REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 30th June, 2021

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report of the Health Services Committee on County Government of Laikipia (County Executive) quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended 30th September, 2019 dated 25th June, 2021.

PREFACE

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Health Services Committee deals with all matters related to County Health Services including in particular County health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services, promotion of primary healthcare, licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public, veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession), cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria and refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal.

The membership of the Committee is derived from Standing Order 191(1) and it comprises of the following:

1. Hon. Veronica Ikunyua – Chairperson
2. Hon. Catherine Nyawira - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Daniel Nyausi – Member
4. Hon. George Meshami - Member
5. Hon. Peter Thomi – Member

COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Committee is established under the Standing Order No. 191 which provides that it shall consider, for approval of the House appointments under Article 179 (2) of the Constitution of Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go up to page four, and I hope Members have the document. No, let us go to page three, let us continue.

COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT

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The Committee on Health Services was constituted by the House on 28th September 2017 during the First Session of the Second Assembly in Laikipia County. It is one of the Sectoral Committees established under Standing Order No. 191(g) with the mandate to make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Executive Member for Finance and County Planning is responsible for preparation and presentation of the County Government's Financial Statements, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the County Government at the end of this quarter ended September 2019.This responsibility includes:

1. Maintaining adequate financial management arrangements and ensuring that these continue to be effective throughout the reporting period.
2. Maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the County Government.
3. Designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, and ensuring that they are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud.
4. Safeguarding the assets of the County Government.
5. Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies.
6. Making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Government's financial statements were approved and signed by the Chief Officer for Finance and County Planning on October 2019.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

Mr. Speaker, Sir pursuant to the public Finance Management Act 2012, Section 166 which stipulates that not later than one month after end of each quarter, the County Treasury shall:

1. Consolidate the quarterly reports and submit them to the Assembly.
2. Deliver copies to the Controller of Budget, National Treasury and Commission on revenue allocation, and
3. Publish and publicize them.

In compliance to the above regulation, the County Government of Laikipia submitted the Quarterly report and Financial Statements for the Quarter ended September 2019 to the County Assembly.

THE MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Health is one of the key departments in the County Government as per the Fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya. It is a major contributor to the social pillar of vision 2030.The County Department of medical services is charged with domestication and development of health policies, laws and programs and coordination of their implementation. During the quarter ended September 2019 there was an increase in equitable share release as compared to a similar period last 5 financial year, due to an increase in

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equitable share allocation from Kshs. 4,113,400,000 to Kshs. 4,177,800,000. In this quarter the county received the total disbursements unlike in the similar period last financial year.

Hon. Members, the table shows the expenditure and you can see the figures. Mr. Speaker, in respect with the table as indicated above, the department managed to make a total payment of Kshs. 11,135,230 by the end of this quarter thus represents 11.5% of the total budget allocated for the same quarter. The highest expenditure during this first quarter of the F/Y 2019/2020 was under the 6 programme preventive and promotive health services which stood at Kshs. 7,185,236 representing an absorption rate of 52%. 6.0

On county own generated revenue performance, it is on that table as you can see Mr. Speaker, Sir. The department had managed to collect a total of Kshs. 55,846,627 for own source revenue against a quarterly expectation of Kshs. 74,000,000 for the first quarter. This represents a 75.47%. The highest revenues were realized from the health centers/hospital fees which stood at Kshs. 54,369,465. The hospitals managed to contribute to the county's local revenue which stood at Kshs. 139,911,956. This translates to a 40% contribution by the medical services department alone.

On page seven there is another table about the proceeds from foreign grants. These are the proceeds that we get from donors. We have DANIDA, Universal Health Care, Devolved units which we have not allocated any amount, UNICEF and World Bank TITS Projects. Mr. Speaker, Sir the table above indicates that the Department did not receive any of the grants during the first quarter. So that one is self- explanatory because from 2019/2020 we have not gotten any donation.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

1. That despite the improved release of funds in the above quarter from the National treasury, payments by the department was too low.
2. That the county medical services had not received any foreign grants by the end of the quarter.
3. That there were high revenues realized from the hospitals contributing up to 40% of the overall county revenue for that quarter.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

1. That there should be an improvement in payments.
2. That the Medical services allocation should be enhanced bearing in mind that the department's contribution to revenue collected is also high.

COMMITTEE CONCLUSION.

That this House adopts the Health Services Committee report.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would only add in this point of recommendations because you have the report and you can see. I have taken you through, you have had people complaining that the hospital is really giving a lot in terms of revenue collections, but there is still a lot of outcry there that we do not have medicine in our hospitals.

All those things are not there, and there are so many challenges in our hospitals and that is why as a Committee we are requesting when the Executive are allocating funds, they need to consider the higher we consume, the higher we use. We need to get as is like shilling with a shilling. If we give one shilling, we want a reward of one shilling, so we do not want to be

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given less than this because if we get less that is why you are hearing everybody is crying. Everybody is complaining saying that we do not have the essential drugs in our hospitals because we cannot afford because we are taking the revenue from the hospital.

We are putting funds into the other Departments and then the hospital is not able to get those essential drugs. Therefore, the recommendations of the Health Committee is that let us get what we give, and that one will help our hospital and we will stop crying. When our people are crying there outside it is really affecting all of us. We seem as if we are incapable, we are not able to support our hospitals.

As you all know we have seventy-two dispensaries, those seventy-two dispensaries usually get money from DANIDA and as if you have seen from 2019 and 2020 we are not getting that grant. That one tells you that the share we have from NTRH then we are dividing up to those dispensaries. We need to get as much as we consume. Thank you and therefore I call Hon. Deputy Speaker to second.

Speaker: Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance to second this report tabled by the Health Committee in this House. Mr. Speaker is quite a nice report. It is how the County is and we cannot run away from the reality of things because it seems like health is contributing to 40 % of the local revenue in this County.

I do not know if there is something to brag or something to pray for because, if it is our people who are sick and spending all that amount and they are leading this County is something that we need at least to reduce. I wish that 40 per cent was from agriculture, from trade I wish if that was from any other Department that our people at least have invested.

I thank God because our people have used that 40% of that amount and they have been healed, they have got good medication and gone home serving Laikipians. I think this government need to ensure that other Departments are bringing similar contributions to our local revenue so that at least we see people have in terms of businesses.

Mr. Speaker our hospitals as the Hon. Chair has said, it needs more allocation. There is still need to look for more friends to support so that in the near future, we will be very much okay. As much as we have collected our 40%, our charges for these hospitals are much subsidized. You cannot compare any charge from this County Hospitals to any other private hospital, of course the public is much low.

Mr. Speaker something I also took note is that in that particular quote of the year, they have not received any grant. As much as you will be independent we still need grants, because if we cannot get any grant from DANIDA, from UNICEF or from World Bank. It seems that that Department was constrained because it is quite a busy one.

There could be very many reasons why we have not got these grants. You know when one wants to get this grant you must commit some amount into such so as to be considered. Probably one of the reasons is we did not do that because of the allocation the department has. In the near future, we need to consider such to ensure that we get these grants because they will keep us going.

Another thing Hon. Speaker, this department needs more allocation so that it will trickle down most of the services being offered at the Level Five, to health centers, and even some specific clinics in this areas. With that Mr. Speaker, most people will be treated at the very nearby facilities in a Wards. We will ensure that we equip one facility so that it has all the

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necessary equipment that will stop people coming all the way to Nanyuki, or going all the way to these Referral hospitals.

With that we will be able to reduce the number of patients going to referrals, because as you speak we must note most of our potential customers are probably with money. They are not utilizing our referrals because of the congestion that is there. We need to set that gap and the only way to do that is to trickle down some of the services so that we avoid congestions in these hospitals. With that we will be able to earn revenue higher, and will be able to serve our people properly to ensure that they are very comfortable and have faith in the hospitals.

At least we do not see very much people going to private hospitals because of the privacy so that we also try to have such. If we give these hospitals or these departments a full allocation, it will be able even to do more Wards, so that we have more hospitals. Hon. Speaker at least we will stop seeing all able people going to other places seeking for services that we can be able to offer at our facilities. Thank you Hon. Speaker, I support the report and urge the House to support, thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Catherine Kibui

Hon. Catherine Kibui: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to air my views in this report by the Committee of Health service. First is to congratulate the Committee for the credible job they have done, and secondly is to urge the Department of Health to be making prompt payments especially with the funds available. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Salma Zamzam: Asante Mheshimiwa Spika Kwa kunipa nafasi kuweza kutilia mchango wangu, kwa ripoti ya robo mwaka wa mwezi wa tisa mwaka wa 2019 katika kamati ya Afya. Kwanza nishukuru kamati ya afya kwa kutuletea ripoti kama hii ikiongozwa na Mheshimiwa Ikunyua. Tukiangalia ripoti, ni mzuri na ni uzoefu wao kuleta ripoti.

Ukiangalia ukurasa wa sita tunaona wizara ya Afya ndio inaweza kutuletea ushuru wa kiwango cha juu kati ya wizara zingine zote. Kiwango cha asilimia 40%. Ni vizuri kuelewa wizara ya Afya ndio kitovu ya Kaunti kwa sababu inazingatia mambo ya uhai katika Kaunti nzima. Ni vyema kamati ya bajeti iongeze wizara ya afya pesa na iweze kuiangalia kama wizara tofauti.

Bwana Spika, tukiangalia ushauri wa kamati katika ukurasa wa saba tumeona hakuna msaada wa kigeni umeingia katika Kaunti kulingana na pendekezo lao. Tunajua DANIDA, UNICEF na WORLD BANK inasaidia pakubwa. Lakini ukiona vile wameokota ushuru imeweza kusaidia na kujisaidia. Tunajua hatuwezi lazimisha kama *treasury* ni kupenda kwao lakini ina muhimu katika wizara ya afya.

Bwana Spika, mapendekezo yao tuangalie kwa bajeti kwa sababu 40% ni pesa mingi sana. Mapendekezo yao ni mambo ya malipo na pia hiyo ni vyema iweze kuangaliwa. Kongole kwa kamati na wizara kwa kuweza kuokota ushuru ya ngazi ya juu kati ya wizara zote za Laikipia. Asante.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you M. Speaker. I commend the committee for a very good report that they have brought to the floor of this House and I am also happy with their recommendation. I am concerned with their say of ‘a shilling for a shilling.’ In our budget that is the only department that gets almost half of all the allocation that we get in our annual budget.

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Mr. Speaker, I am sure were it not that the county utilization of money at source once the money is collected at the hospital, that is for the sake of management. Some of us who have had an encounter with some of these facilities whatever the government is doing is in order to streamline the management of funds as they come in to these hospitals. I support the report and wish the recommendations are adhered to. Thank you.

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This committee has been the best performer after my committee of CPAIC led by the iron lady. I would like to commend the work of this committee. The improvement of payments is unfortunate that the entity that is giving us the most revenue cannot benefit from the same. When I can see an organ like DANIDA here and their money did not come through because of some commitment, I feel bad. It may be because money was not there.

DANIDA are serious key partners. Part of the reason I was not in this assembly for a while was courtesy of DANIDA. I was on a European tour for some Kenyans on issues of STGs. I support the recommendations of the committee. I also challenge you more to find a formula which can be done through policy that we can make sure that the budget process and supplement that the health department can lobby for more money. I support.

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

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Asante sana Bwana Spika na pia wajumbe wote waliochangia hii ripoti. Maoni yenu ni muhimu. Kama nilivyo waambia maneno ya pesa ya wafadhili inatusaidia sana katika hospitali zetu. DANIDA ndio hushikilia sana zahanati zetu. Pia wengine wanaitwa NGAVI. Hata kama hawajawekwa hapa wametusaidia sana katika chanjo za watoto. Katika Laikipia tuko nambari moja kwa kukosa watoto walemavu kwa sababu ya hawa wafadhili.

Hii wizara ya afya inasaidia kila mmoja aliye katika hiki kikao. Ikianguka sisi wote tumeanguka. Tuiwekee maanani. Tusifikirie vile inatengeneza pesa mingi haifai kurudishiwa mingi. Bwana Spika tunaambia watu wajiandikishe kwa NHIF –bima ya afya. Unaona akina mama wanatengeza vikundi na kuweka pesa. Hicho kikundi unapata mazao yako ni kidogo sana. Yule mama unapata ameweka pesa kwa kikundi moja, mbili na ingine ilhali hajaweka bima ya afya. Ni jukumu letu sisi viongozi turudi mashinani na tuambie Wananchi wetu waweke bima ya afya. Tukifanya vile kama viongozi, makelele mingi itapungua. Nashukuru kwa wenye wamechangia na wale walitoroka na wamerudi, mungu awasaidie. Mtachangia siku ingine.

Speaker: What is it Hon. Wachuka?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Nilikuwa namweleza Mheshimiwa Ikunyua watu hawakutoroka. Kila mtu hukua na simu yake na pia yeye hutoka wakati mwingine. Kwa hivyo hatukutoroka.

Speaker: I will comment on that later.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Hon. Kanyutu. What is it?

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I will request you being the Chair of this House to organize for another parking. I have gone round twice because our parking is already full. If we can get extra one because God has blessed us, each one of us has a car, so that when you are late you get somewhere to park.

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CONSIDERED RULING

LACK OF QUORUM

Speaker: That is okay. I know we have many cars and God has blessed us. We thank God for that that ourselves and our staff own cars. I think Hon. Ndiritu owns three and it is a blessing from the lord. We are going to coordinate with the Executive because there is a space at the gate of the cafeteria. So we can reserve that for parking until we get more shades. If all of us get cars, then we need to look for another parking. Lastly Members, I wanted to make a comment on ourselves. As the Speaker, I have been forced to call Members so that we can put the question. It will not be wise if I let the House make a decision without a quorum.

We have a lot of issues to handle. It's always good to confirm whether we have a quorum. I have sent for Members more than twice. At times I don't mean it is intentional but we have phone calls to receive but we forget you are the only Member in the Speaker's panel. Maybe the Speaker may want to walk out. There must be a member of the Speaker's panel in the House. It is therefore important to consider all those things.

There are things that happens now and then. At times it is not because we are intending to do so but because you may feel some members are there. When you leave through this door, another Member leaves through the other door and at the end of the day we do not have quorum. We do not want to be postponing business but we can postpone putting of the question. Anytime a House can put a question without a quorum, somebody can challenge that and say that the decision was not made by the Assembly.

How did the Assembly make that decision without a quorum? I also understand that as time comes close to the election period we have many calls to receive. We shall have more people to engage us. People will come from the village to wait for you here. Therefore, you shall have to attend to them because you cannot assume them. But it is good to check whether we have the quorum. Once we get the numbers you can excuse yourself and come back.

Hon. Members, for the last number of weeks and months we have had vibrant business in the House. It is important we continue with the same spirit. Each one of us will be rewarded because of the work that you did or the work that you did will reward you. The other day we were looking at the Gala awards and I congratulate Hon. Veronica Ikunyua for appearing in the list as one of the best performers. It is good we be happy for her because next time it maybe you.

I have heard that CPAIC is ahead of Health Committee and I will not comment on that but the Health Committee did a great deal last year and last year but one and not on the issues of Covid, but they have been working as well as the Committee Clerk. Therefore, all of us must have the same spirit. When I say they have worked than others I do not mean that they have 80% while others have 40%. It is just because they have tried. There can be a strong 80% and a weak one. Therefore, all of us are doing well.

I remember the time we had the audit of all bodaboda sheds in the county, there is a report that came here. We have had issues to do with dams in the Agriculture Committee, we have had issues in Trade and Finance Committee and every committee has been working. Budget has always been there. Therefore, all these committees have been working and it is only that we have to get a number one somewhere and number two.

The Gala awards not only looks at the performance of that committee but they look at quite a number of things. I don't believe that Hon. Ikunyua became the best on her own. It is simply because she headed that committee supported by other members. Maybe she came to

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this Assembly and made contributions. If there was no staff who made this available as much as she carries the glory, it also has the support of others.

When we embrace team work and that your strength can be able to cover my weakness and we appreciate that and work as a team, all of us feel that it is our victory. We are happy that it is a Member from our County Assembly. Therefore, we must be supporters of each other. When one wins, it is a win for all and we can be happy together. Members we wish to continue wishing you all the best.

Today is the end of the financial year 2020/2021. We are coming to our last financial year and it is important to remind ourselves as we get close to the end of this financial year we need to be more vibrant. Implement the budget and do things in the best way possible. There are things you may not have achieved as a person in the last five years and I believe you can give yourself speed in one year and you cover the time you lost.

I have always watched Marathon and you will find a person who runs ahead of others yet there are guys who are maintaining their speed but when it comes to the last few laps the winner will emerge not from the leading people but from the group in position 6. This means you can be able to recover your time. This year you can be able to achieve quite a number of things you have not done whether at family level, at the Assembly level or ward level.

An Englishman said that the last minute 11th hour (59th minute) can save a man. There is a mystery that causes men to recover time. When God pays you, he does not pay you anything else but the time that you lost. Therefore, there is a system that can help you to recover the time that you lost and whatever you have not achieved. Maybe you wanted by the end of the fourth or fifth year you achieve a number of things, you can achieve that within the last year.

Let us not faint, let us be confident, brave and passionate until the last minute. Because this is politics, at times you will receive fights in the village but the last hour can save a man. You can recover your repetition and image in the last year. Politics comes and people will tell you that you are not famous but you can recover. As we get to July we can be able to fix quite a number things. You can still recover the relationship with the citizen and you can recover during the last years.

Therefore, all is not lost. We still have one year which is not a short period of time. For a determined person who is looking for votes, 365 days is enough. When people get to the end and you are not prepared and you are not confident of yourself then you lose everything. When you are confident you can say there is still time and you can recover; it is not late so you can still recover. Thank you, Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Hon. Members, this House now stands adjourned until later today Wednesday, 30th June, 2021, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.48 a.m.

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