

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 6th October, 2015

The House met at 2:52 p.m.

(First Chair Hon. Bernard Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTION

COMPLIANCE TO CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

Hon. Charles Karina: On behalf of my chair in the Lands, Housing, Physical planning and Settlement committee, I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

Aware, that property developers have intentionally continued to downplay required set building standards, further aware that, the Architectural Association of Kenya reported that 65% of houses in Kenya are sub- standardly put up, noting with concern, that some developers have not bothered to register themselves and their projects with the National Construction Authority, cognizant of the fact that some of these developers are putting up buildings on road reserves, contrary to the provisions of the Physical Planning Act, recognizing the health hazard and looming disaster posed by poorly designed buildings, poor administration of contracts and general professional negligence of property developers; this House, urges the County Executive member in charge of Land, Housing and Physical Planning;

1. To deploy building inspectors in every part of the county for thorough inspection on compliance.
2. To issue notice of demolition to non - compliant property developers whose constructions are posing threats to lives, or are on road reserves.
3. To move ahead and send enforcement officers to execute the demolition directives earlier issued to developers whose projects are not compliant with set standards and the law, so as to arrest the potential crisis that these buildings may cause to the construction workers and the general public around the buildings.
4. To fast track formulation and subsequent forwarding to the Assembly, the Development Control Bill, 2015.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MOTIONS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN MURANG' A COUNTY

Hon. John Gitau: Mr. Speaker I rise to raise an adjournment motion to discuss a matter of national importance in this county, if you may allow.

First Chair: Hon. member for Kamahuha, you should quote the standing order that you are rising on so that the Chair can decide whether to approve or disapprove.

Hon John Gitau: Mr. Speaker, it is standing order 34

First Chair: Hon members, as the hon. member for Kamahuha has said, standing order 34 states that (1) Any member may at any time rise in his or her place and seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent county importance. So to that point the member for Kamahuha is quite in order only that he is still reserving that matter for county importance.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr, Speaker for allowing me to move the motion, pursuant to standing order number 34, I beg to move the following motion;-

Aware that there is an outbreak of cholera at Gathuri and Saba Saba areas in Kamahuha ward, Maragua sub-county, noting that the said outbreak was reported on Saturday 2nd

October 2015, considering that 1 child has died as a result of this and about 15 people have been admitted at Maragua sub-county hospital, cognizant of the fact that this disease is highly contagious and therefore hazardous to the rest of the population, this House urges the County Executive Committee (CEC) member for Health and Sanitation Services to implement the following resolutions as a matter of urgency.

1. Establish an isolation centre where all victims will be treated.
2. Provide people from the affected areas with the relevant medication to cure and prevent the disease.
3. Fully investigate the source of the menace
4. Provide an operational vehicle at Maragua sub-county hospital to facilitate movement of drugs and medical personnel
5. Fully facilitate relevant county departments, including public health officers to enable them offer the best curative and preventive measures.
6. Establish a committee that will mitigate the outbreak and spread of cholera and other emergencies in the county.

Mr. Speaker, there was an outbreak of cholera a few months ago in our county and we had an isolation centre at Nguthuru, I remember one of the members here calling it 'go through', but after the menace was eradicated, the centre was closed. There is a repeat of the same at a place called Gathuri is adjacent to Gaichanjiru ward where Hon. Bernard Wanyoike represents. What we are saying is that this menace is affecting people who are consuming water from Mutoho river. That is why in my motion, I am urging the health department to investigate what could have caused the outbreak because it is emanating from the river.

The people consuming water from the said river have been admitted at Maragua hospital and we understand that a child aged two years two months has died and the cause of his death is diarrhoea and vomiting, which are the symptoms of this disease.

We would require an isolation centre, as we talk, the victims are admitted at Maragua hospital. Given that the disease has tested positive, the population around the hospital and within the hospital are at risk of contracting the disease.

In fact those who have been to the hospital know that these people come visiting, other diarrhoea and this is not the normal diarrhoea, it is uncontrollable water coming out of the body. In case healthy people are in contact with the fluids, they will automatically get the disease.

We would also want the relevant department to be fully facilitated. I visited the hospital this morning and when I talked to the public health officers, I saw a lot of desperation; they told me that they do not have an operational vehicle and they are using personal vehicles to transport patients and drugs.

They do not have stationery, this is something that has gone on for a long time and we wonder whether this is the way we will serve our people especially this ministry. Without vehicles and personnel, these people will not be able to move in. In fact I understand, they are now being assisted by 'doctors without borders'. There ought to be a committee to mitigate issues of cholera and other emergencies in the county.

We are all aware that we are expecting El-Nino, I overheard, and the amount put aside for emergencies is only Kshs. 50 million. If we are seriously hit by some of these emergencies like El-Nino, I doubt whether Kshs. 50 million will be enough, these are peanuts. We have been hit by El-Nino before and we know the amount of money required to correct the situation.

We also need a committee; we have a tendency of using personal interventions to deal with corporate problems. This one will not work. We need a committee that will include public health officers, people from this Assembly and all kinds of people, a committee that

will fully deal with this. If we had a committee a few months ago, we would have sat down and agreed why the outbreak was there and the necessary measures to be taken. With a committee, things would move faster.

Today is Tuesday and the cases were reported on Saturday, nothing has been done. If we move at this speed, then we might have the disease spread in the whole county which is very easy and it will claim many lives.

When I talk to the doctors, I was told that cholera is easy to prevent and treat, but it also kills easily. I would request my colleagues to discuss these issues, since the outbreak is in the boundary of Gaichanjiru, and Kahumbu, some of the affected people are from Kahumbu. We also have Makuyu and Kimorori/ Wempa, so you can see the issue is touching the whole of Murang'a South constituency. I would urge the members to deliberate on this motion and give their contributions towards what should be done to correct the menace. I will ask hon. Karina to second the motion.

Hon Charles Karina: I congratulate the mover of this motion. The said department will take precautionary measures. I urge the members to support this motion and urge the Budget committee to see whether they can increase the Emergency fund to Kshs. 100 million since we are approaching the El- Nino season. I second the motion.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Cecilia Gitu: Mr. Speaker, we hardly stayed for four months after the other cholera outbreak in our county, it is clear that we were not able to deal a decisive blow to cholera. The other time, if we had educated our people then, maybe, there would not be a repeat of the same.

I want to congratulate the chairman Education committee, since morning he has been very consistent, and he was ringing me from Maragua hospital knowing that I was in the hospital's outgoing committee. It is important to note that Maragua is ill- equipped to deal with the cholera outbreak. We only have two wards which we house males on one side and females on the other.

Maragua hospital does not have a constant flow of water and cholera is a disease that needs a lot of cleanliness. We cannot reach those cleanliness levels in a hospital that does not have constant water supply.

After the Maragua motion that was brought by the Health committee, I went to confirm and I met the administrator who told us that Maragua does not even have drugs, leave alone those for cholera but even for other diseases. She seems to imply that there used to be cost sharing money that would be paid to the government and then the government would give enough drugs. These days, money is paid to the county but no drugs are forthcoming. You can now see the problems in our health department.

On personnel, we have a skeleton staff working in Maragua; they cannot cope with the influx and the urgency needed for cholera. I'm glad to hear that doctors without borders have come in. We should look for more help out there.

I have read stories of countries that have been affected by cholera. It spreads like fire; our people do not know how to deal with cholera. You tell Wanjiku at home to boil water and it becomes a bother, you tell her to wash vegetables with boiled water, it is a bother. As the motion is saying, we need to educate people at the grass root level so that even Wanjiku down there will know how to deal with this disease.

We should also investigate; rumour has it that a hospital's sewage system has burst flowing to river Mutoho, that is why infection is going downstream. This morning I called the Governor and he told me that he has assembled a team to go to Maragua. I think we are not

learning enough. As the mover of motion has stated, if the first case was reported on Saturday, today is Tuesday, surely, we should not be talking of starting to work today. We should have done so as early as yesterday so that we mitigate the spread of the disease. We need mobility, facilitation and even shouting so that we can get help from outside.

This is not an easy thing; it can wipe away our people. I do not want to be an alarmist but this is exactly what this disease is. It is deadly, it kills fast and the people are ignorant on how to deal with it. This is a noble move by the mover because we need to address this issue. We have no business being here if our people are dying of cholera outside there. I support the motion.

Hon. Mary Waithira: I rise to support the motion and congratulate the hon. member for the quick action he has taken to have this motion discussed here.

I feel sorry, last time I am the one who brought an adjournment motion to discuss the same problem and it was touching on Saba Saba as an area in Kamahuha ward and today, barely four months, we are discussing of the same menace touching on the same area.

Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand our level of preparedness, where we are as a county government, because if barely four months ago were we tackling the same problem and it has recurred then it means there is a source of cholera that we are not addressing.

From the little knowledge I have, I know that mostly these cholera spreading germs are mostly found in water and many times we have talked of shortage of water in so many areas including Kamahuha ward.

If you look at the kind of water our people are taking, you feel pathetic and you understand why this problem keeps repeating itself and unless as the plea of this motion, we get a lasting solution on how we are going to address the issue of water and the quick responses that we take having prepared ourselves to tackle such, we will continue getting the attacks once and again.

A lot of sensitization and advocacy is really needed and I am therefore supporting the mover, the seconder and the other member who has talked about sensitization and advocacy that we are supposed to take as we look at how we can undertake and bring the knowledge to our people.

We may think they are learned but so many are ignorant out there not thinking, but it is because of scarcity of water they take and this might bring the problem they are in once again.

I also look at it as a big problem when I see where we are taking our people. As hon. Cecilia has said, we are taking these people to Maragua hospital where we have many challenges one being water, and as she has said we really need a lot of clean water and cleanliness to do away with this.

I think we are looking for a lifetime solution so that we will not again after four months have another hon. member bringing an adjournment motion to discuss an outbreak of cholera in another part of Murang'a county.

A life lost cannot be regained and when we lost the life of that child at a very tender age and as I understand from my spouse because he also took some of those affected to Maragua hospital, that there were others who were left in a pathetic situation.

So, that is why we need to support this motion and follow it up so that we have the same put in place, even in future so that we deal with this. I spoke to chief officer last night and they were saying they are not prepared because of finances, and I asked myself are we going to keep quiet and watch our people die because of finances?

If there is any money that we can borrow and give an approval, it is that kind of money that is going to address and we stop another life going.

I highly support this motion and really pray to our God that this motion is dealt with quickly so that we do not lose another life, and may be the areas from where this has struck we have a lot of---

First Chair: Order! hon. Mary, standing order number 34 [4] says that no member speaking on a matter under this standing order shall speak for more than five minutes without the leave of the Assembly, except that the mover may speak for ten minutes.

I was bringing you to that attention because you have now spoken for six and a half minutes, so that now you conclude in one and a half minutes.

Hon. Mary Waithira: I was concluding and I wish that all the members will support and we pray that this issue is tackled once and for all, thank you.

Hon. Erick Kimani: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion and since there is none of the members who can oppose this, I kindly request that as much as we keep on debating this, more infections are rising on the ground, so we pass this so that this is done with immediate effect.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the motion and I would like to congratulate the mover of this motion because he was there and I understand he had taken patients, he noted what was happening and he took quick steps to bring this motion to this House.

We have been talking about Maragua hospital in this House for quite some time and it is not going to be the last time, but I would say that the people in Health ministry are not working. This I presented to the Health services committee in this Assembly and my suggestion is to get a solution and eliminate the problems in that hospital is to get rid of the CEO who is not working.

The CEO is sleeping on the job, I went there and enquired, she does not visit because we have got very few hospitals, we have Murang'a, Muriranjias we have got Maragua and other dispensaries, but she hardly appears there to know problems in those institutions, her staff never go there.

The person who is appears concerned about this hospital, I have got three dispensaries in my place and the person who I get in touch is Mr. Mbai who solves the problems of the doctors in the dispensaries and in those hospitals.

My suggestion to the chairman of Health is bring the motion here because we do not have confidence with the CEO, she has slept for two years which is a long time, no visits. Whenever we complain in this House, she does not even take steps to see to it that problems have been rectified.

We do not know what happened to money that we have budgeted for that ministry when we hear that there is no medicine in hospitals. Surely hon. members what does that mean, where does this money go to?

We also hear some clinical officers have opened laboratories and chemists at Maragua town where they tell the patients that they do not have medicine in the hospital and they direct them to their chemists and laboratories where the patients buy the medicine.

This is not the way we should be working and we should not wait any more, so I suggest

(Hon. Joseph Kimani rose on point of information)

First Chair: What is the point of information?

Hon. Joseph Kimani: I want to inform the member that if there is complaint about a CEC, I think it should come as a statement or a report from the Health services committee. I am just telling him to concentrate on the motion

First Chair: Order! Order! Member for Ithiru, the member for Nginda has every right to suggest any action against a non-performing minister. So it is quite in order, he does not require that information in the opinion of the Chair.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker for coming to my rescue but I think he had not caught your eye and maybe he just wanted to stand and say something and I thank you hon. member.

What I am saying before I sit is that we move quickly because this is not the first time and it is not going to be the last time we are going to talk about that ministry and we know the root cause and this is why I am saying we move quickly and get a motion in this House to remove the CEO of Health.

Hon. Samuel Wandia: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I think we had this issue of cholera here the other day and we agreed that public education has to be given prominence so that we may get rid of cholera.

It appears what we discuss here lands on deaf ears. We spend a lot of time discussing an issue and this issue does not take off. I do not know maybe we do not have an active chairman of implementation committee because every resolution we make here does not go anywhere.

Like cholera has come back it is because the motion was brought here with resolutions we discussed and nothing has happened. It is quite unfortunate to hear that our people are dying because of cholera. It is important for the chairmen who are in this House to take their responsibilities very seriously. They should because all of us cannot get in touch with various CEOs of the ministries. It is them who sit, drink and dine with CEC's and they should wake up and do their work. We are watching them very seriously. We cannot compromise death and laxity it is either one goes or one works.

In fact the other day I talked in this House that our people should be given treated piped water. I remember in the budget we provided Kshs. 486 million to go to water, and I said here that prominence should be given to improve on our water intakes. If we improve water intakes water will reach each and every corner of this county.

Devolution is important and we have seen the fruits of devolution. If that one is done I know Maragua will have piped and treated water. I remember when Maragua came into being I was in standard six very many years back and up to now there is water problem.

It is up to the current government to wake up and look for ways and means of providing water in each and every dispensary and hospital because we are dealing with lives.

The other day I brought a proposal for Igikiro dispensary to be provided with water. Up to today nobody has taken a move. It is important that we all wake up and say water has to be provided and we gave it prominent, we chose that it is water we give priority and nothing else so that our hospitals and dispensaries can be provided with water and menace of cholera will go. I thank you very much for giving me that opportunity.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, the issue of water cannot be over-emphasized and because there is a disaster which is befalling our county too often and we know El-Nino is coming and there are a few things which has been highlighted by environment ministry that should be looked at by the counties, that is health, hunger and security.

We should now come with more than Kshs. 50 million we had put aside for disasters. It should be gotten from anywhere else so that we can add up that money so that we can also provide tablets to clean and disinfect our water because we know there are areas like Mwea where people are drawing water from very dirty rivers but since they are provided with tablets to put into the water, it turns clean.

Cholera is dirt; it is a result of drinking unclean water, of eating unclean food. We should also stop the cooking on roadsides whenever there is an outbreak of cholera.

I would request the CEC health to request for additional funding from wherever they can get it so that when the El- Nino comes plus what has happened, we can be providing people with tablets to clean the water and we can be prepared because hunger is coming and we can be having strategic stores which I brought a motion here.

That a time will come when we will have to provide our people with food and we evacuate them from their areas which are dangerous due to El- Nino. Those few things should be looked at urgently and we should not underestimate effects of cholera because it is very infectious. I support the motion.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the mover of the motion and I would like to say that he has done a lot because of the concern for Murang'a people.

I remember the last time when we debated the report of the Health committee on Maragua hospital, I recall saying that even the hospital should be closed because if you go to that hospital, I was there last time, you can sympathise with nurses and workers there as there is no water.

I get surprised when such cases are taken to Maragua, if it was Murang'a it could have be something else. You can imagine those people affected by cholera they have diarrhoea and there is no water. They use toilets and yet there is no water.

I would like to say that the first thing the CEC should do is to relocate those affected by cholera with immediate effect and take them somewhere else because cholera can spread very easily and people in the wards might be affected. I wonder if the admitted patients get affected, will they be cured from whatever made them admitted or will they be treated for cholera?

About the issue of water, we should not be talking as if we are singing a song, each and every day in this Assembly. The CEC for Water should look at the issues in the county. I remember this morning I travelled with a person from my area and he told me that whenever he goes for public meetings, people in Gathera dispensary always ask him when the dispensary will have water; there is an outcry in every hospital.

Let the CEC implement this motion with immediate effect and as one of the hon. members has said if she does not implement it why should we retain her? If we joke, play with anything else, we should not joke with health because healthy people are wealthy people.

I support the motion and I would like to say that the Health services committee to look into it with immediate effect and the committee of implementation should move fast and see implementation of the motion, if not toady maybe a few hours after we leave the Assembly.

Hon. Boniface Njihia: Thank you hon. Speaker, first I would like to commend the mover of this motion hon. Gitau for swiftly bringing the issue to the Assembly.

It is very sad to hear that barely three months we have been affected by cholera outbreak in this county, and bearing in mind that about two weeks ago, we brought our report in this Assembly stating that we are cholera- free county, but I now hear we have another outbreak in the county.

I would like to comment that this issue is a collective responsibility bearing in mind that when we talk about water, it is in a certain docket, and when we talk of this menace it is because of lack of clean drinking water.

When we talk of educating our people we are doing it. If you talk to the superintendent of Maragua hospital, he has an outreach program where he is educating our people about this cholera menace.

It is very sad to hear that the epicentre of this menace is a particular hospital which is draining its raw sewer to the river, yet there are the professionals who can be able to address this menace.

When we talk about the CEC she cannot be able to go into each and every hospital to tell them you must do this and this. When we go to public meetings we are always reminding our people that when you are eating food you need to wash your hands, you need to drink boiled water and to be washing the vegetables before chopping them. I think this is the knowledge we need to impart to our people.

This is a collective responsibility where everybody is involved. However we as an Assembly need to say that a lot of money needs to be allocated to this docket so that we can be able to address issues as they rise, but also we need to educate our people so that they are aware and they know how they can protect themselves in case of this menace.

With those few remarks I would like to commend the mover and say that my committee will take the bull by its horns, we are going to do the research, visit the area and come up with a report where the menace started, and if at all we see that it is a certain facility that has started this menace we will come and report to this Assembly so that necessary steps can be taken. Thank you hon. Speaker.

First Chair: Mover, respond.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am delighted because members have noted the urgency and importance of this motion.

First, I would like to respond to what the chair of the Health committee, hon. Boniface, has said; he has actually put it very clearly that this issue needs collective responsibility. He, however, appears to be a bit evasive because the issue of cholera and its causes is, are purely a health issue. If I were him, I would actually mobilise the members of my committee to hold an emergency meeting with the director and other people who are concerned. In fact, I would do that before going home; I would walk out and make calls because this matter is very urgent.

People will only see emergencies when persons begin to die. You can however prevent even a single death. Generally, what the members have said is that the department of Health is sick and is on the sickbed; it is in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

I got a chance to speak to them, I first spoke to the people from Maragua hospital where doctors seemed very desperate, the nurses complained that nothing is being done by their seniors and they appeared very desperate. In fact, they told me that they are also at the risk of contracting the disease. I also went to the public health offices where we have a very demoralised lot. They told me that they have been using their vehicles to work and that nobody listens to them.

Mr. Speaker, I said while moving the motion, they are not facilitated at all. They do not even have papers to make photocopies. You can imagine the scenario because they are doing that from their pockets.

I remember that we recently passed a budget where we allowed Kshs. 1.2 billion under health. There was also specific money that was deliberately put there for public health officers. That money is however not being used for that purpose and that is why we are saying that the problem in this county is neither caused by the nurses working there, nor the doctors. If they are not facilitated, what are they expected to do? Some were actually asking me what we expect them to do since they have done all what they can. They have for instance given out their vehicles and done so many other things.

The problem is the centre, as we have been saying, it appears that the centre is not holding. We cannot sit in this Assembly when people are dying of cholera yet we are giving money to departments that are not meant for emergencies.

Money for recurrent expenditure came the other day from the Controller of Budget but it went to paying contractors. That is why we even had medics rioting, was it yesterday? We need money to go where it belongs. If public health money is going to be spent as it should, we are going to curb that problem.

Hon. Rebecca has said that we also need to look at the budgetary allocation for emergencies which is actually what we are all saying. Let that money go where it should; even if we give Kshs. 2 or Kshs 3 billion and the money does not go where it should, it is not going to help.

We are hearing every time that there is manure being given out when our people are dying. That beats logic. I hope that the Executive will see sense of doing this because I am involved in educating the children of most of these parents who are affected. These are parents to some of the children I am educating in nursery schools and they are very poor people. I rest my case. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

First Chair: Hon. members, before we move to the next order, I would highly encourage the Health Services committee to take up this issue as a matter of county importance.

It will be very serious if we are going to lose people when we have the necessary resources at our disposal to prevent that. The chair of the Health committee has committed to take up this urgent matter. The government would lose relevance if people were to continue losing their lives, especially the 25 people already admitted. We should try our best to make sure that those people get the necessary treatment. Next order.

MOTIONS

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF IMPLEMENTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CONTROL ACT 2014

(Continuation of the debate)

First Chair: Hon. members, this motion had already been moved and seconded. Pursuant to standing order 33, we shall resume debate because we cannot move a motion two times. It will be an overlap of the same. The motion is now open for debate.

Hon. Joseph Kimani: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, as you have said, we postponed the motion to discuss it at length. I commend the committee on Implementation for this motion. Most of the findings and recommendations in the report are very pertinent. We all know that sub-county committees did a good job because most of them approved half of the bars that were there.

I totally agree with them on the challenges they have cited because most of them are real. As we are saying, we need to establish the genuine and approved brands from the Kenya Bureau of Standards. We also need to do forensic tests on the brands that are sold in our county. They are also talking of lack of additional officers to assist the sub-county committees.

We have seen what they have cited in number seven happening, the enforcement of licencing regulations is hard due to vulnerability of enforcement officers; hence being comprised. As we experienced in the previous regime, we had a lot of problems but we hope that these things are now going to end or at least minimize them since we have the board in place.

Their findings are also very commendable, in number four, they are saying that currently, there is no permanent rehabilitation facility established by the directorate. That is very true because we were talking of Muriranjas being one of them and as they have stated in

their report, Muriranjias was one of those earmarked to facilitate those people who need rehabilitation. As they have said, it is also important to know that the National Authority for Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), also agreed to facilitate the centres for rehabilitation with money. The centres were Muriranjias and Saba Saba.

The recommendations they have given are also very important because we need to establish an alcohol directorate so that we can have our own people who we can actually rely on now and in future. As we can see, we currently have people who are working as consultants.

As they are saying in recommendation number five, the sub-county should engage with bar owners and create awareness among them on their role as direct stakeholders of the alcoholic drinks industry, the Acts and Licencing Regulations. That is very important because the role of this committee needs to be understood by the stakeholders so that they know exactly what the board is doing when they see them inspecting their bars and hotels.

If you go to number six, you will find that they have said that due diligence should be conducted on all the officers handling alcohol related activities to uphold the provision of Chapter Six of the Constitution and the professional standards. That is also very important because that board needs to be educated to conform to Chapter Six of the Constitution that provides for integrity standards so that the duties they have been given by the county can be performed well. I support the motion with those few remarks. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. John Gitau: I rise to support the report and without going into details, I would like to point out that, in as far as I am concerned, there is a very important issue that was not addressed in this very important report; that is the issue of counterfeits and contrabands.

You find that counterfeits are very prevalent these days, you can go to a club and before you know that the products that are there, especially wines and spirits, are from a particular company, you discover that what is put there is poison and it is counterfeited.

Therefore, this should be pointed out clearly because this is a very major problem. I have some information that we have investigators for Kenya Breweries who have gone to all the counties investigating from the counters whether what is there originates from them. This trend is very prevalent but I was told that they were prohibited from doing so in Murang'a county by the powers. This should be clearly pointed out in the report if the committee does not mind to do so.

We were recently told that there were children who were caught taking drugs, alcohol, and indulging in sex in a bar. Although it was reported in so many ways, it should be very clear that children who are under the age of 18 should be prohibited from accessing these products. It is a good report and I support it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Cecilia Gitu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this report and laud my fellow members of the committee on Implementation for the observations they made in this report.

The fact that we want the top Director of this Alcoholic Board to be appointed fast is because there are delays in several things. We have, for instance, not received the alcoholic drinks status report that should be brought about by his coming, he will be answerable to this Assembly when on board.

I take the control of alcoholic drinks as a presidential order that I think has been ignored in some areas. There was a time that the drinking had stopped but it has now come back full swing, even at odd hours and during the day. The appointment of the director will help us fast track that report and tell us how we should mitigate the coming back of the drinking sprees from our men and young people. We witnessed what happened as the children were going back to school as has just been quoted by one member, that shows that the drinks are back.

I hear that one of the drinks is called 'coffee spirits', it was one of the rejected brands but is now back and our children are taking it. We, therefore, need that director in place so that we can streamline and know that we are following that presidential order. It will be a shame for central to ignore the presidential order, knowing that our young people are more affected than in other areas.

The reduction of bars has also been a problem due the lack of that top authority. The question has been how to know the bars we are going to do away with. Are they bars that are close to the schools? Is it the number of the bars as opposed to the shops or is it just to make them vote and then we reduce?

Therefore, the criterion to use to say which bars will be allowed to sell should come very fast. I am sure that once we appoint that director, they will be in a position to tell us that they have come with a criterion which is fair to everybody so that we do not have some people complaining that their bars were closed. That is something that we are yet to streamline.

The committee also called on the powers that be and those implementing the budget that the money we allowed for alcohol control should strictly be spent for that area so that we see that there is responsible drinking and that our men are economically active and that, we are also not unfair to bar owners who are law abiding and open at the times set by the law.

I hear that the rehab opposite our Assembly is going to be taken to Kambirwa, is that the place that was suggested? What is the criterion of moving it from there? If the director comes in place and the board is operational, these questions will be answered very fast.

I support the idea of rehabilitations being attached to hospitals because of medical care of those people. It was a very sound suggestion that the rehab goes to either Saba Saba or Muriranjas, that way, we will be in a position to treat those who get sick.

As we are talking, this rehab is being closed very fast; not because we said so in the Assembly but because El-Nino is coming and they have been warned that the field is going to flood, that is why they are being moved fast to Kambirwa. We therefore need to put in lasting measures that are sustainable to deal with alcohol in finality. I support this motion.

First Chair: Mover.

Hon. Charles Karina: I thank the members who have contributed. This motion was tabled in this Assembly some time back. I congratulate every member who contributed and I am very happy as the chair of this committee because I can see that members are following up on the implementation of this law. This law is one of our first born laws that this Assembly has passed. I am very grateful to see that we are walking together in the implementation process.

I wish to mention the issue of our mandate as the committee on Implementation. It is very important to know that there are timelines for this process. Whenever you pass any resolution in this Assembly, we allow 60 days for implementation. Within the 60 days, I urge members to be following up with their respective County Executive Committee Members (CECs) so that they will have moved somewhere by the time we re-visit a resolution passed by this Assembly. You hear every member who stands here complain of the Implementation committee yet this is a collective responsibility. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to see to it that any motion we pass here is implemented within the right time.

For example, the motion we have just adopted on cholera had previously been adopted by this House. We should have taken a collective responsibility to see to it that it was implemented. Let us walk together and see to it that process is hastened. Therefore, I thank all the Members for supporting this report. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

First Chair: Hon. members, the House is adjourned until tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 4:12 p.m.