

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 3rd October 2018.

The House met at 2:30p.m.

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Makau Ndunda) in the Chair]

PRAYER

MOTION

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE ON FACT FINDING
VISITS TO GITURA DISPENSARY AND KANDARA SUB-COUNTY
HOSPITAL IN KANDARA SUB-COUNTY**

Hon. Kibe Githuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, this House adopts the report of the Health Services Committee on fact finding visits to Gitura Dispensary and Kandara Sub-County hospital in Kandara Sub-County laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday October 02, 2018.

Thank you.

Following several complaints raised by the Members of the County Assembly and the public concerning the poor services provision by the hospital in Kandara Sub-County and further information by the communication by the Speaker from the detailed response request by Hon. Mburu Muthoni on that of the laboratory services in Gitura dispensary, the committee resolved to visit Gitura dispensary and Kandara Sub-County hospital to establish the status of the two facilities. The said fact finding mission was taken on Monday July 20, 2018. Hon. Speaker, as the members have the report in their individual files I would like to highlight only the following issues.

Committee findings on Kandara Sub-County hospital. During the said visit the committee met and held meetings with the management of the hospital and made the following findings. one, the infrastructure, where the buildings are dilapidated with peeling in the floors and broken windows. Lack of funds to run the facility. Lack of water for basic use by patients. Lack of residential houses for the doctors and staff on call. Lack of active hospital management board. The County does not get capitation funds from the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) card even though the hospital is accredited facility. Non-computerized registry. Lack of structured casualty.

Lack of funds for water and food used by the patients. Challenge of broken down vehicles, where the vehicles have not been repaired. The Sub-County has six motorbikes but only two that are functional. Lack of hospital ambulance, there is stalled and incomplete hospital building which was started in 2015 by CDF (Constituency Development Fund).

Lack of photocopying machine which translates to cost to the hospital staff and patients as they seek those services in Kandara town. Broken equipment and there are non-functional theater in the hospital. Lack of mortuary. Lack of enough rooms by the clinicians. Lack of the serving equipment in the casualty section. Lack of furniture and poor sanitation facility as the hospital has one latrine and one staff toilet.

The pharmacy and laboratory equipment, there is no enough man power which is laboratory technicians. Lack of specialized drugs in the pharmacy. There is no PS test which is

done in the hospital because of lack of laboratory machines. The hospital is unable to carry out liver functions as it lacks automated biochemistry testing machine.

Lack of X-ray films and lack of hospital stores. Currently the drugs are stored in un-operational theater. Broken down laboratory equipment which are not being repaired as concerns machines--- technicians are yet to be paid their pending bills for the whole year.

In human resource, there is only one doctor who is the superintendent of the hospital and other hospitals that are within the County. Lack of clinical officers during the night to treat the patients. The hospital has only four clinical officers who work during the night. Only nurses that are available during the night. The sick are referred to Thika and Maragua. Lack of grounds man to clean and maintain the hospital compound. Lack of a watchman during the day, and on this one Mr. Speaker, the hospital used to have three watchmen, one for the day and two for the night.

One died last year the other one resigned and they have not replaced, that puts the hospital in a security risk. Lack of replacement of the staffs that retire and resign and structural policy when the hospital waives bills, makes the hospital lose a lot of revenue. Allowances to the nurses who undertake referral services are never paid, low motivation among the hospital staff, lack of promotion and remittance of the statutory deductions like the National Security Social Fund (NSSF), National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), lack of internal and external training to the medical staff for their continuing professional development, and non-effective mode of fuelling of ambulances services as they can only be fuelled in Thika or Murang'a. The Hospital has no kitty for emergency services due to irregular funding of its operational budget.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Gitura Dispensary, the Committee visited the dispensary in the morning of 23rd July 2018 and held a meeting with the nurse in charge, the Sub-County Administrator, the area Assistant Chief, the County Principal Communications Officer, and the Members of Public all of which informed the following findings:-

1. That, a nurse, Mrs. Cynthia Njoroge was posted to the facility to replace the previous one who had gone on leave.
2. That, the dispensary had no essential drugs.
3. That, the dispensary had no laboratory technician to carry out even basic medical tests.
4. That, the previous nurse used to report on duty as from 11:00 a.m. and was very arrogant to the patients seeking treatment at the facility.
5. That, there existed conflict between the previous nurse in charge and the laboratory technician which made the technician to seek a transfer to another facility.
6. That, there is lack of enough personnel in the dispensary.
7. That, the hospital is not secured with a fence.
8. That, due to the above problem, the dispensary offers very poor services to the Gitura residents.

Mr. Speaker, those were the findings of the Committee. The following are the recommendations considered by the Committee in regard to the above facilities in Kandara:-

1. That, within 14 days after adoption of the report, the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member of Health should post a qualified laboratory technician to the Gitura Dispensary.
2. That, within 60 days of the adoption of the report, the CEC Member for Health Services should undertake repair of all the ambulances, utility vehicles and motorcycles to enhance services delivery.

3. That, the CEC Member for Health, in consultation with the County Public Service Board (CPSB), take disciplinary action against the previous nurse in charge of Gitura Dispensary.
4. That, the CPSB should immediately employ two watchmen for the Kandara Sub-County.
5. That, required agency used in laboratory should immediately be procured for Gitura Dispensary and Kandara Sub-County Hospital.
6. That, in consultation with the Finance Department for the County, the CEC Member for Health should ensure that funds are regularly disbursed to all the Health facilities for their daily operational expenses or the imprests.
7. That, the CEC Member for Health should urgently undertake repair of all the buildings, rooms of the health facilities in Kandara Sub-County to the required health standards.
8. That, within 30 days of the adoption of the report, the CEC Member for Health should urgently repair all the broken laboratory equipment and machines in Kandara Sub-County hospital.
9. That, the CEC Member for Health, in consultation with the CEC Member for Finance should allocate funds in the Supplementary Budget for the Financial Year (FY) 2018/2019 for completion of the stalled hospital buildings at Kandara Sub-County Hospital.
10. That, the CEC Member for Health should urgently procure additional office furniture for hospital staff in all the facilities in the County.
11. That, the CEC Member for Health addresses the issue of low staff morale occasioned by lack of training opportunities for career growth and development, non-remittance of statutory deductions and delay in allowances to medical personnel.
12. That, within 60 days, the CEC Member for Health should develop a policy and guideline on waiver of hospital bills and submit the same to the County Assembly for approval.
13. That, proposals made by the hospital officials to the Office of the CEC Member for Health should be responded to in time to create working team spirit, order and harmony.
14. That, procurement should be decentralized so that each County Department procures its own requirement and further decentralize services to Sub-Counties to avoid halting of services.
15. That, the CEC Member for health should construct a modern drug store in Kandara Sub-County Hospital.
16. That the County Executive Committee Members for Health should liaise with the County Department for Finance and establish a revenue collection office in Kandara Sub-County hospital
17. That within 60 days after the adoption of this report, the County Executive Committee Member for Health computerizes all operations in Kandara Sub-County hospital including the hospital registry so that patients can start using the NHIF Cards. When implemented, the County will start receiving capitalization of funds for medical services rendered in Kandara Sub-County Hospital.

I now request vice- chairman Hon. Githuka Muiruri to second the Motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Muiruri Githuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, as you know Health facilities in Murang'a continues to deteriorate as evidenced in the report. Most of the health facilities in the County lack essential drugs despite the Assembly allocating the highest percentage of funds for procurement of drugs.

In fact it is only after relative or close friends gets sick that one understands the gravity of what our residents in Murang'a go through.

Hon. Speaker, in fact, the health problems in Kandara is a replica of the situation in all other health facilities in the County.

It is because of this reason that I call upon members to support and adopt this report so that the recommendations contained thereof can be forwarded to the CEC Member for Health for implementation. I beg to second. Thank You.

(Question proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Makau Ndunda): Honorable members the Floor is open to debate. Hon. Chege Mwangi

Hon. Chege Mwangi: Thank you Temporary Speaker, I stand to support the Motion that we adopt the report on the fact finding; first I would like to say that when this House was passing Budget there was no higher allocation in any other department than in Health department. When we visited the said hospitals in Kandara, I am a member of Health committee it was a touching situation we found like Kandara level four hospital which is now called Bildad Kagia Hospital---

(Hon. Charles Ng'ang'a rose on a point of order)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Makau Ndunda): What is it Ichagaki?

Hon. Charles Ng'ang'a: Thank you Temporary Speaker, I was just looking around and I am finding that we are debating the Motion and we do not have a quorum. What is the way forward?

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Makau Ndunda): Can the sergeant ring the bell for 10 minutes.

(Bell rang)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Alex Ndunda): Order! Order! Honorable members, now we have the quorum so we can proceed. *Mheshimiwa* Chege, just proceed.

Hon. Daniel Chege: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was trying to put across that in our budgetary allocations there was no area exceeding the amount we gave to the Health sector. When we visited Kandara Sub-County to go and see the status of the said dispensary and Bildad Kagia Level 4 Hospital we found so many challenges, for instance in Level 4 Hospital the challenges as they have been outlined, we found that something as simple as repairing a motorbike *(inaudible)*..... motorbikes are used by the community health workers who go around and monitor the status of the health in the entire Sub-County. Again the hospital did not have watchmen, that implies that anything can be lost... *(inaudible)*..... and you realize that we have allocations that we gave for those purposes ... *(inaudible)*... we found that even the statutory deductions even after deduction they were not being remitted, that is the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) after the workers were deducted those statutory deductions ...*(inaudible)*..... they later found that they were not being remitted.

There are so many issues that are affecting the health sector and this report as it is, if it is implemented indeed it can try to address the issues that are affecting those two hospitals in

Kandara. But I would like to highlight an issue that has been put forward over and over again in different reports and recommendations that have been adopted in this House and it is early time that we put an emphasis on this one and we take it very seriously.

Number 14 of the recommendations it is stating that the procurement should be decentralized. This has come to this House so many times I remember there are other report that have such recommendations. So I will urge the Hon. Members to support this report so that the status of health for Kandara people can be improved. There are so many issues but the report has captured everything, thank you Mr. Speaker. I support the motion.

Hon. Francis Kibe: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Kandara level 4 hospital is in my ward and I will appreciate the work that has been done by the committee. I have read the recommendations and I have concurred with them that these facilities need immediate renovations, these facilities are neglected.

This week there is a patient who went there at around six unfortunately there was no doctor or nurse to attend to that patient. So Mr. Speaker it is worrying and if this is to continue in that matter it will not be in order and things will get out of control and people are going to suffer. This hospital is neglected let there be immediate intervention.

Finally, this facilitate started to be improved by the CDF where they started construction but it has stalled and I have seen one recommendation that I want to concur with. That the supplementary budget that most likely will come to this assembly there should be an allocation for this building. So Mr. Speaker I rise to support this report and the work of the health committee. Thankyou.

Hon. Charles Machugu: Whatever the committee has already done, it has done a thoroughly good job. One of the pillar of the big four is universal health care for each and every person. If you check you may find that most of the county health facilities lack clinical officers and if we are going to adopt this report the way it is definitely we are going to help citizens, I support.

Hon. Kibe Githuka: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, as you have heard members who have contributed the have positive attitude towards what the committee did and because there is no any issue I am responding to I will request members to adopt the report. Thankyou Mr. Speaker Sir.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Ndunda Makau): Hon. Members there being no other business this House stands adjourned until Thursday October 4, 2018 at 2:30.

The House rose at 3:10p.m.