



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second County Assembly – Sixth Session

Tuesday 22nd February 2022

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Hon. Speaker (Mr. Benson Mutura) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Speaker: Clerk, do confirm if we have a quorum? We lack quorum. Can the Sergeant-at-Arms ring the bell for 10 minutes?

(Quorum bell was rung for 10 minutes)

Hon. Members I am made to understand that we have a quorum so we can proceed.

PAPERS

Hon. Daniel Muturi: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 191, I beg to lay the following Paper on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday 22 February 2022: The report of the Select Committee on Powers and Privileges on induction of the Committee on the provision of the County Assembly's Powers and Privileges Act 2017. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay.

(The Paper was laid on the Table of the Assembly)

Hon. Speaker Pursuant to Standing 191, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday 22 February 2022: The report of the Select Committee on Powers and Privileges for the workshop held from 17th to 20th October 2021 at the Continental Hotel in Mombasa County. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay.

(The Paper was laid on the Table of the Assembly)

STATEMENTS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT REGARDING OPERATION OF THE SUB COUNTY ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CONTROL AND LICENSING COMMITTEE IN THE COUNTY SPECIFICALLY IN STAREHE SUB COUNTY

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Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, even as I begin to read the statement I hope you will be giving us a chance to continue with the morning session [business].

Hon. Speaker: Am looking for that statement; I cannot find it on my desk?

Hon. Waithera Chege: I have a copy, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I am wondering how it was slotted.

(Laughter)

Hon. Waithera Chege: Can I proceed?

Hon. Speaker: You can proceed.

Hon. Waithera Chege: I was requesting, Mr. Speaker, as I continue to read the Statement whether you will be giving us a chance to mourn Hon. Mellab before the end of this session.

Hon. Speaker: I will allocate latter on.

Hon. Waithera Chege Thank you, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (c) I wish to request a statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Trade regarding the operation of the sub county Alcoholic Drinks Control and Licensing Committee in the county specifically in Starehe sub county.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Section 6 of Nairobi County Alcoholic Drinks Control and Licensing Act 2014 establishes the Sub County Alcoholic Drinks Control and Licensing Committee whose core function is the issuance, renewal and revocation of licenses to the dealers in alcoholic drinks in the County. Upon successful application and approval by the Committee, the said licenses are then subject to validation by the official signature by the chairperson of the Committee. This is done in the meetings that are undertaken by the said committee from time to time as per the Act.

In addition, to be a fund for the appropriation of public resources, the Alcoholic Drinks Control Fund is to be administered in a legally accountable manner. Access to administration funds from the said fund is by special credentials issued to a particular officer.

Hon. Speaker, there are concerns regarding the alleged illegal issuance of licenses and administration of the fund in Starehe sub county and this Assembly needs to make relevant interventions. In the statement, the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:

1. Status report on the approval signed licenses of authorization of operation of Alcoholic Drinks business for the last 6 months, within Starehe sub county.
2. Documental proof for a formal meeting has been held for the last 6 months
3. The procedure for the release of money from the fund and the custodian of the relevant credential for the ultimate release of the said funds for utilization on relevant activities.

The statement is signed by myself the Member of Nairobi South Ward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Daniel Muturi: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker, I have looked at the weighty issues that have been raised by Hon. Waithera Chege and of course you have heard many complaints about revenue not reaching the County and not only in Starehe, but also in Nairobi County.

This is a very timely statement, Hon. Speaker, because we do even have issues where we have people purporting to be board Members collecting cash and most of the licenses are signed in back rooms in South B. May be Waithera Chege can enlighten a bit.

Hon. Speaker, due to the weighty issues I kindly request Hon. Waithera Chege to give me 14 days so that we can have a very comprehensive response because this is a very weighty matter raising on revenue and expenditure, thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Waithera, are you in agreement with the Chair.

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think I will agree with the Chairman. However, I hope that you will not bring half-baked answers on the floor.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Waithera you will have to withdraw that. The honorable is a man of reputable standard in this House and he is not in any way in the business of baking.

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw and confirm, thank you.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT REGARDING OWNERSHIP AND IRREGULAR DEVELOPMENT OF LAND
IN THE COUNTY PARTICULARLY THE PIECE OF LAND ORIGINALLY LR NO. 209/20798 IN IMARA DAIMA
WARD

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Thank you, Hon. Speaker and I rise to request statements pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (C) I would wish to request a statement from the chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Planning and Housing regarding ownership and regular development of land in the County particularly the piece of land originally reference under LR No. 209/20798 in Imara Daima Ward.

Hon. Speaker pursuant to Part two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2020, planning and development is a function of the County Government and by extension should be one of the guidance against infringement Article 40 on the protection of the right to acquire and own property.

Hon. Speaker, the piece of land in question is next to the office of the area MCA and currently reference LR No. 209/11363 after subdivision. It was originally donated to St. John Everlasting Gospel Church the owner who died in 2019.

Under the Archbishop of the church, the land was designated for the construction of a nursery school and a guest house.

However, the church and the community leader of the area conspired without the participation of other area leaders, residents and even the widow of the original owner. They constructed a container shopping center and it is alleged that the construction on the said land the center did not follow statutory due process and requirements.

Hon. Speaker in the statement the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:

1. The circumstance under which the church consented to the construction of the said shopping center, including the legitimacy of terms of engagement between the said church and the owner of the container shops.
2. Whether the owner of the container shop followed due process of approval of the construction of the shops including change of user, plans with the County Government, NEMA approval, National Construction Authority (NCA) and if there was any public consultation process in the area.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to request the statement.

Hon. Waithera Chege: Mr. Speaker, I can see the former Chair is with us here however, I want to have an undertaking on behalf of the side of the Government and therefore I want to give him eight official days.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Most obliged Mr. Speaker.

BILL

Second Reading

THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY BETTING, LOTTERIES AND GAMING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021 (ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 11 OF 2021)

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to move the Nairobi City County Betting, Lotteries and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (Assembly Bill No.11 of 2021).

Hon. Speaker I am moving the Bill for the Second Reading, we did the First Reading and we have gone through the public participation and therefore Mr. Speaker thank you for giving us this chance as an Assembly to therefore debate on this Bill. I must say this Bill has come at the right time and it is important that our honorable Members understand that it is an amendment Bill and therefore we are seeking to amend three sections of this Bill.

The National Government has been working very hard to make sure that we deal with the gaps that we are facing within the betting and gambling department. Therefore, apart from those efforts that have been put forward by the national government, there are three areas that we feel that if they are not taken care of by this Assembly. As part of the function that we have been given by the three schedules of the constitution of Kenya, then therefore we will not be doing any good to Nairobi residents.

Therefore, Hon. Speaker as we go through the Bill for the Second Reading, we wish to request that the Members support this Bill in three major areas.

One is in the issues of advertisements when the residents of Nairobi are doing betting and gambling. We are asking that you realize during the rush hour in the morning and when you listen to most of the radio stations and also the TV stations that is when they run most of the adverts during the day and at night.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the story of Macao, China it has only one gambling station based in the desert and it is only one. In Kenya, we deal with 20 casinos and when I talk about 20 casinos I am only talking about the major towns and Nairobi being the biggest and also Mombasa and Kisumu. However, for the sake of this Bill today, Mr. Speaker, and for the purpose of debating it, we are debating it within the geographical areas of Nairobi.

Nairobi takes the highest share of the gambling of any town. If you look at most casinos, and I would like to give a very good example of South B where am elected, if you enter one of the cybercafés within South B you will find some young men and women seated in these cybercafés and there is nothing else they are doing. You would even actually think they are revising for their exams, but when you look carefully you will realize they are betting and gambling.

Hon. Speaker, I will give an example of a Twitter handle because I have data with me. A young man who has gone on record saying that he used his salary to buy his mother some cows and goats to keep at home, only to realize through a local station the mother decided to go and bet and unfortunately she had to

sell the same cows and goats this young man had invested in. This man goes ahead to say that one of his sisters committed suicide.

In 2016 Kenya Bureau of Statistics showed that five members of one community spread between the ages of below 25 years commit suicide because of three different reasons. One was as a result of a young man who stole money from the house and thought he was going to get profit with this betting firm and he was completely unable to return the money, so he decided to take his life. Four other members of the same community within the same age group have also committed suicide and that is the data that is given by the government department.

One of the things that this amendment Bill seeks to do is to amend the time which you can gamble and bet. That is why in this Bill we are proposing 8.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. Just like the way you cannot wake up in the morning and start drinking alcohol. There are laws in this country that anybody who wishes to use alcohol can only do so at 5.00 p.m.

Therefore, some of the things that this Bill seeks to do is to amend the section to say that you can only gamble and bet between the times of 8.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. Why are we doing this Mr. Speaker? We are doing this to allow young men and women who are going to school - whether primary, secondary or university - as long as they have not attained the age of employment we are asking that we must protect that age group.

The other issue that we are looking at in this amendment Bill is that we want that gambling and betting to go cashless. That if you are a young person and you have not attained the age of 18 years you cannot register a sim card with either Safaricom, Airtel any other network that is locally available in Nairobi therefore protecting school-going children.

If you look at most of these casinos and if you enter at one of the casinos in Nairobi you will realize that the highest number of people who are gambling and betting are youth actually below the age of 30 years, Mr. Speaker sir.

If you go down into details again you will realize that 76%, which is the highest in Africa, of young people in Kenya are betting and gambling. What I am I saying we are only behind South Africa and Nigeria in terms of rating but when it comes to the young people, Kenya today is leading and when it leads, Nairobi is leading with population and therefore the young people from Nairobi are also leading from this 76%.

Hon. Speaker, if you look at Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu you will realize we are having 200 gaming tables. What that does tell you is that we still have the highest number of unemployed people who are still doing gambling and betting. Why is this happening? This is because there is a challenge and we cannot allow young people to bet and even as we amend this Bill we must also come up with solutions. This is because the Government tried to give a 20% increase tax on betting and gambling to 20% but we are asking the Government today that 20% is quite too low. Therefore, if the Government can be able to do over 50% or even 60% it will help a great deal with some of these betting companies.

Mr. Speaker, I would also want to remind you that some of these international super powers companies that are doing betting, if you look at what percentage money they have brought back to this country and to be specific Nairobi County you will realize it is a drop of water in the ocean.

Hon. Speaker, when they are carrying out this Advertisement they will only tell you about the winner and what about telling us the percentage of losers. You will realize that the number of losers is quite high they are only trying to milk the young people and not only them but also old people who are getting into betting and finally committing suicide.

Hon. Speaker, Kenya is a country that has 1300 sporting machines and in a country, like Israel, you cannot bet on land, you will only charter a plane and bet on the air. When you land you are not allowed to bet. I will still take you back to China. If a Chinese citizen comes to Kenya and they come and bet and gamble in Kenya the minute they go to their Country they will be jailed in their own Country. Therefore, why are we opening our Nairobi to allow this superpower companies to misuse our people and especially our young people? The other day I was reading a story of an old man and that group you may think they are vulnerable but according to me and if you read that story of that old man he is vulnerable. What this mad did he opened some kind of business; in the evening of that day he took all the profit for betting and lost everything. He was unable to go home in the evening because he was wondering what will happen next.

Mr. Speaker, I want to plead with this House today that the reason why we are doing this amendment Bill is so that we can save a generation. These betting and gambling companies are making millions of money. If you look into some of the football clubs that are sponsored by this betting, the only thing they can be proud of is buying some balls, nets and funny T-shirts for the players. We ask this House today that let our people not be misused. I will be even tabling the data to show how much these companies are earning today and how much they have been able to give back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, these companies are not small. In Nairobi they are running into 15 companies as of now. By last week, four other companies were asking to be registered and therefore if you allow this problem to continue it will be a burden, not only to use as a leader but also to Nairobi as a county. I therefore wish to convince Members of this House that we are not ready to lose any other young person, old, or middle age into betting and gambling. Therefore, allow me to call Hon. Ngengi to second the Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Before you are seconded, Hon. Waithera as the mover can you clarify on the timing because what I have here and what you have put on record is different. You had said from 8.00 p.m. to?

Hon. Waithera Chege: We are doing away with watershed hours; you cannot gamble during the day just like the way you cannot drink alcohol during working hours. Therefore we are only asking you can only gamble at night once the children go to sleep, and two not during thee working hours so I do not know if you have the correct documentation.

Hon. Speaker: You had said from 8.00 p.m to 5.00 p.m. Is it supposed to be 5.00 a.m or 5.00 p.m. Which is which?

Hon. Waithera Chege: 8.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. so we are asking the betting companies whether online or otherwise you can only do between 8.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. when it is dark. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I wish to call the seconder Hon. Ngengi.

Hon. Daniel Muturi: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker, I think Hon. Waithera Chege has mentioned the drinking hours. Hon. Speaker, I rise to second this Bill by our very Hon. Waithera Chege and I think just to put it in a question form as Hon. Waithera has articulated it. Are we gambling or a working

nation? Hon. Speaker, we have seen situations where we are having our young people, our brother our parents from morning to evening or the day sitting in front of their phones or computers gambling.

Hon. Daniel Ngengi: Hon. Speaker, this is detrimental because any cash that they get is taken to gambling. Why are we as Nairobi County allowing our children, brothers, sisters and parents to run gambling as a way of life? Families are disintegrating as mentioned by Hon. Waithera because of gambling. It is interesting that we are always showed the winners and not the losers. No one shows the aftermath and depth of hurt or pain families are put through. This House should not allow this.

Las Vegas is a gambling city where people go for holidays and budget for the fun. It is important to note that the owners of these gambling units do not lose but our own people who end up in broken marriages and tears. They are also placing adverts targeting our little children and are promised heaven. If that is the case then why will they want to go to school? Learning institutions are the cornerstone for morality and if we have our young children believing that gambling is a way of life then what next? Alcoholism? Addiction? I commend the Hon. Member for Nairobi South Ward Waithera Chege for stating that gambling hours should be from 8 pm to 5 pm.

Hon. Speaker, the idea of going cashless is brilliant in that we will be able to track what is going on. Gambling is an addiction and it is no different from alcoholism and drug addiction. Therefore, we must strive to contain this addiction. We pay 16% as value added tax to the Government yet gamblers are charged at 20%. It should be more than double that figure to avoid making Kenya a gambling nation. Gambling is like drug addiction because we are feeding on people's addiction and allowing it. These short term gains are costing us yet the consequences are very high. The addiction we are talking about is in Nairobi and about 70% of its residents.

I remember going to Olkalau to collect something and on our way back, the lorry almost rolled because the driver was busy betting on phone. If the worst was to happen then I would not be here today. I want to urge his House and quote Moses when he was talking to pharaoh, he said, "let my people go" and with that I urge his House to pass this Motion so that we can free our people and save those that we can. With those few remarks Mr. Speaker. I second the Motion

Hon. Speaker: Thank you

(Question proposed)

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Hon. Speaker, Standing Order number 32 provides that a Member may at any time seek reasons to move that this County Assembly do now adjourn. Hon. Speaker, with your indulgence, I beg to move that this County Assembly do now adjourn to commemorate the memory of the late Hon. Mellab Atemah Lumalah MCA. I move this Motion under Standing Order 32 because our Standing Orders have not progressed enough as to provide for how the House ought to proceed upon the pronouncement of the demise of a honorable Member. This is something that the Procedure and Rules committee will pick up and for now therefore Hon. Speaker, I am on a point of order

Hon. Speaker: She is on a point of information. It is different unless you do not want to be informed.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: I do not want to be informed as this matter is close to heart. Kindly protect me to proceed.

Hon. Speaker: Proceed

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Thank you Hon. Speaker: our Standing Orders are not very clear and I believe that my senior Hon. Chege holds the view that we have lost a strong Member Mellab and also Hon. Ogolla. We should set precedence because it is a honor and privilege for anyone to take an oath of office and when a Member passes on, it is important. In the interest of every Member Hon. Speaker, I beg that we adjourn the House and allow me to call upon Hon. Ngengi to second.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, you are out of order because you are requesting the chair to intervene on your case. You are therefore not at liberty to converse other Members to second. For guidance Hon. Members, the said Standing Order the Member was alluding to number 32 clause 1 and I read:

“32(1) A member may at any time for reasons stated, seek to move that this County Assembly do now adjourn.”

(2) If the speaker is of the opinion that such a motion for adjournment of the County Assembly is frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of the proceedings of the County Assembly, the Speaker may forthwith put the question thereon or decline to propose it.

(3) The debate on a motion under this Standing Order shall be confined to the matter of the motion.

Hon. Member, you have raised an issue of concern that involves a honorable Member and as guided by the Standing Order, there is a Motion slated, proposed and seconded for that and I rule that immediately we dispense off with the Motion on the Order Paper then we will give Members time to ventilate and mourn our colleague. Thank you.

We can now go back to debate on the Second Reading. Hon. Mary Ariviza

Hon. Mary Ariviza: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I am honored and privileged to contribute to this betting Bill. I am a Member of the Trader committee and we have deliberated on it a great deal. It is important for us to know that there was a man in the 1800 named William Booth. He was the founder of the Salvation Army and *Jeshi la wuokovu* and it was started in English during the times of industrial revolution. He used to go to the streets of London and convert people to Christians while taking an oath not to participate in alcoholism and gambling. Reason being gambling is addictive, it destroys families and someone cannot be a Christian while practicing the vices of gambling. While in the modern world we cannot completely do away with it, we must make sure that the young people do not see it as a way of life. As a counseling psychologist I say that gambling is worse than drinking and smoking and once addicted, you are always hoping that hit the jackpot. Once you get into gambling you find that the law of diminishing return happens whereby you are always wishing for and it never comes. Therefore, you find people selling their land, cars and inheritance so that they can get rich quick. It is therefore important that as a nation we control gambling.

I like the idea that it should be found within a five star hotel where people from informal settlements cannot find their way. Gambling destroys families in that if a child commits suicide in a home then things are never the same and once a husband does the same it is also never the same. Also if a mother uses money for food for gambling then there is going to be problems and it becomes a continuous cycle. We must be able to put stringent rules on who does gambling and who does not. In Kibera, we see people in rooms gambling and also on the streets where vans promise people to win and the people who fall prey to such are the ones coming to Nairobi for the first time. Why am I saying this? This is a game for backwardness. A developing country like ours should not allow ourselves to go back to the pre-industrial period. We are far ahead of it and

we should be able to control it otherwise we will bring up a group of men and women who do not believe in hard work but want to get things easily. This rule should also apply to the television and radio stations hosting programmes on such and should be contained.

Growing up we had the charity sweepstakes that used to give money to charity and I do not think that is being enforced nowadays. I call upon us to hold on this as gambling encourages people to hope for what is not there and avoid working hard. The good book says that those who do not work should not eat therefore we should not encourage laziness. Let us say not to gambling as it is not good for a developing country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Very well. ICT guys, can we have Hon. Mark Mugambi on Zoom. Hon. Kennedy Obuya

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Hon. Speaker, I did not get your advice

Hon. Speaker: I cannot get what you are saying Hon. Member

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Is this my contribution on the amendment or the earlier request

Hon. Speaker: I am on the Bill

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Okay thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Had you put a request?

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Yes I did

Hon. Speaker: Okay

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Hon. Speaker, I rise as a father and a representative to second the amendment. I have personally had issues with my driver because he is a serious gambler. He is someone that I love so much and have supported and I want it to be on record. At times I am having a meeting and as I finish he runs to me in Swahili saying “*mheshimiwa niko na shida*” and when I ask what the problem is he says “*simu yangu imeenda*”. It is sad that our new generation has a serious addiction, which is an indication of economic downfall. There is no gain in gambling and it has to be guided. I rise to second the amendment.

Hon. Speaker: The Bill had been seconded

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: I rise to support

Hon. Speaker: Can we get a hold of Hon. Emily

Hon. Emily Oduor: Can you hear me Hon. Speaker

Hon. Speaker: I can hear you. Continue

Hon. Emily Oduor: Thank you Hon. Speaker for the opportunity. I would like to thank Hon. Waithera for the amendment. Gambling is a disease and if our government is not careful then we are going to lose a generation. I want to inform Members that gambling is also affecting the older generation and it's unfortunate that we have to give examples with people we stay with. I had a worker who asked me for an advance of Ksh. 10,000 to gamble with on a radio station. He was being asked to put Ksh. 100 shillings and since he was between work, he put Ksh. 10,000 and ended up losing everything yet he had a sick baby. I have seen how gambling affects people and a generation. If it was my wish then we would do away with gambling in this country and not give it a time limit because our children are going to be useless during the day because they spent the whole night gambling. This is a first step and I pray that as time goes by, I request the

leadership of this country to bun it completely. It is destroying people, homes and breaking marriages. I like what Hon. Ngengi said that we are never informed of the losers but winners. I once listened to a gambling show where someone was being told that he had won and he did not sound impressed. They do this to lure more and more people to gamble yet there are no winners. I support this amendment and hope that in the future more will be done. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Can we have Hon. Kiragu

Hon. Anthony Karanja: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this important Bill amendment. I would also like to thank Hon. Waitera and the Trade Committee for the distance they have travelled in this Bill.

Proverbially, the only way to become a millionaire is when you start as a millionaire. This is a saying that has been there for ages and it is very true. There is no country in the world that can progress without banning gambling. The mover of the Motion has talked about China. China has a population of 1.6 billion with only six casinos in one autonomous district called Macao. There is a law in China that bans Chinese citizens from gambling anywhere in the world and it is very punitive for any Chinese national to gamble.

Hon. Speaker, this goes to the incoming Member for Karachuonyo because in the strategic plan of gambling in this country, Nyanza and the Western regions are the new frontiers. They have already conquered Central and Nairobi and are now heading to Nyanza and Western. Look at the pattern, what they are doing in the radio stations and the games being played where people are been told to send money especially the vernacular stations. I want to go on record, that even the inventors of the gambling games, Russia, have banned gambling in their country since 2009. They actually closed all brick and mortar casinos and last year they banned all online gaming sites, and also stopped payment of any monies won through these sites.

. Hon. Speaker, I know the intention of this Bill is actually to protect the vulnerable groups. The vulnerable groups are no longer the disabled and the young people but the working people, the bodaboda people, the mama mbogas, the very people that we depend on in helping this country move to the next level. They are the people who are being targeted by the gaming companies and we can see the games that are being played at the national level, of opening and closing these gambling houses. They are closed and then opened unconditionally.

I appeal to Members of this Assembly to support this Bill as a beginner just like my colleague Hon. Emily has said but eventually they should clamp on gambling completely. We have heard a very good story from Hon. Mary Ariviza and I urge every Member to be on the lookout. There are two companies that are spreading; one is called Dafabet and the other one Sportpesa. They are opening gambling---- (*technical hitch*)

Hon. Speaker, I think the betting companies have interfered with the mike, but I will continue. Dafabet and Sportpesa are opening shops in estates. You can get people in these shops as early as 6 o'clock in the morning, I think they transact at night in these shops. It is time to do something, when the water reaches the ankle not when we are neck deep. We are headed to the wrong direction and it is time to act.

Hon. Speaker, just to name some few countries that have made it by banning gambling as one of the measures to help the economy; Dubai, Qatar, all Arab countries, Singapore, China, Bulgaria. I mention

Bulgaria because a lot of casinos in this county are owned by Bulgarian mafia. It is time that we say no, it is enough, it is time we protect our vulnerable groups, our young people, women and men. I have actually responded to a distress call where a person wanted to committed suicide, and when the victim gained consciousness, we found that he had taken poison because he had lost money through gambling.

Hon. Speaker this is the time, the way and the direction that we should take. I hope the committee will move very fast to the Third Reading and the passage of this Bill. I have looked at the contribution of the Executive to the committee, it is very unfair and shallow. It is very evident that the contribution of the County Executive is compromised and skewed towards the betting companies. The able Chair should note that and tell them that we are not taking this lightly and we will not allow any other honky ponky with this Bill. Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: Can I have Hon. Chege Mwaura?

Hon. Mbugua Kabiro: Mr. Speaker, I am shocked that you actually got my name right.

Hon. Speaker: I hope you are using the correct gadget.

Hon. Mbugua Kabiro: I also hope so, I can't see the Member.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, this may be a case for investigation because from my gadget here it is showing Hon. Chege Mwaura.

Hon. Mbugua Kabiro: I think that when the investigation begins we should investigate all the serjeants because they are the ones who gave me this card. I do not own a ward and I have no intentions of owning one.

My name is Mbugua Kabiro and I am very proud to be called by that name. I would like to add my voice to what my colleagues have contributed to the amendment of the Betting Bill which has been an impediment to making sure that the betting conditions are water tight. We do not want a generation that has been misled. People nowadays are betting everywhere even on one's phone. Long time ago people used to go to dingy places in Kirinyaga Road but that was then, now betting is being done on phones which is very interesting.

I am in the IT profession and many requests that I normally get are for instance; can you help us develop a betting system? If we encourage this, we are going to have people with little or no money because it has gone, and a few individuals who have a lot of money because they are the ones who receive that money.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Hon. Waithera for making sure that this happens before we leave this assembly. We have seen how the National Government has dealt with betting companies and CS Matian'gi banning the betting gadgets in open air. But we have not seen anything been done by the County Government. Yet it is their responsibility as stipulated under the Fourth Schedule. We should have already seen Governors ban these things in their counties so that we can see that they are working together with the National Government to eradicate this. They are the one who give licenses to these companies and we do not want to see a situation where you have a license and then the National Government is fighting you. If it is burning of these gadgets, we will be happy to witness them been burned if they are arrested.

Her Excellency the Governor or even you Mr. Speaker can take up that responsibility. You acted as a Governor for a few weeks and you can lead us in burning those things and make a statement that Nairobi

is not a gambling city. Like Hon. Kiragu has alluded to on how the beginners of betting have abandoned it, let us follow suit. These are countries with a lot of money and yet they want the money to remain with the larger population and not a few people who would swindle it away.

Mr. Speaker, I support this.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Millicent Jagero: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Much have been said and I do not have much to say but to support the Bill. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, there being no other request, I call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before I reply, allow me to thank all the Hon. Members who have contributed to the Second Reading of this Bill. It is important to note that just like we have banned drugs in Kenya which are addictive, even gambling and betting are addictive. Therefore, they should also not be allowed especially during the working hours.

Mr. Speaker, you realize that most of the contributions that have been made on this floor, and if you look at these betting shops in Nairobi, they are either in an informal settlement or in a middle class area. You will never find these shops in Runda, Kileleshwa, Lavington. You will only find them where there is high population, high poverty level and where there is a high number of young people.

Hon. Speaker, as we adjourn this afternoon, I want to give a warning shot to betting companies; that, this is an amendment for 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., if they do not do what we are saying, we will still bring another amendment to say that you can only bet from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. to reduce those hours. Because the next thing that they are going to do and I am not preempting is that they are going to allow people to be betting at night and they sleep during the day. Let them know that we are not stopping it here. We are now going to the final stages of the Bill; the Committee of the Whole and the Third Reading on Thursday, it is important that they know that this agenda is not ending here. We will still push for the implementation of all these things that we have requested for.

I thank everybody from the seconder, Hon. Ngengi to all the Members who have contributed and request them that we proceed to the Committee of the whole and Third Reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, even for the support that you have given us on this specific agenda. I beg to reply, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Member.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

(The Bill was read for a second time)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Obuya, we can come back to your Motion.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for your guidance and your wisdom. I rose on Standing Order No 32, but I have been guided properly. I just wanted if it is possible that this House adjourn in respect of our departed comrade, Hon. Melab. I do not want to throw stones because I live in a glass house but it is sad that the leadership of the assembly has not taken the welfare of Members properly.

Hon. Speaker, it was sad when we were having a requiem mass for Hon. Ogola and you were represented by Hon. Chege. We had to push him to call the Governor to release money for a few Members

to take Hon. Melab to India. I realized sadly that our medical cover which was initially Ksh. 3 million was reduced to Ksh. 1 million. So much is happening and can happen although the time left is so short.

The other day Hon. Melab was alive. I can only imagine the trauma that the husband the Hon. Members that accompanied her to India went through, it is so sad. On that strength that Hon. Melab underwent so much pain, please allow us to adjourn so that we can mourn and respect her. I beg Hon. Ngenji to second.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Obuya, we had the same Motion in the morning and Members ventilated and passed their messages of condolences. It is better if you could send your condolence message because even after this we are adjourning so your Motion will not serve the purpose.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Hon. Speaker, I rose on the strength of Standing Order No. 32 and from your advice it seems that my prayer for adjournment is not possible. I believe that you are communicating that my prayer for adjournment in respect of our departed comrade. If that is so, then guide me.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, according to Commonwealth practice, you should know that this is an assembly and she was one of us, so we ventilate in the House in order to give her all due respect because as you know this has to be captured in the HANSARD. We need to record so that when people come after we have left this assembly, they can see what we did and what we said about our departed colleague.

Otherwise, if we adjourn, it is like we are moving away from our responsibilities.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Thank you so much Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Mary Mwami: I was here in the morning; I think it was supposed to be a continuation of people who had not ventilated in the morning but not a new Motion to be brought. From what you communicated in the morning, the people who had not passed their condolences then should be given a chance to continue with the ventilation.

I think Hon. Obuya has already ventilated and it would be fair if those who have not paid their tribute do that in a very short time. It is not supposed to be a new Motion, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Unfortunately, he was not in the morning session. But be guided that the same was deliberated, you have the floor now to air your views.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I believe that I have been a resourceful mind in this assembly and I do not see the concurrence of the morning session and how the Members' tributes, interfere with my prayer of Standing Order 32 on adjournment. They are totally different.

This is a practice that has been there in the Commonwealth parliaments; in India, Britain and the House of Commons. You will still guide the House; it is just a prayer under Standing Order 32. It is totally separate from what began in the morning, Hon. Speaker. I am rising on that strength that you adjourn. This can only be done after secondment and Members can do their contributions in praise or contrary in between. I only made a prayer that we adjourn. Guide me if it is possible or not.

Hon. Speaker: It is in order and you can proceed. But on adjournment Motion, it is purely for the Hon. Members to decide. The Motion may be thrown out if you do not have enough numbers. But if you still want to go ahead, at least now you know the consequences.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: This is a House of rules and procedures. The majority carries the day.

Hon. Speaker: I have no problem; this is upon Members to decide now. If you can get a seconder, I will just put a question and those other formalities follow.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: I call upon Hon. Ngengi, who has the right to oblige or to decline. It is only in respect to the departed soul.

Hon. Speaker: I did not get your closing remarks.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Hon. Speaker, I rose on Point of Order No. 32, and was not disputing the one that done in the morning session. I was only making a prayer that every Member should know that nobody knows who is going to leave us next. The other day it was Hon Ogola, today it is Hon. Melab. I pray that nobody sleeps till the end of this Second Assembly.

In respect of the Hon. Member who has rested, it is not so expensive to adjourn this House to next week. This will only affect the business of Thursday and may be Tuesday next week. We can respect one of our own by adjourning to next week so that we can celebrate Hon. Melab who really contributed to this assembly. I do not think that that is much to ask.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, you have heard the Hon. Member's request which is in order that we adjourn he Thursday session. The onus is on you Members if are in agreement.

(Point of Order)

Hon. Speaker: What is the Pont of order, Hon. Waithera?

Mr. Speaker, I definitely have no problem on what he is requesting, however, you used your digression on Standing Order No 1 and you ruled on the matter both in the morning and this afternoon. I don't know whether we should get another ruling from you because once the Speaker has ruled, I thought that it was final. You need to guide the House Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: In the morning, I gave Members the opportunity to ventilate and pass their condolences. What Hon. Obuya is requesting is totally different; it is on the Motion of adjournment of he Thursday Sitting in respect of Hon. Melab. This means that if we are to adjourn, Members will not have an opportunity to ventilate especially those Members who did not get the opportunity in the morning sitting.

As Hon. Obuya is canvassing, can we have Hon. Leah Supuko?

You are seconding? Okay, Hon. Ngengi to second.

Hon. Daniel Muturi: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to second the Motion by Hon. Obuya of Imara Daima and my future MP to commemorate the memory of the late Melab Atema Lumalah.

Hon. Speaker, I think Hon. Obuya has well-articulated the facts of life. We are all on a journey. We heard of Hon. Ogolla just a few months ago left us, today we have Hon. Melab. As we celebrate her life as a friend, a colleague, as a mother, as a wife, I am in agreement that we need to adjourn the House until Tuesday next week. It is paramount that we honour the late Hon. Mellab.

Mr. Speaker, I support because I also did not see any emergency business on Thursday that cannot wait for us to commemorate Hon. Mellab and also celebrate her life. I think Hon. Obuya touched on a few things which I also wish to touch a bit on.

Hon. Speaker, on a matter of life on death - that is God. But as Members of this County Assembly, whether individually, through our leadership, through your office, Hon. Speaker or the Governor's office,

enough was not done. To go on record and to avoid these kinds of incidences and unfortunate progressive events, I kindly urge both your office and the office of the Executive to come up with clear procedures on how to tackle such incidences. It is very disheartening to learn that our cover has been lowered to such an unimaginable level. I don't know how this can happen, especially when we are here representing Nairobi. We need to feel safe as we discharge our duties. It is not only in death, but in accidents and illness we need to be able to feel that we can serve Nairobians and our health and those of our families is taken care of.

With those many remarks, I second the Motion by Hon. Obuya. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Speaker: Members can now commemorate. Hon. Leah Supuko, on Zoom?

(Technical hitches)

Hon. Anthony Kimemia? Hon. Emily Oduor

Hon. Anthony Gathumbi: Hon. Speaker, can you hear me?

Hon. Speaker: Now I can hear you. Proceed.

Hon. Anthony Gathumbi: Thank you very much for this opportunity. *Ningependa kutoa rambirambi zangu na za familia yangu kufuatia kifo cha Mheshimiwa Mellab. Kifo ni mwizi, kimetunyanganya mwenzetu.* She was very active in the Assembly, friendly to me and off course to most of us. *Mara ya mwisho nilikutana na yeye kwa stairs kule upande wa Executive akiwa mchangamfu.* The last word she told me is that I look very smart. *Kwa hivyo, kifo kimetunyanganya mtu mchangamfu na mama mzuri. Ninasema pole kwa familia, kwa Assembly na kwa bwanake ambaye alikuwa naye kule India. Ni hayo tu, Bwana Spika.* Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Emily Oduor.

Hon. Emily Oduor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you now hear me?

Hon. Speaker: Yes, I can now hear you.

Hon. Emily Oduor: I am a bit confused, Mr. Speaker because I do not know whether we are supposed to debate on the question you have just brought in about what Hon. Obuya has proposed on adjournment or we are supposed to eulogize Hon. Mellab?

First of all, on what Hon. Obuya has proposed, I have a different opinion. The fact that we are going to adjourn the Assembly means that people will go and do their own things, and that will not be remembering Hon. Mellab. I would take a different path and say that all the businesses that were supposed to be done on Thursday should be put on hold and be all in the Assembly or be online and eulogize Hon. Mellab. That will be the best way we will remember her, not closing the Assembly and doing our own businesses and going to our homes. The minute we do that, we will have forgotten about her. I would rather we have the Assembly open and many of us show up and talk about her in that plenary where she spent her time.

Secondly, I don't know what to say about the death of Hon. Mellab, it is a very sad thing. I was in touch with her, and when she was unable to be in touch, I was in touch with her husband. She fought a good fight. Hon. Mellab was a fighter. In our community they only say one thing, 'you can cheat a disease but you can never cheat death.' Hon. Mellab fought until the last minute. I was in touch with the husband and he kept saying, "now we have left it to God." If it was meant to be her time, it is very unfortunate at a very young age, with a very young family, that Hon. Mellab has left us.

I knew Hon. Mellab when she worked for ODM. I don't think in this Assembly Hon. Mellab has ever called any other name but 'mum'. That is how she called me. She carried the respect from the office of the ODM, to the Assembly and I think to her death bed.

As Members of the County Assembly, we need to appreciate a few people that really played a very important role. I would go ahead and appreciate, one, Hon. Waithera Chege. You know what you did and I appreciate you. I even told you that wherever Hon. Mellab is, she appreciated what you have done. Words cannot say how people feel in that Assembly. But the only way we can do it is to have whole of Thursday afternoon to talk about Hon. Mellab. We will cry and we will laugh, and that is only way we will respect her. If you adjourn, Hon. Speaker, I will go and do my own things and not honour Hon. Mellab. If I come there with flowers, talk and cry, that is how I will mourn my colleague. That is my take Hon. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Waithera. Let me first confirm whether you contributed over the same in the morning session.

(Hon. Speaker consulted with the Clerk-at-the-Table)

You contributed in the morning, Hon. Waithera.

(Hon. Waithera spoke off the record)

Okay, proceed.

Hon. Waithera Chege: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had not contributed on this specific agenda, but off course I had contributed on other agendas in the morning.

Mr. Speaker, last night was very sad, we learnt about Hon. Mellab's death at almost 2:00a.m. in the morning. Before I say anything, I wish to thank you most sincerely you Hon. Speaker and your office because when we were celebrating the new year, immediately after, we requested for your support and you cut short your holiday to allow us expedite Hon. Mellab's documentation to allow her to travel to India. Your office really helped us and facilitated us to allow Hon. Mellab go to India. Therefore, on behalf of this Assembly, I wish to thank you. The office of the Governor has also played a key role, although there is still a lot we need to do through that office. When you think about Hon. Mellab's experience since the time she got sick, you realize there are so many gaps that we need to fill in.

Hon. Speaker, when I attended Hon. Ogola's funeral service, Hon. Obuya will bear me witness, I was under duress before these Hon. Members to call the Governor on the spot to allow the Members who were attending the funeral service then, sort out Hon. Mellab's issue. I was asking myself, if it were not those Members forcing me to call the Governor on that day, what would have happened to Hon. Mellab before she was taken to Nairobi Hospital? The question of health insurance has been discussed on the floor of this House. I do not want to go back to that issue, but I think precedence was set. For all the other precedencies that have been set in this House, there is a precedence that I would never want to hear you followed. The question of looking for any health insurance to cover Members is not a good idea. We fought on this agenda, not only on our WhatsApp groups, but also during our Kamukunji sittings. We have always asked and requested this office to allow the Members agree on the best health insurance that can be able to cover these Members. We have not done very well.

I am not shying off from saying that apart from the issues and the questions that we cannot ask God, Hon. Ogola died as a result of lack of Kshs.70, 000. A discussion that was not only held on our WhatsApp

group, but also the fact that this office and the office of the Governor could not afford Kshs.70,000, which led us to lose not only a Kenyan but a Hon. Member of this House. So, when I say that there are some precedencies I would never want you to follow, these are some of the issues that have really made us to get where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, when we even approached the NHIF when Hon. Mellab was going to India, you remember the only amount we could get then was something below Kshs.500, 000. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, the amount up to now that they have been able to give Hon. Mellab is Kshs.500, 000. This House will bear me witness that the bill as at now is above Kshs.7 million. This health insurance cover cannot even afford to pay a quarter of the bill.

As we mourn Hon. Mellab, the role that Hon. Mellab played in this House was big. She was a very good debater. I remember when everybody shied away from debating Koinange Street issue, Hon. Mellab rose and supported that Motion, which led us have Koinange Street cleared of some of the menace that was there.

Hon. Speaker, I have a long history with Hon. Mellab. At the age of 26, when I was the National Youth Leader for NARC Kenya, Hon. Mellab was a leader in ODM. I remember few Members like Hon. Imwatok led a movement that allowed the voices of young people in Kenya, within the interparty to be heard. We formed what was then called 'the Interparty Youths' Forum,' which has actually today attracted even the international community in terms of sponsorship. It is one the forums that I am very proud of that we formed with Hon. Mellab. Some the Members of that forum was Hon. John Kiairie, who is now MP. Hon. Speaker, the work of a leader is to know and show the way. I wish to confirm to this House that Hon. Mellab knew the way, showed the way and went that same way that she showed. It is not in doubt that the question of two-third gender was a very pertinent issue in this country in 2020.

Hon. Mellab led the way when we led the talks on the issue of two thirds gender. I will want to go on record that even when Hon. Mellab was discriminated within the leadership of this House and remember she was our Deputy Minority Leader, but she shared many things with me. One of the issues that really made her wanting to go and sit down with the former Prime Minister, Hon. Raila Odinga, was the question of her discrimination within the leadership of this Assembly.

Therefore, as we mourn Hon. Mellab today, I want to remind you that Nelson Mandela did not just speak for the sake of speaking, he said, "When a man or a woman has done that specific duty to his people and the country, he/she can rest in peace." So, we want to mourn Hon. Mellab in peace and ask God to remember her family. I think her husband fell from heaven because since that first day the husband went to India, he could sleep in a toilet when he could not get money to pay for hotel accommodation.

Mr. Speaker, we don't want to get back there. Her own child could not even access education facilities because a Member of this House cannot afford money beyond the small salaries that we are receiving here to take some of these children to best schools. Some of these gaps can be filled in, but let us make sure that all the things that we have agreed to do in this House are not only seemed to be done but they are done in reality. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Millicent Jagero.

Hon. Millicent Jagero: Ahsante sana, Bwana Spika, kwa fursa hii. Ninasimama kuzungumzia mwendazake, Mheshimiwa Mellab. Hakuwa rafiki tu bali alikuwa kama dada. Nilimjua Mellab mwaka wa 2013 wakati ambapo Gavana Kidero alikuwa anawania kiti cha ugavana. Pamoja naye, tulianzisha kikundi kilichoitwa 'Waremba na Kidero.' Nilikuwa moja wa baadhi ya waanzilishi wa hicho kikundi hadi wakati kila mtu aliweza kwenda njia yake. Mellab aliondoka nami pia nikaondoka. Baadaye, tulipatana na Mheshimiwa Mellab katika mambo ya harakati ya haki za kibinadamu. Mheshimiwa Mellab alikuwa mstari wa mbele haswa kwa kuzungumzia maswala ya kijinsia. Alikuwa anapigania kwa sana usawa wa kijinsia katika nchi hii.

Bwana Spika, wakati tulipokuwa nje kwa miezi minane, Mheshimiwa Mellab kila wakati alikuwa ananijulia hali. Alikuwa ananipa moyo na kunishawishi niendeleo kumtumainia Mwenyezi Mungu.

Nilipoenda kumwona mwaka uliopita, mwezi wa Desemba, nilipoingia wadi alipokuwa amelazwa, machozi yalinitiririka sana. Aliniambia kila aliyekuja kumwona alikuwa analia. "Anayenitazama anatoa machozi. Nimekuruhusu nawe pia utoe machozi hayo."

(Hon. Jagero cried)

Nilishika mkono kwa maana alikuwa anaenda *test* wakati huo. Tuliomba naye, na baada ya sala, daktari akaja kumchukua. Mungu alimtendea siku hiyo kwa maana aliweza kushuka kitandani pekee, akaenda kufanyiwa *test* na akarudi. Alinishika mkono na kuniambia nisimwache katika imani yangu, nizidi kumwombea. Mwanzo wa mwaka huu nilipoenda kumwona tena, alikatalia mkono yangu na kuniambia, "usiniache, kaa nami na usichoke kuniombea." Dadake aliponipigia simu wakati mmoja na kuniambia kuwa wakati Mellab alipofika India, alimwambia bwanake achukue namba yangu ya simu na waniambie ya kuwa hayuko vizuri kiafya. Nipige magoti na kumwombea.

(Hon. Jagero cried)

Illikuwa ni uchungu sana. Hata kwa kifo chake, Bwana Spika, tutamsherekea kwa kuwa alikuwa na ujasiri mwingi. Pia, alikuwa mtu wa msimamo.

Waheshimiwa wenzangu katika jumba hili, tuwe na upendo na tuwache chuki na vitina ambavyo haviwezi kutusaidia. Tumeweka vita na chuki mbele yetu kulika upendo. Hakuna mtu ambaye amepata msiba katika nyumba na amekuwa na machozi, na mimi na Mheshimiwa Esther tukakosa kuomboleza naye au kufariji pamoja nao. Hatuna upendo kabisa. Wakati mwenzetu anapoaga tunaweka mapicha kila sehemu na kutaja jinsi alivyokuwa mkuu, dada, au rafiki wa kweli, laikini tunajua kuwa mioyo yetu haikuwa safi. Tusafisheni mioyo yetu. Nyimbo ambazo zinaimba pale nje, hakuna wakati tutarudi tena kuzisikia kwa sababu Mellab amemaliza safari yake. Tabasamu yake tutakosa katika Bunge hili. Matamshi yake mazuri tutakosa katika nyumba hii. Tupendane wenzangu. Ahsante sana.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Ahsante. Mheshimiwa Obuya.

Hon. Kennedy Obuya: Hon. Speaker, you can feel the pain that our colleague has on the memories of our departed colleague. Hon. Speaker, I thought we would adjourn, but I have been advised that we do not have enough quorum to adjourn. I want to submit my condolences on behalf of the citizens of Imara Daima and on behalf of my party that sponsored me, ODM. I have known Hon. Mellab for about 20 years. We participated in the struggle for what we call 'Orange Young Democrats' that we borrowed from the ANC Party in South Africa.

I was privileged to work with Hon. Mellab at various youth party structures within ODM, right from 2007. When I was elected, Hon. Mellab was working at the National Election Board for ODM, she was one of the secretariat. On my election within party preliminaries, Hon. Mellab really helped me. As usual, you know that party primaries are normally not easy; Hon. Mellab helped not only me but many others here. She knew I was part of the struggle. She made sure that nobody shortchanged us. I am very much at pain, having known that Hon. Mellab really struggled, and also the husband really struggled.

Hon. Speaker, before this Second Assembly is dissolved, please make some corrections. Let no any other Member--- You are our CEO; you are the president of this Assembly and you the Chair of the Board. Please, call a Kamukunji and let Members ventilate on their fears, more so on the insurance health cover. It is so painful that this Assembly has a budget. If at all we have challenges may be because of COVID 19 or remittances done by the National Government that could affect the actual budget that we have, it is just proper that we have a Kamukunji and address the challenges that we have, if that is the case. But it is so sad that without having a Kamukunji, our cover could be reduced. I felt so bad, and we had to push Hon. Chege hard and had to shout to the Governor to release funds so that it could be taken to Hon. Mellab in India.

In the interest of time, Hon. Speaker, kindly allow me to withdraw my earlier prayer that this Assembly be adjourned so that we mourn Hon. Mellab while still at the Assembled. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, we are at the tail end of your Motion. so, it is not parliamentary to withdraw your Motion when it is almost done. So I will proceed to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon Members, the House stands adjourned till Thursday 24th February 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4.50 p.m.