

# PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

## THE SENATE

## THE HANSARD

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021**

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,  
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

*[The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka) in the Chair]*

### PRAYER

### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

*(The Senator-Elect for Machakos County entered the  
Chamber escorted by Sen. Wetangula and Sen. Halake)*

**Sen. Olekina:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank you. I rise to request a Statement on behalf of Sen. (Dr.) Mbiti. This Statement is dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021, and it is similar to a Statement that I had requested. It is on an issue of general topical concern regarding addressing corruption in the police recruitment.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 47(1) to make a Statement on an issue of general topical concern, namely addressing corruption in the police recruitment. Reports of widespread corruption in the ongoing hiring of police officers is, indeed, annoying. Some of the qualified candidates claim that they have been locked out on the flimsy ground that they could not raise the huge bribes demanded by recruiting officers. In some cases, results of the recruitment were shrouded in secrecy.

The recent recruitment of the Kenya Defense Forces officers (KDF) can also not be said to have been above board. In both cases, families were asked to pay as much as Kshs500,000 in bribes for their kin to join the armed forces, with Kshs400,000 being the standard figure, which is unbecoming.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one discerns two significant developments in the hiring. First, the country boasts of an army of young and educated people who are desperately looking for jobs. An opportunity to serve in the security services would not only have bestowed the youth with the patriotic duty to defend and protect their motherland, but also kicked off a journey that would lead to fulfillment of career dreams.

Secondly, the entrenched culture of corruption stubbornly continues to characterize recruitment in the security services. This cruelty disadvantages candidates from poor backgrounds who cannot raise the bribes, dashing hopes and opening the door for disillusionment.

There is something terribly wrong with a system that rationalizes and rewards corruption at the expense of merit and transparency.

It also raises questions on the commitment of agencies such as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA), and the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), that are mandated to tame misconduct in disciplined forces. Therefore, serious measures should be put in place to ensure that there is sobriety in the security services sector.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the idea that corruption has been rendered the only window to serve in the police and military should be a moment to reflect for any right thinking citizen. It will be remembered that in 2005, the Government cancelled the police recruitment drive due to bizarre corruption. The EACC warned that 80 per cent of the candidates had either paid bribes, or used high level connections to get jobs. A total of 60 senior officers were suspended following the debacle.

The reality that the practice continues with the amount of bribes demanded increasing means that perpetrators have devised more ingenious ways to beat the dragnet. It is doubtful that Kenyans can expect individuals recruited through corruption to uphold ethics and integrity in their future careers. It is akin to polluting a stream at the source. Therefore, the relevant agencies should take action to ensure that we root out corruption completely in order to have a level ground field for every Kenyan to participate in the recruitment exercise.

Madam Deputy Speaker, on behalf of Sen. (Dr.) Mbiti, I thank you and hope that action will be taken on this matter.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Sen. (Prof.) Kamar): I will allow only one contribution, because we are not committing it to a Committee.

Yes, Sen. (Dr.) Langat.

**Sen. (Dr.) Langat:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I wish to contribute a bit on the first Statement as I support this one by Sen. (Dr.) Mbiti on the corruption that seriously marred the recruitment of the police and the armed forces. The moment we compromise the recruitment of soldiers in our country, it has a long and lasting effect in the professionalism of the same profession.

We remember what happened to China in history. After erecting a very expensive wall to defend its territory, it was later on discovered it would not help them because of the soldiers who manned the gate were easily bribed to allow the enemies in.

I am so sure that these soldiers who are corrupting their way into this profession will finally be compromised in whatever they do. The military is a very important department in this country that is bestowed to defend our country from enemies outside. This is the force that keeps the secrets of the defense of our country. If this kind of compromise is allowed to continue, our country will be at risk.

It is, therefore, my appeal that the new recruitment that took place last month be rejected, disbanded, and a fresh professional recruitment done. It is embarrassing. I appeal that this corrupt system and team be disbanded and a new one be put in place to do new recruitment.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Sen. (Prof.) Kamar): Hon. Senators, today is the Cerebral Palsy International Day. We have approved a Statement from Sen. (Dr.) Musuruve under Standing Order 47 (1).

Sen. Dr. Musuruve.

## CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS MONTH

**Sen. (Dr.) Musuruve:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to make this Statement regarding Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order 47(1) to make a Statement on an issue of general topical concern, namely, cerebral awareness month. The month of March is globally marked as Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month.

Thousands of Kenyans may not be aware of what cerebral palsy is, the symptoms and how to support children with cerebral palsy together with their caregivers. The word cerebral means having to do with the brain, whereas, palsy means weakness or problems with using muscles. Cerebral palsy is a brain disorder that can affect muscles or the brain. To create awareness of cerebral palsy, many people who are aware and would like to create awareness purposely wear green. The colour green was chosen to reflect youthfulness and new growth as well as hope for advancement in treatment and acceptance.

Madam Deputy Speaker, cerebral palsy may be caused by brain injury or problems that occurs during pregnancy or birth or within the first two or three years of a child's life while the brain is still developing. Cerebral palsy is related to brain damage that happens before or during birth is called congenital cerebral palsy. Majority of cerebral palsy, between 85 to 90 per cent is congenital. In many cases, the specific cause is not known.

Some things increase the chance that a child will have cerebral palsy. These are called risk factors. It is important to remember that having a risk factor does not mean that a child will have cerebral palsy. Some of the risk factors for congenital CP are low birth weight, premature birth, multiple births, assisted reproductive technology that is, infertility treatments, infections during pregnancy, jaundice and kernicterus, medical conditions of the mother and birth complications - detachment of the placenta, uterine rupture, or problems with the umbilical cord during birth can disrupt oxygen supply to the baby and result in cerebral palsy.

Madam Deputy Speaker, a small percentage of cerebral palsy is caused by brain damage that occurs more than 28 days after birth. This is called Acquired Cerebral Palsy and usually is associated with an infection (such as meningitis) or head injury, problems with blood flow to the brain, cerebrovascular accidents, for example, stroke or bleeding in the brain associated with a blood clotting problem, blood vessels that did not form properly, a heart defect that was present at birth, or sickle cell disease.

In preventing cerebral palsy, there is need to be aware that the cause or causes of congenital cerebral palsy are not fully known, which means that currently little can be done to prevent it. Cerebral palsy related to genetics is not preventable. However, there are actions people can take before and during pregnancy as well as after birth that might help reduce the risk of developmental problems, including cerebral palsy.

Taking steps to help ensure a healthy pregnancy can help prevent developmental problems, including cerebral palsy. Acquired Cerebral Palsy is often related to an infection or injury, and some of these cases can be prevented. Some preventive measures are; mother being as healthy as possible before pregnancy, getting vaccinated for certain

diseases such as rubella and chicken pox that could harm the baby and considering chances of reducing multiple pregnancies in case one is using assistive reproductive technology.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there are three types of cerebral palsy, namely, Ataxic cerebral palsy, dyskinetic cerebral palsy and spastic cerebral palsy. Ataxic cerebral palsy is a developmental disorder that affects motor function. It is characterized by problems with balance and coordination. These issues are caused by damage to the developing brain's motor control centres. Ataxic cerebral palsy is not easy to diagnose until the child begins to show developmental delays. Mostly children begin to show awkward movements, difficulty following objects with eyes and problems grasping things. Ataxic cerebral palsy is the least common form of cerebral palsy.

Dyskinetic cerebral palsy also called Athetoid Cerebral Palsy affects muscles. Children with this type of cerebral palsy have trouble controlling muscle movement. They have twisting abrupt movements. Spastic cerebral palsy is the most common. Children with spastic cerebral palsy have stiff muscles. The stiffness may be in the upper part of the body, lower part of the body or both.

In general, the most common symptoms of spastic cerebral palsy are: stiff/tight muscles (hypertonia) on one or both sides of the body, exaggerated movements, limited mobility, crossed knees, walking on tip toes, abnormal gait and contractures. Many people with spastic cerebral palsy have walking abnormalities such as crossing their knees or making scissor like movements with their legs while walking.

Madam Deputy Speaker, children with cerebral palsy may experience specific learning difficulties. These may include short attention span, motor planning difficulties (organizational and sequencing), perceptual difficulties and language difficulties. These can impact on literacy, numeracy and other skills.

There is no cure for cerebral palsy, but a child's quality of life can improve with treatment that may include surgery; therapy, including physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy; special equipment to help children get around and communicate with others.

In creating awareness of cerebral palsy, I would like to urge county governments, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and all members of the society to empathize with children with cerebral palsy and their caregivers by creating awareness and a sustainable support system that will help children with cerebral palsy live a productive life. Actionable tender love and care will go a long way in creating some amount of confidence and feelings of acceptance in the lives of these children and their caretakers.

As we mark the cerebral palsy awareness month, I would like to urge the Ministry of Education together with all key partners and players in education to do their best in ensuring that children identified with cerebral palsy are accorded specialised instruction designed to meet their unique learning needs so that they can develop to their fullest potential.

In caring for a child with cerebral palsy, parents and or caregivers need to be their child's home therapists, help children be active, keep a bright outlook, get to know other parents/caregivers who have children with cerebral palsy, and focus on diet. Members of the society need to embrace families of children with cerebral palsy and refrain from labelling the child and their families. Societal attitude and support system is important in making the cerebral palsy child and caregiver feel loved and accepted.

Madam Deputy Speaker, people keen in supporting children with cerebral palsy can reach out to families or organizations that deal with cerebral palsy to find out on various specific points of intervention. Some points of intervention revolve around therapy services, for instance, speech, physio and occupational therapy; provision of food rich in calcium such as milk, yoghurt, cheese, and calcium supplement fruit juices and vitamin D rich foods such as fish.

Health services country-wide need to deliberately create awareness to expectant and lactating mothers on healthy lifestyles before and after giving birth and precautionary measures that need to be taken in helping children in their first years of birth develop mentally. This awareness can be incorporated in antenatal clinics.

Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you.