REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 23rd June, 2020

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Deputy Speaker: Clerk confirm whether there is quorum.

(No Quorum confirmed)

Deputy Speaker: I therefore order the Serjeant at Arms to ring the bell for ten minutes.

(The Quorum bell was rung for ten minutes)

Deputy Speaker: Clerk confirm whether there is quorum.

(Quorum Confirmed)

PAPERS LAID

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to lay the following papers;

1. Laikipia County Budget and Appropriations Committee report on supplementary budget for the Financial Year 2019/20.
2. Report on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategic paper for the Financial Year 2020/21 by the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

(Hon. Wilson Wakahiu laid the papers on the Table)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

POLICY FOR ECDE TEACHERS

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion.

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THAT NOTING THAT part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and child care facilities is a function of the County Government.

FURTHER NOTING THAT early childhood education is critical in ensuring a good foundation for child development.

AWARE that Early Childhood Education Policy is not in place to date in our county hence minimum stipends to ECD teachers causing low morale.

This House URGES the County Government to establish a policy for pre- primary education that will;

1. Seek to provide monthly stipends to the teachers.
2. Have adequate trained and motivated ECDE teachers in all public ECDE pre-schools in the county.
3. Upgrade the physical facilities and provide instructional and recreational facilities in the public pre- schools.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS POLICY

Hon. George Karuiru: Mr. Speaker, I have another notice of motion. I beg to give the following notice;

THAT AWARE THAT Article 43(1a) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care.

FURTHER AWARE THAT part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides that County Health Services including in particular promotion of primary health care, is a function of the County Government.

NOTING THAT Community Health Workers promote access to services, provide health education, support care delivery and promote advocacy.

Further noting that the County Government had employed Community Health Volunteers with minimum or no provision of stipends.

This House URGES the County Government to develop a policy for Community Health Workers/ Volunteers that will seek to;

1. Employ or recruit more Community Health Volunteers, train existing Community Health Volunteers and;
2. To provide for a budget for the currently employed Community Health Volunteers for purposes of providing stipends to the Community Health Volunteers.

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Thank you.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES REPORT FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion.

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the 2019/2020 Financial Year Second Supplementary Estimates by the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations dated 16th June, 2020.

(Deputy Speaker (Hon. Daniel Nyausi) left the Chair)

(The Speaker took the Chair)

CFSP 2020/2021 REPORT

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: The second notice of motion. Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion.

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2020/2021 by the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations dated 18th June, 2020.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: All notices have been given.

MOTION

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS POLICY

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion.

> THAT AWARE THAT Article 43(1a) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care.
>
> FURTHER AWARE THAT part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides that County Health Services including in particular promotion of primary health care, is a function of the County Government.
>
> NOTING THAT Community Health Workers promote access to services, provide health education, support care delivery and promote advocacy.
>
> Further noting that the County Government had employed Community Health Volunteers with minimum or no provision of stipends.

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This House URGES the County Government to develop a policy for Community Health Workers/ Volunteers that will seek to;

1. Employ or recruit more Community Health Volunteers, train existing Community Health Volunteers and;
2. To provide for a budget for the currently employed Community Health Volunteers for purposes of providing stipends to the Community Health Volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great concern on this motion. We have our Community Health Volunteers and Workers who are of late known as CHV's but it means the same. Since the beginning of the new constitution we had the Community Health Volunteers in difficult tasks. They were recruited when the National Government devolved health. I know that the Hon. Members have seen the importance of the CHV's in our localities. They go round our schools, hospitals and homes. They have a very hard task.

Mr. Speaker, why I have included points one and two is because the Community Health Volunteers, even if there is the word volunteer, were enrolled on a particular stipend. I think they lastly received their stipend last year around December in the name of issuance of Christmas. I think they received about Kshs. 5,000. There was an agreement that they would be receiving about Kshs. 3,000 and an airtime of Kshs. 2,000. Since when they were tasked to do this noble task they have never again received anything.

Lately during this period of COVID-19, I heard through the media services, in my local namely *Sawanga,* that the government though the Executive are saying that the persons who were going house to house identifying the needy cases were the CHV's. When I engaged my CHV's from Sipili and Ol Moran I learnt that they are even not being used. It was only for PR. When we had a *kamukunji* with His Excellency the Governor, he mandated the Hon. Members to follow on the issues of who are in the lists of the needy cases from our wards.

I am happy and appreciate that most of the Members engaged the CHV's because they are used to going from house to house. The list presented to the Members was a list that did not have needy cases. They have done us proud through knowing because they have gone house to house. My worry is that the CHV's are not yet being recognised by the government. I am urging the Executive to follow issues with the CHV's during their hard moments which they cannot face. This is similar to the village elders and the *Nyumba Kumi Initiative* who hardly get anything. They usually make calls using their own money.

Once a household realises that there is a problem that needs to be solved by the CHV it always calls. Sometimes they do not call but flash them. They have the call in them and then think that they are recognised by the government therefore, they call back. Some of the CHV's are actually deserving. It was understood that some were enrolled assuming that there would be good

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money due to the current situation of lack of employment. They were therefore engaged and did a good task.

I just beg the County Government that during the oncoming formulation of the budget, to incorporate these people through monthly stipends that will not cease. They could also put them on a pay roll. Therefore, they will realize that every task that they do is recognized by the County Government.

I appreciate and beg the Hon. Members to support the Community Health Volunteers/Workers. We put a policy for them to have a budget of their own. They are doing exemplary well during this COVID-19 period. We realized that the people who are being appreciated are the medics, nurses and Public Health Officers. Our CHV's are going round identifying malaria, cholera, typhoid and other noble basic needs. With those few remarks, I beg my friend Hon. Joseph Suge, Member of County Assembly for Rumuruti, to second this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Joseph Suge: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nimesimama ili niweze kuunga mkono mjadala huu uliopendekezwa na mwakilishi wa Ol Moran, Mheshimiwa George Karuiru. Ningependa kumshukuru kwa kujali hawa wafanyikazi wa kujitolea. Wanafanya kazi nzuri katika Kaunti yetu. Juzi nilimsikia Raisi wa Jamhuri ya Kenya akisema kwamba tuwe watu wa kufaana na kujali jirani, ndugu na dada zetu. Mheshimiwa George Karuiru ameweza kuleta mjadala huu kwa sababu ya wanaojitolea katika huduma za afya. Hawangeweza kufika Bungeni ama kufikia viongozi wa Serikali ya Kaunti.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kupitia Bunge lako tumepata huu mjadala. Tunawafahamu watu hawa kwa sababu wanafanya kazi nzuri kule mashinani. Wanawahamasisha wananchi jinsi ya kujikinga wakati huu wa homa ya Korona. Wakati huo mwingine pia wamekuwa wakifanya kazi nzuri. Wao huhudumia kina mama wanaojifungua. Zahanati nyingi katika hii kaunti ziko mbali kidogo. Wamekuwa wakisaidia na kuhamasisha wananchi jinsi ya kutumia hospitali zilizo mashinani.

Mara kwa mara hawa watu hutumika kwa njia isiyofaa. Tumeona pia katika Serikali Kuu, wazee wa mitaa wamekuwa wakichaguliwa ili kusaidia Ofisi ya Chifu na Serikali Kuu ilhali hakuna marupurupu wanayopata. Juzi tumewaona pia watu wa *nyumba kumi*. Kila kaunti kuna wafanyikazi wa kujitolea katika Idara ya Afya. Hawa watu hujitolea mara kwa mara kutokeapo jambo na kutumia rasilimali zao kwa kupiga simu ili kuita ambulensi ama wahudumu wa afya. Wakati umefika ambao sisi kama viongozi tuliopewa nafasi ya kuwakilisha wanyonge tufikirie jinsi ya kusaidia ili wapate marupurupu kutoka kwa Serikali ya Kaunti.

Tumeongea kwa muda mrefu kuhusu mambo ya walimu wa chekechea. Wanafanya kazi nzuri. Fedha wanazolipwa na hii kaunti ni kiwango cha chini. Nashukuru kwa sababu mjadala huu umekuja wakati unaofaa. Huu ni wakati wa bajeti na hivi karibuni tutaikalia. Naomba Bunge hili na Wajumbe walio hapa waweze kuwa na moyo. Waone ya kwamba hawa wafanyikazi wa kujitolea katika maswala ya afya wameorodheshwa ili wapate usaidizi kutoka kwa hii kaunti.

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Ukiangalia janga hili la Korona, vijana hawa wa kujitolea hawana vifaa vinavyotumika kwa wakati huu. Kukiwa na shida hata ya homa wananchi huwaita. Wao ndio wa kwanza kushuhudia. Wanahatarisha maisha yao. Serikali iwatambue kila wakati kwa kazi nzuri wanayofanya. Mjadala uko sawa. Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono. Nashukuru Mheshimiwa Karuiru kwa kuwasilisha huu mjadala. Asante.

(Question proposed)

Hon. George Meshami: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nasimama kuchangia hoja hii iliyoletwa katika Bunge lako tukufu. Inahusu wafanyikazi wa afya wa kujitolea. Wamekuwa watu wa maana pale mashinani. Wameweza kuelimisha watu wetu kuhusu afya njema na kuwasaidia kina mama wanaojifungua mahali pale. Ni kiungo muhimu sana cha wasaidizi ambao wamekuwa wakifanya kazi nzuri katika kaunti yetu.

Nashukuru Idara ya Afya kupitia kwa waziri. Leo hii amesema kuwa wako na mpango wa kuongeza pesa kwa wafanyikazi wasaidizi wetu kwa kiwango cha mia sita. Hiyo ni hatua muhimu sana na inayopigwa kuenda mbele na Idara ya Afya. Hapo nyuma kulikuwa na elimu jamii kuhusu NHIF. Watu hawa wamekuwa wa maana sana katika kueneza huo ujumbe. Kama kaunti tunajivunia kwa kuweza kusajili watu zaidi humu Laikipia.

Ningeomba Serikali husika ya Kaunti itilie mkazo na kuwasaidia hawa watu. Nakumbuka wakati huo walikuwa wanawalipa kitu kidogo kama elfu mbili hivi kulingana na kazi ya kusajili. Watu hawa kutoka huo wakati hadi leo hawajapata kitu chochote. Nakumbuka walikuwa wakilipwa shilingi elfu mbili kila mwezi kama kiinua mgongo. Hoja hii ni muhimu sana. Naomba serikali itilie mkazo na kuwatafutia wafanyikazi wetu kitu kidogo cha kuwasaidia katika maishani yao. Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to contribute to this motion on Community Health Volunteers. Before I make my contribution, I would wish the mover to clarify whether we have people who are currently employed because he has stated that we need to provide a budget for the currently employed Community Health Volunteers for the purpose of providing stipends to them. I would wish to get that clarification.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Hon. Kanyutu for that observation. There was a typing error because these people are not employed and that is our urge. Thank you and I clarify that they are not employed and that is why we are begging for the absorption of the same or the frequency of the stipends.

Speaker: So the word should read engaged?

Hon. George Karuiru: Precisely, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the mover for making that clarification. I had been shocked since in my area they are always engaged by the county but they are never employed. They just get a stipend but this is a noble idea that the Hon. Member has

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come up with. The work that these Community Health Workers do for our society is one of the best. It is unfortunate because even now with this pandemic they are always in our roadsides testing the temperatures of our people seeing to it that we do not get transmission from those people who travelled form far.

Unfortunately, at the end of the day they do not have something to go home with. They are also parents relied on by their families. It is good for the county, even if it would not employ them, to engage them in a mechanism whereby each end of the month they are getting something or a package to take home. This is a noble idea and we should ensure that they are in a system whereby the Health Department recognizes each and every area and each community health worker has their own area of jurisdiction.

It is good and if the distribution is done in a proper way each and every member of the community will know who their Community Health Volunteer is and in case of any challenge they are able to engage them. I want to thank the mover of this motion and I am happy for having made that observation and we come together. I am also sure the Committee on Health will note that these people do a lot of work. I wholly support and I wish all the other Members come together to ensure we support the community health workers.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nimesimama pia kuunga mkono mswada huu ulioletwa na Mheshimiwa wa Ol Moran kwa sababu ya kukaa na kufikiria wakaaji wa Laikipia. Nyumba hii inataka mipangilio na kufuatilia ili kosa lililoko hapa lirekebishwe kwa sababu huwa tunawaita *Community Health Volunteers*. Hii ni kwa sababu mfanyakazi ni mtu ameajiriwa na ikichanganywa hivyo itatuletea shida. Yote kwa yote tutasema ni kosa la usajili na kwamba Mheshimiwa Karuiru ameona umuhimu wa hawa *Community health Volunteers* kwa sababu ya ile kazi wanafanya. Wanajua wale wagonjwa walioko kijijini, na mgonjwa fulani anatumia dawa fulani na wanashauri wale wanaokataa kunywa dawa waende hospitalini.

Tungetaka kusema ya kwamba hawa *volunteers* waache kuwekewa pesa kwa miezi mitano. Wanaweza kulipwa mwaka ukianza na wanasubiri hadi mwaka uishe ndipo walipwe tena. Watu hao wanalia sana na wengine wanatembea safari ndefu. Kwa mfano, mtu anatoka Nturukuma na kwenda Kanyoni na hapo hata ni karibu. Kunao wale wanaotoka Ol Moran na kwenda Sipili na sijui kama hiyo ni Wadi moja. Hizo Wadi za Mashariki na Kaskazini ni kubwa sana na kwa hivyo ukimwekea mtu huyo hizo elfu zake mbili za kumrudishia shukrani unamvunja moyo. Ninataka kumshukuru sana kwa sababu ya kuangalia maneno hayo. Bajeti ya 2019/2020 tuliwawekea milioni kumi na tano. Pesa hizo ndipo ziwafikie imekuwa ni balaa. Hatutaki mtu anawacheza wananchi wa Laikipia. Kama pesa zimewekewa mtu fulani ziende kwake muda ufaao. Tunataka kusema kama nyumba yetu ya Bunge kwamba tunayafuatilia maneno hayo sana.

Nimesikia katika bajeti hii inasemekana pesa zinaongezwa. Pesa ziongezwe lakini ziwafikie wahusika bali zisikae kwa afisi zikifanya kazi ambazo hazikutengewa. Hawa mawaziri wako na mwenendo wa kubadilisha pesa. Kama pesa zimetengwa, kwa mfano, na huwa napenda

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kutumia kwangu sio kwa mwingine, za kutengeneza eneo la kuegeza magari hazifai kubadilishwa zipelekwe mahali pengine bila sisi kuhusishwa. Hii ni kwa sababu wale wanaofanya hivyo wanaikosea nyumba hii heshima. Lazima tuwe na msimamo ya kwamba anayecheza na bajeti vile anavyotaka lazima tumchukulie hatua. Ninashukuru sana Mheshimiwa Karuiru kwa sababu ya kuileta hii na tunaiunga mkono. Bajeti ikija tutaendelea kuinga mkono ndipo watu wetu wasaidike lakini sio kuipitisha tu kisha ikae hapo bila kutumika. Asante na ninaunga mkono.

Speaker: May I now request the mover to give a reply.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think after reporting today we had a meeting that is why one or two errors have occurred but I appreciate the Members for understanding. What I would urge the Assembly and even the Committee on Implementation led by my friend the Hon. Suge that some of these things when we send them to the executive they seem to slow implementation. I would like to appreciate the Members and we make a follow up. Thank you especially Hon. Veronica who is the Chair for Health since the noble task is about health.

I am hoping that if we follow this through budgetary allocations and our day to day implementation of these health issues we are going to have these absorbed or as Hon. Kanyutu put it with a consistent amount of stipend. They will not be living when they are being misused by the government because we appreciate the work that they do. I am hoping that if it is followed to the letter or as Hon. Veronica has put it, these budgets when they are there we need to follow up on them.

The Community Health Workers and Wanjiku that we are here to represent cannot bring themselves here to follow how their budgets went or they were happy that they are recognized by the budget was put. If we would follow and see that their budgets are being implemented to the letter we will be good to go. Thank you and I urge the Hon. Members to support as they are our brothers and sisters doing that.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 24th June, 2020, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.13 p.m.

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