

MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 4th October 2016

The House met at 2:37pm.

(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE APPEAL FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD ON REPORT ON PROCUREMENT ON PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HOSPITALITY RELATED GOODS FOR THE PERIOD 16TH AUGUST 2013 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2014

Hon. Anderson Muchemi: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I wish to give the following notice of motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Public Investment and Accounts select committee on the appeal by the Secretary to the County Public Service Board on the hospitality related goods report, laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday October 4, 2016.

Thank you.

REPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

Hon. Charles Karina: Thank you Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognise the presence of the teachers and pupils of Mbiri primary school in the public gallery. We welcome them to this Assembly this afternoon.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

That, the report of the Implementation select committee on the implementation status of adopted resolutions for the department of Education and Technical Training, laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday October 4, 2016.

Thank you.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF GOVERNANCE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS ON THE STATUS OF PENDING BILLS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2016.

Hon. Jesse Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to give the following notice of the following motion;-

That, the report of the sectoral committee on Governance, Labour and Social Welfare and Justice and Legal Affairs, on the status of pending bills for the department of Public Service and Administration as at 30th June, 2016, laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday October 4, 2016.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MOTION**NOTING THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR IMPROVED QUALITY IN HEALTH AND THE HEALTH BILL**

Hon. Boniface Njihia: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion; THAT, this Assembly adopts the report of the sectoral committee on Health Services workshop on Sustainable Financing for Improved Quality in Health and the Health Bill 2016 held at Sunstar Hotel, Nairobi from August 30- September 2, 2016, laid on the table of the Assembly on September 27, 2016.

Hon. Speaker, there was a workshop between Members of the Assembly and the Executive conducted by the Centre for Health Solution, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) from the United States.

We discussed several matters related to the health status in this county. We realized that the NGO has been supporting our county; they have also been supporting different regions of this country.

In our county, they have been supporting about 29 health facilities. They have been assisting us in prevention, care and treatment of the HIV patients. They conduct HIV tests and have been assisting us in the prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV. They have also been assisting us in adult care and use of ARVs.

Hon. Speaker, we had very healthy discussions with them and they told us of the challenges they face; they told us that they intend to withdraw this support in 2017 because the contract will expire then. We are encouraging this county to look for money because if they withdraw these services when the contract expires, we are going to lose some of our people. Unless they renew the contract, our county has to pull up its socks to fill that gap. They have been supporting us with about 89 health workers, 82 volunteers and equipment to reach those people with HIV.

Hon. Speaker, each and every member has this document in his or her file and they can see that there is---

Hon. Joseph Machiri: On a point of order---

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you very much, we do not have the report in our files.

Hon. Boniface Njihia: I think there is a certain mistake and it is going to be solved.

The Speaker: Can we be informed whether the report is in the member's files? Then you have a defective file.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you, one of the members who has stood up is a member of that committee and 90% of the files do not have that report. Can we peruse, for evidence purposes we have the files.

The Speaker: Can I know how many members have the report in the files? And how many members do not have it in the files?

I am informed that there are copies that are coming and I thank the hon. member for alerting us on that mistake. I will allow him to continue but we will not debate it until every member has it.

Hon. Boniface Njihia: I think there was a challenge when they were putting the copies in their files but there are members who have, so we can just continue.

I was saying about the number of people the community the health centres have been supporting and I have already said that they have been supporting around 89 health workers in this county and they are also trying to equip another 82 members of the community who are the volunteers.

In our files there is a table showing distribution, how the Centre for Health Solution has been supporting because we have hospitals like Maragua, Muriranjias, Murang'a and others which have been supported by the centre. We come to learn that the HIV prevalence is about 5.2% whereby in 20 people 1 person is affected by HIV.

We also come to learn that we are number 4 in the whole country, with around 31,000 people being affected, where 2,881 are children and around 1,000 are pregnant women. Each and every year 5000 people are affected. We lose 1000 people due to HIV and related conditions each and every year. Most people do not know their status.

It is the high time each and every person including people of this Assembly and members of the community are educated on how to get these services, so that every person can know his/her status and continue preparing properly according to one's status .

We have also analysed the status of different health facilities which we have in this county where we need to put a lot of resources in this department. We have seven hospitals in this county. Comparing the population in this county we feel the health facilities are not enough.

We have two theatres to be opened in Kandara, Kigumo Maragua and also in Murang'a. We have wards to be opened in Muriranjias and around two in Kangema .We have around 24 health centres in our county whereby 18 of them are not operational though they are supposed to be.

We have 89 dispensaries and about 51 are not operational that is why I said we need to prioritise health .Without good health in our county we cannot be productive .We are therefore looking at those gaps since we do not know whether these are going to supporting our county. It is the high time we discuss matters to do with health and where to get this muscle so as to fill this gap.

According to the international standards of staffing the health facilities, we have a big challenge, whereby in every dispensary we require three nurses but in most cases, in our county, we are inadequately staffed.

You find in every dispensary we have one nurse, so whenever he or she is sick or is on leave, we have to get another nurse from another hospital so as to relieve the other one in the said facility.

We are supposed to have 12 nurses in our health centres but when you visit those health centres you find the number is very low. In hospitals, each and every department we are supposed to have 12 nurses so as to work properly; it is also a challenge.

If at all those are the challenges because we do not have those workers in the hospitals, you hear there are some people who are intending to withdraw services from our county and they are supporting several workers in this county.

We might have some challenges and the level of HIV might end up shooting .It is the high time for this Hon. House when we are planning for the budget to think how we can be able to fill those gaps. We realise the cause of this low staffing in the county is attributed to several issues in this county like; when an officer dies, retires or resigns we normally take too long before we replace.

It is the high time the County Public Service Board (CPSB) in this county looks in to those gaps and fills them. We have some new facilities that have been opened though we have not yet employed people to work in those facilities. What we normally do is to pick people from other facilities so as to work in those new hospitals which have come up.

We also intend to open different wards or department in different hospitals and most of the times we tend to pick officers from other areas so as to fill those gaps.

There is a demand for this Assembly to know how we are going to source this kind of money so as to forge ahead and ensure that our people are not being weak. There are several

challenges we are facing like the breakdown of medical and no medical equipment's in our county. Discontinuation of outreach program is also eminent due to lack of funds.

There is also frequent discontinuation of electricity and water in our health facilities due to failure to delay in payments. It is good we pay those services promptly so as to continue having them.

.....(Technical hitch)...(no recording).....

Hon. Kago Njoroge: ... pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals, could it be the cause of all these deaths we are having in the county? And we are talking of health, this is a serious department which none of us starting from the biggest person in this world, nobody should joke with because the money which budgeted, is it that it is not enough? Has it taken all of it? We are in the month of October and we are being told lack of funds, I feel the committee should give us a report so that we can know exactly why our people are dying more than a 100 in a week, this could be the reason.

We are all seeing them saying that we need a different account for medical services. When we do the budget, I feel and believe that money should not be deviated from the health department to any other department without the approval of the Assembly. Who is this taking our mandate? Taking money from one department to the other without our approval? We need this answer from this committee, because it's the one who has come with this.

About encouraging people to have National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) cards, it is very essential and I am pitying the people from my county that every person is requesting to be supported with a medical bill and when you ask if they have an NHIF card, they have none, and even in every 100 only one person has that card. This is our work, each one of us.

We do attend church services, we are given a chance to talk. We attend weddings, this should be the gospel of the day because in one weekend we are attending like five fundraisers for the medical bill so I request every member, let it be our gospel because our people are suffering. I will stop there hoping the committee will give me the answers. Thank you. I support the report.

Hon. Mary Watiri: I start by appreciating the good work done by this NGO. It is only supporting counties, so it is an advantage for us for having them in our county. The NGO has been supporting very many institutions in the county; it has been doing very well in constructing and renovating our health facilities. It has used about 17 million in construction of the facilities.

As a member of that committee, I was in that seminar and the big concern of that NGO is that they are going to withdraw in March next year and we have been talking in our wards, in our areas of representation of the problems that are still on when we have this NGO. So what is going to happen when the NGO is going to withdraw its service? That is why we came up with resolutions as a committee, that we feel the health docket should have its own account, where the accounting officer will see whether the problems are going to be managed.

I happened to go to our Level 5 hospitals this week, for a fact finding and it was very sad that there was no single X-ray that was working on that particular day. It was very pathetic because nobody could get an X-ray on that day. So it is the duty of this House to see what can be done.

On staffing, when we raised the issue, someone said there was a matter in court that the County Public Service Board cannot employ. I am worried, what will happen if this case stays in court for one or two years as it happens with cases in this country? So I feel it is important how the health docket is going to have staff, how it is going to employ so that our people are not going to get the problems they are getting this time. Thank you.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: I stand to support the motion and congratulate this committee for having found out the factors contributing to the failing of the health sector. We cannot gamble with the health of a person.

An unhealthy person is helpless and all what has been drawn here shows that lack of funds is the main point, mismanagement of funds, transfer of departmental allocation from one to the other is what is eating our health services. I would appreciate if we could have a separate account as other people have said in the health docket because when you lose a life you lose it forever.

When you hear of hospital like Maragua where all patients and especially from Gatanga are recommending that they would like to be operated in Maragua Hospital and then you hear that there is no electricity and water, you wonder why there is no back-up in a hospital like that where everybody is saying that there is a good doctor and recommending him for the good work he has done for different patients.

It is common sense to have a back-up in a hospital, the things that are lacking in these facilities are things a man can do and since funds have been allocated and we can still allocate more funds during the supplementary budget, there should be monitoring of these funds.

The committee should tell us because sometime back they said that they have been inviting the CEC for Health but she does not turn up, they should now tell us whether she has been turning up to answer all these questions before they bring them here.

When there was the rehabilitation of the alcoholics in Ihura stadium, 15 very well qualified and placed doctors in this country came here and said that they come from Murang'a and they want to be involved in procuring of machinery in this county. They also said that they have ways of getting drugs overseas through some NGOs. I do not know whether that has been followed and I would urge the committee to follow up on that because those doctors left their names and addresses and said where they are placed.

One of them said that he is the head of training centre in Aga Khan hospital and he comes from here, the other one who is the Head of Procurement, from Gaturi said that he is very concerned when he sees the price the equipment and medicines are costing this county. We are offering our free services and those things should be followed.

I happened to attend the Beyond Zero Campaign in Giatutu, Mugumo-ini ward and may I inform the House that 1200 patients were treated on that day and you could see the jubilation of the health services coming to the people and the people who were treated majority were the pregnant mothers and the elderly who came in big numbers and said that they do not have facilities even to take themselves to hospital nor are they aware that an NHIF card exists.

My recommendation would be that another vehicle be added to the Beyond Zero; this one we were given by Her Excellency the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta so that there can be two vehicles to cover the whole county and thus should be repeated very often.

I commend the wife of the Governor because she is going round and her initiative is bringing a lot of cases out and I witnessed that those people were being registered for NHIF cards, something they did not know of and they were given cards on that day.

That vehicle if it is added will cover some of the areas in this county and I know it will be of great help even for those people who do not have the finances and the means to get themselves to the hospital.

The recommendations are very good and I would like them attended to and also that they look at the dispensaries which have never been provided with anything for instance Gitiri dispensary built by Peter Kenneth during his tenure; the structure is just there with no fencing, nurse or even a doctor and this has been said over and over again.

A report should be written to the head of the NGO; I happened to work with an NGO before I came here and they only want a letter written by Murang'a county urging them to add more money to the project so that it does not wind up and I know those countries want to help us in our health sector and they will do that. Thank you, Mr .Speaker, I support the motion.

Hon. Charles Karina: I also want to stand and be counted as one in support of this committee's report and thank them for coming up with such a comprehensive report and assure them that if whatever they have recommended is implemented, health care services will never be the same.

I want to assure this House that as the chairman of the committee on Implementation, once this House adopts the report, we are going to fast track the implementation process.

Hon. Danson Mburu: I want to congratulate the committee for coming up with this report and add that the health department all over the world is very important because it cares about the health of the people and that's not exceptional in Murang'a.

The hon. member for Mugoiri has pointed out a very important thing which I believe is a concern for everyone here and that there are so many deaths which are occurring nowadays unlike before. Like in Makuyu every time I hear that somebody is sick and has been taken to hospital, the next thing I hear of is that they are dead and this is frequent. It should be our concern as to why there are so many deaths and is there something wrong with our health services in our county.

The table three on page nine, is saying that every dispensary according to the international standards of staffing it should have three nurses, health sector should have 12 nurses but this is usually not the case because most of the dispensaries have got one nurse and what happens is that when this nurse gets sick or has to attend to some meeting somewhere the dispensary closes.

Patients visit the dispensary and wait without a notice as to whether the nurse is coming or not. They wait all day long, you can imagine the complaints raised as they go home. If only we had at least two or three nurses like in this case, the suffering would not be there.

Below, there is a column showing a dispensary that has one nurse only, this is discouraging. In Gatanga we have five, then in Kandara there are 11 and if this is the case the department should act to alleviate the problem so that the health care in our county is well taken care of and the patient gets the services.

Hon. Florence Nyambura: I would like to thank the committee and congratulate them for the work they have done; this is the best report that they have given here.

This morning we passed through Maragua with Hon. Dishon Wandia, I was worried that there were many patients waiting since it was a clinic day for high blood pressure and diabetes. I wondered how long the people would take. I passed by Dr. Ngige's place and saw how he is working. There is a recommendation on outreach and I know Dr. Ngige made outreach to the people that is why they are turning up at the hospital.

Dr. Ngige usually does surgeries yet there are no drugs in the hospital; that is why we have many deaths in this county. We are poor in prioritizing things. I am not condemning this but transferring people from all wards to a single clinic is not good. I wish the money spent in transporting people for services is spent in buying drugs. I visited a friend in Murang'a hospital maternity and later she was telling me that a bed has two mothers and two children; I wonder which our priorities are.

When I was a small girl, no one wanted to be associated with Murang'a district hospital but the national government came in and renovated it. It is now a benchmarking hospital, but it is sliding back to problems like lack of water.

We appreciate the county government for bringing the ambulances, but I got worried when an ambulance carries two sick people to Aga Khan. They usually go with nurse who sits in the front. What happens in case there is an emergency?

The county government should put its house in order and the committee should answer us. We passed a health budget but why is the money being used in unnecessary work. The Health committee is recommending the fencing of Maragua hospital. I wish all the hospitals could be fenced.

Last year, staff at Muriranja were attacked by thugs; this should not happen. There are cases in Maragua where street boys peep at the maternity yet the hospital has been fenced. We have unmanned gates at Maragua hospital, only one side has guards.

In conclusion I think this government should prioritize on health. I wonder who will vote if all the people die. The committee should tell us whether there is money that has been used to transport people.

There is a question in this House regarding circumcision, the question did not answer where the money came from. I wish as a county government we can do something about the health sector, I also urge the Health committee to wake up and act. Thank you, I support.

The Speaker: I will ask them mover to respond.

Hon. James Kagoni: Thank you Mr. Speaker, just a quick one since you have heard it, the members are insisting on the issue of the budget.

I requested the committee of Finance to pick it from there. We were all there in that meeting, from the Director, Chief Officer, CEC, the committee itself and the stakeholders. Everyone was there. This is the elephant in the room; we are asking ourselves where the money went to.

I wish the Finance committee can pick it from there as they peruse the quarterly report they see how the money was spent for each and every department.

Final one which has come from Hon. Mwigigi in regard to partnership; it is true there are so many people, who want to partner with the county government in terms of the machines and all that and many are asking to partner with county in infrastructure, machinery and those kinds of things.

However, the Health Bill is pending and that is a challenge on the Assembly's part because we need to have a policy on partnership, we need to fast track the Health Bill so that we will be able to enter into partnerships.

But overall everything said we need to do something in our health department. It is critical and health department is no longer healthy anymore. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER

PAPERS LAID

MURANG'A COUNTY BUDGET OUTLOOK PAPER 2016

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay Murang'a County Budget Outlook Paper for the year 2016 today October 4th 2016.

REPORT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITION ON PLOT NUMBER LOC17/KAMAHUHA/2128

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Mr. Speaker, I beg that the Land, housing, physical planning and settlement committee report on public petition on plot number Loc17/Kamahuha/2128 be laid on the table of the House today October 4th 2016.

Under standing order 216 (2) you may allow for debate on the same but I will conclude my case by laying the report on the table.

The Speaker: This is a report to the petition which was to be presented to this House. The chairman's duty was to lay the report on the table as per standing order 216, there shall not be any debate on the report but the Speaker in exceptional circumstances can allow debate for 20 minutes.

No special circumstances have been revealed and so there will be no debate.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The House adjourns until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4:01pm