REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 20th March, 2024

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.00 a.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

PREVENTION OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Hon Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Speaker for giving me this opportunity to move the following motion. I am very happy because it is now my time to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities, including liquor licensing is a function of the County Government as stipulated in part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Drugs and substance abuse is a growing socio-economic challenge that affects many societies across the globe;

NOTING THAT the challenge has particularly adversely impacted on young persons, families and communities;

CONCERNED THAT some of the social effects of drug use and substance abuse include: emotional damage, antisocial behaviour, brain damage and death; this House URGES the County Government to establish mentorship programs policy with an aim of;

1. Conducting a thorough assessment of the community to understand the extent of the drug and substance abuse problem among the youth, as well as the specific risk factors and challenges they face.
2. Engaging with key stakeholders such as schools, community organizations, law enforcement and healthcare providers to garner support and collaboration for the mentorship program.
3. Clearly define the goals and objectives of the mentorship program, such as reducing substance abuse rates among youths, increasing awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and improving overall well-being and resilience.
4. Recruit mentors who are passionate about youth development and have a commitment to preventing substance abuse.
5. Training mentors on effective mentoring techniques, communication skills, and understanding substance abuse issues.
6. Offer ongoing training and support for mentors to enhance their skills and knowledge in addressing substance abuse issues.

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7. Facilitate regular mentorship activities and sessions that focus on building positive relationships, fostering personal development, promoting healthy lifestyles, and discussing strategies for avoiding drugs and alcohol.
8. Continuously monitor the progress of the mentorship program and evaluate its impact on reducing substance abuse rates and improving the well-being of participating youths.

Mheshimiwa Spika, langu kwanza ni kushukuru Mungu kwa kunipa nafasi hii niwe uhai na ili niweze kuleta huu mswada ambao unazungumzia vijana na madawa za kulevya. Pia, kuhakikisha ya kwamba wale vijana tuko nao tumewaangalia kwa njia ambayo inafaa.

Mambo ya mihadarati katika Kaunti yetu si geni. Bangi inauzwa Mheshimiwa Spika, hata kama sijui ni wapi inauziwa, lakini nina uhakika kuwa inauzwa na ninasikia kuna watu wanavuta. Pia kunayo hata dawa ninafahamishwa kuwa inakaa unga ambayo sina ushahidi wa kudhibitisha hata rangi yake.

Unapokutana na mtu, unaambiwa huyo amekunywa madawa ya kulevya na hali yuko hata bila wewe kuwa daktari kwa kumuangalia tu kwa macho unaona tu kweli kuna kitu amevuta. Mheshimiwa, ninapoongea kuhusu huu mswada naongea hasa nikilenga mtoto wa kiume.

Mtoto wa kiume ameachiliwa kila sehemu, sio Laikipia peke yake, sio shule sio nyumbani, sio kwa kazi, sio hata hapa. Mtoto wa kiume ameachwa nyuma na vile tunavyoendelea, tutaweza kuwa na taifa ambalo halitakuwa na mtoto kiume. Madawa za kulevya inaadhiri kila mtu, sio tu mtoto wa kiume wala wa kike.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa wakati huu utakuta hata wale wanaovuta bangi vilevile sio vijana pekee yake. Kunao wasichana wanaovuta bangi kupindukia mpaka mtu haoni mbele wala nyuma, hata hajui kama yuko uchi wala amevaa nguo. Unaonyeshwa mambo yote mpaka unaona yale haufai kuona. Ni vizuri tujue na tuelewe vile tutaweza kuzuia hayo mambo yanayoendelea.

Ukienda shule, ziko katika sehemu hii hasa katika shule ya kutwa, vijana wakitoka jioni wanapotembea kwa njia unaona moshi. Unapoona moshi, ujue hiyo sio gari wala makaa inayochomwa hapo, bali ni moshi ya kuonyesha kuwa kuna kitu inayovutwa hapo. Huenda ni sigara, bangi ama dawa yoyote inayovutwa.

Hiyo ni kumaanisha kwamba serikali inalegea kwa njia nyingine. Ningeomba kupitia Bunge hili tuweze kusukumana na Serikali ya Kaunti juu hao ndio wako na njia zote ya kuunda kamati na kutafuta wale washauri ambapo tutaweza kuwa na sehemu tumetenga ya kuweza kuwaambia vijana wajihadhari na madawa za kulevya na bangi ambazo zinavutwa.

Katika mji wa Nanyuki tuko na kijiji cha Likii, Majengo, Kanyoni, Ichuga na vijiji zingine zilizo hapa karibu. Kama tutaweza kuwa na siku ambapo Serikali itaweza kutenga na kuweko na washauri wa kuingia *social hall,* tuweze kuita wale vijana wawe wanakuja hapo kuelezewa shida ambayo itatokana na kutumia madawa za kulevya. Mimi wakati nilikuwa nasoma, nilikuwa nasema nitakapotoka kwa mama yangu niende nijikalishe, nitakaa maisha ambayo ninataka.

Nitakunywa ninavyotaka, nitavuta ninavyotaka, nitakula nitakavyo na kugusa nitakavyo. Sikujua kwamba nitakapoenda huko ambako nilienda, nitajikuta niko peke yangu, nang'ang'ana na maisha peke yangu. Nilipata kuwa ni mimi nitaamua nitakavyoishi na nitakavyofanya. Sikujua kuwa yale niliyokuwa nayafanya wakati huo yataathiri maisha yangu

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ya usoni. Isipokuwa Mungu aliniokoa haraka na nikawa kijana mwokovu mwenye kufuata laini ya Mungu, na nikajua mabaya.

Mheshimiwa Spika, wale ambao hawakuokoka, sasa hivi ninavyoongea nanyi wana shida. Hawajielewi, wanalewa kutoka asubuhi moja hadi nyingine. Ni kwa sababu ya hayo mambo tunastahili kuwa na washauri wenye kushauri vijana wetu wanaomaliza shule na kudhani wao ni watu wazima wanaoweza kufanya watakavyo. Mtu akielezewa umuhimu wa kitu au kutahadharishwa kuhusu athari ya kitu fulani, nafikiri maisha ya huyo mtu yatakuwa jinsi inavyofaa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, siwaambii watu wazima kuwa kuvuta sigara ni vibaya. Hiyo ni wewe unajiamulia. Mimi nashukuru serikali ya Kenya kwa sababu unapoangalia kwenye karatasi inayotumiwa kufunga sigara, umeandikiwa kuwa uvutaji wa sigara unadhuru afya yako. Najua na hawa watu wote wanajua kuwa uvutaji wa sigara unaweza kusababisha ugonjwa wa saratani, bali watu wanavuta tu. Vilevile, kwenye hiyo karatasi pamechorwa mtu asiye na meno, bali watu wanavuta tu. Kwa hivyo, hili ni jambo tunalofaa kuwahusisha hata walio na umri mkubwa.

Mtu atatumia madawa na kulewa sana kwa sababu ana pesa, lakini mwishowe anapata shida. Kuna rafiki yangu anayevuta sigara, huenda hata ikawa ni bangi kwa sababu anaitoa na kuenda kuvuta hapa nyuma. Niliposoma hiyo karatasi niliona imeandikwa kwamba uvutaji wa sigara unaweza kusababisha nguvu za kiume kuisha. Nguvu za kiume zikiisha inamaanisha kuwa hakutakuwa na watoto wa kutosha. Mimi mwenyewe sitaweza kuenda kila mahali kufanya hiyo kazi, lazima kila mtu afanye kazi mahali alipo. Shuel afanye kwake, Salim afanye kwake na tuone matunda. Gatati afanye kwake na tuone matunda. Karuiru afanye kwake na tuone matunda, na nashukuru kwa sababu kuna matunda nimeona hapo juzi, kwa hivyo nafikiri mambo yanaendelea vizuri.

Mheshimiwa Spika, wakati Naibu wa Rais alipozuru Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia aliongea sana kuhusu unywaji wa pombe haramu, pombe ambayo inawamaliza vijana wetu na jamii yetu. Kwa hivyo, tunapopigana na haya mambo tutakuwa tunaokoa jamii. Mheshimiwa Naibu wa Rais alisema ni vizuri tuzaane, lakini tutazaana vipi ikiwa tutawacha vijana wetu wajiingize kwenye madawa za kulevya zinazouzwa kila mahali. Serikali na maofisa wako lakini wanalegea. Ufisadi ndio unaua taifa letu na kusababisha jamii kuisha. Unapokea pesa na kuruhusu bangi kuuzwa na kuwacha watu wafanye watakavyo. Wengine wanaofanya hivyo wanafanya kwa kutojua.

Nilipomaliza shule, nilivuta sigara kwa wiki moja bila kujua athari zake. Nilikunywa *chang'aa* siku moja ili nijue wanaolala mtaroni baada ya kuinywa wanafanya hivyo kwa sababu gani. Nilikunywa gilasi sita bali sikulala. Niligundua kuwa anayelala halali kwa sababu eti amekunywa bali ni kwa sababu amechoka. Mimi naweza kusema hivyo kwa sababu nilijaribu kulala nikashindwa

Mheshimiwa Spika, nilisema ni lazima pia nile *miraa*. Nilikula *miraa* hadi hapa pakavimba, nikitafuta tu starehe. Sikupata hio starehe. Sasa hivi, utapata vijana wanakula *miraa,* ambayo siku hizi wanaiita *jaba*, sijui ni *jaba* gani hiyo isiyoweza kukanyaga, kwa vile wengi hawakanyagi. Nilivuta pia msokoto mmoja wa bangi hadi ukaisha, na nilifanya hayo kwa sababu hatukutahadharishwa kuhusu madhara yanayoweza kutupata kutokana na kutumia hayo madawa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi naomba hili Bunge letu la Laikipia tusukume serikali. Tuweke vituo ambavyo tutawapeleka hao vijana wasomeshwe, kupewa mawaidha na kuelezwa jinsi watakavyoishi bila kutumia madawa. Kwa hayo mengi na machache, naomba Wabunge

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walio hapa; hakuna mtu asiyetoka eneo ambapo hakuna vijana. Hakuna mtu ambaye hatatoka eneo pasipo na watu ambao wametumia mihadarati na wanahitaji kusaidiwa. Tutawasaidia tu iwapo tutaungana na kuisukuma serikali ilete washauri watakaozunguka kila mahali.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna bibi mmoja ambaye nimemsikia juzi kwenye redio iitwayo Ujuzi. Amekuwa na shida ya kiakili, na amefanya kazi ya maana. Watu wamekuwa na shida, akili zina shida kidogo na ni changamoto tunazopambana nazo wakati huu ambapo uchumi ni mbaya. Naomba sisi sote tulio hapa tuunge mkono huu mswada na kuhakikisha umepita ili vijana wetu wapate nafasi nzuri.

Nilikuwa nimeongea na Mheshimiwa Umija awe mwafiki wa huu mswada lakini kwa bahati mbaya, nimeona amepigiwa simu pengine na baba na ametoka. Kwa hivyo, nitamkaribisha ndugu yangu kutoka Ol-Moran ambaye amefika leo, na tunajua jinsi mambo yalivyomwendea. Nampongeza na kumkaribisha tena katika Bunge hili aungane na Wabunge wengine kuunda sheria na kufanya kazi ya uangalizi ili kuhakikisha kuwa wadi yake na zetu sote zinapata maendeleo ya kutosha. Kwa hivyo, namwalika Mheshimiwa George Karuiru wa Wairimu auafiki huu mswada. Ahsante.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the motion on Prevention of drug and substance abuse by Hon. Stephen Ndiritu. If you allow me Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Members of this House plus your office for the tremendous support in terms of finances, prayers and everything that your office accorded my family when I lost my dear Dad. I think I've talked with you severally. My Dad was my friend and a role model. God is good that my big family is still trying to fight on with the loss. We appreciate that you made the preparation of the burial and the burial itself was a good one.

Mr. Speaker, I must congratulate Hon. Ndiritu for the thought because we have our youth who are sometimes desperately losing focus. Before I go to that, I must as well give my sincere condolences to our Hon. Member, Irene Wachuka John on losing her husband. It is a task and I am hoping that this Hon. House will assist wherever possible to see that this goes back.

Mr. Speaker, I have a small story want to give of a small boy who was found carrying his dead brother on his back to bury him. This was during the war and a soldier noticed him where he advised to throw the body away not to get tired. The boy replied, 'he is not heavy, he is my brother.' The soldier understood and broke down in tears. Since then the image has become a symbol of unity in Japan.

I want to beg that this be our motto. There is nothing that is heavy. I would beg we say, you are my brother or my sister. If you fail I raise you up. If you backslide, I lift you and restore you. If you need support, I stand with you. If you make a mistake, I correct you. If the world abandons you, then I carry you like God has been carrying me. You are my brother, you are my sister. Let us look out for one another.

Mr. Speaker, a preacher during the moaning of my late Father said that, 'I am because you are and you are because I am.' I had forgotten to also express my sincere condolences to one of the staff Carol Kirichu who as well lost her mum. I am hoping we are doing what we can also to see that they grant their mother a decent send-off. I think that was the purpose of my message for today.

As I second what Hon. Ndiritu has brought today as a motion, it has been very sensitive in Laikipia County. We have lost many youths to drugs. What we know or see as unlicensed

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alcohol due to corruption is very real. We have seen the media capturing the Police pouring the illegal brew and drugs and seen the contents that is used to make the bear.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen pants, bras, and menstrual pads in those drums. I am a witness of this because at one time I had my friend from a centre called Kahuruko in my Ward. He was trying to tell me that despite the business of fighting illegal brew, I also make sure and make a lot of noise on the *Changaa* that they were taking. He said they didn't understand how they kept going back there. Every morning at 6.00 a.m. he would wake up and get himself there. He didn't want the tea from his wife or breakfast. He thought that this thing was somehow treated and he was being 'called' by spirits to and drink. After drinking since he was a butcher, he couldn't attend to his butchery. After a year he died. I had to work with the administration and I made sure that that specific den was done with.

I think collectively as the advocacy is, and I know we are at the verge of making this a law, the push from the National Government, if we unite and be empowered as politicians and fear not being re-elected in 2027, we will have a conducive environment. There is a cash crop that is farmed at Meru County. I don't know what we are going to do because there are myths that when you eat *Miraa,* you become bright.

The drivers that ferry *Miraa* sometime you wonder. They transit via Nanyuki –Nyeri – Nairobi. The speed they go with the current cases of accidents if that *Miraa* vehicle gets an accident, nobody is spared. Other drugs like bhang that are not legalized here in Kenya, there should be stern position from the government.

Mr. Speaker, just the other day I saw on the social media a guy ferrying 300 kg of bhang in a Prado V8. These are big bosses. You cannot be able to have a V8 then you are doing illegal business under the governments watch. I think what needs to be done is to tighten the belt of the administration as well as the judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen cases like in my ward, people get arrested for brewing illicit *chang'aa* and *bangi*. When they go to the court, they are fined one thousand or two thousand shillings. So, I think that it is a collective fight together with the County Government like in the issuing of licenses for the bar owners as well as monitoring. This is a task and that is why I will always advocate the *wazee wa nyumba kumi* should as well be empowered with some tokens. These are the people on the ground who know who grows what and who brews what.

Mr. Speaker, some of the mentorship programmes that we need to advocate for through the Executive, is to have a budget of their own and use it properly so that at least per every ward we can have like the veterinary officers doing the AIs in the wards. Despite of being employed, they have employed themselves so that we can have mentors and people who can counsel the youth day in day out. They are not doing this out of ignorance but due to lack of jobs. There is no time when we are going to have employment for all the youth but if we would have mentors and have supportive activities, that would be the best thing for empowering our youth.

Importantly, it is advising them correctly that it is not only drugs that can make them sleep or seize their problems due to lack of jobs because in the morning, they still wake up jobless youth. So, it is a collective thing. During our campaigns during 2027, as Hon. Members, we should go talking to them and empowering them. Thank God that we do have churches that are Godly not to venture money from people but to mentor our youth as clergy and church leaders.

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This is not a very direct thing that can heal our society but it is gradual and if we all come together, we are going to fight the menace of drug abuse and our society is going to be restored. Thank you, I second the motion and beg the Hon. Members to support so that we can vigorously follow the Executive and the National Government to support our youth.

(Question proposed)

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the floor is open for debate.

Hon. Mary Gathoni: Asante, Bwana Spika. Ni jukumu letu kila mmoja kujua ya kwamba tuko na shida na shida yenyewe ni mihadarati. Nimekuja kugundua ya kwamba wale wafanyibiashara wa pombe katika Nanyuki wamefunga lakini ile shida kubwa zaidi ambayo tuko nayo inaweza kuwa sio shida ya leseni, lakini ni pombe haramu na mihadarati ambayo hata leo hatujui ni nani anayesambaza. Kweli vijana wameadhirika pakubwa.

Kutokana na mihadarati, unapata ya kwamba wanafanya mambo ambayo yanaadhiri jamii na hakuna usalama kwa sababu ya madawa ya kulevya. Kuna wakati nilikuwa nikizungumza na hao vijana na wakaniambia ya kwamba wako tayari kubadilika lakini wanaomba Kaunti iwasaidie kupata *methadone*. Shida nyingine ambayo tuko nayo ni kwamba polisi ambao wako katika Kaunti ya Laikipia, hawajachukua jukumu lolote kuwasaidia vijana wetu kwa sababu watu wale ambao wanauza hiyo mihadarati wanaposhikwa, wanaitishwa hongo na maisha inaendelea.

Kwa hivyo, ni jukumu langu na kila mtu yeyote katika hili Bunge tuchukue hatua na kusaidia vijana wetu. Nimesikia Mheshimiwa Kagondu akisema ya kwamba wale ambao wameadhirika na hii mihadarati ni watoto vijana lakini naweza kuhakikishia ya kwamba nambari ya wanawake ambao wanatumia mihadarati inaendelea kuzidi. Mtu ambaye nimeona katika Kaunti ya Laikipia aliyechaguliwa kushughulikia hao watu, pia yeye anatumia mihadarati. Kwa hivyo, tunatakiwa tuwe na mtu aliye na akili timamu na mwenye anaweza kusaidia vijana wetu.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion by Hon. Ndiritu on prevention of drug and substance abuse. The issue is rampant but I am sure that each and every person is entitled to do their work. I am sure that there are people who are paid on daily basis to be investigative officers.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member when he was making his statement stating that; there are white substances that people are consuming which I don't know whether it is bhang. There is nothing that links with where these substances are planted. Mr. Speaker, imagine we have an investigative officer who is entitled the work. A plant is planted, it grows and it is processed for use without the people who are mandated to do the investigation being aware.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak on the floor of this House, I can attest that I am sure the officers entitled to do this work should ensure that all these drugs are cracked down so that we save our youth. If the substances are not available, I usually hear of cocaine and heroin which I have never seen. When I was doing business, I encountered people who take bhang and I realized that even if bhang is dry, it is never clean. Mr. Speaker, if being in business I was able to witness how bhang looks like, how about the person who has been tasked to do the investigations.

I support the motion but the work every person is tasked to do, do it accordingly and we shall not be having these challenges. Mr. Speaker, the other challenge we have is the peer

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pressure when our young ones join the institutions. Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member was moving the motion, he said that boys are the most affected but girls are also affected.

In public institutions, these drugs are properly supplied to the students. They mostly believe that once they use these drugs, they will be able to learn more. That has been a challenge and leaders have to put pressure not only on the investigating officers, but also the elders who are in the villages who have been entrusted to keep our people safe. Parents have an obligation to try and advice our young ones. We have girls that we need to advice because at the end of the day, all the responsibilities fall on parents.

If my son will start taking these drugs, he will affect the public but before he affects the public, I will be the first victim. I support the motion which I am sure if we work together as a team, I may be able to contain my kids. If the society is not in good order, once he goes to the society he will mess up. That is why I support. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia hii nafasi tena ili niweze kujibu huu mjadala. Kabla nijibu, nafikiri Bunge letu liko na wageni ambao wametutembelea. Tuliweza kupata hiyo habari na sijui kama wanakuja na ni Waheshimiwa kutoka Kaunti ya Samburu. Ningeomba tuweze kuwa na kikao na wao kwa sababu wametoka mbali. Ni vizuri tupeane mawaidha.

Bwana Spika, wewe kama Spika wetu wa siku ya leo nafikiri utatuongoza kwa njia ambayo inafaa. Bwana Spika, kulingana na huu muswada nashukuru wale wote ambao wameweza kuchangia huu muswada ambao utahakikisha serikali imeweka mikakati ya kutosha ili tuweze kuhakikisha kwamba vijana wetu wote wa kike na kiume hawajaadhirika na madawa ya kulevya.

Jambo la pili, ambalo ningetaka kupeana maoni kuhusiana na huu muswada, nimeweza kusikiza Mheshimiwa Gathoni akiongea kuhusu washauri na nikashikwa na butwaa kwa sababu ya kusikia ya kwamba yule mtu ambaye anashauri vijana ili wasikunywe dawa za kulevya ndiye anakunywa zaidi. Hilo jambo limenitia wasiwasi na ni vizuri Bunge na serikali tuweze kufuatilia wale ambao wanafanya hiyo kazi.

Bwana Spika, tunaweza kuwa tunaachilia watoto wakashauriwe na watu ambao tunaamini na kudhamini ilhali hao wenyewe ni wabaya. Mheshimiwa Spika, hii ni kama kuchukua fisi akachunge kondoo. Hilo jambo si la busara na ni vizuri tufuatilie ili tuhakikishe ya kwamba wale ambao wanafanya hiyo kazi ya kutahadharisha vijana wawe ni watu ambao hawatumii madawa ya kulevya.

Kama wewe ni mhubiri, huwezi hubiri maji ilhali unatumia pombe. Kama wewe hutumii pombe na bangi, ambia watu ukweli wasitumie pombe na bangi lakini kama unatumia bangi kisha uniambie nisitumie bangi, kuna mambo ambayo hayataenda vizuri. Ninaomba Waheshimiwa tuwe makini ili tuhakikishe ya kwamba kila sehemu mtu anatoka, wale ambao wanauza pombe haramu na bangi wamechukuliwa hatua ya kutosha. Kwa hayo machache, nashukuru na ninaomba Waheshimiwa wote waweze kuunga huu muswada mkono. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

DELEGATION OF SAMBURU COUNTY ASSEMBLY MCAS

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Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, before I sit, I request you to remain behind. As Hon. Stephen has communicated here, we have our counterparts from Samburu County Assembly who are here for benchmarking. It is an honour to have them here. We have 47 counties and it is an honour for choosing to be here. I ask you to remain behind after the plenary sitting. We are going to discuss a few matters with them. We learn from them and also, they are going to learn from us. Kindly, stay after this session.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: This House stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 20th March, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.50 a.m.

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