

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Approved
BWSWA
17/6/14

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
(SECOND SESSION, SECOND PART)

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Hon. Speaker,

Pursuant to Standing Order 44 (2)(c), I wish to Request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations regarding the welfare of Kenya Defence Forces soldiers returning from service in Somalia.

Hon. Speaker, under the 'Operation Linda Nchi', Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) troops have been waging a difficult and weary combat duty against Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia, and after nearly three years, some have returned home and have been replaced with new units in the ongoing war against national threats. Most of the soldiers who have returned are experiencing a range of physical, social, financial and mental anguish on account of tribulations emanating from serious injuries, gunshot wounds, burns from exploding landmines, head injuries, limbs severed by improvised explosive devices, psychological distress, social withdrawal, and general Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), all coupled by the fact that no substantial financial compensation has been undertaken.

Hon. Speaker, in the Statement, the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:-

- I. The financial compensation, if any, that is scheduled for the soldiers returning from combat duty in Somalia, or their bereaved families, and confirmation of the execution of such compensation,
- II. The measures, if any, that are being implemented to give medical care and treatment for the injured soldiers,
- III. The arrangements, if any, that are being implemented for the psychological counseling of soldiers particularly those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, together with their families.

Hon. Wesley Korir, MP
(Member for Cheranganyi Constituency)

Date

Mr. Speaker
Request in order
JK
17/6

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY HONOURABLE WESLEY KORIR,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CHERANGANYI CONSTITUENCY**

INTRODUCTION

The Member of Parliament of Cheranganyi Constituency, Honourable Wesley Korir, has requested for a statement from the Ministry of Defence on the following issues:

1. The financial compensation, if any, that is scheduled for soldiers returning from combat duty in Somalia, or bereaved families of soldiers who lose their lives while in Somalia, and confirmation of the execution of such compensation;
2. The measures, if any, that have been implemented to give medical care and treatment for the injured soldiers; and
3. The measures, if any, that are being implemented for the psychological counseling of soldiers particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder, together with their families.

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

The terms and conditions of service of the Kenya Defence Forces soldiers serving in African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the African Union (AU) and the Government of the republic of Kenya (GoK) signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 2nd June 2012.

Article 6 of the MOU provides for personal re-imbusement. For cases of death, the AU pays death compensation to beneficiaries of deceased soldiers at the rate of United States Dollars Fifty Thousand (US\$ 50,000.00).

The AU also pays disability compensation to soldiers who are injured in the course of AMISOM duties. Disability payment to the beneficiary is a percentage of the death compensation amount depending upon the degree of permanent disability which is determined by a joint GoK and AU Medical Board's assessment.

The AU also pays allowances to soldiers serving in AMISOM at the rate of United States Dollars One thousand and Twenty Eight (US\$1,028.00) per month. It is also noted that besides the aforesaid compensation, soldiers serving in AMISOM are retained in the GoK payroll and are paid their monthly salaries and allowances.

The foregoing financial measures took effect when the Kenya Defence Forces re-hated to AMISOM.

MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT

Article 16 of the MOU makes provision for medical and dental support for Kenyan soldiers serving in AMISOM. Under the MOU, GoK is obligated to provide Basic, Level I

and Level 2 medical care in mission area for Kenyan troops deployed AMISOM. The AU is under obligation to provide level 3 and above medical care including out-of-mission area medical evacuation to contingent members.

KDF personnel serving in AMISOM are provided with medical care at the following levels: Basic, Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV which is in accordance with the United Nations Standards.

Basic Level medical care refers to basic First Aid and Preventive medicine practiced at the sub-unit level. Care is provided by troops themselves, or by a trained paramedic or nurse, using basic medical equipment and supplies. Each soldier is trained in First Aid and is provided with personal First Aid Kit.

Level One medical care provides first line primary health, emergency resuscitation, stabilization and evacuation of casualties to the next level of medical care within the AMISOM deployment. At this level a Military medical officer is available. In addition to the basic equipment there is a field ambulance attached to each facility. There are three level one facilities for KDF in AMISOM. These facilities are located in Kismayu, Afmadhow and Busar.

Level Two medical care provides second line health care, emergency resuscitation and stabilization limb and life-saving surgical interventions, basic dental care and casualty evacuation to the next echelon. At this level there are two general and orthopedic surgeons amongst other medical personnel. There is one level two hospital in Dhobley, Somalia. The facility also has Air Ambulance for evacuations to level three hospital.

Level three of medical care combines capabilities of level one and level two units, with the additional capacity capability of providing specialized in-patient treatment and surgery, as well as extensive diagnostic services. There are sixteen doctors amongst other medical personnel at this level. The Defence Forces Memorial Hospital in Nairobi serves as the level three hospital for KDF personnel in AMISOM.

Level four medical support provides definitive medical care and specialist medical treatment. This includes specialist reconstruction, rehabilitation and convalescence. These services are provided for at Nairobi Hospital, Aga Khan Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital and in South Africa.

MANAGEMENT OF STRESS AND POST -TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Prior to deployment of troops to AMISOM, pre- deployment psychological resilience training is conducted to prepare soldiers for the tasks ahead.

During deployment, mental health workers are embedded with the troops and they conduct individual counseling, group counseling, education and sensitization.

When troops return back to the country on completion of their tour of duty in AMISOM, post deployment psychological debriefs are conducted. Cases of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are treated. There is in place a Psychology Clinic at Defence Forces Memorial Hospital in Nairobi which handles and manages PTSD cases.

The above measures have been in place since inception of Operation '*Linda Nchi*' and continue to be operational.

AMB. (DR.) MONICA JUMA, MBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE