

MURANGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 18th October 2016.

The House met at 2:46 p.m.

(Temporary Speaker Hon. Beth Ngugi in the Chair)

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE COUNTY BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW REPORT FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE FY 2015/2016

Hon. Peter Mweri: On behalf of the chairman, I would like to give notice of motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the Budget and Appropriations select committee report on the County Budget Implementation Review Report, for the first nine months of FY 2015/2016 by the Controller of Budget laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday October 18, 2016. Thank you.

LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT ON COMMITTEES' ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY 2015/2016

Hon. Gachui Mungai: I beg to move that;-

This Assembly adopts the report of the Liaison select committee on committees annual progress reports for the FY 2015/2016, laid on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday October 18, 2016. Thank you.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE ON VISIT TO KENNETH MATIBA DENTAL AND EYE HOSPITAL

Hon. Boniface Njihia: I beg to move the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Health Services sectoral committee on a visit to Kenneth Matiba Eye and Dental Hospital, Kenol on August 24, 2016 laid on the table of the Assembly on October 11, 2016.

My committee made a visit to Kenneth Matiba Eye and Dental Hospital in Kenol on August 24, 2016, due to some inquiries emanating from this Assembly by some of the members. We went there on fact finding, to know what was happening there. The hospital is in Kimorori/Wempa ward and it is the initiative of our Governor, to deal with eye and dental problems.

We got to know it has incurred costs of renovation and rent, and we gave a table last week while tabling the report. I know the members are aware on the costs. We understood that the costs were too high but we have factored 30 million in the budget in the department of health so that we can be able to run the hospital.

On the monthly rent, we were made aware that it uses county government money summing up to 1.2 million, but there are several areas where they are collecting revenue for the benefit of

this county. Of course there are several costs met by the locals, and due to this cost sharing, the hospital has been able to collect revenue of around 1.6million per month.

We can call Wanjiku to have National Health Insurance Fund(NHIF) cards and to make use of this hospital. We will collect revenue from the hospital, translating to millions per month.

We were made aware that when there are no drugs in the hospital, they procure when need arises and they use the same process being used by other hospitals in this county. It's the same case when there are no drugs in other hospitals, but we have been trying to address the challenges affecting the drugs in the whole county, like paying the suppliers, so that we can have the drugs in time. If there is a problem in the hospital, we assume that it's going to go away since it has been a problem due to delay in paying the suppliers.

The hospital has a management board that was gazetted in June this year and it's also under the board that manages hospitals in the county. We understand the hospital is well stipulated in the county. My committee however, has a big task because we have a Bill that we are trying to come up with so that we can be able to know each and every health facility in the whole county being managed by this board, and how we can generate revenue.

There are other challenges faced by that hospital, like shortage of water which we have been trying to address in this Assembly since there is a certain amount allocated for water, we can be able to solve that issue once and for all when we get that allocation of money. We are requesting that, if it is possible we can be able to drill a borehole to get enough water.

Also we were made aware that many people are going to the hospital and demanding the waivers but we are coming up with a policy on how we are going to be lowering the cost to our people because you might get there and find people who are well up, going and asking for waivers. That is a challenge we are seeing, not only in Kenol but other hospitals, but there are people who are in need and require that and need assistance from the county. That one, we are looking into it.

We were also made to understand that there is a problem in Human Resource; the hospital is able to treat a lot of patients but the number of people working there is very low and they are being over whelmed by the workload. So it is a challenge for the county, for this Assembly to make sure that, when my committee comes with a recommendation that we need a large budget to employ people in this county, it is good we support that.

As the committee, we came with few recommendations about that hospital; in order for the hospital to provide efficient medical care to the residents of Murang'a, the following needs to be urgently implemented. The county government should liaise with Kenya Power to provide a special power line for the hospital to ensure no power blackout is experienced. We learnt that electricity is on and off in that hospital and some of the jobs being done there cannot be done without electricity so that is one of the recommendations we came up with.

We also came up with decentralization of procurement in that department. There are problems when it comes to buying things like a bulbs in the hospital, you have to requisition for it, and it's a bulb. So we are requesting if it is possible, the procurement for the health department be decentralized so that we can effectively pay the suppliers, we can be able to do the small tasks. We were made to understand that, there might be a case that needs to be referred and they cannot be able to do it because they do not have any authority to spend any money. They have to go to the procurement department and that is where the problem starts.

Also we need staff to be recruited. I presented a motion here urging that we have at least three nurses in every health facility and 12 in every health centre. Kenneth Matiba hospital does

not have adequate staff so as a committee we recommended that we need to recruit more staff because we have staff who are retiring while others are leaving for greener pastures.

With those few remarks I request Hon. Watiri to second the motion.

Hon. Mary Watiri: Thank you Madam Speaker, I second the motion. We visited the hospital on a fact finding mission. The hospital is situated in a private building which used a lot of money but it is generating money and giving quality services to our people. I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. James Kariuki: Madam Speaker before I contribute and support this motion I would like to recognize the school from my area, Ng'araria primary accompanied by the chair lady board of management Esther Nngi, their class teacher Daniel Njuguna and their music teacher Eliud Wanjohi.

Madam Speaker this Kenneth Matiba eye and dental hospital in Kenol is a very important hospital for this county. There has been a lot of controversy in regard to the county government deciding to rent a building and not build a hospital; a lot of rumours and innuendos have been propagated but when we visited that hospital when Kenneth Matiba came to open it officially, I was impressed by the facilities that were there for eye and dental treatment.

When I look at the recommendations, I tend to agree with the recommendations and it is very unfortunate that if this hospital does not get power continuously, because the hospital that does not get power continuously is in danger of endangering the lives of the patients.

I would suggest that the committee considers recommending with immediate effect Kenneth Matiba hospital procures a generator so that when there is no power, the generator switches on immediately, that should be done very fast.

Since this hospital is generating a lot of money, Kshs. 3 million or thereabout in a month and is giving very important services to the people of Murang'a and other counties, it is important that procurement of all other medical supplies, drugs and other facilities be done in a very prompt manner and that they procure their own requirements without involving the county government.

I can see that the hospital was gazetted on June 17th 2016 which is a very good thing and I think if they can do their own procurement and also plough back the revenue that they collect to the same hospital, it is possible for them to offer other services like ear, nose and throat services, which I think a number of people in Murang'a have; the area of procurement is very crucial.

It is also important that NHIF accreditation is fast tracked and I believe once this is done we can encourage our people to get NHIF cards so that they can get these services closer to them.

Recommendation number five is that they should recruit more medical staff, that is a problem that is facing the whole of Murang'a county and I remember when we were debating the issue of acute shortage of medical staff in our hospitals, dispensaries and health centres, we said we can take an inventory of how many we have and the shortage we have and be recruiting in phases. If let's say you require 500 medical staff and it is not possible to recruit them at a go then you can recruit them in a period of three years and that will address the issue of shortage of medical staff.

I am very much in support of Kenneth Matiba dental and eye hospital irrespective of the politics that has been there, but going forward I would suggest that since we have a lot of public

land in this county, we can dedicate ourselves as a county through budgetary provisions and getting money from donors to build a fully-fledged hospital instead of renting premises.

Renting is not the way to go when it comes to this kind of a hospital. If you go to public health facilities they are much better in terms of infrastructure than what you get in a private hospital, whether you go to Aga Khan, Nairobi hospital etc.

I tend to agree with my friend member for Gaichanjiru Hon. Bernard that some of these public utilities are supposed to be offered by the government but because we have had problems when the government was unable, especially during the 24 years rule of the former president, so many hospitals came up. The way to go is to build our own public hospitals with right infrastructure because they are better than private hospitals. I support.

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: Thank you hon. Speaker, I rise to support this motion and say that this is a very important report for the committee and the county government.

This is a facility that has been shrouded in controversy, so many issues have been raised ranging from refurbishment to renting, but I thank the committee because they have been able to shed light on what has been happening at Kenol. We were told that the facility has used Kshs. 80 million in refurbishment but the committee has been able to set the path straight.

I think they have been able to do a good job and they have done the work at a time when there is little politics around it so they must have been very objective in their mission.

As hon. member for Ng'araria has said, this is one of the most important facilities that we have as a county and we need to take care of it at this time when it is still a baby. I would wish that the committee does not stop here, they continue to oversight that committee because we know when the babies are left alone, there are a lot of challenges that they can encounter.

I have a few recommendations to the committee; one is on the issue of gazettelement; we may need to know who these people are who are in charge of the management, it should be disclosed in order for us to know who is who, whether they come from one region, whether they come from Kangema only which is a region of rich people or we have someone from Kambiti.

We need that list to be made public because this is a public facility, this facility being geographically in Kandara, and we expect full representation in the management of the facility. I would also expect the committee and the County Executive Committee (CEC) recommend that the facility be further enhanced. It should not stop at giving glasses and removing tooth, they can do cancer screening and other things helpful to the people of Murang'a, the place is spacious and we need to decongest Murang'a district hospital where people come for these services.

People from the southern parts of the county suffer, you can imagine people coming all the way from Kariara to get these simple services, and we need the facility broadened. We agree eyesight and teeth issues are there.

Public hospitals in the Southern part of the county are health centres, if you look at Kandara, Kirwara and other hospitals there, but in the upper parts we have good hospitals taking care of a lesser population. The committee together with the ministry should now think of transitioning from renting to now owning the facility. I propose the committee and CEC agree on the way forward, we need modalities on how we will acquire that property or going to another place, e.g. Gitura a place with public land where we can put a new hospital.

I know we have budget challenges but this committee can consult with the lands committee to see whether we can do compulsory acquisition of the property.

When we wanted to upgrade Kandara hospital to a level 3 facility, the bill was of over Kshs. 500 million. We need to do compulsory acquisition since we have modified the whole building

so there is no need of returning the building to an owner who is not even a health expert. It is important for the minister to widely consult on this matter. I support the motion.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: I stand to support the motion and give a few suggestions. I agree with the member who said that in the absence of electricity, a generator is necessary to be purchased from the income from the facility. They are already making more than what they pay rent.

On procurement, we need a medical store in the place; they should not come all the way to Murang'a. On hospital acquisition, this is a priority; a lot of money had been used in modification, the hospital may have been meant for other issues.

I commend the government of Murang'a for the outreach; they are going around giving spectacles where they are needed. No children in our schools with eyesight problems are suffering. Even the adult's outreach like the one that was in Ihura helped everyone.

On water, I had a chance to stay with a water engineer and I realized that you cannot drill a borehole next to another hole. There has to be certain kilometres even under our regulations. If you drill another borehole, both will miss water. We need to have it as a priority, as we were saying yesterday, the Kandara water scheme, the Mwicigi water, if it can be elongated to reach the hospital that would be better than drilling a borehole there.

I know Hon. Wanjoki will tell us whether there is a borehole there because if we drill another borehole both will lack water.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Order! member, there is no Hon. Wanjoki in this Assembly, please address the member appropriately.

Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi: Hon. Gitau, who represents Kimorori/ Wempa, will tell us whether there is a borehole next door. A hospital needs serious attention, we need to give the hospitals enough water and staff.

Gitiri which was built long time ago, and I have mentioned it in this House, the building has all the facilities to be a health centre but has no necessities that are necessary to make it a workable health centre. I stand to support the motion.

Hon Peter Mweri: I rise to support the motion; I am a member of the committee

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of information)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): What is our point of Information Hon. Duncan, is it for the House or to the member

Hon Duncan Njuguna: I wanted to inform the member and the House that the Speaker does not catch the eye of the member

(Laughter)

Hon. Peter Mweri: Thank you for that correction Hon. Duncan from Gitugi, I was just going through the challenges facing the hospital. The hospital is catering for a large number of people all over the country.

Some of these challenges need to be addressed soonest so that we can continue getting revenue from Kenneth Matiba hospital. Today I was privileged to join the health committee for a courtesy call to Murang'a general hospital and some of the challenges we faced are the same that Matiba hospital is facing and one was acute shortage of the staff, lack of drugs, demand on waiver of hospital bills, delay in payments and we need as a county to think further on this issues. We do not need to take them for granted because they will come to haunt us later.

As we visited the hospital we realized there is high waiver of bills; same case as Kenneth Matiba hospital and we recommended that we need to have policy in waiving of hospital billd which should be the case with Kenneth Matiba.

As one hon. member has said about the procurement and payment of supplies which is also a problem, the bureaucracy of the system we are using currently is hindering rendering services to our people.

I will also support that hospital to be more independent especially in procurement sections so that this problem of delay of supply and payment of supplies becomes a thing of the past. I would also support the idea of us as a county to think about building our own hospital rather than paying huge amounts as rent for the hospital since this county have plenty of land. As I conclude I would request the hon. members to be paying courtesy calls to Kenneth Matiba Hospital. I stand to support. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Hon. Gitau, Kimorori/ Wempa.

Hon. Eliud Gitau: Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to support the report, I was among the team which visited the facility.

There is an issue of staffing where I would urge the government to look into this facility since it is the newest facility in our disposal around Kenol. We require more staff. I would support and echo the sentiments of the hon. members who have talked before me concerning building our own hospital. We can do fabricated since we have the land adjacent to the hospital which is owned by the county government that would solve the issue of renting.

I would also request the extension of services to a 24 hour casualty department which would cover our busy highway since the catchment area for the hospital is very wide. We can also extend some services apart from eye and dental and include paediatrics, gynaecology and cancer unit. This would give services to our people and benefit them. I also want to inform our members that the issue of water is almost 80% addressed. Water which we have been fighting for is in the facility. That will not be an issue anymore. I stand to support and urge the county government to pump more money and let that hospital be independent instead of procurement.

Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Hon. John Njoroge member of, Kamahuha ward.

Hon. John Gitau: I also want to support this report with some positive criticism. I do not know whether apart from dental and eye conditions-----this can be responded to when the mover responds to the motion, whether there are other services other than those ones.

I have seen a table below committee's findings, there is table of the conversion of building to create the hospital. As a layman I am not able to understand. This should come out clearly from the report under the recommendations. I am seeing contract awarded to F and One sons limited the contract value is Kshs. 13.23 million but tender awarded is approximately Kshs. 12.8 million. I am seeing certified works for 10 million, as a lay man and most members of this House we need to be made to understand what this mean.

When figures are put in millions, by all standards they are big figures. Same to refurbishment work on the buildings, there is contract value of Kshs. 3.09 million for Chiwa Enterprises Tender award is Kshs. 3.09 but certified works is 2.6.

It would have been good for the committee if they had explained whether there are some works which have not been done and whether payment has been made and all that since the purpose of the committee's visit was to find out what has been happening since the inception of this hospital. Below the table there is statement that says that the cost of renovation was so high

as compared to the market rate. Anybody would expect that to be found in recommendations and findings. The report need to show the House what it means.

Also in terms of rent payable the cost of renting premises is Kshs. 14.4 million which translates to Kshs.1.2 million. The report should be clear, is the committee comfortable with this figure and what do they think is the way forward? They say that and leave it hanging .There is a problem statement and that is why they went there.

We, therefore, need to understand as the committee and the Assembly are we comfortable? If we are, okay if not what is the way forward? If you inter-marry challenges with recommendations it is only one item that rhymes; acute shortage of staff especially nurses. If you go to recommendation 5 it rhymes with that; which says recruit more medical staff.

In as far as some of us are concerned; we know that there is an ongoing court case that Murang'a county should not employ. Has the committee observed that? When it comes to employment we have many reports saying we cannot employ. We therefore have to see the more reasons we have to start challenging that court case in a serious way for example, medical staff including nurses.

I was told that there was team that visited Murang'a hospital today where we have one nurse treating many people; if the court case remains we are going to let our people continue dying while we should attack that case with all the vigour? The committee ought to have exhausted all avenues towards that so as to prevent this from recurring.

If we cannot employ doctors we are letting our people to die. They are dying out of this court case. Why then don't we get a lawyer to challenge this and show the people of Murang'a that this is a major problem? Somebody else in this House said that we are worried by the number of deaths we are having in this county. As I am talking here there are four people who are yet to be buried, every week we are attending burials? Could there be a problem with the medical staff? Is that why our people are dying? Is it because of medicine? As an Assembly we do not have to do reports for the sake of doing. We ought to do reports that will impact and help our people and make recommendations that can push in the throat of the executive.

This hospital is very important as one member for Ng'araria has said but we have to clear---

(Hon. Joseph Njoroge rose on a point of order)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): What is your point of order?

Hon. Joseph Njoroge: Is it in order for the member to tell the hon. members in this House that they prepare report for the sake of doing it?

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Not in order, hon. member, proceed.

Hon. John Gitau: When I started talking, I said I am doing positive criticism, we need especially and I would like members to capture the substance of what I am saying and moreso on the number of people dying in Murang'a county. This is the department that should look into that issue and do a report especially on the people who are dying and see what the problem is. I agree with the report.

(Hon. Bernard Kariuki rose on a point of order.)

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: You have heard the member for Kamahuha continually saying that people are dying in Murang'a, do we have serious crisis because this could be a county crisis and while we are seated here. The hon. member from Kamahuha is raising issues of life and death,

could he substantiate whether we have a crisis of people dying so that we stop the matter before hand and discuss the issue of life and death in this House?

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Yes the House has noted but we will not debate it that way, we will stick to the motion at hand and do the businesses of the day hon. Gitau continue.

Hon. John Gitau: Madam Speaker, I agree with the hon. member who has just spoken but that is why I am throwing the ball to the court of the committee and because I do not want to take forever ----- I have heard people saying that we should stop the hospital and may be relocate it somewhere, there are points we need to consider.

One of it being that the hospital was built and a lot of money used to partition it to suit the standards of a hospital but we do not know what the agreement between the county and the owners says, so if we are not careful the owners can decide that if the county wants to leave, it has to take it back to the original condition. The county will thus spend a lot of money.

Somebody has talked about compulsory acquisitions which I agree with but before we even think of that, we need to think of how we can buy off the hospital so that it can become the property of the county so that no money will be spent .Those are my comments but I agree with the report. Thank you.

Hon. Boniface Njihia: I would like to commend all the members who have supported the report and as one of the members has said that this is our smallest baby that we need to nurture it. If you go around the county, you will be able to see benefits that this hospital has brought to our residents because we have even started the outreach program from the hospital for eye and dental check-ups in different wards.

What I can say is that if at all we have been trying to get that amount of money from the hospital, if we nurture it well, it will be able to generate higher revenue for the county.

I would like to tell hon. Gitau from Kamahuha that the case in court is going to be determined very soon, by 25th of this month, it will be mentioned or be determined so that we can know the direction of how to employ people in this County.

I am grateful to see that the members have supported the report. With those few remarks, thank you.

(Question put and agreed)

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): As you are aware there is a holiday on Thursday so this House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning 9:30 am, we are supposed to be here since we will not be having a sitting on Thursday being a public holiday

The House rose at 3:31p.m.