REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 2nd June, 2020

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

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

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF THE MOTIONS

RAISING AWARENESS AND SENSITIZING THE PUBLIC ON COVID-19

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

AWARE THAT the current COVID-19 outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people of certain ethnic backgrounds as well as anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus;

FURTHER AWARE THAT with the COVID-19 outbreak people are labelled stereotyped, discriminated against, treated separately and or experience loss of status because of a perceived link with a disease;

NOTING THAT Laikipia County has reported the first case and others in quarantine;

CONCERNED THAT such treatment can negatively affect those with the disease as well as their caregivers, family, friends and communities;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT people who don't have the disease but share other characteristics with this group may also suffer from stigma;

This House URGES the County Government to counter stigma through enhanced solidarity raising awareness and sensitizing the public.

COUNTY ECONOMIC STIMULUS DUE TO COVID-19

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

NOTING THAT the Corona Virus Pandemic (COVID-19) was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be a public health emergency of international concern;

FURTHER NOTING THAT there is significant negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on key sectors of the economy, including trade, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and other related sectors due to lock down, curfews, loss of jobs and closure of business;

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APPRECIATING THAT the National Government have put in place some targeted interventions and strategies to revive the economy after COVID-19 pandemic through a national economic stimulus package and that County Government should put plans and strategies to revive the economy in all the economic activities of the county through county economic stimulus;

This House URGES the County Government to;

1. Undertake a survey/ research of the affected business and job loss
2. Establish job creation for the citizens through '*kazi kwa wanachi programme'*.
3. Waive or reduce licenses and levies to small business such as hawkers, mama mboga, and small retail shops and livestock traders.
4. Provide capital grants to small businesses.
5. Provide farm inputs to farmers.
6. Supply livestock inputs to livestock farmers like vaccination and veterinary services.
7. Promote local contractors by giving them major contracts and making prompt payments.
8. Reduce land rates and other taxes to encourage investors.
9. Put adequate measures to revive the tourism and hospitality industry.

STATEMENTS

DISTRIBUTION OF MARKET STALLS AND KIOSKS IN NYAHURURU AND NANYUKI TOWNS

Hon. Catherine Kibui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise on the statement on distribution of market stalls, kiosks at Nyahururu and Nanyuki Towns. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 44(2) (c), I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Committee regarding the above mentioned subject matter.

Mr. Speaker, the above project was a two face project whereby the 1st phase took place in the Financial Year 2017/18 and the 2nd took place in the Financial Year 2018/2019. In the Financial Year of 2017/2018 financial budget, the Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives indicates that it mounted 120 modern kiosks in various centres and in the 2018/2019 financial budget, it indicated that it operationalized over 200 kiosks. In the same budget 2018/2019, there was budget for Nanyuki stage kiosks phase two for Kshs. 10 million and modern kiosks next to stadium at Igwamiti totalling to Kshs. 4.1Million.

Mr. Speaker, I request the Chairperson for Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Committee to inform this House on the following;

1. The number of kiosks that were distributed at Nanyuki and Nyahururu Towns in the two financial years.
2. The location where the kiosks were mounted.
3. The beneficiaries of the kiosks indicating their details, names and contacts.
4. The criteria which the department used to distribute the kiosks to the beneficiaries.

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5. The cost per kiosk.
6. What was the overall budget of the kiosks which were distributed in the two towns?

Speaker: Chairperson for Trade, you are supposed to respond to that together with your team. Maybe you can indicate the time you need for you to be able to respond.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Pardon Mr. Speaker, I have not heard you maybe because your mask is too tight.

Speaker: Hon. Ndiritu, I am saying that you indicate the time that you need to respond to the statement together with your Trade Committee.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Mr. Speaker, I believe that one month will be enough to sit down and investigate on that matter and to come with a comprehensive report in this House.

Speaker: So for clarity purposes those are four weeks. So it will be responded on the Tuesday that falls on the 4th week after today at 2.30 p.m.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I was to respond on a statement which was raised by Hon. Chris Mark pertaining to food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Mr. Speaker, the statement was tabled in the Assembly by Hon. Chris Mark on 26th May, 2020 requesting the number of households per ward which have benefitted from the *lisha jamii initiative* and food distribution that has been done by the County Government and how the donation have been distributed.

Mr. Speaker, the correspondence calling for response of this was sent to the CECM for Agriculture on 29th May and the Office of the Clerk and we are yet to receive an official response on this matter from the CECM for Agriculture. The committee hereby requests for an extension by 10 days' period so as to table a comprehensive response on the statement.

Speaker: While that extension is granted, let us be sure that by those ten days you will have responded to that statement.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same, because the process is still continuous, should we still give as per the time the statement was raised in the House?

Speaker: Hon. Chris, a pertinent question comes where the Chair says that this is a continuous process and so they can only be able to respond as per the time they will be making that statement. They will be talking of the distribution so far leaving the other part. Does that serve your question?

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand that challenge but again we can look at the time frame. Even when we are doing reports we categorize them in monthly or quarterly basis. Let us not wait until the process is completed because we might end up continuing to give food up to next year. So far I think we have done two months and therefore

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let us see what has been done because the reason for the statement is to be informed, so that we can see the challenges which have been there and know how we can advise as a House as the process continues.

Speaker: In other words, you are okay that it is only for the distribution that will have been done during that period by the time they will be doing the statement?

Hon. Chris Mark: Yes Mr. Speaker, what had already started plus the ten days?

Speaker: Hon. Kanyutu, I believe that you are well advised that you do respond up to the time that information comes from CECM because then you cannot be able to respond on food as you put together the statement.

MOTION

RAISING AWARENESS AND SENSITIZING THE PUBLIC ON COVID-19

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

AWARE THAT the current COVID-19 outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people of certain ethnic backgrounds as well as anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus;

FURTHER AWARE THAT with the COVID-19 outbreak people are labelled, stereotyped, discriminated against, treated separately and or experience loss of status because of a perceived link with a disease;

NOTING THAT Laikipia Count has reported the first case and others in quarantine;

CONCERNED THAT such treatment can negatively affect those with the disease as well as their caregivers, family, friends and communities;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT people who don't have the disease but share other characteristics with this group may also suffer from stigma;

This House URGES the County Government to counter stigma through enhanced solidarity raising awareness and sensitizing the public.

Bwana Spika, kama vile tunajua ugonjwa wa Korona umehangaisha dunia nzima na kusema ukweli sisi tukasema ya kwamba ugonjwa wa Korona uko Kenya lakini sisi tuko na bahati haujafika kwetu. La kuhuzunisha ni kwamba siku ya leo kama tunavyoongea hapa, huu ugonjwa uko kwetu nyumbani Kaunti ya Laikipia. Huu ugonjwa tunajaribu kuichukulia kama vile ugonjwa wa ukimwi ulichukuliwa ulipofika Kenya kwa mara ya kwanza.

Mtu akiwa na huo ugonjwa hakuna watu ambao wanataka kuitanishwa naye au hata kukaribia hiyo familia lakini kwa sababu ya masomo mengi iliyoletwa na wafadhili kama *NGO's*, watu walifunzwa na wakaweza kukaa na watu walio na ugonjwa wa ukimwi. Siku ya leo tumepata huu ugonjwa na janga kubwa katika nchi yetu.

Bwana Spika, tusipofunza watu wetu kukaa na huu ugonjwa, wale ambao wamepatwa na huu ugonjwa watakaa kama kaburi ambayo hauwezi taka kuangalia kwa macho au hata

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kunyoshea kidole chako. Hivyo basi tungeomba viongozi wote na Gavana na serikali yake wajue vile tunavyoweza kuhamasisha watu juu ya kuishi na waliopatwa na korona. Tunapowahamasisha watakavyoishi na huu ugonjwa, wasione ni kama huu ni ugonjwa wa kuua lakini tuanze kufunza watu jinsi ya kujikinga kwa kujifunga pua na kunawa mikono kwa sabuni.

Nasema hivyo kwa sababu wakati tulisikia ya kwamba huu ugonjwa umefika hapa kwetu na tukasikia ni kina nani wamepatwa, imetuhuzunisha. Ninakumbuka mtu mmoja alisema ya kwamba hata mahospitali tutaacha kuenda. Kama hatutaambia watu wetu jinsi ya kuishi na huu ugonjwa, watu watakufa nyumbani wakikataa kupeleka ugonjwa wa homa au malaria kwa hospitali kwa sababu wanaogopa kukuitana na hao watu. Tusipofunza hao watu kuhusu kunawa na kujifunga pua na kukaa mbali na mwingine watu wetu wataogopa kukaa na wale wengine.

Kwa hivyo Bwana Spika, ningeomba serikali yetu ya Kaunti ijue vile itakavyohamasisha watu mashinani kabisa. Juzi tumetenga kiwango kubwa cha pesa ya kusaidia kupigana na hili janga katika Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia. Kwa hivyo hatuwezi kusema ya kwamba hatuwezi kuenda mashinani kwa sababu hakuna pesa. Hatukusema ya kwamba hiyo pesa ni ya kununua barakoa au *PPE's* bali tulisema ni ya kupigana na huu ugonjwa. Tutapigana nayo kwa kuenda mashinani kufunza watu wetu.

Kwa hivyo wasiseme ya kwamba hawatatoka. Wachukue vijana wetu waliojaa kwa huu mji bila kazi na wawapatie kazi ya kwenda kuhamanisha watu. Kama vile tunavyotoa pesa ya kuhamasisha watu wakati wa uchaguzi wa rais na wengine na hivyo ndivyo wanafaa kufanya wakihamasisha watu weu kuhusu huu ugonjwa. Wakifanya hivyo watu wetu wataacha kuogopa. Ninaomba Mheshimiwa Chris Mark auunge huu mswada mkono.

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this timely motion by our iron lady of Laikipia County being the only elected MCA here and she is also our land lord and so we should always be behaving well as an Assembly. This motion is so timely because discrimination is happening.

In fact, the first case of the people who started healing from this disease there was a case of discrimination in Nakuru County, where a lady said that she could not even buy milk or bread from the local shops. She even went to supermarket and was denied entry because she was publicised as someone who had had Corona and was a survivor. It was so bad until this lady was talking of having suicidal thoughts because of depression.

There is even a couple who stopped dating because the lover felt that the lady was going to give him Corona and you know the engagement which goes on between a couple cannot even afford 2 cm distance away from each other. So it is that serious but for this to happen there needs to be awareness. You cannot 100% even blame the instigator who discriminates because the way this disease was brought about in a terrified way.

I remember that in the WhatsApp group for Members. This is a video and I don't know whether it is our Leader of majority or Hon. Matunge who showed us many graves in Italy. People were saying that it has gotten into a place where money was of no value and the video

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was showing money being swept away by water in the streets. So people became very afraid and even I became very afraid.

I was doing an analysis and we have almost 60 deaths from COVID-19 but if you look at the deaths which are happening by foods are almost 290 and almost 800,000 displaced. So it means that if we manage this Corona well people will come out of it. There is a case where a landlord saw somebody being taken to quarantine in an incident of mistaken identity and later came out negative but later when he came back home, he found that the land lord had put up a notice of eviction.

Therefore, I support this motion and we should take it up. The good thing in Laikipia is that we are now leading in social media and it is good because it means that we are embracing ICT. I think that we are the only county which did Madaraka Day on zoom. That presence is good so why don't we do follow ups of people who have gotten cured from Corona? We even have got government officials like myself, I will volunteer to be there and welcome them back to the society.

When people see an example of a leader like Hon. Ndiritu welcoming somebody from his Thingithu Ward back home and because people look up to their leaders, then this thing is not as dangerous as it is perceived. I second this motion and also urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nimesimama kuchangia huu mjadala ambao umeletwa na Mjumbe kutoka Mji wa Nanyuki. Kwanza nataka niseme ni asante jinsi Mheshimiwa ameweza kuleta huu mjadala. Kabla huu uweze kupatikana hapa Kenya nakumbuka aliweza kuleta mjadala mwingine kuhusu vile tunaweza kujiandaa kama Kenya iwapo tungepatwa na janga kama hili.

Bwana Spika, wakati ule ilikuwa ni kama kicheko kwa wengi wetu tukiona ni kama huu ugonjwa hauwezi kutoka China na kufika hapa Kenya lakini kwa sasa kila mmoja wetu na wananchi wote tumeweza kukaa kwa kuogopa kwa sababu ya huu ugonjwa kutoka wakati kesi ya kwanza iliweza kuripotiwa hapa nchini.

Kutoka wakati Mheshimiwa alileta mjadala wa kwanza na sasa hivi tumeweza kujua ya kwamba kuna kesi moja katika Laikipia, kwa hivyo kama viongozi wa Bunge na upande wa serikali ya Gavana tunafaa tuanze kujipanga kwa mambo mengi ambayo inaweza kutokea juu ya janga hili. Nakumbuka wiki iliyopita tulipoweza kupitisha bajeti ya ziada kwa sababu ya hili janga ama majanga mengine ambayo inayoweza kutokea katika Laikipia, kwa kweli ni kumaanisha ya kwamba sisi kama viongozi tuna jukumu la kuhakikisha ya kwamba wananchi wetu wanaishi kwa furaha na wanafanya kazi yao na sisi tulio ni binadamu kama hao.

Bwana Spika, jinsi mjadala unavyosema, kwa kweli ningetaka kukuomba kwamba hata katika hili Bunge tunapojadili na kujaribu kukaa tunavyostahili, tunafaa kuweka nafasi mbali na mwingine bila kuguza vitu za mwingine. Wakati ambapo tumeketi katika hili Bunge inawezekana kwamba ninapokaa katika hiki kitu changu, ninapotoka nje mwingine hatajua kwamba nilikuwa nimeketi hapa. Nimeweza kuona hilo katika ule upande mwingine wakati

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Mheshimiwa Kaparo alipotoka nje, Mheshimiwa Zamzam aliingia na akakalia. Kuna uwezekano kwamba tunaweza kuwa tunajichunga na sisemi ya kwamba kuna mtu mgonjwa lakini ni vyema sisi kama viongozi pia tujichunge.

Tuseme Mheshimiwa Meshami ametoka Mukogodo Mashariki na anapokuja hapa anapata ya kwamba nimetoka kwangu nyumbani na shida zangu na hivyo basi hata yeye apate lile shida na kupelekea jamii yake. Kwa hivyo basi hata hili Bunge ningeomba jinsi pale katika kiti cha Kiongozi wa Walio Wengi kumeandikwa jina lake au kiti cha Spika, hata viti Bunge nzima ziwe hivyo. Singetaka mimi nikitoka mbali na shida zangu niweze kuletea mtu mwingine na hilo ni jambo ambalo tunafaa kuangalia.

Sasa hivi hata ukienda kwa hoteli jambo la kwanza kufanyika ni kupimwa joto lakini hapa sioni kitu kama hicho. Wakahiu akija na aingilie ule mlango atafinya tu kitakaza mikono na Bwana Spika hautajua. Kwa hivyo tuangalie hili jambo sana. Mheshimiwa Veronica amesema ya kwamba kesi ya kwanza imeripotiwa hapa Laikipia. Sijui huyu mwenye kuripotiwa kama yuko Nanyuki na ameguzana na watu wangapi.

Hata sisi tunajadiliana tunafaa kujichunga. Nataka niseme ya kwamba huu mjadala umekuja kwa wakati unaofaa na pia hili ni janga ambalo limetesa watu wengi kwa fikira. Jana katika runinga niliona watu kumi na nane kutoka Kaunti ya Murang'a ambao ilikuwa imesemekana ya kwamba walikuwa wameguzana na mtu mgonjwa na siyo ukweli. Hao watu walitengwa na watu wa kile kijiji na wakati waliporudi jana ilikuwa jambo la kuhuzunisha sana wakijaribu kusema ya kwamba wamesameheana kwa sababu hawakuwa hata wanakubaliwa kununua kitu kwa duka.

Kwa mfano huo ugonjwa ukisemekana kwamba uko Salama, kuna uwezekano kwamba hata Wakahiu akija katika hili Bunge itaonekana kama mimi ni mgonjwa na nianze kudhulumiwa. Hili ni jambo ambalo liko na kwa hivyo ningeomba sisi tukiwa Wajumbe pamoja na upande mwingine wa serikali, tulitenga pesa ya dharura ya kufanya kazi ya Korona na janga zingine. Hizo pesa pia zisiwe tu ni za kununua vifaa ama kusaidia kwa mahospitali lakini pia wananchi wasomeshwe vile huu ugonjwa uko ili wasione kama ni ugonjwa wa kumaliza mtu.

Kama vile Mheshimiwa Chris Mark amesema, ni kwamba huu ugonjwa ulijulikana, kila mtu alikuwa anaona ni kama ugonjwa ambao anakuja kutumaliza. Huko Italy watu wanakufa kwa barabara na hata wanatupa pesa kwa barabara. Hili ni jambo la kutuogofya lakini ni vyema wananchi wetu wafundishwe ili wajue ya kwamba siyo kila mtu afe akipata huu ugonjwa. Hiyo tu ndiyo itakayotusaidia hata kwa wale ambao wamewekwa kwa karantini ama wale ambao wamepona. Kwa hivyo ningeomba tushikane pamoja kuhakikisha ya kwamba wananchi wameelewa.

Hata sasa hivi mmoja akikohoa katika hili Bunge kutokana na homa ya kawaida, watu wanaanza kuogopa na kuona ni kwamba huyo mtu ni mgonjwa. Nimeambia Mheshimiwa Catherine ajichunge sana alipokohoa kwa sababu sasa tunaona ni kama magonjwa yote imeisha na tunabakia tu na Korona. Hata kama tunajaribu kujikinga kidogo, wacha wananchi waelezewe kuhusu huu ugonjwa uko aje, utaenda aje na ndio watu waweze kujua ya kwamba siyo lazima mtu afe na pia wajue vile wataweza kujikinga na familia zao. Ninaunga mkono na

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kushukuru Mheshimiwa Veronica kwa sababu hata mara ya kwanza ni yeye ambaye alileta huu mjadala na tukamcheka katika hili Bunge. Asante.

Hon. George Meshami: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Nasimama kuunga hili hoja mkono ambalo limeletwa na Mheshimiwa Veronica ambaye ni Mwenyekiti wangu wa Afya. Huu mjadala umekuja kwa wakati unaofaa tukikumbuka ya kwamba kuna kesi moja ya Korona ambayo imeripotiwa Laikipia.

Bwana Spika, ukiangalia katika ile bajeti ambayo tulipitisha, tuliipitisha kwa sababu ya hili janga ambalo limeadhiri ulimwengu mzima. Kufikia sasa hivi kuna chakula ambacho tumesikia kinapatianwa katika wadi zetu na ukijaribu kutafakari, unashindwa hata mahali hicho chakula kinapatianwa. Badala ya hata kupatiana chakula, kitu muhimu ya kwanza kabisa ingefaa tuelimishe wana Laikipia kuhusu huu ugonjwa na jinsi ambavyo tunafaa kuepuka.

Bwana Spika, kupatiana elimu kwa wale CHV's ambao tuko nao katika mashinani, wazee wa nyumba kumi na kushikana bega kwa bega na serikali kuu ili tupate kusaidiana kupatiana elimu kwa watu wetu. Hiyo elimu ndiyo njia ya kipekee na kwa hivyo hili hoja naliunga nikitilia mkazo kwamba Serikali yetu ya Kaunti ipate kupatiana elimu mashinani. Kuna watu ambao hawaelewi huu ugonjwa ni wa aina gani. Hata barakoa unapata wengine hawana na ukiwaambia kuhusu barakoa wanasema ya kwamba hawawezi kujifunikia pua kwa sababu hao sio wagonjwa. Kwa hivyo ni muhimu sana tuelimishe watu wetu katika wadi zetu.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this motion by the Hon. Member from Nanyuki. This is a noble cause where we need to educate our people. It is unfortunate because what I have learned is that previously we used to talk of this COVID-19 being in other areas but now it is in our county. The patient is here in Nanyuki but through my own follow up I have come to learn that the patient is from Nyahururu. The same person was detected in a private health facility.

Not unless we educate our people, the same person who is now a victim is also a medical personnel. We need to see how we can ensure that we keep safe. There is something that the Hon. Member has mentioned. For example, I have just arrived from Nyahururu and had visited a hospital in the morning and might have touched the same surfaces which were touched by that patient. We are being told that we should not touch our eyes, nose and mouth to avoid transmission and therefore we need to educate our people and also ourselves.

So I support this motion and I am happy if we are going to ensure that we take it to our people because it is going to be very beneficial. It is unfortunate because in my ward I had a padre who had re-located to Italy. When the disease started in their country and he learned that it has been reported in our country, he was shocked because he was in Italy by then. He wrote on a social media platform that he is wondering how we as a country shall be able to combat this disease whereas the country he comes from is advanced with better facilities but they are succumbing to this pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, we need to educate our people to keep safe because this disease is not segregating and you can get it from anywhere. My greatest worry is that we need sanitizers next to our doors because immediately we open, that handle is touched by everybody. If I am

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sick and I touch that handle and somebody else comes and opens the same door, then he will get infected. So as we sensitize others we should also ensure that we as policy makers try to enforce that law and follow it to the letter.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give my contribution towards this motion. First I wish to thank Hon. Veronica, my Chairperson for Health because since we started these issues of Corona virus she has always been thinking of Laikipians safety. I think that that is the role which all of us should take.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of stigma is within us. One of the issues which we learned as the Health Committee when we visited a woman in Umande, is the issue of stigma. That family has been set aside and isolated. We saw and recommended that we need to address this issue of stigma. The Hon. Member has done what we are supposed to do and I appreciate what she has done today.

Mr. Speaker, if you look all across the world starting with China, you have seen the African cases being isolated, discriminated and tortured believing that they are the ones who are distributing Corona in China. Today if you look at the major world news channels like CNN, Aljazeera and BBC you will be able to see what is happening because there are major demonstrations in the U.S.

The same thing is happening in South Africa. I think that the parliament of South Africa is fighting the issues of stigma specifically to the African race. Coming to our country Kenya where we belong as Laikipia, Hon. Chris has mentioned the case from Nakuru and also another case that was mentioned in Naivasha where a lady arrived from U.K, screened and quarantined for 14 days in Nairobi.

After she was released to go home she was isolated by her own family and she found that her family had set aside a maize store for her to stay for other 14 days. She said that even the househelp could not pick her utensils for ten days. So every day she was brought a plate she could use and set them aside until the utensils could pile and **fall** down.

Mr. Speaker, there was another case from Nakuru where we saw her businesses of snails being destroyed and was denied access to the estate where she was living. I think that it is the high time we believe and start saying that those people with COVID-19 have done nothing wrong because anybody can get Corona. We saw the Prime Minister from U.K getting Corona and the first lady of Burundi. So anybody can get Corona and these are the issues we should start telling our people and we can only do it through civic education and through intensifying the issues of awareness and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of misinformation about Corona and we need to stick to the facts on what is Corona, how it is spread. We have a lot of misconceptions going around and that is why we are seeing issues for stigma. It is not enough going around telling people to wash their hands, sanitize, keep social distance and put on masks. These people need to understand why they are supposed to do those things because you will find somebody washing their hands with soap and after that he sanitize. You are only supposed to sanitize if you don't get soap and water.

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The other day I said that you will find somebody moving alone still putting on a mask in a private car. This is all misinformation and we need to educate our people on when to put the masks, sanitize, wash and when and why to keep social distance. The issue of stigma getting to our society then there is a very negative impact to our fight against Corona because one, we are still seeing the issue of social isolation. The negative impact this is that people will tend to hide illness. When I get a cough I will not go hospital so that I cannot be isolated.

So Mr. Speaker, you will see people hiding their illnesses so that they cannot be associated with Corona and what will happen is that corona will spread. It can only pain because of misinformation. Two, we should encourage people adopting the guidelines which we have been given by the WHO and the Ministry of Health. We should understand that we are all stronger when we are all fighting this disease. When we see people undoing the efforts made, then we will not be able to fight this disease. So I appreciate the member and this is a very good motion that we first start with understanding what is Corona so that we can be able to fight stigma.

Before you we start supplying PPEs and masks, we must first understand why we need them, why we should put them and why we are keeping social distance. It is said that Corona virus can only be transmitted through droplets which can only go as far as one metre. So if you are beyond one metre a droplet from Veronica cannot get to me. If people understand that then we should not be putting on masks because the air is clean.

Therefore, a lot of information is needed and all of us need to move around and educate our people. As a government we should be in the frontline doing the same thing other than putting roadblocks all over and testing temperature. Others will say that there is no need for testing since they do not have COVID-19. Those are the misinformation which we have because testing temperature is just one sign because you can be suffering from malaria, typhoid or cholera which raises the body temperature.

Somebody will say yes I have been tested corona and I don't have it. I think you need to send your test to the laboratory for confirmation. A lot of education is needed and this motion is very timely. There is a budget on the same and we need to put some of this money. With those few remarks I support the motion.

Hon. Mary Samken: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipa hii fursa ili nami niweze kuunga mkono mjadala ulio mbele yako. Nataka nishukuru Mheshimiwa Veronica kwa kuweza kuleta huu mjadala siku ya leo.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ninamshukuru kwa sababu wakati wa kwanza alipokuwa ameleta mjadala kama huu na ninakumbuka vizuri sana tuliletewa barakoa kwenye hili Bunge ili tuweze kuvalia kama kumuunga mkono. Nakumbuka vizuri alikuwa amevalia ile barakoa pekee yake hiyo siku na ninakumbuka Mheshimiwa Spika ukisema ya kwamba huu ugonjwa unaweza kufika katika Kenya. Hiyo siku tulikuwa tunaona ni kama mchezo na hatukujua kwamba tutajikuta tumevalia barakoa. Siku ya leo tuko hapa na nikitazama mbele na nyuma kila mmoja wetu amevalia barakoa.

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Kwa kweli kabisa ni kwamba huu mjadala ni muhimu na ni mzuri kwa sababu kuna wale ambao wanaweza kutengwa na watu. Ni vizuri tukisema ya kwamba tufunze watu ili mtu akiwa mgonjwa siyo kumaanisha ni mwisho wake kabla Mungu aseme ni mwisho. Ni vibaya pia kwa sababu wakati nilipokuwa nikitazama huyo mama kutoka Nakuru alikuwa akilia machozi akisema ya kwamba wakati alipopelekwa kwenye karantini alipigiwa simu na ndugu wa kutoka tumbo moja. Nakumbuka akisema ya kwamba badala nduguye amujulie hali alikuwa anamkemea akimwambia kwamba alijijua yeye ni mgonjwa na kumletea.

Mheshimiwa Spika, inaweza kuwa ni hatari sana na ni vizuri watu wetu waelimishwe ili wajue kwamba hawa ndugu na dada zetu wakipatwa na ule ugonjwa na Mungu amsaidie apone na arudi kwenye jamii, ni vizuri tuwapokee. Inaweza kuwa pia ni hatari kwa sababu ninaposikiza hawa ndugu zangu Waheshimiwa wakichangia huu mjadala, kunaweza kuwa na hatari mahali fulani. Hata sasa ukizunguka katika Laikipia utashtuka kwa sababu watu wengi wamerudi kwa biashara kama kawaida.

Watu wengi pia wamesahau kama kulikuwa na ugonjwa. Kwa hivyo tunapoelimisha watu ni vizuri tuwakumbushe ya kwamba ugonjwa bado uko na hauchagui. Tukisema tu hao watu tuwaambie ya kwamba wasivalie barakoa kila wakati ukiwa pekee yako au kwa gari, hata sasa hivi watu wengi hawavai. Ukitembea hapa utakuta vikundi za vijana kama nilikuwa nimetembea karibu na stesheni ya mafuta ya *Total* na nikaona kikundi ambao wameketi bila kuvalia barakoa.

Bwana Spika, kwa hivyo ni vizuri tuwaelezee ya kwamba bado ugonjwa uko na unaendelea kuzidi. Hata sisi hapa Laikipia tuko katika hatari kwa sababu tumepata mgonjwa na hatujui amepita wapi na amekutana na nani. Kwa hivyo ni wakati wetu pia kuwa waangalifu zaidi kuliko kwanza. Ni vizuri tuelimishe watu wetu kuhusu kupokea wale ambao wamepona ama wale wamepoteza watu wao lakini pia tuwaambie wachukue tahadhari kwa sababu kwa sasa ugonjwa unasambaa zaidi. Asante.

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

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Nataka kuchukua hii nafasi kushukuru Waheshimiwa wote kwa sababu ya kuona umuhimu wa huu mjadala kwa sababu kweli tunahitaji kufunza watu wetu. Watu wetu wakiumia sisi pia tumeumia. Kwa hivyo kama viongozi ni jukumu letu kushikana na serikali ya upande wa Gavana tuweze kusomesha watu wetu waelewe ya kwamba ugonjwa wa korona bado uko.

Kusema ukweli kama vile Mheshimiwa Kanyutu amesema, mgonjwa wetu yuko hapa katika uwanja wa maonyesho na ndio afike hapo kuna mahali alikuwa ametoka. watu wetu waliotangamana naye na ni jukumu letu kama serikali kufunza wana Laikipia ukweli wasitenge mtu yeyote. Tuwaonyeshe upendo, tuwafunze na tuambie vijana wetu ya kwamba ugonjwa bado uko. Kama vile Mheshimiwa Mary amesema, vijana wanachukua haya mambo ni kama ni kawaida.

Unakutana na mtu na kumuuliza ni kwa nini hajavalia barakoa na anarudi kwa mfuko na kukuonyesha. Wanabeba hizo barakoa kwa sababu ya sheria na siyo kwa sababu ya kujikinga wao wenyewe. Wakati umejifunga barakoa unaonyesha upendo eti unajipenda na pia

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unapenda jirani yako lakini mwenye hafungi anaonyeshana uadui kwake mwenyewe na kwa majirani. Kwa hivyo tufunze watu wetu kwamba wavae hizi barakoa kwa maslahi ya sisi wote. Asanteni.

(Question put and agreed to)

CONSIDERED RULING

Speaker: Just before we go to the next order, I just wanted to share something that happened. A patient had an operation in one of the hospitals here in Nanyuki and she went back home and because of the operation she went to a dispensary in Tigithi Ward. When her temperature was taken it was around 38°C and she was requested to wait so that they could test the temperature again to see whether it will have dropped.

She thought that she might be quarantined and therefore called her husband who took her to a private hospital. When the attending nurse came she could not find the patient and she called the authorities concerned and ambulances came to Matanya. Everyone could tell that there was danger around that place. The whole family of the lady was taken to ASK show ground quarantine facility.

I remember the brother in law told me that if there was something that has been done well is the ASK show ground quarantine facility because when he was taken there he learned that it was a very good facility. That aside, we are talking of the issue of sensitization. Everyone in Matanya was talking of that family. The husband to the lady had worked in Mandera three months ago and the disease had been mentioned in Mandera.

Therefore, you find that everyone in that village with someone who came from Mandera suspected to have COVID-19, people isolate you. Therefore, it is very important for us to have the information well packaged. The information is there on televisions but sometimes it is either exaggerated or not done in the right way. We really need good packaging of information because awareness is one thing but the packaging of awareness is different. We must be very keen with the information that we are giving to the public so that we are able to sensitize them. 80% of the infections are mild and even the world statics is showing that in a case of 2,000 infections, 1,000 do recover.

We should also encourage them so that they do not feel as if it is the end of everything. We must also have the economy running. We only need to sensitize people to be very careful so that we can manage to balance between working because if we don't work there shall be economic crisis. I believe that with the remarks made by H. E the President that soon we might get to some relaxed measures of COVID-19, people expected to be more aware and behave appropriately so that through our behaviour we may be able to counter the disease.

Therefore, it is very important to have such a motion. We really expect the County Government and the Assembly will be able to package this information appropriately. Lastly we also encourage people that when a case is reported, it means that there are some contacts around that place which might go for testing. Some people might find that they cannot remember where they met that person but they don't want to go and test because of that stigma that is coming with testing.

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I was asking myself, if today in the Assembly because we are Laikipians and want to create awareness to lead by example, how many of us would be willing to go and test. You will realize that you will be feeling that you are not ready for testing. Even if you are going to test, you have to exert some certain pressure because of the information which you have gotten of how test is being done through the nostrils. That is why I am saying that we must be able to create awareness to encourage people and bring people to the accurate information.

If Hon. Suge were today asked to go and test for COVID-19, would he be so willing to take himself to the ASK show ground and do it? The other day when we were here one of the Hon. Member said that we cannot visit that isolation facility may be because we have not been well informed how that facility is or how we may not get into contact with those people who are in quarantine. That is the kind of fear that we all have. That is why the County Government has to package that information accurately so that we can give accurate information to our people.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.30 p.m.

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