

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

SECOND ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 07th October, 2020

House met in the Main Chamber at 02:30 p.m.

(The Speaker (Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro) in the Chair)

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you Honourable. Members? Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 32 (2) I want to request the Sergeant-At-Arms rings the quorum bell for five minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for five minutes)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Chief Whip, can you confirm if we have the quorum. I have got one Member online.

Chief Whip (Hon. Misachi): Mr. Speaker we have the quorum. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you. Madam Clerk, kindly take us through the Order Paper of the day.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, we are experiencing some technical hitch in the internet links. There was a problem with our electricity line since yesterday and therefore the links were interfered with. As a result of that, we shall not have our Zoom line active but the online presentation through Facebook is active but it is slightly fluctuating. The link has been shared in our platforms. Otherwise, welcome to this session and I believe it will be interactive and I want to request that we be guided by our Standing Orders as we debate. We should respect the opinion of the Members and address the Chair as we proceed with the debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

PAPERS LAID

THE KISUMU COUNTY SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND REGULATION 2020

BY

HON. JACKTONE OGENDO

AND

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT ON
NYALENDA A LAGOON

BY

HON. SAMSON AMESO

CHAIRPERSON, WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Jacktone Ogendo.

Hon. Ogendo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Order No. 192, I wish to table today Wednesday 7th October, 2020, the Kisumu County Social Health Insurance Fund Regulation 2020. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I confirm the receipt of the Kisumu County Social Health Insurance Fund Regulation. These are regulations in line with the Kisumu County Health Act 2019 and as per our Standing Order 192 such regulations has to be committed to a particular committee and that is Delegated Legislation Committee. I therefore, want to commit this report to the said Committee. I do direct that you expedite the process and it should not go beyond two weeks.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Leader of Minority.

The Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Allow me to lay this report on behalf Hon. Samson Ameso. Chair, Water, Environment and Natural Resources.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed Honourable Member.

The Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Order No. 182 (6), I wish to table today Wednesday 07th October, 2020, Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Report on Nyalenda “A” Lagoon.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I confirm the receipt of the Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Report on Nyalenda “A” Lagoon.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

NOTICE OF MOTION

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT ON
NYALENDA A LAGOON

BY

HON. SAMSON AMESO

CHAIRPERSON, WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Benny Oiko.

The Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Order No. 45, I wish to give a Notice of Motion on Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Report on Nyalenda “A” Lagoon on behalf of Hon. Samson Ameso. Chairperson, Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the notice has been given and I want to direct that the House Business Committee to slot the report for debate in the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

MOTION

WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REPORT ON THE BENCHMARKING
EXERCISE WITH NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

BY

HON. PAMELA ODHIAMBO

CHAIRPERSON, WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed Hon. Pamela Odhiambo.

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunity is one of Select Committees of the County Assembly of Kisumu, though its mandate is not clearly stipulated in the Standing Orders. The committee may study matters referred to it by the County Assembly or on its own initiative, undertake studies within its areas of responsibility.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the Select Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities, pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Orders no. 163 (c) and 182; it is my pleasant pleasure and privilege to present to this House the Report on Benchmarking exercise by the Committee with the Nairobi City County Assembly counterparts and other sectors from 27th Feb to 3rd Mach, 2020. The main objective of the benchmarking was to compare notes on the management of the welfare of members and staff at Nairobi County Assembly with a view of implementing the best practices at Kisumu County Assembly.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

The committee of Welfare and Equal Opportunity mandate is to take care of the Welfare of Members of the Assembly and Staff to ensure Equal Opportunity to all.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities resolved to undertake a benchmarking visit to Nairobi City County having done background research and getting to know how the County Government of Nairobi City have implemented the welfare programs. The benchmarking was also one of the Committee's activities amongst others as indicated in its work plan.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities as currently constituted comprised of the following Members: -

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Pamela Odhiambo | - | Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon. Sally Okudo | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. | Hon. Olga Aoko | - | Member |
| 4. | Hon. Judith Ogaga | - | Member |
| 5. | Hon. Julius Genga | - | Member |
| 6. | Hon. Joachim Oketch | - | Member |
| 7. | Hon. Victor Rodgers | - | Member |
| 8. | Hon. Prisca Auma | - | Member |

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- | | | | |
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| 9. | Hon. George Ogutu | - | Member |
| 10. | Hon. Maurice Ngeta | - | Member |
| 11. | Hon. George Abaja | - | Member |
| 12. | Hon. Caren Oguok | - | Member |
| 13. | Hon. Philemon Ojuok | - | Member |
| 14. | Hon. Ken Ooko | - | Member |
| 15. | Hon. Caleb Omoro | - | Member |

Secretariat:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Benard Abuodha | - | Assistant Clerk |
| 2. | Mr. David Ayieko | - | Committee Clerk |
| 3. | Dennis Onyango | - | Hansard |
| 4. | Mr. William Ogada | - | Serjeant-At-Arms |

During the said visit, the following members represented the Committee

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Pamela Odhiambo | - | Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon. Sally Okudo | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. | Hon. Aslam Khan | - | Member |
| 4. | Hon. Judith Ogaga | - | Member |
| 5. | Hon. Julius Genga | - | Member |
| 6. | Hon. Joachim Oketch | - | Member |
| 7. | Hon. Victor Rodgers | - | Member |
| 8. | Hon. Prisca Auma | - | Member |
| 9. | Hon. George Ogutu | - | Member |
| 10. | Hon. Maurice Ngeta | - | Member |
| 11. | Hon. Steve Owiti | - | Member |
| 12. | Hon. George Abaja | - | Member |
| 13. | Hon. Caren Oguok | - | Member |
| 14. | Hon. Philemon Ojuok | - | Member |
| 15. | Hon. Ken Ooko | - | Member |
| 16. | Hon. Caleb Omoro | - | Member |
| 17. | Mr. David Ayieko | - | Committee Clerk |
| 18. | Dennis Onyango | - | Hansard |
| 19. | Mr. William Ogada | - | Serjeant-At-Arms |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Special appreciation goes to Hon. Speaker Kisumu County Assembly, his officers and Members of the County Assembly Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities, and staff who participated in the benchmarking. The Committee would wish to extend its gratitude to the office of the Assembly Clerk for the support towards the planning and facilitating the benchmarking visit.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my pleasant duty, pursuant to Standing Order No.182, to present the Report of the Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities on the Benchmarking with the Nairobi County Assembly for consideration by the House.

OBJECTIVES

The deliberations focused on the following key areas/issues: -

1. How the Nairobi City County Assembly has implemented car loan and mortgage for the members and staff of the County Assembly.
2. How the medical scheme and life assurance policy is organized and managed.
3. Distribution of leadership positions amongst members of the County Assembly.
4. How Nairobi City County Assembly has implemented the constitutional requirement of a third (1/3) gender rule.
5. Assembly restaurant.
6. Any other issue concerning welfare of Members of County Assembly and Staff.

The committee visited various offices including restrooms and other sanitation areas. It also had lengthy deliberations with various departments and committees namely;

- Loans committee
- Human resource officers
- Committee on selection
- Committee services
- Administrations officers
- Staff welfare committee

FINDINGS

Mr. Speaker sir,

1. The following were the findings; -

2. The sanitation services i.e. washrooms are maintained by a contracted cleaning services firm. This has made the service providers to provide quality service to the Nairobi City county Assembly as the process of awarding the contract had been competitive.
3. Medical scheme is budgeted for and is offered in line with the SRC guidelines. A market survey is done on firms dealing with medical insurance and procurement process is followed according to the procurement laws and regulations. The winning bidder is then invited to brief members of the Assembly and Staff on their products.
4. On bereavement, a welfare is created under the societies Act, whereby a constitution is developed and approved in the Assembly. The medical/life assurance cover also entails the same.
5. Assembly restaurant/Canteen is established in the Assembly to provide tea and snacks only. The canteen is run by the Staff welfare which is registered by the registrar of societies. The hospitality staff working at the canteen are hired by the welfare committee.
6. The Assembly has a fully furnished Members lounge with pigeonholes for each Member.
7. The Nairobi City County Assembly has a comprehensive Car loan and Mortgage scheme. It is well expressed in their Nairobi City County Car Loan and Mortgage Fund Act and is in line with the SRC circulars. The loans committee is enshrined in the Act and has the following membership;

- Leader of Majority.
- Leader of Minority.
- Majority Whip.
- Minority Whip.
- 3 staff elected by the staff.
- 4 members nominated amongst the members County Assembly.

RECOMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker sir, the following are the committee recommendations:

1. That, the Assembly Board should consider contracting a cleaning services firm to maintain sanitation of the Assembly, especially the washrooms, offices. This would make the services be provided professionally by the contracted company.
2. That, medical firms that win tenders to offer medical and life assurance covers annually must be invited to brief members of the Assembly and Staff on their products in details. This should be done to enable members be taught on the services provided by the companies by their qualified experts.

3. That, the Assembly should establish an Assembly restaurant/Canteen and be well funded in the budget to enhance productivity. The canteen would generate income that could be used to provide other services to members.
4. That, all the committees work to go hand in hand with the implementation committee to ensure that all the resolutions of the House are implemented.
5. That, the Assembly establishes a fully furnished Members lounge with pigeonholes for each Member and also provide members especially the leadership with furnished offices.
6. That, the Kisumu County Mortgage and Loan Fund Act be repealed in order to cure the few loop holes in the current Act.

CONCLUSION

The committee wishes to inform the members of the house to adopt the report and the recommendations listed to consider borrowing from the County Assembly of Nairobi City and apply the same at Kisumu County Assembly to compel the welfare of members and the staffs to higher standards. May I request Hon. George Ogutu to second the report?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. George Oluoch Ogutu, MCA, West Nyakach Ward.

Hon. Ogutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Am privileged to second this important motion and I want to confirm that I was part and parcel of this committee and we did go to Nairobi. I want to begin by mentioning that we as an Assembly must have a place where we can have some tea and refreshments. Nairobi City Assembly has a Restaurant and it has served the Members and the staff as expected. We also realized that the restaurant is run by the staff welfare and budget for the same is well taken care of. I believe that this is the way to go.

Mr. Speaker, we were also enlightened on how the Car and Mortgage Loan is handled at the City Assembly and it was very clear how the Members and the staff are benefiting. This kitty is under a number of staffs and Members.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that I saws that attracted my attention, it that, these funds have to be channeled where it is intended. If it is funds meant for Mortgage, this system is elaborate and if it is for that particular fund, you have to get a Mortgage for either a House or for the Purchase of Land. They must ensure that, your purchase land, because when we interrogated them further, we found out that, after the end of term of a Hon. Member, some of them go back and sleep in a shack and they decided none of their Hon. Members will ever go back and sleep in a shack. They made sure that each Member had to build a house, if it is not a house, you have to purchase land, and that title for the land are kept by that Committee until you exit your term is when the committee will release the final copies of the collaterals.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that even in Kisumu County, we can emulate this. We believe that, the most important thing in the life of a human being is shelter. If a human being can get access to shelter, I believe that is critical. As a House, let us borrow a leaf from this report so that, we

model our system the way Nairobi City has done there's. So, that, at the expiry of every term of a Hon. Members, he or she will be proud of owning land or a house.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Hon. Members are eager to contribute on this motion and recommendations of this report presented to this House by this House Committee. I implore Hon. Members to approve this report because it affects their welfare and it is not only that, it affects their families and I believe it is pertinent if you have somewhere to shelter your family. Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I second this report, to enable Hon. Members walk together in this journey and for those who will be joining after us, can get somewhere to start from. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, now that the Report by the Standing Committee of Welfare and Equal Opportunity has been presented by the Chairperson, Hon. Pamela Odhiambo, MCA, Manyatta "B" and seconded by Hon. George Ogutu, Deputy Leader of Minority and MCA, West Nyakach Ward. I want to propose a question that, the report is now open for debate?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Miruka, MCA, North Nyakach.

Hon. Miruka: Thank you Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members. Foremost, please allow me to applaud the Committee of Welfare and Equal Opportunity who had the privilege to travel to Nairobi and today reporting to this House what they were able to gather from their sister Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that, the report is good and if you look at the document, it is not very far from the position that we have at the moment. We need to as well appreciate the steps that we have made so far as an Assembly. I am going to be particular in one item that I saw in their findings. That is on Bereavement that they stated in their findings that, Bereavement is established under the Societies Act. In their recommendations, it was not captured. So, I want that, as much as we will adopt that, we also need to look into that, since that will really support the Welfare of Kisumu County Assembly Members and Staff.

Mr. Speaker, there is equally another challenge that I have witnessed which I believe that, they also ought to have looked into and brought to this House to help guide us. We believe that at the moment, they highlighted on hiring a professional body to take care of Cleaning Services within the precincts of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I believe that as we speak, we have contracted staff that are doing those duties. I am not seeing where they have specified where they will take those employees performing these duties. I am worried because, if we take these employees home, then we will have brought another problem for us. Mr. Speaker, this is a noble idea of Outsourcing for Professional Cleaning Service to perform these duties with diligence. I believe that the Committee would have gone further to ask what will happened to those staff that were previously hired to take care of the cleaning services.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude, I equally want to be in concurrence on the issues to do with the Medical Insurance Cover as practiced in Nairobi City County Assembly. This is a very positive idea. Mr. Speaker, just a week ago, we were embarrassed when one of us was sick and hospitalized and the policy could not allow for part of the policy to take care of a Member. Unfortunately, this embarrassed us although the Medical Insurance's stated it is well spelt out in the policy but they never brought it on board for us to internalize it. So, it is always very important that, if we contract a Medical Insurance firm and we have anybody that has some connection with us, then there is need to share with us on the policies so that we are aware what services they offer and we are aware what is expected of us at any given time. Otherwise, I support the adoption of this report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Khan, Vice-chairperson, County Budget and Appropriations Committee and specially elected by the ODM Party.

Hon. Khan: Thank you Mr. Speaker and also thank you for referring to the ODM Party because it is the most popular party to refer to in Kenya and I appreciate the comments you have made by recognizing that recently in your ward you left your seat to be competitively competed by Members of the ODM Party and that shows that ODM is the party to watch. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I arise to support this report but with few remarks here and there. As may be the issue that Members of the Assembly are entitled to getting Car Loan of Kshs 2,000,000.00 and Mortgage Loan facility of Kshs 3,000,000.00. Mr. Speaker, my only bone of contention would be that, if today I decide to purchase a House of Kshs 3,000,000.00 in Kisumu County. Where would I get a house of Kshs 3,000,000.00 because Mortgage is only facilitating for me to get a House. Once I have taken a credit of this amount which is Kshs 2,000,000.00 on the Car though it is regulated by the Salaries and Regulations Commission (SRC) and this applies across board. Surely, can I be able to get a Kshs 3,000,000.00 house?

Secondly, the issue of saying that we should surrender our collaterals, agreement or whatever including the Logbooks when we purchase these vehicles or the Mortgage for the purposes of the Leases or Title Deeds. The issue here is that, I remember Nairobi City County had declined to these proposed regulations and stated that thier Salary Slips is a sure guarantee in itself. This is because we are being given credits on the strengths of our salary slips and that of the contract that we have for five years. So, the issue here is, whether we do it which way or the other way. My own personal view would be that, let them, or if we are going to adopt this report, we make concrete resolutions that the Salary Slips should remain as a guaranteed factor rather than having all these other documents brought to the Assembly and kept in safe custody rather than not being endorsed by any encumbrances.

Finally, on the Washrooms. It is a noble idea on bringing on board the Cleaning Services if it can be professionally undertaken. Mr. Speaker, the issue here would be, how good would this be there to what we have or are we going to have and the other issue would be if we go the way

other Counties are doing it by Outsourcing of Cleaning Services as has been mentioned by Hon. Ogutu and in Uasin Gishu we saw the difference. Here we will see if we can have change for the purposes of our own hygiene and sanitation within the jurisdictions of the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue is of the Lounge and Cafeteria. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for having taken an initiative of ensuring that breakfast is offered in this institution, which we enjoy a lot. This shows that there is progress on my earlier concern. I request that in future, we have a permanent place specifically set for a Cafeteria as other Counties have done. This will be an exemplary example and a showcase to Members who will be coming here in future. Otherwise, I want to support this report but with an exception of the part where they want us to do our guaranteeing and surrender our logbooks and title deeds rather than using the slips for the same, thank you.

Hon. Ogutu: Point of information Mr. Speaker

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Ogutu, who do you want to inform?

Hon. Ogutu: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed

Hon. Ogutu: On a point of Information. Mr. Speaker, I believe that, Hon. Khan is not being truthful because whatever we captured in Nairobi County is similarly applied in Kisumu County. I gave out my title deed to this Assembly and if Hon. Khan wants his to be the slip then he can also do so by coming out clear on it because the recommendations from the committee is hardly affecting what was already in play. We are all aware that we gave out our title deeds, and probably if he did not do so then, he should tell us. That is the information I wanted to pass to Hon. Khan, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Aslam Khan I know you have been mentioned in the information and I will give you two minutes to react to the claim.

Hon. Khan: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I do accept but, the question isn't whether I deposited my title deed or not. I am talking in the context of prosperity and if this can be tamed. I remember vividly when the Governor of Nairobi (Mike Mbuvi) saying that the slips are a guarantee rather than bringing all those other documents. The majority of members in the City Council of Nairobi adopted that idea and that's why I was of the opinion that we adopt the same. I went further by saying that in Kisumu, you can hardly even get a cowshed homestead worth Kshs. 3,000,000.0 million shillings, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I have noticed the Leader of Minority, Hon. Benny Oiko Pete, and then the Chief Whip Hon. Priscah Misachi.

The Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend the committee for the work well done but with some reservations. When we look at the issue Of Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme, it helps members to get their new cars and shelters. However, it is high time we expressed this to the authority that the allocation is inadequate for both cars and houses. When we do not express our dissatisfaction and bring to table our argument on an increment on the same, so that we fit in comfort with modern cars that have safety gears rather than just cars...

Hon. Miruka: Point of Information Mr. Speaker

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Who do you want to inform Hon. Rashid Miruka?

Hon. Miruka: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes proceed; Hon. Oiko let me give Hon. Rashid first before you continue.

Hon. Miruka: Point of Information. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am checking through the document as it is but. I haven't seen a place that states the exact amount that the Car Loan and Mortgage should be and yet, so far two Members have cited it specifically Hon. Khan and Hon. Oiko. I want to believe that we were discussing what is cited in the document but not any other additional information.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you, Yes Hon. Pete I have heard you being mentioned so you can respond to Hon. Rashid Miruka as you proceed with your submission.

The Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker, when we raise an issue we must know the specifics of that particular issue. The Car Loan or Mortgage's appearance in the report is not just for the sake but for the reason it affects the Members. The effect here is therefore the allocation it is accorded. When a committee goes out to do its research, we do a comparison and see whether what we are being allocated is either adequate or inadequate, and then, the authority will get concerned with our dissatisfaction. Otherwise, if we just want to talk for the sake of discussion then there is no one who is going to take us seriously.

Mr. Speaker, another issue that has been highlighted here is the Medical Scheme. It is great that we have the Medical Scheme but are Members satisfied with the medical scheme? We know that the value of the Outpatient and Inpatient are set at Kshs. 200,000.00 and Kshs. 2,000,000.00 million respectively. Are members satisfied with the same? There is an outcry that the outpatient money gets finished long before the end of the FY, and we know that these calculations are done at a stern level where recommendations are made. So, when we express our outcry on the pinch we are having on the same, then, the authority will have to be concerned as well. Failure to do so will not make anyone know the problems we are facing. Otherwise I want to support the report

and plead that going forward; we need to be specific by weighing out what we have been given against what it is to us, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): **Hon. Members**, I have noticed you Hon. Steve Owiti but I had promised to give chance to Senior Member and Chief Whip, Hon. Priscah Misachi. So let her go first

The Chief Whip (Hon. Misachi): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to support the report and plead for its adoption. I want to tell Members that our journey with Car Loan and Mortgage was not an easy task. In the first Assembly, we met the President and echoed what we wanted such as Grants like our counterparts in the National Assembly, it did not materialize. What later came was that the SRC recommended the Car and Mortgage to that tune then we said it was better than not having it at all. I believe that, we can still ask persistently the increase of both Car Loan and Mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Health Insurance Cover. It is true that the outpatient cover is quite inadequate. I usually wonder where the inpatient money goes to because, even after the elapse of the FY the money still doesn't come to the County Assembly but goes to the Insurance Firm and yet it is quite a lot. We should therefore put a lot of money where several people visit rather than on the part that is not used up. If it is something that doesn't need legal issues and can be corrected by the Laws of this House then, we had better do so.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that our report covered vast areas but, the area that I took upon myself to work on is the keying in at committee levels when Members are attending different House Committees. However, I also know that we have few committee rooms, but when we will be termed as achievers, is when we will have our own Modern Assembly constructed, we will have a chance of having biometric keying in system.

When we have a Modern Assembly, we will have a place to do biometric keying in of those present. When we get there, nobody will play; we will not have instances of delay or ringing of quorum bells because you will be paid based on your attendance captured biometrically.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you because, in the First Assembly, there were no improvements that we are seeing. This place now looks like a modern Assembly yet, it has not reached that standard but I believe it will.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Deputy Leader of Majority, Hon. Misachi is on the floor; whom do you want to inform?

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Ogendo): I want to inform Hon. Misachi.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, proceed.

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Ogendo): Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether the Chief Whip, being a senior member of this House is accepting before you that she has failed in her work of whipping Members to come and attend the Assembly. I don't know what she is implying by her statement on biometric registration.

The Chief Whip (Hon. Misachi): Mr. Speaker, you only whip somebody who is within the premises of the Assembly. But somebody who has decided to stay at home the way he has been doing cannot be whipped. Thank you.

(Applause)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Jagongo, I promised to give Hon Steve Owiti and the Members who are speaking, Hon Misachi had requested that somebody to educate her on how insurance firms work. She was wondering that if she has never been admitted for one year, where is the money that is going for her insurance go to?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I am seeing Hon. Aslam Khan up, are you on a Point of Order?

Hon. Khan: You asked if somebody can educate the senior Member, Hon. Misachi. I don't know if I can do it now or I do it later. It will depend on how you want it done.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Steve Owiti, are you donating your time to Hon. Khan to do the same?

Hon. Owiti: No, Mr. Speaker. I want to contribute to this motion.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): The senior Member has objected, she doesn't want to be informed again. She has changed her mind. So, Hon. Owiti, please proceed.

Hon. Owiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the Hon. Members of this House. In want to support the recommendations that have been made by the Members of this committee. I congratulate the committee for a job well done. Going through this report, there is a clear indication that there is a lot that needs to be done so that we will able to improve not only on our welfare but also on our performance.

Mr. Speaker, from the day we were sworn in as Members of this Second Assembly of Kisumu, there are issues we have always continued to discuss and ask that the management of this Assembly look into. I also want to appreciate the fact that we are on the right direction because a few things have improved compared to when we started. This committee has raised a few pertinent issues. On the issue of Medical Insurance, I want to agree with the Members that we need to renegotiate about patient cover. When you look at the amount that is covered, they always exhaust this amount long before the financial year ends. In the next financial year, as we negotiate for the cover that will take care of our Outpatient, we need to agree to add more on the Outpatient cover. This is because most of us do not love to stay in hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, again, what is coming out of this report is that there is need to have a modern Assembly. Most of the things that have been suggested here, if we don't look at Car and Mortgage, confirms the need to have a Modern Assembly to take care of some of the issues raised here once and for all. In the last budget, there is an amount that was approved for the Construction of the Modern Assembly and I want to plead with this House that we continue to vigorously follow up on the matter of land so that the Executive can allow this Assembly to have the land where we can construct a modern facility that will be able to take care of most of the things that have been mentioned in this report. If we continue to invest in this old facility, it will be wasted funds.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme. I want to agree with this committee that there is need to repeal this law. I believe that, is within the powers of the Assembly to make laws governing our Car Loans and Mortgages. It doesn't make sense that you would be applying for money and you are expected to give collateral – like a title deed which is very costly. Let it be known that, the salaries and the allowances which we earn from the Assembly stand as a surety for the loans that we get. We need to look at the laws that govern our Car Loans and Mortgages so that, we repeal them and make laws that are for posterity so that the Members who would be elected in the next Assembly and the others that would follow would not be subjected to the kind of ridicule that we are going through. I support the report and reiterate that all our energy should be geared towards Constructing a New and Modern Assembly. Even if we don't finish the construction of the new Assembly, let it stand as our legacy project as a Second Assembly; that we were able to do something that the people of Kisumu will appreciate. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Maureen Otiang'.

Hon. Otiang': Thank you Mr. Speaker. I give thumbs up to the committee of Welfare. But I want to say that their recommendation number 1 talking about Washrooms. This is something we have even discussed in this Assembly. When we visited Nairobi County Assembly, we found it very clean; there is neither water problem nor lack of tissue paper. I believe that is why they recommending that we outsource for Professional Cleaning Services. It is usually very common that when people are given jobs, they take it for granted. That is why, the people who are in charge of cleaning in Assembly, know they are already working and will be paid no matter what. That is why they are not taking their work seriously.

So, I believe that, somebody who is contracted can do these work with diligence because if they don't work, their contract will be terminated. I believe that, the recommendation is valid and I support is fully.

Mr. Speaker, the other recommendation that I believe needs to be addressed, is the issues of the Medical Insurance. Mr. Speaker, firms that are offering medical cover should come and educate their clients on what services are covered in their policies. So, that we are made aware of all the

parameter on where the line is drawn on insuring us. Like what my fellow Hon. Members have cited, one of us was taken ill, he could not get access to treatment because of the intricacies of these policies. So, moving forward, let the Board recommend that whoever is contracted to offer these services, because they usually bid in a pool, let all these firms appear before the Assembly and educate us on what policies they offer. It is from there, is when we will pick the best service provider to ensure that we get value for money. This is because you will find firms that come bid and win these tenders and we are not made aware of what policies they are offering to us in their covers. I believe that recommendation No. 2 is key and should be taken into consideration, because our “Health is our Wealth” and therefore we require the best.

Mr. Speaker, I am also in concurrence with the Committee that, Members should equally be facilitated with Pigeon Holes. This is where we can be getting our communication because somebody may have stepped out and there is a document that the said Hon. Member is supposed to get. Mr. Speaker, when you have a Pigeon Hole where your communications can be deposited, there will be no option as opposed to the person with your communicate goes around looking for you, or ask that it be left with the Security Guards at the gate, which I believe is not correct because in the process, it can get lost and I believe that is a pertinent recommendation.

Mr. Speaker, when we speak of the Car and Mortgage Loan Facility. It is imperative that we talk to our umbrella body County Assemblies Forum (CAF). This is because we are Members of CAF. Therefore, our representatives can forward our prayers and appeal that we are servicing Loans and Mortgages as the representatives of the people. The Members here always wake up in their respective Wards and you are confronted with your constituents who are in dire need of help in one way or the other. So, we are really burdened; it would be in good gestures that whatever we are given in terms of the loans and mortgages should be advanced to us as grants. Mr. Speaker, we can also appeal through our umbrella body which is the CAF and get a way-forward. Mr. Speaker, Kshs 2,000,000.00 cannot purchase a 4x4 vehicle built for rough terrains. This is because most of us come from where there are no proper road networks and it becomes difficult to traverse these rough terrains with our vehicles. Mr. Speaker, Kshs 2,000,000.00 will only give you a second hand car which is not built for rough terrains. Mr. Speaker, because we are always coming from the grassroots, it is important that this issue is raised.

Mr. Speaker, we can also forward our recommendations to CAF on Car and Mortgage Loan Facility to be considered as a Grant as opposed to Loans.

Finally, curiously, the Committee highlighted an issue which I found to be of interest, that in Nairobi City County Assembly that Composition of the Car and Mortgage Loan Facility Membership, I read it somewhere, let me go back and point it out in the report. Mr. Speaker, I have found it, The Assembly Composition of the Car and Mortgage Loan Facility Membership as follows;

1. The Leader of Majority;

2. The Leader of Minority;
3. The Chief Whip;
4. The Minority Whip
5. Three Staff elected by Staff
6. Four Members nominated amongst Members.

Mr. Speaker, I found this of interest and I have requested that we talk about it, even if we don't, we can bring it up in another forum maybe in our *Kamukunji*, so that we also explore that. This is because sometimes there could be issues that needs to be addressed in that forum regarding this. Otherwise, this is a good report and an eye-opener and I applaud the Members of this Committee and thank you for the good work. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Jagongo.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I have noticed you Hon. Beatrice Pamela, you will contribute next after Hon. Jagongo.

Hon. Jagongo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also want to echo my voice in support of the adoption of this report.

Mr. Speaker, as we await for the Construction of the Modern Assembly, there are a few things that we can work on when it comes to issue of the Cafeteria or the Canteen. I believe that it is long overdue and we need to have a Cafeteria. Mr. Speaker, if you can recall, the other day you banned the hawking of food in this Assembly, and you must be aware that staff buy these hawked food because they are cheap and we all aware of the quote that "cheap is expensive". We can design something similar to a canteen, and establish it within our compound so that we can be accessing food even if it means that buying from that canteen for our Members so that we are sure of whatever we are consuming. This is because we are not aware of the quality of food that we receive from vendors that is being sold to Members and staff of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that, with the designs for the Construction of the new Modern Assembly, we need to ensure that provision is made for facilities like the Gymnasium. There are Members who can benefit from this facility and the Restaurants. Let these facilities be included in the design works. Mr. Speaker, what is not coming out clear in this report, is the amount for the Car and Mortgage Loan Facility given to Members of the Nairobi City County Assembly comparable to what we as Members of the County Assembly of Kisumu are getting. Mr. Speaker, if it is the same, then we need to talk to CAF as other Members have reiterated so that we either get Grants or Increase the Amounts allocated for the facility. This is because the amount that is there, may not be adequate for a good car. Mr. Speaker, I beg to support, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Beatrice Pamela.

Hon. Beatrice Pamela: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to support this report. Mr. Speaker, my input would be to inform that House that some of these recommendations are beyond our purview. Mr. Speaker, for example when we talk on the issue of Medical Insurance Cover. Yes, it may not be sufficient, but that is what is captured in the SRC. Basically, the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) cannot do anything unless we petition the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) to review the caps that they have put on the Outpatient, Inpatient, Dental and Optical Covers. This equally goes for the Car and Mortgage Scheme Loans. Otherwise, I beg to support the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Deputy Leader of Majority, Hon. Ogendo.

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Ogendo): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to be in concurrence with the recommendations given by this Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would only request that, if the Committee had the chance to visit the Debating Chambers of the City Assembly taking into consideration the status of our Chambers with regards to the accessories they have like the air conditioners. I would really wish to get recommendations with regards to the same.

Mr. Speaker, considering the recommendations of how to furnish the Members' Lounge, Pigeon Holes and the Construction of a Cafeteria for Hon. Members. I believe that, under your able leadership, we will be constructing a New Modern County Assembly and it is my belief that, with the construction of the new Assembly these recommendations will be included in the design. With those few remarks, I stand to support. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Ngeta, MCA, Awasi/Onjiko.

Hon. Ngeta: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Going by the mood of the House, for the first time, I want to call upon the mover to reply?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Member, why is it that Hon. Ngeta for the first time requesting the mover to reply?

(Laughter)

Hon. Ngeta: Mr. Speaker, I have never done so, but today I am compelled to do so.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Fair enough. Anyway, Hon. Pamela Odhiambo the floor is yours, can you please reply?

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all Hon. Members who have contributed to this report.

Mr. Speaker, when it always comes to the welfare of Members of this Assembly, we always get responses from outside, this is because, and people believe that we should not speak about our welfare. I would really want to say that, this is a very important House Committee because it touches on the welfare of Hon. Members and staff included.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that this committee is a very important committee because it will look into your own welfare starting with the Car Loan and Mortgage that we are given. Most of us go home without building House and buying these cars. When we visited Nairobi County Assembly, they told us that in the last Assembly some of their Members did not bother building a House or buying a car and the Assembly was really suffering. They sat down and made sure that when you are elected or nominated in the Assembly and you are given these funds then they make sure that you have one. They would not like to see Hon. Members suffer after the lapse of tenure.

Mr. Speaker, concerning the Washrooms that we have in this Assembly. We only have two staffs that clean these toilets. I always hate to see men cleaning women toilets in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, women always visit moon and we discard our sanitary towels in the waste baskets. I would not like to see anybody's father taking care of my sanitary towel. Maybe a lady like me or a woman should do that for me because, we put them in a very safe place. That is why we said that we need to get some people to come and do the cleaning for us.

Secondly, as I stand here, I have two private parts that after going to the toilet I need to clean them. We have substandard tissue rolls in the toilet. I do not want to clean my private part and then leave foreign particles because we will come out with diseases that we might not treat. Mr. Speaker, our welfare must be looked at properly. Sometimes there is no water in our washrooms, and when you don't have water in the washrooms, I believe you know what happens. This is not healthy for us and that is the reason as to why it is important that the welfare committee takes care of everybody in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, when we say that we want to invite the Insurance Companies, we don't invite them so that we can give them jobs. This is something that is done by the Procurement Department. We want to invite several of these Service Providers (Medical Insurance Firms) so that they sell us their policies. When they go back the Procurement Department will decide on which to give that tender.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that you gave us the opportunity to go out and share with the Nairobi County Assembly. We always get our letters late. Today I got a letter from your Clerk. A letter should be put in my Pigeon Hole. Therefore, when I come I should get my letter there. It is not right for the Clerk to walk with these letters looking for Hon. Members. I believe when we will be having our new Assembly then, we are going to take care of all those things. When we visited Nairobi, the Budget and Appropriations Committee had its own office. Their Clerk is always there and when the Chairperson comes with the Members they share. All the committees have

their rooms while in this Assembly we have only two Committee Rooms that we share. I believe that you are going to take care of that when we have our new Assembly. I would also like to request that we start building the new Assembly before we go out so that, those who will come in will have the new Assembly. We are only here for five years; we have already taken 3 years. Therefore I would like to plead with the Hon. Members to adopt the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you Hon. Members. I believe that, that was a very good report. You are aware that, most of the times Members take the time discussing matters of their constituents but we rarely take time to discuss matters affecting the Members. Before I put the question, I want to confirm that we are in the process of identifying a team for the Construction of the Modern Assembly and I believe that most of the matters that are said here will be included and be part of the Design and the Planning on the Modern Assembly.

Hon. Members, pursuant to the provisions of our Standing Orders on the rule so debate, once a report has been presented, seconded, debated and a reply made; it is time that we put a question for the adoption of the Welfare and Equal Opportunity Report on the Benchmarking Exercise within Nairobi County Assembly as presented by Hon. Pamela Odhiambo the Chairperson of Welfare and Equal Opportunity committee?

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, the report by the Welfare and Equal Opportunity as presented by Hon. Pamela Odhiambo the Chairperson of Welfare and Equal Opportunity Committee on the Benchmarking Report with Nairobi County Assembly and the amendments therein is hereby adopted today Wednesday 07th October 2020 at 1602 hours.

Hon. Members, I further recommend that the same resolutions be communicated to the County Assembly of Kisumu Service Board (CASB) for considerations. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next Order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): There being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to Thursday 8th October 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 4.05 p.m.)

