REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 2nd October, 2024

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.00 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for 4 minutes)

Speaker: Hon. Salim?

Hon. Salim Edung: Mr. Speaker, now we have quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we do have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, we will proceed with the business of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NDEMU SECONDARY SCHOOL

Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's gallery this morning of a visiting teacher and students from Ndemu Secondary School in Umande Ward, Laikipia County. May you rise. The delegation comprises of one teacher, Ms. Sylvia Mbai and 27 students who are in the County Assembly for a one-day academic exposition.

Hon. Members, in our usual tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to our County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them, and on behalf of the County Assembly and on my own behalf, wish them a fruitful learning time here with us. May I see the teacher, Sylvia Mbai, kindly raise your hand. Thank you. You may all be seated. Thank you very much.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SENSITIZATION ON SHIF IN THE COUNTY

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

THAT, NOTING THAT County health services, including, in particular County health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services and promotion of primary health care; is a function of the County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

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FURTHER NOTING THAT the purpose of the Social Health Insurance Act, 2023 is to establish the framework for the management of social health insurance, to provide for the establishment of the Social Health Authority and to give effect to Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the strategic move was aimed at promoting the implementation of universal health coverage by ensuring all individuals and communities receive the health services they need, including the full spectrum of essential, quality health services from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care without suffering financial hardship;

CONCERNED THAT the implementation of the Social Health Insurance Act in Kenya could face several challenges which include funding and sustainability, enrolment and coverage, healthcare infrastructure, awareness and public perception;

This House URGES the County Government to liaise with the relevant Government agencies in order to enhance the accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness of its Social Health Insurance programme by designing a robust Social Health Insurance framework and implementing it effectively through awareness, technology adoption, inclusive coverage strategies and enforcement.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

DISASTER MANAGEMENT – FIREFIGHTING SERVICES

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Kabla niongee kuhusu taarifa, nawakaribisha wanafunzi ambao wamefika katika Bunge hili ili waweze kusoma mengi na kuona jinsi ambavyo Bunge linafanya kazi. Nataka pia kuwashukuru waalimu waliochukua jukumu la kuhakikisha kuwa hawa watoto wako hapa ili wajionee vile nchi ya Kenya na kaunti yetu inaongozwa. Nataka wajue kuwa wakati wa usoni wao pia wanaweza kuwa viongozi na wataketi katika hili Bunge. Sisi tutakapozeeka au kuwacha kazi ni hao tutawaachia, kwa hivyo hiki ni kizazi kitakachochukua usukani baada ya kizazi hiki nao wengine watakuja baadaye.

Niwaeleze kuwa mambo ambayo huwa wanaona kwenye runinga na mitandao wanaona leo mubashara. Waende wasome kwa bidii na kuhitimu. Kwanza waweke masomo mbele kisha baadaye waje watafute nafasi za uongozi wakishamaliza shule. Nataka baadaye wawe Maspika, Wawakilishi wa wadi, Wabunge na hata Marais wa Jamhuri yetu ya Kenya. Karibuni sana, wanafunzi. Mimi naitwa Stephen Ndiritu Kamau, mwakilishi wa watu wa Thingithu, na sasa nataka kuleta hii taarifa yangu.

Hon. Speaker, I have a statement on disaster management and firefighting services.

Mr Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (2) c, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee regarding the above-mentioned subject matter.

Mr. Speaker, firefighting services is a crucial component in any society since it is basically a tool for controlling and extinguishing any fire that breaks out. Laikipia County has two firefighting stations, that is in Nanyuki and Nyahururu only. This goes to show that other towns like Rumuruti, Doldol and the rest do not have such services. The predicament arises when fire breaks out miles away from the said fire stations and they are called to extinguish such fires. Fire break outs in such towns will easily spread causing a lot of damage due to the distance from the fire stations.

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Mr. Speaker, I hereby request the Chairperson, Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services committee to inform this Assembly on;

1. Measures undertaken by the department to ensure that residents of towns or urban centres that do not have firefighting equipment are easily accessible in case of fire outbreaks.
2. What plans the department has to ensure that firefighting equipment is installed in other urban centres in Laikipia.
3. After a fire broke out on 23rd September 2024 in Matanya, a firefighting truck was sent out from Nanyuki but did not make it to Matanya to put out the fire. What transpired?

Hon. Speaker, those are the questions that I need answers for from the Chair of the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee. The Chair has to answer those questions, and I am waiting to get a comprehensive report from the department and from the Executive. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen. I would like to pose to the Members of the committee when we can expect a response to this statement. I think I had seen the Chair and the Vice-Chair previously.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell my colleague, Hon. Stephen Ndiritu, to give us about two weeks so that we can go and consult with the various departments in the Executive. Thank you.

Speaker: Two weeks. Hon. Stephen, are you satisfied with the response, that they take two weeks to consolidate and put together a response to the statement requested?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Yes, Hon. Speaker. I agree with that Member. I was thinking that this is an urgent matter and if possible, they can adjust the time to one week. I would be very happy, but if they do not have that leeway, then I will wait for the two weeks. Thank you.

Hon. Catherine Umija: I just want to request Hon. Ndiritu; he knows the process, that we write letters and wait for responses. So, I think to weeks will be in order. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Let us settle it on two weeks, but ensure that within the two weeks the statement is presented back in response to the request by the Hon. Member.

MOTION

SENSITIZATION ON SHIF IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Salim Edung: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, NOTING THAT County health services, including, in particular County health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services and promotion of primary health care; is a function of the County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

FURTHER NOTING THAT the purpose of the Social Health Insurance Act, 2023 is to establish the framework for the management of social health insurance, to provide for the establishment of the Social Health Authority and to give effect to Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the strategic move was aimed at promoting the implementation of universal health coverage by ensuring all individuals and

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communities receive the health services they need, including the full spectrum of essential, quality health services from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care without suffering financial hardship;

CONCERNED THAT the implementation of the Social Health Insurance Act in Kenya could face several challenges which include funding and sustainability, enrolment and coverage, healthcare infrastructure, awareness and public perception;

This House URGES the County Government to liaise with the relevant Government agencies in order to enhance the accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness of its Social Health Insurance programme by designing a robust Social Health Insurance framework and implementing it effectively through awareness, technology adoption, inclusive coverage strategies and enforcement.

Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa huu mjadala ambao tumeleta katika Bunge hili. Sasa hivi ukiangalia katika nchi yetu ya Kenya, waliokuwa wanalipia NHIF mbeleni, ilikuwa shida. Sasa hivi kuna mikakati ambayo imewekwa ya huduma katika Jamhuri ya Kenya lakini wengi hawaelewi, kwa sababu hii mifumo ya SHA na NHIF imekanganya watu. Imefanya watu wengi kuhangaika kwenye hospitali. Ukienda hospitali ya Nanyuki unapata mtu anatibiwa pale na anapopona anakosa njia ya kuondoka hospitalini. Hii ni kwa sababu yeye alikuwa anatumia kadi ya NHIF mbeleni lakini sasa imebadilika. Anaambiwa kwamba sasa lazima mipangilio ibadilishwe ndiposa atoke hospitalini.

Sio Nanyuki, Nyahururu au Rumuruti pekee bali ni katika Kenya nzima; kuna watu ambao wamepona na wanahitaji kuenda nyumbani. Lakini kwa sababu ya mfumo ambao umebadilika, lazima kwanza mtu awekwe kwenye programu mpya. Ningeomba katika Bunge hili, ni vizuri tupeane taarifa kamili katika vijiji na miji kwamba kuna njia nyingi za watu kuingia kwenye huo mfumo mpya ndiposa wasaidike. Ukienda huko mashinani, sehemu kama ya Doldol, Sosian au Segera kuna mama asiyejua ya kwamba kuna mfumo mwingine ambao umeletwa na serikali.

Ukienda Sosian ama Segera kuna mama hajui kwamba serikali imeleta mfumo mpya wa kubadilisha kutoka NHIF hadi SHA - Social Health Authority. Hatujui kama watu wa mashinani wanajua. Ingefaa wale watu wanasimamia idara ya afya wapeane mwongozo kamili katika vijiji na miji ndio kusajili watu katika mfumo mpya.

Bwana Spika, ningeomba wahusika wafanye mikutano ya umma na waelezee wananchi wa kawaida ndio wajisajili wawe ndani. Bila kufanya hivyo, watu wengi watakaa hospitalini. Ningeomba serikali na hasa Bunge letu katika huu mjadala wa leo tuweke maanani na tupitishe huu mswada. Tukienda kwenye vijiji na baraza na tuelezee watu wetu kuhusu huu mfumo mpya wa bima na serikali itakuwa inawalipia. Ningeomba wajumbe wenzangu tushikilie.

Katika huu mfumo, kuna mtu hana nguvu wala fedha za kulipia nauli ya hospitali. Akiingia katika huu mfumo kabla hata anaweza saidia wakongwe na wenye hawajiwezi awalipe SHA. Itakuwa ni njia moja ya kusaidia watu wetu mashinani. Naomba mjumbe wa Tigithi aunge mkono. Mheshimiwa Mwaniki. Asante.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the chance to support the motion. It is timely. The government has rolled out the new health program that is SHA from NHIF. This issue has brought a big challenge to the residents of this county and the country. Being a new program and rolled out by the government, we needed to have time to elaborate further on this new system as well as public participation to educate out people on SHA.

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Mr. Speaker, if you can check on our gadget you can tell even the people who uploaded this data in our system they indicated as 'SHI' instead of 'SHA.' It is because it is a new thing. Even writing it is a challenge. We are not conversant with the system. If at all we as the Assembly are not conversant with it, how about the electorate? It is a big challenge.

Our deputy Speaker, can attest that the people who were given services in the midnight of rolling out they had to call him for help to pay the bill because the NHIF card could not operate. Out of his pocket, he is still contributing towards this. The people and the residents of this county have paid for the NHIF Card but on that midnight it was not operational. People were calling us all over as their representatives so that we can help them.

The National Government has failed in rolling out this new system because we could have workshops and meeting in our wards elaborating to our people getting into the new systems. The Members having paid the NHIF funds the new registration and the people who are not government servant needs to register. For them to register, they have to pay. Having them to pay for registration yet they had paid in the previous NHIF, why wasn't it automatic?

Data being transferred from NHIF so that our people can be able to benefit. The resident of this county thought it was automatic as well as the services. That is why it has inconvenienced the residents of this County and country. On that mid-night, there were long queues of patients in our hospitals. That morning patients could not access health care because of not being registered on SHA. They were told to register before services rendered to them. That is inconveniencing our patients because the disease doesn't wait for registration and it can kill you instantly.

Mr. Speaker, some people died because of government negligence. This was supposed to be rolled out earlier, trained earlier, more public participation done so that our people can get into system with services given. Having this new system, we are wondering whether it's because of the impeachment of Deputy President, Hon. Gachagua. I wonder! They are rolling out the new systems when impeaching him. They are creating this confusion to bring in the new system so that we can lose our billions in the NHIF. These are funds that were supposed to render services to our people. Where are the funds, the few billions? They might be few but it is our money? What is happening to our money in the NHIF system? We want to know. That is what could have been explained to the residents of this country.

Mr. Speaker, we need that explanation to be done. I don't know whether it's the county or the National Government that is supposed to do public Participation. This will be elaborated further. We have a Chairman in the Health Department. He is in this House. Let him explain who is to do this public Participation. As a representative of Tigithi people, I am angry at this point. I have received calls on the same. This should be explained by the Chair in this Assembly. If he doesn't, I think our Deputy Speaker who is here will intervene. The residents are suffering because of the change of systems. I am angary and I rest my case.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. Before I give my contribution, I want to welcome the pupils from Umande Ward. It's a learning opportunity. I want to encourage them to take good things from here and leave the negative. Nowadays being a politician or a leader is dangerous. I want to thank the leader of this motion and encourage the Members that we support this move.

Speaker: What is it Hon. Stephen?

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Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker I need your guidance because there is a foundation of Standing orders in this House Mr. Speaker. Hon. Kanyutu is sitting on the seat of Majority Whip and you know theres a designated seat for other leaders. I don't know when he became the majority Whip in this House. I need your guidance. Even if he is independent, it doesn't mean he can sit on any seat. Tomorrow he might sit on your seat. Let us obey our and follow our Standing Order.

(Hon. Nicholas Lempaira stood from his place)

Speaker: Hon. Lempaira?

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Sometimes Waswahili say, '*Nyani haoni kundule.*' It is unfortunate that the same Member is sited on the wrong seat yet questioning the other Member. I want to understand whether there were changes in UDA Party or what is happening. The Majority Chief Whip is in the Majority Leader's Seat and the other one is actually an Independent Member of the House. We need clarification.

(Hon. Simon Kanyutu stood from his place)

Speaker: Hon. Lempaira I will give that determination. Hon. Kanyutu?

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I admire the move that the Members are making. I am the youngest Member in this Assembly and the move they are taking. I am an independent candidate here. There is no tag that has been put on any clothes. As an independent candidate, I feel comfortable and I can move at any position including the Majority Leader's seat because it's vacant and as an Independent Candidate, I have that freedom.

If we make the tags, they need to be made on every seat. Since I joined this Assembly, I have a designated seat where I always sit. When I get my position is occupied, I had no other option but to sit on the vacant one. I am very comfortable here. In the National Government, Mbadi is the Minister of Budget yet he is an ODM Member whereas they are claiming to be part of the government. That means issues pertaining to parties and siting position should be a non-issue. Thank you, I hope Mr. Speaker you make a good ruling.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you all know this is a House of Order. I want to direct Members to the Standing Orders No. 230 (1), it states;

(1) There shall be reserved seats in the Chamber of the Assembly for the exclusive use of each of the following: -

1. *The Deputy Speaker;*
2. *The Leader of Majority Party;*
3. *The Leader of Minority Party;*
4. *Members with disabilities;*
5. *Members of the Speakers Panel;*
6. *Majority Whip; and*
7. *Minority Whip*

(2) All other seats in the Chamber shall be available for the use of any Member.

(3) Subject to this Standing Order and any other Order of the assembly, any question relating to the occupation of seats in the Chambers shall be determined by the Speaker.

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I therefore determine as follow; all Members are free to seat anywhere except on the designated seats. Those designated to particular seats should sit on their seats. So, I urge the Speaker's panel to seat on their positions and the Majority Whip. The Majority Leader is not in so the seat should remain vacant. Thank you, Members for being honourable enough to obey the Standing Orders of this House. The floor was for the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for bringing sobriety in this House. I am praying that you protect me so that I can contribute peacefully.

Speaker: Hon. Kanyutu, I will give you to say a word.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I thank you for giving that instruction because now I am back in my designated area where I have never moved from since I joined this Assembly from the last term. I had to make that great move so that you can give such instructions so that these Hon. Members will not relocate me any other time in the future. even in my absence, I think that this seat should be reserved for me.

Speaker: Hon. Kanyutu, you are protected.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the good choice of words and I envy your wisdom. You know, when you are not in the House I usually sit in that seat and I could have judged differently and for that I applaud you.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to introduce myself officially to your guests today. I am Antony Theuri Wambui, The Member representing the great people of Nanyuki Ward and also the Deputy Speaker in this House. I have got only three points I wish to contribute on. First, I would like to congratulate my friend and also the Members for Tigithi Ward. He said that he is angry and I don't know why he is angry, maybe it's because of three issues.

One, we cannot pretend that we do not know what is happening in this country. The dark cloud that is hanging around us, one of our great son's, Hon. Geoffrey Rigathi Gachagua is on the verge of going home. We don't have a problem with that because it is democracy and anytime, we can be impeached including myself as Deputy Speaker and even you Mr. Speaker, but not you because you are my friend but you never know about tomorrow.

I am elected to be close to the people and every time I can hear what they are saying. They are saying that it is unfortunate because they do not see the need of voting. They are asking, why do we go to vote for six people i.e. the MCA, the M.P, the Women Rep, the Senator, The Governor and the President, and then impeach the Deputy President without involving the people who elected them.

I pray to the generation that is here if we will be alive, if they have the opportunity to change the constitution, they need to put that in the constitution. It is unfair that when we are seated here elected by the people or the party, and then we decide that because I don't like the height of Hon Lempaira or his colour, that I can just rally my people and send him back to Mukogodo West. That is very unfair but far from that, we can only pray to God that things are going to be okay.

The other thing Mr. Speaker, there is uproar and corns when it comes to SHIF (Social Health Insurance Fund). To Hon. Mwaniki, it is Social Health Act and to whoever wrote this motion, it is Social Health Insurance but far from it, I only have two issues. I have had a time to investigate this and I can tell you that it has its own disadvantages and advantages. Let me start with only one disadvantage Mr. Speaker.

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One, it is the public participation. I throw this directly to the County Government because health squarely lies with us. When I speak of public participation, that is the work of the Executive arm. I have been an advocate of health in this county and we have been giving them money to a point where we have had personal differences with my able Chair because I have been defending them saying that they need more money to employ more people. It is a shame that they have not even taken a pick-up with one speaker, one microphone with one MC going around Nanyuki Ward or Laikipia telling them the difference between NHIF and SHA or SHIF.

One thing I know about this thing is that it there is going to be a turnaround in health. As much as there is a lot of corruption in it because it is a shame that everything in this Kenya has to be a personal deal, it has some elements that we did not have in the NHIF. One, in this SHIF we are going to have the equalization. In this House we are an open letter because everyone knows what we are being paid and deducted. In this programme, I will be deducted almost Kshs.2,000. One of the things I love with SHA is that it will be mandatory that everyone will be having this card including the informal sector. We are going to be contributing from Kshs.300 shillings and above.

What does it mean Mr. Speaker? Unfortunately, when you have the insurance, you really get sick but on a bad day, you don't have the insurance or that NHIF, you are highly likely to get sick. These are the people who cannot save the elected. If these Members are going to be honest enough, they will tell you that they are in more than twenty groups all to matters related to health that people need our money. I don't want to speak about money because everybody knows what is happening to this economy.

So, when we have this card Mr. Speaker, we are going to minimize the harambees. Secondly, on this SHA, we are going to have perlative care, that is where we have chronic diseases. In any case and God forbid that a relative or a person will happen to have kidney failure or another chronic disease, the card is going to care for that. On the contribution, it is going to rate on what you earn. So, the higher you earn the higher you contribute.

Lastly, this is going to be the game changer. In case the patient dies and that is where the majority needs the public participation, the SHA card is going to pay for mortuary fees for five days so that we do not entertain the clogging of bodies in the public mortuaries and also the Kshs.2,000 for embalming. If they are not hyping because it is one thing to say and another to do the same, it is going to be a game changer in this era.

I would like to urge our Members that let us take the good thing but omit the bad one. As I have said, the only disadvantage with SHA is that maybe they are not going to entertain the corruption that we had before with NHIF. I urge this House to support this motion. On the same, I urge my able Chair to take this opportunity because he is vibrant if he wants something. We need public participation deep in Mukogodo West and in the corners of this county because everyone must know the need and importance of having this. If they have the money, let us not tell them that they do not have money. They have not been using money on people. The more you sensitize the public, the better the success rate of this programme because it is going to be beneficial to each and every person in this nation.

I rest my case, support this motion and I pray that whatever that is going to be discussed here is not going to end here but it is going to be implemented. I am going to task it to one Hon. Paul in his absentia because we need it implemented. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Theuri. Before I give to another Member, just let me make the House know that I have been duly notified that all the abbreviations are correct. The SHI

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that was raised by Hon. Mwaniki, indeed represents Social Health Insurance, the SHIF is also correct as Social Heath Insurance Fund and SHA is also correct meaning Social Health Act. Allow me to ask you Hon. Lempaira since you are the Chair, would you perhaps make a contribution towards this before I cross over to the floor on the other side?

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members for the robust contribution in this issue. We are living in strange times meaning that we are being led by a government that forces everything on the public. When they decide that it is time for SHA, they don't care whether you want it or not. They don't even mind to do special public participation to sensitize the public and make them understand what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, I have got a clip here and I don't know whether you are going to allow me to play it a bit. Even the Minister in charge of Health cannot even understand the real issue of what is SHI, how it works and so forth. This is a new programme that needs both the County and The National Government to do some serious collaboration.

Speaker: Hon. Kanyutu, what is it?

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I stand on a point of clarification. The Hon. Member has stated that we are in a government that is forcing issues. My concern is? Is he not in the government because he is an ODM Member and they are the Chairmen for Budget. Therefore, I need that clarification from him because they are the people who are ruling this country. This country is a cohesive government whereby each and every person is included and he is claiming that issues are being forced. I need his clarification. Is he not in the government as he speaks?

Speaker: The Hon. Lempaira,

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: I think that the Hon. Kanyutu today his moods are high because I am elected on ODM ticket and I will always stand to be in the opposition. I would like you to know that those who joined the government did not carry the ODM to the government. When you look at the party that I was elected in, it is still in the opposition. This is the time you need to know because I don't know whether you want to join this government or you are still in the independent or where are you?

We have a government whereby even myself as the Health Chairperson in Laikipia we have never been sensitized on this Act. We have never been called by anybody to be told that it would be rolled out on 1st, be shown that this is how it works and my entire member of the Health Committee can attest to that. We have not been sensitized fully on how this thing works. So, when we say that our deduction to NHIF will be increased, that is why we are saying that this a government that is ready to push things. Kindly Mr. Speaker, protect me from Hon. Kanyutu for a while so that I can contribute towards this motion. Mr. Speaker, we have got issues with this kind of programme…

Speaker: Hon. Members, please allow Hon. Lempaira to push a little bit and then I will give you a chance to respond. Hon. Mugweru, do you have a burning issue? You may standby, appreciate the students from your ward for they are above there watching their Member of the Assembly representing.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, very much Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me. I wish like to take this opportunity to welcome the students of Ndemu Secondary. They are the great people of Umande and everybody in Laikipia knows that Umande brings the best. Hon. Speaker, my concern was that I need your indulgence on this one because we are moving

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far from today's motion. We are not talking of whether SHA, SHI or SHIF is importance or how it is framed.

It is already there and there is nothing we can do about it. What the motion says is as a County Government, we wake up, sensitize our people, make them informed, understand what is happening and how much they are supposed to pay. So, it is upon the Hon. Member because he is a representative of the people to go, do proper research and go tell the people what is required of them.

When we discuss whether SHIF is good or bad, we are moving far from today's motion and that is why we are moving to say that the government is dictating or doing what they want. It is already done and the issue is setting a budget aside, move around Laikipia telling the people of Laikipia and make them understand what SHI, SHIF or SHA is and how much they are supposed to pay and that is todays motion. So, we should not deviate from our today's business. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. Hon. Lempaira, the floor is yours.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker and Members, I stand guided we are the representative of the people. I thought the first step is to sensitize as Members of this House because you have a Majority Leader. You can only address them when you have forums so that you can guide them. All of us are not fully sensitized on this programme. That is why we are saying that this motion is timely.

It is the high time the Department of Health move across the county and try to sensitize the public on how these things works. First of all, how it is paid, the process of getting the cards, where to get these cards from and all sort of this information is needed by the public. What Hon. Mugweru has said is that we are not diverting from the debate. For you to debate, you must come from a point of reference. You also do not understand what it is. You just say, whatever it is.

You have to make sure that you also understand whatever it is so that when you go to Umande, you can clearly explain to the people of Umande how it works and what are the benefits because you cannot go and talk about the negative. I presume that when you get sensitized, you will tell the people the importance of it. Therefore Mr. Speaker, before we sensitize the public, the Department of Health need to sensitize the Members of this House so that they can be their agents in their respective wards and villages when they go on weekends.

They should get a lot of forums in churches and gatherings to spread this information. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I do not know the department in the County Assembly that needs to be on the forefront when there will be new laws that affect the counties. We should also get sensitized as Members of this House. Mr. Speaker, it is also good that we get these clarifications that whatever we debate here has communication from here to the Executive.

We might be debating very important things here but we do not know whether the same information reaches the relevant departments in the other arm of the government. Mr. Speaker, this requires a serious collaboration from your office and the other arm of the government so that these programmes can be rolled out and people get sensitized. I will keep saying that Members of this Assembly need to be fully sensitized. Thank you, I support the motion.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion on sensitization but I am concerned with the Chairperson for Health Committee. In this Assembly, I am sure the Chair represents the government. He is one who is supposed to be advising us on the steps they have already organised. I am shocked that the Chair is claiming that everything is being

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pushed. Being the Chairperson for Health in this county, he is in charge and he talks directly with CECM for Health. They are the people who should be informing us on what is being planned.

Mr. Speaker, I joined SHA when we were discussing here. I had the link and I have been telling my people to dial *147# because I am a very good advocate of NHIF. On the issue of SHA, I am aware that we have been promised that the deductions will be higher and that it will depend with your earning. My concern is whether they will continue deducting even when you are not in this Assembly.

Once you engage, how will they determine that at a certain time you will not be getting pay because we are on contract. On engaging that we want to join SHA, they have not put across on whether you are employed on contract or permanent. They just asked whether you are employed. Mr. Speaker, if you engage it as employed person yet you are on contract, I do not know what will happen when you will not be a Member in 2028. Will they continue deducting from my earnings as an employed person.

Mr. Speaker, my greatest concern is that the people in government starting with the Chairperson for Health are also asking the questions that we are asking as Independent Members. Mr. Speaker, we need a clarification from the Chair on how the issue have been rolled out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my contributions.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. Perhaps you would like to respond on the queries.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, I want to make clarifications to Hon. Kanyutu that I do not represent the government as the Chairperson for Health Committee but I oversight the government. That is why I am the Chair of that committee. Clearly, read our Standing Orders Hon. Kanyutu. Secondly, the truth must be said. I have just said here that members of the Health Committee have not been fully sensitized on this issue. That is why we are saying, before we sensitize the public, let us start with the Members of the County Assembly so that they can be our agents in spreading this news. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lempaira, Chair, Health Services. What is it Hon. Kanyutu? Are you not satisfied with something?

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I did clarifications from the Chairperson for Health Committee. All people in the government are chairs because they oversight whatever is happening. Does he claim that he is unable to oversight what is happening in his department because in this Assembly, he is responsible for any question pertaining to health. Can he claim that he is not aware of what is happening in his department?

Mr. Speaker, I am not a Member of the Health Committee but anything pertaining to health, I reprimand the chair. Mr. Speaker, as I speak in this House, anything pertaining to Dr. Taiti and Dr. Panga in this Assembly, Hon. Lempaira is answerable here. As I speak, he is a government. I am lucky because I am in the Independent Party and so anything presiding, I question them because they are the ones who are representing.

There is no day Dr. Taiti will sit in the plenary but you are here to represent that department. As I speak, anything pertaining to Ol Jabet Health Centre, while in this Assembly I question Hon. Lempaira. Anything pertaining Karandi Health Centre, I question Lempaira. So, you are a government. In case he denies, he should resign as the Chair.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. The Chair has heard all the sentiments and now before I call upon the mover of the motion, allow me to comment on two things. One, pursuant

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to Standing Order Number 53 in motions that we stick to particularly the motion on the floor. The other thing that I would like to refer to is our Standing Order Number 222. Kindly allow me to read Members. This pertains to the video clip that was played by Hon. Lempaira. This is what the Standing Order says;

> *'The Speaker may direct any matter which, in the Speaker's opinion, is secret or purely personal to be excluded from the Journals of the Assembly and from the verbatim report of the proceedings of the Assembly, and to be the subject of a separate verbatim report, which shall be kept in the custody of the Clerk and made available only to Members.'*

I want to direct because we do not have the authenticity except played by the Members that this clip presented be excluded from the journals of the Assembly. Thank you so much. Now I want to take this opportunity to call upon the mover of the motion to reply. I am told as the Standing Order states it is allowed to delegate to another Member.

As I can see the floor, I would like to allow Members to proceed. I therefore retract and call upon Hon. Daniel Mugweru to contribute to the motion.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I thought you thought I have made my contribution. I was only standing on a point of order. So, this is the time I am making my contribution. Hon. Speaker, one of the things that can be observed by everyone is that this issue of Health Insurance is important to everyone. Two, it is also important to the government. Already we have migrated to the current insurance.

Hon. Speaker, the major challenge that we are having is because the NHIF had data for the people of Kenya. What is the importance of registering again yet they had our data. They are only moving from NHIF to SHA. Hon. Speaker, it was only a simple responsibility of moving my details from NHIF to SHA. Hon. Speaker, some of these things that are happening are just meant to misuse public funds.

Hon. Speaker, when you stand and say that you are now recruiting people to a new one, where is the data that was there before on NHIF. Mr. Speaker, on the same, Laikipia County Government and other governments in Kenya collect a lot of revenue from Health. Hon. Speaker, it is upon us as Laikipia County Government to set the biggest budget to health. We collect huge amounts of money from Health.

If you get to Health Department in this county, a dead person is being charged. A dead person is charged more than a sick person because a dead person is charged Kshs. 1,000 per day yet that person is not getting treatment and no doctor is attending that person. We charge everything and that means that we have a lot of money in this department. The department should set aside huge amount of money to move around the people. They should go from one village to the other to make sure that people understand what it is.

If the people are not contented and if they are not interested on the same, then we can give the same views to the government because we have money for this department. We have everything that is required and it is upon us to push the Executive Arm of Government. Hon. Speaker, do not forget we have Facility Improvement Fund. The money paid in the hospital circulates there. It doesn't go to CRF so they have cash flow in the hospitals. They are supposed to move to all villages because they are the biggest beneficiary.

When we do not engage our people and when our people are not on Health Insurance Authority it means our hospitals will lose more. They will put us into more danger of having *harambee* a day after the other. The biggest looser is the County Government of Laikipia, the Health Department and Members because we are the ones who will go for fundraising. Hon.

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Speaker, to save the community, it is upon this government we set enough money. Let us have road shows across the county to all villages to make sure that everybody understands what it is.

Hon. Speaker, it is also important to note that why I am paying a lot of money than previously is probably because the unemployed will be paying Kshs. 300 in the new system. Who will cater for the other Kshs. 200 that was there. It is me who is employed. We must accept this Hon. Speaker so that we may be able to carry our people with us. You who have been blessed to get a job pay high and the one who is not employed should pay little so that we may balance everything in this country.

If you go to a country like Uganda, why they do not talk about the president is because they need nothing. They do not discuss about the elections because they have free education, free health and they do not have the Health Insurance Systems. Those people are healthy because health is free, they have education and they have enough food. Why would they be fighting the president? That is why you find people saying that Museveni is on Uganda people and that he is a dictator. They are not interested.

If you tell them about him, they will tell you that this man comes from the forest and that they cannot fight him. This is because their stomach is full, they are healthy and they have education. What else do they need. Hon. Speaker, if we decide to improve health in this country, I am sure our people will feel that they are in the best country. I support and the government has just walked out yet I wanted to make him understand that he is supposed to go the hospital and make sure that we have enough money, move around the county and sensitize. Let everybody, the elderly and the young ones know what entails to this SHA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. I now take this opportunity and ask the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa hii nafasi ambayo umenipatia. Pia ninashukuru Wabunge wote ambao wamejadili kwa sababu haya ni mambo ya maisha ya binadamu katika nchi yote. Kila mtu anahitajika kuwa na afya na aangaliwe kwa kila njia. Bwana Spika, nashukuru Wabunge wenzangu na tunashukuru kwa mchango ambao mmefanya. Asante, Bwana Spika.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 2nd October, 2024 at 2.30 a.m.

The House rose at 11.20 a.m.

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