

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FIRST SESSION

Wednesday 09th November, 2022

House met in the Main Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRAYER

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Madam Clerk take us through the Order Paper of today.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Members, this is just a further reminder that in the morning I communicated that I received a letter from the Governor requesting that we schedule the Governor's First State of the County Address to the Third Assembly on Tuesday 15th November, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. in the Chambers. I request all the Members to be on time and we will guide as appropriate on what happens on that day.

Honorable Members, I also want to communicate that on 07th November, 2022, a Member representing us in the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) Hon. Mickey Ochieng presented herself for the election as the Deputy Organizing Secretary and she was elected to represent all the MCAs in Kenya in the said office.

Honorable Members, I also want to communicate that; I was elected as the Chair of Nyanza cluster. That is Kisumu, Homa Bay, Nyamira, Kisii, Migori and Siaya Counties. I was also elected to represent the Speakers as the Whip in the Speaker's Chapter. That is a boost for Nyanza and Assembly as whole. On behalf of those who were elected in CAF, I want to commit that we shall champion for your interest in the County Assemblies Forum. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

STATEMENTS

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

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly of Kisumu Standing Order No. 41 (2) (a) and (b), I wish to seek a Statement from the Chairperson, Cooperatives, Finance and Enterprise Development Committee on the general safety of trade merchandise in Sondu Market in South East Nyakach Ward.

Mr. Speaker, the market is currently lacking any security arrangement thus exposing the trade wares in increased cases of theft of goods in the market. In the response, the Chairperson should provide details of market security arrangements and general market management mechanism that the department has put in place to offer sustainable safety and security services to the merchandise and trade wares in Sondu market.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to proceed to my second statement.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Please do so.

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly of Kisumu Standing Order No. 41 (2) (a) and (b), I wish to seek a Statement from the Chairperson, Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee on the perennial lack of cleanliness and hygienic condition in Sondu and Nyabondo markets despite continued and uninterrupted collection of revenue from the traders.

In the response, the Chairperson should provide for explanation

1. Why there are no officers or personnel employed by the County Government to offer the requisite market cleaning services and maintenance of general hygiene in Sondu and Nyabondo markets thus exposing traders and general public to unfounded filth with eminent health risk especially cholera and related public health epidemics.
2. Give details of the plans that the Department has to provide sustainable and uninterrupted clean and accessible water in adequate quantities that has been lacking in the two markets.

3. Provide details of the plans that the department has to offer immediate exhausting of toilets in Sondu market as well as construction public toilets and provision of lighting system in the two markets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, those are Statements by Hon. Lumumba Owade. The Deputy Leader of Majority. I want to commit his fast Statement to Cooperatives, Finance and Enterprise Development Committee and as per our Standing Orders, you have a maximum of two weeks to give feedback and please adhere to the time line. There is a good in number of you in that House Committee, you can decide on who to acts on what.

Honorable Members, I also want to commit the second statement to Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. We expect your feedback within a period of two weeks. It is Statement time!

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

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to a Statement that was sought two weeks ago by Hon. Tom Nyaoke. Member for North Nyakach. The question was in two parts but I will respond on the second part.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Part one was give details if there is any to help the situation by Wavering the Mortuary and Hospital Expenses following the fire incident Adu Blossom at Katito.

Honorable Members, I want to report that the department has agreed to do partial waiver for both the mortuary and hospital. Partial in the sense that the parents of the victims will have to pay little for the waiver to be effected. We understand that there is one person who died the other day. So, they have agreed to clear the bill and partial waiver for the mortuary bill but, they will do partial waiver for the ones that are still in hospital. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Tom Nyaoke.

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I really want to thank the Honourable Member who is also the Chair for Health and Sanitation Committee for the good job. The parents of the victims are waiting for my feedback this afternoon and I must appreciate that at least I have some good news for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you Hon. Nyaoke. We will liaise with the Chair so that you get finer details of the response. I want to appreciate that the Chair Health Committee heed to the call that we made this morning. He did it very fast. He walked there and got the feedback because it was a matter of urgency.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed Hon. Jagongo.

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. There was also a Statement that was sought by Hon. Nancy Matara on the maternal death at JOOTRH. It was also in parts. Part one was talking about the number of maternal deaths since January 2022. I want to report as follows;

That, in January there were 4 deaths and most of them were from other facilities like Chulaimbo, St. Joseph Ombo, St. Elizabeth Chiga and Chalbit. In the month of February, there were two deaths, March four deaths, April one death reported, May three deaths were reported.

Perinatal still births.

Months	Fresh Still Birth	Macerated Still Birth	Perinatal Deaths	Referrals
January	5	10	29	33
February	2	5	21	28
March	6	8	32	24
April	12	6	14	21
May	5	8	19	24
June	3	9	13	23
July	1	12	19	33
August	3	14	17	32
September	10	19	20	34
Totals	47	91	184	252

Totaling to 22 maternal deaths that occurred in the hospital.

The next question was Infant Mortality Rate since January this year to date. Mr. Speaker, the total number of deaths in the Month of;

Totaling to 252 prenatal still births.

Neonatal Death Rate;

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the indicator is calculated as the number of newborns who died during the first 28 days (0-27days) of life per 1000 live births in health facilities during a specified time period. (Number of newborns who died during the first 28 days [0-27 days] of life in health facility during a specified time period divide by the Total number of live births in health facilities during a specified time period). To compute the rate per 1000 births, the numerator is divided by the denominator and multiplied by 1000.

The third Question was; the number of Medical Doctors, Nurses, and Consultants attached to the Maternity Wards.

Mr. Speaker, the Maternity Wards are divided into three units; Labour ward, Postnatal Ward and the New Born Unit. That forms part of the maternity Unit.

Staffing: Nurses

Department	Number of Nurses	County Permanent and Pensionable	County Contract	JOOTRH Contract	Locum
Labour Ward	20	4	4	8	4
Postnatal Ward	15	4	3	4	4
New Born Unit	18	7	3	8	0

Consultants (Obstetrician and Gynecology)

- a) JOOTRH – 4
- b) Maseno University – 4
- c) Uzima University – 2

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, my response is all about the questions that were asked. They were three in number; about the Nurses, Maternal Deaths and Infant Mortality, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I do not know whether Nominated Member Hon. Nancy Matara is in the House. But, as I was listening, I do not know whether the question on mortality rate was well answered. However, let me allow Members to comment on it.

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

Hon. Jagongo (North West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, in addition to the mortality rate, in terms of percentage, it is $70/4344 \times 1000 = 16.11\%$.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, that is because when you talk about rates, they wanted to know the percentage. That is 16.1% Infant Mortality Rate. Honourable Members, as per the Standing Order, I have the freedom to give you some few minutes to commend on the report so may some two or three members who want to contribute. Hon. Ratib.

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda A Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As per the Statement given by our able for Health Housing and Sanitation Committee pertaining to the numbers that he has given, my concern is; was it that the Hon. Members who gave the Statement, wanted to know the figures and the rate then leave the matter at that point or was it that some action to be taken, if at all the numbers were high so as to decrease the numbers. That is my concern Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Were.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B” Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Committee of Health and its chair for a quick response and I want to believe that all the committees should learn by the swift response that has been given by the Health Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am only concerned that through the response we have realized that the percentage of mortality rate is high and I believe that through the chair we want to see what interventions were taken care of so that the chances or the rate can decrease or reduce so that we don't have so many deaths that will be experienced in our hospitals. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Pete.

Hon. Pete (MCA, Kabonyo Kanyagwal Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I don't know that this record had been forwarded to the wall and I am now getting it. I am seeing here situation which may be of concern like when we look at staffing of nurses, I believe that is page 4. The issue of staffing Mr. Speaker may be alarming. The total is twenty, the ones employed on permanent basis are only four. The County has employed four on contract, JOORTH has also employ eight on contract and there are also four employed under locum and this morning there was a petition here that the medics are dissolution, they are not working happily because of their terms and conditions of service.

Mr. Speaker, so when an alarm is raised over a high number of death in our hospital, we need to pay attention to this record because people who are employed on contract and they complain that they have been engaged on contract basis for a long duration, they have become disillusioned. The Chairperson of the Health Committee, I hope this is an issue that will still come up because we have the petition in this House. So, he has defended the hospital and given us a picture that the

death rate is very low as compared to birth rate but more information I hope will come up because of the two three issues that in the statement that is lying before this House. Thank You.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you. I believe that I want to protect Hon. Jagongo, he has not defended the hospital neither has he given the low rates, he has just replied to the statement raised by Hon. Matara and I wish she was here when the statement is being replied because I also don't know, like what Hon. Ratib is asking, if she was here she could have given her response because she knew why she was giving her statement and that is why I always say that your prayer in the statement in the statement is always key. Her prayer was that, one, she want to know the deaths between January to date. Two, she want to know the infant mortality rate to date and three, she want to know the no. of medical staff that is the nurses and the consultants in the infant wards if I am right.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I have noticed Hon. Jagongo is on his feet.

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu Ward): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to reiterate that I have even gone beyond what was requested for.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the questions that were raised, we have responded to all of them but on the issue of Hon. Pete, Mr. Speaker I want to say that there is a concern on the number of nurses flying outside the country going to United Kingdom and Canada because of greener pasture. So it's a concern to the Assembly and we need to look at it and see how we can advise the Executive on the best way possible even if it means employing more nurses in the County so that if they move out of the country it means there will be a shortage in our hospitals. I believe that there is need for the Public Service Board to look into how they can advertise for positions in nursing department so that we can have more nurses to replace those who have left the country.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Emily.

Hon. Emily Oginga (Nominated MCA): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to emphasis more on issue of staffing in the Health sector. This is an issue that is cutting across many of our facilities and that is why you find so many cases coming up on service delivery. When you talk about staffing, you also need to advice the Executive that whenever they carry out expansion of these facilities they should also consider expansion of staffing because you find that the Executive puts up a Maternity Wing in a facility but in very rare occasion do they consider adding extra staffing because in most cases you will find that they will have to get extra nurses to make the facility operational. So, wherever the County Executive establishes a facility with taking into consideration the issues of staffing, it will actually leads to understaffing. That was one of the key issues that came up in most of the facilities that we visited as the Health committee.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about staffing, there is a bit of demoralization because most of the staff are complaining of them staying at a certain level job group for quite some time. So they are also requesting if the County Public Service Board can consider them for promotion. Otherwise, I believe that most of the key issues that arise from the health sector are brought about because of the poor staffing.

The Speaker (Hon. Elisha J. Oraro): Hon. Nyaoke.

Hon. Nyaoke, (MCA, North Nyakach Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The matters of health is very important especially to us and even from where we are coming from. It is normal complaint almost from all quarters within Kisumu County that there is lack of serious employment in terms of health staff. I believe that it will be good service to our people from this House that we really find the reasons and the root cause as to why doctors and nurses cannot be employed. Otherwise, there is no need as to why we are living and building more hospitals if we cannot ensure that the staffing level is dealt with. I only wish to request this House to take more serious considerations in the issue of employment of nurses and doctors in our health facilities. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you. I don't want to be part of the debate but I want to put a challenge that as a House you know you are mandated with three core roles that is; Representation; to represent your people and ensure that their demands are met, Legislation; to make laws that guide whatever is being implemented and to oversight those particular implementations. The question on whether to employ or not to employ is upon you to make decision. This is because I have had the concerns of the Members in regards to the number of staff for the lack of adequate staff in the facilities at the same time there are push for construction of other facilities. All these should be looked into amidst the constraint of resources. How much money do you have by the end of the year? What is the Resource Envelope of the County? And what is the scope of work that you want done?

Honourable Members, it is upon the Health Committee plus any other member who is interested to come up with a possible solution because if you look at it on one way assuming we say that we need X number of staff members in different area/field, how much will it cost by the end of the year? How much do we have? So it is upon the Members to look at it holistically and see what is practicable. Do you cease construction of new facilities, employment and which type of employment? That is a challenge that I am posing to Members that it is us who are representing the people, so we should come up with solutions or recommendations that will ensure that we have sustainable development in Kisumu County. Otherwise I hope that the generator of the statement will be able to get the feedback as appropriate from our Hansard department which is available 24/7. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next Order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, there being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to Thursday, 10th November 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 3.10 p.m.)

Addendum

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