

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 5th April 2022

Assembly Building

The House met at 10: 05am

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui) in the Chair]

PRAYER

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Good morning honorable Members, welcome to the morning session. Clerk next order.

PAPER

HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT THE NAKURU COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

BILL NO. 9 OF 2021

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): We have a Paper to be laid by the Chairperson for the Committee on Health Services. Chairperson Health Services Committee

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Thank you Honorable Deputy Speaker, I rise to lay the report of the Committee on Health Services on the Nakuru County Community Health Service Bill no. 9 of 2021. I beg to lay.

(The report was laid on the table)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you, next order.

BILL

THE NAKURU COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES BILL NO. 9 OF 2021

(SECOND READING)

(By leave of the House)

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Honorable Deputy Speaker, I rise to move the Motion;

THAT the Nakuru County Community Health Service Bill No. 9 of 2021 be now read a Second Time. This Bill is one of the Bills that are very critical in our Health Department. Our Health Department is arranged in such a manner that it is clustered that level one are the Community

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Health Volunteer (CHVs). These people are not recognized in anyway. There are no laws or policies that guide them to operate in our County.

We have received a lot memorandum from the members of the public and majorly different clusters of Community Health Volunteers requesting us to consider their welfare and to consider their operations and the way they have been operating in our County. Therefore, as Committee, we sat down and we felt that it was in order for us to consider them and to make them be anchored in the law so that whenever they will be operating, they can be operating effectively for they will be having some guiding principles that can guide them whenever they are doing their work.

This Bill entails the issues of their rights, their responsibilities and it caveats them on what they cannot do. This Bill is one of the Bills that is very critical and it one that will support the Health Department in our County.

The Community Health Volunteers usually link the patients with the health facilities and therefore this Bill majorly addresses their welfare- That is their stipends, the allowances that are supposed to be given by the County. You realize that there has been some pilot programs to assist the people who have been volunteering and to some extent some of them did not receive their stipends, as it was required.

As a Committee, we felt that it was prudent for us to come with the law or legislate on that gap that has been existing so that when we are going through the budget cycles, we should consider them. And that could only be possible if there was some policies or guidelines or legislations that is requesting the executive to make sure that they have paid them something small, so that they can be able to operate effectively.

Also you realise that during this time, there has been some psychological issues that have been affecting our communities. And by so doing, the only persons that are there actually to link our youth into our youth friendly centers, or even into our facilities. It is the CHVs. And therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the population is growing, the medical services is required. The only person who can be a link and who can be supporting such kind of things is the CHVs. And therefore, I beg to move the Motion that this Bill be read for the second time and I request Hon. Wajeff that is Hon. Mwangi from Menengai East to second the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Wilson Mwangi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the Motion. As you know, we have been having a lot of funds that have been given out in the Health Services. One of the issues that this Bill will be able to relay on is about the quality of the health services in our County. And, also there will be good coordination that this Bill will be able to enhance that is from the National Government policies, and the County Government policies.

We will be able to monitor and evaluate the health services that we are going to give to our people. It has touched on the issues of the Community Health Volunteers. We have been having a very big problem with those members of the public who have been volunteering, and they are not being

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paid. So that gap will be able to be filled, and the Bill will be able to make sure that our members of the CHVs will be able to be compensated for the good work they usually do to our community. So that is why I am seconding the Motion Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you honorable and now I want to propose that the Nakuru County Community Health Services Bill No. 9 of 2021 be now read a Second Time.

(Question proposed)

The debate is open for all to contribute, welcome honorable Members. Okay, honorable Mwangi then I come to Honorable Chair for Environment.

Hon. Simon Mwangi: Mr. Deputy Speaker I just want to seek first of all before I contribute, I want to seek your guidance. I have the amendment. Yes. But the original Bill, I wish we could have it so that we are also able to go through what we are amending.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): I think the original Bill is available but maybe the copies are less but you can have one because you want to contribute on that. Meanwhile, I would like to give to Hon. Chair for Environment to contribute.

Hon. Joseph Kamanu: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. May I commend the Chair and the Committee at large for the proposals to amend the original Bill. This will bring sanity and ensure that we have quality services. I am sure we have a number of people known as Community Health Volunteers. They have been volunteering but some of them have not been trained. We need a lot of capacity building to ensure that they provide prudent and efficient services to the people they attend to. Some of our areas are not covered or under any health facility proximity. We are facing some challenges, especially in the rural areas where we have very few health facilities. Due to financial constraints, we have not been able to construct and also equip and staff the health facilities. I am sure this one will take us a long way to ensure that areas that are not covered by the trained personnel as we capacity build the current Community Health Volunteers.

For example, we have a number of home deliveries and even some expectant mothers do not attend the anti-natal clinics. Through the guidance and wise counsel of the Community Health Volunteers, I am sure we will contain the infant mortality rate within the County. I am sure we also have the issue of the stipend for the Community Health Volunteers and I am sure this one will also be addressed. I do support the proposal and also the Motion but I am sure that the County will action once amended, proposed and ascended to Act actively and also involve the necessary personnel to ensure that we cover large part of this County. I do support.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you Hon. Chair for Environment. Yes Hon. Mbae.

Hon. Peter Mbae: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. I rise to support the Motion and the Bill at large. We have come a long way. The whole issue about Community Health Services and workers

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came into light during the issue of the Covid-19 disease. What is key is that when we were being told to get in and get lost and remain indoors, these workers were being told to go out there and take care of those cases of Corona. They were being asked to go, and risk their lives. You are being asked to go bury the dead who have been affected by Covid-19. If there is something this Assembly has done in this terms of this Government is to secure the welfare of the Community Health Workers. This is a big issue for the record. I want to recommend the Chair and the Committee and some of our partners; I know we have a number of partners who have really worked to make sure that this dream comes true. What is key also to that this Assembly Mr. Deputy Speaker is that we were able to secure at least 2000 for all the 3620 volunteers across the County. Was passed in this Assembly which started to be paid in October last year up to now it is on. One thing I wish urge this House again and as a Member of the Budget Committee, when we come back here is to make sure that the allocation is sustained. However, now what is important in this Bill is that it has been secured in the law, the stipend is secured in the law.

Additionally it is not fair to ask Community Health Volunteers to go look for the sick people when they too are sick. In this Bill, we are going to have recommendations beginning this July that there is going to be NHIF cover for each of the Community Health Volunteers and also to make sure they are catered for in terms of equipment, facilitation, the badges, gadgets, first aid kits. That is what is key in this law.

Therefore I wish to support the few amendments which have been made of course in consultation with all the players to make sure the Bill does not have any legal loopholes and all that. I seek to second. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you Hon. Mbae for further explanation on the same. Hon. John Ndonyo.

Hon. John Ndonyo: *Asante sana Bw. Naibu wa Spika kwa sababu ya Chairman wetu wa Health nikiwa Member katika ile Kamati ya Health, mimi nimeshukuru siku ya leo sababu kwa kweli hata mtu anapochaguliwa na asijichague wewe mwenyewe, huwezi fanya kazi. Hawa watu hata mimi nataka niunge mkono na ni vizuri kuwafikiria sana. Wakati mmoja kulikuwa Corona, kuna mmoja alipata kijiji kimoja watu wameambukizwa na akajitolea kuwasaidia na kwa kuwahakikishia katika harakati ya kuwasaidia, kunao wawili waliaga ambao ni volunteers. Naunga mkono kwamba ni vizuri sana tunapoona mtu wa kujitolea. Mtu wa kujitolea anasema kufa au kupona na ndiposa naunga mkono hao watu washughulikiwe vizuri tena kwa undani. Leo asubuhi nilikutana nao walikuja pahali kwa masomo kidogo na hawakuwa hata na fare. Ilibidi niwalipie ili waweze kusoma masomo ya kujitolea. Ukiona mtu anatoka kwake na hana fare na amejitolea ili akanyage miguuu, tuangalie sana hili jambo. Shukrani nimeunga hii Mswada mkono kabisa. Asante Deputy Speaker sir.*

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you Hon. John Ndonyo for your contributions. Now I want to give Hon. Mwangi

Hon. Simon Mwangi: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. First of all I want to congratulate the Committee through the chair for a job well done. I think the Community Health volunteers or workers have actually been ignored for a very long time. We could see what they would do especially during the 2021/2022 Covid pandemic. They were of great help to our community. With this Bill, I believe we will give them more moral support and encourage them to do more. My only hope is that as we head towards making the budget for the next financial year, I hope they will be considered actually for this stipend because in most cases, you will find them during funerals or any community activity, you will find them being around and at the end of the day, it ends up being our responsibility as elected leaders to see what we can give them even for lunch. They are never considered and with this Bill it will come to fruition and they will start getting something to encourage them to do more. Therefore Mr Deputy Speaker I arise to support this motion and also to thank the committee for coming up with this Bill. Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you and now it is my opportunity to propose a question

(Question proposed that the Nakuru County Health Service Bill No.9 of 2021 be now read a Second Time)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Nakuru County Health Service Bill No.9 of 2021 was accordingly read a Second Time)

ADJOURNMENT

Before we adjourn, I want to announce that the Liaison Committee members should liaise with the committee Clerk on the pending assignments. This House stands adjourned until 2.30 in the afternoon

(The House rose at 11.05 am)