

## MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015

The House met at 2:36 p.m.

*(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)*

### PRAYERS

**The Speaker:** Order! There are too many phones ringing in the House. Can all the Hon. Members please switch off their phones, thank you.

### MOTIONS

#### DEPLOYMENT OF NURSES AND PROVISION OF MEDICATION FOR EPILEPTIC CASES IN INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

**Hon. Florence Nyambura:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I am a nominated Member of County Assembly (MCA). I wish to move the following motion:-

Aware, that Article 53 (1) (b) and (c) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that every very child has the right to free and compulsory basic education, basic nutrition, shelter and health care, cognizant of the fact that most children with disability in rehabilitation centres suffer multiple and chronic diseases, this House urges the County Executive Committee Member (CEC) in charge of Health Services to;-

1. Deploy nurses in all those centres who will be catering for those children during emergencies.
2. Identify the children who suffer from epilepsy and provide the centres with medication of the same.

Mr. Speaker sir, I thought of this motion after I visited some of the rehabilitation centres such as Ndonorion in Gatari, Muriranjas Rehabilitation Centre, Pacedevis, Kirunguru and Mairugi in Kandara Sub-County. We also have a school for the deaf that is in Mbiri ward of Murang'a County.

When I visited them, I identified a very big challenge that faces those children who are there because some of them have disabilities. Apart from physical disabilities, there are those who have mental challenges. Some even have multiple challenges, including epileptic conditions, which can cause major disabilities in case someone falls and gets injured by an object. Injuries might even result from the floor itself. That is why I came up with this idea to see to it that the County Government provides nurses who will be catering for such emergency cases.

Two weeks ago, I visited Muriranjas rehabilitation centre and I talked with the manager who told that they lost some children due to some conditions. A case in point was where a child would come to school during the day in very good condition but would be attacked by a chronic disease during the night. It is therefore my opinion that the County Government provides nurses to handle such emergency cases at night.

Mr. Speaker sir, the other point is about the epileptic condition. This is a condition that comes from the brain but can be managed and reduced. The children in those centres take the medicines maybe twice in a day, it could be in the morning and in the evening. There are others with severe conditions who take the medicines three times

in a day. Some of those medicines range from Kshs. 5 to Kshs. 10; they differ depending on the type of condition and the level of the disease.

Mr. Speaker sir, I urge the Hon. members to support this so that our children can be in a position to learn technical courses. Apart from the Murang'a school for the deaf that is doing the regular curriculum, other schools do different courses. A school such as Pacedevis was initiated by one of the Hon. members from this area, a member of this Assembly has been of great help to that school. I visited that school and there are some children with that condition. I was talking with the teacher there who told me that they are encountering a challenge, especially because of the distance between the school and the nearby hospital. The distance makes it difficult to save the life of a child. Our Constitution is clear that health, education and nutrition are compulsory to us. I therefore request this Hon. House to support this motion.

Mr. Speaker sir, when you serve a needy person or a person who lacks the ability, you serve God. God is going to reward us because, sometimes back, those people had been forgotten. Today, our Constitution caters for everybody. We are all candidates of disability, including the epileptic condition. We do not know what will happen today or the next minute. I rest my case at that point and call Hon. Kagoni to second the motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

**Hon. James Kagoni:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I stand to second the motion. There are two requests that have been made by the mover; one of them is that the CEC deploys nurses, especially in the institutions that are affected.

When we were sharing with the mover, she informed me that there was a child who died in one of the institutions because there was no one to attend to her. Those children cannot manage to travel because of their condition. They are not as healthy as other human beings who manage to travel from point A to B and, therefore, accessing health centres is a challenge to them.

The request she is making on the employment of at least one nurse is a possibility because those people are already disadvantaged. If they could have one nurse attending to them, especially at night, they could be safe in case of an urgent medical case that would need attention.

Secondly, is on her second prayer, if we are able to have data on the conditions that are there, we can be in a position to attend to them. In such a time when we are in the process of making the budget, it becomes very important if we can have such kind of data because it is easier to be able to allocate the amount of money that would be adequate to handle the cases. I know that the Members of this Assembly have been doing a lot, both at a personal level and even in the positions which they occupy. They have been trying to see how they can assist such kind of cases because they normally occur and when such cases occur, the first person that appears in the mind of the community for assistance is the Member of County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker sir, you will be interested to know that some of the MCAs here have even gone further to establish those institutions. For example, the MCA who represents Kambiti Ward has even gone further to establish an institution to try and assist the community.

*(Applause)*

So when we are requesting the government to come on board and relieve him some of the burdens that he has been carrying for many years, it is a step in the right direction and needs to be supported by every Member because we are always the first culprits when there is an issue or need in relation to such cases.

Mr. Speaker sir, when you consider an institution like Muriranjas Rehabilitation Centre where some of those people are hosted, there is no nurse to attend to them at night or at any moment and because of how they are disadvantaged, they develop different types of medical conditions and there is no one to attend to them. The caretaker or even the matron who is there is the one expected to carry or ferry them to either Murang'a Hospital or the other Muriranjas. If there was a nurse to do the first aid and the initial medical check-ups, we would be in a position to save such people.

Mr. Speaker sir, it is widely said that a society that does not care for its people who are disadvantaged is a society that is not growing and it is a society that is not complete. We need to take care of those people. In developed Countries such as Singapore, such institutions receive very heavy budgets. They are given a lot of money every year to support such kind of people because they also form part of our community and we need to support them. I am one of the people supporting the mover's requests because of those reasons. These are things that the County Government can be in a position to do. I believe it is doable because what we are asking is very simple and is something that the government can be able to do. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, I second.

*(Question proposed)*

**The Speaker:** The motion is before the House. Hon. Esther.

**Hon. Esther Ngugi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I am a nominated MCA and I stand to support the motion. According to Article 20 of the Disabilities Act, 2003, every person with disability has a right to receive free medical services in public or any privately owned institutions. They also have a right to prompt attendance by personnel.

Mr. Speaker, on the basis of this, in our county, this law has been violated. As we are aware, disability and poverty are closely related, therefore, persons with disability have limited access to health facilities and therefore experience many unmet health needs. I stand to support this motion fully and support the idea of deployment of nurses to all these institutions and medication to epileptic children, thank you.

**Hon. Jesse Mburu:** I stand to say the motion is good but I would ask the presenter of the motion to amend the motion because it states that every child has a right to free and compulsory basic education, basic nutrition, shelter and health. She has recognised the fact that most children are included. Up to there the motion is good but when we put the word disability it changes the meaning, because we have other rehabilitation centres where we have children, if we do away with disability it means that we will care for all the children in rehabilitation centres.

Deployment of nurses is also very good is good, number two is also very good but if we could remove the word disability, it would mean that we are talking about the children in the centres in this county, but once we put the word disability, it will mean that we have segregated the children without disability and remember they suffer the same diseases with those who have disability. So I stand to support the motion with amendment.

**Hon. David Kabaka:** I congratulate the mover of the motion, we are aware there are many schools in this area like Kandara orphanage centre, Pacedevis, Murang'a School for the deaf, it is right when the mover said that the County government should deploy nurses to the facility. I started the Pacedevis school and we have a very big challenge of doctor's shortage. As you know, we are talking about people with disability. In Pacedevis, there are 78 children who are disabled, some are not walking and use wheelchairs and when they are sick it is a serious challenge to access medical facilities and you have to hire a car because the school has no vehicle. It is very right to deploy nurses to such institutions.

In Kambiti we have a dispensary with a few nurses, even though they are not many, it is the right of those children, that one of the nurses from Kambiti to go there even if it will be two days a week and check if there is somebody who has a problem. I support and say that it is good to have those nurses in those schools.

**The Speaker:** Mweri

**Hon Peter Mweri:** I rise to support on the basis of what Hon. Esther said about Article 20 of the Constitution and also on humanitarian grounds. Mr Speaker, you understand the children in the rehabilitation centres, when they are left unattended and they are people who can be future leaders like Hon. Njogu and other people, I think we need to know that we have leaders in such places, even the children, in the institutions need a caretaker who will attend to them and the nurses will be needed to take care of them.

In our County we do not have many rehabilitation centres and therefore in regard to budgeting on people to be deployed in the area, it would not make a big difference in the provisions. As I support, I have noted that Hon member for Kambiti only supports motions of this nature because he has a rehabilitation centre in his ward, he does not support other motions he comes and walks out, thank you Mr. Speaker

*(Laughter)*

**Hon Cecilia Gitu:** when it comes to matters disability, it is a very touching issue, today your children might be normal, but tomorrow one of your sons or daughters will get a disabled child. Disability does not discriminate; it is a matter that touches on all of us. I am speaking from a personal experience. I have a son, my last born who has Downs Syndrome, I have taken him to almost ten schools and educational centres to no avail, I kept moving him to different schools because of neglect. Infact, when I took him to Embu Special School, he almost died there, because they have no nurses or doctors and the child had to be brought home by one of the teachers and I could not even recognize him. So when we are talking of disability, it is not just for the epileptic but in totality so that all the children in these institutions can be well taken care of.

we went to Singapore and noted that every member of the society, irrespective of how disabled you are, whether you are a cabbage, it does not matter, you are taken care of. We visited such an institution where they are taken care of medically, educationally and there is no waste of individuals. A society that cares

*(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)*

**Hon. Duncan Njuguna:** Can the Hon Member tell us who those people are called cabbages and those who are not

**Hon Cecilia Gitu:** Someone referred to as cabbage is anyone who cannot do anything for him/herself, they are just there, a grown up of 30years and you are even putting on a diaper. Cabbage is a derogatory word, but it refers to such, and I am sorry and withdraw. I meant very helpless, thank you for the correction

A society that cares for its disabled is a society that considers everybody and feels the pain of its members who are weak and vulnerable, we are saying. We are saying that we have no apology in taking care of the weak and the disabled because they are part of our Society.

I think the rationale when Hon. Nyambura the mover had, is that these institutions are not so many and we can afford to take a nurse to take care of the children and we should not limit ourselves to epilepsy only, even others like Downs syndrome and those with physical disabilities need care. The teachers in those schools are taught how to treat them but they neglect and concentrate on academics rather than general welfare. I could see this whenever I took my boy it was a hassle because I would find sick children other crying in the sun and nobody is caring for them.

When you have such a personal experience, it is important to support such an important motion, we can financially afford to implement this motion Thank You.

**Hon Peter Kariuki:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the mover of the motion and support. I was thinking of people in those centres that have nobody taking care of them, even in our homes, there are people taking care of our children, the parents.

Concerning these people in the centres, if they are not in good condition they will not be able to concentrate in class. I support this motion; they will be able to understand what they will be taught in class if they have good health. The nurses are very important to be there, there, some people with oestrogenic fracture have problems with bones. These people need a specialist in bones and other diseases that affect people with disabilities; I would also wish the mover included dispensaries so that it can be established.

Let me explain, perhaps you are wondering what I am saying. The dispensary..... when I was in Joytown, there was a special room which was like a dispensary with all equipment to enable the nurse perform First aid. That is why I am talking of a dispensary. Thank you

**Hon Martin Mwangi:** I stand to support the motion; it is good since it focuses on people who may not be able to support themselves. Yesterday I was touched when I was at Thika , I met a woman crawling with a crying baby on her back, and the community is taking it as normal. I saw the picture as something scary, concerning people with disability and the concern that the government and we in the community have about them. Mr Speaker, even in this County these cases of children especially children with disability are worse because even their brains are not developed. They cannot even understand what they are doing because they are growing and yet they are disabled.

The county needs to come up with a policy which will stipulate clearly how we are going to deal with these children. They come up with special schools and also in the children homes we have in the county at times we have dis bled children who have been abandoned by their parents and by their relatives so when we are talking about the

disability cases also the children homes like the one we have in Kandara and Koimbi we need to have nurses or nutritionists who will be taking care of these children.

It is worrying if the county government can afford to feed show goers with very beautiful meals. Show is just somewhere we go to enjoy ourselves and yet when you visit the children homes the food they are taking is pathetic. As county we should be ashamed that we are feeding those children with Githeri yet show goers were fed with meat and chapatti.

We need to know what we are doing and how we are serving our people because God is watching us. We might be doing things just for the sake of doing but the disabled, children homes and special care must be looked after well. We urge the committee of health to visit those homes and visit the people with the disability and they give us a report.

I support this motion because it is going to open our eyes and we see where we can do good things to those people who cannot be able to assist themselves. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi:** I stand to support the motion and also congratulate the mover because of being touched by this situation in these rehabilitation homes.

The Constitution is a very valuable document because after it was inaugurated it gave value to life and especially to life of the disabled people and the disabled children. We know mothers have been chaining their disabled children in the house but after the Constitution as it says it is criminal offence to do that they are no longer chaining them and they are reaping benefits for looking after them.

I support the motion of having the nurses in the homes to take care of them, but not only the nurses but trained nurses, because not all nurses will be willing to look after disabled people who cannot help themselves.

These people are entitled to quality life and they can only have quality life if there are people who can assist them because they are human beings and they are entitled to live happily in this world for the days God have given them.

Disability is not a sin because there are people who are disabled and they earn bread for their family. There are people who are disabled and they are educated and useful to the community.

For this reason we need to give them quality life, quality education, quality care and quality food so that they can grow up properly. It also helps to the families who have taken their children to rehabilitation homes to know what their children are doing because if they find love in them they can also start loving other people. With those few remarks I support the motion and congratulate the mover, I thank you.

**Hon. Rosemary Wakuthii:** I rise to support the motion and congratulate the mover of the motion because she has done marvellous. I thank hon. Florence for this is something that has touched many of us in our wards.

I particularly have a school with disabled children in my ward called Don Leonine. I have been willing to go there but I have since sometimes we are also pressed we also wonder what we are going to do though I have been facilitating them with bursary kitty, but the kitty is not enough for those people, they need social support and basic needs.

I want to support this because I have a family of four who are disabled. The whole family is disabled who cook with their legs, they use their legs as hands so when we are

talking about disability I am most affected and I know various homes in my ward that have disabled children.

It is always good to remember these people because when someone has a disabled child, he cannot go out to look for food to feed the other children. It is always tricky to leave a disabled child alone as he or she can eat his faeces and we know it is not good for someone to feed on something that he has removed from his body. I feel touched when I see a woman with disabled children because they are reduced to beggars, not because they are weak but because she has to attend to the child all the time.

I thank the executive arm because I can see they have factored something in the budget to ensure the disabled children will be boarding as they undertake their studies. I want to thank them in advance even though we have not adopted the budget for this financial year and also to see to it that they have considered those vulnerable people, I also to thank the hon. members because when the money is allocated to your committees especially the youth committee because they have never complained about the money allocated to the vulnerable people.

I urge the committee to make sure that that money is spent well so that it benefits the intended vulnerable groups. I thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

**Hon. Boniface Njihia:** I stand to support the motion and I can say that the mover has done a very commendable job and it is a very brilliant idea. I tend to believe that we are all created in the image of God and being disabled does not negate that. I believe we are all equal in the eyes of God and when you are extending humanity to less fortunate in the society you are extending the humanity to God.

So when one of us from the Assembly comes with such an idea it is very good. When a nurse is employed in those institutions he or she will handle those children with care. I will echo what Hon. Kariuki has said that we also need to have other equipment there so that when one gets sick, the nurse be can be able to attend to him or her fully. So we need to have some sort of dispensary so that we can attend to the less fortunate children in the right manner and God will bless us. I thank you Hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** I ask the mover to respond

**Hon. Florence Nyambura:** I would like to thank all the Hon. members for supporting this motion and I hope that our people are going to benefit especially the needy and the weak.

I just want to clarify on children's home, in our area we have Koimbi children's home and when the children there get sick, the mothers in charge take them to hospital and they are not charged. Most children in the home can express themselves but what I aim with this motion is to cater for the children who are not able to express themselves due to disability.

I would like to add that the epileptic condition worsens during cold season, when there are clouds and thunder, like in this season it is not a wonder to see a person is losing consciousness three or four times a day. It is worsened by the nature but nothing we can do to the nature we can only manage the affected people because God has given us knowledge and that wisdom.

So Mr. Speaker I am grateful and I would like to urge the health committee to follow up on the implementation. It is very saddening that last year, I moved a motion in this

House and up to date it is not implemented. I look towards the implementation of all the motions.

*(Question Put and Agreed To)*

**The Speaker:** We now adjourn the House until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon, thank you.

*The House rose at 3:21 p.m.*