REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021

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

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

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

CFSP & DEBT MANAGEMENT

Hon. Peter Thomi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the following papers to lay;

1. Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2021
2. Debt Management Strategy Paper 2021/22- 2023/24

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Peter Thomi laid the papers on the Table)

Speaker: The two papers are committed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

STATUS OF COUNTY STADIA AND PLAYING FIELDS

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Chairperson for Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee, I beg to lay the report on the status of stadia and playing fields in the county report by the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee dated 25th February, 2021.

(Hon. Chris Mark laid the papers on the Table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

STATUS OF COUNTY STADIA AND PLAYING FIELDS

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. George Karuiru, Chairperson for Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the status of stadia and playing fields in the county report by the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee dated 25th February, 2021.

Thank you.

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MOTION

MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was looking around to see if the Chairperson is around because she was supposed to move this motion, however since we are all equal to the task let me move this motion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion;

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report by the Health Services Committee on departmental annual report for the Department of Medical Services for the Financial Year 2017/2018 dated 24th February, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to take the Hon. Members through the report. Because I know Members have this report, I wish to go to page 4 where the report starts. The first pages are introduction. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee received a departmental annual report for the year ended 2017-2018 The committee after thorough scrutiny was able to come up with a summary of the document in line with the mandate of Sectorial Committees.

On overview of the medical services department infrastructure, the County Department of medical services is charged with domestication and development of health policies, laws and programs and coordinates their implementation.

The department also coordinates the implementation of national health policies and laws and is charged with provision of effective and accessible health services. The department have objectives that it seeks to achieve;

1. To reduce morbidity and mortality in the catchment area.

2. To reduce the rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

3. To reduce burden of violence and injuries.

4. To provide specialized health services.

5. Provide promotive health services.

6. To strengthen health inter-sectoral collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, for it to achieve this the department has partnered with a number of stakeholders;

1. Other County government Departments.
2. National Government Ministry of Health. The ministry is responsible for health policy, national guidelines standards and implementation of national health programs in the County.
3. International partners like DANIDA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank that fund and support programs in the County.
4. Local NGO's like APHIA PLUS, Caritas Nyeri among others.
5. Private ranches.
6. Conservancies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following were some of the achievements for the year ended 2017/2018 by the Department;

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1. House to house registration of households into Laikipia County UHC households registers by Community Health volunteers.
2. Identification of vulnerable household's for subsidy for NHIF.
3. Accreditation of 39 health facilities to offer NHIF services.
4. Assessment of all medical staff was carried out.
5. Acting CEOS and Management teams for the two County hospitals were unveiled awaiting cabinet approval.
6. Infrastructural upgrade of the four sub county theatres (Doldol, Lamuria, Rumuruti and Ndindika) was 30% done.
7. 20 vaccine fridges were procured bringing on board 20 new immunizing health facilities thus an increase in child and maternal immunization program.
8. Mapping of the County into 550 community units each consisting of 200 households commenced.
9. Training and equipping the CHVS AND CHAs with mobile based technology and data analytics.
10. Increased uptake of antenatal care and immunization services.

Renovation works were carried out in different health facilities as follows:

a. Painting and fixing of tiles at Kihato dispensary.
b. Fixing of shelves, painting and wiring at Maundu Meri facility.
c. Painting, fixing of shelves and plumbing works at Naibor facility.
d. Fencing works at Githuchi, Luoniek, Makutano, Maundu Meri, Mowarak, Nturukuma, Powys and shalom Dispensaries.

11. Power cubicle upgrade and extension of OPD block in Nanyuki County hospital.
12. Power house and cabling at Nanyuki hospital.
13. Full theatre equipping for Kimanju hospital.
14. Full haemogram and biochemistry machines for Doldol, Rumuruti, Ndindika, Kimanjo and Lamuria sub-county hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, through the scrutiny of the report the Committee was able to come up with the following observations;

1. That 70% of the financial year 2017/2018 budget had been implemented.
2. That the achievements especially the renovations, supply and building works were clearly illustrated through pictorials.
3. That the achievements on monetary /finances as per their budgetary allocations were not clearly captured.
4. That the department had made a remarkable milestone in sensitization/creating awareness on the need for NHIF cover.
5. That the Department was keen in sensitizing and providing immunization services at the facilities.

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Mr. Speaker, through those observations the Committee was able to recommend the following;

1. That the Department should endeavour to meet the budget implementation in future at 100%.
2. That in future monetary uptake of funds used on specific projects should be indicated in the report.
3. That the Department should further follow up on whether Laikipians are enjoying NHIF services registered for.
4. That the Department should continue sensitizing Laikipians on benefits of immunization and NHIF cover.
5. That the Department should provide quantifiable data of persons on NHIF subsidy for easy follow up and oversight.

Finally, the committee wish to conclude that this House adopts the Health Services Committee report on the Annual Departmental report for financial year ended 2017/2018.

This is a report of 2017/18 that was tabled in this House and as Health Committee we have conducted a number oversight visits and reported a number of them in this House. This report was tabled in this House and therefore mandated to the committee to report to this House. Most of times annual departmental reports are supposed to be for our consumption and use them for oversight.

I know that in the year 2017/18 we have done a number of oversight reports in this House. Therefore, I urge the Hon. Members to support the report as we move forward as a committee to conduct further oversights. I wish to request Hon. Catherine Nyawira to second the report. Thank you.

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to second this report, It is a 2017/18 report as the Member has mentioned and therefore the things which are being discussed here are probably overtaken by events. However to note is that as we have continued to do our oversight in these facilities we have realized a lot of things which were either in excess or done wrongly by the Executive and as a committee we will endeavour doing our oversight and continue to highlight these issues before the House.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Peter Thomi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand to support this departmental annual report for 2017/2018. I first of all want to thank the committee because of the good work they have been doing knowing that this is a report that years have gone before we brought it but I thank the committee for getting time to come up with the report. As the mover has put it clearly, on the objectives of the department and the key partners in this department and also the

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achievements in the report, if Members go through it actually they will understand that we need to approve and support this motion because we have worked on it and there is a lot as per Health Department is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I was trying to get a point whereby it is a milestone. As I conclude on this matter, what is most important is the observations of the Committee. Observations of the committee is like the implementation of the budget was clearly observed.

A milestone in the sensitization of creating awareness on the need of the NHIF. Most important is the conclusion whereby the members of this Committee have come up with the observations or the conclusion recommendation of the Committee. Recommendation are most important because this is what the Committee Members have deliberated and come to a conclusion.

They have been read by the mover that the Department should endeavour to meet the budget implementation in future at 100%. To me that one summarizes it all as a good recommendation by the Committee. As a result, I support the Committee's report. Thank you.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in support of this report in 2017/2018 that is explaining how the Health Department is going on and how we started. Actually, it's self-explanatory that we started UHC which is going on well. That we started CHVS there are in place.

We are opening doors for everyone to continue oversighting our work. We can see that though as one of my Committee Member has said, there are some things that we are following. We can see the acting CEO has been there and even today he is still acting. There are some things we are pushing the Government to do because it is illegal for somebody to be acting for such a long time.

Therefore, as a Committee we are trying to push. We have seen we were doing a laboratory in Kimanju, Ndindika, and Lamuria. We are to do a theatre and as we continue doing our oversight we can see it is still on process. In Nturukuma, they were to do a fence which they did not do then but today the fencing is ongoing. Therefore, we are still following to see whether they are implementing what they have given us as a report.

As committee, we have also realized there are some things we have over ordered like fridges; we ordered them for vaccines to help the immunization to go on well. However, Mr. Speaker, after going round we have realized we have exceeded the orders, they are many and some are not in use. We will bring that statement here to query as to why they are over ordering some equipments. So we are requesting Hon. Members to support…

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I stand on a point of clarification because I have heard the Member stating that fridges were over ordered and somewhere yesterday as we were talking she was claiming that we have no enough financial muscle for the health sector I would wish her to make that clarification for us to know how they came to over order...

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: I don't know he stood on which point of order….

Speaker: Clarification, he is seeking clarification.

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Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Okay, let me clarify to you Hon. Kanyutu, this report….

Speaker: Hon. Veronica, kindly don't address him directly. Address him through the chair.

Hon Veronica Ikunyua: Hon. Speaker let me answer Hon. Kanyutu from Marmanet Ward that this report is not yesterday's report as you can see in the report. Therefore, at that time the department was okay because the money that the hospital was collecting, they were it using shilling after shilling. The money that they were collecting was being put back to the department. Mr. Speaker, that time they had enough resources. Today because the money is now reallocated, we have those challenges. Mistake is not a mistake until it is repeated and I hope I have answered his question. Therefore, I am urging Hon. Members to support this report, thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the Hon. Members who have supported the report and I thank those Honourable Members those that are supporting the report in silence. Mr. Speaker, one or two issues just to clarify before the honourable Members make a decision on the report. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, Nanyuki and Nyahururu have CO's, what the committee is saying the CEO has been acting for now two years. Again the Laikipia County Health Services Act needed to be amended to have the position of CEOS in those hospitals because as it stands those positions are illegal because they are not being captured anywhere in that law.

Somebody thinks we are pushing for the department to amend the law so that the position of CEOs are reflected in that structure.

Secondly, the Report today is in this House for the year 2017/18 and we've said that we've done a number of oversight visits on the report and I think that is the reason why Members are comfortable with the Report. I wish to thank again for the direction the House Business Committee has taken because I think through these issues of giving people timelines and timeframes some businesses are coming to the House, and I wish that we can continue in the same direction.

I remember that we had a discussion in this House that there are a number of projects lying in various departments that have not been implemented or the budget is not being implemented in full. We agreed that we need to do some general oversight and I know people might be in discussions on the same.

On the issue of fridges, and I know the Hon. Chair has clarified, yes, during our oversight visit we found that there are more than two or three fridges in a dispensary, some of which are lying idle. I don't know how they were procured; that is why the Chair is saying that we will do an oversight on the same and report to this House.

The Hon. Member from Marmanet is asking, we know the issue of COVID is in Laikipia today. The Chair is saying that there is a fund called FIF (Facility Improvement Fund). The money we collect from hospitals; as per the national law over 70% of that money is supposed to be ploughed back to the hospitals. Today in Laikipia we are capturing that fund as a source of revenue and it is not going back to the hospitals.

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Today, if you go to the Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital they are borrowing lab reagents from Huruma. If you go there you get sent to some private laboratory to carry out very simple tests because we don't have funds to buy those things. It's high time for us to go the West Pokot way, do an Act, and reinvest that funding so that those funds go back to the hospitals and do the supply and enable the hospitals to operate. With those few remarks, I wish to thank the Hon. Members and wish that they support the Report. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

CONSIDERED RULING

Speaker: Maybe just to put a word, there was something that was raised by one of us last week as we debated and it has been repeated today, that the hospital does not have enough funds. Therefore, when you go to the hospital you find that even taking an x-ray, the material used for printing, and medicine; you can't get them at the hospital. I've also heard that complaint from outside.

I think it's time for this Assembly to speak to the Executive through the official way that we use, whether through oversight. Whatever we are raising here, I believe is being raised by many more people outside there. They may not be aware that it is the FIF (Facility Improvement Fund) which is being taken and reallocated to other works. What do we do as leaders to ensure that the hospital has got funds?

When you look at the Health Department this year, apart from the normal cases they have been handling during the other years, we have the issue of COVID which has reduced revenue. What do we do to improve services at the hospital yet we improve services by having enough money in the hospital? I think it is something the Committee that needs to come up with recommendations on how we can assist the Executive to make sure that they allocate more funds to the hospitals.

Health Service is very key for our people. If we cannot be able to treat our people, then we're exposing them to death and long-term illnesses. Therefore, by all means, we must be able to treat them. Therefore it is important for us to see what we can do to improve the health services that we are giving to our people.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday 4th March, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 3:00 p.m.

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