

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**THE HANSARD**

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The House met at 2:55p.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki) on the Chair]*

**PRAYER**

**MOTION**

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS AND  
ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME PREVALENCE IN THE COUNTY**

**Hon. Ruoho Wangechi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Health Services Committee I wish to move the following Motion;-

That this Assembly adopts the Report by the sectoral Committee on Health Services on Committees Sensitization workshop on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) prevalence in the County laid on the Table of the Assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Mr. Speaker, the Health Services Committee held a workshop which was based on the HIV and AIDS prevalence in the County and the Committee has written a very comprehensive Report concerning that workshop and mainly the workshop was due to the outcry in the County concerning the prevalence of this HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission allow me to touch on some very important aspects from our Report but I want to believe that the members are going to go through the Report in depth.

In the importance of the workshop to the County Government, the County Assembly and also Murang'a County at large, Murang'a County has 27400 people living with HIV and AIDS: this is according to Murang'a County estimates 2019. There are 25370 total number of adults living with HIV and AIDS, whereas children living with HIV zero to 14 years are 2030 in number. As at 2017, new HIV infection across all ages were 608 in number, whereby adult were

504 and children aged zero to 14 years were 103. Adolescents and young people living with HIV and AIDS aged ten to 19 years were 2035 in number. Young adults aged between 15 and 24 years living with HIV and AIDS were 2829 in number. The total number of HIV related deaths in the year 2019 was 407.

Mr. Speaker the County has been facing numerous challenges in regard to management of HIV and AIDS epidemic, this is due to the fact that the existing donors are withdrawing their support towards the disease intervention program.

New entrants have also a challenge of inadequate finances thus weakening efforts towards management of the menace. It is against this background that the County department of Health and Sanitation initiated a workshop meeting to sensitize the Committee on Health Services of Murang'a County Assembly on the matter so as to kick-start the process of mobilising funds through the County Budget estimates and generate a budget line in form of a program to support HIV and AIDS interventions.

Mr. Speaker, looking at the statistics and also the fact that the donors are withdrawing then that makes this Motion very important not only to the Committee but also to the whole County Government and also the whole County at large. In this Report we have also highlighted some issues which are also important for the members to know: stages of HIV and AIDS, we have issues to do with where the HIV and AIDS virus is most prevalent in our bodies, modes of transmission, stereotypes of transmission, that is holding or shaking hands, sharing utensils, light kissing, sharing a bed etc. Mr. Speaker, I may not be able to go through all the aspects of the virus and also all the details but I want to take this House through the table 6.9 page 13

If you look at those implementing partners, there is a big request that the partners are making, if a programme is being supported for instance Afia Kamilisha, if the implementing partner withdraws it this implies that 11 facilities will three HTS providers and seven comprehensive care units would come to a standstill. If Viva stops their financing, we will see the number of facilities and programmes that will come to a standstill.

It is a request from the donors that we have a partner fund that if they are supporting with a certain percentage the threshold is this County supports with a certain percentage and the only disadvantage is if the County is not going to partner with the donors the donors are not also willing to support. They know that once they stop the programme will come to an end.

It is with that fault that the Committee made the following recommendations; that the County Executive and the County Assembly should enhance financing of interventions regarding HIV and Aids through County Budgets by ensuring allocation of monies. This promotes self-reliance and private sector engagement for service delivery and financing of interventions through partnerships or corporate responsibilities.

That the County executive department for Health and Sanitation should develop HIV and AIDS human resource programmes for health and absorption, this is to develop workforce that would facilitate in undertaking HIV admission programmes. That the County executive department for Health and Sanitation should liaise with the National Aids Control Council (NACC) and customize the prototype Bill to a County specific or regulations on management of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

Lastly, the County executive department for Health and Sanitation should follow up on infrastructural funds allocated in the County Budget in very financial year. This is through a sub-programme known as corporate social responsibility to cater for water, roads and irrigation. That the County executive department for Health and Sanitation in consultation with other relevant departments should tap resources from local musicians, talent shows and other social platforms by introducing a fee to be levied from proceeds collected to be channelled to HIV and AIDS management.

Of importance Mr. Speaker before this workshop, there have not been many discussions because the donors have been offering sufficient support but with the extent at which the donors are withdrawing, then this makes this debate important when it comes to this County. It is also very strategic at this time as we make our yearly Budgets.

I want to believe that this House will support any intervention requested by the County government to ensure that these programmes will last longer and also to help save lives of the members living with HIV and AIDS in Murang'a County and not only in Murang'a because it is a national menace. Mr. Speaker, I want to appreciate the input of the Committee members and also this County Assembly to ensure this workshop happened. It is my humble duty to request Honourable Sarah to second this Motion.

**Hon. Sarah Njoroge:** I stand to second, I also need to contribute some points, on page 12, as you can see on 6.8 we have the data and the number of people getting infected is increasing day by day and as you can see from the age of 20 to 24 are our youth and it is the

number that is getting infected day by day, as you read you can see that there are 803 men and 1036 women.

We were made to understand that men do not go for the test because sometimes, when they fall sick, then do not go to hospital. We may have so many men infected but we may not have the actual number. You can see we have 1,036 ladies because ladies usually go to the hospital. We were advised that we now have the pre-exposure; it prevents you to get infected. I never knew we have such a medicine. You can take it and when you go, no one will infect you. We were told it is good to advise our youth because they are taking us today and maybe I am taking it now, and the next day I am going. It is advisable they take it for seven days before---

*(Loud consultations)*

**Hon. Sarah Njoroge:** Okay, they are asking what. We were told our youth are taking preps today when they are going to have sex, tomorrow or the next day. We were advised that it is good to tell our youth if you take it today, it will not work for you. It is for them to take it for seven days before and they will never be infected. We cannot encourage that but I think it is good to tell our university students because they are exposed to that so much. It is good when we interact with them to advise them on that. Again, there are rape cases. There are some people who do not know that when you get raped you can go to the hospital, be treated and not get infected. It is good to advise them that there is that post exposure.

We were also told that children between the ages of nine to 17 are getting pregnant. We were asked what we are doing about that as the Assembly of Murang'a County because 10 to 17 is child abuse. We are just here. I do not know but maybe it is because we do not know what to do but we must do something because 10 to 17 is child abuse. At least, 18 and above are mature. We need to do something about that because the rate of children getting pregnant is going higher, the rate of the youth getting infected is also going higher. As you have heard, the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are going to withdraw bringing those Antiretroviral (ARVs). So, we also need our County to allocate some funds because once it is gone, we are going to lose so many people. We need to allocate some money at least to avoid so many orphans.

At least we know that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) does not kill. We were told that it does not kill; it is other diseases that affect you that kill you. If people have those drugs, still when you have AIDS you can get to take care of your family and your children and life will go on. We were encouraged that, during our Budget making process, like we are in, we put that budget so that we can help our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Lucy Ngugi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to support this Motion and also ask the Mover of the Motion, I am surprised that there are medicines like that for pre- exposure but I have only heard about post exposure, how available are those medicines and what is the information, how do the public know about this? That is my contribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Wangari Kigo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am a Member of the Health Services Committee and I wish to support this Motion. Having attended the workshop in Kasarani with the Committee on Health, I believe that this is a timely Motion that needs all Members to attend because as Hon. Sarah has said, it was really informing. We may be ignorant about some of these things. Maybe we were not told about them, but once this Assembly attends such kind of workshops, I am sure most of us will get information and even as we deal with women and children back at our villages, we will be able to help them and do so with information.

Also as we fight early pregnancies with girls I believe in this Honourable House women who are here or ladies because I do not want to be fought that I called them women we can use women caucus. If we are allocated a Budget to the women caucus we are able to sensitize on these issues. What we learnt from the workshop is that most of girls who are getting infected with HIV are those from class six and that is below 12 years up to those who are in colleges. Having these honorable ladies in this House we can help in informing them and educating them because we do not want to lose our children in this HIV and AIDS. Thank you I support this great Motion.

**Hon. Waithira Ndung'u:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion and I can see Hon. Sarah Njoroge is laughing as we were insisting on doing that. It has come a time whereby all these issues are happening is the negligence of us parents and leaders and sometimes

not calling a spoon a spoon but it is good at long last she was able to put it. We are ignoring this is not the old time when we used to school and we did not know what sex.

Sex to our kids is a daily thing it is what they call *cha mama and cha baba* (mother and father game), my learned teacher Hon. Passy Kang'atu knows that. Unless we put it clear we will keep losing our kids they are just misused without knowing this HIV and AIDS is making our children not to go to school because it requires a well fed child. When we get our kids, getting a plate of food is impossible you get them not going to school because they do not have food and the ARVs they need well fed people. As we continue we need to put a Budget for our kids.

One honorable Member said most are women who are nominated; what are we doing about it? When we are empowered we need to go and empower outside. When you empower a woman you empower a whole country. I know most of us like Hon. Wangari Kigo who have talked about putting something on the Budget is a member of Budget and Appropriations Committee, be there and push for the Budget for this noble duty. Unless it is there we cannot go crying to the executive to put it.

We need to request it for now because if there are ARVs will not be there our kids will continue dying. We have a lot of time when we are free, honorable ladies to be a woman is something we are supposed to be proud of, can we get something, let us not fear talking to them. We are doing it in churches because we pretend so much let us go to schools. As Chairperson for Education Committee I will not fear requesting a certain teacher to allow us to go and talk to our girls in those schools.

I have been challenged by Hon. Jecinta Ng'ang'a to be doing something, you nominated ladies do something go to our girls and listen to them. Our caucus chairlady we know you are up to the task can you push for it. We will invite you to the Budget and Appropriations Committee you see us putting some money in your docket together we can.

These early pregnancies we can stop it. A lot of raping every morning and every evening like now there is case we are talking about over the media what are we doing. Most of us are seeing it in the media and covering waiting what is the Member of County Assembly (MCA) going to talk about from the area. We are there to work on it members let us put our County in order. Instead of having 6,000 kids giving birth tells us? What our kids are not using any protection. Thank you is support.

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** I will ask the mover to respond.

**Hon. Ruoho Wangechi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to appreciate the contributions made by the Members and also supporting the necessity of this agenda. To be very sincere with this House is that some of these aspects like pre-exposure prophylaxis and the post-exposure prophylaxis was also reviewed last because the debate had stopped and what we are trying to say as Health and Sanitation Committee is that this discussion needs to continue. I have appreciated an input from one of the Members that some of the groups that are formed with this County Assembly can also be used to champion this debate further outside this County Assembly. I also wish to highlight that HIV/AIDS discussion is not only for the ladies it is for us all even men within the society. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the members for their contributions

*(Question put and agreed to)*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Speaker (Hon. Nduati Kariuki):** Honourable members the House adjourns until tomorrow 2:30 p.m. thank you.

*The House rose at 3:13 p.m.*