REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 13th July, 2023

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have got the quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have got quorum, order of the day.

PAPERS LAID

VISIT TO DOLDOL SUB-COUNTY HOSPITAL

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker I beg to lay the report on the status of Health Services at Doldol Sub-County Hospital by the Health Services Committee dated 12th February, 2023.

(Hon. Nicholas Lempaira laid the Paper on the table)

NOTICE OF THE MOTION

VISIT TO DOLDOL SUB-COUNTY HOSPITAL

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the status of Health Services at Doldol Sub-County Hospital by the Health Services Committee dated 12th February, 2023.

MOTION

VISIT TO DOLDOL SUB-COUNTY HOSPITAL

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the status of Health Services at Doldol Sub-County Hospital by the Health Services Committee dated 12th February, 2023.

Hon. Speaker, the Health Services Committee deals with all matters related to County Health Services including in particular County Health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services, promotion of primary healthcare, licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public, veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession), cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria and refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal.

The membership of the Committee is derived from Standing Order .191 (1) and it comprises of the following Members:

1. Hon. Nicholas Lempaira - Chairman

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

2. Hon. John Gichuki - Vice Chairman
3. Hon. Catherine Nyokabi - Member
4. Hon. Irene Wachuka - Member
5. Hon. Anthony Theuri - Member
6. Hon. Sammy Lekopien - Member
7. Hon. Leila Hussein - Member

On behalf of the Health Services Committee, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the necessary support provided in the execution of the committee's mandate. I also wish to thank and appreciate the firm support of the Committee Members for the successful compilation of this report. I also wish to acknowledge the support of the members of staff of the County Assembly who were also involved in compilation of this report.

Mr. Speaker, Universal Health Coverage means that all people have access to health services they need (prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care) without the risk of financial hardship when paying for them. For the county to achieve universal health coverage, the following factors must be included,

a) A strong, efficient, well-run health system that meets priority health needs through people-centred integrated care

b) Affordability - a system for financing health services so that people do not suffer financial hardship when using them

c) Availability of essential medicines and technologies to diagnose and treat medical problems

d) A sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers to provide the services to meet patients' needs based on the available evidence

e) Actions to address social determinants of health such as education, living conditions and household income which affect people health and their access to services.

Mr. Speaker, to achieve universal health coverage, the county envisioned to:

- Conduct massive NHIF enrolment to enhance health financing- This has been conducted but the public are reporting that the cards that were issued were not activated, the subsidy programme never took off and the registration has stop following the raised concern over the possible collapse of NHIF
- Accredit more health facilities in county for NHIF patients
- Elevate Nanyuki and Nyahururu to level 5 hospitals - this involves making the two hospitals county referral and teaching hospitals. To achieve this, the hospitals must invest in specialised services, technologies, equipment and machines. Interns must be supervised by qualified specialised Doctors.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in line with the mandate of Sectoral Committees and their role in oversight, the Committee on Health Services visited Doldol Sub-County Hospital and was welcomed by the Clinical officer who was present.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

Hospital Staffing

The Members were informed that the facility has the following officers as the hospital staff;

- Three Clinicians
- Five Nurses
- Three Laboratory Technicians
- One Records Officer
- Three Pharmacists
- One Nutritionist and
- Seven Support Staff,

Drugs

Mr. Speaker, The Pharmacist available at the health facility informed the Committee that the County Government has so far stocked all the essential drugs at 80 % and the hospital is able to cater to the patients as expected in a sub county hospital.

When we visited the hospital, we realized that the hospital had enough drugs that can sustain it for a period of at least a month or so depending on the number of patients that come to seek for services. That was a good sign because before, we had been having complaints from the public that we did not have enough drugs in our dispensaries. However, when we visited, we realized that it has at least a good percentage of the required drugs in stock.

The committee also visited the laboratory facility which is fairly modernized and the officer in charge informed the Members that the equipment available were in good condition and they have already requested for replacement for the broken one. We realized that the hospital has got good laboratory services that if used in the right way, it can benefit a lot of people within the area.

The Members visited the general ward and found that they were well equipped and exceptionally clean. I must commend the Doldol Dispensary staff because as a committee we were very impressed with how they maintain cleanliness around there.

Committee Observations;

1) The Members noted with concern that the management team was not present during the time of visit. When the Members of the Committee interacted with the staff who were there, we were clearly informed that most of the management team especially the sub-county administrators and MOH can stay for a year without vising the hospital. Therefore, the management team was not present during the visit.

2) The Hospital power generator has broken down and has not been repaired for a long period of time hence denying the facility much required service. Sometimes in Doldol, they can go for a period of more than a week or so without power. That means that at night the hospital cannot offer any services. The committee found that the generator within the facility needed to be repaired immediately.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

3) The Hospital compound has never been fenced and this exposes it to various challenges including theft.

4) The hospital compound is surrounded by shrubs including the opuntia cactus among others.

5) The Members were informed that the MOH was at the facility three years ago and that the County administrator lastly visited the facility three months ago.

6) The hospital is not branded.

Committees Recommendations;

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that;

1) The hospital generator be repaired as soon as possible so as to offer the services that it was meant for.

2) Funds be set aside to fence the hospital compound as this will curb several dangers that may face the facility due to the exposure.

3) The hospital compound is surrounded by bushes including the opuntia which is threatening to encroach the whole compound, hence the need to rehabilitate the same.

4) The CECM health should address the challenges facing the management team in order to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

5) The MOH should be redeployed back to the facility for effective and efficient service delivery to the community.

6) The hospital management should make sure that the hospital is branded.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the observations of the committee, you will realize that we have a strong challenge in terms of the management of the health facility. The MOH that is supposed to be in charge of all the health facility within the sub-county has never been there for the last three years. That gives you an explanation that we have a serious problem in managing our dispensaries.

Even if we allocate much money to them, we will still have problems because the people that are supposed to implement that budget in their respective dispensaries are not present especially the people who are supposed to supervise the staff to offer the expected services.

Mr. Speaker, we realize that there is an encroachment of the endangered species called opuntia that is threatening the compound of the hospital which needs to be urgently addressed. The best way they can do that is to make sure that the dispensary is fenced and all the opuntia around the compound is uprooted. The rangeland within the area should be taken care of. This calls for multi-agency collaboration to make sure that the hospital is provided with the services that are needed.

Mr. Speaker, you will also realize that the number of staff that are within the dispensary was not enough. When you divide five nurses, two will be in during the day and three in the night shift. You can also realise that there is no power backup when we have issues of power during the night.

Mr. Speaker, the report is not indicating that we realised that the CECM concerned needed to go and see the area itself. Some staff do not have staff quarters to spend around the

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

dispensary. This means that staff quarters needed to be put in place so that we have staff who live within the dispensary who can offer relevant services needed. Mr. Speaker, we also realised that the dispensary management board was not in place because when we interacted with the people around, they told us that it has been long since they saw the dispensary board meeting and deliberating issues.

The building is well constructed and well-structured but the furniture and the equipment needed to make it operational were never bought. As you remember, in our last budget we had highlighted a CT scan that was supposed to be taken to Kimanju and an MRI at Nanyuki, Nyahururu and Sipili. We are not sure whether those equipments were bought and that is why we are having some challenges especially getting hold of the CECM or the Chief Officer of the Health Department.

This has forced the committee to write a letter to them, that by Wednesday next week they should appear before the committee to put some things straight for the Members to understand what is going on. It is one of the departments that receives a very huge percentage of budget allocation in the last two budgets. Thank you and I call Hon. Leila to second the motion.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Hon. Leila Hussein seconded the motion.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: I have proposed the question and the floor is open for debate. Thank you, very much for a robust discussion and I want to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker and I want to thank the Members for their support. I believe that your silence means that you support the report. One of the recommendations of the committee is for that the motion to be implemented and I want to thank the House for adopting the report. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until next week Tuesday, 18th July, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 2.50 p.m.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*