

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 1st August, 2019

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

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

PRAYER

PETITION

ENACTMENT OF MILITARY VETERAN LAW

Sen. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a Petition on the enactment of a military veteran law to address the needs of military veterans and their dependants.

“We, the undersigned citizens of the Republic of Kenya from different parts of the country and abroad, and the True North Society draw the attention of the Senate to the following -

1. THAT, currently, there is no law which compels the Government of Kenya to care for military veterans especially, those who suffered from past occupational illness resulting from official military duties.
2. THAT, as a result of the neglect, many retired service men and women are living miserable lives together with their families with most dying prematurely.
3. THAT, currently, Military veterans and their families suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PSTD), suicide, homicide, incapacitation, loneliness, poverty, broken marriages and relationships.
4. THAT, to the best of our knowledge, there is no national body tasked with the care and management of military veterans.
5. THAT, the Defence Forces Medical Insurance Scheme does not cover mental health care as per Trust Deed. The majority of military veterans coming out of the war which begun in 2011 do not qualify for pension because they have not served for more than a decade as dictated by the Kenya Defence Forces Act. The gratuity paid out is not sustainable. Upon dismissal, majority do not have medical boards carried out thus cannot claim disability rights.

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6. THAT, upon dismissal, there is no avenue to address complaints and grievances such as the absence of the medical board being conducted, delay in payment of gratuity and pension, inability to afford and access mental health care for self and family and difficulty in transitioning and reintegration into the society. Widows and their children cannot afford legal fees to pursue their entitlements as beneficiaries in cases of rejection by the soldiers' family of origin.
 7. THAT, those military veterans dismissed on grounds of mental health illness are locked out of employment opportunities thus lack the ability to support themselves and their families. Consequently, some are turning to violent crime.
 8. THAT, we confirm efforts were first made to address these issues through the Military Veterans Bill, 2013.
 9. THAT, the Bill sought to recognize military veterans' sacrifices, eliminate disparities in their post-service benefits and compensation packages and provide an avenue for addressing their complaints and concerns.
 10. THAT, the Kenyan leadership and people are aware of the immense sacrifices and injuries faced by the Kenya soldiers in their quest to secure Kenya's territorial integrity.
 11. THAT, the issues raised in this petition concern human rights, labour relations, pensions and post-service life and not directly the Department of Defence.
 12. THAT, we hereby confirm the issues raised with respect of this petition are not pending before any court of law, constitutional or legal body.
- HEREFORE, your humble petitioners pray-
- (i) That the honourable Parliament enacts a military veteran law which will offer protection and care to military veterans who have sacrificed and served our motherland diligently.
 - (ii) That the Government ensures the rights and special needs of military veterans are guaranteed and respected to ensure that they live dignified lives as envisioned by the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
 - (iii) That military veterans are paid back for their service by ensuring war wounds do not limit their life experiences, reduce their life expectancy.
 - (iv) That the Government develops a mechanism to progressively adapt mental health care programmes to the needs of military veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Petition is dated 26th July, 2019 and signed by six petitioners led by Maj. (Rtd.) Mukuria, Ms. Rosemary Otieno, Ms. Chalsea Mugambi, Ms. Nancy Wanjugu Kamau, Mr. Joseph Gitumbe and Ms. Mary Kittakah.

I thank you.

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The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order 231, I shall now allow comments, observations or clarifications in relation to the Petition for not more than 30 minutes.

Sen. (Dr.) Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support Sen. Khaniri's Petition. Kenyan soldiers work hard yet do not have enough. Kenyan soldiers suffer when they are sent to secure our borders. Many of the soldiers are away from their families in the barracks and mobile centres all over the country for long periods. The soldiers encounter a lot of problems while out in the battle field. When any of them gets injured, they are dismissed and end up suffering so much.

What surprises me is that the soldiers serve nine-year contracts which have to be renewed. How do they get pension or gratuity if they have to renew contracts every nine years to continue serving in the military? The soldiers end up getting peanuts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Petition and request the Committee responsible to make sure that a Bill is brought to the House to address the plight of the veterans. I hope that the terms can be reviewed to allow the soldiers serve in the military for several years until they retire, so that they get enough pension to benefit their children. It is unfair to let our soldiers suffer when we can support them.

Sen. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support Sen. Khaniri's Petition.

I would like to begin by making a full disclosure on my interest in this matter. I am a child of a military officer. My father served in the Army. I, therefore, support the fact that this country needs to establish a law that takes care of the retired military officers and their families.

The trauma that is associated with service in the military is enormous. I recall that in 1982, during the attempted coup, there was so much gunfire around the barracks. As a result, there were many deaths and bloodshed. After that, things went back to business as usual. There has not been any follow-up on compensation for the losses. Many military officers were dismissed and their families have continued to suffer.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we push forward for the establishment of a law to protect the military veterans and their families, the drafters of the law may want to look at Article 56 of the Constitution on the protection of minorities and marginalized groups. One of the biggest problems in this country is that when you talk about minorities and marginalized groups, our focus is on tribes. However, the military community is a group of people who have paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom and independence.

We hope that the Committee that will be seized with this matter will fast-track the idea of the establishment of this law because these veterans are to be found in every corner of this country, and not just a particular county or section of the country.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I congratulate Sen. Khaniri for bringing this Petition on behalf of the petitioners.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is only in Kenya where veterans are not a serious issue. All over the world, particularly in developed countries, the agenda of veterans and retired policemen, army – and all kinds of armed forces who have served their country – is a big agenda. If you look at the American elections, there is no election that has taken place

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without a discussion about the welfare of veterans. This is because these are people who give service to their country, they are paid very little and go through a lot of suffering thereafter. This is so because some are disabled, some suffer mental illness and depression, and there is no psychosocial support. When they get depressed, they are just released to go.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, veterans and veteran movements in Kenya need the attention of this House and Parliament. Sen. Olekina, who has lived in the United States of America (USA), will tell you that you cannot win any seat without putting on the table your position on matters of veterans. However here, we handle our retired armed forces soldiers very casually.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee that will look at this Petition must not just come back with directions as to what they think about the welfare of veterans. I dare say that this Committee must---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, protect me from the tycoon of Kirinyaga, because he is consulting too loudly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was trying to say that we do not want the Committee to come back with only proposals on how to handle matters of veterans. The Senate should take the lead in drafting a law on veterans that will provide ways and mechanisms---

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko, what is your intervention?

Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I love listening to the Senate Majority Leader; he is a very eloquent person. He has said that in his House, where we are seated, there is a tycoon from Kirinyaga. Would I be in order to ask my able Majority Leader to clarify that point, because it will go on HANSARD that there is a tycoon, who is making unexpected sounds in this House?

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko, what is your point of order, because being a tycoon is not a crime?

(Laughter)

In fact, we all look forward to being tycoons. Is it that a point of order?

Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that the Senate Majority Leader is a very serious debater, such that every issue that he raises to the Chair, we are enjoined to follow. Therefore, I wanted him to let the House know, so that if such a tycoon is around, we might be called upon to throw him out or ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to throw the tycoon out.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Proceed, Sen. (Eng.) Maina.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen): That is the tycoon himself, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Laughter)

Sen. (Eng.) Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have reluctantly listened because we are living in times when people must be serious. There are a few of us in this country who

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are going to come out maybe approaching the level of tycoons through the kind of things we hear about. It is wrong to use the word loosely without clarifying whether you mean somebody who is honest and upright, or somebody who is in the dam and all other kind of deals that are going on, which are impoverishing this country.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should make a ruling that, that kind of language is not allowed, unless somebody comes out and declares: "I am on the side of tycoons who are collecting money from dams or I am on the side of tycoons who have worked hard in their lives."

(Laughter)

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a quote that Sen. Wetangula likes from Chinua Achebe's book that states, "An old woman is always uneasy when dry bones are mentioned in a proverb." I usually do not like it that much, because the women are always very happy.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tycoon has spoken---

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Order! Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr., what is your point of order?

Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr.: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Can I be of assistance to the Senate Majority Leader? There is also a famous saying – I think by one of the Speakers – that you should not substantiate the obvious.

(Laughter)

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it was during the days of the famous Jean-Marie Seroney, that he said: "You cannot substantiate the obvious."

An hon. Senator: Tycoons!

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what we are saying here is that we know, for sure, and there is no doubt that the Senator for Kirinyaga and Sen. Kirinyaga from Nyeri are tycoons. How they became tycoons, however, is now a question of research. My colleague, Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko and I are happy to be referred to as 'the persons from Migori and Elgeyo-Marakwet' as we work our way up. Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko would have been happy if I said, "the hustler from Migori."

That was on a light note, Mr. Speaker, Sir. However, the point I want to make is that, as a House and the Committee that will take up this matter, we should take the lead in guiding this House. I do not know whether it will be the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare or the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights, but it must guide this House in coming up with a robust legislation that will be groundbreaking, precedent-setting and history making. It should be remembered that in the days of hon.

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Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, the Speaker of the Senate, the Senate rose to the occasion to come up with a very important legislation that looks at the welfare of our veterans, their families and descendants. This legislation will be so monumental that even though we pay our soldiers a meagre amount of money, there must be an inspiration – for their children and those who perhaps may go through difficult times as they serve the nation – or something that this nation cares about, and that they will look after their welfare.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for instance, I will be coming with the Hall of Fame Bill. There are small issues like recognition and medals of honour; or that during public holidays, they be given order of precedence. For instance, in some countries, they make an arrangement where these people will have free public transport when they reach a particular age. These small things motivate those who are sacrificing to go to Somalia, serve in our police service and prisons, and tell them that serving the nation with honour matters.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Interruption of debate on Petition)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Order, hon. Senators. I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, of visiting pupils and teachers from the following three schools; namely,

1. Matondoni Primary School, Makueni County;
2. Barkeiywo Primary School, Uasin Gishu County;
3. Ndungulu Primary School, Uasin Gishu County.

In our usual tradition of welcoming visitors to Parliament, I extend a warm welcome to them. On behalf of the Senate and my own behalf, I wish them a fruitful visit.

I thank you.

(Applause)

Proceed, Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr.

Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr.: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way you made that statement seemed like I was seated in the Gallery. I welcome Matondoni School from Makueni County and the two schools from Uasin Gishu County to the Senate. This is not just another holiday trip. I hope that they will learn a few things about Parliament and the history of this famous building that they are in and the independent Parliament.

(Resumption of debate on Petition)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the Petition, I have been fortunate to have some experience about this. I represent a gentleman who used to serve in the military and is now

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wallowing somewhere in Makueni. He has not been recognized. He just walks around like everybody else, yet he participated in defending this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was fortunate to witness the speech by Sen. Malalah in Kakamega. I had never seen any place full of people from Western Kenya who participated in the World Wars, recognized in a brass plate. I have not seen any place like that except in Kakamega County Assembly.

(Sen. Murkomen consulted loudly)

Sen. Murkomen says that it happened in Uasin Gishu County too.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my late father's driver was a retired military officer. However, he did not receive any recognition and died a poor man. So, Sen. Murkomen is right that these people are treated so badly. They become paupers immediately they leave the service, yet they can be used for other things. Some of them are well trained.

During the Solai Dam Tragedy, the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Defence did not disclose the number of people who are trained in Israel specifically for disaster recovery, response and emergencies, as I had requested. When these people retire after their years of service, they go out there and their services are no longer required. In fact, other than recognition, we should provide them with jobs, which they have experience in. For example, some of them are good engineers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a stature somewhere on Kenyatta Avenue for military officers and their recognition. It is only recently that I have seen the Government try to polish it. Otherwise, it was a place for street boys to sniff glue and smoke bhang. So, this matter is not only urgent. It is sad that we are doing it so late in the day. I saw what military officers who were gunned down in El Adde, Somali went through. They are people who have died for this country. We should recognize them in more ways than one. Sen. (Eng.) Maina is right. The people that we should recognize in this country are not recognized. The people who steal get themselves in the front page of *The Daily Nation*, *Citizen Television* news and *Citizen Weekly*. However, the day to day businesses of honest people are either clamped like the ones of the betting companies, or alternately, they are deported out of town. However, the people who steal are in the news and they are given the front seats for interviews by our media stations. It is unfortunate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): There is a lot of interest. Therefore, I will limit the time for Senators who will come after this to two minutes.

Sen. Farhiya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I also support this Petition and thank Sen. Khaniri for bringing it. Given all the ailments that were listed, are we fair to these people? Sometimes, I believe that some of these decisions made are bad. A person who is already injured cannot be allowed to go without any benefit. They are only given gratuity which is not continuous. For example, if they make one bad business decision, their money is taken away. Again, if they are injured, they have no economic potential. The only thing they have is their strength, which now could be gone. So, what more can they

do? They served us for long and we are now saying good riddance to them. We have to be serious and do better than this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I always relate everything to corruption. This is because, if we had less corruption cases in this country--- Someone should have thought of taking care of people who fought for us. The military fights for the sovereignty of this great country of Kenya. However, everyone in the country thinks about the amount of money they will put into their pockets, instead of making this country better. Some of these people might be having mental problems due to the trauma they were exposed to. So, how do we expect them to do anything meaningful for themselves that will improve their lives?

Everybody has talked about the military men who have families and children---

(Sen. Farhiya's microphone went off)

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Order. Your time is up. Hon. Senators, please, manage your time.

Sen. Mwaruma: Asante Mstahiki Bw. Spika, kwa kunipa fursa hii niunge mkono ombi liloletwa na mheshimiwa Seneta wa Kaunti ya Vihiga, Sen. Khaniri, kuhusu wale wanajeshi waliostaafu na mpaka sasa, wengi wao wanaishi---

Sen. Cherargei: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): What is it, Sen. Cherargei?

Sen. Cherargei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise for interrupting my good friend, Sen. Mwaruma. Last time, in your ruling, you said that you are supposed to be referred in Kiswahili as 'Mheshimiwa' or "Bw. Spika." Hili neno 'mstahiki' linaweza elekea kama lile neno 'mzungumzishi.' *Ruling* ambayo ulitoa na ambayo tunatakikana tufuate, ni 'Bw. Spika' au 'Mheshimiwa Spika.' Sasa wakitumia neno lingine kama vile 'mstahiki' italeta shida.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): First of all, you are mixing languages. Secondly, you are the one who is trying to drag us back to that direction.

Proceed, Sen. Mwaruma.

Sen. Mwaruma: Asante Bw. Spika kwa kunipa fursa ya kuendelea. Hili ombi limechukua mkondo fulani tayari. Ni vizuri watu ambao wamejitoea mhanga kulinda nchi na mipaka yetu wapewe heshima. Jambo la kushangaza ni kwamba wanajeshi waliostaafu wanaishi maisha ya uchochole na familia zao ilhali walijitoa mhanga kutulinda.

Ule mwelekeo ulioko sasa ni kwamba, kuwekwe sheria ya kuwapa bima na fidia ya kutosha, kwa sababu wengine wao walitoka na madhara ya kimwili na kiakili. Kwa hivyo, sheria itungwe ya kuwafidia watu hawa Wanajeshi hawa ambao wamestaafu wana watoto, mabibi, familia na maisha baada ya Huduma yao---

(Sen. Mwaruma's microphone went off)

Sen. Cheruiyot: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to agree with my colleagues who have added their voice to this extremely important issue. In other countries, farmers and servicemen, who serve in the military, are the most celebrated professions.

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Unfortunately, this Petition has shown us that the life of our men in uniform is anything but rosy.

It is my humble request that the Committee that will consider this Petition should go beyond the call of duty of just penning a report and having it gather dust in Parliament. That Committee can invite the leaders who are in charge of our defence forces at the Ministry and those at the military level when considering the truth, so as to look for ways of helping our men in uniform. If it is something to do with legislation and amendment of certain Acts, we are willing and ready to do it. We need to give dignity and respect to the men and women who serve our country in uniform.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Petition.

This Petition is requesting us to come up with a legislation that will support veterans. Troops face various challenges in life. The scope and the complexity of the dangers that these people encounter while protecting us should push us to look for ways of protecting them.

It is shameful that those who go out there and give out their lives end up living miserably. Some of them get confused because of the fear that they face when serving in the military. They are always exposed to the fear of death, being taken hostage or not seeing their loved ones, yet we literally forget about them when they come back after taking care of us. This Petition is timely.

In the United States of America (USA), the department of defence works closely with the veterans' affairs services, and we should not be any different. The men and women in uniform should be taken care of by the department of defence. Why is it that the department of defence takes good care of them when they are in active service, but forgets about them when they leave? It is the department of defence that took them to war, which has made them unable to function. When drafting this legislation, we should find a way of making the Ministry of Defence responsible. They should protect and support all the veterans.

I want to finish off by stating that a true hero is not measured by the size of his strength, but the size of his heart. Those veterans love this country and we should care for them.

(Interruption of debate on Petition)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the Public Gallery this afternoon of visiting students and teachers from the following schools;

1. Ngabolo Primary School, Laikipia County.
2. JK Moi Kaborua School, Baringo County.

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In our usual tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to Parliament, I extend a warm welcome to them. On behalf of the Senate and my own behalf, I welcome and wish them a fruitful visit.

I thank you.

(Applause)

Sen. (Eng.) Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to welcome the students from Uasin Gishu, Baringo and Laikipia counties. They should work hard, believe in God and obey their parents if they want to go far. They should know that we all started as students, hence, their future is bright.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, can my time start right now? I want to comment on the Petition.

(Resumption of debate on Petition)

I rise to support the Petition by Sen. Khaniri. It is an important observation. Our uniformed men and women put their lives in the frontline, and there is nothing more important than life. These men give their lives to our country, but are left hopeless and end up living miserably. Something needs to be done to help them. The Government must come up with a programme that will give respect to these brave citizens.

The behaviour of neglecting our heroes did not start today. We are now an independent country because some people, for instance, the *Mau Mau*, lived a terrible life as they fought for independence, yet they are now miserable because they were neglected. *Mau Mau* was an army. South Africa recognised its freedom veterans. In fact, Dedan Kimathi is more honoured in South Africa and West Africa than here. This country has to recognise and honour its heroes.

We should come up with laws that cater for our veterans. We also have other heroes such as the athletes, but they end up living miserable lives.

(Sen. (Eng.) Maina's microphone went off)

Sen. Faki: Asante, Mhe. Spika, kwa kunipa fursa hii. Ninataka kuchangia maombi ya mhe. Khaniri ya kutaka maaskari wakongwe kuangaliwa. Tatizo la maaskari wakongwe halijaanza sasa. Lilianza na serikali ya ukoloni. Serikali ya ukoloni iliwachukua ndugu zetu wengi na ikawapeleka India, Burma na kwengineko kupigana vita. Waliporudishwa nyumbani walipewa pesa duni kama malipo ya uzeeni. Waafrika walilipwa tofauti na Wahindi na Wazungu, ilhali walipigana vitu pamoja. Tatizo hili halikuanza na Serikali hii. Lilianza na Serikali ya ukoloni. Serikali ya ukoloni haikudhamini maisha ya Waafrika.

Askari wetu wa Kenya wako katika vita kule Somalia na wakimaliza kandarasi yao, wao hupewa malipo duni ambayo hayatawawezesha kuishi maisha mazuri. Kwa hivyo, maombi haya yameletwa katika wakati mwafaka. Tunapoendelea, tunaona ya kwamba matatizo ya askari wakongwe yanazidi kuongezeka. Kwa mfano, wengi wao wanapata majinamizi usiku kwa sababu walipokuwa kwenye vita walipata madhara.

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Bw. Spika, utapata kwamba wengi wakilala usiku wanaota kuhusu vile vita ambavyo walikuwa wanapigana na mahasimu wao. Hii inawapatia matatizo ya kiafya na ugonjwa wa kiakili---

(Sen. Faki's microphone went off)

Sen. Faki: Bw. Spika, dakika zangu zimechukuliwa na hawa waliokuwa wakiongea---

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Order. Your time was up. *Nafikiria mlikuwa mkizungumza wakati mmoja. Kwa hivyo, hawangechukua muda wako.*

Finally, we have Sen. Ochillo- Ayacko.

Sen. Ochillo-Ayacko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to make a few remarks in support of this Petition. This Petition has been brought by a very compassionate Member, and he deserves my support. I want to confess that my great-grandfather, Odundo Mbogo, was conscripted forcefully by the British and made to serve in a country we do not know. Unfortunately, his body did not come back and up to date, we do not know where he was buried. If it was not for the generosity of Sen. Olekina's clan, which is Maasai, part of my family would have perished.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we ask the Committee to make interventions, it is very important for us to also think about the families of those who served and died. We have families that have been made destitute because they depended on these veterans. We are now talking about the living veterans, but we are not mentioning the dead ones.

In my village, there is a family of a person called Oketch Ogonda whose son perished in Somalia. When his body was brought back, nobody was allowed to even open the coffin. As we speak now, nobody has even visited that family since that happened. The trauma they underwent is very serious.

I want to ask the Committee that will deal with this matter to know that here in Africa, we love our living and our dead. Let us find recommendations as to how to deal with those who are living, that is, the veterans, and also how to deal with families of the veterans that we lost.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No. 232(1), the Petition stands committed to the **Senate Committee on Labour and Social Welfare**. In terms of Standing Order No.232, the Committee is required, in not more than 60 days from the time of reading the prayer, to respond to the petitioner by way of a report addressed to the petitioner and laid on the Table of the Senate.

Thank you.

Next Order.