

My maiden speech

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I will have hon. Mwaura. Old Members, you now wait for your turn. There are now three chances for new Members. Let us try to manage our time.

Preceed, hon. Mwaura.

The Nominated Member (Hon. Mwaura): Thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker. I hope my minutes will still be five. I want to take this opportunity to thank my party leader, the Prime Minister, and my party for having nominated me.

Hon. Linturi: On a point of order, hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Just clarify, please. It is his maiden speech and he should not be Interrupted.

The Nominated Member (Hon. Mwaura): Hon. Deputy Speaker, this is my maiden Speech and I need to continue and credit must be given where it is due. I must commend the Jubilee Government Statement which was presented here in the House, but I also need to point out that it was poorly edited. Please, the Presidential Speech writers need to be more careful. It seems that that Speech was assembled in a hurry. They need to be more careful.

The National Youth Council was established six months ago and it has yet to be funded, yet much of the Speech was about the young people. Out of this Kshs6 billion that is supposed to be given to the youth and women, can we also strengthen the National Youth Council because it is through that, that the youths have elected their representatives from the grassroots to the national level. Could we also ensure that we build on the pre-existing funds because there is a tendency to just nullify anything because of political rhetoric! I am concerned because the Speech that was read here in the House never mentioned people with disabilities. The only time that this was mentioned was when we were referring to primary health care. As a movement, we have moved from the medical model of disability where you are seen as a sick person to the social model of disability where people have rights. Therefore, I would urge the Government to ensure that Article 54(2) of the Constitution which requires that five per cent of all appointments in elective positions are people with disabilities is adhered to. Even in the Cabinet of 18 members, we shall have at least one person with disability.

The President brought his agenda to the House on the Bills that he intends to present to us, but I never heard him mention about the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003, that is long overdue and its amendments. I would like to ask that this be prioritized because if it is amended, it will ensure that there is proper service deliver to persons with disabilities, especially in the devolved units. I also expected that the President's Speech would address the issue of minorities to ensure that there is greater awareness, so that they are protected. In this case, I will mention people with albinism, who continue to be marginalized in this country. They require proper protection and proper social safety nets that can ensure that they participate on an equal basis with others. I thank God that I am the first Member with albinism in this House. I also note that the Kenya Vision 2030 does not have clear guidelines on issues to do with persons with disabilities. In particular, we need to ensure that we move from a recipient tokenism model to where people participate fully in the society. Therefore, in the next five years, I urge that we ensure that persons with disabilities are included as an integral part of the Kenya Vision 2030. In particular, we need to be very clear on the Ministerial portfolio because we never saw where disability is going to fall under.

We have also been informed about laptops that are going to be given to the young people in this country. However, I have two concerns. How accessible will these laptops be to those with special needs? Are they going to be adopted or generic and therefore not usable to the members of the constituency that I represent? I have gone to various primary schools and headmasters are complaining about the capitation that has been allocated since 2002, that has never been increased, of about Kshs1,000 per child. What is it that the Jubilee Coalition is intending to do because with the inflation and the cost of living rising, it is becoming extremely difficult for principals to manage schools at that

local level. As a country, we need to look at the anti-social behaviour that the use of technology also brings. Is it important to introduce these laptops at this early stage when children are supposed to be playing? We also need to consider the consequences of that. I also want to speak on issues of economic tribalism. We are aware that this country has faced a lot of negative ethnicity in the past. What is the commitment of the Jubilee Coalition in terms of ensuring national cohesion and equal opportunities? I would like to see economic opportunities not allocated on the basis of tribe.