REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 18th August, 2020

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

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Daniel Nyausi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

COVID-19 GUIDELINES TO REDUCE SPREAD OF VIRUS IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Mary Samken: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 Virus as a global pandemic;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Corona Virus has claimed more than 700,000 lives worldwide with confirmed cases being over 20,000,000;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the pandemic continues to pose grave danger to all populations, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa where overburdened health systems continue to struggle with scarcity of human and financial resources;

FURTHER NOTING THAT contact tracing involves three main steps which include, contact identification, contact listing and contact follow up;

APPRECIATING THAT contact tracing may help limit COVID-19 transmission when the first cases are identified within a particular place;

This House URGES the County Government to:

i. Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers through contact tracing.

ii. Sensitize the public on Ministry of Health guidelines that seeks to suppress the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

COVID-19 GUIDELINES TO REDUCE SPREAD OF VIRUS IN THE COUNTY

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Hon. Mary Samken: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion;

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FURTHER NOTING THAT contact tracing involves three main steps which include, contact identification, contact listing and contact follow up;

APPRECIATING THAT contact tracing may help limit COVID-19 transmission when the first cases are identified within a particular place;

This House URGES the County Government to:

i. Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers through contact tracing.

ii. Sensitize the public on Ministry of Health guidelines that seeks to suppress the spread of COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, I know that not more than once or twice a similar motion has been tabled in this House. This is simply because we have a lot of concern on what is going on in the world and in our country. It is obvious that the number of Corona Virus cases continues to jump each and every day. Yesterday on Monday, 17th of August, there was an update that was given by the Ministry of Health concerning the spread of Corona Virus in the country. By yesterday, statistics showed that confirmed positive cases in Kenya are 30, 365. The recovered cases are 17, 160. On a sad note, the deaths had reached 482 by yesterday.

This is something showing that we should all be cautioned. We know that the deadly Corona Virus was confirmed in our country in March this year. So far, all the counties have confirmed Corona Virus cases. I have just talked to Dr. Mogoi, the acting Health Department CO in our county, Laikipia County. He confirmed to me that by yesterday we had recorded 151 positive COVID-19 cases and around 30 recoveries in Laikipia. On a sad note, we have so far lost 4 cases to Corona Virus.

That is why we should now see the importance of this motion. If you look around, each and every one of us has forgotten that there is Corona Virus. Last week on Thursday I had been to Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital. So many questions ran over my mind. To my big

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surprise, I did not see any handwashing place and sanitizers. People were walking without masks. We are told that those are the red zones; you can easily contact this deadly virus.

Mr. Speaker, not forgetting that if you go around each and every place in Kenya, major towns, small towns and in our villages, most people are not observing these health organization guidelines. We are told that if we observe we will at least contain this disease. That is why there is a need to sensitize the public on all these health organisation guidelines. It is also important to sensitize our people because we have people.

Kenyans are very funny people because even the World Health Organisation raised a concern about how Kenyans are treating the COVID-19 pandemic. They are not observing the WHO guidelines simply because and I know you will bear me witness, so many people do not believe that this virus is there. If you go to our villages you will get people telling you there is no Corona it is only that the government that wants to get money.

Mr. Speaker, they also say that this disease is in town, it is not in the villages. As we speak now, there is panic in Mukogodo West after around five people in Kimanju hospital tested positive to COVID-19. There is panic in all the villages because now people are asking themselves, what about those people that were treated by those doctors? What about those who came into contact with those who have tested COVID-19 positive?

Mr. Speaker, you will never know the seriousness of this disease until when you get infected. So many people still do not believe and even us in this place. I heard last time people were complaining about the way we are seated. Simply, why should one sit in the same place each and every time? That tells you Mr. Speaker, that including in this Hon. House we do not believe. Even if we believe we do not take it seriously that this Corona Virus is there.

Mine is to urge the County Government that they have been doing something but now they have to pull up their socks. They have to be aggressive because now Corona is in every town, centre and village. People should be told about it and that should stick in their minds. There is no one who is safe as we are being told each and every day by the Ministry of Health. We should all be exercising caution because this disease knows no boundaries.

It can infect anyone either you are a *Mheshimiwa*, you are a doctor or you Mr. Speaker; you can contract the disease. The County Government has a lot of resources. We have allocated it in our budget and the National Government is supporting the fight against COVID-19. There is no vacuum, there is no time the County Government will say that they do not have enough resources to do contact tracing, to sensitize the public about this disease.

We should see more because when first this disease was announced in Kenya, I still remember. When this House adjourned, many Hon. Members were complaining it was not procedural simply because we were frightened; we feared the disease. All of us ran to the villages when there was only one confirmed case in Kenya. Sometimes I ask myself, I ran from Nanyuki

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town when there was not even a single positive person. Now I reside here each and every day when we have around 150 people positive in Laikipia.

Mr. Speaker, this tells you that all of us are not doing what we are supposed to do. We should all pull up our socks, we should all have the responsibility of flattening the curve and we should all go out and sensitize our people about this coronavirus. We thank God that the rate of death is very low. If it could be high, I sometimes ask myself no one could be alive today. Thanks to God because the rate is very low.

Life is very important. It is good to live, it is good to see your family complete than losing people because we cannot adhere to the guidelines that we have been told. That is because the County Government cannot reach the vulnerable people to be given masks, to be given the sanitizers, to be told to wash their hands. Simple rules that each and every one of us can follow.

People also should know the symptoms although we are told they vary from severe to mild. People should know so that if you experience these symptoms you can go to the hospital and get tested, so that you prevent infecting your family and also your friend. There is a big need for all of us to pull up our socks. I want to end by saying that we should all have a responsibility to flatten the curve. Mr. Speaker, you will never know the seriousness of this disease until you are infected. All of us should exercise caution and follow the guidelines. I would like to call upon my friend Hon. Kanyutu to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the motion by Hon. Mary Samken. This is an issue that we should ensure we push on the government to follow up. It is unfortunate because the cases are on the rise but the issue pertaining to contact tracing is very low; I am a witness. There is an incident that happened in my area I was almost a victim. Were it not that I took myself to the hospital and be tested, there was no any contact tracing and the government should be doing it. There were so many people who had participated in the activities in that homestead but they were not tested.

I would wish we ensure that whenever we have a case we follow to the letter and see that all the contacts are traced. It is unfortunate because even the recent case of a person who passed on had gone to visit a friend who was sick and once he realized that he was sick, he did not know that it is Corona. Unfortunately, the person he had visited is still recuperating but he is now already buried. We need to do contact tracing because this is a pandemic and even if we hide our heads in the sand it will just hit us.

At this moment, I do not know whether it is true but I have seen in the social media that we have already doubled the figure from our county. Previously it was three or four but now I have seen as though it was eighteen. I do not know whether it is a true figure but at the end of the day we are the ones who will suffer. It is not only us but also each and every person who will not take these precautions. If the government does not follow up on those who are already infected we will have a pandemic that we might not be able to control so I second.

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(Question proposed)

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Ninasimama kuunga mkono mswada ulioko mbele yako kwa sababu huu ugonjwa umeenea katika ulimwengu. Katika ulimwengu wote wakati huu jambo ambalo wananchi wote wanaongea kuhusu ni ugonjwa huu. Wakati huu ugonjwa wa COVID-19 ulipotangazwa, sote tulikuwa na uwoga na hata Rais mwenyewe aliogopa. Ilitangazwa ya kwamba huu ni ugonjwa hatari duniani na biashara zote zikafungwa na tukaelekea nyumbani kujificha. Ninaona jambo ambalo tunafaa kuwa tukifanya kwa wakati huu ni kuwaelimisha Wakenya kuhusu kujikinga na huu ugonjwa. Katika Laikipia yetu tumekuwa na hivi visa vilivyotangazwa hivi juzi. Tumesikia wawili ama watatu na kwa wakati huu wamekuwa wengi.

Jambo ambalo ningetaka kuomba serikali wakati tunapopigana na ugonjwa huu ni tufanye hivyo kwa uangalifu. Tusiwe ya kwamba wakati tunapigana na ugonjwa tunagandamiza Wanalaikipia ama Wakenya. Mimi niko na mfano ambapo kuna wakati kisa kimoja kilipatikana katika mtaa wa Majengo na wananchi wengi walibebwa na kupelekwa katika uwanja wa maonyesho ambapo wanawekwa. Waliteseka zaidi na jambo lililokuwa linaleta utata ni kwamba hata serikali ilipotangaza ilisema unakaa kwa siku kumi na nne ukichunguzwa na ukipatikana na ugonjwa unaanza kutibiwa. Mimi nilishangaa kwa sababu watu wamekaa na unakuta mtu amekaa zaidi ya mwezi hadi wanateseka na kulia. Ilibidi sisi wenyewe tuingilie ili wale watu waweze kuwachiliwa.

Sisi sote tunaelewa ya kwamba Korona iko lakini ni lazima tuwaeleze wananchi ukweli ya kwamba huu ugonjwa siyo serikali itakuja kukusaidia. Ile kitu serikali itakusaidia ni kukwambia ugonjwa uko hapa kwa hivyo fanya hili na lile. Tumekuwa na tatizo katika nchi hii ya kwamba kila jambo likitokea tunaiambia serikali ifanye. Serikali itafanya mahali ambapo inaweza. Juzi tulisikia ya kwamba Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kenya alitangaza ya kwamba amefungua nchi na kila mtu ajikinge. Ukikuwa mgonjwa, unaenda hospitalini na kugharamia kisha kutoka hapo unajipanga.

Lile jambo ningetaka kusema ni kwamba sisi kama viongozi pamoja na serikali inafaa tuwafahamishe wananchi jinsi ya kukaa na huu ugonjwa kwa maana hautatoka. Tuwaambie waoshe mikono, waweke *sanitizer* na wasikaribiane kama vile tunavyofanya hapa. Nimemsikia Mheshimiwa wakati alikuwa akiuleta mswada huu akisema ya kwamba hatuamini pia sisi. Ninafikiri tunaamini ila kile tunasema ni kwamba huu ugonjwa usiwe kana kwamba tunaambiwa ni ugonjwa ambao ukikushika unakufa hapo. Tujue ya kwamba ugonjwa upo na ikikushika sio lazima ufe. Tukae na tuelewe tutakaa na hii Korona kama vile tunakaa na Ukimwi.

Tuliambiwa ya kwamba Ukimwi uko, kwa hivyo jikinge ukienda kufanya mapenzi. Lakini sasa huwezi kuzidi hapo ati umwambie mtu kwa sababu Ukimwi uko tutakupa vitu vyote ujipange navyo nyumbani. Hiyo ni ngumu kwa serikali kwa sababu haiwezi kumpa mtu kila kitu anachostahili ili ajikinge. Tuwaambie ukweli wale wananchi tunaowawakilisha ya kwamba wanunue barakoa, *sanitizer* na wajikinge. Usipojikinga utapambana na makali ya huu ugonjwa na ukicheza utaaga pia. Lazima tuwaambie namna hio lakini tusiiambie serikali ipeane kila kitu. Serikali haina hiyo uwezo ila iko kuwapa wananchi njia mwafaka ya kujipanga.

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Ninaishukuru Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia kwa sababu tumejipanga kidogo kama vile nimesikia kuwa imejipanga. Kama kiongozi niliyechaguliwa nikienda kila mahali nikiwa na mkutano wa watu watano ama kumi ninawaambia ugonjwa uko kwa hivyo wajikinge. Ukishawaambia wajikinge na wakatae utafanya namna gani? Hilo ni jukumu la kila mwananchi na kiongozi kujikinga asipatwe na ugonjwa huu. Kwa hayo machache ninataka kuunga mkono mswada na kumshukuru Mheshimiwa Samken kwa kuuleta mswada huu hapa Bungeni ili tuweze kujadiliana na kutoa maoni yetu na pia kuiambia serikali itenge pesa nyingi za kuwafahamisha hawa wananchi jinsi ya kujikinga na huu ugonjwa. Kwa hayo machache ugonjwa upo, kwa hivyo tujikinge na tuweke *social distance* ndipo tuishi maisha marefu. Usipofanya hivyo utakufa peke yako na sisi tutabaki tukiendelea na Kenya. Asanteni.

Hon. George Meshami: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Nasimama nikitoa hoja yangu katika huu mjadala ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Mary na pia ningependa kusema ya kwamba ninaungana naye. Wacha niseme ya kwamba tulikuwa tunafikiria ya kwamba hakuna ugonjwa wa COVID-19 lakini sasa hivi tumekuja kuelewa ya kwamba umetufikia

Bwana Spika, kwa wiki moja iliyopita katika wodi yangu pahali panaitwa Kimanju kumeripotiwa mtu mmoja ambaye ni daktari. Baada ya huyo daktari kupatikana na huo ugonjwa Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia haijachukua hatua kuweza kufika katika ile maeneo na kufanya utafiti zaidi kama kuna wengine wagonjwa katika hilo eneo.

Baada ya wiki moja kulipatikana kesi ya pili katika Hospitali ya Kimanju ambaye ni muuguzi na akaanza kuhisi dalili na ikawa yuko na COVID-19. Siku ya jana tumekuwa na wagonjwa wengine wawili katika hayo maeneo pia. Kama Serikali ya Kaunti ilichukua hatua mara moja katika maeneo ya Kimanju, ingebainika ya kwamba labda kuna wengi zaidi katika hilo eneo. Kama hospitalini ni madaktari ambao wanapatwa na huu ugonjwa wa COVID-19, je wale wagonjwa ambao walikuwa wamehudumiwa katika hiyo hospitali wakiwa na huu ugonjwa ni wangapi?

Kwa hivyo kama serikali ingechukua hatua kwa haraka ili hiyo hospitali iweze kufungwa kwa muda ndio ipate kupima watu. Kuna matenki ishirini ambazo zilikuwa zimeletwa na Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia katika Wadi ya Mukogodo Magharibi ambazo ni za kipimo cha lita 5000 kwa kila tenki. Hizo tenki zimepatiwa watu binafsi badala zipelekwe katika miji ndogo iliyo na watu wengi kama Kimanju na Ilpolei ili serikali waweke maji ya kunawa mikono. Kama wangefanya hivyo katika soko ya Doldol na Kimanju ama mahali watu wako wengi, ingekuwa inasaidia.

Unakuta ya kwamba hizo tenki zimewekwa katika boma za watu ambapo sijui kama ni siasa wanafanya kupitia pesa ya umma. Sasa hivi huyo mwenye hilo boma anatega maji ya mvua kupitia lile tenki na kutumia na jamii yake. Kwa hivyo kuna mahali ambapo serikali inaendelea kulegea katika kupambana na huu ugonjwa. Tungewaambia ya kwamba wajitokeze na wachukue nafasi yao ya kusomesha watu na kuelimisha watu ili watu wapate kujua zaidi umuhimu wa kuzuia huu ugonjwa. Naungana na wenzangu kuunga huu mjadala mkono. Asante.

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Deputy Speaker: May I call upon the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Mary Samken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are told by the Ministry of Health that on an average it takes 5 to 6 days from when someone who is infected with the virus for the symptoms to show. However, we also say that it can take up to 14 days. I have heard what the Hon. Member from Thingithu has said about those who were being tested. It is a challenge all over because we know that there are very few centres for testing this virus that are available in the county.

In our County Mr. Speaker, we have no testing place and therefore we have to take the same samples to either Nairobi or Nakuru and that can take a bit longer. We are told that there is a home based care where the Ministry of Health can go to someone's home and assess whether you can be able to be treated or quarantine yourself at home. The Ministry of Health are saying that the highest number of recoveries are from these home based care. They are also saying that it is the best place that someone can be quarantined because you get to recover very fast.

It is unfortunate that people are taken to quarantine places and the Hon. Member has said that when they go there they get stressed and traumatized because they are not taken care of properly. The Hon. Member has said that we hear that Laikipia has done a lot. We should not be hearing because we are the leaders of Laikipia and we are the representatives of Laikipia and therefore we should be having the first hand information that our people need to know about this Corona Virus.

So we should also demand as Hon. Members to know all the measures that the County Government has put to fight the Corona Virus. I thank the Hon. Members who have supported and I know that even those who have not spoken are still with me in support. I would like to say that it is our responsibility to flatten the curve and we can if only we follow the simple guidelines that the Ministry of Health has put. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 19th August, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.10 p.m.

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