

Sen. Olekina: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. When I saw this Statement on the Order Paper I called the Senator and was perplexed. We will spend US\$5 million, when you do the mathematics, to import only 30 buses. That is about Kshs17 million per bus, which is about US\$170,000. By this action, we are indeed negating the Big Four Agenda and I thank the Senator for talking about it.

Instead of creating jobs locally and building our manufacturing sector, we are now obsessed with things from outside. When will we ever look at ourselves and say that we can build our manufacturing sector, help our devolved governments or even give incentives to companies to come and manufacture them here?

I support this Statement and concur with the sentiments of my sister that it should be committed to a particular Committee so that action can follow for it is very sad. What will we tell the millions of our university students who graduate every year and walk in the streets because they cannot get any job? This is sad and there is no reason we should keep quiet. This House has got to condemn the move by whichever department. I do not know the department that is purporting to import.

Even if the buses were to come from Germany, they would not last for long because our roads are dilapidated. The vehicles that are manufactured here are better. A company like Labh Singh Harnam Singh (LSHS) or the other one that assembles buses here knows the conditions of our roads. Therefore, the local companies are better suited in helping us.

We are now moving from China to South Africa. When will we ever look at ourselves and say, ‘yes we can?’ Just like Hamlet asked himself, when he wanted to commit suicide, in Shakespeare’s play Hamlet, we should ask ourselves whether we are ready to develop or we will always look at other countries. If Tanzania is buying vehicles from here, why can we not do the same? We do not value ourselves anymore.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Statement. I hope that the President will not support this move. If he knows that it will negate his Big Four Agenda then, of course, he will be the first one to say “no”.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Proceed, Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to comment on this important matter. We all know that losing someone you love so much, for you to move on with your life, you need closure. I wonder what goes on in the minds of the family members of those people who are disappearing in Mombasa. About four weeks ago, the son of the former Minister for Internal Security, Mr. Julius Sunkuli, disappeared on 8th May. He was found dead in another county twenty days later.

Everywhere you go in this country, you hear stories of people and grown men disappearing, women and young children being abducted yet there is nothing that we are doing to trace them. No wonder the police are being blamed daily. This is because they are the ones who are tasked with protecting human life that we consider so dear.

In the National Assembly, there was a Bill which was passed last year - the National Coroners Service Act. The Bill was establishing the office of a Coroner-General, and his job was to investigate the mysterious deaths which mostly occur as a result of disappearances. The problem is that it was never implemented.

People die in this country. When you go and find your loved ones who had disappeared, maybe in Chiromo Mortuary or another morgue somewhere, you just take the body and bury it. You do not even ask questions as to what happened.

We talk so much about coming up with legislations to investigate and find out what happened. It is very sad that we have Coroner-General whose job is to investigate these mysterious circumstances where someone is found to have been dumped somewhere and that person has died or even when someone has just died of a mysterious disease. We will never get to know what ails this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is why I say this with so much passion and with due trepidation. I request the Inspector General (IG) to take up this matter because this issue that Sen. Faki has raised is something important. It is happening in Mombasa. It is very unfortunate that we can deduce that it is targeting people from one faith. Just like Sen. Orendo has said, it is not your fault that you were born into, and prescribe to, a particular faith.

We need to be guaranteed that you can walk at any time in this country. We invest so much money in the security forces. I know the National Intelligence Service (NIS) probably has a lot of money that they do not even account for. If we cannot get these answers as to why people just disappear on a daily basis, then we will come to the conclusion that these are State-sponsored disappearances.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when people disappear – and I want to repeat this again – when people disappear, if there is no closure, this thing will eat you for the rest of your life. Then you may also disappear or God just takes you naturally, then some people will have closure. I want to support this Statement and I hope that the Inspector-General (IG) of police is watching this. We talk about these issues because we care about the people of Mombasa; we also care about that young man, Salaton Sunkuli, who disappeared and nothing happened.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is about time that if, indeed, we have Coroner-General, then he should take up his job and begin investigating so that every county can either have a Coroner-General or an officer working for his office to investigate these matters. Otherwise, we will be talking about people disappearing without a trace every single year.

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