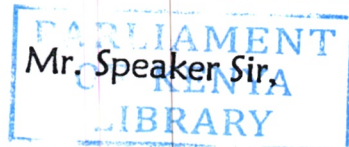


STATEMENT ON AN ISSUE OF GENERAL TOPICAL CONCERN- SEN. HAJI



Approved
[Signature]

pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (a), I rise to make a statement on an issue of general topical concern regarding the plight of the Makonde people living in Kwale County.

Speaker
13/10/16

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Makonde people are natives of Mozambique and Tanzania where they enjoy full recognition as citizens of the two countries.

Kenya hosts a significant population of the Makonde people residing in Kwale County who first came into the country over 50 years ago as labourers.

The population of the Makonde has been increasing over the period since they came to Kenya more than 5 decades ago to a population of about 3,000 persons,

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Despite the Makonde being almost as old in the country as Kenya itself, they remain unrecognized by the state and thus are stateless. Lack of recognition of the Makonde by the State has led to their stigmatization, pushed them to the fringes of the society and entangled them in poverty as they cannot access formal employment for they don't have national identification documents.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Many of the Makonde have been born in Kenya and therefore as per Chapter 3 of the Constitution on Citizenship are Citizens of Kenya while others are citizens by virtue of the time they have spent in Kenya which, as I have mentioned before, is approximately 50 years. They can become naturalized citizens.

It's prudent that the Government of Kenya recognizes them as citizens and grants them the necessary documents. This will open a big window of

opportunity for them and lessen the poverty burden in the County of Kwale and the country at large.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

As you may be aware, the Makonde have resorted to walk all the way from Kwale to Nairobi State House to seek audience with the President in a bid to be recognized as Citizens of Kenya.

Recent reports indicate that the march by the Makonde to statehouse was briefly interrupted in Voi, Taita Taveta County after they were arrested.

The state should save the Makonde the agony of having to undergo such measures and treatment by granting them citizenship.

Thank you.



Sen. Mohammed Yusuf Haji, M.P
Senator-Garissa County

13th October, 2016