

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 9th October, 2013

*The Senate met at the Kenyatta International
Conference Centre at 9.00 a.m.*

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Hon. Senators, let us determine if we have a quorum.

(The Deputy Speaker consulted the Clerk-at-the-Table)

I am informed that we do not have a quorum. I order that the Division Bell be rung.

(The Division Bell was rung)

Hon. Senators, we now have a quorum. Let us go on with this morning's business.

MOTION

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR USE OF CABLE CARS IN TOURISM

Sen. Karaba: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to move a Motion which is already in the House. The Motion is as follows:-

THAT, aware that tourism is one of the leading sources of income to Kenya's economy; noting that the Government has set a target of 3 million tourist arrivals per year by 2017; cognizant that the country is endowed with many, scenic and captivating natural tourist attractions; aware that access to some of the tourist attractions by conventional means of transport is difficult, insecure and a constraint to the achievement of their full tourism potential; acknowledging that cable cars are an ideal mode of transport in difficult terrains and provide unobtrusive access to areas with fragile ecosystems; recognizing the need to open

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up new and untapped tourist attractions; the Senate urges the National Government to provide a policy framework for use of cable cars to enhance tourism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we, as a country, have always complained of not being like the South East Asia Tigers. Most of the problems that we face are of our own making. Since Independence, 50 years down the line, not much has been done to promote the tourism industry. Tourism is one of the greatest foreign exchange earners in any country. All a country needs to do is to attract many foreign visitors. This is because they will spend their foreign currency here. In the long run, the country gets enough money to support other projects and services. Therefore, we need to explore other areas to attract many tourists. For instance, the modes of transport in tourist attraction sites have remained untapped for many years. That is why I imagine that the use of cable cars in Kenya can attract more tourists. This can translate to more foreign exchange in our kitty which will support various development projects in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I talk with a lot of bitterness because most of us here have visited many developed countries, but we have not brought any positive changes in this country. I visited Kuala Lumpur which is the capital city of Malaysia. They have put up two beautiful twin towers. It is believed that these are the tallest buildings in the world. Many people go there to see those buildings. From the top of these two towers, you are able to view the beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur. In Paris, France, there is the Eiffel Tower, which is a site that collects a lot of money as a tourist attraction. That money translates into a lot of development in France. There are many other countries that have come up with unique tourist attractions. In Cape Town, South Africa, there are cable cars. They ferry tourists to the Table Mountains. While on the Table Mountains, you are able to see a variety of animals, landscapes and the ocean currents; that is the Benguela and Agulhas currents where the Indian and the Atlantic Oceans meet, making a stormy sea. That is what tourists like to see. All these are facilitated by the use of cable cars as a mode of transport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can use cable cars in our country in areas where there is no accessibility to tourist attraction sites. If we do this, we will attract tourists who are unable to climb, for instance, around Mt. Kenya, Mt. Elgon, Mt. Longonot, cross through the Rift Valley or the Mua hills in Machakos County. When cable cars are introduced on such terrains, we will collect a lot of foreign exchange to develop our country.

According to the research that I have done, it will not be expensive to install cable cars as has been imagined. A cable car from Westlands to the Central Business District (CBD), for example, could cost Kshs3 billion to install. This is too little money compared to Kshs300 billion which is reported in today's newspaper as not being accounted for by various Ministries. If we had good planners, architects, engineers and serious policy makers in this country, we can save a lot of money. We need to manage our environment properly if we are to earn enough foreign exchange for this country. We will also save a lot of time as we travel from one place to another. We will also have a proper grip of some tourist attractions. We can view animals using car cables. If these cable cars are

properly utilized, this country can earn a lot of foreign exchange which will support development projects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was reading the annals of history and I realized that in 1963 there was an Austrian company which had developed interest in developing cable cars on Mt. Kenya. But when they made the proposal, it was never looked at. If this country had looked at that proposal and implemented it, today, we would be talking of Kenya earning a lot of money from tourism, especially from Mt. Kenya. But this never happened. The same company proceeded to Singapore the following year and they convinced the Government of Singapore to have the cable cars. The cable cars were installed the following year. To date, these cable cars are still there. Singapore is a country that many people claim was on the same footing with Kenya in the 1960s. But due to the fault of the planners, people who could not even listen to some of these developers, we were not able to construct or put up a cable car network when the Government of Singapore put up one. Today we are talking of Singapore being one of the stable economies in the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we, as Kenyans, need to be careful when talking about development. We should not play games and blame each other when people in offices are not able to interpret proposals or proceed with what is comparatively found in other countries. They are not careful about future generations. If such cable cars were introduced, we would save time, fuel and create employment. This is also a very easy system that would attract the young and the old to go and climb some areas which they would not have, otherwise, climbed because of age. When they get to the top of certain mountains, they will really enjoy the views of the country. That is what I am calling for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount of money that is used by the ferry at Likoni is a lot. There are risks involved when the ferries sometimes submerge, killing many people. This risk or problem can be solved by introduction of cable cars. I am made to understand that if the cable cars are introduced where the Likoni Ferry is, we would be transporting 11,000 people per hour. This is a high number of people compared to what the ferry transports from one side to the other; from South Coast to North Coast. Usually there are delays which can result in death in cases of medical emergencies, for example, if somebody is to being transported to hospitals. Cable cars can be very useful in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also possible to imagine of cable cars enjoyed in the areas where there is no competition. We will have no congestion. There are no known jams in the air and there is a lot of room for expansion. This is what we require in this country. Once we have these cars introduced, we will make a lot of savings. The problems of traffic jam on Nairobi roads will be a thing of past or minimized. This is what has happened in Munich. I visited Munich in Germany. It is very easy to move from one point to another. The story is the same in Austria. You move from one area to another without any problems. You do not even have to move up and down the slopes experiencing problems caused by the fog and steep valleys. That is solved by the introduction of cable cars. All you need is to erect two electric columns which will ferry the cables from one level to another. I have visited the capital city of Venezuela, Caracas. I found out that the people living in the lower villages are easily transported to the upper

regions. Those living in separate ridges can also be easily accessed using cable cars at a very low cost.

Some people may not understand what cable cars are. The moment they understand what cable cars are and what they do, they will appreciate the efficiency they provide in the transport system. We need to encourage the central Government to come up with studies and ideas on how this can be implemented in Kenya. If they do so, they will know that we will save on the cost of fuel, time and also on speed and efficiency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that countries that have cable cars, besides saving on time, earn a lot of money from foreigners who travel to those places to see how cable cars operate. I have been to Canada. Most of the Canadians who live on the coastal lands prefer moving to the Rocky Mountains by use of cable cars. This is either because these cars are efficient or they are environmentally friendly. As you climb, you see a lot of other things that are on the lowlands. As a result of this, Alberta, which is a province in Canada, is richer than many countries in Africa.

We need to move with speed and direction, so that we make Kenya a developed country. This is one area that we need to target. As I speak, I am aware that Uganda is developing cable cars in the Ruwenzori Mountains. Rwanda is also starting to develop these cars. I am sure these are not very rich countries. They are not richer than Kenya. But the moment they have these cable cars on those mountains, I am sure they will tap more tourists from the rest of Africa and the world. They will earn more money than what we have been earning. Eventually, they might beat us in the tourism industry.

This is a consideration that the Government should look into, come up with proposals and then embrace technology which is found in other countries, so that we develop. Algeria is one of the greatest cable car users. We also have cable cars used on the Cameroon mountains and the Eastern side of Nigeria. If we are not careful, other countries will surpass us. That is why I moving such a Motion, so that we have future where we can generate enough money. This money can be used to develop areas of agriculture, industries *et cetera*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am imploring the central Government so that they can come up with a study or proposal, so that we can start thinking about cable cars. This will be seen as a solution to the very many problems that we are having, on our transport infrastructure and economically. We will also increase our entertainment spots.

With those remarks, I beg to move and ask my friend from Kajiado County to second my Motion. I do not know why I forget his name---

Hon. Senators: Sen. Mositet! Your friend!

(Laughter)

Sen. Karaba: My friend, can you second this Motion? I rest there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Thank you.

Sen. Mositet: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to second this Motion that has been moved by Sen. Karaba. It is a timely Motion and it is in

line with Vision 2030. We can only achieve this Vision if we have an idea of how to improve our infrastructure. I was listening to the hon. Senator talking about cable cars. He has done a thorough research of the countries where these cars are used. I noted that this country has many good sceneries where locals cannot reach.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am just thinking of a place like Ngong Hills. It is quite near Nairobi. I do believe that if we could have cable cars from Ngong Hills, we can manage to traverse into other hills, whose owners cannot even reach and yet they have title deeds. Even the elderly people would want to climb up to those hills maybe to see all parts of the land they own. However, they cannot climb those hills because of their age.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about the tourism industry I am very much concerned about my county. This county is rich in terms of tourist attraction sites. For example, when one goes to a place like Shompole, the next place you would want to see game is at the Maasai Mara. The distance between Shompole and Maasai Mara is just about 60 kilometres. If you want to go there, you actually have to come all the way back to Nairobi then you go round the Narok-Maai Mahiu Road, which is a distance of about 350 kilometres. If we had the cable cars, you could just have traversed very comfortably into the Ngurumana Escarpment. Here people would really enjoy seeing the escarpment. I do believe that tourists would use very little money going to Maasai Mara. If we had this mode of transport, we can really encourage most of them to come to Kenya.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also imagining that this will be more like a new technology; so, how many people will be employed in that industry? Here, we are talking about creating job opportunities with this technology. We will need people to manage those vehicles. Our engineers will design infrastructure to support these cable cars. I do believe that young people, who are innovative, will even be encouraged to take up engineering courses when they see this technology. In Likoni, for example, these cable cars will be very useful. It is quite something that everyone would want to see taking shape in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do believe that the landscape of our country is so beautiful, for example, Murang'a, Suguta Valley, Kitui or Machakos regions where we have hills and valleys. I wonder how those people climb all the way up to the top of the hills. I do believe that if cable cars could be introduced, the elderly and the sick people will manage to move about comfortably and reach their destinations without wasting a lot of time or getting fatigued.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also imagining the kind of destruction we sometimes go through when, maybe, some roads are being done and even in acquiring land where people have already put up some structures. Suppose we could just introduce cable cars, I doubt whether we would have infrastructure or the structures which are owned by people being destroyed. It is for that reason that I stand and say that this is a project for which I feel the central Government should initiate a feasibility study immediately, and through the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), people can be encouraged to start these projects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I believe this Motion is timely and if implemented, will help our country achieve Vision 2030.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Sen. Musila: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to say in principle that I do not object to this Motion, but I have a lot of issues with the Motion as it is framed and as it has been prosecuted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I believe that what the Motion is seeking to achieve is simply a policy framework. This is because it is not the Government business to put up this kind of infrastructure. Even where examples have been given, it is not the Government that develops cable cars, but the private sector. I believe that if it is a Motion simply to call for the policy framework to be established by the national Government, it is okay. But where we go beyond that, and we want the Government to be involved in the development of cable cars, I think we would be going out of our way. I have good reasons for saying so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, it has been suggested that cable cars can ease traffic in the city. I do not think so because cable cars would specifically be for tourist attractions. Like the example of Table Mountains in South Africa which has been given here; where you are moving people from one area to another purely for pleasure. We cannot attempt to believe that cable cars would in any way reduce or improve transportation in a city. What I would have expected to hear is how this city can develop mass transport in the city like tram transport. Just walk around the city in the evening and you will be amazed to see the number of people standing at bus stops waiting for transportation to their homes. They wait there until 8.00 p.m. before they get transport. So, in my view, what we should advocate for is the establishment of mass transport, including trams, in all our cities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has also been suggested that, for example, in the case of Likoni Ferry, cable cars would be used. Cable cars cannot carry trucks which cross that channel. So, we cannot substitute ferries with cable cars. What I would have liked to hear is that the national Government should be urged to build a bridge which would cross that channel instead of using the archaic methods of moving millions of people who cross that channel in cable cars. They can never be moved by cable cars. They can only be moved over the bridge, but not otherwise. I am saying these things because I think we have got it wrong.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, the priorities are wrong. We have tourists going to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, which is a world famous tourist attraction; but tourists are stuck on the road. Roads leading to most of our attraction sites are in pathetic condition. So, I would not wish to start talking about cable cars to transport tourists when our tourists cannot even access those areas by road. I find this Motion to be overreaching. However, in principle, I find it very difficult to oppose anything developmental, but I think we need to rethink over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the status of infrastructure in the country as I speak? Coming from Kitui County, my people will think I am mad if I talked about the development of cable cars when we do not even have tarmacked roads. I need to reach my electors, but I cannot because simple bridges to enable us cross over even small streams are not there. I have been talking about the road between Kibwezi, which is a highway to Kitui. This road was better during the colonial times than it is today. So, my people would think that I am mad if I talked about cable cars.

By the way, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not see anywhere in Kitui County where we can have a cable car because the terrain is flat. I do not know which hills within the county I can connect so that I can advocate for cable cars. So, let us have first things first. Let us, first of all, develop the road infrastructure in this country as we know it. The examples we have been given of Austria, Hong Kong and Singapore, have all finished developing their roads. So, they are now doing the leisure things like cable cars. So, for goodness sake, let us have roads and bridges. Let us take our tourists to the destinations by road and when we are done with the roads, then we can think of taking them by cable cars up there. By the way, we have balloons in Maasai Mara which are doing a very good job. However, there is no such thing as a policy framework for balloons. All we do is the safety framework and the private sector is encouraged to invest in these balloons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to urge that while we support development, let us, first of all, do first things first. Let us look at the country as it is; the north eastern region does not even have a kilometre of tarmac. I want to see a Senator from north eastern who will support cable cars and then he will be skinned by his people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether I will support this Motion because I am torn in between.

(Laughter)

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Sen. Musila! You must end up by saying whether you support or oppose. I know we are not voting, but I think you must state your position.

Sen. Musila: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a lot of reservations; on one side, I do not want to appear to be opposing development and, on the other side, I think this is awful.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Khaniri.

Sen. Khaniri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to start by thanking you for this opportunity to make just one or two remarks on this Motion, which I think is very important. Let me begin by hailing Sen. Karaba for the well thought out Motion that he brought this morning. To me, I think Sen. Musila got it all wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I read this Motion properly, what the Senator from Kirinyaga County is asking is that the Senate urges the national Government to provide a policy framework for use of cable cars to enhance tourism. He is not saying that the Government should invest and develop cable cars, but he says there should be a policy

framework. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in having policies in place which can be utilized at a later time by private investors. I do not see anything wrong with that.

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cable cars are not replacing ferries or whatever means of transport that we have at the moment. Cable cars are supposed to supplement what is already in place. So, they are suitable in some places and they may not be suitable in other places. Therefore, I think we should support this Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to me, anything that boosts tourism in this country, I will go flat out to support it. I was once an Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife. Therefore, I know the potential that this county has in tourism that has not been exploited. When I was the Assistant Minister some eight years ago, we used to do only 30 to 40 per cent of our potential in tourism. We used to earn only 30 to 40 per cent of what we could possibly earn from tourism.

If, therefore, there is something that can be done to boost this to a bigger percentage, then it should be supported. For many years, tourism has been one of the major income earners. However, we, as a Government, have done very little to invest and boost the tourism industry.

I once led a delegation to the United States of America. We went to seven states trying to market our tourism. The questions we got from our potential tourists were based on infrastructure. They said that we did not have the infrastructure. They said that yes, we have the Maasai Mara, but how does one access there? Owing to this, so much tourism business has been taken away from us by South Africa and other states in southern Africa. They saw the potential and developed the infrastructure.

It is high time, we, as a country, took tourism seriously and invested in the development of infrastructure and other facilities that will help us boost our tourism industry. Asking for the Government to come up with a policy framework is not asking for too much. We, as a Senate, I think we need to speak with one voice and support this Motion 100 per cent so that the Government comes up with this policy. We should go further and urge the Government to invest more in the development of infrastructure, particularly roads that lead to our tourist attraction sites like the Maasai Mara, among other sites.

We should develop our airstrips. The Kakamega Forest is a very high potential tourist place. However, how tourists get there is the problem. Why can we not urge the Government to develop the airstrip in Kakamega, so that we have more arrivals there in terms of tourism?

I would like to disagree with hon. Musila and say that I support this Motion 100 per cent.

Sen. (Prof.) Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. I had just stepped out of the House when Sen. David Musila opposed the Motion. So, I do not know why he opposed the Motion. However, that is his democratic right.

One of the reasons I support this Motion is that we should not only think about tourism in relation to foreigners. One of the things we should begin to focus on is domestic tourism. There is, indeed, a lot of domestic tourism going on only that it is not captured in the data of the Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism.

I have been to several countries which have succeeded in building their tourism industry such as Mexico, Great Britain and the United States of America. There is a lot of tourism there. Local air travel is encouraged and there are very many destinations. For instance, the Ethiopians have a lot of domestic tourism. The Ethiopian Airlines have many destinations. We have improved, recently in terms of domestic destinations in Kenya. However, these are very expensive. One of the things that are a disaster today is the amount of money it costs a Kenyan to travel by air from one part of the country to the other. This is a complete disaster because it compels Kenyans to spend a lot of money.

The airlines in the industry that have monopolised the routes have kind of captured their audience to the extent that they charge an arm and a leg. I do not think this is good for the airlines industry, nor is it good for Kenyans. It makes no sense to pay Kshs28,000 for a return ticket to Kisumu. That is more than half the pay for a ward representative. I do not think this makes sense at all. I would like to urge those who control the airlines industry to think twice before they charge this kind of money.

Secondly, one good thing with Sen. Karaba's Motion is that it is innovative. Cable cars should have been implemented a long time ago. Travelling from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) into town is a nightmare when one has arrived at about 5.00 a.m. on any day of the week. It is also a nightmare when you arrive in the morning about 6.00 a.m. or 7.00 a.m. because you are competing with cars and *matatu* users on the same highways. You are also competing with lorries coming from Mombasa, transporting goods to Kampala. This is not good for either air transport or tourism. Building a cable car or light car transport from the airport to town is a very simple thing. I remember my experiences from other jurisdictions.

In 1982, Mexico decided to expand on its subway system. Within a matter of ten years, the City of Mexico had been connected to the subway all over. This has improved domestic travel and tourism tremendously. Mexico has many ancient and historical sites. Due to the huge size of the Mexican State and nation, people from different parts of Mexico do not know about other parts of their country. Since they have established air travel domestically and packages that suit local people, there is a lot of travel internally.

There is something they call *goleta todo pogo dos* which means a ticket with everything paid for. That means that you can buy a ticket and you can travel down for three weeks while everything has been paid for, including hotel, taxis among others. That package gives one an opportunity to visit sites you have never seen. The word tourism means visiting places you have not been to. I am sure that many of us in this Senate have many places they have not visited. If we were to visit these places, these would be very exciting.

At one point, I went to visit a friend of mine in Embu County many years ago. He told me that there was a place called Doshi Lodge. It was not a great place, but it was new. Having a lodge beside the river was something mystic. This was very exciting to me and my wife. That is what we call tourism. I am sure that the Senator here from West Pokot has not been to *Kit Mikai* in my county and yet he knows about it. When you go to any hotel in this country, even at Outspan in Nyeri, you will find the picture of *Kit Mikai*. Making it possible for people to travel to these places would be great for Kenyans and we would earn a lot of money locally even before we look for foreigners.

Finally, many years ago, I suggested that we build a double carriage way railway system from Mombasa to Kisumu and to Uganda, a new one, of standard gauge and turn the old one, the “lunatics express” into a tourism attraction. People would still travel on the “lunatic express”. Something else about tourism is that it is just about propaganda and publicity. Once you build a “lunatic express” and tell its story in the airline magazines that we read in the planes, people will come to see it just like the Blue Line in South Africa from Johannesburg to Cape Town.

When you read about the Blue Line, you will go there, because you want to have an experience. We have a natural tourist attraction here, a railway line, which we have been trying to revive under very funny economic circumstances. This cannot work. If we used it for tourism, probably, it would work.

One time when I was in the NARC Government, we tried to revive the Kisumu-Butere line. We went there with the former Vice President, Moody Awori. All of us boarded the train. We left Kisumu at about 10.00 a.m. in the morning and reached Butere at 2.00 p.m. in the afternoon just to demonstrate to people that this was a great thing to do. People were not amused and they said that they did not have five hours to travel from Kisumu to Butere. However, tourists would love it. We were to promote it at a tourism level; we were talking to people about it. We would stop at local stations and talk to people.

The NARC Government was very popular at that time and that was a lot of fun. We thought that we were reviving the railway transportation, but of course, we were more of reviving a tourism attraction. This was not followed as such. We did a good thing, but for the wrong reasons. The reason was not to revive it for transport purposes. It is too slow these days and there are faster ways of doing it.

One thing that Sen. Karaba has mentioned is that there are terrains like the Rift Valley, for example, on your way to Nakuru, where there is the escarpment where people sell curios. If we had a suspended cable car moving from where the curios are sold right into the Rift Valley, that would be fantastic. That would be a great tourism attraction. Many people would pay to go across the escarpment.

I remember once doing that in Mexico in a place called Ecatepec. They had a suspended cable car. We would use this to go to the hotels to the mountains and we had great fun with the children. This was used more by the local people because every local person wanted to tell their story that they had gone for the trip; from Ecatepec to the Lake and to the mountains. We can do that right here, especially if we get someone to build a hanging hotel near the escarpment to the Rift Valley. It is possible to have a hanging hotel down where those people sell curios. At the moment, this is used for very sinister motives. Bodies are dumped there by criminals. We are wasting a site in criminal activities when we can use the same for tourism purposes. Now that I have said that, I know that you will switch me off. I do not know why you fear. I am not an *Al Shabaab*.

I support.

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to join my colleagues who have spoken in thanking Sen. Karaba, the Senator for Kirinyaga county where they grow a lot of rice, for presenting this Motion which talks about a policy framework that needs to be looked into or prepared.

Kenya is known for generating a lot of documents and paper work. But we have not generated this one yet. Since we are talking about cable cars which relate to tourism, it is time that we, as the Senate, passed this Motion and hopefully, the Government will implement it so that we develop the nation.

We have been talking about Vision 2030 which should be achieved 17 years from now. Tourism is identified as a key driver for the development of our nation in generating sufficient funds. However, we have some constraints as my colleague has put it. One of them is infrastructure that should entice and attract tourists, both local and international. We know that we may be the only country in Africa that has been identified to hold one of the Wonders of the World, the Wildebeest Migration. Everybody, including Kenyans, wants to go there and see. However, as you have heard from my colleagues, moving from the JKIA to where the action is taking place is a total nightmare.

Let us start with moving from the JKIA to the town centre. How many hours do we spend on the road? I fly from home every Monday or Tuesday from Eldoret. However, the minute I land at the JKIA, I am sure to spend not less than one hour stuck on Mombasa Road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleagues are suggesting the railway. We also can consider the cable. We need as many avenues as possible, the way Sen. Karaba has suggested. We have not been able to open up more roads. For example, we are supposed to have an overpass that will be used only by vehicles going to Mombasa or outside Nairobi City but we are jamming all vehicles on one road. It is like telling a pastoralist to put cows, goats, sheep and chicken into one house. It cannot work. You can appreciate the kind of problem that we have. We had a meeting in Naivasha and when I reached Westlands, for the first time, I spent three-and-a-half hours seated in a car. That is why we need the cable cars. I want to convince Sen. Musila that although Kitui is as flat as you have described, there is no harm taking an experiment of this cable for your people to---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): You must address the Chair!

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we may need to look at a policy that can make us think outside the box.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the sceneries that we have in Kenya are endowed. If you go to Mt. Kenya, for example, even the road or railway that you may want to construct cannot work. We must explore the nature that God gave us. One of the investments that we need to consider in such areas is the cable cars, so that when tourists arrive in Nairobi, they will be assured of movement to areas that they desire to see. I come from West Pokot which is very scenic. We have hills and valleys. We have the Marich Pass which separates two mountains and appears like a cave. If I was to move from Sondany Hills to Sekerr Hills where there is a lot of chromate and gold for people to see--- I want to entice Members in this House to support this Motion, so that they can come to see this gold. The second tallest mountain in Kenya, Mt. Mtelu, actually is found in West Pokot. People in that area believe that there is some god who resides there, but I am not sure whether it is true. But we can actually tell people to visit the area and see the “god” who is different from the One that we believe in. People may want to try and test everything else that they see.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in West Pokot County, we have a national reserve called Nasolot with one peculiarity in the whole world. The largest elephant on earth is found in Nasolot Game Reserve. Does anybody in this House know about this? To reach these animals, we may need to connect Turkwel to Kefei Hills using a cable car. But there are challenges that also need to be addressed, for example, insecurity in some areas. We also need to see how the current conventional means of transport can be improved. Sen. Musila mentioned the road network. It is indeed, true that we must address this. I have not been to Maasai Mara when it is raining, but I am told that you cannot move from one point to another one because of the mud. We need to improve our road network.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, someone talked about Lake Victoria. We have some tiny islands that people may want to visit. Some people are saying that we may use the port, but we do not want to spend a lot of time. We can introduce cable cars to save time. We need to think big. Sen. Karaba has talked about Rwanda. We are going there tomorrow with him and want to see what he is talking about. I know that there are so many hills in Rwanda and if, indeed, what he has talked about is true, then we can also move in the same direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, take the Menengai Crater in Nakuru, for example. You cannot drive into the crater. Is it possible then for this Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to introduce these cable cars? We need to support such an initiative that has come. We need to venture and think big.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion.

Sen. Leshore: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important and timely Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the outset, I would want to urge my good friend, Sen. Karaba, that he should separate the cable cars and trams. Because of the infrastructure that we require, we need a policy that will tell us when to introduce trams, so that people within the central business area and the outskirts could easily access the city and move out.

Samburu is one of the counties with a good potential for tourist sites. I think that my friend, Sen. Karaba, must have seen the table mountain in Samburu East, where it would be easy to use the cable car to transport tourists across the two small hills there. It can also be used in Suguta Valley. Samburu County is very rich when it comes to tourism. We have got the “big five” and very rare animals there. I would urge my friends, the Senators, to visit Samburu. Maybe in 20 years to come, we will have cable cars. I have seen cable cars in Italy and it is something very lively for the young and even old people like Sen. Musila. I pray that Sen. Musila will be alive in another 20 years, so that once we put in place those cable cars, he can use them easily in his old age. He should not oppose this Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am urging the Senate to develop two frameworks for the trams and cable cars. Prof. Anyang’-Nyong’o has talked about Longonot. We can easily develop a cable car to link Kabete, Longonot, Suswa and Lake Naivasha. If we do this, we will enhance and promote tourism everywhere. My friend, Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo, talked about Marich Pass. It would be interesting to see those big elephants using the cable cars. But before we use the cable cars, we must have sufficient

electricity. We must develop solar, wind and geothermal energy, so that those cable cars can easily be used to enhance tourism in our counties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Sen. Kagwe: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this important Motion that my brother, Sen. Karaba, has introduced in this House. Indeed, I am very proud of my friend, because if I look at the cover page of my election manifesto, there is a cable car leading to Mt. Kenya. Therefore, I am pleased and thrilled that colleagues in this House are thinking exactly the same. It is the workings of great minds. Great minds think alike. Congratulations to Sen. Karaba.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the image of a nation or country is what determines the quality of the people who visit that country. Kenya, to a large extent, has over the last many years been a low-cost destination for tourists. That means that you can get millions of tourists – and the target is three million – but the revenue that we gather from them can be very small. The reason would be because the image of the country is one where you either visit the beach or go and see wildlife. With cable cars, two things happen. First, you cannot have a banana republic and cable cars in the same sentence. Cable cars are an advancement of human endeavour. It is something that belongs to another set of development. It does not belong to a very poor country.

In public relations, we talk about perception being everything. Therefore, when a nation introduces cable cars; I can imagine a place like Mt. Kenya. I can see ourselves going by cable cars, all the way to point Lenana and, therefore, avoiding the destruction of the route, forests and giving wild animals the freedom to roam around there without human interference. Therefore, the image that you would create is that it is an expensive destination. The tourists who will go there will on average spend US\$5,000 rather than the ones who will spend US\$100 on curios.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are also giving them an opportunity to spend money, because sometimes people can have money, but do not know what to spend it on. When you give them an opportunity to travel in cable cars and go up the mountains and down the valleys, then the psychological impact that we have of our nation in the world is that this is the place to visit. It is an up-market place and you go there if you have got money. The target of three million tourists is very small. Places like Paris in France have got over 50 million tourists; more than the population of Kenya. Over 17 million people walk along Oxford Street alone in London. If you go to Spain, we are talking of another 37 million people visiting as tourists, yet our biggest ambition here is three million people. But if we open up our minds, then we can have many more tourists.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can imagine a situation where tourism becomes by far the largest foreign exchange earner in Kenya; way beyond what it currently is. At that point, if we moved from three million to five million tourists, through the kind of attractions that Sen. Karaba has proposed here, the economy of Kenya would be completely transformed. You can imagine that if you have five million tourists, they would consume 10 million eggs, 10 million sausages and 10 million of other things that we may think of. If you ask Kenyans to supply 10 million eggs, that is a lot of farming that would be done by Kenyans.

Therefore, we are talking about economic transformation. So, as we think about cable cars, let us be clear about what we are talking about. We are talking about a means of transport that can get us to the terrain that other means of transport would be difficult. For example, if you are talking about the Rift Valley or if you are crossing the Menengai Crater, it is very difficult to use any other means. Let us also not complicate this thing so that it looks like it is impossible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in your other life when you were an ambassador to Belgium, you saw these things all over the place. A cable car is simply a car that is pulled by a pulley. It is simply a pulley. It is the same as drawing water from the well except that it is across. It looks very complicated but it is very simple. All we need is a policy framework that can assist us in developing these things. We must also encourage the county governments to think along the same lines. When we do the policy, let us not make it a national government activity only. Let us encourage the county governments and let us infuse them by supporting them financially from the national Government so that county governments can make plans for them.

In Nyeri, for example, we would like to make plans to build cable car network to Mt. Kenya; we would like to build a mountain tramway for Aberdare Mountains so that people can see one of the most beautiful scenes in the world called the moose in the Aberdare Mountains. Many Kenyans have never even heard of them yet it is the most beautiful scenery anywhere on earth.

So, what we are saying here is that in addition to cable cars, let us think about trams, let us think urban transportation via urban trains and we should also think about balloons. We have a few in the Mara but we should encourage people to look at different ways of doing things. Cable cars can take us through Mt. Kenya to the Mau Mau caves that still exist. Except for a few of us who have been there having been taken there by the administration police, they are numerous and beautiful but nobody knows that the freedom of this nation was born in the mountains and we have never visited there. We have seen people travelling all the way from the United States of America (USA) to come to Ghana to see the caves through which African slaves were transported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let us support this Motion and in doing so, let us also ask our people to be clear minded and to be more dynamic. I specifically would like to address the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). NEMA must also open up its mind to this kind of things. I am sure the minute we make a request that at the end of the cable car network, we propose to have a small restaurant in Mt. Kenya, NEMA would oppose the move. We can build a restaurant in Mt. Kenya provided that it is also environmentally conscious. Therefore, what we are saying is that the organization called NEMA is supposed to protect the environment and it should rightly do so but not in a blind form where it cannot see dynamism in what lies ahead.

This also applies to other organizations that need to open their minds. They should not just approve the requests that are made but also do so in good time. There is no need of taking a request to build a cable car then you find that it takes a year to get approved. Any investor coming to Kenya to build a tram or a cable car would want to save time. I would also urge that as we develop this policy, let us do so on two fronts. It can be build by the county government or the national Government but let us also be

clear that we can also use the private sector to do it on the basis of Private-Public Partnership (PPP). There are many people who are running cable cars in Switzerland and elsewhere. Let the county governments approach these people and do so on the basis of PPPs.

To me, this looks like the easiest way forward because a PPP gets you capital, the management that you require for those cable cars because the last thing we want is to build a cable car and within a week you hear that one of them has dropped into a ravine somewhere in the Rift Valley. We want people who can manage these cable cars in a manner that the question of safety is addressed immediately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to end there and support this Motion.

Sen. Okong'o: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity to support my colleague, Sen. Karaba, for this nicely put Motion. This country started on a proper footing in trying innovation. You remember we started with the Nyayo car. As my colleague, Sen. Kagwe, has put it, the cable car is just a simple string which connects one end to another; it is not rocket science. To enhance tourism in this country, we must think big. This country is endowed with enormous resources. If you read the report of the Auditor-General and note the wastage of our resources, you will understand that just a minute percentage of the funds wasted can be used to connect areas that are relevant to this type of infrastructure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, where I come from, we have a big ridge called Manga Ridge. So, if we have this kind of facility there, I can assure you that we will have a huge turnout of tourists in that region and, therefore, more employment opportunities. We are in the 21st Century and we are talking about Vision 2030. So, Kenya must think big if we have to attain the dreams of Vision 2030. Countries like India, which have been Independent for the last 60 years, have done great works on this end. If you go to the northern part of India, the Himalayas, they are using these cables with a lot of precision and this brings in a lot of revenue. Now that we have enormous minerals which we are now going to tap, for example, we have coal from Kitui which can be used to run these cables and we also have coal from Pokot. These are the areas where we urge the relevant departments to come up with policies. This country has the best engineers in the region and it would not be very difficult for us to experiment with this.

As my colleagues have said, we do not have to talk about 20 years. We want these things to be done in the shortest time possible. The country is now going to be in the line of countries which are endowed with huge mineral resources. We are talking about rare earth from the Mrima Hills which will be worth approximately Kshs20 trillion in 20 years. So, the issue of finance should not come in.

It is very important that we stand and support such a well thought out Motion. We should support it effectively so that we work towards attaining Vision 2030. I do not want to belabour more on this because most of the Senators have talked about it candidly.

With those few remarks, I support.

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Bw. Naibu Spika, nashukuru kwa kunipa nafasi hii. Ningependa kuunga Hoja hii na kumpongeza mwenzangu, Sen. Karaba, kwa kuleta jambo ambalo ni la hekima, haswa kuangalia mazingira sehemu tofauti tofauti nchini, sehemu zingine za nyanda za juu na zikiwa na milima mingi. Jambo hili linaweza

kutekelezeka kwa kuleta Hoja ya kuomba Serikali Kuu ili iweke halmashauri ya kuangalia jambo la kutengeneza gari za waya. Ningependa kuunga mkono na kusema kwamba hili jambo laweza pia kufikiriwa na Serikali ya Ugatuzi. Hivi leo mkiangalia kwa magazeti na vyombo vya habari, serikali za ugatuzi zimeshindwa kutumia hela. Hela zimefurika kwa benki, sijui ni kwa sababu hawana mipango kamili lakini mambo kama hayo pia yangefanywa kwa daraja hilo ili kutekeleza wazo letu nchini na kuendeleza mambo yetu ya uchumi kama utalii.

Hapa, tuna lengo la kuwa na watalii karibu million tatu kila mwaka. Hilo ni jambo la aibu kwa sababu nchi hii ina uwezo wa kuwa na watalii zaidi ya milioni kumi kila mwaka, haswa ukiangalia sehemu nyingi nchini: Upande wa magharibi kuna Ziwa Victoria ambalo halitumiki kabisa, kwenye nyanda za juu, kuna Mlima Kenya na Aberdare, upande wa kusini kuna Taita Taveta ambapo tunaweza kutumia vifaa hivyo kusudi watalii wanapotembea huko wasigutushie wanyama ambao wako chini kuliko kutumia magari au ndege aina ya helikopta zenye kelele nyingi.

Kwa hivyo, hili sio jambo la kutafakari kwa siku nyingi. Hili ni jambo ambalo linaweza kutekelezeka. Yafaa tuwe na mipango kamili kwa sababu tuko na uwezo, nia na lengo. Kwa hivyo, hatuwezi kushindwa.

Sina mengi ya ziada ila kuunga mkono.

Sen. Elachi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also rise to support the Motion knowing very well that tourism in our country is one of the sectors that gives us revenue and it is one of the sectors that the Government depends on in terms of collecting revenue. As we talk about cables, we know that we have to transform our country but we also need to know that as Kenyans, it is time to transform our entire infrastructure where we know that tourism is the key activity. Therefore, the cables will start at the airport. When tourists come, they can use the cable, rush to the Nairobi National Park, view the animals, go back to the airport and continue with the journey.

As we do that, we need to ask ourselves how to ensure that we have the incentives to make people also accept the idea. We have very good policy frameworks but we are not ready to give incentives so that we can encourage people to borrow ideas and do the right thing. Therefore, within the policy framework, I would wish to see us come up with incentives for those who are engaging in business to benefit. When people come in to invest, they need to be told what they will benefit if they do business with the Government. That is something that we also have to look at as the Senate. We know that we have very many tourist attraction sites that are good and have good sceneries. For example, if we had the cable in Kerio Valley, you will view the scenery up to Pokot.

It is very beautiful scenery; I remember when we were in school, we used to go somewhere up at the Kerio Valley and look down. So, if you have the cable, I know you can run across to Tambach and it is a very beautiful area where people can learn a lot not just in terms of tourism but it is one way of easing Kenyans to understand that now we are in the 21st Century where many things are evolving. Transformation is evolving within different countries. We are saying that this is a global village. If it is a global village, then the cable that is in China can also be in Kenya.

I think that is the dream Kenyans should have and should start thinking as they move on, especially those counties that have the potential for tourism. I hope to see

counties like Narok, Kajiado and Nakuru starting to engage the local people to help. We have Kenyans with very good ideas that can transform this country and we can even stop this issue of borrowing funds and give our own Kenyans who are there and who are willing, if only we can have a better way of doing these things in a transparent and effective manner.

I beg to support.

Sen. Ong'era: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this Motion. First of all, I would like to congratulate my colleague, Sen. Karaba, for bringing a very innovative Motion to this House. When George Owen wrote his book in 1984, many of us thought that it was a joke. He envisaged a situation where we had flying cars. I think this is what Sen. Karaba has in mind.

With the usage of car cables, it means that we shall be able to improve our tourism. We will be developing new tourist circuits. I have listened very keenly to a number of my colleagues in this House and they have mentioned many new tourist circuits that we can develop in this country by using cable cars which we have never had. Senator Elachi mentioned Kerio Valley as one of the new tourist circuits that we could create by use of cable cars. If I heard him right, the Senator for Nyeri, did also mention a new tourist circuit that we could create by using these cables to look at Mt. Kenya in another new way. We could also look at the Aberdare Ranges that we have never looked at. I envisage a situation where, if we had these cable cars that we could use for tourism especially in South Mugirango, tourists could be able to see the soapstone that has never been seen.

However, we should not only talk about cable cars, we must also improve the road infrastructure in many of our tourism areas. We will not just speak about cable cars without looking at the road infrastructure. The airstrips in this country are in a deplorable state and, therefore, there is need for the tourism industry, especially the Ministry that is concerned with tourism to look for areas in which they can improve infrastructure. This includes the road network, the airstrips and the airports. I expect to see a new airstrip being constructed in Maasai Mara. I also expected to see another airport that was supposed to be placed on the border of Kilgoris and Kisii County. It is long overdue. I expect to see Suneka Airstrip in Kisii County being upgraded so that we can improve tourism in the southern sector. This is tourism through South Mugirango going all the way to Migori and to Homa Bay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a good Motion and anything that brings new innovative ways in which we can improve our communication systems in this country is most welcome, but we must remember that Kenya stands as one of the most important tourism countries in Africa. Therefore, we should be leading. We do not want South Africa to overtake us. We do not want to hear about Zambia overtaking us. Therefore, as leaders, we should begin encouraging tourism by ensuring that it expands. I agree with Sen. (Dr.) Machage that we should not be talking about three million tourists. We should be talking of over ten million tourists in this country and it is possible.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Sen. Mbura: Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa nafasi hii. Ningependa kumpongeza Seneta Karaba kwa kuleta Hoja hii nzuri sana ambayo inalenga kwetu pwani. Tukiangalia uchumi wetu wa Kenya unachangiwa na utalii. Tukiangalia kama kwetu pwani, kuna mahali pengi sana ambapo shughuli za utalii zinaweza kunawiri, lakini zimefifia kwa sababu ya barabara. Usafiri umeleta changamoto kwa watalii kuweza kufikia maeneo fulani.

Kwa mfano, Mekatilili ambaye alikuwa mpiganiaji Uhuru wa nchi yetu ya Kenya, ni mama aliyejulikana sana ulimwengu mzima na kila mtalii anayetembelea nchi ya Kenya hutamani kujua pahali yule mama alikozikwa, lakini imekuwa ni vigumu sana kwa watalii kufika mahali pale. Kama Hoja hii ingeweza kutekelezwa na tukapata hizi *cable cars*, itakuwa ni rahisi watalii kuweza kufika mahali alikozikwa kule Bangale, Malindi.

Shughuli kubwa sana za utalii hapa kwetu Kenya, tunaona zimelenga hoteli zilizoko kwenye ufuo wa bahari. Na utaona kwamba kuna shida kutoka Kiwanja cha ndege cha Mombasa hadi mahotelini ilhali ni sehemu ambayo ingechukua hata dakika kumi, lakini siku hizi tunachukua hata masaa sita. Wakati mwingine magari yanakwama ukifika mahali panapoitwa Changamwe ama Kipevu. Kuna msongamano wa magari na wakati mwingine magari yanakwama pale kwa masaa 24; hayaendi na hayarudi, kwa sababu njia inayotoka kwenye uwanja wa ndege kuelekea Nairobi ama kuingia Mombasa, ama kuenda Jomvu, kuna msongamano mkubwa wa magari. Lakini tukiwa na *cable cars*, tungerahisisha utalii wetu. Hasa wakati wa Krismasi watalii wanapokuja hapa nchini, huwa wanakwama kwenye uwanja wa ndege. Hata wakati mwingine Krismasi inaishia kwa usafiri.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kungekuwa na *cable cars*, zingesaidia kwenye Kivuko cha Likoni. Huwa kuna msongamano kwenye Kivuko cha Likoni kwa sababu kuna uhaba wa feri. Lakini leo hii tungekuwa na *cable cars*, zitatusaidia katika kuwavusha watalii wetu kufikia maeneo ya utalii ambayo yako upande wa Kwale, kuingia katika hoteli zetu za kitalii upande wa Likoni.

Ningependa kuunga mkono Hoja hii kwa sababu ikipitishwa, huenda utalii wetu pwani utanawiri. Shukrani.

Sen. Kanainza: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this Motion. First, these cable cars will enhance the tourism sector in this country. Tourism is very key when it comes to income generation in this country. If we go the way of cable cars, we shall open the recreation sites or the mountains in this country. It will enable tourists who come to this country to view various tourist sites.

We have so many untapped zones for tourism in this country because we do not have a good transport system. When I look at countries like Ukraine, San Francisco and the City of London, they have actually used these cable cars to achieve prosperity. Looking at this “digital Government” as we call it, and in order for us to achieve the Vision 2030, we need to put this in place. It will be able to create employment opportunities to our people in this country, especially the young people that I represent. We will have to employ drivers, and various staff manning the stations, engineers and even attendants in the cable cars.

I support.

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen) took the Chair]

Sen. Bule: Nashukuru, Bw. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa fursa hii. Pia ninamshukuru Sen. Karaba kwa kuleta Hoja hii kwa wakati ufao. Hii Hoja ni ya muhimu na itaweza kupeleka uchumi wa nchi ya Kenya mbele. Hii ni hatua ya kisasa na yakupendeza. Ninaunga mkono Hoja hii kwa kusema kwamba Kenya inahitaji hizi *cable cars* kwa sababu kuna milima mingi sana hapa nchini. Pia kuna mito mahali pengi. Mimi ninatoka Tana River na kuna sehemu ambako hata mimi hushindwa kufika. Tukipata magari haya, yatatusaidia kuweza kufika sehemu mbali mbali ambazo hatuwezi kufika kwa wakati huu.

Magari haya ya stima yataweza kutumika katika mahali pengi nchini. Na ninafikiri kwa sasa, katika Afrika nzima, Kenya ni nchi ambayo imenawiri na inahitaji kuwa na vifaa kama hivi. Magari haya yatatuwezesha kukwea milima na kuvuka mito mbali mbali bila shida yoyote. Juzi, nilikuwa na mkutano katika kaunti yangu, na tulishindwa kuvuka mahali fulani kwa sababu gari letu halingeweza kupita mahali hapo. Ilitubidi tutembe kwa kilomita kumi. Gari kama hili litawezesha watu kufika mahali hapo na kuwawezesha watalii kutembelea sehemu nyingi na itaweza kuongeza hazina ya nchi.

Ninaunga Hoja hii mkono kwa dhati na ninawasihi wenzangu waiunge mkono ili tuipitishe kwa pamoja. Asante.

Sen. Lesuuda: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion and also to congratulate my colleague, Sen. Karaba, for thinking about this Motion. I know that for many of us when we saw it for the first time, we were wondering what cable cars are and of what importance they are to us. As I was just talking to him, I told him that at the Senate, we have very visionary people and also visionary Motions.

Tourism is one of the key areas where we generate revenue and so we must start to think how we can become innovative. What is this new thing that we are adding that the tourist who was here ten to 20 years ago; when they now come to Kenya, they see that we have moved a few steps forward? This is one of them.

Secondly, it would also be an avenue where we would generate more revenue because for you to use the cable cars, then you would have to pay for them and, so, it would be value addition to our tourism. I would also like to add to what one of the Senators said, that we should not just think of foreign tourists, but we also have local tourists. I know that Kenyans really love to enjoy this beautiful country. I know of my friends who would, one weekend, just wake up and say “let us go to Kajiado,” or “let us go to Mt. Kenya,” and they would also like to enjoy such facilities if they are in place.

But having said this also, it is important for us to think about our infrastructure as a whole as a country. We need to open up more frontiers because if we were to have these cable cars in Samburu, you would, first, have to get yourself to Samburu. So, we really hope that we can think about the road networks and the airstrip. You have been to

Samburu and you have seen the airstrip that we have there, and we really hope that we can improve the infrastructure that will, first, get us to where we can access the cable cars.

We are very innovative people; we know the marathon that is in Maasai Mara and it is one very unique one in the whole world, where you do a marathon in the wild amongst the lions and the big five. We should actually think about how to market this event to make it even bigger like the London Marathon. The Maasai Mara Marathon is something that we can really tap into, and I am sure that by having the cable cars during such events, it would also add value to such kind of events that we have in this country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we also have land use problems; I am thinking about demolition of buildings along the roads that we have been seeing around. If, really, we have cable cars in some of these points, we might really think about having a road network there and it is going to reduce some of the problems that we have been witnessing, including reducing accidents. I am sure Sen. Karaba will agree with me. I do not think we have witnessed any accidents when using cable cars, and it is important that we think about it. Really, it is just the whole issue of being innovative as a country; of accepting technology and of accepting to move forward.

I know that we have the capacity and the brains; I am sure we also even have the revenue to put these things in place. We are also looking forward, now that we have counties in place, to see whether Sen. Mutahi Kagwe will make sure that, actually, we can have some cable cars going up to Mt. Kenya, which is in his county. I know that if counties actually think about some of these issues and also work with the national Government, we are going to see them being put into place.

So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I really thank the Senator for coming up with this Motion. It is one that should be supported by all of us in the Senate. When we will use the first cable car in this country, definitely we will be thankful to the Senator who actually thought about this Motion.

So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Thank you.

Hon. Senators, as you are aware, this is a Motion that is not affecting counties; basically, it is contributing to the general welfare of the whole country. So, it is important that we now invite the Mover of the Motion to basically reply and, if he so wishes, if a Senator comes in and he wants to donate one or two minutes, that is his own volition.

Thank you.

Sen. Karaba: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. As I reply to the Motion, it is important that Kenyans travel. What I have witnessed in this House is that people are ignorant of the facts; they do not seem to understand what the Motion is all about because they have been moving around here in Kenya, and I hope that you encourage them to be exposed. They need to go to Venezuela and see how the cable cars have eased the economy in that country; they need to go to Canada and see how the Rocky Mountains have really contributed to the economy of the country in provinces such as Alberta, which have become richer than even Kenya, yet they are provinces. That has been made possible because of the Rocky Mountains and the use of cable cars. It is also important for them to visit Cape Town, South Africa, and see that in Cape Town

alone, the cable cars have contributed more than half of the scenery in South Africa only because cable cars transport tourists from the Cape Town to the top of the Table Mountains.

As I talk like that, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, there are some people here who do not even know what Table Mountains are. So, “to go is to see;” that is what we say in our language. When you visit such places, you come back enriched. This is one of the reasons why we tell people to move to Singapore; and when they go there, they are amazed to see the kind of infrastructure which is in place there. In a town called Kuala Lumpur, which is the capital city of Malaysia, they have designed two two tallest buildings in the country called the Twin Towers. As a result of that, the country earns a lot of money from tourists who come just to view the Twin Towers alone. Malaysia is said to be one of the richest tourist destinations in the world.

Cambodia was ravaged by internal strife. There were wars between Cambodia, Vietnam and America, but the construction of the cable cars, which are now the longest cable cars in the world, has revamped the economy of Cambodia a hundred times. So, this is something that we need to address ourselves to.

As I said when I was moving the Motion, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I fear that if this project is not taken up and embraced in the right time by the right people in the country, countries like Rwanda and Uganda are going to use this facility to exploit the tourist potential in the Ruwenzori Mountains. When they do that, we will be seeing tourists bypassing Nairobi, going all the way to Ruwenzori Mountains, and from there, they will, of course, contribute a lot of money in the name of foreign exchange, and Kenya will lag behind. This facility is a foreign exchange earner; it will add more money to the kitty.

So, it should not be seen like it is a county business. It is a national activity which is going to contribute money towards the national revenue; and this is the same money which will be shared to the counties. So, as far as I am concerned, it is a very important activity that should be embraced by very many people who are economically oriented so that we steer off Kenya from the rest of the African countries.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is also important to compare Kenya with the other emerging economies in Africa. We have Algeria, which is coming up in the form of tourism; we have Nigeria also from the Boni Hills in the western side; as I have told you, we have South Africa, the Ruwenzori Mountains and I am sure even Tanzania will also adopt this technology. So, if we are going to be the only country in Africa which will lag behind in this technology – which I am trying to introduce and have it understood by the people here and, maybe, they are not understanding what it is all about – then it means that, as a country, we are going to lag behind and we will be lamenting all through. So, it is my hope that this Motion is passed so that we ask the Government to come up with a policy guideline so that those private investors who would like to invest in our country, generally, or a particular county, should do so without delay.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank those people who have contributed; I am very happy about it. Once we pass this Motion, we will be seen in one way as moving forward the country’s activities, and it is one activity which will earn Kenya the much needed foreign exchange.

As I had said earlier, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this idea was mooted in 1963 by an Austrian engineer who had interest in developing cable cars technology in Mt. Kenya. But once this idea was abandoned, he moved to Singapore. When Singapore adopted that technology, it is now said to be ahead of Kenya. These are some of the things that we need not delay when we have the ideas about what the development is all about.

So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am happy that a majority of my fellow Senators here have supported the Motion and I am sure they will live to be happy in Kenya. It is good for us to live long so that when you live up to 100 years, you will see what happens when people say that there was a Senator called Karaba who moved a Motion that was so important in the Senate during his time, and I will be proud to be associated with the development.

With those few remarks, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Thank you.

(Loud consultations)

Order! Order, Senators! It is now time to put the question. Once again, I remind you that this is not a Motion affecting counties; meaning that it is just an ordinary Motion for all of us to vote for it. Therefore, I want to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Hon. Senators, that brings us to the end of the business on the Order Paper. Therefore, the Senate stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate rose at 10.55 a.m.