

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KIAMBU**

**THE HANSARD**

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

The County Assembly met at the Assembly  
Chamber at 10.00 A.M

*(County Assembly Temporary Speaker (Hon. Philip Njoroge) in the Chair)*

**PRAYER**

*(Consultations)*

**Temporary Speaker**, (Hon. Philip): Attention! We have a technical problem, our goose microphone are not working and in that regard we are going to use a cordless microphone on both sides, so kindly bear with the House.

**MOTION**

**PROMOTION OF PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE PROGRAM IN THE  
COUNTY**

**Temporary Speaker**, (Hon. Philip): I call upon the Leader of Majority to move the Motion.

**Leader of Majority**, (Hon. Ikonya): Thank you Mr. Speaker!

I wish to move the following Motion:

That aware that Preventive Healthcare means measures taken to prevent diseases rather than treating them. Further aware that preventive healthcare is an important determinant of health since prevention helps avoid potential health problems or slows down the course of a disease which is essential for good quality life.

Fully aware that research by the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention in Kenya (CDC) has observed that mortality rate is on increase in Sub-Saharan Africa due to preventable and curable diseases. Further noting that many Kenyans die of preventable diseases specifically; flu, malaria, HIV&AIDS, infections of Respiratory Tract system, as well as Ear

Nose and Throat that also account for the County increased morbidity. This has been linked to lack of appropriate protective measures.

Deeply disturbed that the healthcare systems in the Country as well as the County have for a very long time focused on curative health services rather than preventive healthcare; Totally alarmed that most medical schemes and plans including the government funded National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) do not support screening unless it is medically prescribed.

Noting with approval that most of the preventable diseases identified can be alleviated through regular medical screening which entails vaccination, physical examination and wellness programs, nutrition, doctor's check-ups, testing and counselling; Further approving that screening and early detection of diseases not only saves life but also prevents individuals and their families from going through immense physical, emotional and financial distress associated with the treatment and management of a health condition.

Fully believing that with increased public spending on healthcare amidst shrinking resources, there is a need for the County Government to practice Prevention Initiatives in healthcare;

Further recognizing that section 24 of the Kiambu County Health Services Act mandates the County Department of Health in collaboration with private and public sector with development and implementation of health promotion policies and programs; this Assembly therefore urges the said Department to:

- i.) Establish and promote Integrated Preventive Healthcare Program that will allow, prevention, screening, early interventions and availability of critical information on treatment regimes available in County health facilities;
- ii.) Further, undertake routine mobile medical screening across the twelve sub counties; and,
- iii.) Set up a support service call center with a toll free line where the county residents can call and obtain information related to health concerns and accessible medication.

Mr. Speaker, I would be very brief because this Motion is spelt out properly and is self-explanatory. Ideally, what I am trying to bring across or urge the County Government to adhere to, is one very simple thing, we have always said that prevention is better than cure. Members of this County Assembly have attended so many Harambees in our respective Wards. We had at one time in so many occasions had to raise a lot of money to make sure that we have sent our relatives and friends to other countries or even within this country to various medical facilities to have them treated.

Mr. Speaker, for example, cancer is currently very rampant, it is told and medicine has it that if you are screened at least once every year, you will be able to detect cancer at its very early stages, probably at stage one and it is curable at that level. Actually, most of the diseases if they are able to be identified early, then there is a way you can prevent them from advancing to stages you cannot arrest them.

Basically, what this Motion seeks to do, is to urge the County Government to come up with a programme that will ensure that we will have free screening across the entire County, where we can have a mobile screening vehicle that can go to virtually every village, that we can allow members of our Wards to go for a full screening, including us Members of this County Assembly.

We earn a few coins and we can afford a full body screening, but we do not do it, because we think it is too much and basically, that is how our people are, they cannot spend Kshs 6,000 or 7,000 on a medical check-up. When diseases come and Harambees come, they will run to us and so I thought it would be good if we are able to establish a mobile medical screening across all the 12 Sub-counties, so that we are able to identify some of these diseases early enough and mitigate them by treating them early enough and hence we do not incur a lot of expenses later and pain that our relatives go through, whereas if there was a situation where they had a full body screen, we would have identified that may be diabetes is on the way , cancer, all these diseases that we all know.

It is therefore important as an Assembly, we do it for the people of Kiambu. The department of Health is even able to organize for seminars and workshops across the County, that will sensitize people on ways of living and you look at the cost effect at it, preventive healthcare is more affordable as opposed to curative health care, because we incur a lot of expenses buying medicines, but if you are taught on how to eat, what things we should avoid so that we do not get these diseases, if we are able to get early screening and we do it for free, then we can save a lot in terms of what we use within our facilities.

I thought that it is important that we look at things along that line and I am sure that the good people of Kiambu will appreciate that initiative. I would ask the Hon. Waiganjo to second this Motion.

Thank you ,Mr. Speaker.

**Kahawa Sukari, MCA**, (Hon. Waiganjo): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank the mover of this Motion, Health Sector being one of the main department in our County, and having in mind that prevention is better than cure, we are aware Mr. Speaker that long time ago and we still see that, that this country and the entire content, was affected by polio. We have seen polio campaigns even as we kick it out of this country. Some of these diseases around us can be prevented. We have also seen malaria and this is one of the diseases that we try to prevent. Cancer is on the rise and we know some of these cancers can also be prevented if they are detected early. In one case like prostate cancer, as a County, we should be encouraging everybody to be tested.

At the same time, I would like the mover of this Motion to include it that it should be accessed through the NHIF. Mr. Speaker, in our County, we are putting it that it is a must that everybody should have NHIF. This card should not wait until one gets sick, so as we get the preventive measures on this, all the Health facilities should access this NHIF card, so that we encourage even those without finances the screening which can be a bit expensive. Ksh. 6,000 is not a lot money but at the same time it is a lot of time for our constituents and so we should look at that.

I support this Motion wholeheartedly, knowing that it will be a great help to our County and at the same time, it can be a benchmark, to other parts of the country. Mr. Speaker. With those few remarks, without ado, I second.

*(Question Proposed)*

Hon. Members, I call upon those who would like to contribute towards the Motion, the floor is open for the debate.

Hon. Taki!

**Witeithie MCA**, (Hon. Taki): Thank you Hon. Speaker, mine is to first appreciate the mover and the seconder of the Motion, bearing in mind that I have had a lot of experience and challenges, just trying to organize a medical camp in my Ward, where majority of those diseases, that are associated with this, are curable and preventable.

My issue is, as we focus on the preventable diseases, as the mover of the Motion has said, the biggest challenge is the cost implication on the same. As we talk, the dispensary that I have in Witeithie Ward only has one nurse, it has no fence and nothing is moving and everything that we talk here, we do not try to attach the financial implication on the same.

My big question is, as the Mover was trying to finalize on his Motion he said, 'further, undertake routine mobile medical screening across the twelve sub counties', this is good, but at what cost? Because, if I can recall, the last two three weeks, I had a medical camp whereby, the County Government was to charge me a minimum of Ksh.300, 000.

I was forced to look for alternatives from friends. If we pass this Motion, we should also try as much as possible to attach it to the finances of health whereby we agree that all health facilities in the 12 Sub Counties be organizing the same.

I remember a few weeks ago we came here and passed a Motion to try and do something on the Community Health Workers. I remember that even in the last financial year we passed 12 million for NHIF, which up to this point I have never seen any of us going to look or evaluate what happened. My question is on the part of financial implications of this Motion. If we can be able to understand the financial implications and for example attach Witeithie dispensary to be doing a medical camp quarterly, I will fully support it.

My only objection to this Motion is the financial implications bearing in mind that in my Ward we have only one dispensary with no doctor and only one nurse.

Thank you!

**Temporary Speaker, (Phillip):** Hon. Karema!

**Lari-Kirenga MCA, (Hon. Karichu):** Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity.

I would like to remind you that I am Hon. Karichu from Lari Kirenga.

First I would like to appreciate the Mover of this Motion, my good friend Hon. Anthony. There is a saying that says prevention is better than cure. I am very happy to contribute to this Motion bearing in mind that just the other day my good friend Hon. Yvonne brought a similar Motion on equipping the County residents with first aid skills. I also brought a similar Motion to the House on Community Health Workers policy and it was supported.

If this Motion sees the light of day, it is my prayer and humble request that the Committee on implementation will be able to join these three Motions together for implementation.

Mr. Speaker, as I contribute to this Motion, the reason why most of us brought these Motions to this House, is because of our residents, those who voted for us. What we want is something that we call sustainable development. When we talk of sustainable development, it is the current generation that is bale to tackle their problems without compromising or harming any prejudice to the future generation.

We have new infections like HIV which need to be prevented. We have other chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes and arthritis that need to be prevented. As an Assembly if we are able to adopt the preventive health care program within our County, we will be able to have a very healthy nation, a healthy County that will be able to contribute to the GDP of our great Country. We will be able to grow our people socially, economically and even politically.

Mr. Speaker, as we tackle and develop these preventive health care programs, we also need to consider the key stakeholders that will see the implementation of this. One is the Kiambu County Ministry of Health Services who are able to see the implementation of this program. As the key stakeholders, they are able to oversee, coordinate, and even what my brother Hon. Taki was arguing, they are able to allocate the available resources that are needed to see the continuation of the same program. They will also be able to ensure that we have a preventive health program and even develop the policies and strategies of this program as they do the coordination and even training.

Mr. Speaker, for this program to be sustainable, we also need to consider that we have other key stakeholders like the civil society. We have faith based organizations; churches which are at the grass root. They are able to interact with the community; they are even able to help in screening.

Mr. Speaker, there are major stake holders we also need to consider as we pass this Motion. We have groups like AMREF, Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance and Glaxo SmithKline that major on training the

community. If we involve them, they will be able to see the continuation of this program and even have continuation of the same in the long term.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as we do this, we need to have guiding principles for this program to continue. We want to save lives, particularly the elderly people. We want to save the lives of our men, women, newborn children and children below five years. We want to see them having a continuation in life.

Mr. Speaker, another guiding principle is to encourage the community to engage and have the ownership of this for the utilization and to have a good outcome on health matters. We also need to foster partnership and coordination among the stakeholders, the County Government and other development partners like banks that are ready to partner with us.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to ensure that we complement each other because we are not here for duplication. As a County, we need to work with the National Government; we are not competing, there is no competition. We need to ensure that we complement each other and see that our people and community are healthy.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I support this Motion, and thank you for giving me this opportunity.

**Temporary Speaker, (Phillip):** Thank you!

Hon. Ann!

**Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. (Ms.) Kariuki):** Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity.

I would like to commend the Mover of this Motion. As he draws the conclusion to this Motion, I will give him some points that would put some weight on the Motion. For instance, we can introduce the use of herbal medicine which our grandmothers used to use to our people, when cancer and all these other diseases were not present.

We should also encourage our people to also engage in physical exercises which will also help much on the current diseases that we have like cancer, diabetes and many others. We can also encourage our medical facilities to put a mandatory check up on some of these diseases. If we do this, we will put more weight on prevention rather than curing.

We can also encourage our people through the faith based organizations or even other partners to adopt the use of kienyeji foods we used to eat a long time ago before we reached the level that we are in today. All these will help in preventing most of these diseases.

We can also impart knowledge on our people in the application of chemicals and fertilizers on the crops that we are eating today. Most of these application of chemical and fertilizers are the ones that are causing most of the lifestyle diseases that we are experiencing today. So we can as well put this on the same because it will help in preventing diseases.

If we put all these points together, we shall go a long way in saving our County in the usage of so much on the curing of these diseases.

Otherwise I fully support the Motion. Thank you!

**Temporary Speaker, (Phillip):** Thank you!

Hon. Peter Karuga Ngigi!

**Limuru East MCA, (Hon. Karuga):** Thank you Mr. Speaker!

Mr. Speaker, first allow me to commend my brother for a well thought Motion and also encourage him to bring more Motions of the same kind.

Mr. Speaker, indeed he will attest that Members have a hectic time during weekends. I am sorry to say that it is only last Sunday that I attended more than four *harambees* for paying medical bills. These bills are going for the payment of treatments of diseases. If we have a preventive health care program in our County, we will go a long way in saving Members' time used in attending these *harambees* for diseases.

Mr. Speaker, if this program kicks in in our County, it is my humble prayer that we lower the cost of screening of these diseases. We should also make sure that each and every patient that attends any health center to be screened, his/her data is kept and the County can go an extra mile to create a database and have some SMS services reminding their clients that they ought to come for screening at a certain date. This will go a long way in preventing these diseases.

Mr. Speaker, this prevention will go hand in hand with information. It is true that most of the residents in our County are not informed in matters health. It is high time that we engage all stakeholders in realizing this.

Mr. Speaker, we have several forums that we can be able to use to dispense this information. We are all believers, we attend churches, mosques, but we do not know where atheists go. In these forums, we can dedicate our social health workers to be visiting the churches and be given a few minutes, maybe in between the praise and worship so that they can dispense the information.

Mr. Speaker, you realize that most of the diseases that are killing Kenyans are preventable; cancer, diabetes and many others. These diseases are as a result of our lifestyles. Since the electorate does not have information of the kind of lifestyle to live, that is why they end up finding themselves in this fix.

Mr. Speaker, it is also worth noting that the County has a health system that we should utilize fully. There are Wards that do not even have a single dispensary, and a case in point is Limuru East Ward. What should we do with that? We should at least have a dispensary there and have several health workers that will go round informing the member of the public on how they should live and eat so that they do not end up having these preventable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I know this will have cost implications, but it is always said that planning supersedes the cost. If we plan well, I know we can achieve this and save our electorate.

Mr. Speaker, I am a bit worried that we have passed several Motions similar to the one today and I am afraid that we have not seen any implementation. I am praying that the Mover of this Motion, since he also doubles as the Leader of Majority, to make sure that he follows this to the later and should be implemented if not immediately, then at the soonest time possible so that we can realize our benefit and our role in legislation.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I urge all the members to support this Motion.

**Temporary Speaker, (Phillip):** Thank you *Mheshimiwa*!

I would like to bring to your attention that even atheists suffer from diseases, so they also need to be informed and get into the program.

Hon. Yvonne!

**Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. (M/s) Yvonne):** Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity. Mine will be very brief because a lot has been said by the speakers who preceded before me but I would also like to emphasize that there have been several Motions that have been brought before this House.

There was the very first on NHIF that was brought by the Majority Leader and there was another one on community health workers brought by Hon. Karichu and I also sponsored one on First Aid on equipping County residents with first Aid skills and now there is this one on preventive health care.

First of all I think it is very important for the health department to implement them synergistically, to identify synergies because I do not believe there any trade off in any of the Motions and fast track the implementation. So having said that Mr. Speaker, let me go on to support the Motion and say that it is very important to invest in preventive health care because as I was saying it is better to be safe than to be sorry.

The main point that I want to raise is with regard to budgeting and I do propose that Budget and Finance Committee considers ways and approaches of creating gender responsive budgeting with regard to all these health Motions especially because the needs of women are very different from the needs of men. Different diseases affect different gender. For example young women under 25 years should attend regular screening for cervical cancer and most men suffer from prostate cancer and therefore the programmes should be set up differently to address these challenges.

In addition Mr. Speaker there is an issue of mental which is silent and very recurring nowadays. There are so many people who are depressed to the extent of even committing suicide and I also believe there should also be a programme for mental health within this framework.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, I think it is high time that Kiambu also came up with its own style i.e. style of universal care. Majority of us belong to the Jubilee party and one of the Key pillars of the big four is the universal health care to all. Other counties such as Makueni and Kitui have come up with their own



programmes where by every resident is getting access to medical care. I think in Makueni they pay Ksh.1000 per year.

I think we should task the health Committee and Finance Committee to develop a Kiambu approach to health care and this could be one of the best approaches to do it and because there is a gap with the NHIF with regard to screening because it is unlike private insurance because you cannot access screening with NHIF. I think this is one of the ways to do but most importantly let responses be very gender responsive because the needs of men and women are different and also the budgeting should be gender responsive. With that I support and I also congratulate the mover for this wonderful Motion and I task the implementation Committee to ensure that all the Motions which have been passed are implemented in a integrated manner, thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): Thank you Hon. Yvonne. I want to believe that the committees that are mentioned every now and then their representatives are here and you can hear the sentiments of Members. Hon. Gathuru?

**Kamburu MCA,** (Hon. Gathuru): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to follow with one of the previous speaker's discussion on healthy feeding. I thank the mover of the Motion support and I am not proposing that we change it but perhaps one of the things that I would have liked to see on this Motion Mr. Speaker is a proposition that we employ more nutrition officers in our health facilities.

One of the things that is lacking is this advice that on how people can actually feed and if we had these health officers working in our health facilities, they would be providing this information about healthy feeding even if it is once per day or even once in a fortnight so that we do not have to employ so many of them but they can be moving round these facilities and providing this preventive information as well. That is why I wanted to propose this because it is also part of preventive measures that the County can actually take. During the implementation perhaps looking at how it is being implemented then we can make this as part of implementation where the County is requested to employ more nutritionists so that they can give this very important advice to the people of Kiambu. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I also support this Motion.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): Hon. John Ngure Muthondu?

**Kihara MCA,** (Hon. Muthondu): Thank you Mr. Speaker and it is important to mention that I do double committees as a member of health and budget committees. I am aware that the Motion being proposed the same programme is in the health Committee and in this financial year Ksh.77Million have been factored on the preventive health.

So I think what needs to be done is only to enhance the budget because most of the things that have been mentioned by the Mover of the Motion who also happen to be a member of the Committee is also privy to this information. So I think we only need to enhance the budget on the same and according to me I can see that we are doing well. Without belaboring so much I support the Motion.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): thank you Hon. Muthondu, Hon. Mwago?

**Specially Elected MCA,** (Hon. (M/s) Mwago): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion it is a very important one for our County. I just want to add a point because a lot has been said. We have something to do, the County Government should look into drainages and sewer systems in that most of our young children especially below five years they die due to diarrhea.

The other day we had an outbreak of cholera which is brought about by the bad drainage systems and sewer lines. The waste disposal system also in our county it is very bad and we have very dangerous waste materials and Kiambu County Government should look into the way the waste disposal can be put because the residents mostly burn dangerous objects and so when people breathe the smoke it normally brings problems to our lungs and I remember in the last Assembly we dealt with the deaths of children below 5 years where most children in Kamenu Ward they died because of burning the waste disposal materials. I would urge the County Government to look into the waste disposals and also the sewer lines and drainages to avoid these small diseases thank you.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): Thank you for the contribution from Hon. Mwago. Is there any member who wishes to make a contribution on the same? Member for Mwihoko?

**Mwihoko MCA,** (Hon. King'ara): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I will excuse you due to the long recess you could have more names of Members of your Ward. I am Hon. Benson Kamau King'ara, all in all I support. Thank you.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): What is the point of order?

## **POINT OF ORDER**

**Limuru East MCA,** (Hon. Karuga): Thank you Mr. Speaker and it is evident that from the mood of the House and again we do not want to run out of quorum that you invoke the Standing Order 118 and request the mover to reply thank you.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): thank you Mheshimiwa for that observation. Now I call the Majority Leader to reply.

Mover,

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I wish to appreciate the good work that has been done by this Hon. House of unanimously supporting this Motion that seeks to see that we have a better County in terms of health care.

Mr. Speaker, I must say we were voted in by people so that we may develop legislative policies that would change their lives. If we cannot change the lives of our people then we have no business of being here. Mr. Speaker it is important that we pass this Motion.

I am sure we have a County that takes care of its people. Way before even they get into trouble so we need to get and have a way where we can screen our people and prevent. If we can look at the cost implication of it which has been a big concern amongst the members you realize that if you incur for

example ksh.500, 000 on screening in a particular Ward then you would prevent millions of money that would be incurred by various families as they try to pay for hospital bills and whatever comes on the way.

Mr. Speaker, nowadays it is becoming expensive even to take our relatives or friends to India or other countries for medication. So I think it is important we get to arrest some of these things very early like cancer or diabetes. Whatever we can be able to arrest and do whatever it takes to make sure that we promote preventive health care as opposed to incurring a lot of money and buying drugs and all those things in a curative health care.

So I want to appreciate the good work that this House has done, I want to appreciate all Hon. Members for being upbeat about this Motion. I wish to ask the Members once called upon and when you put the question you support unanimously. I also want to echo the sentiments of these Hon. Members that we need to be pro-active in the sense that we just not pass Motions but go an extra mile towards making sure and especially the health committee that has had four Motion in a row that revolves around the same thing.

Make sure these things are put in and now that we are developing the Kiambu County Health Act these are some of the things we need to put to legislate upon so that now it is properly done getting legislation to that effect because the previous Act that mandates as we had put in section 24 of the Kiambu County Health Act but now because it is being redone. So it important that we put some of the things as law and we make sure they are rolled out as a matter of legislation as opposed to now just keeping doing these Motions, so thank you very much and we are looking forward seeing this Motion have the light of the day thank you.

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): Thank you Majority leader

*(Question Put*

*And Agreed To)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Temporary Speaker,** (Hon. Philip): Hon. Members there being no other business to transact, this assembly stands adjourned until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 2.30P.M.

The House rose at 11.15 A.M.