REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 3rd June, 2025

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

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM PCEA NANYUKI GIRLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Speaker: Hon. Members, I stand here and wish to take this opportunity to recognize the presence of 40 grade 9 pupils from PCEA Nanyuki Girls Boarding Primary School in Nanyuki Ward, Laikipia East constituency.

They are accompanied by their teachers, namely;

1. Nancy Motavia,
2. Margaret Kahiato,
3. Mwangi Mukunda,
4. Kelvin Mutuma,
5. Jennifer Mbugua.

Hon. Members, on my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them and wish them a fruitful engagement during their visit to the county assembly of Laikipia. You may be seated. Thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

FREE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT FOR PWDS

Hon. Kaniaru Mathenge: Honourable Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, NOTING THAT Section 24(5) of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025 provides that persons with disabilities shall be entitled to free medical care and treatment in public health institutions; Section 24(6) further provides that medical assessment reports for persons with disabilities, including for purposes of registration under the Act, shall be done free of charge in public health institutions;

AWARE THAT according to the Kenya National Bureau of statistics, the total number of persons living with disabilities in Laikipia stands at twelve thousand two hundred and thirty (12,230);

FURTHER AWARE THAT to be registered as a person living with disability, one needs to first undergo a medical assessment;

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COGNIZANT THAT Laikipia County has two assessment centres namely; Nyahururu referral hospital and Nanyuki Teaching and referral hospital that charge Kshs. 650 and Kshs. 1200 respectively;

CONCERNED OF the discrepancies in the charging systems from the two assessment centres yet they are both in Laikipia County;

This Assembly URGES the County Government to offer free medical assessment to Persons Living with disability in Laikipia County in accordance to the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025.

MOTION

FREE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT FOR PWDS

Hon. Kaniaru Mathenge: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, NOTING THAT Section 24(5) of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025 provides that persons with disabilities shall be entitled to free medical care and treatment in public health institutions; Section 24(6) further provides that medical assessment reports for persons with disabilities, including for purposes of registration under the Act, shall be done free of charge in public health institutions;

AWARE THAT according to the Kenya National Bureau of statistics, the total number of persons living with disabilities in Laikipia stands at twelve thousand two hundred and thirty (12,230);

FURTHER AWARE THAT to be registered as a person living with disability, one needs to first undergo a medical assessment;

COGNIZANT THAT Laikipia County has two assessment centres namely; Nyahururu referral hospital and Nanyuki Teaching and referral hospital that charge Kshs. 650 and Kshs. 1200 respectively;

CONCERNED OF the discrepancies in the charging systems from the two assessment centres yet they are both in Laikipia County;

This Assembly URGES the County Government to offer free medical assessment to Persons Living with disability in Laikipia County in accordance to the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, first before I continue with the motion, I want first to take this moment to first welcome our students from PCEA girls who are with us and with their teachers and request them that they feel welcomed as they learn what happens in Laikipia County Assembly.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, I want to say that people living with disability are equal before the law. These people, regardless of their socio-economic and political status, they are guaranteed protection against any discrimination. Mr. Speaker, for the people living with disability, to access government services, they need to be registered and through registration, they must access medical assessment from a licensed hospital.

Mr. Speaker, in our case in Laikipia, we've got Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital and Nyahururu County Referral Hospitals which are licensed to take this mandate. But you may realize, these hospitals are not carrying their mandate as expected. Two weeks ago, our president, H.E. William Ruto, signed the People Living with Disability Act 2025 which clearly stated that people living with disability are entitled to free medical services and more so, they

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are entitled to free assessment for their registration. According to the Act, to be very specific, Section 24B and Section 25, specify very clearly that these people need to acquire medical services.

Mr. Speaker, you may come to realize that when a person living with disability visits like Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, he or she is charged Kshs.1,200. When this person visits Nyahururu Teaching and Referral Hospital, the same person is charged Kshs.650 yet, these hospitals are still in Laikipia County. I wonder why there is this discrepancy Mr. Speaker? The law stipulates very clearly that these people are not supposed to be charged when they are accessing their medical report.

I wonder, these people, most of them are bedridden. I wonder, who is this person siphoning money from people living with disability? Yet, these people depend on their caregivers for food, for money, for their health. Yet, they are expected to pay Kshs. 1,200. It is very inhuman. It pains me Mr. Speaker, a person who cannot do anything for himself or herself, yet this person is charged.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say and to state very clearly, it's a big shame for the person who thinks that he or she will siphon money from these people and yet, it's just two weeks since the President signed the bill and it stated that these people are not supposed to pay any coin.

Mr. Speaker, it's very funny. The Government of Kenya, according to the People with Disability Act 2005, it also says that people living with disability are exempted from paying tax. If they are exempted from paying tax, why should they also pay the assessment fee Mr. Speaker? It's little money, why? I wonder who is this person who thinks that he or she is very clever enough to ensure that or to see that he can siphon money from these people? Yet these people do not earn.

According to the County Act also Mr. Speaker, you may realize that when a person living with disability wants to start a business, he or she does not pay their license fee. So, if he is exempted, why is this fee not also exempted? So, I don't know the reason why we have a person and he or she knows that very clearly these people do not earn. Most of them cannot be able even to move from where they are. They are in their beds. They also need to have the government services. Yet, you decide to sit down and decide to acquire money from these people.

I want to say this Mr. Speaker. Most of our counties, our surrounding counties, I've been to them, like Meru counties, Nyandarua, and also Kiambu. These people when they visit these health facilities, they're not charged. Why in Laikipia charged? It means there is someone who has decided to establish corruption in our hospitals. And with these Mr. Speaker, it's very bad. So, I urge Members in this House to take this issue upon themselves also and realize what is happening in our hospitals. Even members who are here, we are all candidates to disability. We don't know. I want to say this because one of the Members, I know he can attest to that. One time, he was on the way to being registered. So, but through God's mercy, he was healed.

So, I want to say that what we need to realize is that this issue of disability, we need to take it in a serious manner so that our people can be able to get services. I would beg the Hon. Catherine Umija, who is also a member who supports the Disability Act, to second this motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Do you have a seconder? Just say, I would like to hear.

Hon. Kaniaru Mathenge: Mr. Speaker, I have just said who to second the motion.

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Speaker: Hon. Umija, the floor is yours.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Kaniaru for bringing the motion in the Assembly. It is the high time we take care of people with disability. I know in our homes we are caregivers in one way or another. I thank Hon. Kaniaru for bringing this motion on set. I know the Disability Act, 2025 has just been assigned to by the president and it is yet to trickle down to county level.

I would like to congratulate some of the counties that have already taken that role or they have taken the mandate to ensure that people with disability are not going to pay this fee. I want to say categorically that Laikipia County is charging higher than most of the counties that usually charge assessment fees. The average fee is around Kshs. 500 and Laikipia is charging Kshs.1200 and Kshs.650 which is high compared to the average charges. It is the high time that we do away with these charges.

Just as Hon. Kaniaru has said, if they are not paying taxes, licenses, let us give them the benefit of doubt. Doing an assessment should be a free activity that the County Government hospitals offer to the people living with disability. Caregivers are given hard task to take care of people with disability. One thing that I know is apart from providing for the people who are living with disability, you cannot give the caregivers another extra amount of money to pay for hospitals yet we have the County Governments who can support people living with disability.

It is high time that we give social protection where needed to the people living with disability. I want to thank Hon. Kaniaru. He is a person living with disability and he understands this very well. I know it is the high time the Chairperson for the Health Committee and the Members who are sitting in the health docket to raise these issues as statements in this House to ensure that people living with disability are taken care of within our county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would also acknowledge the presence of the students from PCEA Girls Primary School. This is an opportunity and we would like to have more women representatives in the House. *Msome kwa bidii* and ensure that you come here and represent the issues that affects the people of Laikipia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Members, you may proceed. I want to open the floor and I want to start with Hon. Daniel Mugweru.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me to make my contribution in regards to the motion brought here by Hon. Kaniaru. Hon. Speaker, before I do that, I wish to acknowledge the presence of the students from PCEA Girls. I believe today is a learning day and they will get something from this House. In future, they shall be part of the many who will be working in this Assembly as Members.

Others will even go to the National Assembly because I believe today, they will have that thirst of becoming one of us. Hon. Speaker, having said that, I also wish to thank Hon. Kaniaru for coming up with this motion and especially being his first motion in this House, it is a great pleasure. He has brought a motion and I believe the reason as to why he was nominated into this House is to represent the interest of people living with disability.

Hon. Speaker, this is the high time that the people of Laikipia will come to know that people living with disability have been represented in this House. Previously we didn't have anyone representing them. We used to represent them as Members who were elected and

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nominated. Now they are having one of them who is representing them. Congratulations Hon. Kaniaru and have this spirit. Represent your people diligently because God will reward you.

Hon. Speaker, having said that, my concern is that today as we are speaking about the people living with disability's taxes and free medical cover they are guaranteed in our Constitution. Hon. Speaker, it should not be a conversation because they are guaranteed. It is shameful that the Laikipia Government which we are part of in the legislation, today people living with disability still pay for the hospital bills and all that.

Hon. Speaker, now the worst part that has come to my mind is not about paying. It is getting to know that if the people of Nanyuki are going to be assessed in Nanyuki, you are going to pay Kshs.1,200 whereas when you are assessed in Nyahururu you will pay Kshs.650. Hon. Speaker, that is discrimination of the highest order because Nanyuki and Nyahururu are in Laikipia. They are hospitals of this government and it is very shameful.

We need just not to sit down and put a stop to that but we need to enquire on why because we need to understand why one should pay Kshs.1,200 in Nanyuki and another person pay Kshs.650 in Nyahururu yet they are suffering the same problem and yet they are served by the same doctors who are paid by the government of Laikipia. The assessment is the same for Nanyuki and Nyahururu, the problems are the same and the doctors assessing are the same. Why the discrepancy Hon. Speaker?

So, Hon. Speaker, this motion is not only discussing about how they are supposed to get free services but also, we need to go deeper and understand why those people who paid Kshs.650, who will give back? Are they the ones who paid Kshs.1,200 or Kshs.650. They are either supposed to get back the amount of money they paid extra. We still need to get the person who sat down and agreed that I will be charging this Kshs.1,200 and the other one Kshs.650.

Today in this chamber, we had a meeting with the people from Health Department. I could hear confidently the one in charge of the hospital saying that he was able to award a contract that was not budgeted for. He confidently said as if it is something good that we are budgeting it now but we have already one and it is complete. They just want to get money to pay for it. Hon. Speaker, it means that in that department, there are people who have grown horns and they make decisions the way they want.

We need to go for them Hon. Speaker. It is either they refund money that the people of Nanyuki extra or I do not know how they will tell the people of Nyahururu to pay the other balance that they never paid. It is upon them to choose which is easier for them because we cannot sit down here as the people of Laikipia looking at the government institutions which is the now government discriminating some people for no reason.

Hon. Speaker, I really support this motion and trust that the Committee on Implementation will make a serious follow-up to make sure that this motion is implemented and also will go deep to get the people who took money from people living with disability in this county. I support and I still continue thanking Hon. Kaniaru for having this motion and exercising his responsibility. Thank you.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the motion. Before I make my contribution, I want to acknowledge the presence of our good school in Laikipia, the PCEA Girls Boarding Primary School. It is a pleasure to have them in the morning too. This is the first time we are having the same school on the same day.

I want to encourage them to take this opportunity to learn from us and also to be patriotic, to believe in themselves and also to acknowledge the teachers and Mr. Mutuma who

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happens to be my pastor. We go to the same church under our guidance of Prophet Paul Mwaniki. Apart from that, I want to congratulate Hon. Denis Kaniaru. This is his maiden motion. Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that things in this motion are being discussed when it is too late.

There is a lot of error. First of all, they are not supposed to pay anything. Secondly, the difference of paying Kshs.1,200 in Nanyuki and Kshs.650 should not be done. It is also good to remind ourselves and to remind this House that if you are not infected, you are affected. As I had told you earlier in the morning, I am son of a woman and I was raised by a single grandmother. By God's grace, we never had an issue living with people with disability until she was 94 years old. She was handicapped for six years.

I have first-hand experience with that. Mr. Speaker, it is emotional but I want to remind this House that it has been an embarrassment and I am trying to put it in better words that we have been speaking of inclusivity, equity and you wonder which society we are living in.

Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to encourage the activists and those who have been advocating for the same, nowadays people are not hiding PWDs like before. However, all the buildings we are approving in Nanyuki, where I reside and have the mandate of oversight, 99% if not 100% do not have facilities for PWDs.

This morning, I received a call from one of the residents of my area and she had a complaint. It might not be for this forum, but she was informing me that there is a school in my area called Nturukuma Primary school, and was asking whether we can do an extra class for children living with disability. They are taking children from Likii and all over Majengo all the way to Kalalu because that is the only place where you can find a class for PWD students or day scholars. This is the situation that we are living in. Even the facilities in hospitals are not friendly to them. It is an irony; if even the government itself is not deducting any tax from them, why should we?

The government for the people, *mama mboga, bodaboda;* we are the ones taxing them. It is not only in the hospitals. Even on the streets they are being taxed each and every day. I wonder why the double standard. So, I urge this House, and especially the committee that is chaired by Hon. Shuel to follow up on this and live by it. We all pray and hope for the best, but we should be reminded that we are all candidates for disability. One morning you are healthy but in the next minute you are handicapped. Whatever those people are going through, every one of us is a candidate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this House to pass the motion, but not only that, let us go an extra mile in sensitizing and championing the same. We do not even have a kitty, and I do not see the Hon. Chair of the Budget Committee. Just as the Bible says, where your riches are, that is where your heart is also. If we mean business with PWDs, and I have reminded this House that everyone is a candidate, the budget does not reflect the same. I do not want to say we are hypocritical, but it means that we are not serious.

If we really mean business, Mr. Speaker, let us put money aside in that budget. Let us work on it and champion it because they are one of us. At the end of the day, we do not have a PWD at heart. These people have a heart, emotions and they offer pure love, which is rarely seen. It is very difficult to find someone who can love you unconditionally; only those people. If you give them love, they will love you back. Maybe it is me only but I believe that their prayers reach God much faster than ours, because they do not have a lot of things. Theirs is to enjoy life and thank God, and most of the time their prayers go directly to God. So, if they bless you, you are highly blessed.

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So, Mr. Speaker, we embrace them and look at their issues with heart and action. Having said that, I believe that Hon. Stephen Ndiritu who happens to be the Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, the next budget should reflect the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I support wholeheartedly. Henceforth, I will be championing just as I have been doing and will be louder than this. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion by Hon. Kaniaru, and I congratulate him for bringing the motion. We may not know the disparity but maybe he knows and is following up on what he was elected to do. I also congratulate the students who are here. As I said in the morning, rarely do most students get a chance to be in the Assembly. However, the students who have been blessed to be with us…

Speaker: Just a second, Hon. Kanyutu. I can see your microphone is on, Hon. Wachuka. Oh, thank you. Continue, Hon. Kanyutu.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the students and welcome them to the Assembly as we try to represent our people. I am sure when I was their age, I did not imagine that there would be a time when I would be in the Assembly. However, having this session here, even in their minds they now feel refreshed and feel that in future they would wish to come and represent their people perhaps in a way we did not think back then.

Mr. Speaker, the disparities are really concerning. In the morning, we were discussing about the finance bill, and I think we also need to incorporate the same issue within it so that we can be knowing some of the charges that are being levied in our facilities. It is unfortunate when somebody being served in Nanyuki is charged Kshs.1,200 whereas the other person in Nyahururu is charged Kshs.650. Both facilities are of almost equal status – both are teaching and referral hospitals and are within our county. Previously Nyahururu was in Nyandarua County but we were able to reclaim it.

I think that being within our county, we need to streamline it and ensure that the charges meted on our people are well outlined in our finance bill so that there is nobody who is not well represented. I wholly support, and congratulate the Hon. Member who has brought this motion to the floor of the House. We will see to it that it is properly implemented. As the other Hon. Members have said, the Implementation Committee should make a follow-up to see to it that everything is followed to the letter. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. I want to give the chance to Hon. Stephen.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nashukuru kwa kunipa hii nafasi ili niweze kuzungumza kuhusu muswada ulio mbele ya Bunge hili. Kwanza, nakushukuru kwa sababu unapopeana nafasi mara nyingi unaangalia ukubwa. Mimi na Mheshimiwa Kanyutu tulipofinya kwa wakati mmoja, uliona ni vizuri umpe nafasi, nami nikashukuru.

Jambo la pili, Mheshimiwa Spika, mswada ulio mbele ya Bunge hili ni mswada tunaofaa kuuzungumzia kwa undani kwa sababu haitakuwa jambo la busara kuwalipisha walemavu ada isiyostahili. Jambo ambalo limenikera na ningependa kulisema ni kwamba katika hospitali zetu kuna ada zinazopaswa kutozwa wasiojiweza. Leo asubuhi, tulizungumza kuhusu mswada wa fedha na kuona ada zilizo ndani yake. Nilipoangalia, hakuna mahali ambapo niliona ada za walemavu. Ukienda hospitalini, unapata kuwa wanalipisha ukaguzi ambao yule mwananchi wa Laikipia anafanyiwa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, hilo ni jambo linalotuonyesha wazi kwamba tunapopitisha mswada wa fedha hapa, kuna watu wengine wameketi kitako na kuamua watalipisha pesa ngapi na watalipisha nani. Hii ni Nyumba ya sheria inayopaswa kuheshimiwa na mtu yeyote anayefanya

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kazi katika Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia. Hata mimi mwenyewe ninayetengeneza sheria nafaa kuifuata. Jambo ninalotaka lizingatiwe ni kwamba iwapo mlemavu hapaswi kulipa leseni, na iko kwenye sheria ambayo Mheshimiwa Kaniaru amezungumza kuhusu hapa, hiyo haina haja ya kuongea; unaipitisha tu jinsi ilivyo.

Mheshimiwa Spika, leo nimesikia kwamba kila mtu ana uwezo wa kupata ulemavu. Nasema hivyo kwa sababu nilipokuwa natafuta kiti kwa mara ya kwanza, nusra niwe mlemavu. Nilipata ajali na ikanipeleka vibaya lakini Mungu ni wa rehema sana kwamba nasimama hapa nikiwa siko kwenye kategoria ya walemavu. Kumekuwa na malalamishi kwamba kwa sababu nilichaguliwa nikiwa na magongo, mimi basi nawakilisha walemavu. Hiyo ilikuwa tu uvumi. Sasa leo ni wazi kuwa kuna mtu humu ndani anayewakilisha walemavu; sio mimi. Hilo ni jambo ninalofurahia kwa sababu linalosemwa gizani mwishowe hutokea kikiwa cheupe.

Mheshimiwa Spika, jambo lingine lililonishangaza ni kwamba Hospitali ya Nanyuki inatoza ada ya elfu moja ilhali Hospitali ya Nyahururu inatoza ada ya mia sita. Hio tofauti inatoka wapi? Hawa watu wa Magharibi watatukoma, na watatueleza ni wapi wanaenda kujadiliana kuwapendelea watu wa Laikipia Magharibi na kuwafinyilia chini watu wa Laikipia Mashariki. Sitakoma kuhusu hayo mambo, na nitayafuatilia hata wakifinya ni lazima niongee mchana. Wamechukua viti vyote, vya Gavana na Seneta, na sasa wakikaa huko wanaanza kutulipisha ovyoovyo. Lazima sisi watu wa Mashariki tuheshimiwe na kupewa haki yetu ili sote tutoshane. Kwa hayo machache, naomba kukomea hapo. Ninashukuru.

Speaker: Thank you. I want to give the floor to Hon. Wachuka, but before that, I want to ask Hon. Karuiru what it is… Just sit, let Hon Karuiru first ask his question then you can take over the floor.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted clarity…You must be attentive, Mr. Speaker, because I know you do not have eyes. Hon. Stephen has been pointing out about Members from Laikipia West. I come from Olmoran Ward in Laikipia West and I did not make any implementation that PWDs in Laikipia West be charged lower than those in Laikipia East. I think you should harmonize all this because you have ears and you can hear what the Member is saying.

Mr. Speaker, instead of coming through you, and the Member has gone out; and I know you should use your powers to throw Hon. Ndiritu out of the House. There he is going out. You should advise him that he should address you, and not us directly as Members. We did not implement. We had the Health Committee today and they are the implementers of whatever was brought across board. We are not the Executive; we are only legislators. So, he should be advised. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. George. Advise and concern well taken. Hon. Wachuka?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nashukuru kwa hii nafasi ambayo umenipa. Nasimama mbele ya hili Bunge letu kuchangia mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Kaniaru, ni kitu cha muhimu sana. Nikirudi nyuma kidogo tu, mtu anaweza kuamka vile niliamka leo lakini jioni awe mtu mwingine. Hayo ni Mungu ajuaye. Walemavu ni watu wetu na ndugu zetu, kwa hivyo mswada kama huu ukiletwa hapa na Mheshimiwa Kaniaru; kitu cha kwanza ninachotaka kusema kuhusu hospitali ni kwamba wawe na kadi yao baada ya sisi kupitisha huu mswada.

Mtu awe na hiyo kadi Laikipia nzima ili akienda hospitali hatalipishwa. Hata kama wako na biashara ambazo wameweka wawe wakipewa leseni bure kwa sababu mimi siwezi kutoshana na Kaniaru na hilo ndilo jambo ambalo tunafaa kuangalia na tukianzia na hili Bunge

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letu, utaona ya kwamba inaweza kuenea kwa hizo Kaunti zingine arobaini na sita. Leseni ni kitu cha maana. Kwa wale ambao hawajaingia kwa hili Bunge kama Mheshimiwa Kaniaru, anaweza kuwa na biashara.

Kama leo nilipotoka Nyahururu nilisikia ya kwamba hapa kuna vioski ambavyo vinagongwa gongwa. Ijumaa nilikuwa nisaidie mama ambaye alikuwa alizaliwa akiwa mzima lakini hivi leo yeye ni mlemavu. Kanisa lilichanga elfu kumi na mimi ninaenda kuongeza kumi na mbili ili tumuwekee biashara na nikasema ya kwamba hatalipa leseni lakini kama Kaunti itamlipisha basi nitamlipia.

Kwa hivyo, tunataka kupitisha huu mjadala na kusema ya kwamba wawe wakienda hospitali bila kulipishwa na pia leseni pia wawe wakipewa bila malipo juu hao ni watu wetu na ni Wakenya. Kwa hivyo, naunga mkono nikisema ya kwamba kuwa mlemavu sio kumaanisha ya kwamba hauweza kufanya chochote kwa sababu ni Mungu aliyeruhusu iwe namna hivyo. Wewe ulifanyia Mungu nini ili uwe vile ulivyo? Kwa hivyo, inafaa tushikilie wenzetu na tukipitisha huu mjadala katika hili Bunge, litaenea kwa hizo Bunge zingine na hili litakuwa jambo nzuri. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, very much. I want to give a brief moment to Hon. George.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the presence of the PCEA Nanyuki and also acknowledge their representatives of the staff and not forgetting the legislative team from the County Assembly. It is very noble for the students willing and also the supporting staff to also bring them. I know that it has taken a lot of effort including the budget and other things to enable them to visit the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the mover of the motion, Hon. Kaniaru. It is my thought that in this legislative House we also put that there will be no people living with disability because as one of the Members has said, we are enabled differently. If I am allowed and I know that if I join with my brother Kaniaru here, we are going to come up with a policy from this Assembly and say that we are living differently.

Anybody can become disabled and I know that there are so many people who are enabled differently as PWDs. Most can do better than other persons who are not disabled. I would also like to congratulate the government for oversighting. I remember because God had granted me an opportunity to be in this Assembly in the previous regime and we did not have a representative of PWDs. It is good now that they are represented because whoever is representing the youth, people with different ambition, women and others, they should now front what they feel that should be done.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the assessment fee, one, I would want to address this that we need to have an equal opportunity because of what I am referring to being enabled differently. I think that the assessment fee should be scrapped off. As we speak, despite of the PCEA that we have today, I think that any other person who is over 18 years with our titles as Hon. Members can be called an Hon. Member if at all she puts the ambition she wants towards vying for the MCA seat.

Out of these assessments, anybody going to the health facilities can call himself or herself a person with disability because the mental inability and the physical of it is accessed in our health facilities. It is unfortunate that we have got assessment centres only in Nanyuki and Nyahururu not forgetting that we have got the entire wide Laikipia West composed of six wards, Laikipia East composed of five wards and Laikipia North which is not even represented not forgetting that wed the BATUK and others.

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Right now, when we had the Health Committee today, they were begging for increment in terms of budget. One thing we should know when we are giving these budgets is that they have got technocrats because they have over 140 staff for the medical fraternity. In my ward Olmoran Ward I have got four facilities namely Sipili, Kabati, Mbogoini and Olmoran. If we would have got people to assess and ascertain that this person is differently enabled, it would ease the burden of that person from going to Nyahururu for assessment to ascertain whether he or she has got a disability.

In order of priority, our health facilities should enable that whenever they have representations, instead of the two facilities because this is actually a thing of the National Government, either the National Government gives technocrats who will be able to assess and ascertain the probability of those people being disabled. So, I appreciate and applaud Hon. Kaniaru for the same and I am hoping that this will not only be an urge but a communication from the County Assembly of Laikipia to the Executive to the National Government to implement this so that the little they are offering maybe in terms of licence can be a bit lowered in terms of charges. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. George, allow me to now invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Kaniaru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members for finding it fit to ensure that they support this motion. I also want to acknowledge Hon. Karuiru for noting that people living with disability are not just disabled but are people who are abled differently. You may find that these people have got other skills and can-do things differently from others.

Today, in this Assembly, it will be written in golden letters that they have acknowledged that people living with disability require to be given dignity and they are all humans So, I rest my case and thank you very much.

(Question put and agreed to)

MESSAGES

NOMINEES FOR COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SELECTION PANEL

Speaker: Hon. Members of this respectful House, I have a message for H.E the Governor. The message which was received soon after we broke for recess, reads as follows;

To the Speaker County Assembly of Laikipia.

Ref: Nominees for the selection panel to the recruitment of a member of the 3rd Laikipia County Public Service Board.

The above subject refers; pursuant to the provisions of the County Government ACT No. 17 of 2012 Section 58 (a) (1), read together with Section 31 (d) (1) nominate the following as Members of the selection panel for the recruitment of a member of the 3rd Laikipia County Public Service Board;

1. Engineer Odupoi Kuraru — Chairperson
2. George Kooro — Representative Workers Union
3. Michael Munich — Private Sector
4. Caroline Muchiri — LSK

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5. Cyrus Muriithi Accountant
6. Ann Muriuki Secretary

Kindly advise on the approval of these nominees as to allow them to commence the process of recruiting the member of the 3rd Laikipia County Public Service Board. Therefore, according to the pursuant to our standing order 1st schedule to the Committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stand adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 4th June, 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.25 p.m.

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