REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 19th May, 2020

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

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

PRAYERS

PAPER

PREPAREDNESS OF THE COUNTY ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the report on preparedness of the county on the corona virus pandemic at the facilities across the county by the Health Services Committee.

(Paper laid)

NOTICE OF THE MOTION

PREPAREDNESS OF THE COUNTY ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

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

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the preparedness of the county on the Corona Virus Pandemic at the facilities across the county by the Health Services Committee dated 9th April, 2020.

MOTION

PREPAREDNESS OF THE COUNTY ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my Chair, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the preparedness of the county on the Corona Virus Pandemic at the facilities across the county by the Health Services Committee, dated 9th April, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that every Member has a copy of the report of what has been done by the committee since Covid-19 was declared as a state of emergency in Kenya. Since then the Committee on Health has been going around the county to check on the preparedness of the county so that we can protect the people of Laikipia.

The Committee wishes to thank the Office of the Speaker of the County Assembly and the Office of the Clerk for the necessary support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. I wish to also thank the Members of the Committee for their participation in the compilation

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of the report. On behalf of the Committee it is my distinguished honour and privilege to present this report of the Health Services Committee for debate and adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, H.E the President of Kenya during a press briefing at Harambee House on 15th March, 2020 confirmed to the Country of the first Corona Virus disease and that twenty-seven (27) people who had come into contact with the first patient had been traced.

Corona virus disease is defined as an illness caused by a novel virus called severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2(SARS-COV 2) which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City. It was initially reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019.On January 30th, 2020, the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency. On March 11th 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

The County Government of Laikipia made their first press statement through the CEC Medical Services on the County preparedness to combat the Corona virus disease on 16th March, 2020. During a meeting on 17th March, 2020, the County Assembly Health Committee came up with a work plan to visit different facilities and wards to check on the level of preparedness on Corona Virus disease employed by the department. The Committee has noted that the Government has undertaken the following measures:

- Screening at every entry point into the county.
- 24/7 operational hotline numbers as a way to discourage visits to the hospital.
- Trainings for medical personnel are ongoing on COVID -19 precautions and measures.
- County wide sensitization on what Covid 19 is and precautionary measures the citizens need to make.
- Identification and preparation of isolation and quarantine centres.
- Fumigation by the Department of Water and Environment of Laikipia major markets, bus stops and all crowded areas, once.
- Procurement and provisions of PPE' S.

Mr. Speaker, one of the facilities which we visited was the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital. The Committee had several visits to NTRH where screening for every person entering the facility is ongoing. The facility has erected some tents which serve as triage and consultation room for any person or patient who is screened and has abnormal temperature or who has some signs like coughing that are close to ones related to Covid-19. There is a photo there showing one of the entrances to NTRH. The next photo is triage and the one is a consultation room.

The committee visited one of the wards that has since been converted to an isolation ward and ICU at the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital. The isolation ward has both female and male ward with a capacity of six bed each.There is an one entrance from the COVID 19 consultation room to the isolation ward and ICU and one exit which is the wards gate. Mr. Speaker, there is a photo there showing the six bed ICU as at 29th March, 2020 and a lot of renovation work is on going. Down there is another ICU as at 29th April, 2020 and a lot of progress has been done.

A total of nineteen (19) electric beds that were in Lamuria sub County Hospital that were donated Ol Pajeta Conservancy were transferred to NTRH. The Biomedical officer at the site explained to the committee that the electric beds were not in use before because they use 110 volts to run but had since been converted to 240 volts which is the normal voltage used in

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the Country. In the photo there is the number of beds that were transferred to NTRH from Lamuria in preparation to be used in the ICU and the isolation wards.

The committee has also visited various county health facilities urging Laikipians to embrace and observe the laid-out guidelines that have constantly been emphasized by the Ministry of Health and Laikipia County Government. The Committee observed that various business areas such as bus park centres and market places were provided with hand wash (soap). The water tanks are refilled weekly with water by the Department of Water and Environment across the County.

We also did visit the Doldol Sub County Hospital. The facility embraced the directives by providing screening services at the entry point to the facility as well as provision of hand wash and water. The facility has also set aside an isolation room, however the staff are inadequate in case there is a suspected case. The room has no connection to electricity. There is no provision for separate female and male wards.

Mr. Speaker, we also visited Umande. The committee visited two homes in Umande ward. The purpose of these visits was to check if the two members who had recently arrived in Umande were self-quarantined as required by the government directive to curb the spread of corona. For purposes of privacy, the committee has decided not to mention the names or post pictures of the members.

On the first case, one member of a family who is a woman arrived from Qatar on 18th March 2020. She revealed to the committee that she had been at the point of entry at JKIA. The screening had involved temperature screening and was released to go home. On arrival at her home in Umande ward the residents informed the area village elder and area M.C.A of her presence. She then went for further testing at NTRH on 21st March 2020. We found out that a public health officer was constantly doing follow up on her.

On the second case, a gentleman had arrived in Umande ward from Isiolo town and residents once again alerted the village elders and area M.C.A of his presence. The committee on their oversight mission found out the following from the gentleman:

- That he was a student from Nairobi.
- That he had travelled from Nairobi, through Meru to Isiolo and finally to Umande and was staying at his sister's House.
- That his reasons for being in Umande was to pay last respect to his father who had died and had been buried there in his absence.

This committee during this visit came face to face with the following:

- A case of how the Corona Virus and anyone associated or suspected to have it would face stigma.
- A very educated and informed Wanjiku 'who quickly alerted the government officials of any suspected persons who had recently arrived from outside the area.

Mr. Speaker, this shows that our citizens are aware of this disease and are ready to protect themselves and that is why the two cases in Umande are showing that there was a residence who alerted the government of the presence of the person who had arrived. In that they are also doing their part to calm the spread of this disease.

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Mr. Speaker, the other place we visited was the ASK Show Grounds in Nanyuki which has been identified as one of the quarantine and isolation facilities in the County. Innovation works are ongoing at the facility. The committee has visited the site severally and it has noted the progress by the County Executive. The following works have been ongoing:

- Installation of washrooms,
- Connection of water pipes
- Sewer line connections.
- Partitioning and tiling of the cubicles.
- Fumigation of the facility.
- Bush clearing.
- To mounting of hospital beds which was commendable.

In that photo Mr. Speaker there is one of the rooms which we visited in the facility showing the kind of work that is going on there. The next one is on fumigation of the facility and the other one is servicing of a generator that is supposed to serve the facility of the quarantine and the isolation centre. In fact, this is the major quarantine and isolation facility in Laikipia.

The facility has got separate male, female and paediatric wards and several infection prevention rooms for the medical personnel. As at 30th April 2020 works on sixty (60) rooms was almost through and had fifteen (15) nurses working at the facility for four(4) hrs per shift. The facility had at that time quarantined three patients whereby two of them had been tested and results turned negative while a mother and child who had also been tested awaiting results when the committee visited the site.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 6th April, 2020, the Committee on Health visited Nyahururu County Hospital and noted the progress in preparedness to combat the Covid 19. At the entrance, the hospital management has put in place a screening area and placed Signs encouraging people to wash their hands, sanitize as well as observe social distancing. In a photo from Nyahururu, you can see that they have even drawn on the ground where you are supposed to stand before you go and wash your hands. You can see the Members standing there awaiting to wash their hands.

The hospital has minimized unnecessary movement in and out of the facility so as to protect its patients and staff. The acting CEO explained to the committee of the measures they were undertaking to protect the in-patients. He informed the committee that once the facility admits patients, they record contacts of their family members or guardians who are constantly updated on progress of their patient. This means that they have minimized visiting of patients in their facility so that they can reduce congestion and crowding because one of the effective ways of controlling this disease is social distancing. This is what Nyahururu Teaching and Referral Hospital is trying to do.

Normal group hospital visits have been discontinued and a patient can only receive one visitor per day who has been screened, has sanitized and wears a mask. The staff at the facility have adequately been trained on COVID-19 preparedness. They are being provided with standard protective gear and social distance is being practised in consultation rooms. Nyahururu has actually done a great job. They are a bit ahead of Nanyuki because even in their consultation rooms they have planned very well the place where patients wait to be attended.

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During another visit at the facility the committee noted great milestones of preparedness. It has procured a sanitization booth from a local innovator. The booth is automatic. It has sensors which detect a person walking through it and immediately the nozzles release a vapour sanitizer. The 2000 litres tank which holds the sanitizer has been connected to the booth. The booth sanitizer is made up of a 0.05% concentration of Sodium Chloride. You can see the booth on the photo for use by the public.

The KMTC at the facility offered the hospital with some of its rooms at their administration block to serve as isolation rooms for suspected COVID-19 cases. KMTC has also been donating tanks to dispensaries in Laikipia West sub-county. The purpose of isolation and quarantine rooms is because in case Laikipia records any case of Covid-19, we will not transfer that case to any other county. Every case is being treated and addressed in their county.

That is why Laikipia needs to have adequate treatment rooms and isolation centres. The store at the KMTC quarantine centre is well equipped with Complete PPE'S, four oxygen concentrators, masks and gloves. On those photos you can see the PPEs and the oxygen concentrators.

The hospital isolation centre is awaiting ventilators for it to be completely functional. To note is that as the report was tabled in this House, there is no single functioning ventilator in Laikipia. We did have a sitting with the department and they are preparing to procure some. The KMTC administration block quarantine centre has a ward with a two bed capacity and complete with a donning and doffing area for the medical personnel. Mr. Speaker, you can see on the photo the donning and doffing areas.

KMTC has further offered the hospital with the block they use for lectures. There are lectures block that have been converted to six bed female ward, six bed male ward and paediatric ward. The hospital management has enhanced security at the block by erecting a *'mabati'* fence and temporary donning and doffing areas.

The committee also visited the Laikipia university isolation centre as described by the department as one of the areas that would be used as an isolation centre and noted that no works were being undertaken there. The University's Estate Manager informed the committee that despite the facility being identified as one of the isolation centres in the county, the Health department undertook some painting works in one of the hostels for two days and never stepped at the facility again. This shows that the department started the work and then abandoned it.

The committee sought clarity from the acting CEO of the Nyahururu County Hospital on why works at the university isolation centre had stalled. He informed the committee that after wide consultations the department for Medical services that the university hostels were not ideal for an isolation centre as the blocks had twenty rooms serviced by four bathrooms and four toilets. This is not ideal for COVID-19 cases. The Members can note that during the presentation meeting that we had with the Governor, the department said that they had eight beds at the University of Laikipia.

There would be no value for money on renovation as the block would only host four patients at ago. He informed the committee that the department was seeking for a more economical centre, but without compromising, quality and standards laid out for an ideal isolation centre.

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Mr. Speaker, we also did visit the Rumuruti Sub-County Hospital. We noted that the hospital has embraced the measures provided by the Ministry of Health. There is washing of hands and screening for anyone entering the facility. You can see Hon. Thomi on the photo being screened.

The management has put up posters on their notice boards for information purposes on COVID-19 for anyone visiting the facility to read. The facility has managed to furnish one room only with two beds from the general ward. This is a challenge because you furnish one room with two beds and in case you get more than two cases of different gender, then it would be a problem, unless you rush one to Nyahururu and remain with the other. The facility has set aside two room with a capacity of two beds each at its radiology centre which is not functional yet.

Mr. Speaker, we also did a sample of dispensaries to understand if these precautions are only being done in the county hospitals and the sub-county hospitals. We did visit the Baraka dispensary in Thingithu ward which has two nurses. The nurses informed the committee that they had undergone adequate training on COVID-19 disease and preparedness. The facility had also put up a washing and sanitization area and fumigation of the facility had been carried out by the Department of Medical Services.

The facility had adequate supply of surgical masks and had two complete PPEs. The facility did not have an isolation room but in case they received any suspected case of COVID-19 they would refer the patient to NTRH. I believe that this is the case for all dispensaries.

We also had a visit to sweet Waters Dispensary in Thingithu Ward. The facility has taken up precautions by putting up sanitization and screening points for their visitors. The patients waiting bay has also been rearranged to maintain social distance.

The staff at the facility have undergone training and have been supplied with surgical masks and two pairs of complete PPEs'. The facility has also undergone thorough fumigation. The committee noted that the facility had a shortage of water since it heavily depended on harvesting water for usage. The water harvested was infested with beetles that had invaded the facility. So there is shortage of water in this facility and you know that at this time we need a lot of water for washing hands and keeping the facility clean.

Mr. Speaker, we also visited the Lamuria sub county Hospital. It has put up posters on COVID -19 disease precautions and at their entrance have put up a notice for their visitors to wear masks. Screening at the gate was not ongoing as the facility did not have screening thermometers. The staff at the facility had received training on the disease and had received surgical mask and six (6) full sets of PPEs'.

The facility has an isolation room with two beds, but lacked an ambulance in case of urgent referral as the one the facility had was withdrawn. This is a big challenge where if you get a case then you have to depend on NTRH to get an ambulance. They also lack a screening thermometer and that is a challenge because they are supposed to screen like any other facility. You know that Lamuria is a sub-county hospital. The facility had a shortage of clean water as the pipes were rusted and most of their tanks had holes and needed urgent repairs.

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We also dido a visit to Kihato Dispensary. The nurses have undergone adequate trainings on the disease and the facility has received protective gears and sanitizers. They are continually educating their patients on precautions to prevent the COVID-19 disease.

Mr. Speaker, the committee made the following observations;

That the County Executive was making remarkable progress in its preparedness to combat Covid 19 pandemic.

- That some health centres and dispensaries are still having inadequate PPEs.
- That there is a need to intensify the awareness of the virus specifically precaution measures in the rural Laikipia
- That the Isolation centre and ICU at NTRH did not have a paediatric ward.
- That the isolation ward at Doldol Sub county hospital is not connected to electricity.
- That there are inadequate personnel at facility across the County to handle any suspected Covid-19 case.
- That works of renovation at the Laikipia University isolation centre have been abandoned.
- That Rumuruti sub county Hospital was experiencing bed shortages despite having two rooms available as isolation rooms.
- That the two facilities (Lamuria and sweet waters) had water harvesting, storage and piping problems.

Mr. Speaker, with those observations the committee was able to make the following were the committee's recommendations;

- That the County Executive hastens recruitment of staff.
- That the County Executive fast tracks the isolation centre at Laikipia University.
- That the County executive enhances public awareness on COVID-19 in relation to Ministry of Health guidelines on hand washing, sanitizer and masks.
- That the County Executive should downscale trainings to CHV's.
- That the County Executive supply PPE's to sub county hospitals and Dispensaries.
- That the County Executive should ensure sustainability of screening at all entry points to the County.
- That the County Executive ensures adequate supply of clean water to health facilities and public places.
- That the County Executive allocate adequate funds to the Departments dealing with COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, with those recommendations, I hope that the Hon. Members were able to go through the report and were able to see I would the progress of work that is going on in Laikipia to prepare and protect Laikipia from this disease. I would like to urge the Hon. Members to support so that we can move to the next step as we continue to join hands in fighting this disease. I wish to request Hon. Catherine Nyawira to second the report.

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the opportunity to contribute and second towards this report. I will be very brief because my colleague has taken us through the whole report. On page 3 and 4, you will note that we have a standard ICU that has been

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constructed and I am sure that it is almost ready at NTRH (Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital). I would like to point out the standards that the NTRH has not met in the ICU.

Generally, an ICU should have a continuous flow that does not have cracks in between because it is prone to blood pouring just like theatres. Therefore, the NTRH has tiles which has sections which can hold blood and enable micro-organisms to thrive in this place. So those are the standards which have still not been met. However, they have met the standard of having one entry and one exit for the purpose of reducing infection such that anyone who gets in does not get out from the same door he came in.

Mr. Speaker, on page 4, there are beds which were brought in from Lamuria. In the previous report which this committee brought into this House, we had shown these beds which had been lying in Lamuria for almost five years. They were a donation from one of the organizations and it is good to note that the county will not be purchasing ICU beds because it has employed a bio-med who is able to convert the electricity voltage from 110 to 240 which is used in the country.

That brings me to a very important issue over donation policy in this county. Time and again we have said that things donated to this county are obsolete and that is one of the issues which had come up when the Governor had visited the facility. It is important to note that now these very things which were called obsolete have now become precious commodities to us. We need to change our minds so that we can be able to utilize what we have and be able to make the best out of it.

This facility also has got incubators, x-ray machines which I believe we were told that it could not conform. I believe that if we have need i.e. the sick and the people who want to be x-rayed, then this equipment can be converted so that they become useful to this county.

Mr. Speaker, I will also discuss the issue of quarantined people who quarantined themselves at home like the case of Umande. In the first case where a certain woman had arrived from Qatar, I feel that even as we discuss such in this county, this was a reckless move by the country and the county. This woman travelled from Qatar, came into the country, was screened and because she did not have high temperature, she was released. She travelled home by public means from Nairobi o Nanyuki and when she came the residents were well aware, informed the MCA and the village elder.

The lady then went to a matatu, came to Nanyuki for testing and went back home. Had this lady became positive, I don't want to imagine the chain of the people who would have gotten sick? A sure case of recklessness both by one person not knowing and even the county and the country themselves.

Mr. Speaker, it is also unfortunate that it came out in the second case of the gentleman who was living in his sister's residence. It was good for the public to report to the area MCA and the village elder. This disease has caused a lot of stigma. We came face to face with such a case when a person who had come to pay tribute to his late father whom he did not attend his burial and felt that he needed to stay there for a while. This person had been stigmatized when people came to see him thinking that he had corona. It is important that we show love and care for these people even while practising social distance.

On page seven, we can see that ASK show ground which was previously used by the BATUK. I am happy to report that this facility is very well maintained which in fact caused

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the county minimal money because the BATUK had taken care of it while they lived there. It has got very good rooms and the only thing the county needed to do was just to add a bathroom and a toilet in the room. The kitchen is well done and in fact I think the BATUK deserve a part on the back because they left everything just the way it was. They did not pick anything but only their belongings. The rooms have got very smart tiles and everything was left as it should have been.

Mr. Speaker, I will also draw myself to page 11 where we have got a disinfection booth in Nyahururu. This booth is also a case where our very own Laikipia has been able to make the facility and we are using it. I believe that if buy Laikipia, build Laikipia is a brand, then this should be it. I also want to draw myself to page 14 and in this case I want to discuss the Laikipia University as an isolation centre.

About two weeks ago, the CECM Health came into this House and lied to the Members of this House and it is very unfortunate. The CECM lied to this House that they had secured the university as an isolation centre. That is not true and should not continue to happen because they went there and painted a few walls and left paint on the floor. If somebody comes into this Assembly and paints several walls and leaves markings all over and then disappear, then they leave it worse than they found it.

The dormitories have got only four toiles and this does not fit what the standards of an isolation ward. So they abandoned it and the estate manager was not very amused with that move. So Laikipia University is not adequate for an isolation centre.

Mr. Speaker, I also draw myself to page 17 on dispensaries and health centres. They continue to record very few patients and this of course was attributed to people practising more hygienic standards and children being at home. Basically those measures have reduced the numbers by almost 70%. In fact, they were telling us that the only people who go there are the people who are giving birth. This draws my attention to the Education Committee that was set up recently to look into children going back to school.

I believe that this is one of the things that should have terms of reference because boarding facilities need to consider the standards which they put our children in because they get a lot of infections. They need to re-think the boarding standards.

Mr. Speaker, In Lamuria Sub-County Hospital, we also noted that they lacked a generator. Most of their patients right now are mothers who are going to give birth. Therefore, it will be difficult because the area has got a lot of electricity fluctuations. For a mother to be able to give birth at night without having a generator which should support as back up, it is important that the county also fast tracks providing them with a generator.

On our recommendations and observations as you will note, this report is for 9th April, 2020. I believe that there are things which have happened there after like recruitment that has been done and I hope that it has addressed the issue of having inadequate staff in the facilities. As we say that some facilities lack screening equipment, even this Assembly itself does not have a screening machine because I have never been screened while coming in and going out. I feel that we are also not doing what we are encouraging the residents of Laikipia to do. With that Mr, Speaker, I beg to second this report.

Speaker: Hon. Members, before I propose the question, it is important to note what she said when she came into conclusion i.e. *'with that I beg to second'*. That is the way it should

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be. After you have supported the motion you finish with that sentence. It is important to note that. Before I propose, for future reference, I think that the committee clerks should be advised that for the part that appears before the introduction, they should number with romans simply because when you indicate page two, after opening the other side you find two page twos. The table of contents is numbered with romans but when you go to page four you find that they are two pages that have been numbered page four.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Sisi kama Kamati ya Afya tumetembea Laikipia nzima na kule bado hatujafika, tutafika kwa sababu umuhimu wa kamati yetu ni kuangalia maslahi ya wana Laikipia. Kama Bunge tunahitaji kuanza kwa mfano mwema na ninajua ya kwamba tunafanya kazi kulingana na inavyostahili.

Bwana Spika, sisi kama kamati tulikuwa tumeleta ripoti hapa ya kwamba tuko na uhaba wa wafanyikazi. Siku ya leo wakati ugonjwa umefika katika Kenya ndio tumekubali kwamba tuko na uhaba. Tunashukuru serikali kwa sababu wamekubali tuajiri madaktari. Kwa hivyo kaunti yetu tumechukua hilo jukumu la kuandika wauguzi kwa sababu wale wako wamekuwa wakiumia sana.

Kwa sasa hivi katika hiki kipindi cha Korona kama ni muuguzi anafaa kufanya kazi kwa kipindi cha masaa manne tu kwa siku halafu anapumzishwa na mwingine. Kama hatutaongeza wauguzi, inaonekana ya kwamba tutaungua. Tumeona zile shida ambazo zinapitiwa na zahanati na pia hospitali zote.

Nakumbuka kabla twende likizo kuna wakati Wajumbe waliitwa na waziri na akawaambia ya kwamba wamejitayarisha kabisa kupambana na ugonjwa wa korona na pia akasema ya kwamba wako hadi na mahali pametengwa pa kulaza wagonjwa. Ukiangalia ukurasa wa tatu utakuta wakati tulienda kama kamati tulikuta ndio kunatengenezwa. Kama viongozi ni vyema tujifunze kuongea ukweli kwa sababu sisi ndio tunategemewa na mwananchi huko mashinani ili tumwelezee yale yanaendelea.

Ukiendelea katika huo ukurasa utapata ya kwamba Nyawira amesema ya kwamba hutafikisha kiwango cha chumba cha upasuaji lakini tunashukuru serikali kwa sababu hata hiyo hatua ambayo tumechukua kuhusu chumba cha upasuaji ni nzuri. Tunashukuru pia mfadhili ambaye alitupatia hizo vitanda za watu mahututi kwa sababu zinagharimu pesa nyingi ambazo ni vitanda karibu kumi na tisa.

Wakati hizo vitanda zilifika Kenya tulikosa ujuzi wa kutengeneza sitima ili iweze kuambatana na stima ya huko ng'ambo lakini shida imetusukuma hadi ujuzi ukapatikana. Kwa hivyo wakati mwingine shida ni nzuri kwa sababu inafungua mtu macho.

Tukiendelea hivyo Bwana Spika, unakuta ya kwamba hata Doldol ambayo iko mashinani watu wanapimwa lakini hapa kwetu tuko na shida kwa sababu hata kwa mlango tunafaa kuweka mtu wa kutupima joto tukiingia na tukitoka. Hiyo ni kwa sababu unaweza kuingia hapa bila joto na wakati unatoka uwe na joto.

Tunashukuru pia ile hatua ambayo imechukuliwa na Bunge ya kupiga dawa kama ilivyo ni pendekezo letu katika ripoti na ni vizuri tuwe tukifanya hivyo mara kwa mara. Tumeweka vitakaza mikono kila kona katika Bunge na ni vizuri kwa sababu ukienda upande wa Executive utapata bado wanatumia zile za chupa. Kulingana na pendekezo la kamati sisi tumeenda katika kiwango cha juu cha kutumia ile ya kufinya.

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Bwana Spika, ukisikia kamati ya afya ikilia ya kwamba iongezewe pesa ni kwa sababu inaguza kila mmoja katika Laikipia. Bwana Spika, ninakuomba siku ingine tutembee na wewe pale uwanja wa maonyesho ya kilimo na pale utapata ya kwamba ile kazi ambayo imefanyika huko inahitaji mamilioni ya pesa kwa sababu haijatengwa kwamba ni ya wakaaji wa Wadi ya Nanyuki bali ni ya wana Laikipia wote ambao watapatwa na hili janga.

Tunaomba ya kwamba sisi tusifikiwe na hilo janga hata kama jana tuliona mwenzetu ambaye alikuwa amepatwa na hilo janga. Ni huzuni sana na hiyo ni kutukumbusha ya kwamba tusichukulie hili janga kama jambo la kawaida.

Bwana Spika, ukiangalia hapo utaona ya kwamba tumefika hadi Nyahururu na hii kamati iliamua ya kwamba kama kuna pesa ama hakuna ni lazima tutafika huko Ukiangalia hapo utaona ya kwamba wamechora vizuri ya kwamba '*keep distance'* kwa kila mmoja kwa sababu wale wote ambao wanatembea katika hiyo hospitali wamehamasishwa ya kwamba lazima wakae mita moja mbali na mwingine kwa sababu huu ugonjwa haubagui.

Ukiangalia kamati wameonyeshana mfano mwema kwa kuvalia *mask*. Tunaendelea kuhasisha wananchi waweze kuvalia *mask* lakini wale ambao wanaweza kusaidia wananchi tuendelee hivyo kwa sababu wengine hata kama hawako kwa ripoti wako na shida sana. Mimi nilikutana na moto ambaye alikuwa ameshonewa *mask* ambayo ilikuwa imetumia kamba za gurudumu la baiskeli na katikati ilikuwa imeshonwa kwa kitambaa cha kishungi.

Hiyo ni huzuni kubwa na ni lazima kama Kamati ya Afya tuweze kuangalia maslahi kama hayo kwa sababu hiyo ni kumaanisha ya kwamba wakati wowote huyo moto anaweza kukosa hewa na afariki. Kwa hivyo ni jukumu letu kama viongozi kuangalia maslahi yote katika Kaunti ya Laikipia.

Bwana Spika, ninashukuru wale ambao wanaendelea kutoa nikiwa mmoja wao na nikishukuru Mheshimiwa Mwangi Kiunjuri kwa sababu hajaacha watu wa Laikipia hata kama mambo ilimwendea hivyo. Leo najua ya kwamba amejitolea kupatiana *mask* kwa wananchi. Kila mtu anafaa kujitolea na sio lazima awe ako serikalini.

Ukiangalia utaona ya kwamba kuna kitu ambayo inaitwa *dolphin* kwa kingereza. Hiyo ni kusema ukiingia katika chumba kilichotengewa wagonjwa, ni lazima uwe na chuma kidogo cha kubadilishia nguo zako bila kushikana na watu wengine. Kwa hivyo tunashukuru serikali yetu ya kaunti kwa sababu wameendelea kufundisha wauguzi wetu na kama mnavyojua umeadhiri dunia nzima na hukana mtu ambaye alikuwa amejitayarisha ama kuwa na masomo kuihusu.

Ndio maana tuliona wauguzi wa ng'ambo wakifariki kwa wingi kwa sababu mtu alipokuwa anakutana na mgonjwa alikuwa namkaribisha kama kawaida. Ndio maana tunasema ya kwamba ni vizuri kulinda wauguzi wote na tuwaombee kwa kazi nzuri ambayo wanafanya katika hii Kenya yetu na hata dunia nzima.

Tuliweza kuenda hata katika zahanati zetu kwa sababu tunaweza kushughulikia tu hospitali zetu na kumbe zile zahanati zina shida. Tuliweza kupata shida kadhaa kama mlivyoona katika ripoti kwa sababu sitaki kuendelea sana na kwa sababu ninataka kuwapatia wengine nafasi. Mashinani kuna shida kwa sababu kama ni muuguzi anaweza kushinda mchana kutwa na *mask* moja ilhali kulingana na sheria na mafunzo ambayo tumepata ni kwamba mtu anafaa kuvalia hiyo *mask* kwa masaa manne tu halafu abadilishe.

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Kwa sababu ya uhaba wa hizi vifaa na pesa katika wizara ya Afya ndio maana hatuwezi kununua hizi *mask* kwa wingi. Katika zahanati wauguzi wanatumia *mask* moja kwa siku lakini katika NTRH unakuta ya kwamba wanaweza kubadilisha. Kwa hivyo mkisikia tukilia hapa kidogo kwa sababu ya pesa muweze kutuunga mkono kwa sababu hawa wauguzi wanatoka nyumbani kwenu kama dada zenu ama ndugu zenu na kwa hivyo tukiwalinda tunalinda nchi yetu. Asante sana na ninaomba ya kwamba tuunge hii ripoti mkono.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mheshimiwa Spika, hata mimi ninaomba niweze kuchangia hii ripoti. Kwanza nishukuru hii kamati kwa sababu wamefanya kazi nzuri sana. Kuligana na ripoti nimeona ya kwamba hawa watu wamejikakamua zaidi.

Juzi nilielezewa tuweze kutembelea huko uwanja wa maonyesho lakini nilikataa kwa sababu ninajihadhari. Ningeomba kama itawezekana kuwe na nafasi kwa sababu huu ugonjwa ulitoka China, kama ufadhili utapatikana kamati iweze kutembea china ili tujue vile tutaweza kukabiliana na huu ugonjwa na kupata suluhisho. Hii kamati inaonekana ya kwamba inafanya kazi nzuri.

Kuna jambo moja ambalo limenitia wasi wasi kidogo na hilo ni jinsi ya kupima watu wakati tunaingia katika Laikipia. Inakaa ni kama huu ugonjwa huwa unasambaa sana mchana kwa sababu ikifika jioni hakuna mtu ambaye anapimwa. Mchana wanahakikisha ni lazima usimame na upimwe ukiingia Laikipia lakini wale ambao wanaingia kuanzia saa kumi na moja wanaingia bure. Kwa hivyo inawezekana huu ugonjwa unaweza kuingia huo wakati.

Bwana Spika, ninashukuru hawa wana kamati na sijui kama tutashirikiana wakati tutakuwa tunatengeneza bajeti. Badala ya kuombea hawa wana kamati nafasi wanaombea wizara ili wapate ufadhili kutoka nje lakini ikiwezekana kamati yenyewe inafaa kupewa hiyo nafasi kwa wakati huu na sio hapo baadaye. ninajua ya kwamba Mungu atawabariki waweze kuja na ripoti kamili ili tuweze kujua huu ugonjwa umechipuka kutoka kona gani.

Jambo lingine na ninaona ya kwamba wameguzia ni mambo ya zahanati ziliko kule mashinani. Ni vyema tusiwe eti ni lazima kupima inafanyiwa zile hospitali kubwa lakini hata hizo zahanati ndogo ili dalili ikipatikana uweze kusaidiwa. Jambo la mwisho ni kwamba nimeona Mwenyekiti wa Afya akitoa *mask* ambapo alikuwa anachangia. Sasa akiwa na korona si anaweza kusambaza. Hata sisi tunapotumia vifaa za kupasa sauti ni vizuri tutumie *mask* kwa sababu huu ugonjwa unasambazwa kwa mate. Asante na hii ripoti tutaipitisha.

Hon. Catherine Kibui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Allow me to join hands with my colleagues on this Health Report which is before this House. I wish to congratulate the committee for coming up with this rich report. I would like to urge the County Executive to consider and hasten the committee's recommendations to enable the Laikipia County to meet all the measures given by the Ministry of Health. Thank you, I beg to support.

Hon. Mary Samken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in support of the report. First I wish to congratulate this committee because for sure they have put their lives in danger to make sure that they go round the county to see to it that the county is getting prepared for covid-19. When all the committees had closed down and we were all locked up in our homes, the Health Committee was in progress of making sure that everything is alright in this county.

Mr. Speaker, I think they need an applause and be congratulated and if there was an award they should be given one. I also want to thank the County Government because they have done a lot. We got the address of the Governor and there is a lot that is going on in this

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county. All I want to say is that the disease is increasing every day and therefore they need to tighten up their belts and ensure that everything is okay.

Mr. Speaker, we are now having cases around our neighbouring counties like Isiolo and Meru and Laikipia now is at risk. That is why we are saying that the County Government should not sleep but should now be more awake because the disease is near us. Last week when the Ministry of Health was giving an address we were told that they have put road blocks from counties so that when people are travelling across other counties they be screened.

I remember asking when they were going to put a road block at Il Polei because of the people who come from Isiolo and Samburu. The acting Chief Officer for health assured me that it would be the same day or the following day. I went home on Thursday last week and I came yesterday and still there is no road block at Il Polei. So we should also be serious on some issues now that the disease is increasing each and every day.

Having said that, this is a wonderful result that has given us an update of what is happening in our dispensaries and hospitals. We are saying that there is a lot that need to be done because this is the time when we should be more prepared. Thank you.

Speaker: May I now call upon the mover to make a reply.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to thank the Hon. Members who have contributed towards this report. On a light note Mr. Speaker, Hon. Kanyutu has requested your office to have some money to do benchmarking in China. I do not know whether that is possible or it is because he knows that we cannot travel to China. The Hon. Members who have contributed towards the report have really appreciated the work which we have done and therefore I urge them to support and continue supporting the work which is being done by the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes when challenges come we need to take them as an opportunity. We have always said that Laikipia has no function of ICU. We have got two levels 5 hospitals which are Nanyuki and Nyahururu and we do not have an ICU. According to the Ministry of Health standards, any facility without an ICU does not qualify to be a teaching and referral. To make the matter worse, Laikipia did sack some specialists before Corona virus. We had an acute shortage of specialists in Laikipia and therefore the Nanyuki and Nyahururu do not qualify to be level 5 hospitals.

This is the time when we should take advantage of this disease and set Laikipia to have one ICU. I remember before we went for recess due to this disease, the Governor did launch an ICU at Cottage Hospital. I do not know how many patients who can afford Cottage Hospital and therefore I hope that the money given by the National Government and the money appropriated by this Assembly will be appropriated for the right thing. I hope that very soon we shall have an ICU operational at NTRH. Mr. Speaker, we will go back to see the progress of that ICU because it cannot be an ICU without machines.

Mr. Speaker, another important milestone that we all need to appreciate is converting of ASK (Agricultural Society of Kenya) ground at Nanyuki to be a quarantine centre. The amount of money invested in that facility cannot allow the government of Laikipia to let that facility go back to being the ASK. I wish that the Laikipia Government can engage discussions with the ASK and all of us join together to see that this facility becomes a wing of NTRH.

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There is a day when my Chairperson requested you to come when we were in that facility because we wanted you to see the work that is going on there. We hope that after corona, that ground can become a private wing of Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital so that we can be able to access public services at an affordable rate.

Mr. Speaker, all other counties are doing the same. If you go to Kakamega Teaching and Referral Hospital, it has a very big private wing. I think that that is the direction so that we can say that we have a level 4 hospital that is a teaching and referral hospital with all the functions and the doctors that we need.

Mr. Speaker, another thing that has been raised by the Hon. Members is about masks. My Chair, Hon. Veronica has said that she was disappointed to see a child wearing a tire tube as a mask. This government is on record saying that they have engaged Laikipia Innovators to produce masks and we have not seen those masks. The acting CO for Health Department promised that those masks will be made available in our health facilities so that everybody visiting the hospital can be provided with one. That has not been done and what we wish to see what we say.

Another challenge that the Members have raised is the issues of staffing. We know that there is progress of interviews which have been concluded. We wish that they can fasten that process so that these people will very soon be deployed to various facilities in this county. We know that Laikipia has an acute shortage of medical officers, specialists and nurses. What the National Government provided this county is another 13 additional medical officers who were recruited by Laikipia.

Mr. Speaker, before corona we were to table a report in this House reporting on the status of provision of health services in Laikipia because we know that people need services at specialized levels and this is where the services are very expensive and these are the services which are not available in Laikipia. I hope that we will get back to that report so that we can be able to provide and compare how Laikipia was before we dismissed some doctors and how it is today.

We know that the dispensaries had an acute shortage of staff. There are dispensaries with only one nurse or two. We are also seeing the same trend of minimal supply of protective gears to our dispensaries. I hope that we will try to protect this on the lowest level possible. I think that the Hon. Members have also raised concern on this Assembly that we need to have screening, adequate masks and adequate sanitizers. We need to take the frontline in protecting ourselves.

Hon. Kanyutu has said that we need to be putting these masks throughout but again it is not advisable to be putting masks throughout because it reduces the flow of oxygen in the body. You can only put a mask when we are in close contact with other people to avoid droplets of saliva. It has been confirmed that this disease is not airborne but spreads through droplets which can only go as far as 1.5 meters.

So it is advisable that when you are in your private car not to put on the mask throughout because you can have a lot of headache due to lack of enough flow of oxygen. When you are moving along the roads with your car, why do you need a mask on? What are you protecting yourself from? Sometimes it is good for all of us to have the right information.

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Hon. Mary has also raised a concern of putting a screening point at Il Polei and I agree with her. We were in a meeting and the acting CO said that by the following day the screening point would be at Il Polei. Today I passed by Il Polei at 10.00 a.m. and there was no screening. At times Laikipia we should avoid doing a lot of public stories and learn to do what we say. The Minister of Health has said that if we treat this disease normally, it shall treat us abnormally.

Therefore, with those few remarks we promise as a committee that we shall continue with our oversight visits to see that all the things which are being planned to be done are implemented to the latter. I wish to request the Hon. Members to support the report. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

CONSIDERED RULING

Speaker: Just to put a word on the same, I also want to join the other Members in congratulating the Health Committee under the leadership of the able Chair, Hon. Veronica Ikunyua for preparing this informative and so educative report. I believe that all of us have learnt and it should set an example for other committees for us to be able to do our oversight work.

When we will be sitting in this Assembly we have a picture of what is happening across the county that even if you have not visited Umande or Lamuria, you can still be able to get a picture of what is happening all around because that is our work when we talk of oversight. Not only the Members of the committee who should be informed but they should get the information on our behalf and share the information through the report s that are tabled in this House.

Therefore, the Members of the Health Committee have done us proud and it is not the first time but in quite a number of times that they have extemporary works. Anytime we need to hand over some emerging business we always call on the Health Committee and they will be able to respond quickly.

Secondly, I only want to comment on one issue that I have learned from the report that there is a donor who donated some beds which were not used for a period of time while they were so helpful to us. Simply because of a small technicality of 110 voltages that needed to be converted to 240 voltages. This donor once visited this Assembly and I remember that they are Canadian donors through the Ol-pejeta Conservancy. They have been able to support this region with quite a lot of facilities.

If you go to quite a number of schools including Moi Girls, Sweetwaters Secondary School, Tigithi and St. Augustine at the other side of Ngobit, you will find small school libraries. Instead of waiting to build huge libraries, the only requirement they need is an empty classroom and then they fill the shelves with books and computers and that way they provide a small library for schools.

In the year 2011, they donated a number of facilities to the general hospital including some scanning machines which are there even to date. Due to the government lack of coordination, whatever is done by donors in this region, you find that some potential donors are doing a lot but it lacks coordination. Another time I said that when I visited some of the banks a manager revealed to me of an organization that supports more than 2,000 kids in this

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region including Meru and some arts of Nyeri. Laikipia is a beneficiary of more than 1000 kids in bursary.

Such a donor requires recognition from the Government itself because the work of educating children is the mandate of the government but other donors just come to give support. If the donor who donated these beds happened to come back another year and find the beds lying in Lamuria Dispensary, it means that she would shift her support to some other regions.

These are people who usually lack recognition because we lack a government coordination officer who is able to coordinate all the works that are done by the donors. This is a person who directed these resources to Lamuria simply because it is within the range that the Ol-pejeta supports. With the involvement of the government, it should say that even if these facilities are working in Lamuria, Lamuria will only require one or two because it is not a referral hospital. It may also help the Lamuria people because of the bed but not the specialist.

Therefore, the specialists are within the NTRH, we need them there to assist the Lamuria people. So when we have got the coordination and information to the donors, then they are able to be more flexible. A donor might say that they want to help Lamuria Dispensary but the question would be, the kind of support being given to Lamuria, will it serve our communities with the best support we would expect as long as it is in Lamuria. So such kind of advice would be given to the donors who are also flexible and would have brought such facilities long time ago to NTRH and these beds could have been used for some time.

I wish to thank the committee because they have done some elaborate work in their report. As Hon. Kanyutu said, I think that it is good to recognize the people who have done well and also to appreciate them when the time comes. So we don't want to say that they must go for benchmarking in China now like Hon. Kanyutu said because they cannot access the country but I think that it is important for us to think objectively.

We want the international travels to bring us a lot of knowledge and not just doing some meetings outside country. We need to gather wealth in terms of knowledge so that in future even when we are not Members of the County Assembly, we shall have a lot to share even with the society and wherever else we shall be engaged. With those few remarks I wish to congratulate the Health Committee again.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 20th May, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.50 p.m.

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