REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 26th September, 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 quorum?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN BEAUTIFICATION POLICY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, Aware that Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya provides that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes the right—to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures;

FURTHER NOTING that beautification is the process of making visual improvements to a place which will go handy with the County Government's initiative of smart towns;

AWARE that beautification of towns determines the level of attraction to tourists and investors;

FURTHER AWARE that exterior painting of both residential and commercial buildings gets affected through heat, rain, cold, pollution and changing weather conditions making the paint fade, loose colour gloss and thus looks dull;

This House URGES the County Government to establish a policy that seeks to;

i. Beautify towns by planting trees and flowers, hedges and adding decorative or historic-style street lights in order to improve their physical outlook.

ii. Ensure that every building should be painted at least once every year.

iii. Ensure that the frontage of a building is kept clean, in a good condition and well repaired.

iv. Ensure installation of security lights in the front of the building.

STATEMENT

NTRH ELECTRICITY BACK UP SYSTEM AND SUPPLY OF MEDICINES

Hon. Daniel Mugweru thro' Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a statement that I will read on behalf of Hon. Mugweru, MCA for Umande Ward. Hon. Speaker,

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pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order No.45(2)c, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson for Health Services Committee regarding the above-mentioned subject.

Hon. Speaker, Article 26(1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that, every person has the right to life. It further provides in Article 43(1a) that, every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health services. Hon. Speaker, Power outages in health facilities can have serious and potentially life-threatening consequences. These dangers arise due to the reliance of healthcare institutions on electricity to power critical equipment and maintain a safe and functional environment for patients.

Some of the dangers associated with power outages include disruption of patient care and monitoring, unsafe medication storage and administration, disabled diagnostics and imaging services, compromised sterilization and infection control, interrupted or delayed surgical procedures among others. Hon. Speaker, on the night of 18th August, 2023 Nanyuki Teaching and referral Hospital experienced power outage for three hours. This was a clear indication that the facility has no power backup system.

Hon. Speaker, I request the Chairperson for Health Services Committee to inform this House on;

i. Whether the Nanyuki teaching and referral hospital has backup power systems, such as generators and uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), to provide electricity during outages.

ii. Whether the facility has emergency response plans to ensure the safety and continuity of care for patients in the event of power disruptions.

iii. How often is testing and maintenance of backup systems done.

iv. When can the provision of medicine in the dispensary and health centres be done.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Anthony Theuri for reading the statement on behalf of Hon. Daniel Mugweru, Hon. Member for Umande Ward. Since the Honourable Member who raised the statement is here, I will allow him to comment on the statement he came up with.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this special chance to give insight on the same. Hon. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that we as the County Government of Laikipia, Health is devolved. So, it is our responsibility and our priority to make sure that the people of Laikipia get the best services ever.

Hon. Speaker, because the members of Health Committee are present, it is important to make to them clear so that they may understand the animal they are facing. Hon. Speaker, when we say that we are requesting the Chairperson for Health Services Committee to inform this House, we are inquiring on whether the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital has backup power systems such as generators and power supply.

What we are requesting is not just whether they have the back-up generator and the power system but whether they have power generator and back-up power systems that are functional. It is not necessarily that we have a generator but what we want is the functionality. When the Committee on Health go to get this information, get to know whether we have back-up generator that is functional. Hon. Speaker, when we talk of a statement, the statement should be a statement of fact.

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When I say a statement of fact, I came up with this statement because on a certain day a week ago, I cannot remember the specific day but there is a day that I was there in the hospital. I had taken a patient to that Teaching and Referral Hospital and power went out for about three hours. That was in my presence and it is something I can testify to. It was total darkness in a Teaching and Referral Hospital. So, I wondered if it is total darkness, then the answer is very simple; even the systems that are in the hospital that are supported by power probably broke down in one way or the other for at least those two or three hours.

We might lose lives because of power. As a government, we need to think of having powerful backup generators which are functional. We might have some there and my knowledge is that yesterday they were repairing. I wonder what hospital should work under generators that need repair now and then. They should have systems that are instant and can operate at any time because we never know when the power will be off.

Sometime back there was a blackout in the whole country. It means that they did not have a backup generator to support our patients. When we ask whether a facility has emergency response plans, it is to ensure the safety and continuity of care for patients in the event of power disruptions. That is why we are insisting on the backup. Members of the Committee of Health should not feel threatened because it is not them who are supposed to do this. Let us get the right information from the relevant Executive leadership, to tell us what is happening so that we may be able to understand and assure the people of Laikipia of their safety when they are in hospital.

Hon. Speaker, we should also know the testing because you cannot wait to test your generator when a blackout has occurred. I remember when we were in Nakuru for sports, and Hon. Stephen can attest to this, there is a day we went to a certain hotel. When we were there (Hon. Karuiru is not present) we were told there is a total blackout in the whole country. The statement was that they were now testing the generator whether it is functional when we are already in darkness. How do you test generators when we are already in darkness?

So, we need to understand they test and maintain the backup generators in that hospital. Not just Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, but this goes to all health centers, Nyahururu, Rumuruti and Doldol hospitals and even dispensaries. We also need to understand when the provision of medicine in dispensaries and health centers will be done.

Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Members who are here can attest that our dispensaries do not have medicine. People will stand and say that Hon. Mugweru from Umande is fighting the government but the truth is that we do not have medicine in our dispensaries and health centres. We must stand firm because that is why we were elected and that is why we are in this House to do our oversight roles properly.

Being in the Committee as a Member does not mean that in my area, the dispensaries have got medicine. Even if you are the Chairperson of Health Committee, your dispensary does not have medicine. Even if you are a member of health committee, the patients from your ward who come to the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital will find blackouts there. There is no special hospital for the Members of Health Committee. Therefore, we need to make a collective responsibility to ensure that the health is safe in our hands for the sake of Laikipia people.

Mr. Speaker, I really thank you. I wanted to mention those few so that the Health Committee may work knowing that there are facts on the same. I have just remembered the day there was a total black out in the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, it was on 18th September, 2023 and I was there. So those are not stories because I was present and those

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doctors can confirm because I called all of them and they came at night. Therefore, it is evident that we have got a problem.

Secondly, it is evident because yesterday the work they were doing was to prepare a generator all the way from 18th to 20 something. That means if there were to be a blackout in between, then our patients would be in problems. So, we must stand firm and speak out irrespective of which government we represent because we should also represent the interests of our people.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru for a robust addition on the statement. I don't see the Chairperson for Health Committee to probably give us a date but I will allow a member of that committee because I can see several of them.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that if given two weeks we will be having a response to the statement.

Speaker: So, in two weeks' time you will be able to have a response?

Hon. Leila Hussein: Yes.

Speaker: Thank you. It shall be recorded that in two weeks we shall get a response from the Honourable Chairperson of the Health Committee. What is it Hon. Mugweru?

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member for health requesting for two weeks, I feel that she does not understand the urgency. We have got kids who are in the incubators and people who will be sick today. You never know whether they will be your brother, father or cousin and therefore this is emergency. At least just reduce the duration from two weeks because in two weeks, we can lose many lives. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Leila, would you like to change the time now that the Hon. Member has raised a concern.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Yes Mr. Speaker because we understand the urgency, I believe that maybe a minimum of one week will do if not shorter. Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Leila you have picked your date and therefore we expect a response from the Health Committee on 3rd October, 2023. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.45 p.m.

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