NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Date 5th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Beatrice Elachi
Contribution She Made On: Approval Of Senators To Membership Of Senate Committees

She gave notice of the following Motion.
THAT, pursuant to Standing Order Nos. 173, 177(3) and 178, the Senate approves the following Senators nominated by the Rules and Business Committee to be members of the respective Committees as indicated below:-


iii. The Standing Committee on National Security and Foreign Relations - Sen. Kennedy Mong'are Okong'o to replace Sen. Wetangula.


Date 6th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Liza Chelule
Contribution She Made On: Provision Of Cheap Credit To Farmers By The AFC

She requested to move the following Motion.
THAT, aware that agriculture is the backbone of the Kenyan economy and one of the avenues through which poverty reduction can be achieved; concerned that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) is charging high interest rates on loans and imposing heavy penalties on loan defaulters; the Senate urges the National Government to provide cheap credit to farmers by reducing the current interest rates charged by the Corporation from 10% to 3% and abolish the penalties imposed on loan defaulters.
She pointed out that farmers contribute highly to the growth of this country and it was an activity that is being undertaken by majority of the people. These are the same people who pay taxes in this country. There is no way that we can improve our livelihood without agriculture. It is my concern, this afternoon; to inform Senators that there is noway we can empower farmers if we do not avail cheap credit to them.

She stated that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) has been assisting farmers. However, the problem with it now is the high interest rates. It is my humbless request to Senators to contribute to this Motion positively because if the rates are reduced from 10 per cent to 3 per cent, this will give an opportunity to the people at the grassroots level, especially women and the youth who are idle due to unemployment. This will encourage them to engage in farming activities. We are aware that the Government is also channeling funds through banks or some micro-finance institutions. It is my request that instead of channeling this money through banks, this money should be channeled through the AFC.

She noted that the AFC should evenbe upgraded from being a corporation to a bank. This would enable the institution to give support to farmers by giving them cheap money. She inquired whether the Members were aware that defaulters were being charged double interest. For instance, in the Act, farmers are charged 10 per cent. However, if they default, they are charged 20 per cent. When you charge farmers 20 percent, considering that most farmers have defaulted one time or another, not because they wanted to do so but because they were forced by circumstances that are related to the low market or plant diseases.

She called on the Government to look into this issue and further cap the interest rates at 3 per cent if this Motion sails through successfully in this House. She also called upon the Senators contribute positively to this Motion because many people and the country would benefit from it and added that that would be the only way to boost production. She further stated that that would reduce insecurity and there would be no time that the Government will need to import food into the country.
STATEMENTS

Date 5th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Naisula Lesuuda
Contribution She Made On: Government Efforts To Enhance Security Following the 2012 Baragoi Massacre

- She pointed out that she had requested for the Statement a month ago and since then, the insecurity levels in Samburu County had escalated to a point where it was very frustrating and sad and added that several incidents had taken place.

- She pointed out that cattle stolen from Maralal Town and its environs are sold here in Nairobi and what happened previous week in Suyian was related to a cattle rustling incident in Samburu North. She pointed out that the Chairperson said they had initiated peace efforts to prevail upon communities to live in peace and tranquility however nothing was happening at the grassroots level.

- She noted that at that point, Turkana and Samburu communities did not see eye to eye and therefore the clarification she sought was where those peace meetings were taking place and who was talking to the other.

- She inquired is the Cabinet Secretary was aware that there was no operation that was going on as alleged in this Statement by the Chairperson? To the contrary, incidents of insecurity have increased in Maralal. Could it be a deliberate move to start operations to deal with insecurity incidents so that people forget what happened in Baragoi.

Date 6th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Naisula Lesuuda
Contribution She Made On: Transfer Of Health Services To County Governments

- She also sought a Statement from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare regarding the transfer of health services to the county governments which has been a matter of concern to the members of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentist Board, the Kenya National Union of Nurses and the Kenya Health Professionals Society.

- In the Statement, she requested the Chairman to:
1. Confirm whether the Ministry of Health has met the stakeholders in the health sector to discuss the contentious issues of salary, pension and compensation for years of service.

2. Explain how the process of transfer will be managed to ensure the concerned personnel are not disadvantaged when they move to the devolved governments.

3. State whether arrangements can be made for the national Government to handle the payroll of the affected personnel.

4. Explain if the governors are ready to manage the function of health.

5. State how many counties have indicated they can manage the function and how many have requested for it to remain as national function due to lack of capacity.

Date 6th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Liza Chelule
Contribution She Made On: Status Of “One Million Acres” Irrigation Programme

- She pointed out that she wanted to issue a Statement in regard to queries raised by Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo on the status of the one million acres irrigation programme as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

- She noted that agriculture in Kenya is mainly rain-fed and cannot satisfy the country’s food needs and there to increase agricultural production, there was need to increase the area under irrigation. At the moment, irrigation accounts for only 1.7 per cent of the total land area under agriculture, but directly contributes 3 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides 18 per cent of the value of all agricultural produce. Kenya has an estimated irrigation potential of 1.3 hectares and a drainage potential of 225,000 hectares; however, 540,000 hectares of the irrigation potential can be developed with the current available water resource base.

- She pointed out the remaining 800,000 hectares would require water harvesting and storage equivalent to annual water storage of 25 billion cubic meters adding that Currently, over 150,000 hectares and 30,000 hectares of land is under irrigation and drainage, respectively. This translates to 27 per cent and 13 per cent of the existing irrigation and drainage potential. However, the area under irrigation is only 9 per cent of the possible 1.3 million hectares that can be irrigated and integrated with water storage development.
She pointed out that Vision 2030 provides a clear indication of the commitment by the Government of Kenya to enhance and promote irrigated agriculture to ensure food security. The first Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2008 to 2012 had set a target of developing 40,000 hectares of irrigation annually through various stakeholders. In addition, Parliament passed a Bill in 2010/2011 for development of 800,000 hectares of irrigation in each constituency. Despite the set target, funding to the irrigation sub-sector has been low.

She noted that irrigation development is expansive and on average to develop one hectare will cost Kshs 500,000. The target set by the Jubilee Government in the manifesto over a five year plan of 2013 to 2017 aims at increasing the irrigated area by 800,000 hectares, that is, 200,000 hectares per year. This will need a budgetary provision of, at least, Kshs 40 billion per year, besides water storage requirements. Financing irrigation development is geared towards rehabilitation and completion of existing schemes, investigations and designs of infrastructure construction of new schemes, development of water storage facilities and capacity building of both technical staff and communities.

She pointed out that the Government was committed in realization of putting the one million acres of land under irrigation in the next five years as promised by His Excellency the President and stipulated in the second MTP. The Government has identified 1.7 million acres which are located in Galana and Kulalu Ranches situated in Tana River and Kilifi Counties, respectively, to achieve the above target. Further, the Government intends to exceed the stated target through nationwide expanded irrigation programmes initiated in 2010 across counties.

She further pointed out that the exercise had commenced and will be implemented by the Government and other related agricultural sector stakeholders over five year span. For Galana and Kulalu, the Government advertised for expression of interest in June, 2013 to carry out detailed engineering designs and is in the process of awarding the consultancy among major projects being implemented towards one million acres programme which include:

i) Galana/Kulalu Food Security Project – one million acres
ii) Expanded national irrigation – 500,000 acres.

She pointed out that the Government was already implementing a number of projects across the country to realize one thousand acres. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Galana and Kulalu ranches are targeted to contribute one million acres. This will cost the Government Kshs 250 billion. During the current financial year the
Government has allocated Kshs3.2 billion. The Government is undertaking dam rehabilitation, road infrastructure and developing model farms, including soil suitability analysis. The expenditure to date is Kshs40 million.

She noted that the expanded national irrigation programme is being implemented nationwide in the various counties since 2010. The Ministry has identified 180 community based irrigation projects across the country. This encompasses small holder irrigation schemes, medium community schemes and public schemes. To implement these projects, the Government, during the Financial Year 2013/2014 has allocated Kshs11,182,000,000. This will increase the area under irrigation by 1.5 million acres.

Date 19th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Martha Wangari
Contribution She Made On: Status Of Ongoing Construction Of Roads Since Commencement Of Devolution

She responded to the request for the Statement from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Energy, Roads and Transportation as follows:- The state of all ongoing projects in the Ministry under the three roads implementing agencies of Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) - as has been attached in annex one - Kenya Urban Authority (KURA) - as annex two - and Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) - as annex three.

She pointed out that she had with her an annex which has the status of all the roads under the three institutions. They have been tabulated as follows: There is a project name, brief description (scope of works), project location, that is, in which county they belong, the contractor, the contract sum in shillings, the source of funding, the road length in kilometres, the pending bills as at 31st October, 2013, the physical progress achieved in percentage and we have the status of implementation.

She noted that under KeRRA, there were about 58 roads that are ongoing and she tabled this report afterwards so that the hon. Senator can go through. Under KURA, it is tabulated by counties and the Ministry is undertaking routine and periodic maintenance road works funded through the fuel levy funds and some new construction projects funded through the development vote and added that currently, there were no stalled projects under KURA. However the ongoing projects are experiencing slow progress due to delay in payments from the Exchequer. The list is also attached. It is about 24 roads tabulated with county, the name of the road, the contract sum and the status; that is, how far it has gone in terms of percentage. We also have development projects that are under construction. This is also
attached. It has the name of the county, the name of the contractor, the contract sum, the commencement date, the completion date as expected and it has progress and remarks. It is a list of 37 projects.

She pointed out that under KeNHA, there are ongoing road development projects. We also have a tabulation in the annex, including the location, the counties traversed, the scope of works, the contract sum, the budget for the year ending 2013/2014, we have funding model, the status, the contract period, the commencement and completion date. Therefore, a list of 41 ongoing projects under KeNHA has been tabulated in this response. The Government was undertaking the following measures in order to arrest the stalling of Sigalagala-Butere-Sidindi Road and to make it motorable. She further stated that they KeNHA was also

i) Arranging to pay the contractor Kshs100 million out of the outstanding payment certificate by the end of last week; that is the week ending 15th November, 2013.

ii) Road maintenance levy funds amounting to Kshs7,000,000 have been disbursed to the KeRRA regional office to fund improvement to motorable standards of the bad sections of the road ahead of the section the contractor was working on before he suspended his work. She added that the Government was aware that the local contractors have been forced to undertake costcutting measures which include temporarily laying off some of the staff.

She noted that the Government was aiming at providing funds to the contractors to jumpstart those projects that had stalled and those that had slowed down through the supplementary budget provisions from the National Treasury. Once the contractors are paid, production will be jumpstarted hence young Kenyans will retain their jobs. Additionally, under the access to Government opportunities or what is being referred to ad hoc, preferences and reservations programme under Treasury, the 30 per cent national Government procurement will be reserved for youths, women, and people with disabilities.

She noted in the current financial year budget, no allocation was made for KeRRA and KURA. However, the national Government had now made arrangements to fund the ongoing projects through the Supplementary Budget. The payments will be made in installments as funds flow from the National Treasury with the oldest certificate being paid first. The Government intends to settle most of the outstanding payments by the end of the financial year and to budget for the balance in the next financial year.
She noted that as aforementioned above, the Government was making the arrangement to pay the contractor so that the contractor’s machines are not seized due to failure to meet their obligation to creditors. In the meantime, when requested by the contractors, the Government is also confirming the amounts owed to them and giving them assurances that the arrangements are being made to pay them for the comfort of their creditors.

She pointed out that the ongoing projects had specific contracts with specific terms and conditions. Therefore, transferring the responsibility of payments of the contracts to the counties by sending the money allocated under the Supplementary Budget to the counties will create some contractual challenges and possible delays in payments. This will further aggravate the already precarious situation where most of the contractors have suspended works and are raising interest and other contractual claims.

Date 19th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Martha Wangari
Contribution She Made On: Upgrading Of the Machakos-Kangundo Road to Bitumen Standards

She responded to the request for the Statement from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Energy, Roads and Transportation as follows:- That the Ministry, through the three implementing road agencies, that is, KURA, KeRRA and KeNHA has ear-marked the following roads for upgrading to bitumen standards throughout the country.

She noted that the Ministry did not tender the contract for Machakos-Kangundo Road in 2006/2007 Financial Year. So, no contract was awarded to H-Young Company. However, the road is one of those that the Ministry has ear-marked for construction and it will be tendered once finances are made available. Again, we are referred to the attached annexes on KeNHA. The design works of the Machakos-Kangundo Road are ready. This Statement is signed by Eng. Kilimo, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Enclosed are three attachments. Under KeRRA, we have 26 projects. Under KURA, we have 138 projects. They are all tabulated to reflect where the road is located and how much it has been allocated in the budget and the status.
She supported the Bill by stating that that was a bold Bill and added that when Kenyans voted overwhelmingly for the Constitution that is governing this country, they had very high hopes. In fact, 10 years ago – and I know that came with the NARC revolutions – Kenyans were voted to be one of the happiest people in the globe. That is because they had high expectations which were put in this Constitution. We had already suffered in the centralized kind of Government and we hoped that we would get better delivery of services, not only better, but closer and, of course, easier to access, and not for self-glory.

She noted that when the elections came this year, of course, people went out and voted and several months down the line, the citizens are already wondering whether this was really what they had voted for and added that in fact, we have had people in this country who have done great things, being recognized nationally and internationally without having to carry the title “His Excellency, Her Excellency”. They have done good things and great things for this country. We are talking about Very Important Persons (VIPs) as they are referred to in this country.

She further stated that when talking about these it referred to the 47 Governors, 67 Senators, 349 Members of the National Assembly, 47 Speakers of the county assemblies, two Speakers of the two Houses and over 2,000 Members of County Assembly (MCAs). If this madness is not tamed, I do not see how devolution, five years down the line, will be evaluated as having helped wananchi.

She supports this Bill because it will take what is already going on where everyone wants to show that they are fighting or they are more superior than the others. This House has been credited by being very modest and that can even be shown by the way we debate in this House. We not only have very experienced Members, but we have people with decorum. This has been demonstrated by all of us and no one can deny us that. We are not doing this so that we wear a very big hat to brag on the streets.

She pointed out that everyone here is above that and my appeal is that this Bill is not taken out of context because we are a House of order. Even in the
country, we have a Constitution. That is why we make laws so that we streamline things that were not there initially. This new Constitution, together with all these positions that have been created, definitely need a legal framework so that people do not just wake up and decide; “I am now Her Excellency.” Every time I sit down and hear “Her Excellency, the First Lady” thinking that you are referring to the First Lady that we know, only to see that there is another “First Lady.”

- She pointed out that the Bill would bring a lot of order in the country. I hope it can be supported across the board because it will bring order to this country. This Bill will definitely tame the errant ones because not everyone out there is bad. It will also tame those who think they own this country and others do not. It is very important that we do not lose the focus of devolution. Let people work very hard to make sure that services get closer to the people, instead of making it harder for citizens to access these services.

- She noted that the fact that now you are at the county and you are still not reachable to your people, then what difference does it make from the centralized form of Government that we had and what we are already implementing.

Date 13th November, 2013
Member of Senate: Sen. Beatrice Elachi
Contribution She Made On: The National Flag, Emblems And Names (Amendment) Bill

- She pointed out that the Governors had been misusing not just our flag, but also the coat of arms. When you look at the cards that we have right now from the county governments, you will find that they have the coat of arms adding that Governors had formed their executive teams which have also forgotten what is in the Constitution.

- She stated that as they consider the Bill, we need to look at also the word “Minister” and caution the county governments that we do not have ministers in the county governments. They need to emulate the Governor of Machakos because when he was introducing his team, he was very clear that they were executive committee members of the county government. It is also confusing members of the public in the county governments.

- She noted that when there was a meeting involving the national Government and the county government, the local mwananchi is left wondering who is the “minister” for health; knowing very well that Kenyans are used to some titles. So, as much as we change them
**Date 20th November, 2013**  
**Member of Senate: Sen. Janet Ongera**  
**Contribution She Made On: The County Governments (Amendment) (No.2) Bill**

- She supported the Bill by stating that this Bill lay at the very centre of what we, Members of the Senate, are supposed to do under the Constitution. Our role as Members of the Senate is to be the guardian angel of devolution. This Bill goes a long way in illustrating that. First of all, I would like to look at the objects and reasons of this Bill, which we have been told is to provide a forum for leaders to meet.

- She noted that those were the leaders of the county who can discuss issues that would make the county grow. Therefore, there can never be a better forum which is led by the Senator because Senators are people of wisdom. I find that it is very timely that we have this Bill. She stated that as legislators, Governors needed not worry that we want to take their jobs because we are people's representatives. We are legislators. We are not arbitrators. That is why we keep on saying that we do not need to have CDF under Members of the National Assembly. Therefore, the illusion that many Governors have; that Senators are interested in their jobs is extremely unfounded.

- She pointed out that the Governors had misplaced interests and added the truth of what they are doing will be discovered when we have such a forum. Therefore, I support the creation of a forum that can bring all leaders of the county to discuss development of the county.

- She also pointed out that the second thing she had noted is that the Bill will be for coordination and harmonization of development projects and programmes. There can never be a better forum under the county unless we have such a forum. This is the only forum that can bring harmonization of all the issues. As you have heard many Senators say, at the moment, we do not know what the left hand or the right hand is doing. We do not know what the Member of National Assembly is doing with the CDF. We do not know what the MCAs are doing with the allocations they have been given under the county assemblies. We do not know what the executive committee members are also doing.

- She noted that coincidentally, during our hearings, as we were listening to appeals, we heard them being referred to as Ministers. However, nowhere under the Constitution have I seen them being referred to as Ministers. So,
weneed to bring harmony to counties. We need a forum that can make sure that we know what the right hand is doing and what the left hand is doing. I want to plead with the Mover to look at Clause 1(g). I want to support those who have requested that it be amended. The need for the Deputy Governor should not be there because this will create conflict with Article 182(2) of the Constitution that states that when the County Governor is absent, the Deputy County Governor shall act as the Governor.

- She stated that that was one body and added that there was no need to have the Deputy Governor being as substantive member. I think the Deputy Governor should act in the absence of the Governor as a member of the Board. Finally, there will not be a time that this Senate can stamp its authority as the drivers of devolution unless this Bill is enacted.

**Date 26th November, 2013**  
**Member of Senate: Sen. Dr. Agnes Zani**  
**Contribution She Made On: The County Governments (Amendment) (No.2) Bill**

- She supported the Bill by stating it was important to emphasize the independence of the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. Let the Legislature do its work; let us do the work of coming up with the Bills and let us discuss them as they should be discussed and added that that was the first time this country is going through devolution; so, we really are going through various experiences. Some counties have started off with a perfect head start and they know where to go; but others have not and it is a challenge for many of the counties.

- She pointed out that in some counties, they have hired consultants to give direction in terms of where the county should go to; and some of those have made headway. However in other counties, they have not hired consultants, but they have had – like in Kilifi County – a “County Day” where they have tried to bring the various players together, and this is the nexus of this Bill.

- She further stated that all these efforts were done differently because there has not been a stage and a forum that has been set to do exactly that – to bring the vision and mission of the county; where does it want to go to; how does it want to go there and discuss the nitty gritty of the details that each county has to attain to achieve specific goals.

- The integrated county development plans for most counties have been set out and that is one other forums that can be used to project and ensure that those particular objectives have been attained. But there is a need to have a
board – and I think the County Development Boards at the county level enable the various players to project even in advance, if there are any loopholes, indicators or anything that they have missed out; that they can actually sit together. This Bill gives county leaders a forum for them to sit together in a structured manner so that they can actually look at where the county wants to go and how the county should get there so that at the end of it all, it is a role that has been played by everybody.

She noted that there are various players, even as we moved into devolution, but all these players have looked at things from various angles and, sometimes partly, that has formed part of the teething problems, especially in the counties. Some of these players include the Commission for Revenue Allocation (CRA) and the CIC especially with regard to the interpretation of law, interpretation of devolution; and everybody was pulling from different directions. Counties came up with budgets that had not really been sprung from the ground; so, there are various teething problems that we have experienced in trying to understand where we are going to. But this particular forum gives us a chance to correct all this, once and for all.

She stated that as the country moves away from pushing issues of accountability and blame games to other people; we are able to sit together at one forum and make decisions. Other Senators have already said this here; that it is important for leaders to work together. It is not a question of personalities – and I know there have been clashes between certain governors and certain Senators who cannot sit together – but this will make them have to sit together because they do not have an option. It is not about personalities – about who I like and who I do not like – but it is about the county; and that the county can move to the next level. I have always thought that the best Governor is the one who, from the word go, is able to delegate and delegate to the right people.

She noted that there is a sense of fear in terms of trying to amass power at the level of the Governor. So, in most of the counties, we find governors who want to be lone rangers, but that is exactly where the fate of devolution is going to be. It is very difficult for each of those governors, as a lone ranger, to bring development to each of those counties; and the sooner they are told that, the better. They have to learn to become team players; there is a reason why we have various roles in the devolved system. We have Senators, we have Members of County Assembly (MCAs); we have Women Representatives at the county level as well and each of them with a specific role. In fact, I will go further and say that in the team of the 14 who are meant to be in the Board, clear allocation of roles and responsibilities should also be given in
terms of the direction and what exactly they are bringing in as members of that particular board.

- She pointed out that the move would take them to the next level. So, I think it is a practical aspect that really helps us to come together to make decisions all together. There is value in having more players come into the team than having a few players, because it minimizes the risk of errors. Somebody somewhere will be able to point out that "this is right" and "this is wrong." The setting of the goals together, going back to the plans and analyzing them; plans on how to achieve these particular goals that have been set in a concise and clear manner, looking through the finances, objectives and the team players in terms of who will do what, when will it be done and looking through the policies that are going to come at the county level in terms of actualizing them, so that allocation of the various roles is very important. It also gives us a forum to begin answering questions, to project and look at pitfalls that might lie on our way in terms of development agenda.

- She further noted that various people come from various professions, and the richness of these boards is that the various professionals will be in a position to look ahead and see what specific pitfalls are there and how to counteract them well in advance. It will also give counties an opportunity to have an evaluatory framework so that for each of the agendas that they have set, they can actually discuss in advance how they are going to gauge themselves, to find out whether or not they will achieve a particular level of success that they have put ahead of themselves even before that happens. So, if taken this way, they are able to really all play a participatory role, knowing that at the end of the day, what matters is achievement for the county.

- She pointed out that the logic of who should be the Chair of the Board has been argued by the various Senators. Initially, there was a lot of skepticism and this was jittery, with the governors feeling that Senators wanted to take power. But Senatorshave been placed rightfully in the position to be representatives of the counties and the direct link of the county government with the national Government. So, at that pivotal role, we are best placed to actually be the ones who chair the specific boards. Over time, one of the things that has come out very clearly is that whenever the different players have been put together - and I will give the example of the Senate and the Transition Authority (TA); the Senate and the CIC - every time there have been differences and lack of understanding, when people have been put together, they have been able to understand and pull from one position. So, I think we will see that from the Board level, it will be possible for these players to come, put their issues on the table and move forward.
She suggested that there was no conflict between the oversight role and the actual execution at the Board level; and I would like to use the example of a teacher who supervises students. At one point, they are only a supervisor, but at that point in which that work is being examined, they reject or pull themselves away and begin to also assume an oversight role. So, by being part and parcel of the Board, it will actually give Senators a sharper vision and clarity of the issues at the county level, which will actually enhance their oversight role within those specific counties.

She noted that it is therefore not surprising that because the Senate is really the Upper House and the most powerful as far as devolution is concerned that our counterparts in the National Assembly would like to talk about the disbandment of the Senate. I think by beginning this discussion, they are actually looking for a way out for themselves. If we are talking about the wage bill, then we can come up with arguments of restructuring the Senate in such a way that we actually have the 47 women representatives at the county level and keep the elected Senators within the Senate and that will still give a good representation.

She pointed out that currently, there is a duplication of roles. At the county level, we have even covered the constituencies. So, we can actually say that their role is being duplicated and by the same argument, their role can actually be usurped by the Senators. I think the first time we were a bit tolerant to them when this debate started, but I think we should no longer be tolerant to them.

She called on the Senate to come up to defend our position and at the end of the day, if the argument is about the wage bill, then we are going to present a scenario where the wage bill is going to go down. I think this debate is taking a lot of our time and moving us away from the tasks that we should perform. It is very clear in Kenyans’ minds about what the obligations for the Senate and the National Assembly are. Those obligations are also very clear to the Senators and Members of the National Assembly. We should save this country a lot of time to debate issues about development.

Date 26th November, 2013
Member of Senate: Sen. Daisy Kanainza
Contribution She Made On: The County Governments (Amendment) (No.2) Bill

She supported the motion by stating that as the Senate appreciate devolution, the people at the grassroots level are the ones who are supposed
to enjoy the fruits of this Constitution that we voted for in 2010 adding that as Senators, they are the custodians of the counties, their governments and the people and, thus, it is very important that we play a very crucial role in the development of our county governments. So far, we have seen the budgets that were done by our county governments and which were passed by the county assemblies. There have been a lot of omissions and alterations which are not so good. That is why I stand to support this Bill by saying that we, the Senators, must be part of it. At the same time, we should include the participation of the local people so that they can really know what is supposed to be done.

- She noted that the membership of the boards as proposed in the Bill is too big. It is very important that we should have a member from the public in the same board that not only represent the interests of the youth, but also the interests of women and people living with disabilities. Through these Boards, the 30 per cent given for procurement and delivery of goods and services meant for the youth should also be looked upon in a wider way.

- She noted that the Senators cannot leave this process of devolution and performance of functions to the governors and executive alone. The Senators and even other members should be consulted, and they should be part of it to ensure that our people really enjoy the fruits of this Constitution looking at the issue of development in our counties, we have the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF), Uwezo Fund and we also have this money that the Senate passed - the Kshs210 billion that is being disbursed to the counties - and it is important that we synchronize how these monies are going to be used. We appreciate that at the moment, we are having the integrated plans; most of the counties have done that.

- She stated that it was important that when these boards sit down, they are able to see what the Member of Parliament (MP) has planned to do in the constituency; what the county government is planning to do and even what the national Government is planning to do in the same county and in the same constituency, so that, actually, we do not have a duplication of the same functions as we have just said about health. You will find that an MP is trying to put up a health facility and, at the same time, the county government has also planned to put up the same facility in the same area. She noted that through these boards, I know that the county governments are going to grow and we are going to appreciate that no Kenyan will wish to have national Government
Date 5th November, 2013  
Member of Senate: Sen. Dr. Agnes Zani  
Contribution She Made On: Adoption Of Report On Visits To Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Nyamira, Kisumu, Kakamega and Vihiga Counties

- She commended the committee for a comprehensive Report of exactly what they had done in the county visits, including having a variation about where they have visited. For example, they had visited the Governors’ offices. They even managed to go to Ayo Primary School when they had their price giving day where they actually saw how the children were learning.

- She noted that that was very innovative and exciting. Generally, the enthusiasm and even the photos attached to that Report captured the mood of the Committee Members and gave us an insight of what exactly they were doing and noted that there are problems that are faced across the various counties.

- She gave the following suggestions starting with the objectives of the Committee as set out. The objectives are more or less stated in the same way as the first Report was done. It would have been nice, as the Committee goes to specific counties, because they are different, if they could bring out specific problems in those particular counties, especially dealing with early childhood education so that right from the beginning, we have an insight of specific problems in specific counties and exactly what their expectations are.

- She noted that the committee in their first Report, there was the issue of staff shortage, especially for early childhood and development education. There seems to be either lack of interest or lack of processing of personnel over time to ensure that they are trained and put in the right places. I cannot fathom why such a shortage would be there in the first place considering that there are facilities for training at different levels, including the Montessori schools which do a lot of training.

- She noted that there was a problem of distribution of personnel for early childhood education and development. These teachers seem to be going to specific areas. I am afraid the trained ECD teachers are going to the private sector. It seems that they are the ones who are having the biggest advantage in terms of recruitment. We know how critical it is to have early childhood education and development at lower levels so that the child is motivated and gets interested in learning. So, it is a big disadvantage, especially for the public schools that we have not been able to amass the potential of personnel.
It is not really about the training; rather it is selective for them to go to the private sector rather than the public sector.

- She further stated that apart from staff shortages mentioned in the Report, it would have been nice to find out what the comparative figures are across the various counties because I think it is general. If we are talking about policy and the implementation of that policy, it would be important to know exactly how many teachers we are short of and in which subjects so that we can rectify the situation in terms of planning. I think it may also be difficult to come up with those details because there has not been a clear policy put in place in terms of ECD. I think we need to emphasize that education for our young children is very critical and without that, it becomes impossible to move to the next level.

- She pointed out that the determination of performance at primary schools is through ECD and, later on, the transition to secondary schools adding that there is also the issue of lack of infrastructure for polytechnics. Some of the polytechnics that were visited lacked basic infrastructure, they were not well planned and lacked tools. There was also the idea of referring to them as village polytechnics which is not attractive to the youth. So, we should think of an innovative way of transforming these middle level colleges. More than ever before, Training and Vocational Centres (TIVET) are very important for this country. As we know, not everybody follows the formal route of education. Therefore, we should have TIVET centres and upgrade our polytechnics.

- She called for the change the mindset of Kenyans; that not everybody should end up at the university level. There are also blue-collar jobs. In fact, in the developed world, it is the blue-collar jobs that are in demand. They are also the ones that pay well. We might also begin to see such changes in this country if we are able to train and make this work lucrative for various people. I was touched and disappointed with the level of infrastructure that has been put in place regarding the physically challenged students in the various schools. This came out of the Report. They have been left out and this means that issues of mobility have been ignored. We also do not know what sort of physical challenges these are. Sometimes they are physical challenges and also mental challenges and yet we use the usual formal curriculum to train people. We do not know the amount of mainstreaming that has been done. For example, in some schools, the physically challenged are allowed to be as normal as possible because they interact with others. I think that really leaves a big gap in terms of the knowledge and information that can be given to the physically challenged.
She noted that at Sigalagala Technical School, the Committee was impressed with what they saw and it was, probably, the model school for that county. I think what needs to be brought out is what made it a model school so that again that can become a template for moving forward and improving their education levels. How has one county managed to succeed and others have not managed to succeed? Is it a question of resources, leadership or importance that has been given to education in that particular county?

She raised the issue of standardization of the ECD curriculum. I think right now as it stands and as the Report stipulated, everybody is doing their own thing. There is no policy and there is no standardization which I think is very dangerous remembering that these children will leave and come through the primary schools and expect to go through the trajectory of going to secondary schools and universities. So, it is important to have that sort of control. So, in terms of moving forward, the issue, especially of having a standardized ECD curriculum is very important for quality control and making sure that standard setting is done at a high pitch.

She pointed out that there was need for a follow up for all the others adding that with regard to school feeding programmes, again, they are being applied sporadically. One school is doing it better than the other and yet this has to be Government policy. For example, among the poorest of the poor, sometimes it is the school feeding programmes that actually get the children to go to school. In the long run, in terms of development, it really contributes to ensuring mainstreaming from the various social classes so that you do not leave the very poor out who end up getting disinterested.

She stated that in Nyamira County, for example, it was very encouraging to find out that girl child dropout rates had actually reduced. Therefore, there was improvement in terms of the girl-child education. That was a very good observation and important area for counties to encourage, so that we have gender balance. For example, in the national examinations, Nyamira County records a low mean. But, again, we need to know what that low mean is and what could be the reasons for that specific scenario.

She noted that the same sort of issues came up from the various counties. For example, in Kisii County, out of 763 public schools and 45 village polytechnics, they have said that these are the ones that are there. But how does that compare to other counties? Are they doing better than Kwale County, for example? So, just in a snapshot, we could have a comparative analysis. What does it mean vis-à-vis other counties? Are they doing well or badly? That would be very important, so that we have an evaluative framework across
This is because, at the end of the day, that evaluative framework becomes handy in being able to really see where the discrepancies are.

- She noted that the same thing applies to Kakamega County, for example, where ECD centres are recorded as 1,068 and 2,200 in terms of teachers. We still need to have a rating, so that we can actually say that, at end of the day, as a Committee, if we were to put in more effort in one county and the other county. What would be the key issues to consider across one county and the other county? It is a very exciting and informative Report.

Date 5th November, 2013
Member of Senate: Sen. Dr. Joy Gwendo
Contribution She Made On: Adoption Of Report On Visits To Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Nyamira, Kisumu, Kakamega and Vihiga Counties

- She appreciated the Members of the Committee for the good work and added that they would like to support education and quoted Nelson Mandela by stating that education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world. For us, the Members of the Committee on Education, Information and Technology, to change the world or this country.

- She called on the members to support the report and also pointed out a few issues raised by the Senators and how the Committee will adopt them and work together with the Senate to also adopt them in various counties. I will start with the disability care. One Senator pointed out that we should use the word, disability-friendly, which I think is correct. This is because if we keep on saying “the disabled or physically challenged” it sort-of discourages both the young and old from participating in anything in the community. So, if we established our schools in a disability friendly manner, then these children will feel welcome to go to school. So, that will be adopted by the Committee.

- She pointed out that education is a responsibility of the community. I know that in Siaya County, for example, we have organizations like Plan International that are running community-led ECD centres. The programme helps to sensitize the community on the importance of ECD. This is because we know very well that if we give a child the best foundation in Siaya County, for example, that same child will be able to compete with a child in Cavina one day when they meet, because the examination is the same.

- She noted that with regard to Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as much as education is the most important weapon, we also need to be digital. We also need ICT to help us in research and moving forward in
our schools and chambers. For example, I can tell you that the Kisii County Chambers is better than what we sit in here. It is automated and they are almost at a level that all counties need to be in. I believe that if we move towards connecting our counties, then we will not need to summon the Cabinet Secretaries (CSs), for example. You can have a conference call with the CS and he will be able to respond to your questions more easily.

- She noted that the other issue was the school feeding programme. On this one, I think that the Senate will need to work with the Committee on Education, Information and Technology, because feeding is very important. We know that we cannot work in this Senate without food. What about that three year old child who leaves the house early in the morning to go to school? We need to find a way of establishing feeding programmes in all our counties, to encourage these children to go to school. Of course, each and every child will go to school knowing that they have left their mother’s house and blanket, but they will go and learn and eat.

- She suggested that some alternatives or methods that could be used. I mentioned the one in Kisumu County, where the Governor was encouraging schools to have land where they can plant maize and vegetables, and then the school will be able to feed their children without any problem. Alternatively, the schools can ask parents to bring a tin of maize or unga and then the school can cook a collective meal for all the pupils. In this way, we will not have problems in attendance. We will also develop these children’s foundation.

- She noted that in Kisii and Nyamira counties, there was a problem of low performance in KCPE and KCSE. It is our responsibility, as leaders and community, to motivate these children. Feeding is good motivation. Secondly, we should find a way of rewarding these students when they do well. We should find out why they are failing and many are not registering. The other day, I discovered that there are headmasters who stop children from registering, because of either being weak or they got into problems when other pupils were revising. These are things that we, as a Committee, need to look into.

- She noted that with regard to village polytechnics, for example, if you went to Kibos Primary, then Kibos Secondary and finally to Kibos Polytechnic, we tend to feel that this is associated with inferior quality of education. We want to encourage the Senators and leaders to rebrand the polytechnics, so that students are attracted to them because they have a way of boosting our economy.

**Date 6th November 2013**
Member of Parliament: Sen. Beatrice Elachi  
Contribution She Made On: Measures to Assist County Governments Develop Capacity in Pre-Primary Education

- She supported the Motion by stating that many parents in this country take their children to school at the age of one year upwards. When we talk about the development of a child and early childhood education, we must look at, first, how does a child grow up? What are those development steps and how important are they especially when a child is in the early childhood education foundation?

- She pointed out that one of the things that children do between ages one to five years is to learn to understand themselves, adopt skills and get the muscles to roll and skip around. They also learn how to think and interact. Therefore if the teacher does not understand the five ways of developing a child, then indeed that child will have challenges. We have seen many children who have gone through the best early childhood education always doing very well in Standard One. They are able to understand what the teachers are saying, interact, respond and even question their teachers. The child is usually more exposed.

- She stated that when talking of early childhood education, we should not just look at the teachers, but also the facilities. At that level, the child must learn how to identify the numbers, vowels and the alphabet. I think the most important thing in early childhood education, if a teacher is well trained, is to mould the child to grow his or her mind. They should be given time to paint anything that is on their minds. They should be left to also play and sing because this is the level at which they develop their minds. If you keep them in a classroom environment, then the child’s mind is developed in a way that when they go to Class One, they would wonder what they are being taught because it would simply be a repetition of what they had learnt.

- She further stated that there is need to look at an early childhood teacher and how he or she is supposed to manage a child from one year to five years. They should endeavor to develop that child to be part of society without making the child feel stressed by the teachers. This could discourage them from going to school because they are not able to read. This stage is very challenging to the teacher and also to the child. So, these are some of the issues that the Government and all the other stakeholders, especially parents must be involved in. It is important for parents to know how their children are growing.
She noted that this was the age where the child gains confidence. This is also the stage where a child can be able to tell you what is good and what is bad. This is the age where they are very frank; they never lie. This determines how they will move to the next level. In early childhood, you have to think of nutrition because one of the challenges in the rural areas is that most children lack nutrition. In some of the schools in Nairobi, they are provided with tea and milk whereas in the rural areas, many children are suffering from malnutrition although they are very bright. If a child comes to school when he or she is hungry, then that child is unable to concentrate and to listen to what the teacher is saying. I know in the rural areas, we do not bother with the hours a child has to sleep per day. But in Nairobi and other urban areas, they usually rest at 2.00 p.m. So, while we look at the counties, the teachers must understand that these are very young children and they need to be given an opportunity to enhance their brains and even to rest as they grow up.

She pointed out that in Kakamega, the Governor had included this in his blue print. He had even set the salaries and people had applied to be employed. Therefore, it is something that just needs to be rolled out. I know the national Government has not been able for all those years to pay the early childhood education teachers.

Date 6th November 2013  
Member of Parliament: Sen. Judith Sijeny  
Contribution She Made On: Measures to Assist County Governments Develop Capacity in Pre-Primary Education

She supported the Motion by stating because it concerns very special citizens of this country. When we lay a good foundation for our children, we are sure to bring up very good citizens who will be responsible to ensure that the economy grows well. They cannot do it on their own and that is the reason why I am supporting that the national Government recruits, trains and deploys teachers for pre-primary education within the counties.

She stated that when you take children of tender age to school, they tend to believe their teachers even more than their parents. I am talking from my own experience, having children of my own and remembering how it all began. In a parent's mind, a child is very young to understand and then you try to look for a funny language so that they understand and yet teachers in their own way have managed to teach them the right thing, they will tell you, no, the teacher said this and that. There are times in most schools that these teachers get to counsel parents. But if they are not well trained, they are not even able to impart the relevant knowledge to the parents. In most cases, these are things that happen in private schools.
She cautioned that there is no manual for bringing up children and it was something one learns but added that there were people who were well trained and they impact this knowledge to the parents. In schools where the parents and teachers work hand in hand, the children end up being very good students and citizens.

She stated that the other reason supporting this Motion was because that was the very beginning. Unless the foundation is laid properly, the result is a disaster. A child will wake up in the morning and refuse to go to school depending on how the school and the teachers are. If the teacher does not know basic child psychology, they will not be able to deal with children who woke up with tantrums or children who have seen a lot of domestic violence in their homes.

She pointed out that if this child is taken to a school where the teacher has been trained on how to deal with these psychological issues, the child is able to cope. This is a child who will love schooling. Unfortunately private schools are very expensive and as parents, sometimes we are forced to take loans to take our children to private nursery schools so that the children can get adequate training that they so much desire at the pre-primary level. If the national Government works hand in hand with the county Government and trains and recruits the right people, then the poor citizens will not have to struggle so much to take loans in order to educate their children in private schools.

She recommended the curriculum be harmonized and implemented accordingly to ensure uniformity. When affordable quality education is granted, then we know we are on the right path as a country and added that after training, where these teachers are being deployed should be looked at. The Government should ensure that there is security and that they have deployed the right teachers in the schools so that the children are not abused or their rights violated. At the moment, there is a lot of defilement of minors in our country and we wonder why.

She noted that good food should be provided in the schools. For example, in Kibera, the schools that provide food are flooded with children. I urge the national Government to ensure that they continue with the school feeding programme. The county governments can also network with like-minded partners who can provide the facilities that are required. If the children do not have uniform or clothing, there are charitable organizations who can provide books and uniform because this is a reality and this is what happens in our country.
Date 6th November 2013  
Member of Parliament: Sen. Godliver Nanjira Omondi  
Contribution She Made On: Measures to Assist County Governments Develop Capacity in Pre-Primary Education

- She supported the motion and called on the Members to flash back when they first went to school; where we started and the challenges we faced. We should ask ourselves whether we are able to change or leave things the way they used to be. Early childhood education was left to the teachers and mosques. When you look at the environment surrounding such a learning facility, it does not promote quality education. It also demoralizes early learners. Early childhood education being the foundation stage of the development of a human being, you find that when such a child enters primary school, life becomes difficult and such a child sometimes discontinues her education.

- She pointed out that the reason she is saying this is because during early childhood education, you will find that the teachers are not trained and those who start such schools just pick on anybody as a teacher so long as they are Form Four leavers. When it comes to primary schools, the trained teachers introduce complicated issues to the children and that is why we normally have many school dropouts. One colleague Senator said that we are not able to retain such children in schools. Many children are not going to school and this poses a security risk to the rest of the community because such people lack good background that can mould them into good citizens.

- The national Government should support or assist the county governments by, maybe, allocating some fund and resources, so that we can invest in Early Childhood Development (ECD) education, in terms of training and paying the teachers and psychosocial support to such children. Many a times, you will find young children coming from school in ordinary clothes and we are not able to connect whether or not they go to school. In case of an accident, you will not link the child to a school. She pointed out that the role played by EDC teachers is very important because this is where children begin from scratch. This is where a child is taught how to handle a pen and how to behave well. If a child is not given a good foundation or learning environment, it becomes a problem for them to adjust into a normal life, where they can be responsible as they grow up.

- She pointed out that the developing the brain of a young child means a lot and should be taken seriously by all stakeholders, right from home and the two levels of Government - the national Government and the county
governments. The ECD education is a devolved service to county
governments, but it has a lot to be done that should not be transferred and
left to the county governments. It will become a problem for the
county governments to administer that area. I think that the national
Government has a role to play and provide ECD personnel with knowledge and
skills that will enable them to effectively carry out the role of bringing up
young children into adults and respectful Kenyan citizens.

Date 6th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Elizabeth Ongoro
Contribution She Made On: Measures to Assist County Governments
Develop Capacity in Pre-Primary Education

- She supported the Motion by stating that the national Government should take
  measures to assist county governments in establishing infrastructure for
  capacity building, to ensure that training, recruitment and deployment of
  teachers at pre-primary school level of education is well structured. I say this
  because in the first place, capacities of county governments are different.
  There are county governments that are going to lay more emphasis on
  education and educational facilities. Other counties may lay emphasis on other
  areas of development. In other counties there is already the added advantage
  of having an already developed infrastructure in educational facilities.

- She pointed there are those counties that had the opportunity to be settled
  by white settlers and church missionaries, who laid emphasis on education.
  Such counties already had a good climate and when the white settlers came,
  they preferred those kinds of counties. If you undertake a research and study,
  you will find that those counties that were settled got the advantage of
  educational facilities being established in their counties. Therefore, they had to
  start from somewhere, even in successive governments. Now that we have
  devolved to counties, they are starting at a platform much higher than
  other counties, in terms of educational facilities.

- She pointed out that internationally that Kenyan workers are some of the
  best. Wherever they are employed, they excel and perform. That is because of
  the kind of education that they get. That being the case, therefore, we must
  lay emphasis on education and that takes us to the foundation. Just like in
  every building, the strength of a building depends on the strength of the
  foundation. If we want to sustain the human resource that we are known for,
  as Kenyans, then we must lay adequate emphasis on the foundation of
  education, which is, pre-primary education and ECD. In that case, it means
  that we not only need free pre-primary education, but also we must support it
  with resources and ensure that it is universal.
She noted that education has to be universal because those who come from poor families, like I do, did not have the opportunity to have good pre-primary education. We found it very difficult in primary school when we met with colleagues who had four years in pre-primary education. They were speaking fluent English, Kiswahili and you were joining them at the same level and sitting for the same national examinations. It is very difficult to compete with this kind of people. How do you expect somebody who comes from the part of the country where the letters “L” and “R” are interchanged, and at some level, you expect them to speak the same English with a child who was exposed to English at a very early age.

She pointed out that the formative stage where people learn and children know how to pronounce words. So, if you allow a child, for example, to keep calling “L” as “R” and vice-versa or you come from another part of this country where people cannot pronounce the words “SH” and insist on “S” for everything and expect that at some level you are going to expose a child, who was taught in Luo for over five years, to insha and English Language--- We must insist that pre-primary education must be universal. They must have a curriculum that is universal; we must have adequately trained teachers at all levels and the necessary infrastructure, including good classrooms and facilities, because this is the formative year. How this person is going to access, perform and pass their exams actually has its roots in the kind of pre-primary education that they got, but that is not the only thing that needs to be taken care of.

She pointed out that she went to school during the time that we had the privilege of drinking Nyayo milk. Apart from anything else that I was going to school for, since I came from a very poor family, what took me to school was the milk. So, when you talk of children who come from poor families and slum areas and have nothing to eat, and there is a motivation that if they go to school, they will find a plate of a hot meal, they will like schooling. I liked school because everytime I went to there, I was given a glass of milk. For many days, that is what I survived on. I would go back home to an empty kitchen, but I would always be the first in class because I knew that there was milk at the end of the day.

She stated that sometimes we want to take such things like the school feeding program lightly, but it might be light for those who are able to afford three meals a day or five course meals everyday. But for a child who comes from the slums of Korogocho, Kibera or the rural areas where people are very poor, when you feed them in school, you motivate them. For them, that is the mental picture that they create about schooling. You cannot tell a
three-year-old that one day they are going to be the Chief Executive Officer of something, when he is dying of hunger. But when you give them a plate of githeri, then whatever you are talking about that they might be able to get 20 years to come makes sense and therefore, the school feeding programme must be sustained at this early childhood level.

- She further stated that notwithstanding, infrastructure development was very critical. If you go to most schools, you will find that the most dilapidated classroom in that institution is what is delegated to these very young children. Does it make sense really? It does not make sense because at this stage, these kids are more sensitive to hygiene and need more protection. So, it cannot be that in every school and institution, the most dilapidated classroom is what is left to those who are at pre-primary level. We must insist that in the same way we build capacities for primary school level, in that same way, we must construct adequate classrooms with sanitation and enough facilities for these children.

- She recommended that it becomes a policy that not anybody is able to just teach these children. At that age, anything that you infuse or teach these children stays. In the case of urban areas, for example, if you have an extra room and can read and write Kiswahili, you will collect all the neighbors’ kids, start an institution and teach them anything. We are exposing our children to just about anything in the name of having nursery school education. That is really wrong. I have visited a county, which I am not going to mention, where the most qualified teachers – the best of the best – are taken to teach young children in pre-primary, kindergarten and all that. This is because they know that at that level, you are forming the brains of these children.

- She pointed out that if we want patriotic citizens in 20 years to come, then you should have people who will instill in these children the idea of patriotism. If you want them to speak good English, take the best English teachers not to Class Eight, but at this level. If you want them to become mathematicians, engineers and all that, take those who have really excelled and not somebody who got Ds in every level. Do not take somebody with Ds to teach your three or four year olds, thinking that they are going to teach anything tangible.

Date 6th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Daisy Kanainza
Contribution She Made On: Measures to Assist County Governments
Develop Capacity in Pre-Primary Education
She started by commending the work being done by the county governments to ensure that devolution works for the good of our people. I would also like to commend the national Government for trying to help these county governments perform their duties. When we speak about the pre-primary education, actually, it is key, the reason being that this is the first stage that these children go through to enable them have a successful future in their lives. The reason why it is very important for us to focus on pre-primary education is because it is a transiting period; that after pre-primary education, they are going to primary schools, then secondary schools and then onward to tertiary education.

She pointed out that one will find that if these children do not get that conducive environment, they end up hating being in school; they end up not liking school at all and it even affects their growth and attitude towards life. For many years, as my colleagues have said, this responsibility has been left to the society, the churches and even to other organizations that have the heart for the people. But it is good that it has been put under the devolved functions of the county governments, and I know that something good is going to be done. All this is because of the focus that we have for this child, that we want him or her to be an important person in future. When we look at the state of pre-primary education at the moment, there is no proper policy framework or curriculum being used; every institution is using a different type of framework.

She stated that the other problem is about the feeding programme. These children stay in school without taking porridge or even a meal, and maybe they have walked from home without even taking a cup of tea. When they get to school, they spend most of their time in class learning; they do not have time to play. Even if they have time to get out, there is no playground specifically for this function of their recreation. When you look at the infrastructure in most places, these children are crowded in one place and sometimes they even sit on the floor, and the floor is not made as well as where we are today; it is just a shanty place made of mud. With this, we are actually even exposing these children to some diseases.

She stated that when talking about the language of instruction, sometimes when you visit these institutions, when you greet these children in English “How are you?” they are not able to respond. We really need to know which languages should be used in terms of instruction; whether it is English, Kiswahili or mother tongue. Similarly, you will find that teaching materials are not there. When we were growing up, we used to have sticks and bottle tops,
but nowadays, we only use the theoretical bit, unless you are in a private school. But if you are learning in a public institution, then these facilities are not there.

- She noted that looking into the development of capacity in the training, recruitment and deployment of teachers we also need to see how best these kids are going to survive in these schools. That is why both the county governments and the national Government should strive to make pre-primary education classes our best classroom models. It should not be the case that only Standard Eight pupils who are going to sit for their final examinations have a very nice class; they have best facilities; they are the only ones who take tea and lunch in school. We should also look at this child that, at one point, will move from this level of being in an Early Childhood Development (ECD) and transit onto the primary level even to reach that Standard Eight.

- She recommended having parental education – we call it parenting education – to support the child. When the child gets home from school, this parent knows that he or she has to help his or her child do their assignment. He should encourage him or her by telling him or her what she is supposed to do and maybe, what they want to be in future.

- She further recommended pre-primary education. I would think of having Class One to Class Three be included as part of the pre-primary education because these children are of a tender age. Mostly, when someone is in Class Three, he or she is aged around nine years, and they still need this tender care and added that most of us here are a product of a good foundation and we always know that a good foundation builds a good future for us. That is why it is very important for the national Government to take measures and come up with this framework and policy to assist county governments develop capacity in the training, recruitment and deployment of teachers.

**Date 6th November 2013**
**Member of Parliament: Sen. Catherine Mukite Nobwola**
**Contribution She Made On: Measures To Assist County Governments Develop Capacity In Pre-Primary Education**

- She pointed out that one of the contributors has said, ECD in the rural areas does not exist. Actually, you can only find it in towns. In my county of Trans Nzoia, we have ECD centres, but when you go further on into the villages, they are not there. You will even find that Standard One and Two children seated under trees where even the blackboard is hoisted on a tree.
She noted that while ECD is a function of the county governments, I would like to call upon the national Government to take interest so that they can help the county governments maybe in the form of grants for them to develop ECD infrastructure.

She noted that concerning training and recruitment of teachers, this should be standardized so that the same standard of teachers that teach in ECD centres in Nairobi should be applicable to the counties, because all students have to adhere to and sit for the same standard of national examinations. The ECD is the basic foundation of our children and once we lose that, then you will find that the performance of our children or pupils in the villages will be poor and they will not compete with those children in towns, because they cannot speak English. I remember there is a child I had adopted from Butere, and when this child came under my care and I took her for an interview, she could not even speak English.

She noted that that was just because in the village, they use their vernacular language or Kiswahili for communication. So, I think we need to setup standards of education that are the same in all counties. In Trans Nzoia, the county government has taken upon itself to recruit teachers for the ECD; two for every school. However, they cannot cope with the situation because there are very many wards. I would like the national Government to give a hand in the recruitment of teachers and support counties to take off. This is an area that has been left behind.

She noted that this was lacking, wanting and that is why you will find children in rural areas who cannot compete with those in towns or major cities like Nairobi. With regard to the feeding programme, we used to give children milk in school. A child from a poor family who takes black tea for breakfast would be very glad to go to school because during tea break, the teacher will give him or her milk. This encourages children to go to school and learn and to also open up to teachers. Children who have problems at home, for instance, those whose parents have fought, go to school while sad or sulky and the teachers pick this straight away.

She pointed that teachers talk to the children and find away forward for them. So, going to school is very important. We need to put more emphasis on the ECD level because it is from there that we will pick out professors and even Presidents. Some of us are products of ECDs. I went to an ECD school when I was three years old. This was a boarding school and I stayed there until I completed my Form Four education. I then moved to Nairobi to proceed with the Form Five and Six. So, the ECD is very important.
Date 6th November 2013  
Member of Parliament: Sen. Catherine Mukite Nobwola  
Contribution She Made On: Provision Of Cheap Credit To Farmers By The AFC

- She supported the Motion by stating that she was asking for two things; one, she was urging the National Government to reduce the interest rates charged to farmers by the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and, also, to abolish the penalties imposed on loan defaulters. The AFC plays a central role in providing financial services for the development of rural and agricultural sector in the country. In the 1980s, I think it was doing extremely well, but when we got to the 1990s, we saw a downward trend.

- She noted that the farmers were doing well because some people took out large loans which were secured by farms, and they were not able to pay back those loans; or the AFC was not able to sell the farms, one, maybe because the person who borrowed the monies was a politician or, two, since land is a very sensitive issue, particularly when it comes to clan land, because it is not easy to sell this land. Also, where somebody is a politician and you tried to sell his land, in the past, you would find yourself in trouble.

- She noted that the AFC plays a very important role, as I have said; it does asset finance, seasonal crop credit, and it also gives out development loans. Their interest rates range from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, depending on the kind or type of loan that one has taken out. When one defaults in repaying this loan and it is not your wish like the other contributor has said - but because it may be due to natural hazards where there is bad weather; or like in Taveta County, when we visited that county, we received complaints from the residents that elephants stray into their farms and destroy their crops. If one has borrowed money against that crop, then it is obvious that they are not going to repay such a loan because your crop has been lost.

- She noted that since there is no crop insurance and, also, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) does not compensate farmers for such kinds of losses, borrowers may default on their loans. Sometimes also, you may have a poor crop because of poor seed, like it happened at one time in Kitale. Somebody buys the seed from the market or from the Kenya Seed Company (KSC), you plant it with fertilizer and when it comes to the harvest, this maize does not grow and the highest it can grow is maybe two or three meters. So, that is already a loss; but who can you put that blame on? Even the seller of the seed is not willing to accept responsibility because, maybe,
you have already thrown away that receipt to show that you bought that seed from such and such a company.

She suggested in cases of default, the Government should take on that loss, because these losses should be looked at individually. When the AFC lends out money to farmers to grow crops, they should behave the way the KSC behaves; they come to the ground, you show them where your land is, the acreage and they will lend you the exact amount that is going to cover that acreage. But, first, you must also show your commitment; you must plough. So, you can only go to the KSC maybe for the seed and for maintenance of the crop, and they will keep monitoring the crop until harvest time. When the maize is harvested, they are there with their lorries and they make sure that this crop is delivered to their go-downs so that they can deduct their money before you are paid.

She pointed out that some challenges regarding these loans which are given by the AFC. I have already mentioned one of them being misconception by the borrowers that these are grants and, therefore, they do not need to pay back. Of course, this eats into the kitty of the AFC and you will find that they do not have that capital base to lend out. The other challenge, of course, is security. We know that there are various kinds of securities, not just land, but the AFC insists that farmers must give their land. Most people are very conscious because they may take land where their family lives as security to the AFC, maybe the crop fails and your land can be sold and your family thrown out of the property. These days, people are very careful in using land as collateral.

She called for the national Government to be flexible so that collateral is not just in the form of land. They should also take car log books which are easier to sell than land which at times belongs to a clan and cannot be sold.

Date 21st November 2013  
Member of Parliament: Sen. Judy Sijeny  
Contribution She Made On: Provision Of Cheap Credit To Farmers By The AFC

She supported the Motion by stating that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Government of Kenya should take an example from other countries. This is a situation that many countries have dealt with, for example, Brazil. The World Bank invested a lot in Brazil in the 1980s and 1990s to make sure that the direct credit programme was enhanced. This was after acknowledging that agriculture is the backbone of the society.
She noted that agriculture helps to reduce poverty and helps the economy grow. It is also the backbone of many other sectors, including the industrial sector. The reason I support this Motion is because Kenya will be headed into some danger zone where the country will continue to be poor and the inflation rate will continue to be high. That will certainly not make our country competitive. If the agricultural sector is not nurtured properly, then the farmers will cease to become competitive. They will not bring in competitive yields and will not be able to get modern equipment that will help them get bigger yields. The Brazilian Government had noticed this gap and, in fact, they increased their loan facilities and the supply of direct credit. Choosing to increase the interest rate has major consequences.

She pointed out that the move would result in low agricultural output. We know that Kenya is basically an agricultural State. Many people, especially the poor, rely on agriculture. If a family is able to feed itself, it does not matter if they do not have large tracts of land, big industries or real estates. They should be able to feed themselves, pay school fees for their children and get good medical care. If the interest rates are too high, they could die.

She noted that the tea industry had suffered in the past and if the poor farmers are not protected we will lose it. We know that, recently, Kenya was blessed with discovery of minerals, oil and gas, but that is still a myth. We also know that titanium has been discovered at the coast, but still Kenyans have not realized the benefits. So, we are still majorly an agricultural State. Low agricultural output has a negative effect on the economy. Kenya is struggling so hard to maintain the inflation rate which continues to grow. If interest rates are not controlled, Kenyans will not be able to sustain themselves.

She noted that Kenyans will not be able to expand the use of technology in the agricultural sector if they do not have incomes. We know for sure that it is mostly the women who are affected by this lack of credit. It is no doubt that the percentage of women who are becoming the sole breadwinners of their families is on the increase. When you deny women money, you affect the entire family, if not the whole village. This is because the children will not be fed and their school fees will also not be paid for. Unfortunately, a lot of women are shouldering these responsibilities. It is because of this that I rise to say that the AFC which should be taking care of the needs of the poor should be not be levying them with high penalties which they cannot afford.

She pointed out that most women do not own title deeds. They also do not have any income that they can use as collateral to take mortgages and loans. So, the AFC should come in to help such needy women so that they are able
to go on with farming activities. The Government alone cannot feed the entire population. All the hunger that is being experienced in the arid areas is because of lack of financial support. If the children are not educated and the women are helped to sustain themselves, there will be increase in poverty. As a result, teenagers will resort to crime to get some income.

Date 21st November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Martha Wangari
Contribution She Made On: Provision of Cheap Credit To Farmers By The AFC

- She supported the Motion by stating that it was very timely and added that a country that cannot feed itself does not have moral ground to talk of being industrialized and a first world country until everyone can have food on their table. It is very heartbreaking and I know this was brought up a few weeks ago in the starvation statistics; that we are already staring at a food crisis in this country. We watched on national television a woman who had not eaten for three days.

- She pointed out that it was very sad and very heartbreaking to see a child trying to breastfeed from breasts that do not have anything. We cannot be proud as leaders if we cannot put food on the tables of Kenyans. As we know, there have been effects of global warming. Gone are the days when we could predict the beginning of the short and long rains. Nowadays you cannot predict that. The people who came up with the AFC and most of the other parastatals that deal with agriculture were founded on the basis of supporting farmers’ right from when they are preparing their land to the planting stage.

- She stated that that was where we talk of provision of seeds. We even have reports of farmers getting poor seeds from the same Government. Apart from that, the purpose of AFC was to complete that chain after planting and even in the management of the plants as they grow, up to the day when we shall harvest and distribute them. I know we have had problems, especially with the marketing. This touches on the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). Even right now, the stores of NCPB are not open.

- She noted that this subjects the farmers to having middle men to buy the maize at throwaway prices and yet the NCPB is supposed to assist them to get value for their money. We should have agricultural parastatals that are supposed to subsidize and support the farmers. Every time they default, which is not necessarily pre-meditated, but because of issues that are beyond our control, especially for the small farmer, they should be assisted. The moment you have planted, you can only rely on God that the rains will come,
but when they do not, the rate of interest is doubled. If you have a loan with the AFC that is standing at 10 per cent interest rate, if you default, that rate is doubled.

- She stated that that was the penalty the farmers have to deal with. It is 20 per cent. I think the role of AFC will have failed because then, how do you explain whether that is support or killing the farmer, and added that they were very fond of talking about agriculture as being the backbone of our country and having the best tea and coffee. Until this success story is shared with wananchi, I think this is just an exercise in futility. I think we need to look at the issue of amalgamating these parastatals wholesomely. We should not just think about AFC, but see what role it plays alongside the NCPB so that the coordination that has lacked in the Ministry can be put in place even as we restructure these institutions so that if it is in terms of policies, we are developing them in the right way.

- She noted that under the Constitution, Schedule 4, agriculture is supposed to be a fully devolved function. It, therefore, means that we do not just leave policymaking at the national level because the people who will feel the effects are at the counties. Even as we suggest to the Mover that this be expanded in terms of coming up with legislation to this House, we should also look at ways of enjoining the county governments so that they can have their input.

- She pointed out that the previous week they were in the field in the counties and one of the most contentious issues was the mechanization of agriculture. They feel that they are ready to do it, but the national Government has not released it through the Transition Authority (TA). The other issue is to do with training. I think the county Governments need to take this issue seriously. They should provide information to the farmers because they are the ones on the ground. That way, we will have synchronized our efforts in trying to curb this problem.

Date 27th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Beatrice Elachi
Contribution She Made On: Development Of Waste Management Regulations And Facilities

- She supported the Motion by stating that when talking about waste in this country, many people will remind us that, one, it is a place where many also have informal jobs; two, it is a business that has very serious cartels that we also need to look at as we deal with the issue at hand.
• She started by giving an example of Nairobi County. That, indeed, we have had, for years, donors and even governments wanting to intervene and come up with a better way of managing our waste; ensuring that we have a better place to dump that waste and even recycle and use it so that it can also create employment for our young people. But what has happened is that even those who collect that waste belong to a cartel that you cannot just join and start the business; you will have to go through a process. Therefore, even if we would want to see the Dandora Dumpsite, for example, changed to become an institution that we can rely on and recycle our garbage or waste, you will find that you have to, first of all, look at what has been happening. Many are the times we have seen on our television people even killing each other.

• She noted that a few days back two gangs in Dandora who were fighting and all that brings up the issue of insecurity. If you go to Mombasa, it is also a very sad situation; being a town where if you remember the former Member of Parliament for Mvita, now the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Najib Balala, had done his best to give it a different look, and people used to admire Mombasa at that time. But today when you enter Mombasa County, they have come up with a proposal where they have different dumping sites where garbage is dumped and then it is collected. But then it has become even worse when you use that process. Therefore, it means that even at the moment, the counties do not even have that capacity to start managing the waste.

• She noted that they found waste and now they are confronted with even more waste, and challenges of how to ensure that it is dumped in a proper manner that will ensure we bring back the different cities that we have. When you walk in Mombasa on your way to Nyali, using the road in Bombolulu, you will find that there is a nice board that is put up; but when you look inside the field, you will be very surprised to see how people are dumping waste there. This is land that belonged to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC); and I wonder if it is still theirs, because with the dumping that has been done there, you cannot say it is your land anymore. I even do not know how you can salvage it to now become property of the national Government for it to be used.

• She noted that it is important now to look at solutions, and we need to blame ourselves in some of these things as a country, because when you look at our numbers and when you look at the numbers in China and Europe, and they are able to manage their waste. She noted that what we are faced with is how fast the counties will manage to deal with the cartels and to sit down in one room and agree that it is time we saw some sanity in the whole industry.
She pointed out that Kenyans should be able to dump their waste responsibly because the plastic bags can still be used for something else. We mix all the waste in one lump. If you look at where the sewage waste of Embu is deposited, it is at a very open place. We even do not know how to recycle our water for other uses whereas there is technology to do that. In our country, whenever somebody starts something, they want to own it so that nobody else can venture into your turf. It has become like the matatu industry where if you want to get into a certain route, you have to pay some money before the matatu is allowed on that route.

She noted that that was happening in waste collection and if one wanted to bring sanity in the waste collection industry, there are some people you must consult or else it will never arrive at the Dandora dumpsite. As much as we want to see things moving, the Government must find a way of dealing with the gangs that block this waste. We should deal with the blocked sewers in Nairobi and the other big towns.

She stated that one month ago we had a very good documentation on Citizen television on dumping sites. We saw women coming out and claiming that that is where they get their daily bread and that is why they were killing each other because one had refused to allow the other one to also scavenge. So, as Senate, we do not need to request the Government, but tell the Government that there is a problem and they should first deal with those gangs in this business.

She suggested that they should also appreciate that there is technology and we must use it to deal with waste and recycle our water so that it can be reused. We saw how they do it so well in China. They are able to collect, recycle and redistribute the same water within a very small area. This is something we should really think about as Senate. We should give solutions to the Government. They should know how to manage NEMA. There is corruption that has entered into many institutions and it should be dealt with.

She pointed out that the other day the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare went to look at how waste is being deposited into our rivers and up to now, if you ask, we do not know what action was taken. Did NEMA make a follow up and close the sewers that were broken? We should bring a Bill so that this issue is also dealt with at the county level.

Date 27th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Beth Mugo
Contribution She Made On: Development Of Waste Management Regulations And Facilities
She supported the motion by stating that the Motion touched on a number of Ministries and not just one Ministry. I want to support Sen. G.G. Kariuki for suggesting that we should involve the Ministries when we prepare important Motions. This is because even if we come up with Bills and pass them without consulting the Ministries and getting their input, implementation will be difficult. So, let us work with them, so that we can jointly own the Motions and Bills which we pass. I believe that this Motion will be developed into a Bill, so that it can be implementable.

She further stated that there is no way we will control diseases in this country, unless we address the environment very seriously, especially waste management. There is runaway disease in the country. There are waterborne diseases as a result of rivers being polluted. Many of our people still use rivers as sources of their water supply. Even in the townships, many pipes burst and somehow sewage seems to sip into the water. As a result, the water that people drink gets polluted and there is no way we can control Typhoid, Cholera and other waterborne diseases.

She pointed out that mosquitoes mainly breed in dams because they are wet. We also know where the breeding of mosquitoes takes place; it is mainly in those dumpsites because they are damp and it is also dirty; so, it is hard to control mosquitoes and malaria. There are runaway diseases, like cancer and many others; in fact cancer is the biggest killer right now as we speak. When you speak with the experts, they tell you that a lot of these diseases, including cancer, apart from a few hereditary genes, are also environmentally connected. So, what are we going to do? Take any dumpsite; the worst one which Sen. Elachi addressed, we know that vegetables are being grown there.

She pointed out that those vegetables find their way to our markets. The vegetables look very good and leafy; and you think it is good or healthy; that you are going to be very healthy when you eat them, but you do not know that you are bringing to your table polluted vegetables. This happens all over. It does not really matter where you shop; we know that these vegetables find their way to the markets. We can use all the prevention measures – and we have tried, especially in the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, where very big prevention measures were undertaken; and I know the current Ministry is also incorporating them but there are scenarios which we cannot prevent unless we address sanitation.

She pointed out that the other area is that of hospital waste. We need to have plans to address hospital waste management because of radiation, which is a big cause of cancer. The other area is that of the vehicles which pollute our
roads. You will see a vehicle emitting such terrible fumes – and I do not know why this is happening, because I think we have a law which is not being implemented. All those are the issues that we have to address; we need to come up with strategies on how we are going to control total pollution, be it from our vehicles; we need laws to make sure that those fumes from those big lorries and vehicles which pollute our roads are not allowed to do that.

- She stated that as a country we have to control pollution in our rivers, oceans and lakes. We know there is a lot of pollution because raw sewage is discharged into the ocean and lakes. We are busy trying to control cholera, yet raw sewage is being discharged into Lake Victoria, the Indian Ocean and many rivers. She suggested that the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare is asking the Government to do, instead of a blanket thing; we have the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and there are Committees that deal with that, and any other line Ministry or Standing Committees, which are all channeled to certain Ministries; what is it that we are asking the national Government as well as the county governments to do.

- She noted that because the environment, by and large, is under county governments, and we know there are these independent feelings of ‘we are doing it.’ So, as the Senate, we are in charge of the county governments; what do we want to tell the county governments to do out of this Motion and propose an amendment; maybe I have to write it - I do not even need to write - I do not know what the procedure is.

- She noted that in the past, we had to write down an amendment and bring it to the Clerk; I believe it is the same thing. My amendment is that we include not only the national Government, but also the county governments to take immediate steps to develop effective waste management regulations, because if only the national Government develops these regulations, they will have now to get the counties to adopt their regulations, whereas we can have national regulation and the counties will also have to adopt them.

- She stated that on hospital waste management, there was a pit in Oloolua that was done to bring all the waste from hospitals there; I believe it must be completed now. The waste is put there for a while waiting to be transferred elsewhere. I do not know where this ‘elsewhere’ will be. Those are the areas we also have to ask the Government to check on; how we really treat waste management. Why am I sticking to hospital waste management? It is because of radioactive pollution; and maybe because I am a victim of cancer; I tend to dwell on that much more. But as I speak now, that is a major hazard for prevention of diseases; radioactive waste management.
She noted that on the cartels, having been a Member of Parliament in Nairobi, I know that it is a major problem because many people look at it as their daily bread; it is a business. They do not see the side of diseases, the problem of cleaning the environment and, therefore, we need some kind of education for our people. Let us also include education alongside regulations, because unless the people understand the importance of a clean environment, it does not matter how many regulations we put in place; they will not obey them. So, the people need to understand this.

She recommended that the counties also develop a way that they will work with those people; not make it hazardous for the public, but to get benefits which do not bring diseases. I believe we can build big plants for waste management, like other countries do, and the country will benefit economically and it will use those people who are now getting their livelihoods from there to organize whatever needs to be organized, because when we recycle this waste, we know it becomes money now, and the county will get rich, and those people will also find jobs to do.

She called on all the stakeholders - the different Ministries of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Health, Devolution and Planning - all those line Ministries should, maybe, come up with a task force to address this problem. That task force should work closely with our Committee which deals with the environment, which I believe is the one which will address this issue so that we do not just address this problem here, but we really see something coming out of it; something that will change how we deal with waste management.

**Date 27th November 2013**

**Member of Parliament: Sen. Daisy Kanainza**

**Contribution She Made On: Development Of Waste Management Regulations And Facilities**

She supported the Motion by stating that the national Government should take immediate steps to ensure that these regulations are in place so that this policy can work. The reason being that at the moment, Kenya has an increased use of electronic products and we produce more than 3,000 tonnes of electronic waste. At the same time, when we are trying to use this new type of technology, there is improper dumping of old gadgets. This is posing particularly health and environmental risks because of the toxins found in it.

She pointed out that the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has failed to perform its duty to some extent. As we grew up, we enjoyed the fresh air and the beauty of a clean environment; but at the moment, almost all
our towns and cities are suffering because of the improper disposal of waste products. We see people suffering from all types of diseases which have come into being. Our children especially suffer the most because of the new breathing complications that have arisen because of having an environment that is not conducive as a result of pollution.

- She gave the example of Muthurwa Market where people buy vegetables and fruits at an affordable price, is stinking. People are just crowded in the same place, but we still go there to get our food. At the same time, these sewerage has not been done well; vehicles pass there every day and nobody is taking the initiative to correct the mess there. Talking of Donholm River; it is not brown or white in color. The water that passes through that river is black and greasy. This Motion is actually very important.

- She noted that the motion had come at the right time and actually, the necessary stakeholders need to take immediate action. At the same time, there is a lot of pollution, not only of the air, we also have land and water pollution. The people have just decided to be careless, and they have decided to form dumping sites everywhere and anywhere. They think that it is right for them to do this. That is why I may say that it is actually our responsibility; one, as Kenyans; and, two, as even leaders, to take up the initiative by, maybe, trying to find a way of creating awareness to our people on why they need to keep the environment clean and tidy. It is us, as Kenyans, to decide to use commonsense and to be self-driven to ensure that our environment is clean.

- She pointed out the example of Rwanda. Starting with the President and their leaders, including the citizens, every month from morning to midday, everyone is outside cleaning their villages, towns and everywhere. This has really created a good culture; that everyone is responsible. We actually visited the country; we went to Kigali and other places and we were really mesmerized by the way the place is clean. In their supermarkets, they do not use plastic polyethylene bags. That is something that we, as a country, need to emulate.

- She noted that when travelling home, she passed through Uasin Gishu County, and I find Eldoret Town to be very crowded with many vehicles, hawkers and all that. But the County Government of Uasin Gishu has tried to make sure that the town is clean by ensuring that everybody and everything is put at the right place. At the same time, I may talk proudly about Kakamega County Government, because when the county governments came into place, the Governor, with his executive committee, came up with an initiative to ensure that they keep the environment clean. They even involve the youth groups to,
once every month, move into town, clean it and make it enjoyable for other visitors to visit. At the same time, they have tried to install dust bins so that instead of you throwing litter on the ground, you dump it at the right place.

- She pointed out an experience now that I was a girl guide in school. We used to go and clean the towns and even install the bins but in the recent past, that culture has been dying slowly and we do not see our children being taught to keep their environment clean. That is why I am saying that it is our responsibility, as Kenyan leaders, to make sure that when these children grow up, they take it up upon themselves to clean the environment. This will really help. Lack of proper environmental waste management regulations will put our country in a big mess. It is important that the national Government acts on it immediately.

Date 27th November 2013
Member of Parliament: Sen. Catherine Mukite
Contribution She Made On: Development Of Waste Management Regulations And Facilities

- She supported this Motion by stating that that Motion is very important because it touches on the health of our people. Kenya has a growing population and we need proper legislation in place to ensure that proper dumpsites, garbage collection and harmful wastes is attended to unlike what we see around us. In the past when the Nairobi City Council was being manned by the Mayor, the City was very clean and you could see that no rubbish was thrown anywhere. There were litter bins by the roadside where people could throw in rubbish.

- She noted that today, people just throw rubbish anywhere. In slum areas when it rains, the situation is very terrible because the sewage overflows, rubbish is thrown all over the place and you can imagine our children walkthrough all these without shoes. They end up getting diseases like typhoid and even cancer because of the harmful waste. Even hospitals just dump their waste anywhere in the rural areas.

- She stated that it was very important that our Government takes this very seriously and it becomes law. I am hoping that the Committee on Delegated Legislation will look at this so that they push the Government. We should not just sit there and wait for the feedback from the Government. We need to have serious follow up.
She noted that when it rained, the rivers overflow and raw sewer flows into those rivers. This is the same water that our people actually drink. People catch diseases like cholera from this water. I think prevention is better than cure. The Government should find a way of diverting some of these rivers so that they do not overflow and cause danger to our people.

She stated that in Trans Nzoia there is a slum called Kipsongor which does not have proper roads. It is the way it was during the colonial days. Some of the toilets are full and when it rains, the waste overflows and this causes very serious diseases to people because this contaminated water even flows into their houses. When you go to that area, you really feel sympathy for those people. You will wonder whether we really attained Independence 50 years ago. Fifty years after Independence, our people should have access to health and electricity because they live in mud houses and other temporary structures and so you cannot connect electricity to those houses. When somebody is paying rent of Kshs200, you cannot expect them to be connected to electricity.

She urged the Government to take immediate steps to ensure effective management of the waste. When you see children playing in those dumpsites, in some cases, they play with used condoms and we really get worried because out of nowhere some of the children develop HIV. You wonder how they became HIV positive when the parents are free of the disease. There are also many other funny diseases which emanate from the dumpsites.

She pointed out that she hoped that the Government will take this seriously because I think NEMA is sleeping on the job. Previously, they used to be active when it came to controlling noise pollution, but I do not hear them anymore.