

BARINGO COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD
SPECIAL SITTING

The House met on Wednesday 19th August 2020 at 2:57 PM.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem) in Chair

PRAYERS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Clerk!

STATEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION ISSUES ON RUNDOWN MIDWORLD-MARKISIS ROAD

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Statement 17 of 2020 by Hon. Maureen Cherus MCA Baringo County to the Chairperson transport, and infrastructure committee. Hon. Cherus it is a new statement.

Hon. Cherus: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I seek statement from the Chairperson transport and infrastructure committee on the following matters of concern:

- i. If he is aware that Midworld-Markisis road was allocated Kshs. 5.1 Million Roads Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) in 2017/2018 financial year and an additional Kshs. 4.45 Million in 2018/2019 financial year?
- ii. If he is further aware that the said road was washed away by rains due to poor drainage and lack of culverts?
- iii. What was the scope of work indicated in the two Bill of Quantities (BQ's)? And whether it was adhered to by the contractor.
- iv. Who were the contractors of the said road and did they follow the engineer's guidelines on the road works? And were they paid for the unfinished works like installation of culverts as well as undone sections of the road?
- v. What remedial measures is the county government taking to ensure there is value for taxpayer's money?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you Hon. Cherus...any member from that committee? Hon. Fransisca can take that.

Hon. Fransisca Cheburet: I am a member of transport committee and I seek for two weeks so that we bring detailed information for it needs fact finding.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you, two weeks is okay and the committee to fact find to bring factual information that will be Wednesday 2nd September afternoon session.

(Statement Deferred)

RISE IN GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Another new statement 018 of 2020 again by Hon. Maureen Cherus MCA Baringo County.

Hon. Cherus: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I again seek statement from the Chairperson County Heritage, Gender, Culture and Community Services Committee on the following matters of concern:...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Hon. Member move closer to the microphone to be on record.

Hon. Cherus:..

- i. If she is aware that there are several cases of gender based violence and teenage pregnancies in the county?
- ii. How many cases have been reported in the county so far?
- iii. If she is further aware that the said cases have been aggravated by the covid-19 pandemic where the government directives to contain the spread through imposition of curfew and restriction of movement have resulted in financial constraints especially for families in informal sector?
- iv. What plans and interventions has the county government put in [place to cushion the victims such harsh conditions?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you Hon. Cherus....Chairperson of that committee...any member...the Chief Whip can take it.

Hon. Chepsongol: Mr. Speaker...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): What is your point of concern?

Hon. Rono: Sorry for interruption Mr. Speaker. I do believe that in case of alteration of spellings can change statement in number five has an error.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): What is the error Hon. Member?

Hon. Rono: After the word intervention we can get right information and avoid doubts in getting statements, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Well noted that error be rectified form do to does. Chief whip

Hon. Chepsongol: Mr. Speaker I request on behalf of the committee be given one week from today that is Wednesday 26th in the afternoon we bring an answer Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Very well that is 26th afternoon session.

(Statement Deferred)

LOGISTICS OF RELIEF FOOD SUPPLIES TO VULNERABLE FAMILIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Statement 23 of 2020 by Hon. Ameja Selemoi, MCA, Churo Amaya Ward. Hon. Selemoi welcome.

Hon. Selemoi: Thank you Mr. Speaker I rise to seek statement from the Leader of Majority Party on the following matters of concern:

- i. If he is aware that the County allocated Kshs. 70 million as relief food to cushion vulnerable families and persons during this difficult times of corona pandemic?
- ii. How were the vulnerable families and persons identified and engaged in each location of the County and how many are they (please give a breakdown per sub-location)?
- iii. How many kilos of maize and beans were availed to each beneficiary family or person and how long are the said supplies expected to last before they get a fresh supply of the said food stuffs?
- iv. How many 90kg bags of maize and beans were allocated per sub-location?
- v. For how much were the said maize and beans purchased per bag?
- vi. What was the total cost of transportation from the location of purchase and what are the individual breakdowns of transportation cost to various destinations in the entire County?

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): The Leader of Majority! Chief Whip Hon. Chepsongol

Hon. Chepsongol: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I seek for more time until Thursday 27th August, 2020 and I thank the speaker because this is the way to go and we have to watch the Executive on issues pertaining money.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you. Thursday 27th August, 2020. Hon. Chepsongol

Hon. Chepsongol: Mr. Speaker I request that you direct that this question be forwarded to the Office of the Governor so that by that time we will be having the answer....

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you Chief Whip for that guidance.

What is your point of concern Hon. Selemoi?

Hon. Selemoi: Mr. Speaker, I didn't quite get to know how the Majority Chief Whip wanted this matter to be directed because this is how diversion tactics are played to statements like ours and you know, this is a consignment that has already hit the ground and the documentation is readily available in our system. I don't know why the Majority Chief Whip wanted to divert and translocate this matter elsewhere when even the Office of the Governor through him can avail the said documentation in one week. I need a humble explanation.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): This question as we are all aware is squarely in the Office of the Deputy Governor and all the statistics need to be provided within that one week and I direct that the Clerk to forward this specifically by tomorrow so that we get answers in time to be tabled in this House on the appointed date by the Majority Leader as directed. We have a communication from the Chair Health Services forwarded by the Executive and it is now time to welcome Member for Barwessa Ward.

Hon. Rono: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am giving a statement as a concern of the Members that during Covid-19 they want an update on what is happening. With me is a response from our CEC Hon. Panga and reads; a report on management of Covid19 positive cases and response by County Government.

Status of Covid19 response and communication in the County; Mr. Speaker, the Covid19 pandemic has caused havoc in the public health sphere globally and its effect has been felt far and wide. Kenya has not been spared from the serious effects of this disease. Ministry of Health

Kenya instituted a number of measures to combat the virus. These measures have been continuously cascaded in the 47 Counties as a wider strategy of overcoming this menace. Baringo County has instituted measures to deal with this pandemic in tandem with National Guidelines. This policy guides have been instrumental in ensuring that the County is safe from the Virus.

a) Preparedness.

i. Isolation facilities.

The County has established three isolation facilities and they include Kaptimbor isolation unit with a bed capacity of 10, AIC Eldama Ravine Health Centre with a bed capacity of 8 and Mogotio Health Centre with a bed capacity of 70. Two buildings under construction to be constructed in the next two weeks will increase the capacity to 160 capacity bed.

ii. Trainings.

In General sensitization on Covid 19. 875 health care workers trained through CMEs, Sit ins, OJTs and online Orientations, 35 CHMT and 77 SCHAT for one day on Covid19 through CMEs, 45 teaching and non-teaching staff of KMTC for one day on Covid19 through CMEs, 30 teaching and non-teaching staff of KSG for one day on Covid19 through CMEs, 145 CHVs for one day on Covid19 through CMEs, MPs, MCAs, Sub-county and Ward Administrators, Chiefs and Sub Chiefs for one day on Covid19 and Private health facilities for one day on Covid19 through CMEs.

Specialized training on Covid19 of a total of 93 health care workers.

iii. Advocacy

Advocacy, social mobilization and community engagement has been conducted within the County. This has involved targeted messaging on preventive measures and risk communication.

iv. Coordination

Coordination units have been established at the County, health department and Sub County level. The teams have been trained and meet regularly.

b) Response

The Department of Health set up response teams namely;

i. Clinical case management

ii. Surveillance and rapid response

iii. Advocacy, risk communication and social mobilization

iv. Coordination, logistics and resource mobilization

The four teams have been activated to respond to the Covid19 situation. The following response measures have been undertaken by the teams.

i. Upon reception of the results, clients were assembled in one point where counseling commenced.

ii. The results were then shared to the clients (those who became positive and those whose samples turned negative). Immediately psychosocial support started with those who turned positive after line listing them.

- iii. Upon acceptance of the results, the clients were taken through an assessment to ascertain their status of being asymptomatic or symptomatic, of which all of them were asymptomatic at that particular time. Mr. Speaker that is a point to note. That means they had no symptoms.
- iv. The clients were taken through the requirements of home-based care with assessments done at the homes.

A total of 356 cases have been tested in the County out of which 15 were confirmed positive. Contact tracing was initiated following the first 5 positive cases out of the 34 contacts tested, 5 tested positive for Covid-19.

A routine surveillance test in Baringo Central yielded 5 more positive cases making a total of 15 positive cases in the County during the week ending 31st July 2020.

Contact tracing have been intensified to identify and put on quarantine contacts of the positive cases. A total of 124 contacts have been line listed and 73 samples have been collected and shipped for testing at MTRH.

An additional 39 samples awaiting results as at 3rd August from contacts have been taken in Marigat and Baringo Central. Mr. Speaker the table shows the breakdown of Covid-19 positive clients and mode of management in Baringo County as at 3rd August.

Marigat, 10 positive cases, admitted at Kaptimbor 8 6 male 2 female, 2 are in home based isolation 1 male and 1 female. Baringo Central; 5 positive cases, admitted at Kaptimbor isolation 0, and all are male.

The clinical management team has been activated and a duty roster done to ensure continuous management of the patient at the isolation center. The team is being led by a consultant that constitutes a medical doctor, nurses, clinicians, public health and support staff.

A total of 8 patients were admitted 6 male 2 female all in stable condition, so far the first 5 have stayed for seven days while the second group are four days old. The others on home based care where the clinical teams are doing daily follow up and online psychosocial support through phone calls.

Decontamination of all the contaminated areas was done. The advocacy and communication team is also continuous sensitizing the public through radio talks every Wednesday, in every Wednesday there is one of the local radios here being used by the department to pass message to the public.

Use of public address system and as well distributing IEC materials. Mr. Speaker you have realized that there is some movement address done to go to the major centers to keep the public aware of what is happening.

Daily reports are being done to the National through the E-tracking and also through the normal reporting system. At the moment AIC Eldama Ravine and Mogotio Covid-19 hospitals have been activated in to readiness of more admissions.

Inpatient services in Mogotio have been halted in readiness of any Covid-19 cases. Additional capacity building through training has been undertaken to equip staff on case management. The department is working on increasing the number of staff in the facility to ensure they are adequate.

Mr. Speaker the recent posting actually has increased the number of staff to be ready for any eventuality. Community advocacy have been intensified with messaging to reinforce preventive measures and raise awareness on home based isolation.

Challenges; having done all that the department has several challenges including;

- i. Inadequate ambulances and utility vehicles to support response.
- ii. Urgently in need of fuel
- iii. Inadequate staff therefore calling public service Board for quick recruitment.
- iv. Most of the new staff has not undergone the standard training on Covid- 19.
- v. Stigma in the general population including health care workers is high which calls for counseling, psychosocial support and public talks. All these can be done through heightened social communication, but the department is lacking financial support that would support their movements.

Mr. Speaker I and you one time we were tested and you know the trauma which we underwent when we were waiting for the results there is a lot of anxiety so it means that the public needs to be aware so that they may not have this trauma.

Infrastructure in most homes in our Community is not up to standard for home based approach this resulting in resistance some families to allow Covid -19 to isolate in their homes.

Mr. Speaker the standard home for isolation requires a self-contained house whereby everything is done within the House and it has enough space to avoid contact with others our rural set up Mr. Speaker or most of our homes Mr. Speaker does not meet these standard.

That is why if we get asymptomatic case which is supposed to be isolated at home the community can't allow because the standard of these rooms in our villages cannot meet these standards Mr. Speaker. So it is a challenge that home isolation can be done few can manage but most of us cannot manage.

Mr. Speaker total expenditure; a total of Kshs. 99 million was allocated to the health department for Covid-19 preparedness and response of which Kshs. 50,854,700 has been spent and Kshs. 30,399,480 pending payments thus so far an expenditure of Kshs. 81,254,180 as below.

Mr. Speaker we can see a summary, I know we might have more statements to actually have clarification because we wanted to be transparent and accountable as a department and of course as a County.

Mr. Speaker as you can see the logistics and planning which carried around Kshs. 4 million, trainings and sensitizations Mr. Speaker has consumed around Kshs. 3 million, Kshs. 19 million with a balance of around Kshs. 3 million.

Mr. Speaker for fuel and you see we have no enough vehicles, vehicle repair and maintenance 0, I don't know whether they don't have any breakages but these are the things that as we continue we need to understand what is happening because when the allocate some money for repair and maintenance they had in mind that they have vehicles which need repairs.

Mr. Speaker advocacy Kshs.2, 370, 00 in terms of pending bills they have not paid, surveillance they have used around Kshs. 2.5 million. Isolation facility health products and PPEs has consumed around Kshs. 44,465,380 with pending bills of around Kshs. 3, 4187,180.

Mr. Speaker total amount committed is around Kshs. 81,254,180, the amount spent is Kshs. 50,854,700. Pending bills Mr. Speaker is standing at around Kshs. 30,399,480.

Mr. Speaker this is an update which has lasted for around two weeks, we might not have the current update because of the short recess we went which carried around two weeks of which I know we will be making a routine that this Assembly needs to be updated every Thursday so that we are informed of what is happening in our County and even the National.

But for the National we have been getting it through the radios and other means, so we have agreed with the department that they need to provide information on a weekly basis to the County Assembly so that the County Assembly leadership and all of us can be aware of what is happening in our County so that when we are on weekends meeting our populace we need to have a concrete information to give to them.

Mr. Speaker point to note is that the cases which have been positive in our County have been asymptomatic and I think a reliable source by 9 o'clock yesterday was discharged they have been healthy all through they are very stable.

I am happy because none of our positive cases have ended up in the ICU, they have been in the isolation centers very healthy and energetic and we are yet to follow all the cases and we need to have more records with those contacts because, when we are getting from the National and the global Mr. Speaker is that this virus is more worse when it affects one with preexisting conditions like diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer and others Mr. Speaker it becomes more worse.

Mr. Speaker there is a point to note that we need as a County to understand out of the positive cases we had in Baringo, do we have any case that had a preexisting condition and up to now how is that person fairing on so that we will try to understand how we can manage this condition and we prepare our people to really understand. Mr. Speaker we also need to understand their age because of the age factors, the upper stream and the lower.

Mr. Speaker I need to end there and say that this is the update of the department but we are late by two weeks because we had a recess but soon we will be updating you every week on any development from the department. Otherwise Mr. Speaker sir I beg to end there. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you very much the Chair to the Health Committee. What is your point of concern Hon. Elizabeth?

Hon. Elizabeth: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. My concern is on the isolation facilities. We have six sub-counties in Baringo County, and if you see Kaptimbor is in Baringo Central, Eldama Ravine is in Ravine, Mogotio we still have some other sub-counties Mr. Speaker and we have a case in point Mr. Speaker whereby there was a place in Turbo that some people were put in another County and those people went on a peaceful demonstration.

Mr. Speaker we don't want to have such a thing in Baringo that maybe somebody from East is taken to Mogotio and the people may say we do not need these positive cases in our area. Mr. Speaker through the Chair of health if there is still some money the Kshs. 30 million I think they can also have some isolation beds in the other sub-counties.

This is because Mr. Speaker we may not get in to a scenario where other sub-counties are left without isolation centers because preparedness means anything can happen any time. So that is my big concern because we need something called equitability in isolation centers. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you Hon. Elizabeth. What is your point of information Hon. Kipruto.

Hon. Kimosop: Thank you Mr. Speaker, my point of concern is on the isolation facilities. Mr. Speaker we have six Sub Counties in Baringo County and if you see Kaptimbor is in Baringo Central, Eldama Ravine is in Ravine and also Mogotio. We still have some other Sub Counties Mr. Speaker and we have a case in point whereby we had a place in Turbo where some people were put in other Sub County and those people went on a peaceful demonstration Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker we don't need to have such a thing in Baringo that maybe somebody from East is taken to Mogotio and the people they say we don't need these positive cases in this area. So Mr. Speaker through the Chair of health can if there is money 30 Million, I think they can also have some beds in other Sub Counties so that Mr. Speaker we may not get into a scenario whereby other Sub Counties are left without an isolation centre Mr. Speaker because preparedness means anything can happen anytime at any minute Mr. Speaker. So Mr. Speaker that is my big concern because we need something called equitability in isolation centres Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you very much Hon. Elizabeth. What is your point of information Hon. Kipruto?

Hon. Kimosop: Mr. Speaker the information that I need to provide which may not be formal but out of engagements was that we did raise what she is raising immediately when Covid-19 was reported in Baringo and we were curious that we need isolation centres in every centre but the medical experts opinion was that the wisdom of having isolation centres in Kabarnet and Mogotio is to ensure that there are so near to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) ventilation facilities.

So much that because the information they were providing on Covid-19 is that it has a way of just breaking off, breathing complications then the distance from the ICU ventilation facilities and isolation centers should not be so far and that was the wisdom that they provided that Mogotio is very near to Nakuru and Eldama Ravine and Kaptimbor here is very near to Kabarnet.

So probably that is the information that was given to me. The Governor gave that information so publicly in forums that I was there and I felt convinced that it has some wisdom in it, thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Rono stands in his place)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you very much Hon. Kipruto. Hon. Chair I have not called you.

(Laughter)

Thank you. Now there is no other Members who want to...

Okay Hon. Francisca.

Hon. Francisca Cheburet: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I stand to get some clarity on some of the information in this report. I would wish that maybe the team who are giving out reports from the health department should give terms the way they are because I think when you look at trainings, they indicate like 875 Health Care Workers trained through CMEs, sit ins, OJTs. I think most of the MCAs are not medics to get this information and I have gone through a class of communication and this is jargon because it is understood very well to the Chair and to the

health team but it is not even understood to some of the Members and so it becomes a barrier to communication.

You cannot understand what is happening Hon. Speaker. Otherwise I wish to correct also Hon. Elizabeth on the 30 Million. I think the 30 Million shillings that has been indicated is a pending bill meaning that it will be utilized completely. There will be no extra funds that can be used for something else unless budgeted otherwise I want to congratulate the Chair for this report but I would wish they give us a detailed report next time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you...

Hon. Francisca Cheburet: Otherwise we appreciate this information that at least we are updated, thank you Hon. Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you. Very well that is important in communication anytime you are repeating acronyms; you repeat it after you have fully expounded what it means. Like you cannot just go and say Covid- 19. You have to say Corona Virus disease 2019 then you continue with Covid-19 thank you. The Hon. Member for Churo Amaya.

Hon. Selemoi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am a Member of Health Committee and I want to thank my Chair on this report from the department. However, Mr. Speaker this report is so scanty and academic. As the representative of the people, we want a bisection of this report to a finer details. You know Mr. Speaker they say the devil is in the details. Going through this report Mr. Speaker especially on the figures, this is a total misinformation that we don't need as the representatives of the people. We need thorough, detailed report including a further involvement of the department on what activities have they done in each Sub County?

Mr. Speaker in this House we passed 200 Million to fight Covid-19. In this department it was given 99 Million which they have showed us albeit being scanty. In the department of emergency the question that was asked by me was 70 Million together with other departments. What we need as a House Mr. Speaker is to oversight the resources we give to departments to the latter. But if this is the kind of reports done by County Executive Committee Member (CECM) to this House that is so scanty and so pedestrian then we will not allow such reports.

So we want a detailed and thoroughly done report. Mr. Speaker, I want you to give a directive; a very firm one that this report should be thrashed and another one be provided to this House that is detailed including even others that will be coming to this House if Hon. Members will be seeking. Mr. Speaker and then if need be, we want multi Sectoral department to be grilled by this Hon. House through liaison and the Chair of liaison who is the Deputy Speaker should summon all departments that received all money from our coffers and explain including the tanks Mr. Speaker.

I don't know whether your Ward has received any tank. I am told it is lying down in the valley; I don't know where but Mr. Speaker we want thorough information so that when we present this information to the public; I want to urge even Public Investment and Accounts Committee (PIAC) and the Chair is here to rise to the occasion to summon and grill to the last coin of our money, thank you Mr. Speaker and that is my contribution.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you very much, now I allow the Chair for Health Committee to reply to those comments.

Hon. Rono: Thank you Mr. Speaker I just want to clarify on what Hon. Kipsang asked. With the little resource that we have Mr. Speaker, we might not as a County manage to have isolation centres all over the County, however Mr. Speaker the guidelines tells us that we must have bigger isolation centre like the one we are preparing in Mogotio which its capacity will go beyond 160 bed capacity.

Mr. Speaker if we had enough resource we could have isolation centre in every centre but however, Mr. Speaker a good or an ideal isolation centre requires to have a theater. In case of any complication the very particular client can be assisted in the ICU. So Mr. Speaker that is why in Mogotio we will have the County isolation centre costing 84 Million and that means we will have a theater there and the necessary equipment needed in that isolation centre Mr. Speaker.

(Loud Consultations)

Mr. Speaker I am noting something by Hon....

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Hon. Solomon, Hon. Tuwit and Hon. Selemoi consult in low tones.

Hon. Rono: Hon. Cheburet actually complained about why we shorten these things. Mr. Speaker I will inform them that we need them not to be shortening some terms but state them in full. So next time we will bring any information here then we should not be having words like this OJs and CMEs Mr. Speaker. One of the senior Members here is lamenting about the detailed information Mr. Speaker.

You must know Mr. Speaker that this is a statement from the department and they just want to give us what is happening and if we wanted a more detailed information then unless we seek a statement and be particular on which information you need. So it should not come and harass all the information that it is not detailed and he never sought any information on this.

Mr. Speaker, I think during his time when he was the Deputy Speaker he over saw PIAC not doing anything Mr. Speaker so he should not complain Mr. Speaker, however if we want any information Mr. Speaker or a detailed information, we seek a statement and we be particular to what we really want Mr. Speaker. Otherwise Mr. Speaker we will not be getting information, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Lemlem): Thank you very much Hon. Chair for Health Committee. I think the department can still improve on the report as per the Members concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Order Members, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow the 20th at 2:30pm.

The House rose at 3: 44pm.