

# COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

## THE HANSARD

### Third Assembly (Second Session)

Wednesday 12th April 2023

Assembly Building

The House met at 03:20 PM

*[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage) In the Chair]*

#### PRAYERS.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage):** Next order.

#### STATEMENT

##### GIOTTO DUMP SITE

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage):** There is a Statement from Honourable Rose Chepkoech.

**Hon. Rose Chepkoech:** I want to give a Statement, the response to smoke emission emanating from Giotto Dump Site.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage):** What is it Honourable Wathiai?

#### QUORUM

**Hon. David Macharia:** I want to say that this House does not qualify to continue transacting its business because I do not think we have the quorum. I stand guided if we have the quorum to continue or we adjourn until we attain the quorum.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage):** The Honourable Whip to confirm for us whether we have the quorum; the Sergeant At Arms to confirm for us whether we have the quorum. I will invoke Standing Order Number 37. The Sergeant At Arms to ring the bell for five minutes.

*(The Quorum bell was rung)*

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage):** We can now proceed because we have attained the quorum. Honourable Rose.

**Hon. Rose Chepkoech:** I want to table a response to a Statement concerning smoke emanating from Giotto Dump Site. On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Honourable Simon Kamau Karanja, MCA Kihingo, sought a Statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources regarding smoke emissions emanating from the ongoing fires at Giotto Dumping Site in London Ward.

The Committee sought more information on the following issues:

1. Whether the County Government is aware of the fire burning garbage at Giotto dumping site.
2. The plans the County Government is undertaking to protect the rights of the residents to a clean environment
3. The short term and long term measures the Department has in place to curb the spread of smoke to the environment.

Honourable Temporary Speaker, in the response, the Department observed that it was aware of the fire burning sections of Giotto dumping site and it is worth noting that the situation was being catalysed by the current harsh climatic condition in the Country. Secondly, the County Government of Nakuru is undertaking the following plans to protect the rights of the residents to a clean environment.

- a) Pursuing private-Public partnership to recover waste to other useful products through recycling.
- b) Set up a waste recovery Centre in Gilgil where the County has procured 25 acres of land.
- c) Enhance solid waste recovery by Small Holder Firms to reduce the amount of waste reaching Giotto Dumpsite.
- d) Increase awareness on reuse and segregation of waste by members of public
- e) Increase tree cover around all landfills to sink as much Greenhouse Gases as possible
- f) Institutionalise waste management in the County for efficient and effective service delivery

Honourable Temporary Speaker, on the short-term and long-term measures, the Department has put in place the following plans to curb the spread of smoke to the environment

- a) Putting out fires using Fire Extinguishers and Water Bowsers
- b) Ensuring compliance from Solid Waste Service Providers that no burning waste will be brought to the site
- c) Ensuring that there will be no onsite burning of solid waste at the dumping site

Lastly, as a way of long term measure, the County Government will recover Giotto dumping site altogether within the shortest time and reasonable time possible in collaboration with Private Sector.

Honourable Temporary Speaker, as I conclude, it is worth noting that the fires at the dumping site have been completely put-off by the ongoing rains hence no more smoke emissions are emanating from Giotto Dumping Site.

Honourable Temporary Speaker, I hope that the Honourable Member who requested for the Statement has been duly answered. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Thank you Honourable Rose, I will give two Members to give their input concerning the Statement. Honourable Kamau.

**Hon. Simon Karanja:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, I think I was not the one who sought this Statement. I was doing it on behalf of another Honourable Member who was not present during that time; so I may not have so much to say about Giotto because I even do not come from that area. Maybe the Honourable Member who sent me during that particular day maybe he is not convinced. I may say I am convinced whereas the answer that have been given by the Chairperson for the Committee on Environment is not convincing to the Honourable Member who had sent me during that particular afternoon. Thank you, Honorable Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Thank you, Honourable Jane from Maiella.

**Hon. Jane Gituku:** Thank you Honourable Temporary Speaker and thank you for the Report. There is something that I have just realised in the answer especially on the resolutions that have been put down; we do not have a time frame, if we are speaking of setting up a waste recovery center in Gilgil, the County has procured 25 acres of land and we should be given the time that Honourable Rose is referring to because we have time that is not limited on when this Gilgil 25 Acres will be put to use.

I want to request that whenever these answers are given to us we put timeframes so that we do not continue waiting until we bring up the question again when the drought season is back. Right now, we have been told because of the rains they have been saved but I do not believe that we will not have drought again and we will have to bring up the same question. I think this information requires some timeframe. Thank you Honorable Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Honourable Alex.

**Hon. Alex Mbugua:** Honorable Temporary Speaker, this issue on management of waste within the County should not be taken lightly because these wastes are all over. The situation in Giotto is witnessed in other Sub Counties within this region like in Naivasha in my own area I have a Dumping Site and you find that the conditions of these Dumping Sites are wanting.

In this reply, the Chairperson for the Committee on Environment stated very well that there is 25 Acres of land procured in Gilgil but even if Giotto was to be transferred back to Gilgil and the dumping is done there, I assume that these 25 Acres have been procured because maybe that area is sparsely populated considering that where Giotto is, the population is very high. The County and the Department of Environment should come up with ways on how to recycle all these materials instead of just shifting one problem to another community. I am very sure that the Gilgil people will not want to receive the dump waste from this other side of town but each Sub-County can manage their own waste. This is because if we keep on transferring my problem from here to the other person, I think there will be a problem in future.

In his response, I think our Chairperson representing the Department here today should give us concrete ways on how this waste will be managed. This waste should either be recycled or managed in a better way because we have companies that are doing this waste management business in a better way. The Department should even pay a courtesy call to a Country like China whereby Waste Management has been done so well considering their population of almost a billion people and that Country has never complained about Waste Management.

I think the Department ought to do a Benchmarking Visit and involve some Members of this County Assembly and the Executive and we will foster a good society. One cannot do his business

well because of the smell emanating from the Dump Site. I ask the Assembly to consider a proper Report from the Committee on Environment stating ways to manage the Dump Site.

Today, Nakuru County has a population of around 11 million residents. What about the next 50 years? We shall be creating disasters here and we will be so old then and if we will not manage this very well, I think we will be the first casualties of these Dump Sites, years to come. Thank you Honourable Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Honourable Kanyere.

**Hon. Anthony Kanyere:** Thank you Honourable Temporary Speaker, I just want to rise and say that I concur with the Members who have spoken before me in that we require more time on this issue of Waste Management because there is a saying that goes as “Waste is Wealth”. Going by that saying, I expected the Chairperson for the Committee on Environment to elaborate on this issue if the County Government of Nakuru has an elaborate program to manage her waste. Going by what Honourable Alex has said, we need to take care of the next generation. If we do not take care of our waste, we would be jeopardising the next generation in that I expected her to tell us there is a program whereby when you look at how other Countries are doing their waste management. Waste management starts from the house level, whereby the waste is divided into the biodegradable and that which cannot, like plastics and the chemical wastes. And having been in Nakuru for a while, I know a lot of waste that goes to the dump site comes from our local industries and our markets. I expected her to say that we should also think about our market waste, manure production and all that, and that should go away even bringing revenue to the County. I think I beg to say that we need more out of this Report. Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Elijah Murage): I think he will be the last. Honourable Mutai

**Hon. Wiliam Mutai:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Speaker. I support this Report given by the Chair Environment. However, I have some reservations, especially concerning the question that was asked; the question was basically on smoke. And I want to ask some few questions. Whether the Chair managed to go to the site to establish the real causes of fire that produces the smoke.

Two, whether the area is protected against any intruders who might as well go and light the fire. I also want to know the real source of fire. Is the fire being carried along with the waste in the lorries because that one can also be very dangerous? I believe this issue or the waste management is also another very pertinent issue just as my colleague has also alluded; that we need to actually do the management properly. And we decentralise so that at least we can be managing in smaller units.

So Mr. Temporary Speaker, I want to say that is also another area of interest that we should discuss in this House and find ways and means of managing the waste in our city and also in our small towns. Thank you very much Mr. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Elijah Murage): Next order.

## **MOTION**

COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE OF ALL EPILEPTIC CASES IN THE COUNTY AND PROVIDE  
FREE MEDICAL SERVICES

**Hon. Grace Mwathi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker Sir, I wish to move the Motion THAT aware that Epilepsy is a serious condition affecting the nervous system leading to unprovoked repetitive seizures and often results to a loss of consciousness; Noting that epilepsy can affect any person irrespective of age, sex, economic, or geographic location; Concerned that majority of the families affected are from low-income families hence lack of accessible and affordable health care; Further concerned that a significant percentage of children with epilepsy are likely to develop a behavioral or mental health problem, including attention deficit, hyperactivity, anxiety, depression, aggression, and autism spectrum disorder, which effects lead to low self-esteem; Cognisant that epilepsy treatment drugs should be given immediately on diagnosis to control seizures and improve the quality of life.

Now Therefore, this House or just the Department of Health in consultation with Members of the County Assembly develop a comprehensive database of all epileptic cases in the County and further provide medical services to such patients.

Mr. Temporary Speaker sir, as we have seen, epilepsy is a very serious disease which affects very low-income families. The serious condition affects the nerves due to:

Head injury during childbirth and they were affected in their brains. And that one causes epilepsy.

Others were diagnosed with meningitis and which also causes epilepsy. Others just got epilepsy as they were growing up and they are really affected because some of them have no money to go to hospitals, they have got no money to buy medicines, hence, they fall every now and then we know that when these people fall down, some of them have very low self-esteem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have seen even many ladies kill themselves, because they see that their life is being a shortened or their ambition is being cut. And so, by so doing, they see that they have got no future. Mr. Speaker, sir, the falling or the epilepsy disease damages the brain cells, which causes so many conversions. And after every that happens to the patient, it damages the brain. And it causes very low self-esteem to our people.

One thing, Mr. Temporary Speaker sir, I would wish these Honourable Members to understand, I know there are some of them who have these patients in their Wards. Because it is not one ward or two, it affects almost every ward in our place where we live. And by so doing these drugs are not accessible to these people because one, these patients do not have any policy, guiding them from the National Government. And so, by so doing the NHIF caters for the drugs, but the low-income family members cannot afford to buy the drugs for the epilepsy patients, thus damaging the whole life of these people.

Another thing is that Mr. Temporary Speaker, sir, when these people fall, the epileptic patients, some of them tend to bite their tongue. And healing that tongue is very costly. And it is very painful. And when that person wakes up, most of you have seen them. They first of all, look around whether there is somebody who have seen them, that shame. The traumatizing. The stigma causes those people to neglect themselves. So much.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, these people have got two types of drugs which they take, and they must take the drugs either in the morning, or at night when going to sleep. They have some tablets called

Tegretol and Cinnabidiol. When these people take these medicines, they tend to reduce the number of times that these patients fall. I know of some people in my Ward; there is a lady who can fall even four times a day because this lady is an orphan and has nobody to take care of her. She lives all by herself and sometimes she falls on fire. I remember there was a time she was cooking tea, and when convulsions came she could not control herself and she fell on that Jiko and the water which was boiling got poured on her and she sustained serious burns.

Last week I went to see her and when I asked what was wrong with her, she told me *ni huu ugonjwa wangu*, I asked her which *ugonjwa* she said today I fell four times. Mr. Temporary Speaker, the lady said if she can take her medication consistently, it will reduce the number of the convulsions.

Another thing Mr. Temporary Speaker, we know that in our Country, we have TB patients who are given drugs for free. We have the HIV positive patients; they are given drugs for free. Now that we do not have a policy in the National Government that caters for the epileptic people my request is that our County Government through our able Governor Madam Susan Kihika, we can have these patients get the drugs for free in our County Hospitals, reason being that the medicine is expensive and those people cannot afford.

Secondly, these people feel sidelined so we can embrace them through CHVs in collaboration with the MCAs; we visit or we have a data that tells us how many people in our Wards have epilepsy and after that they be given a card which they will be using. They can carry the card in their pocket so that if he/she falls, any person coming to rescue him or her can know what to do with the patient.

Otherwise, Mr. Temporary Speaker, if we just leave these people like that, if we do not take action, we are going to lose lives. I ask this House to adopt this; we support this Motion so that we save lives in our area rather than receiving phone calls because everything that happens in our Wards it is the MCA who is called. And rather than being called to come and attend the burial or contribute something when one dies, we do something as Honourable Members of this House that can save the lives of these people, because we need them.

They are our brothers, our sisters; they are our daughters and sons. But they come from very humble backgrounds. So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, I request my colleagues, these Honourable Members to support this Motion so that we may help these people and they will one time remember that the MCAs who are in this regime helped them and saved their lives in a very special way.

Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, and with that I would wish to call upon Mheshimiwa Kanyere to second. Thank you.

**Hon. Anthony Kanyere:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, I stand to second the Motion on free treatment for epilepsy patients. Having heard what our able Hon. Mwathi has stipulated, we gather that epilepsy is a condition like any other and it is a disease that is curable. Going by studies, it has shown that 70% of people with epilepsy are able to successfully manage epilepsy seizures with medication and certain types of surgery.

Going by what I have come to realise about epilepsy is, it happened in my family and I lost one of the members of my family through epilepsy. What Hon. Mwathi is saying is good but I would like us to take it further and bring awareness to the larger community in that when a person has

epilepsy, the seizures can attack any time and it is being said that if a person suffers from this disease, he/she should not be in contact with water. If in an event a person has that seizure and he/she gets into contact with water, it can lead to death.

We need to have awareness and bring it to the larger community to understand what epilepsy is. Hon. Mwathi has just put it clearly that we need to put aside some money to provide medicine. Going by experience, it is a lifetime condition whereby a patient will live with it for the rest of their lives. We need to provide the medicine.

In the morning, when one of the Members was contributing, I heard even them asking us to provide condoms for young people. If the Government can provide condoms for young people, why can it not provide medicine for people living with such a condition? When somebody suffers in the community, it affects all of us. We need to think about those people that do not have money to purchase the medicine and it is upon this Honorable House to think about those people and allocate some money and to urge the County Government of Nakuru to provide free medicine for people living with this condition.

With those few remarks, I would like to second. Thank you.

*(Question proposed that the House urges the Department of Health to, in consultation with Members of the County Assembly, to develop a comprehensive database of all epileptic cases in the County and further provide free medical services to such patients).*

The Motion is open for Debate.

**Hon. Evelyn Chepkirui:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. I rise to support the Motion on free treatment for epilepsy patients. Epilepsy is a very individual condition. Some people may have it throughout their lives, for some it may just take a short period of their lives.

This Motion has reminded me of my colleague whom we were together in standard six long time ago. There is that one Sunday he was preparing to go to church. Unfortunately, this disease came and it took away his life. I wish he could have been treated. Maybe he could have lived longer.

At some point, if this disease is not treated, it turns to a disability. However, when this disease goes to this level where it is labeled as a disability, it really comes with a lot of stigma where you may find people sleeping in their houses, some may not even interact or socialise with others as per the equality Act of 2020; it is a law that aims to ensure that people are treated fairly and not discriminated against.

Epilepsy is considered a disability when it greatly affects someone's ability to do day to day activities such as concentrating or remembering things over a long period of time. However, it is sometimes described as a hidden disability because it is not usually obvious that someone has the condition unless they have a seizure.

I would really support that this free treatment for epilepsy patients is given to our people. For those who have the chronic condition of epilepsy, I would really request that all our Hon. Members to make these people aware that they should register as people with disability so that they get more help. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): The Honourable Robert from Kapkures

**Hon. Robert Rutto:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. I rise to support the Motion and congratulate and thank Hon. Mwathi for this very crucial Motion. Many families go through hard times because of this monster disease called epilepsy. Once epileptic patients convulse, they have got no control over what is around them and they are endangered. I rise to support the Motion and urge the County Government of Nakuru to consider buying drugs for this condition. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): We are going to have Hon. Gathuita then Hon. Gatuso, then Hon. Maritim in that order.

**Hon. James Gathuita:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. I rise to support the Motion brought in by Hon. Grace Mwathi on this condition on the spirit of Universal Health Care being one of the agenda on Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health care is key in every aspect.

First, on this issue of seizure, a healthy citizen leads to a healthy Nation. To have a healthy Nation, we need to curb this effect of seizure because it will affect even the memory of those students because once the seizure is not treated on time and not administered with the right medication, it may end up to one having memory loss or terminal brain damage.

Secondly, it is the reduction of accidents. Most of the people who have seizures, some of them have home accidents, farm accidents or even road accidents. We need to have the medical aspect of that so that we can control accidents that can happen to our families.

The other thing is about the cost implication. Most of these families are low-income earners. The effect is stigma or oppression against those families. Those low income earners cannot afford the cost of medicine because today, if you go to the PGH, the only medicine you will get for a person with epilepsy is Tegretol. Tegretol is not that expensive. The likes of medicine that are behind that are very expensive. Medicine like Keppra are very expensive.

It is in the spirit of having Universal Healthcare and supporting this Motion so that the families that are affected by the disease can have good medical care. Thank you.

**Hon. Benard Gatuso:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. I also take this opportunity to commend Bahati Ward Mheshimiwa for having observed and realised that this menace is supposed to be taken into consideration.

One thing that I believe we are supposed to do is to have a way on how we can make awareness to our community, especially encouraging them to come out so that we can realise the menace and the extent that it has already taken place so that we can have a database. With a database, we will be able to know how we can procure the numbers that we are supposed to secure so that we can be help our people.

The other thing is access to health which is a right of every citizen in this Country. I believe we can have the insurance cover that we usually pay NHIF be considered and have it take care of that so that we can minimise costs for our people.



If NHIF can cover that, I believe that it will help reduce usage of resources from different families or our parents. With those few remarks, I support the Motion. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker.

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**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): The Hon. Maritim.

**Hon. John Maritim:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker for giving me this time. I rise to support the Motion and also talk more of epilepsy. Today I have realized from Hon. that epilepsy has some causes. I thought epilepsy was hereditary in that you can inherit it from your parents. One of the causes of epilepsy can be drug abuse or alcohol misuse. I want to urge Members who misuse those things that epilepsy is around the way. Secondly, we need to create awareness about this disease. Most of these people who are suffering from this disease are people of low income generating families. One of its treatment could be food. If these people can get a good diet then I believe epilepsy will be something of the past. People should also be trained especially women that when giving birth they should take a lot of care so that they do not cause any injuries to these innocent babies because those are some of the causes of epilepsy. Where I come from, there are some families like an entire family are all epileptic. I do not know whether it is a curse from heaven or is it just a disease. What the Hon. has raised is great and we can do wonders so that we can still manage these people and save their lives too. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Anthony Kanyere:** Point of order Mr. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Yes

**Hon. Anthony Kanyere:** Is it in order for the Chair finance to mislead this House?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Kanyere which point of order are you standing on?

**Hon. Anthony Kanyere:** I do not have the .... Rather point of information. I stand guided you know we are still learning these things. It is a learning process.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Maritim do you want to be informed?

**Hon. Anthony Kanyere:** I just want to inform him that it is not in order to mislead this House that through drug abuse and alcohol taking you can get that disease. This is a serious disease which needs to be given a lot of consideration. Thank you.

**Hon. John Maritim:** Mr. Temporary Speaker let me respond to my fellow Member. While in school, we learnt that the causes of epilepsy was head brain tumor, drug abuse and alcoholism. That is what I know. You can as well google to get more information. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Alex Mbugua:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. I think today we have had one of the best debates. Debates that touches on the lives of the citizens mainly in this Nakuru County. What Hon. Grace has presented here today is one thing that this House needs to resonate with and work forward in helping the people of this County. From the medical perspective you will find that each and every person here is a candidate of epilepsy because we all use our vehicles, we all engage in fights. When you get any head damage anyone is a candidate. Epilepsy occurs when your brain

cells are hit. The brain works in form of electricity passage and when one of the brain cell is disconnected with the other, the information is not passed to the next brain cell then that becomes one major cause. If we do not take care of such people today then who will take care of us. As we have stated previously, we have had people who have lost lives with this...

**Hon. Robert Rutto:** Point of information Mr. Temporary Speaker

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Which point of information Hon. Rutto?

**Hon. Robert Rutto:** I am on the floor chair budget please.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): You may resume your seat chair.

**Hon. Robert Rutto:** I want to inform Hon. Alex that he is misleading this House by telling us that everyone engages in fights. It is not everyone who engages in fights maybe some. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Alex you want to mislead this House.

**Hon. Alex Mbugua:** Mr. Temporary Speaker you only choose what you want to hear because when you give an example for instance today, Hon. Ruto has put on a mask. If I want to get information that he has Covid that will be my own thinking. It depends with the literature class one attended. Not everyone engages in fights but we also have children who engage in physical things. Hon. Ruto can be in the bath room and then falls down. He was not fighting anything but the force and the impact on his head brings seizures to him. Let us not reduce the debate to something else. When you look at the drugs that these people must use the emergency drug Phenobarbitone is one of the most expensive drug that will help calm the patient down. You find that not many patients can afford this and I believe that as much as we talk about People Living with Disability within the country and they are even given a card. We even have a fund for them within our budget. We should have these members known and established from each and every ward because this is not a normal disease. If have heard Hon. Grace state that one person said that this is my disease. They possess that disease. If you go to a pediatric ward you will realize the trauma that these people go through. These people cannot do anything else in their entire life. They cannot drive as many of us can drive because they fear that the next minute they will get an attack. They cannot be employed in stable jobs because of that stigma. Most of them do not even go past class seven because when they start realizing this is how I behave even the teachers do not want these children from the young age to interact with other children. They are like that ukicheza na mtoto wa Fulani atakuwa, atafanya hivi. This is one of the biggest thing that is so sentimental to us and as a county and a country we should take care of these people. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): We are going to have Hon. Wathiai, Hon. Francis Kuria, Hon. Rose, Hon. Morogo, Hon. George Tallam then we put it to question.

**Hon. David Wathiai:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support this Motion brought by Hon. Mwathi. The cost of medication should be catered for by the county government of Nakuru. We should be the first county in Kenya to take care of our epileptic residents. We need to be leaders in supporting our people whenever they are sick. After the county government takes

over purchasing and distribution of the drugs, they should be distributed in health centres and clinic that are in our wards so that these people can be able to get the drugs effectively from *mashinani*. As I sit down, I would like to also inform my brother Hon. Anthony Kanyere that what Kamara MCA was saying about some of our people getting this disease from misuse of drugs and alcohol is true. In my ward there is a certain drink that is been sold there. It even has a name called “mbaya”. *Hii pombe imekuja hadi ikapatiwa jina mbaya kwa sababu vijana wetu pale wameingilia kukunywa hii pombe na wengine wameanza kuanguka*. Some of my very close friends who we used to do a lot things are engaged in drinking this drink and as of today I have a friend who has epilepsy. *Yeye huanguka tu hata tukiwa na yeye. Kazi yetu nikumwangalia na tunashindwa jinsi ya kusaidia kwa sababu hata tukimchukua na kumpeleka hospitali anaenda anapatiwa dawa, akitoka anarudi pale kunywa hiyo pombe*. Hon.Kanyere it is a reality. *Kemikali imetumika kutengeneza hiyo pombe ikiingia kwa brain za watu wetu inafanya wawe wagonjwa. Tunaomba Serikali pia itusaidie kukabiliana na hizo pombe mbaya ambazo zinaharibu vijana wetu pale mtaani*. I stand to support Hon. Mwathi’s Motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Francis Kuria.

**Hon. Francis Kuria:** Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. I rise to support this Motion knowing very well the mover of the Motion is a mother and she has pain on what patients affected with this disease undergo. It once happened that a motorcycle rider was affected by this disease. I had stopped to give way but all of a sudden as he was cycling his motorcycle, he was attacked by the disease. For sure this is a disease that needs to be taken care of. I therefore second this Motion and thank God that I am personally healthy and my family is healthy. Even the honorable Members here, the little that I know about them is that they are healthy. From the good health we have, we then are supposed to support this Motion. Without saying much I support this Motion. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Rose.

**Hon. Rose Chepkoech:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, I want to support the Motion free treatment for epilepsy. This is because most of the affected are the low-income families. Some cannot even afford to buy the drugs and some of them use herbs from the forest and they cannot even go for regular checkups.

Another thing is we have heard that the main cause is mishandling may be during delivery. *Mtu aweza zaa akiwa nyumbani mtoto aanguke na aumie*. So, we need to sensitise our mothers to go to hospital to deliver. And then most of the people suffering from the disease need a lot of care for example in my Ward, there is a young man *aliangukia kwa moto na miguu zote zikachomeka*. So now he is a disabled person without limbs so we need to support the Motion. I support it fully.

**Hon. Leah Serem:** Mr. Temporary Speaker your eye is catching the other side and not this side.

**Hon. Jane Gituku:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker sir, I just want to add something because most of these victims are viewed by community as something to do with witchcraft. Our communities do not accept this disease and so when we are discussing it, we should also encourage our schools maybe members of the CHV to continue sensitising communities on the fact that these diseases have nothing to do with witchcraft.

Lastly, I have a gentleman, a boda boda rider, who committed suicide because of this condition and left a note and he claimed that he could not live with the shame and the laughter he was receiving from the fellow boda boda members when he used to fall at his place of work. Even in our schools we should encourage those people who are in a position to come up with policies that can sensitise the children and the community because you also notice that those people who suffer from this disease *ni watu wa chini kabisa*; why, nobody knows. I thank the mover of this Motion and I want to insist that we should go beyond just providing medicine but also information that will allow the community to accept these people and integrate them in the society so that they can reduce the shame and embarrassment that they go through. Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): So, you may have the floor Hon. Morogo, then Hon Tallam and then I will call the mover to reply.

**Hon. Leah Serem:** Hon. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker I was wondering and I was to search a reflector to wear so that your eye can catch this side

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): You may take the floor. I forgot your name and I was about to call you Mama Triplets.

**Hon. Leah Serem:** You are the Speaker and you are not supposed to forget our names. Thank you for the chance you have given me. *Ningependa kuunga mkono mjadala umeletwa siku yaleo na Mheshimiwa Grace. Asante sana Mheshimiwa Grace kwa sababu huu mjadala ni wa maana sana katika Kaunti yetu na Kenya kwa jumla. Ugonjwa wa kifafa ni ugonjwa mbaya sana. Ni ugonjwa amboo wamama wengi pamoja na wazee na familia nyingi zimeweza kuficha watoto wao ambao wamepitia katika shida. Huu ugonjwa naulinganisha sana na maybe ulemavu katika Kenya yetu kwa hivyo Mheshimiwa Grace amefanya jambo la maana kwa sababu katika mara nyingi tumeona watu hao wakiwa wamepitie makubwa katika maisha yao. Changamoto ambayo wameweza kupitia mara nyingi ni kwamba hao watoto huwa wanakosa hata kwenda shuleni kwa sababu ya shida nyingi ambazo wanapitia. Mara nyingi huwa wanaanguka kwenye moto na hata maji hivi kwamba wakianguka moto, itabidi waponyeshe kwanza vidonda na mara nyingi majeraha hayo huchukua muda mrefu kupona. Niko na mfano wa mtoto mmoja anaishi upande wa Keringet sehemu ya Baraget msichana mdogo wa miaka kumi na kitu lakini ukimwangukia uso wake uliweza kuharibika sana kwa sababu ya majeraha ya moto hivi kwamba anatakiwa kufanyiwa upasuaji wa uso wake. Ukiona mara nyingi hao watoto hukosa marafiki kwa sababu wakijaribu kukaa au kucheza nao wanaogopa kwa sababu kama ushahuhudia vile watoto wenye maradhi haya ya kifafa wanaanguka hata wewe ukiwa Mheshimiwa, utashtuka na utasonga kando.*

*Kwa hivyo wanakosa marafiki hata wanakosa kuoa au kuolewa. Huwa wanachukua muda mrefu kama mwanamume huenda akose kuoa kwa sababu hakuna mke atakubali kushughulikia mtu ambaye anaanguka mara nyingi. Pia kama ni msichana huwa wanaogopwa kuolewea kwa sababu hakuna mwanamume anaweza kuvumilia hiyo shida ambayo itapatikana kila siku. Hawa wanaume unaona hapa wote watatoroka na wataacha huyo bibi katika nyumba. Pia sura zao zikiwa zimemaribika, hakuna mtu ambaye atakubali.*

*La mwisho ni kwamba hao watu hupitia changamoto kwa sababu mara nyingi wanajisahau na unapata wanapoanguka hata wanapokuwa na haja, hujipata wamejisahau na hiyo hufanya watu*

wawatenge. Kwa hivyo naunga huu mjadala mkono kwamba matibabu ya huu ugonjwa yawe free ili watu waache kutumia madawa ya kienyeji ambayo huenda yakawa sumu katika miili zao. Asante.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Morogo

**Hon. Nixon Morogo:** Asante Mr. Temporary Speaker kwa kunipa nafasi kuchangia Mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Mwathi. Nitachangia kwa kusema naunga mkono nikisema amefanya vizuri na amefikiria kwa niaba ya wengi, ili tuweze kusaidia wenzetu ambao wanapitia magumu katika maisha. Hii ni kwa sababu ya shida ya kiafya. Nasema kwamba wao niwachache katika jamii na haitagharimu serikali pesa nyingi kama watashughulikia kwa kuwapatia matibabu ya bure.

Sana tunapata kwamba ni ugonjwa unaokabili jamii walio chini kifiedha na kama serikali ikiweza kuchukua jukumu hilo, itakuwa imeondoa mzigo kwa jamii na hata sisi kama waheshimiwa, kwa sababu mara nyingi utakuta sisi ndio tunawasaidia kupitia kwa harambee, ambazo tunafanya ili waweze kupata pesa za kununua dawa. Kwa hayo machache, nasema naunga mkono. Asante

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Tallam

**Hon. George Tallam:** Think you Mr. Temporary Speaker for giving me this opportunity to also discuss this Motion about epilepsy. The most important thing is getting free treatment especially in local dispensaries. I want to support this Motion that has been brought by Hon. Grace Mwathi who is my neighbor down there. I believe this disease is hereditary the way our Chair for Finance Hon. Maritim has said. It might be from drug abuse, I do not believe much unless he elaborates well. I think this is very important that the Motion brought by Hon. Mwathi, is of concern because I know even down there where I come from, I have several victims who they have epilepsy and when we get this free treatment, I know most of their families cannot afford these drugs. So, I stand to support Hon. Mwathi for bringing this Motion. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon Grace you may now reply

**Hon. Grace Mwathi:** Asante sana Bwana Spika wa Muda. Kwanza ningependa kuwapa hongera wenzangu kwa sababu ya kuona ya kwamba ni jambo la busara hawa wagonjwa waweze kuhudumiwa. Tuko na bahati sana katika Nyumba hii kwa sababu mmoja wetu ambaye ni daktari, Mheshimiwa Alex ametueleza kwa upana sana mambo yanayohusika na huu ugonjwa. pia najua ataniunga mkono nikisema kwamba wakati mwingine hao wagonjwa wanaanguka usiku, umelala unajikuta ameanguka. Hao watu wametharauliwa, hawaoni kupendwa and hawaoni mwelekeo wa kimaisha. Lakini tukiwachukua kama wenzetu maana kuna methali inayosema if you are not infected you are affected. Hao watu wanatuaffect kwa sababu tuko nao.

Pili ningependa kusema ya kwamba hata kadi za NHIF zivasaidie lakini hawana namba ya kukata hizo kadi kwa sababu wengi wanatoka katika familia zisisojimudu. Kwa hivyo mimi nashukuru kwa hilo jambo mumesema, Tumetoa mifano mingi na tunajua tumeaffectiwa

Kwa hivyo tuendeleo kuunga mkono huu mjadala na ttujue kwamba vile ambavyo wengi wamesema, mambo ya kusensitize tunapoenda mikutano, kwa barazaa tuweze kuwaelimisha hao

*watu. Zaidi tuwaambie wafichue hao watu maana wengi wamedharauliwa na hawajulikani ili waweze kusaidiwa. Hii kazi itakuwa rahisi kwetu sababu hao watu tunawahitaji sana. Asanteni sana Waheshimiwa na Mungu awabariki.*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Elijah Murage): I now propose a question that;

*(Question proposed that this House urges the Department of Health to in consultation with Members of the County Assembly develop a comprehensive data base of all epileptic cases in the County and further provide free medical services to such patients).*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

This House stands adjourned until next week Tuesday, 9.30am

**The House rose at 4.25pm**