduated offices in the Government systems placed in the same docket so that our people can get services as close as possible and when they need them.

Before I conclude, I am wondering where our female Members are. They are talking of the two-thirds gender rule. How will we achieve it? If we give them this House, they will all walk out and we will have nobody in this House. We better know where they are and if we do not see them participating fully in the activities of this House, let them forget the two-thirds gender rule.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Iringo, you will see where they are with the next contributor, Hon. Mboko Khamisi, Member for Likoni.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mboko:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Motion.

From the outset, I congratulate *Mheshimiwa* Martha Wangari for this noble Motion. Civil registration is the system by which a government records officially vital events of its citizens and residents in a proper registry. A birth certificate is one of the mandatory documents for Kenyans. Right now, you cannot acquire a passport or identification card if you do not have a birth certificate. There are other official documents which you cannot acquire without having a birth certificate.

We have so many challenges in accessing the centres so as to acquire this document. In arid and semi-arid areas - and especially now when we have heavy rains - you can imagine the long distances people have to travel to reach the centres where they can acquire this birth certificate. The personnel in those centres are very few. There is few equipment and stationery. The applicants can apply for this birth certificate and stay for a month without getting a response. We have been doing this at the sectoral level but we can also effect this at the health level. If a woman gives birth in a hospital - and maybe we can look at the Level 4 and Level 5 hospitals - she can start the process just at the hospital so that it can be effected even before she leaves that hospital. In our country, there are women who still give birth at home through the care of traditional birth attendants. They are not aware that they need to get a notification from the chief's office or the sub-chief's office. We also need to come up with an awareness or outreach programme so that our women can be educated and sensitised. This is so that any time they give birth at home, they can go to the chief's office or sub-chief's office to get a notification and the processes can be effected.

As an MP, one of my roles is on security. Birth certificate registration is also part of the security measures. As MPs, we can request to have a little additional allocation in the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) so that we can set up offices in our constituencies, get a few personnel and volunteers so that those processes can be effective to our people.

Because of the small capacity of those centres, there is a window of corruption. Each and every time people come to our offices, they tell you that you need to give them Kshs2,000 because he or she wants to get a birth certificate for their daughter or son. If you ask them why

they are paying all that money, they tell you that if you pay Kshs2,000 you can get it in a single day; if you pay Kshs1,000 you get it in two days; and if you just pay the official amount required, you can stay for three weeks or even one month without getting that document.

Kenyans live on less than US\$1 per day. A big percentage of Kenyans - maybe 70 per cent - are very poor. They cannot afford those documents. You can imagine a family of seven children, how much will they pay to get that certificate? That process does not only assist so that one gets other official certificates, it can also assist the Government to plan properly, especially in terms of health facilities.

I support this Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Very well, Hon. Mishi.

Hon. Members, I wish to recognise the presence of pupils from Losidan Primary School, from Laisamis Constituency in Marsabit County who are in the Public Gallery. I want them to feel welcome in the House.

I want to give this opportunity to Hon. Pukose who is right at the top of the list.

**Hon. (Dr.) Pukose:** Asante Mhe. Naibu Spika wa Muda kwa kunipa fursa hii ili niweze kuchangia Hoja hii.

Cheti cha kuzaliwa na kitambulisho ni vitu muhimu. Nakumbuka wakati nilipata kitambulisho, tulikuwa tunapewa katika *headquarters* ya wilaya. Wakati huu, ili upate kitambulisho, inabidi baadhi ya wale wanaoandikisha watume tarakilishi hizo kule Nairobi halafu baada ya kufika Nairobi iweze kuletwa. Hiyo inachukua muda mrefu.

Katika maeneo Bunge, kuna watu ambao huwa ni vigumu sana kwao kuja kwa *headquarters za constituency*. Hoja hii ambayo inasema kuwa kitambulisho na cheti cha kuzaliwa vipeanwe katika eneo Bunge ama *sub-county* ni jambo muhimu ijapokuwa nitaikosoa tu kwa sababu inasema “*urges*” badala ya kusema “*resolves*”.

Bunge lina uwezo wa kuamua kwamba vyeti vya kuzaliwa na vitambulisho vipeanwe katika maeneo Bunge ili iwe rahisi kuvipata. Nakumbuka wakati wa kwanza vitambulisho kupeanwa. Hiyo picha ilikuwa inachukuliwa baada ya kuchukuliwa alama za vidole na unapewa kitambulisho hapo. Mtu akihitaji cheti cha kuzaliwa, anakuja Nairobi na inachukua muda kutengenezwa. Mwananchi anapewa kitambulisho ama cheti cha kuzaliwa baada ya mwezi mzima ama miezi miwili. Wakati mwingine anaambiwa makaratasi ambayo alijaza yalipotea.

Kwa hivyo, Mhe. Spika wa Muda, hili ni jambo ambalo Bunge hili linapaswa kufanya uamuzi mwafaka ili kuhakikisha kwamba vitambulisho na vyeti vya kuzaliwa vinapeanwa katika maeneo Bunge, badala ya wananchi kusafiri hadi Nairobi. Kwa hivyo, hii ni Hoja nzuri ambayo naiunga mkono.

Ahsante, Mhe. Spika wa Muda.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): We shall hear Hon. Adagala, Member for Vihiga.

**Hon. (Ms.) Adagala:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

I am in total support of the idea of taking those services to every constituency because most of our people are suffering. People travel from very far areas to seek for those services, especially during the time when Standard Eight pupils are being registered to sit for the national exams. Parents walk very long distances and queue for a long time to get a birth certificate. I have witnessed several times in Mbale Town, within my county, parents queuing up to very late in the night waiting to be issued with certificates for their children.

If we can have an arrangement where once a new born child is issued with a number, the number serves as the number of his birth certificate, national identification card number as well as passport number it can save time and money. Even the Government will benefit a lot. It will assist the Government in planning because they will know the exact number of the population. The Government will capture the data of every person who is born in this country. It will also help stop the issue of people spending many hours on queues. It will also deal a blow to corruption and eliminate the many charges that the citizenry pays in respect of such documents. People in western part of this country are very fertile. We have 15 children per person. If people are to pay the amount of money needed for 15 children, it becomes very difficult.

Therefore, I am in full support of the Motion brought here by Hon. Wangari, for those services to be devolved to the sub-county level to make it easy for people to access those documents. Every sub-county should have a civil registration centre.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Yussuf Haji, Member for Mandera West.

**Hon. Yussuf Adan:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I stand to support this very timely Motion.

Recently, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology made it mandatory for pupils in all primary schools to produce birth certificates before they are registered to sit for the national examination. There was a serious crisis in some constituencies, like Mandera West. This is because there is no civil registration centre there. The one that is there is in Mandera Town, which is 300 kilometres from Mandera West Constituency. That is a rough road. Some of the pastoralists in that area live very far from where the school is. They leave their children in boarding schools and go away with their livestock to search for pasture and water. By the time the information reaches them – that their sons or daughters are supposed to have birth certificates to be registered to sit for the national examination – so much time would have lapsed. The person travels all the way from that pastoralist area to the school and gets the right information. From there to where those documents are issued, it is 300 kilometres away. It is another nightmare. This created a cartel of people who collect names and photocopies of identification cards and travel with them to Mandera, 300 kilometres from Ndakaba where the sub-county headquarters are located. It costs Kshs3,500 per child to get a birth certificate and produce it in school. As Hon. Adagala has just said, if you have 10 children in your household and you have to spend Kshs3,500 for each of them in order to get that document, then the whole thing becomes a project that would require donor funding.

Having the document is not a privilege but a right. Every Kenyan, whether he is born in a pastoral homestead or in hospital, must be issued with the document. The bureaucratic processes or situations where registration officers are not available cause people a lot of problems. I went to the ministry headquarters recently in order to try and see how this issue could be solved. I was told that there was even an embargo on employment of civil registration officers by the National Treasury. Therefore, they could do nothing about it. They told me that Mandera County should have only one civil registration officer. We are in the process of appropriating funds. Can we make sure that adequate funds are voted so that civil registration centres can be established in every constituency? It is more difficult to get a birth certificate today than 50 years ago, when I got mine. When I applied for it, I was a student at Wajir Secondary School. I filled a form and posted it. After three weeks, I got my birth certificate via post office while I was seated there. I

paid less than Kshs1. However, in this era of Information Technology (IT), I do not know what to say.

Finally, in the long run, we should recommend that civil registration centres should be established at ward level. Chiefs can be used to initiate the process. Civil registration officers at the sub-county level can make the document available.

With those remarks, I support the Motion and thank Hon. Martha for bringing it to the House.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Atandi, Member for Alego Usonga.

**Hon. Atandi:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. This is a very important Motion because we know that there are Kenyans who are aged between 70 and 80 years, but they do not own identification cards. We were involved in the electioneering processes recently. We went to ask our people to come out in large numbers and vote. We realised that there are many people who do not own identification cards. This is very shameful. Considering that the budget estimates are prepared on the basis of the number of Kenyans who are registered, it means that there are some sections of this country that are not developed because the Kenyans who live there are not considered as part of this country in terms of budgeting.

This is a very important Motion. Sometimes I ask myself why the Government has allowed Kenyans to exist in this country without those documents. We know the importance of those documents. For instance, if the youths are not registered, they cannot access the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. You cannot even open a bank account or participate in the electoral processes or marry. If you have a child who wants to get a birth certificate and you do not have an Identity Card, the child will not be registered.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, this is a very important Motion. Government officers should not wait for Parliament to discuss some of these things before they implement them. We want Kenyans to be properly registered so that if you are a Kenyan, you are dignified. When you do not have an ID, you exist like you do not live. For the dignity of Kenyans, this is very important. We would like the Government to move with speed and ensure that Kenyans access registration services.

Siaya District or sub-county with its three constituencies has only one registration centre. People from two constituencies have to come all the way to Siaya for registration. This is really a large section of the county. It makes the process very cumbersome. That is why you find people aged 70 or 80 years not registered.

The Government needs to move with speed. The process also needs to be made simple so that it can be done in each sub-location. Even if it is at the headquarters of a constituency, it is still very far for people who live in the remote areas. I call upon the Government to move with speed and increase the number of civil registration centres, so that Kenyans can enjoy and live in dignity by having those documents, and use them to access services.

Thank you. I support the Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): We shall have Hon. Tuitoek Kamuren.

**Hon. Tuitoek:** Thank you very much Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. Establishing civil registration centres in constituencies is very important. As it has been mentioned by my colleagues here, our people have really been suffering when trying to access those services by travelling long

distances. In Mogotio Constituency, we have to go to the neighbouring Eldama Ravine Constituency and people spend days waiting for services, especially to get birth certificates for pupils in primary schools. In fact, this Motion has come at the right time. I congratulate Hon. Martha Wangari for bringing the Motion. It will go a long way in assisting Kenyans to access services at the nearest point. Currently, as it has been mentioned, people spend days in trying to get those documents. It is a very important document to get services in the future, specifically for registration of pupils in primary schools and students in secondary schools. We want the services to be close to the people so that IDs can also be available at the constituency level.

I support the Motion. It is long overdue. We should see it being implemented as soon as possible. It will reduce a lot of suffering and reduce corruption as it has been raised. People pay extra money to access those documents, which is not fair and necessary.

I beg to support. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): From Nairobi, we shall have Hon. Oluoch, Member for Mathare.

**Hon. Oluoch:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I join the rest of the Members in congratulating Hon. Martha Wangari for bringing this important Motion. In Nairobi, where I come from, it could not have come at a better time.

The Constitution contemplates co-operation between county governments and the national Government. There is absolutely no reason why this should not be one of the areas where the national Government and county governments co-operate to ensure that our citizens have relevant documents: ID cards, birth certificates and marriage certificates.

Undocumented citizens are a major cause of insecurity especially where I come from - Mathare Constituency. I am sure this applies to many constituencies and many parts of the country. It is important that the Government takes this very seriously. We have talked about it and have heard of people living in porous borders in North Eastern and other places, so that this becomes a national security issue. It is important that our people are documented.

The Constitution contemplates that in order to exercise your voting rights, you need to have an ID card. We have just come from an election and it is important that we do not wait until the next election for us to empower our young people to participate in the process of governance. This is under Article 1 where we exercise our sovereignty directly by electing our representatives. We will be disenfranchising many Kenyans if we do not give them those documents.

There are other issues we also need to look at. Recently, there was a new directive that was given that all marriages must be registered. It is now, in fact, criminal that anyone should co-exist in any marriage if that marriage is not registered. There is no reason why we cannot amalgamate the registers of birth, persons and marriages, so that we have one single document. When you apply, there should be a single document. It should be digitized and biometrics taken.

One of the items in the Big Four Agenda of the Government currently is manufacturing and creating jobs for the youth. That cannot be achieved if our young people do not have IDs. It is, therefore, very important that we take this exercise very seriously. Otherwise, one of the items in the Big Four Agenda will only benefit people who are already in another class.

I want to bring to the attention of the House that there is a little known piece of legislation called the Kenya Citizens Foreign National Management Services Act. It contemplates that, that particular agency should devolve and get agents and, in this case, constituencies to establish civil registration centres. I urge the Mover of the Motion to move with

speed and look at this particular legislation so that we see the relevant areas we can amend so that we are able to give those relevant documents to the people.

With those remarks, I support the Motion. I urge that funds be availed so that we are able to document our citizens. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Members, I would like to inform you that there is lot of interest in this particular Motion. But, we had only 45 minutes remaining on it and we have run the course of those 45 minutes. You will notice that I tried to distribute the slots for speaking to as many regions across the country as I could, but we have run the gauntlet of the time we had.

Therefore, I call upon the Mover to reply. I am informed that the Mover had nominated Hon. Kibinga to do that on her behalf. Hon. Kabinga, you have five minute.

**Hon. Josphat Wachira:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. My correct name is Kabinga and if that is difficult, you can call me *Wathayu* which means peace.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): It is not. The person who had noted your name down had done so with an “i” instead of “a”. Kabinga is not too difficult.

**Hon. Josphat Wachira:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I come from Mwea where we have the best rice in Africa. I rise on behalf of my colleague, Hon. Martha Wangari, to reply to this very important Motion.

I thank the many Members who have contributed to this very important Motion, especially now that it is coming at a time when our people across the country are struggling to register their children to enable them to continue with their education.

As we are aware, most of the centres that are in place today were designed in the old days when the population bulge that we have today was not in place. That is why we have queues and backlogs in those centres.

Therefore, it is important that this Motion passes so that we can have those registration centres in all constituencies. I would add that for constituencies that have more than one sub-county, we have those centres in those sub-counties so that they also benefit. I am aware that there are some constituencies that are so large that they have more than one sub-county. It is only fair, as we talk about having those centres in constituencies, that we also have them in sub-counties. We are aware of the challenges that we have with our infrastructure. I thank the Government for doing its best to improve on infrastructure so that our centres can be easily accessible by our people. Therefore, as we put more efforts in our infrastructure, we would want the Government to move with speed to create those centres in all constituencies and relevant sub-counties, where we have two in constituencies.

Therefore, I beg to reply.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Very well. Hon. Members, for obvious reasons, we will not move to the next action on this. I direct that we move to the next Order.

*(Putting of the Question deferred)*

#### CREATION OF WATER COLLECTION AND STORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

**Hon. Macharia:** Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, aware that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the protection of the environment and natural resources and, in particular, water protection, securing sufficient residual water among others by the National Government; further aware that the existence of abundant water during rainy seasons goes to waste uncollected; deeply concerned about the destructive nature of the said excess water on roads, buildings and other infrastructure including loss of lives in the cities and major towns; cognizant of the fact that during dry periods, there is always rationing of water due to low water levels in the reservoirs that serve the cities and major towns; this House urges the Government to consider creating water collection and storage management systems in the cities and major towns in Kenya.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, let me give a brief summary on the Motion. One, the UN has ranked Kenya as having one of the lowest water replenishment rates in the world. The renewable water resource per capita is at 647 cubic metres per capita per annum, which is far below 1,000 cubic metres. Globally, a country is categorised as water stressed if its annual renewable fresh water supplies are between 1,000 and 1,700 cubic metres per capita and water scarce if its renewable fresh water supplies are less than 1,000 cubic metres per capita.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the amount of renewable water resources per capita in Kenya has been significantly decreasing over the past 50 years and now falls below the recommended line. Water touches nearly every aspect of development. It drives economic growth, supports healthy ecosystems and is fundamental for life. The Government has been talking about the Big Four Agenda. We all agree that there is no way we can have sufficient food if we do not have water. We cannot have a healthy population if we do not have water or we do not take care of water and our environment.

We need to improve the way we manage our water collection. This critical resource can harm as well as help. Water related hazards, including floods; storms and droughts are responsible for nine out of 10 natural disasters. Climate change is expected to increase this risk in addition to placing greater stress on water supplies. It has been documented and we all know that during the El Nino rains, we faced a major crisis in this country. During that period, that is 1997 to 2000, it cost this country Kshs290 billion to rehabilitate our infrastructure that was destroyed during the El Nino rains. Right now, we know that the ongoing heavy rains in many parts of this country have led to loss of life, damage of property, destruction of crops and loss of livestock. We know communication and infrastructure such as roads and bridges are damaged and, at the same time, some economic activities have come to a standstill.

Yesterday, I saw a clip circulating on social media of Sagana Bridge just before you get to Sagana Town coming from Nairobi, where water is almost sweeping away that bridge. So, with the ongoing heavy rains, if we do not take advantage and harvest or manage that water, we are going to lose a lot in terms of infrastructure. We know the Government is spending a lot of money building our infrastructure, especially roads. So, the money that we spend on infrastructure will just go down the drain because we will have to come back and re-do the same roads. So, instead of moving forward, we will be taking two steps forward and one step backward, and we will never be able to progress as a country.

Although the occurrence of such extreme climate events is outside the country's control, it is possible to minimise their impact through proper planning and investment. The combined effect of growing populations, rising income and expanding cities will see demand for water rising exponentially, and the supply will become more erratic and uncertain. To avert a further

water crisis, the country needs to seek alternative sources of water supply and reduce its reliance on conventional surface water schemes like dams and reservoirs. A recent approach in some water harvesting, which involves the collection and storage of rainfall runoff in open ponds or aquifers, has been identified as one alternative water resource and could supplement traditional urban water supplies.

As I come to a close on this, let me say that storm waters can improve water security and increase resilience when it comes to climate change in urban areas. It can also prevent frequent flooding and provide additional benefits to society. When you travel using aeroplanes outside this country, especially in the developed world, you will see many ponds from the skies within the big cities. Those ponds are done to help the cities manage collection of storm water. This is what the Motion urges the Government to do. Of course, we have the devolved governments which should also manage storm water because this is water that can help this country move forward in terms of food, a clean and safe environment and health.

There are several international examples of large scale storm water harvesting. One of the most comprehensive is in Singapore where it has been shown to be a useful high quality water resource. Other initiatives in the US and Australia highlight that harvested storm water is used for a range of purposes including irrigation, toilet flushing, commercial and industrial uses.

Our cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, including county headquarters, should invest in storm water harvesting. The Vision 2030 of water and sanitation is to ensure that improved water and sanitation are available and accessible to all. This will be realised through specific strategies such as raising the standards of the country's overall water resources management, storage and harvesting capability.

Two, by rehabilitating the hydro meteorological data gathering network and construction of multi-purpose dams and constructing water and sanitation facilities to support a growing urban and industrial population.

The main objective of this Motion is to compel the Government to put in place measures aimed at addressing issues related to storm water or rain water harvesting, water collection and water storage management systems.

Rain water is the primary source of water in agriculture. If managed successfully, storm or rain water is an essential enabler for transforming Kenya into an industrialised middle income country as envisioned by Vision 2030. As I said earlier, it also captures the Government's Big Four Agenda where industrialisation plays a key role.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I will take for example the City of Nairobi. During the dry seasons, we experience a lot of dust because we do not have water to even plant trees, do landscaping to beautify our city or plant grass. Therefore, we end up with much polluted environment that also causes a lot of ailments. You will notice, during the dry season, almost everybody catches a cold because of the dust we gather. If we take advantage of the heavy rains, like we have now, and harvest that water, store it and during the dry seasons use this water to beautify our cities and major towns, we will end up with a very clean environment. We will end up with a healthy and well fed population.

That is the motive of this Motion so that we better the lives of our people and improve the quality of life for our people and also have a clean environment.

Before I ask Hon. Oluoch, the Member of Parliament for Mathare to second, allow me to move a little bit from this Motion. I come from a county called Kirinyaga. It is unfortunate that I have to say this. We had a very nasty incident, for those who have seen. For those who have not, I will not talk about it. Human dignity should be respected. Somebody sent me that clip from

London, wrote and said Kenyans are nasty. Because I know a little about the Bible, I remembered - I hope I will get one more minute - a verse in the Bible that is Genesis 9:22 where this old man Noah took some wine and went naked. We are not told what made him remove his clothes. Nevertheless, he was naked. One of his sons called Canaan went and told his brothers: "You see my father is naked." The other two boys did not entertain that. I still plead for one more minute. They took some clothing, went backwards and covered their naked father. So, when the father realised what had happened, he said: "Cursed be Canaan, the lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Kariuki, you need to move your Motion. I will give you one minute so that you can do what you need to. The Bible will have another day. But, just do what you need to in the next one minute.

**Hon. Macharia:** Thank you. I was just remaining with one second to finish what the Bible says. He said: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem. May Canaan be the slave to Shem." Therefore, I want to say that what happened yesterday is not acceptable in a modern society like ours. It was not acceptable even in the Bible days.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Kariuki, please move your Motion.

**Hon. Macharia:** With that, I request Hon. Oluoch to second the Motion. Thank you. I beg to move.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Very well. Hon. Oluoch!

**Hon. Oluoch:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

I take this opportunity to second the Motion. It is a very important Motion. Not only is it part of Vision 2030 which we all aspire as a nation to attain, it is also part of the Big Four Agenda. More importantly, it is relevant to me as an MP in a constituency in Nairobi. It was also part of the big five in the things I promised would be the deliverables for me as an MP in a Nairobi constituency.

It is not lost to anyone that this time of the year the heavy rains have caused havoc and destruction. It should be a cause for us to reflect and see what we can do as a nation to harness that water and use it for purposes of agriculture not only in the rural areas, but especially in Nairobi and be able to ensure that we are self-sustained in our demands for water as Nairobians.

There is the Water Act, 2016. It establishes what is called the Nairobi Water Harvesting and Storage Authority. This Authority already contemplates that there shall be in place mechanisms and systems by Government to ensure that we are able to create water reservoirs; we are able to create storage facilities; and we are able to ensure every member who lives in Nairobi has decent and clean water.

In supporting and seconding this Motion, I want to state that one of the problems we have in Nairobi that we will need to confront and deal with as we try to address the question of water, is the artificial shortage. There is partly an artificial shortage of water that arises because of cartels. We have cartels in two levels. The first level ensures that we do not have water where we stay so that they can supply us with water that we buy. I spend about Kshs 4,000 to pay for water, part of what they charge me for my consumption and then spend another Kshs 20,000 to pay water suppliers as a result of what I consider to be water shortage.

The other level of cartel entail people who try to access water by using sewage pipes to create car wash and other facilities. As we try to solve those problems, we may have to put systems in place to try and deal with this artificial siphoning of water. Yesterday, His Excellency the President said that the national Government will avail Kshs50 billion to

rehabilitate and put back the towns that have not yet attained city status. Those funds will be used to have infrastructure and other things in place, to bring them to the level where the other major towns are. I wish the Government would be able to put a similar amount so that we are able to rehabilitate the infrastructure, especially sewage and water treatment systems in Nairobi, in a manner that it may serve us for another 50 years. We have a problem of sewage that always malfunctions and I think that the cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru and possibly Kisumu should benefit from Government funds of a similar amount to enable us jump-start the infrastructure in terms of water, sewage and other systems.

As I end, we need to be able to look at what other countries like Israel and USA have been able to do. Water that we use every day is not water that should go into Nairobi River or the Indian Ocean. We should have a facility where this water is harnessed, treated and put back into our system. I look forward to those days when we used to drink water from the tap. So, I support this Motion. It is useful.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): Hon. Andrew Oluoch, you need to second. I will give 20 seconds to second.

**Hon. Oluoch:** With those remarks, I second this Motion and ask the House to adopt it. The Government needs to place funds in support.

Thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Omulele): I see interest from Hon. Shamalla Jennifer.

**Hon. (Ms.) Shamalla Jennifer:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. Water is life. The International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights require that state parties recognise this right. The Water Act as it is today does not explicitly provide for the right to water and sanitation. Indeed, Water and Sewerage Company is the poorest in this country and yet, the urban areas like Nairobi pay the most for water about 10 to 25 times more.

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

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

Needless to say, it is the women and young girls who suffer the most because it is them who line up early in the morning to carry jerrycans of at least 20 litres. It has been established that those affects the health of young girls when they are forced to carry those huge jerrycans of water. I support this Motion and, indeed, I think it is crucial.

With those few remarks, I support.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Very well. We shall now have Hon. Osotsi Godfrey? He seems to have taken leave. Hon. ole Sankok, you cannot take his chance. You will get your independent chance. Let us have Hon. Fabian Muli, Member for Kangundo.

**Hon. Muli:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. Water is a vital component not only to our bodies, but to everything we do for human life.

Everything to do with agriculture, industries and even cleaning is about water. It is high time that for Kenya to grow, we must realise the benefit of having sustainable supply of water everywhere.

The presence of rain comes as a history of disaster in this country, where houses and roads are washed away. We do not see the benefit of utilizing that water. We normally get rains at least twice. The Government needs to set aside funds to deal with this water so that it can be utilised in a proper way for the benefit of the economy and the society at large. We are living in Africa where our climate is good, and we have proper rains. When you compare our country's climate with that of countries in deserts like the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, their cities are green and water is available everywhere. In our country, we do not have water in our cities. We have countries in deserts that have gone ahead to use canals to distribute water within the country. A city like Mombasa has an ocean, but that water is not utilised.

I am, therefore, urging the Government to move ahead and use the principles of integrated water resources management to supply the Kenyan citizens with water. It is true that the Constitution 2010 brought the water function under devolved governments. It is high time we recognise the importance of water and use it in every constituency. We should not say that water should be controlled and used in cities. We come from constituencies where water is a challenge. For our people to get water, they go for long distances. They cross logistical mountains to look for water. If we want this country to go far to realise the benefit of our citizens having the water in every constituency, we should control that water for proper use by our people.

With those few remarks, I support this Motion. Thank.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): We shall now have Hon. Oda Hulufu, Member for Isiolo North.

**Hon. Hulufu:** Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I would like to support this Motion. As we speak, half of our country is affected by floods that have been occasioned by torrential rains which, in the case of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) region of this country, have come after three years of very severe drought. Harvesting that water will not only help us to protect infrastructure, it will also help us to prepare ourselves for the next drought.

As we speak, in my own constituency, Isiolo North, which hosts the future resort city, half of the population of Isiolo Town is displaced by floods. Parts of Bulabesa Ward and Korbesa Ward, which constitute Isiolo Town, have been badly affected. Therefore, I would like to thank the Mover of this Motion for coming up with it.

Secondly, one thing which I have noted from the time I joined this august House is that most of the Motions that we move in this House, if some of the existing laws are implemented, we may not need them. Unfortunately, this august House, especially the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament passed a lot of good legislations, many of which have not been implemented. We already have a provision in the Water Act of 2016 which established the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority under Section 30 of that particular Act. If you look at Section 32 of the same Act, which specifies the role of that Authority, you will realise that among its functions are to develop a water harvesting policy and enforce water harvesting strategies. It is also required to develop national public works on behalf of the national Government for water storage and floods control. Unfortunately, as we speak – and I sit in the Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources - we are yet to have that Authority in place. It is meant to replace the National Water Corporation.

Because that Authority is not in place, that is partly the reason we find ourselves in a situation where there is a lot of water causing a lot of destruction. Our roads are destroyed, and most parts of this country are no longer passable. In my own constituency, we had to do air dropping of food in places where huge populations have been cut-off. We keep losing lives as well. I would like to also take this opportunity to condole with two families in Oldonyiro who lost their loved ones yesterday as a result of those rains.

Therefore, as I support this Motion, as a member of the Committee on Implementation, once this House makes a resolution through the passage of a Motion, we need to follow it up and make sure that it is implemented. I am glad my chairman is just seated across the aisle. This is the frustration we have in that particular committee. We looked at all the resolutions that were passed in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Parliaments, which have very good provisions. They are calling upon the Government to do certain things which are good for this country, but they are never implemented. Therefore, as we support this particular Motion, it is important for us to make sure that the Water Act, 2016, is fully implemented. This Motion reinforces what is supposed to be done as per that Act.

We know that the State has obligation under the Constitution to ensure management and conservation of the environment but, without water, you cannot conserve the environment. Without water, we cannot manage our resources. We require water to industrialise, as we aspire to become a newly industrialised nation by 2030. I can see my time is up.

I support the Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Hon. Mariru): We shall now have Member for Embakasi South.

**Hon. Mawathe:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. The issue of water collection and storage is such an important issue for the country that we should prioritize the implementation of the 2016 Act on water harvesting and storage. Right now as we are having all this rain, we are allowing the water to flow to the Indian Ocean. We have water spilling into the Indian Ocean 24 hours through Athi River. The same thing is also happening through Tana River. Yet come August, we will start having water rationing. In places like Nairobi County as a whole, we have cartels and huge businesses of water bowsers selling water to us. My people from Mukuru kwa Njenga, Mukuru kwa Reuben and Embakasi South as a whole pay heavily for the purchase of water, be it Kshs30 or Kshs50 for a 20-litre jerrycan. This is a back-breaking job for my people who have to carry the 20-litre jerrycan all the way to their houses. I remember about two decades back, we used to drink tap water. We need to get ourselves to the point where we collect and store enough water and purify it so that we are able to consume it from our water taps.

On the issue of irrigation, all this water is running to the Indian Ocean and yet, we would have had an opportunity to use the water if we had harvested it properly and do irrigation. We have challenges of food shortage and yet, we are the ones that are not collecting water during the rainy season.

I beg to support this Motion. Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. ole Sankok.

**Hon. ole Sankok:** Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Let me take this chance to appreciate Hon. George Kariuki for bringing such a very important Motion. Probably, we should educate our Government, especially the Ministry of Water, both in the national and county governments, on the importance of water. Water is life and 75 per cent of our body is made of water. When you drink water, it refreshes

you. When you bathe, it also refreshes you. When you are sick and water is used as an infusion into your blood stream, it rejuvenates you. So, water is very important. The Ministry of Water, both in the national and county governments, should know that they are in charge of a very important resource in the human life that we cannot live without. That goes with the importance that is attached to that Ministry. They should now work very hard and make sure that they have implemented this Motion as quickly as possible.

Water can be used as a tourist attraction. Imagine all the runoff water that we have been seeing on our streets in Nairobi being tapped into an artificial lake somewhere in Ruai? I know the direction of all that water. We can have a lake that is as big as the lake in the middle of Geneva, a tourist attraction lake that our generation and our children will be happy to visit and enjoy the cool breeze that comes as a result of the lake, instead of all of us travelling all the way to Mombasa or Lake Victoria. Any hotel that is around a water body is normally a tourist attraction. So, you can imagine hotels that we will have around Ruai if we have a lake there.

In the achievement of the Big Four Agenda, especially the agenda of food security, we need water, especially the runoff water that goes into waste. If this water can be tapped, then we can use it not only for irrigation, because I have heard many Members talking about irrigation, let us also think of how much fish we can get from the water if it becomes an artificial lake or if we use this runoff water to create several ponds all the way from Ruai to Makueni to Tana River, where all that water drains into.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, remember also that when we have this runoff water, it causes soil erosion. Most of this soil is from the highlands and it is very fertile. It is deposited on our lowlands which usually lack rain but have very fertile soil. Like what we have seen, the soil that is blocking Narok River at a place called Suswa, comes from Mt Suswa and Mt. Longonot. It is volcanic fertile soil.

If we can as well have very big dams around Mt. Suswa and Mt. Longonot, that water can be used for irrigation downstream in the Suswa Plains. Since the dam will be on top of a mountain, we will only use gravity to irrigate the lowlands that lack rain. Because of time, I support this Motion not only in this House, but also in the implementation phase that is vested on the Ministry of Water in both the national Government and county governments.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): I will have a bias for the lady Members. I get the sense we have...

**Hon. ole Sankok:** Persons with disabilities.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Order, Hon. ole Sankok. You have just spoken. The Hon. Ladies ought to register interest to speak. It will be good for you to register with your card. But for, now let me give Hon. ole Kenta to my left.

**Hon. ole Kenta:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I wish to support the Motion and commend its Mover. This is not a new Motion. It has been coming up over the years. I believe the law is also supporting it, but the problem has been its implementation. We should ensure as Parliament that the Motions we pass are implemented.

I come from Narok. Narok Town is in my constituency and it has become a case study in the issue of flooding. The cause of such flooding is the destruction of the environment, especially the Mau Forest. Even if we built as many dams as we can, we cannot save the environment from destruction if we do not save our forests.

Indeed, when you look at the flooding at Suswa which has been causing a lot of problems and economic hardships, people sleep out there throughout the night due to lack of transport.

Most of it is caused by the soil erosion caused by the mining of sand in those areas. It is also because of the destruction of the forest along Mt. Longonot.

So, until and unless we protect our forests, there is no way we can contain that water. If we do not elect professional managers for a place like Nairobi... If we are going to always elect political managers, then I can assure you there is nothing we can do for this country. It will get worse by the year and by the day. So, we need to look into the issue of the managers of our counties, cities and resources. What is ailing Kenya is the misapplication of resources and the wrong priorities.

Kenya would be a wonderful country if we could only divorce politics from development. For example, we have a good environment as far as tourism and farming are concerned. However, we are importing grains from the neighboring countries and fake fertilizers for our farmers just because a few corrupt elements must benefit in this country.

Unless we change our moral outlook and society's moral fabric, I can assure the Members of Parliament that we are doing nothing in this country. We are hearing the cry of farmers from all over. Be it rice farmers in Mwea, maize farmers from the Rift Valley or barley farmers in Narok. The cry is that they have nowhere to sell their crops. So, even if we have all the water in this world but our farmers are not benefitting, then we are doing nothing.

I was in the last Parliament and I was in the Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. We allocated a lot of money for water, but we were forced to give it to the National Youth Service (NYS). Instead of us having the dams, it ended up in people's pockets. What is worrying some of us is that the people who were castigating the so-called "cat walkers" are now together with them. So, if that is the way we are going as a country, we are headed nowhere.

So, I support the Motion. We need to irrigate our farms, raise our livestock and save lives. Somebody said water is life but, in Kenya, it is becoming death. Our people are dying by the dozens and floods are affecting everybody. So, I urge my colleagues here to look at this country as ours. We are the third arm of the Government. Let us ensure that the Government implements what we pass in Parliament. Let us not be subservient to the Executive because that is what is ailing this country.

I beg to support. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Before I give Hon. Wachira Kabinga who is top here, allow me, in light of my earlier statement, to give to Hon. Mbeyu, Member for Kilifi County who is top among Hon. Ladies.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mwanyanje:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion that has been brought by Hon. George Kariuki. We say in Kiswahili: "*Maji ni Uhai*"

This is a very important Motion and I will speak on the creation of water collection and storage management of water in the whole country and, more so, in Kilifi County.

Right now, Magarini Constituency in Kilifi County is flooded but, in the next four months, we will be distributing food and water to our people. We need storage tanks and facilities in our places as now it is raining and flooded.

Almost the whole of Tana River County is flooded. Once this water drains into the ocean, we go back to drought. People and animals will lack drinking water. Because water is devolved, I appeal to the county governments and, more so, the Kilifi County Government to provide storage facilities such as water tanks to all primary and secondary schools so that they can collect water for house use, animal use and let children use clean water. That water can also be used for irrigation.

Ganze Constituency is rated as one of the poorest, with hunger, poor education facilities and all. As at now, the water is draining down into the Indian Ocean. We need collection facilities and water pans dug in those constituencies so that water can be collected for future use.

I support this Motion. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Kabinga, you have the Floor.

**Hon. Josphat Wachira:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving our ladies that chance. I do not mind.

I want to support this Motion by my neighbour, Hon. George Kariuki. With the growing scarcity of water, climate change, rapid urbanization and the increased demand for water, water harvesting and storage becomes a very important aspect in our lives. This Motion calls for water harvesting and management to reduce water consumption, alleviate storm water runoff and provide drinking water for our people.

I want this to be extended to the entire country and not just in the cities. Our country is blessed with rains. I once visited Djibouti and I was told it rains only once per year for hours and not for days like in our country. Unfortunately, here in our country the rain water goes to waste. Last night, I almost shed tears when I looked at a *WhatsApp* photograph sent to me sometimes back. One of my villages was suffering because a river was completely dry. Yesterday, I was sent another photograph of the same village and right now over 15 houses have collapsed due to floods. When I look at these two photographs as a legislator and representative of the people, I feel like crying.

I want to call upon the leadership in this country because if we are to succeed in the Big Four Agenda, this is one of the most important aspects we need to support. I am surprised to know that we already have a National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority which is not active. I call upon the authorities to make it active as quickly as possible. Some countries have advanced and they not only talk about harvesting water, but also ensure they have invisible water. This is held in the soil as moisture or in living plants. When it evaporates it comes back as rain. An example is Korea where 90 per cent of their water assets are held in invisible water.

There are many ways of implementing this Motion. We do not require a huge amount of resource. We only need laws and regulations. For example, if someone is coming up with a building today, they need to ensure waste water is recycled. Collectively as a people, with proper education we can implement this Motion without resources from the Exchequer. I am aware that in our constituencies we have many seasonal streams. We only need to build small dams at the bottom of these streams and when there is a dry spell we can stop our people from suffering.

As I conclude, let me join my colleagues in cursing the people who directed an extortionist act against my Deputy Governor. This kind of act is unacceptable and portrays a bad image of him. I want this to be a lesson to many Kenyans. It should stop and not be directed to leaders of this country.

I support.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Kabinga, I can tell from the look of Members that they are not aware of what you are speaking about. You will not get another chance. I am sure over tea you will bring them up to speed on what you have talked about. Order, Hon. Member! As his neighbour, you can tell him to speak on your behalf. Order, Hon. Kabinga! You will not get another chance. Before, I go to my left, let me give Hon. Momanyi, Member for Nyamira, on my right.

**Hon. (Ms.) Momanyi:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank Hon. George Kariuki for bringing this important Motion. As women

whenever water is mentioned we are really touched. The people of Kenya know water is life. I support this Motion simply because all over Kenya water is a necessity in schools, universities, hospitals and industries. Again, looking at the rural areas we see what happens to our mothers and young girls when they go looking for water.

Water has become a source of war. When there is scarcity of water women fight because of long queues throughout the day and night. The Government needs to move with speed and make sure that systems are put in place to support collection and storage of water so that it can reach people. We have a blessed land because God has given us rains but most times the water goes to the ocean and it is not used. This water should be harvested so that it can assist our people. Industries will come up and we will realise the Big Four Agenda because the agricultural sector needs this water. I support this Motion and if possible the Government should implement this immediately.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): We shall now have Hon. Alfah Ondieki.

**Hon. Ondieki:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): The Member for Lari is temporarily displaced.

**Hon. Ondieki:** I stand to support this important Motion by my colleague about water harvesting in our country. Water is a basic need in our homes. It is unfortunate that our country is only reactive. It only waits for disaster to happen and people to lose lives for us to act and after we easily forget. I want to urge the Government to be proactive. We should pass a law that when people are building their homes they should have a water storage tank before the building plan is approved. We lose a lot of water during the rainy season causing a lot of damage simply because we are not conserving our environment.

Currently, every day we are developing and our natural resources are being converted to very beautiful homesteads. But you find a water bill and in that homestead there is no water harvesting. I want to propose a basic requirement, that one must have a water tank or reservoir for any development to be approved. At least the Government should give a water tank to every homestead in the rural areas. It can use the NG-CDF. County governments are using funds for projects which do not add value to anyone. We should have a proposal whereby every homestead in the rural areas gets a water tank to harvest water and reduce this menace of water shortage.

This Motion is good but my worry is that we have discussed several Motions in this House, but are they implemented? I want to echo my colleagues that once this Motion is passed implementation should start immediately. Let us not wait or we debate and just go. Let the Government be active on this and create measures that will make sure that people are not losing lives, the way we see here.

For example, our roads are now impassable and you cannot go past the Suswa section simply because currently there is the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) being constructed there. They are constructing very heavy embankments on the upper side of the road. What has been passing through the natural way is now directed to one point. Once water comes to the lower side it has a lot of damage. Let us have a proactive government that implements the basic fundamental requirements of our lives.

Otherwise, I support this Motion 100 per cent.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): I must give a lady Member again and the one on top of the list is Hon. Kibe Wanjiku.

**Hon. (Ms.) Kibe Wanjiku:** *(Off record)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Let us be clear whether you are actually on record.

**Hon. (Ms.) Kibeh:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to go on record to support this very important Motion on collection and storage of water systems. I join my colleagues in wishing that this Motion will be acted upon. The Motion is quite timely, bearing in mind that we are currently experiencing a lot of rains. Interestingly, I happened to be in my village on Monday and one elderly man informed me that the last time we experienced such kind of rainfall in this country was in 1991. Of course, we have been experiencing a lot of changes in weather. We are not very sure when else we will experience this kind of rainfall. It is imperative to ensure that we are able to harvest the rain water we are getting.

Of course, when we get rains in the rural areas, we know very well that it is very easy for it to be absorbed in the ground. We also get transpiration happening through the crops, but when we come to the urban areas, as the Motion is proposing, we get a lot of disruption of traffic because we get a lot of rain water running off. We get erosion of urban services and structures and a lot of flooding. For that reason, it is very important that as a country and as a Government, we come up with a system to put in place storm water drainage. I know that the issue of storm water drainage is vested in the counties, but, of course, the national Government also has a role to play.

I think it is also a requirement in all urban development plans to ensure that a proper water management system is in place. In many instances, we get the rain water mixing with sewer water and as we develop this kind of water system, it is important to ensure that we have a proper system so that we do not get contaminated water. Like my colleagues have said, this water can go into various uses. We know a lot of water is used to beautify this city of Nairobi and to water flowers. Water harvested through these systems can be used for such purposes as well as cleaning up the cities.

I was privileged to visit Israel sometimes back. I was really mesmerised by what they do there. We know very well Israel is a very dry country, but they have a very good system where they ensure that they recycle sewer water and use it for domestic use. At the same time, they have a system to ensure that after the sewer water is cleaned it is given to farmers who use it for farming. We have been endowed with a good environment and rainfall in this country. It is unfortunate that we are not making use of the water that God has given us.

I support this Motion and once again request the Committee on Implementation to follow it up to ensure it is implemented to the letter. Thank you very much.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Before getting back to the right side, I must really get to the left side now. Next is Hon. Godfrey.

**Hon. Osotsi:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for this important opportunity to contribute to this Motion. They say water is life because water is life-enhancing and it also has a destructive potential. We have seen during this period of heavy rains the kind of destruction water can cause. I support this Motion because it speaks to our planning systems in this country, especially city planning systems. This is because during dry spells our taps ran dry but during the rainy season, like now, we experience flooding. We also experience traffic jams and challenges like blockage of sewer systems and all that. I think this country needs to borrow from other countries that have successfully managed water drainage and storage, particularly Japan, Germany, USA, Singapore and, most importantly, Netherlands which has almost 60 per

cent of its land below the sea level. The way they have managed this aspect of water storage is commendable. We also need to have a holistic approach to our city planning, especially the City of Nairobi on the issue of how we manage our water storage and sewer system.

If you go to the Netherlands, specifically the city of Rotterdam, they have a very good model of rain water storage. It is time this country thought of how to give incentives to construction companies or individuals so that they can come up with what we call the “green roofs” for water tapping and for safe and clean water. In Netherlands, they have what they call the water plazas. These are open grounds that pick water from the road drainage systems, store the water during raining seasons and when we have a dry spell, these open spaces can be used for other things like sports and all that. We also need to review the design of our car parks in this country. In Netherlands, their car parks are multifunctional so that during the period of rain like now, they will have integrated water storage capabilities. That water can now be used when we have dry spells.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Kenya is ranked as a water scarce country. Why is that so? It is because per capita, water levels are 600 cubic metres compared to the global average of 1,000 cubic metres. This Motion is more appropriate. I encourage that we integrate this into our city planning system and areas which are flood-prone like Budalangi and others.

I support this Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Let us have Hon. Kiai.

**Hon. Kiai:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I stand to support this Motion.

Every year, in the months of April and May or thereabouts, we receive heavy rainfall throughout this country. This water drains into our rivers, lakes and oceans without us taking advantage of the same. Every year in urban centres, whenever it rains, there are always issues of clogged drainages and impassable roads. The issue of clogged drainages makes communication between one town and the other very difficult.

I support this Motion because I know what we can do with the storm water that is conserved after it has been harvested. We are talking of having enough water stored in water pans, dams and tanks to ensure that it can be used during the dry season. For example, if water was to be harvested in Nairobi and put in a dam, we can recycle it for drinking or other purposes. We could also use the same water for sporting activities like fishing, boat competitions and others. We could start urban farming using this water to grow quick-growing crops like tomatoes and vegetables. It can be made mandatory that before any building is approved and put up in urban centres, one of the things it should have is a tank or some mechanism to harvest rain water and store the same to be used during the dry period.

We have always talked about having a healthy population. By conserving this water and harvesting the same, we could use it for fish-farming and the like to ensure that the nutrition aspect of the population is also taken care of. The over-reliance on rainwater to grow crops is one thing that we need to look at seriously. The growing urban population and the need for water to serve that growing population has not been met with equal development to ensure that this population is served with sufficient amounts of water. One way of bridging that gap would be to ensure that any storm water or rainwater is harvested and stored to be used by this growing population.

In conclusion, when you look at towns along the coastal area, you realise that they have a lot of saline water. Rarely do they have clean drinking water. I have had a chance to see people around Watamu harvesting water from tarmac roads. If we had a formula to harvest such rainwater and keep it in a clean environment, it would save such people from drinking such

water. It is important that towns along the coastal strip ensure that the very thirsty population along the coastal region is served by harvesting water that in the end mainly drains into the ocean.

I support the Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Let us have the Member for Kitutu Masaba.

**Hon. Mose:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me a chance to contribute to this very important Motion.

It is clear and it is a matter of common notoriety that water is life. When we say that water is life, the truth of the matter is that our country enjoys a lot of water throughout the year. When you go out of this country to other jurisdictions, you realise that many countries do not have water. What do we do with the water that we have? It is sad that when we are blessed with the resource called water, we also experience the bad side of it like this time round. If you look at what is happening in the whole country, water is ravaging this country. Water has actually drowned homesteads. I was shocked the other day to see that in North Kinangop about 30 families drowned because of water. This clearly shows us that as a country, we are not prepared to ensure that we tap the natural water that we receive so that we put it to good use.

In Nyamira County where I come from, you will be shocked that there is a serious shortage of water in hotels, centres and schools. When we have a dry spell for a short period, we have serious challenges of water. The reason that we lack water is because we do not have collection points where we can store water. I urge the Government to note that we should have water collection centres. We should store or tap this water at this time when we are blessed so that we utilise it after the rains. It is normally a matter of great shame when we have this water for several days and once the rains are over, we start experiencing shortage of water. I, therefore, urge the Government to take judicial notice of the fact that this natural resource that we enjoy should not go to waste but should be collected, stored and utilised at the most appropriate time.

Yesterday, I happened to have been a victim of the vagaries of those rains. I was stuck at a place called Suswa for more than 12 hours because you could not move in any direction. We were sandwiched. When we have water of that nature - as my good friend Sankok said - it should be collected and made available for use. It should be there for us to utilise. Just as the other speakers have said, we should not merely debate such a good Motion and put it in the dustbin. We should ensure that it is implemented.

I support the Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Top on the list on my screen is the Member for Lari.

**Hon. Jonah Mwangi:** Thank you so much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support Hon. George Kariuki for bringing this Motion. I thought he would extend it not only to the major cities and towns but also to our villages in the rural areas where we also need water to be harvested.

We need to operationalise the National Water Storage and Harvesting Authority so that it can take care of water pans where our pastoralists can have areas of giving their animals water during dry spells. We have a lot of water in Isiolo now but two months later, animals will die because of drought. We have so much water which flows in Mai Mahiu but two months down the line, animals will die because of drought. We can create water pans that are well done to ensure that they do not gather a lot of silt. That means the water and the environment will be conserved well and the animals will have a lot of water. We are beggars. We borrow tanks from

companies that manufacture them as the corporate social responsibility programmes to harvest water. Water harvesting should be done as soon as possible. I support Hon. Miruka, who is saying that we should create a Bill on water harvesting. He should come up with such Bill to compel everyone constructing a building to provide for water storage tanks not only for drinking but also for watering gardens, washing clothes and cars. He should come up with it, so that we can discuss it here and it becomes law.

Food security is amongst the Four Big Agenda of President Uhuru Kenyatta. There are areas where we need water pans in my constituency. We need onions and *sukuma wiki* to grow after two months. When you have pans, you can have water in those areas and produce kales and cabbages throughout the year to feed people in Turkana and North Eastern Kenya, where people do not have enough food. I have seen people being given maize to address food insecurity. We also need to supply them with cabbages, so that they can have a balanced diet every time. I support the Motion by Hon. George Kariuki because it seeks to bring water management systems.

I am also looking at the bodies that are authorised to take care of the surface water that is there throughout. As we conserve the environment, they should also be responsible for creating small pans everywhere. We are not just talking of the mega dams on which the Government spends a lot of resources to create. We are also talking about creating small water pans in every village for watering plants and livestock.

As we store water, it is our responsibility to manage our environment. We should continuously plant trees in water catchment areas, like in my area. I will also come up with a similar Motion to urge the Government to provide every Kenyan with clean drinking water that is affordable. People drink tap water everywhere in the world. If you go to the United States of America, which is a developed economy, people drink water direct from the tap. I wonder why Kenyans, including those in the rural villages and Kibera in Nairobi, drink water from bottles. I have also given notice of Motion. So, Hon. Miruka should come up with a Bill to talk about the construction industry, how licences should be given and how plans should be made so that every building that will be constructed in the future can have water storage facilities to water all greens and use it for washing clothes and cars. We should not use piped water for those purposes.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): I must go to the left side. I take note of what I had said earlier on giving opportunity to ladies to contribute. Before then, let me give opportunity to the Member for Kajiado Central.

**Hon. Memusi:** Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have spoken in support of this Motion on creation of water collection and storage management systems in cities and major towns.

As I support the Motion, I would like to urge the Mover of this Motion to go a step further and look at the laws which are related to this Motion with a view to coming up with a Bill that will be anchored in our Constitution. We have shared with another Member here; that in the past, we contributed to such Motions but nothing happened. We waste a lot of taxpayers' time and give very good ideas, like those which have been given here. I have heard very good ideas on how we can make this country water sufficient. After our discussion today, I do not know who implements the Motions. So, I would like to challenge the Mover of the Motion to go ahead and initiate the process of anchoring it in the Constitution.

As a country, we need to find out our basic needs. I have said this because there is one economist called Maslow, who came up with the hierarchy of needs theory. We need to find out our basic needs, as a country. As a country, the most basic need is water. It is good to have the Standard Gauge Railway and a sophisticated transport system in place. However, before we move to those big issues, are we meeting our basic needs? One of our basic needs is water, which is the solution to all of our problems. If we are water sufficient today, as a country, unemployment will be sorted out. Back in our villages, we have youths who are ready to work but they do not have work. If we are water sufficient, we can make our youth busy and produce food that will feed this country.

I remember that last year or last year but one, the president declared drought a national disaster. Wellwishers came to give us food, which is good. However, as a country, after 50 years of Independence, should we receive donations even from dry countries that are known to be semi-desert? As a leader, this is a shame. We are where we are and as we move on, as leaders, we should not lament but take action. This is a very important Motion which should be anchored in law. It will help us sort out a lot of our problems. We should not be lining up our people to give them food. We are blessed. My colleagues have talked about the ongoing rains, which came at a time when we needed them. We had suffered losses in the pastoralist community. Our animals died in large numbers. As the Member for Kajiado Central, I have a big challenge when disbursing NG-CDF because everybody is needy now.

In summary, we need to support this Motion. We need to move ahead and anchor it in our laws by making it a Bill so that we are water secure as a country. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, you will get a chance, but not now. I can tell from your face that you are wondering when you will be given a chance. I know you are senior and you will get your chance very soon. Remember you are also seated next to the Deputy Minority Whip who also takes precedence and who I have noticed has registered interest of speaking.

Before then, I had said I would give a chance to an Hon. lady Member. Hon. Wamuchomba.

**Hon. (Ms.) Wamuchomba:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support my able colleague, Hon. G. K. on the very important issue of water which touches on all of us because it is an enabler for our lives. As a woman, this is one of the issues that touch on our leadership especially for us County Women Representatives who have the mandate to manage issues that affect the affirmative groups. One of the affected affirmative groups is women. We know that women carry the burden when there is no sufficient water in households. On a larger scale, it is important for me to note that for the Jubilee Government to achieve the Big Four Agenda for positive economic development, it cannot achieve food sustainability as a country when we do not have sufficient water to manage irrigation and farming, whether livestock or crops. We cannot talk about industrialisation without having sufficient water to support it and we cannot talk about housing when we are not able to supply enough water to support constructions.

On that, I note that in Kiambu County, during these long rains, we have had buildings that have collapsed, lives lost and properties damaged. The reason why these buildings are collapsing, in as much as there were poor construction mechanisms, is lack of sufficient water to support the construction. In fact, my county which is one of the fastest growing in building and construction, one of the biggest issues we have is water. As we speak, the county government is struggling with the issue of water to the extent of consolidating all the water services boards to

one to see whether we can have efficiency and balance. Some corners of the county have water while others do not have.

In as much as I do not support that move because it is against the spirit of devolution, I support the Motion so that other than consolidating water services to provide efficiency, we also need to look at how we can increase the volume of the water that is available so that it can reach those without water. One of the things we need to do is harvest and store water. We should take initiatives to encourage household water harvesting. I request the Government to make water harvesting equipment affordable. How do we make them affordable? It is by coming up with tax waivers for manufacturers of equipment like tanks so that they can be cheap and affordable to our household owners. In so doing, we will encourage manufacturers to lower the prices and encourage household owners to purchase these tanks and storage equipment and therefore store more water for our people.

As we speak, in Thika Town in my county, we have serious floods affecting our people. It is sad that during the dry spells, Thika is one of the towns that have serious water shortages. If we could provide these tanks at a subsidised cost, I am sure we will not be having a water problem because it will be stored somewhere.

I take this opportunity to support the Motion and congratulate Hon. G.K. for coming up with it. Although, as I support it, I am not very excited as a woman having seen one of our colleagues, a man from Kirinyaga County where Hon. ....

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Earlier on another Member raised the same issue. I am actually wondering what it is. I give you one minute on that particular matter.

**Hon. (Ms.) Wamuchomba:** Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, earlier on I had called upon men, so that they protect their egos and big names, to make sure that they accommodate more women in their lives so that the women can tame them because sometimes they need to be tamed. Recently, and as late as yesterday, we saw many disgusting video clips circulating in the social media of one “able” man filmed in a very embarrassing situation in a room with a woman apparently who is having a side affair. I am a very embarrassed Kenyan leader woman because these are not some of the pictures and images we should be seeing in our social media of leaders at the level of a deputy governor in very compromising situations. I would like to reiterate my call that instead of men being found in those corners with embarrassing issues, it is important to marry these women to be your wives so that if one is tired of you, you can always “use” the other one instead of ...

**Hon. Mbui:** On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Order, Hon. Wamuchomba. What is it Hon. Mbui?

**Hon. Mbui:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. We are discussing water issues and the Hon. Member is talking about incestuous and funny relationships. Is it in order for her to digress? She is talking about men as if that man was with another man in that room.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Wamuchomba was cut short before connecting the issue of the man and the water but that can be discussed elsewhere.

Hon. Robert Mbui is the Deputy Leader of the Minority Party. You have the Floor.

**Hon. Mbui:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support the Motion we are discussing by Hon. George Kariuki on management of rain water. I will be very brief because I know Members want to contribute. The Motion is extremely timely because it has come at a time when we are seeing chaos and destruction caused by the ongoing rains. Our roads have become impassable, bridges have been carried away every day and there

are landslides in Makueni where we saw over 100 homes buried. I wish the affected families all the best.

The responsibility of managing water, first and foremost as provide for in our Constitution lies with the county governments. I urge our Members of the County Assemblies (MCAs) to take up this Motion in all the countries and make them to Bills so that every county in Kenya can invest money to ensure that management of water during the rainy season is taken into consideration so that when there is drought we can also sort it out. In Kenya, there are complaints. When it rains, we say there is too much water and when there is no rain, we say there is drought and we have a problem. Let the MCAs take charge and deal with it because it is a county matter.

Finally, let me reiterate what my colleague, Hon. Kanchory Memusi, has said about Motions. I do not know whether there is anywhere else in the world where legislators spend, once a week, a whole morning session talking for the sake of it. The truth be told: these Motions never see the light of day. The minute they are called Motions, what we say is, “we are urging the Government; we are resolving that the Government should” but we have no implementation mechanism. I would propose that from now, every Motion before it is brought to the Floor, the Clerk’s Office can look at it and see where it can fit. Either it can be a stand-alone Bill or it can be an amendment to an existing Bill. Even this current one I can tell you that there is a water management Bill in existence. This could even have been used as an amendment to the Water Management Bill. It is the right time for us to do away with them and deal with Bills only so that taxpayers’ money can be put to good use.

I support the sentiments. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi.

**Hon. Wamunyinyi:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I also rise to support this Motion, of course, taking into account issues raised by my colleagues regarding the manner in which we have brought about Motions in Parliament and implementation of what has been resolved. Water has been described as life— water is life. We cannot do without it. In Kenya, there is usually a long spell from heavy rainfall to drought. There is usually a dry spell and then rainy periods. When we have heavy rainfall, there is a lot of water that goes to waste. There is a lot of water that is not preserved, stored and utilised during drought. In normal circumstances, we would have had in this proposal what has been said by our brother, Hon. G.K., that is, to have water stored in plenty. Plentiful water should be stored and put to use during the drought. This does not happen. We have a serious shortage of food in our country. It can also be utilised for irrigation to enhance the food yields. Even during the rainy season, some parts of the country do not receive adequate rain. Where water has been stored, it can be put to good use in such areas and it would help produce more food for the country.

We are also aware that there is havoc caused by heavy rainfall. You have heard the flooding in the country. If there were controls like dams and storage components along the paths where rain water would be collected and stored, we would not be having these problems. We get this every year in western Kenya. Nzoia River passes through my constituency on its way to Lake Victoria. It causes havoc every year in Budalang’i, Busia, when it breaks its banks and floods all over. If there were dams put along the river and waterways, it would help our people not to suffer every year. It is not just to control water and prevent havoc, where there are dams, it can be used for generation of electricity towards our grid. There is so much benefit if water is controlled and put to good use.

Members have shown interest in this. I just want to mention some key components which my colleague, Mheshimiwa Kariuki, had proposed. It does not just come, it must also be planned. There has to be good plan. I am happy that recently, the Cabinet Secretary at a workshop in Naivasha mentioned that the Government was planning to introduce this process that we are talking about. Hon. Kariuki should get in touch with the CS to see what they have in place so that we can consolidate and propose some law which would help.

With those few remarks – I do not have time to say what I wanted to say – I am grateful you gave me the chance to contribute. I thank Hon. G.K. for this Motion. I hope we will pursue it to make sure it helps the people of Kenya.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Next is the Member for Dagoretti South.

**Hon. Waweru:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion by Hon. G.K. and at the same time seek to introduce a mechanism that would make it possible for this not to become a Motion that just sits in our HANSARD and only goes on record as a matter that came up for discussion and end up being shelved without any implementation.

First of all, I would like to observe few things that Members have raised here. Critical among them is the fact that even in our composition as human beings, we are 70 per cent water. It is also not lost on us that two-thirds of the globe is covered by water. However, out of all this water, only 0.002 per cent of it is clean enough for human consumption and human use. We also realise that in the hierarchy of needs, ranking very high there is sustenance. When we talk about sustenance, we talk about food and water. As such, water becomes a very critical compound not only for the livelihood of human beings but also for the wellbeing of our planet. The Constitution of Kenya gives provisions which protect the right of every Kenyan to have access to not only water but good quality and clean water. We are right now in the middle of a rainy season. We have seen the tragedy that comes with excess water. Some of us who are city dwellers are now grappling with drainage that cannot carry the water that is being channelled through alleyways of this city.

Our constituency, Dagoretti South, happens to be a beneficiary of an amazing infrastructural project called the Southern Bypass. However, with it, came a lot of drain water to a point where some of our roads became impassable. The Waithaka Bridge, as we speak right now, is in a situation that is, to say the least, appalling. This does not have to be the situation. That is why I am looking at this Motion and seeing an opportunity. The opportunity right here is to rethink about urban planning.

We have an opportunity to rethink how we plan our cities, urban areas and even the rural areas. There is an opportunity here to now reimagine agriculture. For the longest time, our agriculture has been rain-fed. We realise that the patterns of rains in our world today are not going to be as they were in the days of our forefathers. The opportunity is here in our management of our water to reimagine our agriculture. We have an opportunity to reimagine conservation. I cannot belabour this point. We also have an opportunity here to reimagine our international relationships. When you think about it, our water towers in Kenya fit critical water bodies like Lake Victoria whose benefits are felt all the way to Cairo, Egypt.

As such, how we manage our water in Kenya is critical in how we fit into the world in this century where we know the biggest fight going forward is going to be a fight for resources. We do not want to go to war with our neighbours over water bodies like in Misingo. We do not

want to go to war with the people who are living downstream of Lake Victoria, all the way to Cairo, Egypt.

Finally, we have an opportunity to reimagine our tax regimes. As we are managing our water, we can think of ways of incentivising people who are going into conservation of water. We can reimagine how we incentivise our developers to think of ways of coming up with creative architecture, creative urban planning and, creative city planning because of the incentives we are going to give.

My final point is what I wanted to...

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Waweru, I am afraid time is up for you. I am sure the point is made. Shall we now have Hon. Ombaka?

**Hon. (Ms.) Ombaka:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity.

I come from an area surrounded by water. That is Lake Victoria, one of the fresh water lakes in the world. But, there is no water in that area all the same because water does not reach everybody in the area. That means there is some problem with water in this country.

Kenya is infested with tragedies when there is plenty of water. When there is plenty of water, you can see people drowning in those waters, especially in the lakes, when they cross over. Children die during the rainy season. When there is no water, there is drought. Animals, plants and human beings also die. It means we lack preservation of water. We do not protect it and we let it go to waste. This Bill is good because of this. It is going to save us. It is going to help us implement certain things that will enable us to protect human life when there is excess water which we cannot manage. We need to manage water. That is part of conservation of the environment.

Water is not only needed at the domestic level but we also need it for industrialisation. Right now, one of the agendas of the Government is to improve and expand industrialisation. With that, a lot of water will be required. If we do not conserve and protect it, we are not going to ensure that agenda works. Children and adults need to have some knowledge about water; how to protect it, even the little that we have. We need to protect it. Many people let the taps run for hours. We see lots of pipes of water bursting. Nobody bothers to repair the burst taps and so on. So, there is a lot of wastage. That means we are not sensitive to the fact that water is life. We are not sensitive to the fact that water requires to be protected. We need to know this all the time. It is a basic right that we must rally around and ensure that we protect. I support the Motion because it is going to sensitise us that there is need for protection, for conservation and for the use of water.

Lastly, the water that we need to protect also needs to be treated. We just use water anyhow. Sometimes it is not very clean. You can see it with women in the village. They draw water that is very dirty; water that is green, brown and has lost colour. They are not aware. We need education on conservation. We need education on how to clean our water before we drink or use it.

I think civic education is also necessary as we look for ways in which we conserve the water, use it well and protect it just like other countries where you can take water directly from the taps. We are so scared of doing that here and that is why we buy bottled water. That is my contribution to this. I support it because it is going to save lives and ensure that water will always be available during the rainy season and during drought.

Thank you, for the opportunity.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Members, I can tell there are approximately five Members who would like to speak to this. Of course, it is of interest but I am

afraid we have five minutes to the end of the time allocated for this Motion and the Mover must be called to reply. Usually, some Members are gracious enough to donate part of that time to other Members. That is their decision. Hon. G.K., you have the time to reply, it is your decision to decide whether you can allocate about four minutes. You will need a remainder of one minute to reply. It is your decision. You have the Floor.

**Hon. Macharia:** Hon. Sankok is requesting me to donate 30 seconds to my colleague over here. Hon. K.J. wanted to mention something about Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA).

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): You cannot donate to one who had spoken on the same Motion. Hon. K.J. cannot speak twice on the same Motion. Who else have you given?

**Hon. Macharia:** Hon. Kathambi. I will remain with three minutes, so give the opposition one minute.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Koskei

**Hon. Dominic Koskei:** Thank you so much Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker and thank you, Hon. G.K for giving me a minute or two to also echo the contributions my colleagues have made to this Bill. Water is life and because of that, we cannot do without water. This Bill enhances the fact that we should have storage management systems in place, not only in cities but also in rural areas of this country. We are one very lucky country to have had rainfall almost throughout the year in several parts of the country but we are not making good use of the same water. Lake Victoria is one of the biggest fresh water lakes in this country. All the water which is going to Lake Victoria goes upstream to Sudan and to parts of Egypt...

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): You had one minute. Hon. Kathambi, you have one minute.

**Hon. (Ms.) Chepkwony:** Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. The creation of water collection and storage management system is going to assist this country. Currently before the rains, we had rough time with our people especially in my constituency in Njoro. We, therefore, need to come up with good and simple systems where collection of water can be done and good storage facilities put in place which in future can be assisting our people to get water for their cattle and irrigation in areas which are dry. I am therefore supporting by requesting that this country comes up with good programmes...

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Very well. Hon. Mutemi, you have one minute.

**Hon. Mulyungi:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion because where I come from, we lack water. It is just now that water has become a problem. It is too much and people are now living on trees. Therefore, this Motion has come at the right time. We need to harvest water.

I want to propose that the Government creates a policy to make the departments that deal with water, like the State Departments of Water, Irrigation, Roads, Public Works, to even make...

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): What is it, Hon. Sankok?

**Hon. ole Sankok:** The Member is out of order for misleading this House that some people live on top of trees. How are they living on top of trees? No, it is not true.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Order, Hon. Sankok. You cannot tell a Member he is out of order. It is me to determine that. Let us give him the remaining seconds; he may tell us how.

**Hon. Mulyungi:** Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker, if you allow me I can take Sankok to my village and he will understand how people live on trees. I was saying that we make it compulsory that we harvest water and make this process inter-ministerial so that it is easy to implement. Once I get water in my village, then I will support...

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. G.K., you have not more than two minutes.

**Hon. Macharia:** Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank Members for the contributions they have made towards this Motion. Thank you, Members, for your support. It has come out clearly from the Members that when you look at the Big Four, water is the overarching enabler to them. Without water, we do not have food, housing, industries and good health. Therefore, I am grateful to the Members for the contributions they have made. I urge the Government, just like the Members who have spoken before me have said, we do not want to just debate a Motion and not see the relevant departments and authorities pushing it through to implementation. We would really love to see every city and town in this country having a natural lake, which comes with a lot of benefits.

Having said that, because I can see I do not have time, I reply. Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Members, we will pend putting the Question on that particular Motion.

*(Putting of the Question deferred)*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Mariru): Hon. Members, the time being 1.02 p.m., the House stands adjourned till this afternoon, Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 1.02 p.m.