REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 11th February, 2020

The House met at the Assembly Chamber at 2.30pm.

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTIONS

(Resumption of Previous Motion deferred on Wednesday, 10th February 2021)

EXTENSION OF WAIVER ON LAND RATES

Speaker: Mover, had you moved the Motion?

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already given the reply before the question was put. Another issue had risen on amendment. I am sure you were through with the motion. Yesterday I gave the reply but before putting the question Hon. Catherine Nyawira proposed amendments of the motion.

Speaker: You had already replied. The mover can give a reply.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before we deferred the motion yesterday, members had contributed and I want to take this opportunity and thank all the Hon. Members who had contributed to this noble motion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, due the extension for the time to pay the dues of revenue, our people will be happy to pay their dues.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I plead to all Hon. Members to support this motion to make sure that our people get enough time to pay their dues without penalties and interests for the money they owe County Governments. I urge Hon. Members to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Question put and agreed to)

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING IN SCHOOLS

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Veronica Ikunyua who represents the people of Nanyuki Ward, I beg to move the following motion;

> AWARE THAT Corona Virus has claimed more than 2,330,000 lives worldwide with confirmed cases being over 106,000,000;

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NOTING WITH CONCERN that the pandemic occasioned the closure of all schools and colleges nationwide on 15th March, 2020 thus disrupting nearly 17 million learners' country wide;

BEARING IN MIND THAT the closure of institutions not only affected learners and teachers but it also brought forth numerous economic and social issues, including interrupted and loss of learning, education exclusion, homelessness, nutrition and economic crisis, child care challenges and increase in teenage pregnancy cases, financial cost implication to households and sexual exploitation among others;

FURTHER NOTING THAT the effects have been more severe for the underprivileged children and their households from the urban poor communities;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the increase in burning of schools after schools reopened in January 2021;

APPRECIATING THE effects of guidance and counselling to pupils at a tender age and as they grow up which includes but not limited to addressing the needs identified and identifying the pupils'/students' individual and educational needs and psychological and physical abilities and environmental impact and their functioning in any institution;

This Assembly STRONGLY URGES the County Executive in collaboration with the National Government to ensure guidance and counselling is encouraged for all learners across the county to curb mental health issues that most learners are suffering from without their knowledge.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a concern to everyone who is living in this world because COVID touched everyone in one way or the other directly or indirectly. More so, as the motion reads our schools have faced numerous disruption and them being at home for almost one year, there are so many changes that have happened in the community. A good example is Umande that in the last three weeks, we have buried a form 2 student who poisoned herself because in that one year when they were out of school she engaged herself and it was assumed because she is not in school, she felt she is an adult like any other and start behaving like an adult doing what adults do.

When she was stopped from that behaviour she decided to poison herself and we lost her. This is just one case but there are so many cases since COVID and that one year when our students were out of school. I can attest that so many students in high school and primary school when the Government announced the reopening of schools, some never turned up because maybe they enjoyed life outside the school. The one that went to school felt that they are mature enough and

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they are equal to the teachers and so the school has turned to be of adults. None is less than the other.

They feel that they are all equal because what a teacher has been doing out there is the same thing the students have been doing. Mr. Speaker, having stayed in school for one year, a student will feel uncomfortable to wake up go to school and listen to commands from a teacher and he or she has been used to be doing what he or she wants at home because we are very much aware that so many parents abandoned their responsibility and believe that students are for teachers.

When they came home, that is when so many parents have experienced what teachers go through from morning to evening. Many parents did not take that responsibility seriously and now the students being at home freely and now back to school, they find the same rules that were there are still there.

Mr. Speaker, we need a lot of counselling in our institutions. Even the elderly people and the business community, their businesses that were doing very well have been affected and now they are not doing well. Some of them are hanging themselves. It has affected learners, teachers and the business community and that is why we are talking of the teenage pregnancies cases that have risen.

There are many students in school who are leaving three months old kids at home to go to school. That means a mother is in school with another young girl who feels that you became pregnant for being irresponsible. They feel you are not equal and that the irresponsible girl should not be in school. Many boys who are in school are maybe the ones answerable to the pregnancies we are talking about.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that needs to be done to the community and the business because the effects have gone further to affect men and women psychologically. That is why we are hearing one day after the other that someone has burnt the house and the children die. The person is walking as if he has done something great having burnt the house where the wife and children are.

Mr. Speaker, everybody is affected psychologically, socially and emotionally. There is a lot to be done in this country and more so in Laikipia County where we are part and parcel of the challenges that affected people in Kenya. This county really needs to move ahead not just the County Executive and the National Government but even the Assembly who are members who represent the people are touched by the losses directly from the ground.

It is our responsibility as Members of this Assembly as much as the Executive is doing this, we need to collaborate with the Executive, the National Government and ourselves and even as an individual. With the little you have you can go and do something to the community. Otherwise the society is rotten and it has been affected psychologically and we need to do something. We need to stand up and be accounted as people who saved many lives in this county.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I urge Hon. Members to support this motion that I have brought on behalf of Hon. Veronica Ikunyua, the Hon. Member representing the people of Nanyuki. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Salma Zamzam to second this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Salma Zamzam: Asante sana, Bwana Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi ya kuafiki mswada ulioletwa mbele ya Bunge lako tukufu wa kushauri wanafunzi na wazazi na wanalaikipia kwa wakati huu wa janga la COVID. Bwana Spika, tunajua Janga la COVID 19 limeweza kurudisha biashara asilimia kubwa chini. Mwaka uliopita, shule ziliweza kufungwa Kenya nzima na dunia nzima kwa muda wa zaidi ya miezi tisa.

Bwana Spika, tumeona changamoto ambazo waalimu wanapitia shuleni. Watoto wanachukulia sheria mikononi na kuchoma shule. Wengine wanafanya vitendo ambazo ukisikia unastaajabika. Hiyo ni kutokana na kutopata ushauri na ushauri unaanza na sisi kama vile tumeelezwa na ndugu yangu kutoka Umande. Tumeweza kuona mimba za mapema katika jamii zetu. Asilimia kubwa ya wasichana katika Laikipia Mashariki, Magharibi na kaskazini wameweza kupata mimba kutokana na likizo ndefu na kukosa maadili. Hiyo inatokana na ufukara ambao uliletwa na Janga la COVID 19.

Inabidi kufanya hivyo ili kupata mapato lakini ni kutokana na kukosa ushauri kwa sababu wangeendelea vizuri. Vijana wamejiingiza kwa dawa za kulevya katika Kaunti yetu na anasa za dunia. Katika Runinga unastaajabika mtoto akichukua hatua ya kuua wazazi wake. Mzazi pia anachukua hatua na kuua mtoto wake na hiyo ni kukosa ushauri. Mzazi yuko na mambo mingi ambayo yanamkumba kwa sababu ya Janga kuu la COVID-19.

Bwana Spika, nikimalizia ni vyema Serikali Kuu na Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia tuwe na watu ambao wataenda kuwaongelesha watu. Pia tukipata mahali katika Kaunti ya Laikipia tutakuwa tukijali kila mmoja wetu katika Kaunti ya Laikipia. Naomba Waheshimiwa waweze kuunga mkono ili tuweze kupitisha mswada ambao unaangalia kila mmoja katika Kaunti ya Laikipia. Asante, Bwana Spika.

(Question proposed)

Hon. George Meshami: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Nasimama kutoa mchango Wangu katika muswada huu. Hii ni hoja ambayo imeletwa na Mheshimiwa Veronica ambaye ni Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Afya. Bwana Spika, ugonjwa wa Korona umekuwa janga katika dunia nzima. Watu wetu wameadhirika kibiashara na watoto kupitia elimu. Ni janga ambalo limeangamiza ulimwengu.

Bwana Spika, huu mswada umekuja katika Bunge lako kwa wakati ambao unafaa. Tumeshuhudia madhara kutoka sehemu ambazo tunawakilisha. Wasichana wadogo wa kati ya miaka kumi na kumi na mbili hupata mimba. Unapata huyo msichana anapata mimba kutoka kwa kijana mdogo wa miaka kumi na mbili. Ukiwa mzazi unakosa namna ya kufanya. Wadi yangu iko na wasichana zaidi ya thelathini ambao wanapata mimba na bado wako nyumbani wakingojea.

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Nauliza Serikali ya Kaunti ichukue hatua ikishirikiana na Serikali Kuu kupitia nyumba kumi na chifu watambue hao watoto ndio baada ya kupata watoto warudi shule ili waendelee na elimu. Naunga hoja hili mkono na nitasema linafaa sana na limekuja kwa wakati ambao unafaa. Nashukuru Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Afya kwa kuonelea ni vizuri wakuje na hoja hili katika Bunge letu ili tupate kusukuma Serikali ya Kaunti ikishirikiana na Serikali Kuu ili watoto hao warudi shule. Asante, Bwana Spika.

Speaker: Hon. Members, it is time for the mover to make a reply.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the seconder of the motion and the Hon. Member who has made his contribution towards this motion. Mr. Speaker, I believe as the contributor has said this issue has touched all the wards in this county and beyond the County of Laikipia. I thank the Hon. Members and I urge them to support the motion. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Hon. Member, I believe we have a great responsibility because everyone is feeling the effects of COVID-19. We are now seeing the impact through the cases we are saying like burning of schools, people killing each other. Some of these can be traced is from what the families have suffered from COVID-19. People have lost business. There are hard economic times because of COVID-19 both the National Government and the County Government. We do not have enough revenue.

All those combined this is a year that we need to give support to our people socially and counselling. It is important for us to take lead even as we speak to the young people in our wards and also the older ones. We are all trying to see where we can give a hand by counselling. There is something you can do or I can do in a small ways not only financially but even guidance. There is quite a number of groups that exists that gives social empowerment.

We can be able to support such. You can also offer yourself to speak to students in various schools and I think it still goes a long way so that we can be able to help those issues. This is something that is very common that was said here. Hon. Meshami has said his ward has witnessed more than 30 girls getting pregnant before their age. The mover said he has also witnessed a person committing suicide.

There is quite a number of cases that are happening here and there with students and young people because of economic hardship. Therefore, it is important to understand when there are such economic hardships, people who may not have an opportunity to speak a lot are suffering from inside. The hearts of many are bleeding and therefore we will end up seeing issues coming up. It is important for us to continue giving them advise and counselling and as a leader we are going to lead from the front. Also we have a burden of those people who depend on you for support of daily bread and school fees.

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There are those who will come looking for bursaries because they are people who are able to take care of their children but now they are not able. There are people who lost their jobs and today they are borrowing money. There are people with businesses and the businesses closed down like hotels and they had loans. You will have more burden as the Members of the County Assembly and it is important for us as an Assembly to consider the support we shall give socially.

You will also be affected, the burden given to people will be handed over to you so we must see how we are going to assist you. Thank you so much for the work you have been doing and the much you have done. I also want to thank the mover of this motion. It is a very timely and important motion. I also thank the Hon. Member who have moved on behalf and the seconder.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stands adjourned until Next week Tuesday, 16th February, 2021, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.02 p.m.

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