

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAMU



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAMU

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 8th October, 2024

*The Assembly met at the
Main Chambers, at 2:30 p.m.*

[Temporary Speaker (**Honorable Beatrice Wamaitha Munge**) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Temporary Speaker (Honorable Beatrice Wamaitha Munge): Next Order.

Clerk-at-the-Table: Notice of Motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION

FORMALIN CHEMICALS

MCA Suleiman Mohamed Farah (Witu):- Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I hereby submit the following notice of motion:

AWARE THAT, formalin is a colorless liquid with a pungent odour consisting of 37% formaldehyde by weight in an aqueous solution, with inhibited solutions containing 6-12% methyl alcohol. Formalin is commonly utilized as an industrial disinfectant and as a preservative in funeral homes and medical laboratories.

FURTHER AWARE THAT, formalin is also employed to preserve certain foods and products such as antiseptics, medication, and cosmetics. Prolonged exposure or high doses can lead to serious coughing or choking, and severe exposure can result in death from throat swelling or chemical burns to the lungs.

COGNIZANT THAT, direct contact with the skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal tract can cause serious burns, and even drinking as little as 30 ml or two tablespoons can be fatal.

CONCERNED THAT, formaldehyde or formalin is used to preserve or fix tissue or cells by cross-linking primary amino groups. Due to its carcinogenic properties, the European Union has banned formaldehyde as a biocide under the Biological Products Directives (98/8/ec).

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT, farmers in our county are misusing formalin as a replacement for pesticides and fertilizers by spraying it, particularly on vegetable and fruit crops such as watermelon, tomatoes, and kale.

NOTING WITH CONCERN THAT, butchers or meat sellers have developed a habit of preserving their meat using formalin for preservation and for controlling insects such as houseflies.

THEREFORE, I URGE this Assembly to compel the County Government to:

1. Conduct training for farmers to create awareness on the proper use of formalin.
2. Conduct periodic surveys in farms and butchereries to verify the products being used for farming and ensure that formalin is not being misused.
3. Impose fines or charges on farmers and butchers caught using formalin for farming or meat preservation.

Temporary Speaker (Honorable Beatrice Wamaitha Munge): Next Order.

Clerk-at-the-Table: Statement.

Temporary Speaker (Honorable Beatrice Wamaitha Munge): I see there is a statement by Honorable Hope Wanjiku and since she is not in the House, I refer the statement in the next sitting.

ADJOURNMENT

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Paul Kimani Njuguna): Honorable Members, there being no other business, the Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow, in the morning 10:30 a.m.

The Assembly rose at 3:15 a.m.