

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Wednesday 4th October, 2023

Assembly Building

The House Met At 03:20 PM

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Jane Gituku: On a point of information. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. We are less; we do not have a quorum.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Sergeant-At-Arms, please ring the bell for 10 minutes.

(Bell was rang for 10 minutes)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING MEMBERS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Honorable Members, I recognise Members from Elgeiyo Marakwet County Assembly, Committee on Delegated Legislation, led by the Committee Chairperson, Hon. Sally Kosgei and the following Members;

1. Hon. John Kahima
2. Hon. Christopher Chebochich
3. Hon. Peris Kiptoo
4. Hon. Gilbert Kipng'etich
5. Hon. Simon Chesemba

I also recognise members of staff from the County Assembly accompanying the Members, namely:

1. Gladys Koima
2. Collins Limo
3. Eva Kimaiyo
4. Michael Kipkiyai

Karibuni sana.

STATEMENT(S)

BLUE GUM TREES

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): There is a Statement by MCA for Waseges Ward, to be done by Hon. Jane Gituku.

Hon. Jane Gituku: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. May I first welcome Members from Elgeiyo Marakwet County. Thank you so much for visiting us. Feel at home. This is Nakuru County, a County of plenty and a County of opportunities. I rise to request for a Statement on behalf of Hon. Elijah Murage, MCA Waseges Ward.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order 47(2) (c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Energy, Water and Natural Resources, concerning tree planting activities along Haji River, by Comply Company Limited, Waseges Ward.

Temporary Speaker, water is life and therefore, it is important to ensure its conservation through various methods such as tree planting being carried out.

However Mr. Temporary Speaker, noting that tree planting is one of the key water conservation methods, some trees such as Blue Gum absorb a lot of water hence leading to shrinking of rivers and therefore, not recommended.

Temporary Speaker, Comply Company Limited has been planting Blue Gum trees along the Haji River hence threatening the shrinking of the river. The continued planting of these trees may lead to diminishing levels of water which support many livelihoods in the neighborhood localities.

Temporary Speaker, I therefore request the Chairperson Committee on Environment, Energy, Water and Natural Resources to respond to the following;

1. Whether the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is aware that Comply Company Limited has been planting Blue Gum trees along Haji River.
2. Measures the Department has put in place to protect Haji River from Shrinking as a result of tree planting along its banks by Comply Company Limited.

Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, I beg to present the Statement.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Thank you. Chairperson for Environment Committee, take note and respond to the Statement within 14 days from next week.

Hon. Rose Chepkoech: Mr. Temporary Speaker sir, I have taken note.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): There is another Statement from Honorable Muraya, Member for Viwandani Ward.

Hon. Mwangi Muraya: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. I hereby request for Statement from the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Implementation, concerning the Implementation Status of all House Resolutions since inception of this County Assembly.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, while respecting the scope and mandate of relevant Committees, the Committee on Implementation should have followed up and scrutinise the Resolutions of the Assembly, including adopted Committee Reports, Petitions and the Undertakings given by the County Executive Committee and give back the Status of the Resolutions within the minimum time necessary.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Implementation Committee, whether given the response or not by the Implementers, the decision made should be responded to, on the floor of the House and the Undertaking implementation should take place within the minimum time.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, since we assumed Office, and we have been in various Committees, we have gone out, we have done all that is required as Members of this House and we have given our recommendations as various Committees, but the Chairperson for Implementation has not responded to any, whether the Implementers have done anything.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Implementation Committee should follow and should stick to the mandate given to them by this Honorable House to make sure that we are not going out to just seek for what Implementers are supposed to do.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Implementation Committee should follow up on the Legislations passed by the Assembly and oversee whether the legislations have been operationalised, the extent to which such operationalisation has taken place within the minimum time necessary.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I therefore seek to request for a Statement from the Chairperson Committee on Implementation on the following;

1. The Implementation Status of all Acts since 2014
2. Adopted Committee Reports since 2014
3. Petition Reports
4. Motions and other Resolutions, including Budget Implementation Status.

The plans the Implementation Committee is undertaking to avert challenges in implementation of all House Resolutions in future.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, as I sit, the Chairperson of Implementation Committee has been one challenging Motions in the House, yet after the Committee has made the recommendations, he is the one who is has the mandate to make sure that all recommendations that we have made are implemented.

Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, I request for that Statement.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Thank you. Chairman Implementation? Vice Chair? Any Member of Implementation Committee in the House? Okay, Hon. Nixon Morogo take note. The Statement should be responded to within 30 Calendar days.

MOTION

ELBURGON HOSPITAL REPORT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): There is a Motion by the Chairperson Health Committee, Hon. Njuguna Mwaura.

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir. I rise to move a Motion that this House adopts the Report of the Health Committee on a visit to Elburgon Hospital on 24th May, 2023.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Mr. Temporary Speaker, our Committee draws its mandate from our Standing Orders and we are a Committee that deals with issues of Health Services, in particular County Health Facilities and Pharmacies, Ambulance Services, Promotion of Primary Health Care, Licensing and Control of Undertakings that sell food to the public, Cemeteries, Funeral Parlors and Crematoria. Licensing of dogs and Facilities for accommodation, Care and Burial of animals, Water and Sanitation Services, Refuse Dump and Solid Waste Removal.

OBJECTIVE OF THE VISIT

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the objective of the said visit was to:

1. Assess the Status of the Elburgon Sub County Hospital.
2. Ascertain the quality of services offered to the members of the public.
3. Establish achievements made, challenges and areas of improvement as far as delivery of services is concerned.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ELBURGON SUB COUNTY HOSPITAL

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Elburgon Sub County Hospital was officially opened on 24th October, 1997 by the late H.E Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi. The Hospital is located in Elburgon Ward in Molo Sub County, Nakuru County. The Hospital is in Elburgon Town. The Hospital serves a population of approximately 36 000 people; but it is above that Mr. Temporary Speaker, because it is the catchment area for mainly two Wards, that is Elburgon and Mosop, some parts of Mariashoni and some parts of Turi. The hospital sits on 3.72 hectares of land and has no ownership documents/no title deed, therefore the County cannot confirm whether they still own that land or not.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, since its opening, the hospital has continued to invest on infrastructure and equipment as well as expansion of services. The Hospital has a bed capacity of Seventy-Two (72) with average bed occupancy at 40%. There is a new modern Maternity Wing which is a Flagship Project with a Twenty-Four (24) Bed Capacity.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Facility is currently investing on various initiatives to reinvigorate Facilities and Equipment including: Renovation and Equipping of the Dental Unit, establishing a Procedure/Acute Room, Strengthening of Security through erection of a chain link perimeter fence and gate together with Installation of CCTV cameras, Landscaping and Beautification of the hospital compound, up Scaling Theatre Services, Renovation and Solarisation of the borehole, Installation of Additional storage tanks and renovation of windows.

SERVICES AND PATIENTS SERVED AT ELBURGON SUB COUNTY HOSPITAL

The facility offers the following services;

- i. Accident and Emergency Services
- ii. General Medicine Services
- iii. Reproductive Health Services
- iv. Dental Services
- v. Pharmacy
- vi. Laboratory
- vii. Comprehensive Care Services
- viii. Theatre Services
- ix. Blood transfusion
- x. Radiology Services
- xi. Rehabilitation Services
- xii. Health Education
- xiii. Referral Services
- xiv. Mortuary Services

Other Support Services

- i. Laundry Services
- ii. Kitchen (NB. The facility is in dire need of a modern kitchen)

Leadership and Governance

The said facility has a Medical Superintendent. Below him, there is the Hospital Administrator who usually are at par in terms of Job Description, with the Nursing Officer who is in charge and then there is a Head of Departments.

Committees managing the Hospital

- i. Expenditure Executive Committee

- ii. Hospital Management Committee

The Staff Establishment

The staff Establishment is as shown in the table below;

CADRE	AVAILABLE	NORMAL STANDARDS	DEFICIT
Medical Superintendent	1	1	0
Health Administrative Officer	1	2	1
Consultants	0	5	5
Medical Officers	2	16	14
Dental Officer	0	4	4
Pharmacists	1	4	3
Pharmaceutical Technologists	4	8	4
Clinical Officers	8	30	22
Nurses	16	131	115
Radiographer	2	6	4
Occupational Therapist	1	10	9
Nutrition Officer	1	8	7
Health Records & Information Officer	2	8	6
Medical Engineering	0	7	7
Social Work	0	4	4
Laboratory Technologists	3	8	5
Ortho-Trauma Technologist	1	3	2
Community Oral Health Officer	1	2	1
Orthopedic Technologist	0	3	3
Physiotherapist	0	6	6
Adherence Counsellors (UTJ)	1	-	-
HTS Counsellor (UTJ)	2	-	-

Ongoing Projects

- i. Uptake of Maternity Services in the facility has greatly increased, with a current 8-bed capacity. The County Government of Nakuru planned for the expansion of the Department in the year 2020. The construction project is almost complete; key gaps that are stalling the project are lack of septic tank in the building and a Delivery Room.
- ii. Access road to the hospital has stalled.
- iii. Renovation and Solarisation of the borehole.
- iv. Installation of additional water tanks.
- v. Acquisition of Dental Chair.

Flagship Projects

- i. The facility has partnered with Medtronic and have carried out Monthly Diabetic Open Day Clinic. About 70 patients have been reviewed and defaulters tracing done.
- ii. Medical Out-Patient Clinic (MOPC) is done twice a week by a Medical Officer.
- iii. Linkage of Mortuary Department with fun soft system for billing and discharge of bodies.

Hospital's Infrastructure

1. Male Ward

The Male Ward is underutilised since there was only one male patient who has been hospitalised for 2 months.

Men have refused completely to go to the hospital. I do not know if they fear to be pricked by ladies. You know, this field of nursing was left for the women but also women go to traditional medicine men a lot. Therefore, that could be the reason.

Naturally and globally, men do not usually go to hospitals and that is something to be worried of and it is something that we need also to tell our CHVs to be cognisant of the same. If you see a man going to hospital, know that he and his creator are communicating.

2. Female Ward/ Maternity

This doubles up as a Female Ward and a Maternity. The space is congested.

There exist a Nursing Station, Pediatric Cubical, Postnatal Ward and Delivery Room with 2 delivery beds. There are approximately 100-110 babies' deliveries per month.

3. Laboratory

Laboratory in the facility provides a wide range of services, which aid in carrying out of the Diagnosis, Treatment and Management of patients. The facility has a Laboratory, which is fully equipped and they also have a Lab Technician. For the last few months, they have been doing blood transfusion because they are equipped with a Blood Bank.

4. X-Ray

The facility offers X-ray Services. X-ray is an imaging study that takes pictures of bones and soft tissues. X-rays use safe amounts of radiation to create these pictures. An X-ray is a quick and painless procedure commonly used to produce images of the inside of the body. It is a very effective way of looking at the bones and can be used to help detect a range of conditions.

5. Dental Unit

The Hospital has a small room that serves as a Dental Care Unit for the patients. It has an old dilapidated Dental Chair but I can confirm that there is a chair that has been brought fourth. Also the room, they have made a makeshift room so that has been overtaken by events.

Committee Findings

The following are the findings and observations that were highlighted by the Committee and Management of the Hospital during the visit;

1. The Hospital has no Ownership Documents/Title Deed.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, any Citizen or any Company can go to court and challenge the County Government of Nakuru. This County cannot prove the ownership of that land.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, as in the previous Reports, and I want to thank the Member who requested for the Implementation Status of all the Reports, since the inception of Devolution, because we have been tabling Reports here requesting for these tittle deeds but nothing has been forthcoming.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I am a Member of that Committee and we are trying our best but I want also the Committee to be reprimanded so that this Document can be provided. It cannot be that the Government has been issuing Tittle Deeds to the citizens of the Republic but they cannot issue themselves tittle deeds to the facilities and other Government Lands. It is ironical.

They say, love your neighbour as you love yourself. Therefore, you must love yourself first before you love your neighbour. The County Government of Nakuru must issue itself tittle deeds before it issues to the citizens.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, we want to tell the Lands Committee, because we have been tabling these Report day in day out; we are tired and this is the second time we have gone to Elburgon and the same recommendation was there. Therefore, we want to see the way forward so that we can have tittle deeds for our Facilities across the County.

2. Inadequate staffing level in the Hospital.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, a Level Four Hospital should have at least six Medical Officers but currently, we have one. Assume by any chance, because it is human nature that the Medical Officer who is there gets sick. Who will attend to patients? Will a sick person attend to patients? MR. Temporary Speaker, it means majority of the services are going to close down and substandard services are going to be offered to the citizens. Therefore, there ought to be something that ought to be done so that we can scale up the number of staff that are in our Hospitals, because currently we are doing badly.

3. Inadequacy of space as the Dental Unit shares space with the Health Records Office.

Mr. Temporary Speaker this one, as I mentioned earlier has been overtaken by events.

4. Insufficient water supply due to breakdown of the pump.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, it is true that the pump in that Facility has broken down. This is because the Department of Water has refused to be inspecting the pumps in our Departments.

Therefore, we need to challenge the Department of Water, and I can see the Chair; they need to take up all matters concerning water, including all the servicing and checking of the boreholes because these Facilities have been depending on Private Entrepreneurs who are out here to make money. They have been giving wrong diagnosis to our pumps. They have been giving wrong recommendations because they are out to make money.

Therefore Mr. Temporary Speaker, we really need that the Engineers at the Sub-County level must own up these issues of water at our facilities so that we can be able to move forward.

5. The Maternity Unit which is 75% complete and has a 24 bed capacity.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, we are challenged because we do not have space and if you look at all the Members present excluding one Member that is Hon. Degaulle who is past the age of making babies, we are all challenged because we do not have space for exercising that right.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): What is it Hon. Ruto?

Hon. Robert Ruto: Mr. Speaker, this is a House of rules and regulations and therefore it is not in order for Hon. Njuguna to say that there is an age limit for making babies or reproduction. Hon. Njuguna should apologise.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Muraya resume your seat. Hon. Njuguna, how sure are you that Hon. Degaulle cannot make a baby?

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Mr. Temporary Speaker, I was with him some day chatting and he was advising me on family matters. He told me that he has grandchildren and in an African culture if a person has grandchildren, he can no longer produce babies. If it does happen then it will be presumed that you are competing with your own children to give birth. What I meant is that we are in that age gap that if given a chance...

Hon. Bernard Langat: Mr. Temporary Speaker, I think that it is in order to allow Hon. Degaulle to confirm to the House that he is no longer active or unable to make babies.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Degaulle Naburuki.

Hon. Degaulle Naburuki: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, I echo what Hon. Njuguna has said; it is true that we spoke.

(Laughter)

I still can produce babies but I am not at the moment. Let me allow my son and daughter to do so. Thank you.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Thank you. Hon. Njuguna, kindly continue with the Report.

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. The issue was that the maternity is 75% completed and we are worried because we have seen that the current maternity we have is already congested. Everyday there is a mother or two who are nursed in those beds and that is why I was worried Mr. Temporary Speaker, because I said at this age we are in and majority are, it means that we need to improve and there is urgency for completion of that Maternity Wing so that we can continue enjoying those services including Hon. Ruto because I know that is where we belong and especially for politicians because they believe in many votes and increasing numbers so we must lead by example. We should not preach wine and drink water. Let us preach wine and drink wine.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the morgue does not have a Cold Room and a freezer. The reality of life is that one day we will all be gone and we do not know where they are going to preserve us. We will be preserved in these morgues and this is a reality and therefore we need to improve all our mortuaries because they are in bad shape. You find that sometimes the bodies are lying on the floor...

Hon. Rose Chepkoech: Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Chair is not in order to say that one day we will all die. We still ask God to give us grace so that we may live many years. You must tell us that the morgue must be there but we have to live for many years.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): So Hon. Njuguna ...

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Mr. Temporary Speaker there will also be one day. I did not say tomorrow. I have said one day because that is in the future and I know that that day will come. I do not want to preach because I am from a theology background. I would have elaborated it but allow me to say that our morgues are not in good shape and we usually say, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Those Members whom I have been visiting these morgues with can tell the status of those facilities. I would wish that when I rest, I be well preserved before those microorganisms that are in the soil start enjoying. Therefore, we must have good places as our resting homes like the private ones that we have. I am making a comparison because if you go to Umash... I do not need to be informed Mr. Speaker unless he has not understood and I am here elaborating it.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Alex, what is it?

Hon. Alex Mbugua: Mr. Temporary Speaker, I want to inform the Chair Health that he has told the House that the organisms stay within the soil. I want to inform him that the bacterias are actually in his body. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Let us allow Hon. Njuguna to finish with the Report.

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Mr. Temporary Speaker you know the Hon. Member is a Doctor and he ought to know better than me that those microorganisms that are in the soil and the body are not the same. What he should have said is that there are microorganisms in the soil and also in the body. The Facility does not have a perimeter wall and therefore security is not guaranteed.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I want to reiterate and say that where I come from people take a lot of chang'aa and there was a break-in to the morgue for formalin. The tank that has formalin was connected to the bodies through pipes. They vandalised and directed those pipes to jerry cans and stole all the formalin that was there so that they can go create their drinks. It is that serious Mr. Temporary Speaker and therefore installations such as a perimeter wall and in security language we call them guardians should be installed so that we can reinforce the security of the said Facility.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, in the past we have heard of some Counties where babies are stolen. We are not safe and we need to make sure that the security of the Facility is checked. I wish that the Security Committee Members who are here could go to the ground and generate Reports for Security Status of our Facilities.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Facility has no operational incinerator. We produce a lot of waste and especially Medical Waste but how we dispose that waste is wanting.

Recommendations

1. The Department of Health should work in collaboration with the Department of Lands and Housing to make sure that they process title deeds
2. The County Government should allocate resources for the recruitment of more staff especially nurses.
3. The Hospital Management should get adequate space to accommodate Health Records and Dental Units
4. The Department of Health together with the Hospital Management should fast-track on the ongoing projects especially the installation of additional water tanks, renovation of the borehole to curb the shortage of water in the Hospital.
5. The Department of Health should fast-track the completion of the maternity so that we can start enjoying those services.
6. The Department of Health should allocate resources to purchase and equip the Hospital morgue with a cold room and freezer
7. The Department of Health should prioritise the construction of perimeter wall and the gate for security purposes.
8. The Hospital Management should utilise the Facility improvement fund to refurbish the incinerator/ the burning chamber.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, these Reports are not for beautifying the Archives of this Assembly. Let all these recommendations that were put forth be implemented. We want to see the Implementation Committee on the ground, and after six months they generate Reports that will be showing the status of the recommendations of different Committees of this House.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, we want to see that Committee working like bees. Let us see a beehive of activities so that the *Wanjiku* that we serve, and who has employed and entrusted us to come to this House can start enjoying the services because of our supervisory skills that they trusted we have.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I want to request that this House adopts this Report as it is and the Implementation Committee to take over this matter and make sure that they are implemented. Once again allow me to salute Hon. Muraya for bringing and requesting for the Statement of those recommendations. I believe that this is the hundred and something Report from the Health Committee for different Facilities but I have never seen a Report of what we went to the field to check being tabled here. Mr. Temporary Speaker, we are ashamed of ourselves and we look forward to improving on the same so that we can live on the mandate of this House that is Oversight.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I am requesting the Hon. Members to pass this Report and to also tell them that we are still on and we will be headed to other Facilities so that we can generate more Reports and we also want to see other Committees meeting their part of the bargain so that the citizens of this Republic and this County can progress.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, allow me to request Hon. Alex who is a Member of the Health Committee to second and also to move. If there is anyone who needs clarity on something I am readily available. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move.

Hon. Alex Mbugua: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. I think by all virtue of clarity this Committee has done a noble job. We have generated so many Reports and I want to congratulate the Chairperson for this Committee Hon. Njuguna because of his steward leadership within the Committee. As a Member of this Committee, I find myself challenged by the Hospitals that we visit. When you clearly look at the recommendations, findings and observations of the Committee you will be touched.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, when we talk about a morgue that has no Cold Room or a freezer, that is not a morgue. We live in the current era where we should have all these Facilities working well. Mr. Temporary Speaker, formalin that is used to preserve bodies is being stolen by liquor business people and these business people end up making illicit brews with this formalin and that is why you find the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya complaining that zombies are walking in form of men because what they have consumed is breaking down their bodies. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I will always stand with the recommendations of this Committee that these things should be checked.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the poor security that we have in our facilities makes it very easy for things to be stolen within the Hospital. Formerly in Nairobi, we had Pastor Deya and we had so many babies getting lost in Pumwani Hospital and this should not be assumed that it cannot happen in Nakuru. Mr. Temporary Speaker, we live in a population of about 1.2 million voters and with that population of voters we generate to another whole 10 million plus people staying in this County. And we just cannot jeopardise the security of our sick people within the Hospital.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, in regards to Land ownership and Documentation, in the last Budget that we read here, we gave the lands Department a whopping Kshs 15 million for this Land Digitisation and Ownership, Verification of title deeds and everything. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I would suggest that this money be used to acquire title deeds for all the State Department Lands that is owned by the County Government of Nakuru Mr. Temporary Speaker, because that will help us acquire bigger things in future.

Mr. Temporary Speaker that is the same state of nature we have in Naivasha. We have a Hospital and the land documentation is not yet there. With the heavy investment that we have done within these Hospitals, like in Naivasha we have a Hospital Wing that has cost the Hospital around Kshs 300 to 400 million and that kind of Facility is not sitting on land that is owned by the County Government, it becomes a very big joke.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, on the part of incinerator, we need to curb and control our waste and I will say that without these burning chambers working well, we are exposing the population to diseases that can hurt and derail their wellbeing. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, I rise to support this Report.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you. The Motion is well seconded.

(Question proposed that this House adopt the Report of the Committee of Health Services on the visit of Elburgon sub County Hospital on 24th May, 2023 laid before the table of the Assembly on Tuesday, 3rd, October 2023 during the afternoon plenary.)

The Motion is open for debate. Hon. Rose.

Hon. Rose Chepkoech: Mr. Temporary. Speaker sir, I really want to thank the Committee on Health for the good work that they have done. As a Member of the Committee, I want to confirm that the information that is there is true. Concerning the perimeter wall, it is a big problem because of security issues in the Hospital. They also do not have enough staff so it is really a challenge. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): We will have Hon. Muraya and then Hon. Mutai in that order.

Hon. Joseph Muraya: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker. First of all, I would wish to commend the Committee on Health for the job well done. It is true and as the Chair said, the Bible tells us that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves. I can clearly state that the County

Government of Nakuru is somehow forgetting to love itself because there is no Report that has been brought here of any Hospital or any Dispensary that we have heard has a title deed. Mr. Temporary Speaker, most of these Reports have clearly indicated that our Hospitals do not have title deeds.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, this is why I requested the Committee on Implementation for a Statement because we have been here, the Chairman has been here over hundred times and there is nothing. Mr. Temporary Speaker, you can see that there is only one Member from the Implementation Committee yet they know that there was a Report to be brought to this House. To some extent, you need to command these Members to be here especially the Chair to take up the matter and know what he is supposed to do, if not we can as well do away with the Committee.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, several Reports have been laid here and there is absolutely nothing that has been done. I saw the Chairperson for Implementation seated and when he heard that there was a Motion he walked out. He knows very well...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Muraya concentrate on the debate because the Chair is not in the House.

Hon. Joseph Muraya: Hon. Temporary Speaker there is a Member here who will take the notes and grievances to the Chair. My concern about the Chair is part of the contribution. This is a good Report but we need to know who is taking up the matter and that is my concern. The Chair ought to be in this House so that he can take up the matter. We cannot have a Hospital Morgue with no Cold Room and a freezer. We need to take care of these bodies even if God is for the living we also need to respect the dead. I support.

Hon. William Mutai: Thank you very much Mr. Temporary Speaker for this opportunity. I also stand to support this Motion and I would like to commend the Committee for this comprehensive Report they have given us today. Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Report is a case study and a replica of the many Health Facilities that are in our County. Mr. Temporary Speaker, as we analyse this Report, you need not to go to any other Hospital to collect more information because this is a real reflection of what is happening in most of the Facilities that we have in the County. These challenges or the situation that has been exposed is quite touchy and a remedy should be looked into.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I am one of the Members of the Implementation Committee and I think that this is a great challenge that we have been given. We need to do more and look into the Reports that have been brought before to ascertain whether there is any step that aims at improving the Facilities we have. As I went through the Report and as I listened to the Chair of the Health Committee I just imagined the amount of trauma and impact that the young ladies in the female Wards go through when they see a lady in labour, struggling with all that pain. The kind of psychological impact they would have and especially if they are preparing to procreate in future.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, a Labour Ward being the female General Ward that is in itself unacceptable. That should not be happening because it is going to lead to our young generation running away from the noble duty that they were given by God of procreation. It is quite detrimental and I believe that action should be taken.

Another issue Mr. Temporary Speaker that has come out very clearly is that the hospital itself does not have the legal ownership documents which is also another replica of most of the facilities that we have in our County. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I would like to request that the concerned Departments expedite so that we can have these documents as soon as possible, lest we have these unscrupulous cartels taking advantage of the public land. I stand to support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Bor

Hon. Alex Bor: Thank you *Mheshimiwa Spika wa Mda*. Allow me to also contribute to this Report and first I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chair for taking the right direction. However, one of our greatest concerns as a House is the implementation of all these recommendations. I do represent Kiptororo Ward where I have seven Dispensaries and one Health Centre. Of all these seven, only one Dispensary has got land title deed. This means that this Report contains a replication of what is in almost all the Health Facilities that we have in this great County.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the implementation Committee has a huge task to undertake so that they can come up with a Report. On the recommendations that have been passed in this House of honour, it is so sad that in this century we are still talking about some issues that should have been in the past. I also come from a Sub-County which has no Level Four Hospital; that is Kuresoi North Sub-County. As we sit here, an accident has occurred in Kuresoi Centre and one of the *boda boda* operators has lost his life. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I am wondering if the body of the departed Erick will be taken to Molo or Kericho and in my case it has to be taken to Kericho Referral Hospital because it is the nearest facility. Mr. Temporary Speaker, coming to Molo would be very far.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Committee on Implementation should also expedite on this so that all the Health Facilities that have well equipped Morgue facilities so that those bodies will be preserved well. I have imagined the incident that has happened and the body being taken to a morgue that has no refrigeration; how will the family be in a position to collect that body yet *imepondwa pondwa*. If it has no cooling facility, after two or three days, that place will be very bad. So, the Chair of the Health Committee is doing great but the implementation part of this recommendation is actually a great challenge to this House. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I think the Health Department in our County is heading the wrong direction and now that Doctors in this County are on strike, what do we do with our patients? We need to talk about this as an urgent matter that has to be addressed because Health is a key issue for all of us. Mr. Temporary Speaker I wish to support this Report and congratulate the Committee for the good work they are doing. We only to ask ourselves whether these recommendations will be implemented. Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Hon. Jane

Hon. Jane Gituku: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker sir for this opportunity. Once again *karibuni wageni wetu*, the Report before this House on Health matters is a very critical Report owing to the fact that Health is paramount for everybody and just like a police cell, nobody knows who will need this hospital tomorrow. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I know our people require a lot of services, they do not have all the money to attend to private Health facilities and that is why when the Chairman tables this Report and many more. It is only important if we are able to follow and maybe ease the problem that our people are going through.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, there is somebody who suggested sometimes back that if the County Governments are unable to handle the Health Department, they should just hand it over to the National Government because people's Health cannot be negotiated. We need to prove ourselves whether we are capable of handling a Department like this one.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I happen to sit in the Finance Committee and when you look at the revenue that comes in, I think the Health Department contributes a lot of money through this County. Therefore, the recommendations notwithstanding, or the observations that have been made, this should be taken as an emergency and I wonder why the Chairman of this Department or whoever sat down does not usually come up with timelines as I said again in the morning.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, when you look at the issue of incineration where they said they are burning the waste generated from the hospital, it is something that should be given preference like it is a disaster in waiting because Health waste is not just any other waste. It is very dangerous and can cause a lot of harm to the community surrounding those facilities. The other day, I had a case of a person from my area who was attacked by the other community that we boarder with and was injured using a spear, bows and *pangas*. When we took him to the hospital after administering first-aid in the Ward facility, we took that person to the Naivasha Sub-County where I happen to belong and from 2.00 in the afternoon up to midnight, that gentleman had not been attended to. He had sustained broken ribs and blood started clotting within the rib cage. We requested to know what was happening; I particularly asked for the records for Doctors who were on call and the records indicated something like 'out-on-permission'. Mr. Temporary Speaker, when we asked the Medical Superintendent why the facility did not have Medics to attend to patients because the emergency unit was holding eight critically injured patients, we were told that these Doctors are not available during the weekends because when you fall sick no one knows when it will occur, we insisted on knowing why they give permission to Medics when actually this is a Health Facility that is serving other areas that are within or bordering Naivasha at the Nakuru County.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, this is just a tip of the iceberg and I would also request that the Chairman rush to Naivasha please look at the situation. When we question the Doctors, they claim that they are overwhelmed and when you look at the data that we has just been given in this particular Facility, you realize that it is highly understaffed. We have issues about our Medical Doctors right now going on and I believe we have the capacity to deal with Health issues as one of the Cities

that has been newly inaugurated. Mr. Temporary Speaker, somebody has just raised the issue of the Implementation Committee and the need to have these Reports taken care of. I would request the House to take notice that one year down the line, all that we have been doing is Reporting and nothing has been done. We believe that we have the capacity, the staff, and the ability to deal with these matters especially those that require implementation so that we can give direction.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I am highly appreciative of the work that the House is doing but we really need to pull up our socks so that we can come up with a Report that shall be implemented and will go a long way to assist. Maybe if this Report from the various Institutions had been implemented, we would not be talking about the problems that are facing us, as one of the honourable Members has said it affects all the other Health facilities.

Therefore Mr. Temporary Speaker, I highly recommend that we adopt this Report and appreciate that recommendations that have been given here on what is required will also be tabled in this House as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker sir, for the opportunity.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Now we are going to have Hon. Wathiai then the Chair to reply

Hon. David Macharia: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker; I rise to support this Report and also commend the Committee on Health for the good work they have been doing all through. In this Report, I have come across the Committee's findings in regard to insufficient water supplies due to the breakdown of a pump in the facility. It is really sad to see that in such a facility, *wanasema maji ni uhai na maji yanatumika kila mahali*. Mr. Temporary Speaker *ukiona hospitali ya serikali inakosa maji, mashini ya kupiga maji inaharibika*, that shows there is a very big problem there. So, I would like the Department to move in with speed and make sure there is sufficient supply of water in all the facilities in our County, because, *kama maji yatakosa kwa hizi Facilities, zitakuwa zinapatia wagonjwa ugonjwa mwingine kwa sababu hakuna maji*. So Mr. Temporary Speaker, I would request that the Department takes charge and deal with the water problem with speed.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, in regards to the understaffing in our Facilities, we also request that the Department moves with speed and employ Medical Staff in our Facilities so that they can give effective and efficient services to *Wanjiku* who is our employer. I stand to support the Report Mr. Temporary Speaker; thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Chair to give a reply

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker. Let me start with the issue of Kuresoi North. They do not have a Level Four Facility, which is true but have the budget for the construction of Kuresoi North Level Four. Mr. Temporary Speaker, the Challenge has been the availability of land where that Facility can be constructed. I know that our Excellency the Governor has been on the ground and I wish the Hon. Members was here, to actually confirm where the community would wish to have the Facility constructed. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I do not know what the current status is, but we are hopeful that the project will be advertised and that they will

have identified the site for the hospital to be constructed so that we can ease the burden of patients, some who have been going to Kericho and others coming all the way to Molo town and there are no motorable roads. Mr. Temporary Speaker, that is the kind of situation members of the public are grappling with currently and we really want to see something being done urgently. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I also urge the Members of that Sub-County to work together with the Department and the Executive to make sure that they have struck a balance as to where that Facility is to be constructed.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the issue of Doctors' strike has been mentioned and I am aware that there have been some negotiations; there has been a court process and the Executive has been sent out as an arbitrator and the Doctors are to resume duty during the mediation process so that they offer services to members of the public.

However Mr. Temporary Speaker, I would like to say the issue that was at hand with the Doctors prompting them to go on strike was to do with promotions. Two of their Medics were not promoted and that is why they declined to go to work; which was actually very awkward Mr. Temporary Speaker. If one of the Members in this House fails to turn to his duties because of one two, or three issues, he or she will be subjected to disciplinary action by the House. This House should not stand in solidarity with that Member at the detriment of the members of the public.

Therefore Mr. Temporary Speaker that is what is happening. It is the reason our Doctors went on strike and there have been negotiations; they are going to strike a balance and resume offering services to our people. However, I said on the issue of the weekend, there was a time Hon. Lang'at from Marioshoni and I went to PGH just to see what was happening and we went to the Casualty Department where we found Ambulances were lining there all the way from Samburu, Laikipia, and Baringo, and there were no Doctors by that time. We had to call the Medical Superintendent to explain to us what was not happening in that Facility. I would humbly request that the Honourable Members, that whenever they are at home during the weekends, it is no crime to just pass by those facilities to check what is happening because these days people *wanapiga sherehe* on weekends and forget to Report to work. Therefore, I would wish the Honourable Members would occasionally pass by the Facilities on weekends, to establish their operations rather than entrusting these people with the issue of Health because the situation is wanting.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, I do not know whether they are deterred by the working conditions or whatever, but we need to actually see how we can boost the morale of these people, so that on they can be on duty on weekends.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, on the issues of Health Management, I believe the Department is doing all it can to up its game on the issue of supervision so that the Medics and all the Health workers can actually offer themselves to the maximum so that the members of the public can enjoy the services that they ought to be offered. On the issues of Naivasha Hospital, we are going to revisit. Mr. Temporary Speaker, I know we were there and I think we have made two Site Visits. The second time we went there, the Report was not yet out and we are going to table that Report here.

We would wish that once we table the second Report, we want to see the implementation of the first Report. This is because if we are tabling a Report for the second time, it means that even the third time there will be no implementation.

Therefore Mr. Temporary Speaker, we are actually going to make sure to even stop the Business of this House so the implementation status of the recommendations of the House can be brought forth, so that we can improve the status of that Facility and other Facilities. Mr. Temporary Speaker, these issues are congruent; the issues that are facing one facility are the same across the County including the PGH. The issues of title deeds, Naivasha, Molo and Njoro face similar title deeds issues. I remember when I was here I also tabled issues of Njoro and you remember even the County Commissioner and Police OCPD are Housed in that Facility compound and they say those are National Government House Units, just because we do not have title deeds. And that is why I said we do not know whether these are our pieces of land or not.

Therefore Mr. Temporary Speaker, we need the Department to work around the clock to make sure we have our title deeds so that we can start owning and planning on those properties so that we make sure the land, which is the capital of everything can be maximumly utilised so that we can serve the citizens of this County comfortably.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, on the final matter of receding back the powers of Health to the National Government, I would wish to request the County Assemblies not to go down that narrow path because we will be retracing back to the dark days whereby the achievements we have realised through this Devolution, will go to waste. I believe the MPs cannot Oversight Health and the only person to do that, because they are close to *Mwananchi* are the MCAs. I believe through the procedures and the CIDPs and also the Public Participation that we have been having, the County Assemblies are better situated actually to oversight the County Health Departments.

Mr. Temporary Speaker therefore, and I also believe the improvements that we have had in the last ten years are so huge that we cannot compare them with the gains we had since 1963-2013/14. In those ten years, we have achieved a lot than before and therefore would wish to say it was the right decision but the National Government should Devolve funds to the Counties so that they can handle their affairs comfortably. I wish to beg the House to pass the Report. Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker,

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Elijah Murage): Thank you Hon. Njuguna. I now want to put it into question.

(Question proposed that this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Health Services on the visit to Elburgon Sub-County Hospital on 24th May 2023, laid before the table of the Assembly on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 during the Afternoon Plenary.)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The House stands adjourned to tomorrow morning at 9.00 AM.

The House rose at 4.25 PM