



**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MOMBASA
THE HANSARD**

Wednesday, 13th March, 2024
Third Assembly – Third Session
FIFTEENTH SITTING

*[The County Assembly met at 10:21a.m. at the County Assembly Buildings]
[The Deputy Speaker (Honourable Fadhili Mwalimu Makarani) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Have your seats Members.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILD CARE CENTERS FOR MOTHERS IN MOMBASA COUNTY MARKETS

Yes, Honourable Milka Moraa?

Hon. Ngare: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before I read the Motion, I would like to wish our Muslim brothers and sisters Ramadhan Karim as it has just started and good tidings from Allah. Now, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion;

AWARE THAT Mombasa County is home to bustling markets that serve as vital economic hubs for both traders and consumers;

FURTHER AWARE THAT many mothers actively participate in these markets, contributing significantly to local commerce;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 31st October, 2023 women spend approximately 7 times more time on unpaid care work than men and about 5 times more (16.3%) on unpaid domestic work than their male counterparts (3.2%);

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING these mothers face challenges in balancing their work responsibilities with the care of their children due to the absence of accessible childcare options within market premises;

NOTING THAT providing child care centers within markets would alleviate the burden of childcare responsibilities for mothers enabling them to participate more fully in education and in social, political and economic activities;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING THAT establishing Child care centers for mothers in markets would not only support working mothers but also promote the holistic development of children through early childhood education and social opportunities;

CONCERNED THAT the lack of convenient and affordable Child care services forces mothers to make difficult choices between earning a livelihood and ensuring the well-being of their children;

I, therefore urge this Assembly to RESOLVE THAT:

- i) Mombasa County government, through the department of Youth, Gender, and Social Service (YGS), takes proactive measures to promote gender equality by facilitating mother's participation in economic activities and empowering them to contribute to the local economy effectively. This includes initiatives such as providing training, mentorship programs, and access to financial resources.*
- ii) The County government of Mombasa allocates funds from the County budget to support the establishment and operation of Child care centers within markets. These funds will ensure the accessibility and affordability of Child care services for all mothers, regardless of their socio-economic status. Additionally, efforts will be made to explore partnerships with private enterprises and NGOs to supplement the budgetary allocation.*
- iii) Mombasa County government mandates these establishments of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework through reviewing available County legislation for day care centers. This framework will focus on assessing the quality of care provided, ensuring compliance with safety and regulatory standards, and monitoring the well-being and development of children enrolled in these centers. Regular inspections and evaluations will be conducted to address any issues promptly.*
- iv) The County government of Mombasa encourages continuous engagement with market vendors, mothers, and other stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of Child care centers within markets. This included soliciting feedback, addressing concerns, and fostering collaboration to identify and address emerging needs and challenges*

I, wish to ask Honourable Mwaura to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Yes, Honourable Mwaura?

Hon. Mwaura: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Honourable Members, I now propose the question that Establishment of Child Care Centers for Mothers in Mombasa County Markets, a Motion by Honourable Milka Ngare be debated in this Honourable House.

[Question proposed and agreed to]

Yes, Honourable Milka?

Hon. Ngare: Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. I want to say from the onset that a happy mother brings about happy family and many happy mothers, brings about a happy nation. When a mother is happy, everything will go on smoothly. In the economies of this country or this County, women are the drivers of any economy and when women are stressed when they work that economy will not be seen in large amounts. So, by creating these market centers for child care, women will not be under stress worrying about their children; what they are eating, whom they are with and where they are. So, by creating the market centres we are going to have children in safe places where they can be monitored, in places where the mother will be stress free and therefore carry out her work in a very effective way. If they are in the market selling as vendors or they are hawking or they are selling their wears the mind will be stable so this will contribute to their stability and they will know that my child is safe because they drop them there and they are going to pick them later. They will know that my child is safe and therefore they will not be under stress and they will be working very effectively.

Two, this stability will also lead to our economic improvement because they will produce more, the productivity will be going to be more at the market centers child care centres and these children are going to be nurtured because they will be mingling with other children from other backgrounds and they will be in an environment that nurtures them better, they develop good social skills like some of them sometimes are slow learners, some of them grow in a very slow manner so they are going to acquire certain skills; social skills, speaking, sharing and they will be in a fun environment which will make them learn faster and entrench other social skills that they will not have while they are away from other children. We need a place where children are going to be safe. Where there will be safety, there will be monitored as the Motion stated in one of its sentences and us as Members of the County Assembly one of our roles is to do oversight, we will be carrying out that to ensure that the centers are safe for the children so that the mothers can carry out their work in a very effective way.

Overall, these centers will play a very critical role in supporting both the mothers' economic development or working employment mothers. They will also help the children grow in a very healthy manner. So, it is really important for my colleagues to support this Motion so that we have this child care centers put up in the market's areas. One of the reasons why I asked Honourable Mwaura to support the Motion is because he comes from an area with one of the largest markets in this country and he does know the value of having this child care centers in that area so that activities can run smoothly with mother at ease, not stressed and happy that my child is being taken care of therefore I have no worry about carrying out my work. And then that will be also a very structured way of taking care of the children where they will also be provided with a planned meal so that the child is growing in a very healthy manner. So, I think that is a very important thing that we must create that we must have these child care centers in these markets for the mothers to contribute to the economic growth of this Country and I am finally urging my colleagues that we support this Motion so that we now move to another step of having the markets in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Maimuna?

Hon. Maimuna Salim: Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Nimesimama kuunga mkono Hoja hii kwa sababu mtoto kua vizuri ni aweze kuwa na mama yake karibu kiasi cha miaka mitatu na sisi kama kina mama tunajua ni kiungo kikubwa kwa jamii na ni lazima tutoke twende tutafute riziki zetu.

Kwa hiyo tunaomba ya kwamba hivyo vituo viwe hapo Kongowea sokoni hapa pia katika Bunge letu la Mombasa inatajikana iwe kwa sababu tuna Waheshimiwa ambao bado ni Waheshimiwa wachanga wanatuletea wajukuu...

[Interruption]

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Honourable Maimuna, whatever that you are introducing, it is not in the prayers of this Motion.

Hon. Maimuna Salim: Kwa hiyo mimi nimeiunga mkono kwa sababu soko yetu ya Kongowea kuna kina mama wengi ambao wanatoka kwao saa kumi za usiku wakiwa na watoto wadogo ambao wale watoto wanahitajika kuangaliwa vizuri na ikiwa kuna vituo maalum vimewekwa vya watoto, yule mama mtoto akifika pale anaweza kumlalisha pale akafanya biashara akarudi pale kumuangalia kama amelishwa vizuri, amebadilishwa *pampers* vizuri, ameweza kupumzika kwa masaa yake na mtoto ataweza kuwa na afya nzuri. Kwa hiyo hili jambo tunaomba ya kwamba Waheshimiwa Wenza waliunge mkono kwa sababu wananchi wetu ni haki yao kuangaliwa na sisi wenyewe tuko hapa kuhakikisha ya kwamba tumeleta sheria ya kuweza kumfaidisha mwananchi na kile kizazi kinachokua. Kikatiba ni sheria kwa hiyo sisi tunaiunga mkono na tuko hapa ya kwamba tuombe Waheshimiwa Wenza waiunge mkono ili mtoto akuwe na afya nzuri aweze kuwa na mapenzi na mzazi wake na aweze kupata zile haki ambazo mama akiwa nyumbani anaweza kuzipata. Kwa hayo machache Mheshimiwa Spika nimesimama kuunga mkono.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Mwaura?

Hon. Mwaura: Thank you Mr. Speaker may I first of all start by thanking the Honourable Member for bringing this very good Motion to this House Mr. Speaker, I wish to support the Motion and ask my colleagues also to support this Motion. Mr. Speaker, these are hard economic times; all our women are out just to help the men in making sure that the families are fed, to make sure that the families are well taken care of and there are no more housewives in our economy because everybody is out there looking for something to support the families and for this reason Mr. Speaker, we have so many women who have their children especially in the markets. They go with their children and even at times they lose their children and even leave their businesses unattended because maybe the child has been missing; so, Mr. Speaker for this reason we wish to ask our Members to really support this Motion because it will help address the issue of children loitering all over in the market like especially in my own area we have Kongowea Market whereby you can see all over children loitering and this thing has always been a mess to our markets.

This Motion seeks to address that issue Mr. Speaker and if we introduced the child care centers in our markets we will be able to help that mother and not only the mother, they are also fathers who are taking care of their children maybe the mother has passed away, maybe they have divorced, maybe the mother is sick and the father has now been left to take care of the children and he has an obligation to feed that family so he has to go to attend his business or his work. So, Mr. Speaker this Motion cuts across, it is not only taking care of mothers but also taking of us as fathers and that is why I really urge my fellow male counterparts to support this Motion. It is not a Motion to address the issue of gender; it is not a Motion just to address the issue of mothers and women, it is cross cutting Motion, even when my wife goes out just to get something to support my family, I also have an added advantage.

This is because when I come with unga and she comes with sukuma wiki then life goes on Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker I wish to support this Motion and ask my colleagues just to do the same, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Mbaya?

Hon. Hamisi Mbaya: Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia fursa hii niweze kuchangia Mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa mwenza. Kwa hakika kabisa Mheshimiwa Spika kwanza kabisa nimpongeze Mheshimiwa mwenza Mheshimiwa Milka Moraa Ngare kutokana na Mswada ambao ameuleta, inaonyesha wazi kwamba yeye ni mama na ni mama yule ambaye anajali. Vile vile na mimi pia nataka niunge mkono hoja hii kwa asilimia 99 kwa 100 nikithibitisha kwamba mimi pia ni baba ambaye pia najali na yeye ni mama ambaye pia anajali. Mheshimiwa Spika, kutokana na mazingira ambayo tunaishi nayo kwa saa hii, hii hoja tukipitisha tutakuwa tumeweza kusaidea wazazi na watoto, vile vile tutakuwa na nafasi nzuri ya kuweza kufanya biashara katika masoko yetu kwa sababu, tutakuwa tuko na utulivu. Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi napenda kuunga mkono hoja hii kwa asilimia 99 kwa 100. Ahsante sana.

[Applause]

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Yes, Honourable Manuari?

Hon. Juma Manuari: Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi nimesimama kuliunga mkono hoja hii ya mama yetu Mheshimiwa Moraa Ngare. Kwa kuwa yeye kama mama na kipenzi cha wamama na kujali wamama, naona amejali sasa watoto wetu kwa sababu, tukiingia katika yale masoko tunaiona hali ambayo iko pale, watoto wengi huwa wanatututiza na ndio mwisho wa siku, watoto wale wale tunasikia wamekuwa machokora ama wamekuwa majambazi. Kwa hivyo hili ni swala muhimu sana ikiwa kweli serikali yetu ya Mombasa italibeba kwa uzito na ilifikirie na swala hili liwe litakuwa, kwa hayo mengi machache Mheshimiwa Spika namuunga mama yangu mkono, kipenzi changu na kipenzi cha rafiki yangu. Ahsante.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Honourable Joshua?

Hon. Mose: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

[Interruption]

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Order! Order! Honourable Madialo, proceed, Honourable Joshua?

Hon. Mose: Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to also to participate and supporting the Motion that is on the floor of the House. Indeed, with the harsh economical times that we are facing right now, our mothers and wives sometimes are forced to stay home for three or four months to take care of the kids without working. So, if we make the condition of the market conducive for them to work, we will be building a nation so I support the Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you.

Yes, Honourable Maryam Baimu?

Hon. Baimu: Shukran sana Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi hii. Mimi nimesimama kuunga mkono ya hoja iliyoletwa na Mheshimiwa Milka. Kuhusu hizi *day care child centres*; ya kwanza ni kwamba wamama tukifunguliwa hizi *child care centres* kwa masoko nina imani mama yule ama hata mzee yule kulingana na vile Mheshimiwa Mwaura ameongea wababa pia watafurahi ama kuwa na ule wakati mzuri wa kuweza kufanya kazi pahali pale, wakiwa wako na imani kwamba watoto wako pahali wamewekwa kujumuika kwa pamoja kuweza kufundishwa na kuweza kataa kucheza na huyu mama ama huyu baba atakuweko pale sokoni anaendelea na kazi zake ikiwa akili yake imetulia na ana nguvu zaidi ya kufanya ile kazi, ili ikifika jioni apate riziki yake, aende achukue mtoto pale *day care* na aweze kurudi nyumbani. Kwa hivyo mimi nimesimama kuunga mkono huu Mswada ambao ni muhimu sana, kongole sana Mheshimiwa Milka Ngare. Ahsante Mheshimiwa Spika.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Madialo?

Hon. Madialo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to go on record that I support this Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Pamela?

Hon. Ojala: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute. Before I proceed, I want to thank the Almighty God for being given this wonderful day today, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the Motion brought by my fellow colleague Honourable Milka Moraa Ngare, Nominated MCA. Mr. Speaker this is a very important Motion and right now if you go to *Marikiti* you will not believe what is happening there are a lot of children loitering in market and I believe and trust that when these daycares are established in the market Mr. Speaker it will be able to help me Mr. Speaker. I also want to echo what my fellow colleague Madam Milka Moraa Ngare has said that when you are a happy mother you bring up a happy family and your family cannot be stable if you do not have a happy mother. So, Mr. Speaker I stand to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Honourable Hawa Abdulrahman.

Hon. Hawa Abdulrahman: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion. I would also like to congratulate Honourable Milka for coming up with this Motion the Motion is timely and precise because this is the month where we recognize, appreciate and also invest in women to accelerate progress and also because am a young nursing mother too who has left her child at home in the care of someone else so that I can be here and serve the people of Mombasa County. I strongly support this Motion because child care in the market will ensure the safety of young children as there are so many cases of SGBV where children are exposed to pedophiles child labour, child pornography, child abuse and so many harmful practices just because the mother either cannot afford a caregiver and for them to survive this hard life where everything is expensive and taxation is on another level, that mother has to leave her child to the next available or affordable person. It is also to the advantage of Mombasa County if implemented as that mother will be very productive in her hustle.

She can balance her work, responsibilities with the care of the children therefore, thriving the revenue of this County. With those few remarks I would like to strongly support the Motion. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Minority leader, you are out of order! Have your seat please. Now you can proceed Minority Leader.

The Leader of Minority (Hon. Matsaki): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all has been said by my fellow Members, so I also stand to support the Motion. Thank you so much.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Thank you. Yes, Honourable Milka Moraa please reply to your Motion.

Hon. Ngare: Ahsante Mheshimiwa Spika. Ningependa kuongea kwa lugha ya Kiswahili kwa wakati huu, sijui kama nakubaliwa lakini nafikiri nakubaliwa. Ningependa kushukuru Waheshimiwa wenzangu kwa kukubaliana na mimi kwamba Mswada ambao tumeleta leo ni Mswada ambao ni muhimu sana. Sio sisi peke yetu ambao tumeweza kuleta Mswada kama huu hapa Bunge kuna Kaunti zengine ambao ameshapitisha kama vile Kitui, Kiambu wako na soko la Githurai, tuko na Tharaka Nithi wako na soko la Chuka na Kajiado pia na Busia ilipitisha mwaka uliopita kwa hivyo wako kwa harakati za kujenga hizi *market care centers for children*. Ningependa kusema kwamba serikali yetu ya Mombasa ninajua kwamba ni serikali ambayo inasema na kutenda, ninaomba kwamba wachukulie maombi yetu ya hizi *market centres* kwa umuhimu zaidi vie waheshimiwa wenzangu wameweza kunena. Ili tuweze kuwa na hizi market centres na itachangia pakubwa katika uchumi wetu wa hapa Mombasa. Najua kwamba huu Mswada ukifika katika zile Wizara zenye zinahusika wataweza kufanya vile inavyotakikana na tuende haraka ili tupate hizi *market centres* na tuweze kusaidia wamama wetu wapate mahali wanaweka watoto na hii maneno yote yenye tumeongea iweze kutendeka kwa haraka na kwa urahisi. Bwana Spika nakushukuru sana kwa kunipa huu mda na pia kwa kunikubalia kuchangia na wenzangu pia kuchangia huu Mswada ili ukafikia kikomo. Waheshimiwa wenzangu, narudia tena kusema Ahsante sana kwa kuona umuhimu wa kusimama na mimi katika huu Mswada. Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika.

[Applause]

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Fadhili Makarani): Honourable Members, I now stand to put a question that the Motion by Honourable Milka Moraa Ngare on Establishment of child care centers for mothers in Mombasa County markets be approved by this Honourable House.

[Question put and agreed to]

[Applause]

Yes Clerk?

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned until Wednesday 13th March, 2024 at 2:30p.m.

The House rose at 10:53 a.m.