

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 10th September, 2019

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

(Quorum Bell rung)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I think we have quorum now; Serjeant at Arms, you may close the door.

PAPER LAID

REPORT ON STATUS OF ATHI RIVER SLAUGHTER HOUSE

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one Paper to be laid by the Hon. Moses Mitaa, chairman agriculture or any member of the agriculture committee. You may proceed.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am holding brief for Hon. Moses Mitaa. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House today, Tuesday, 10th September, 2019; the report of the committee on agriculture and development committee on the status of Athi River slaughter house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Steve.

NOTICE OF MOTION

REPORT ON STATUS OF ATHI RIVER SLAUGHTER HOUSE

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this order also we have one notice of motion again to be moved by the Hon. Moses Mitaa; Hon. Steve you may do it on his behalf.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that aware that the Mission for the Department Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Machakos County is to promote innovative,

commercially oriented and modern agriculture through development and enactment of enabling legal framework;
Aware that County abattoirs are a key revenue source and thus proper management of these abattoirs will guarantee the County attainment of its revenue target;
Informed that abattoirs in the urban areas face various challenges especially in their requirements of important infrastructure and services;
Cognizant that In the current state of the world, abattoirs/slaughter houses need to be modernized, and regional planning standards and requirements be incorporated within their operations;
Further aware that during the public participation on budget estimates for FY 2018/2019 and the Finance Bill FY 2018/19, residents of Athi River complained bitterly on the poor state of the Mavoko slaughter house and reluctance of County Government of Machakos to address the matter despite the huge amount of revenue collected from that facility;
Remembering that in May this year the committee on Agriculture visited the slaughter house and later compiled a report;
Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of Motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the report on the status of Athi River slaughter house.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Steve.

MOTION

REPORT ON STATUS AND MANAGEMENT COUNTY RURAL AMBULANCES

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members under this Order, we have one motion to be presented by the Hon. Cosmus Masesi, chairperson Health and emergency services committee. Hon. Cosmus.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Article 43 (2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that a person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment;
Aware that the Fourth Schedule of the same Constitution Mandates Counties with County Health Services including in particular ambulance services;
Hon. Speaker, acknowledging that the current management of County Ambulances is a total mess and this is evident by the public outcry from the residents of Machakos County;
Aware that most are times when the ambulances lack fuel, insurance and require minor mechanical repairs;
Hon. Speaker, aware that a motion was moved in this house seeking to decentralize the management of Rural ambulances from the Director of Emergency Services to the Sub County Medical Officers of Health (MoH);
Aware that the Committee on Health and Emergency Services considered the motion and compiled a report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Health and Emergency Committee report on status and management of County Rural ambulances.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to call upon one my able and active members to second the motion; Hon. Ikusya Kaloki.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ikusya Kaloki.

Hon. Kaloki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do hereby second the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ikusya. Hon. Cosmus you may read the report.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once more, before me is a report; report on Status and Management of County ambulances.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREAMBLE

Hon. Speaker, the primary role of all ambulance services is emergency pre-hospital medical care, although they generally provide both emergency response and patient transfer on behalf of the health sector. They provide easy access to health services, particularly out of hours, and contribute significantly to telephone triage and telephone health services through sophisticated communications infrastructure.

Hon. Speaker, Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 states that 'every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care.' Article 43(2) of the same Constitution provides that 'a person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment.'

Further the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 confers counties with the under listed roles on matters of health;

- (a) County health facilities and pharmacies;
- (b) Ambulance services;
- (c) Promotion of primary health care;
- (d) Licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public;
- (e) Veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession);
- (f) Cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria; and
- (g) Refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal.

1.2 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker, the Health and Emergency Committee is established as per Standing Order 190. Under the second schedule that underlines the functions of the Committee to include "all matters related to County Health services including in particular county Health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services, promotion of primary health care, licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public, cemeteries, funeral parlors and crematoria and refuse dumps and solid waste disposal; fire- fighting services and disaster management."

Hon. Speaker, one of the functions of sectoral Committees pursuant to Standing Order 190(5)(e) shall be to investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary and as may be referred to them by the Assembly.'

1.3 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Speaker, the Committee on Health and Emergency Services is comprised of the following members:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Hon. Cosmus Masesi | -Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Pauline Munguti | -Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Daniel Mbevi | -Member |
| 4. Hon. Daniel Kiilu | “ |
| 5. Hon. Anastacia Mutuku | “ |
| 6. Hon. Patrick Kituku | “ |
| 7. Hon. Jacqueline Nziva | “ |
| 8. Hon. Ikusya Kaloki | “ |
| 9. Hon. Jeremiah Munguti | “ |
| 10. Hon. Johana Munyao | “ |
| 11. Hon. Paul Museku | “ |
| 12. Hon. Jacinta Luka | “ |
| 13. Hon. Peter Mutiso | “ |

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Hon. Speaker, a motion was moved in this house which sought the management of County rural ambulances to be moved from the Machakos directorate of Emergency Services to the Sub-County Medical Officers of Health.

The Committee's study activities, methodology and deliberations carried out while in the field targeted the following areas:

1. Engagement with the following stakeholders:
 - a. The CECM, Department of Health and Emergency Services.
 - b. The Chief Officer, Department of Public Health and Community Outreach.
 - c. The Director, Directorate of Emergency Services.
 - d. All the Sub-County Medical Officers of Health.
 - e. Selected drivers of the ambulances.
 - f. Selected EMTs.
 - g. A sample of residents.
2. Guided investigation tours to check on the status of the ambulances.

3.0 COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Hon. Speaker, from the interrogations and site visits, the Committee made the following findings:

1. In 2014, the County Government of Machakos procured 70 ambulances whose intention was to ensure that every location in the County has an ambulance serving the residents.
2. As at to date, the status of these ambulances is as follows:
 - a. Machakos Sub-County initially had 13 ambulances. Three of them (Kyangala, Muvuti and Machakos town) were involved in different accidents hence a balance of 10. The ambulance meant for Muvuti was written off.
 - b. Mavoko Sub-County got seven ambulances and all of them are operational and in good working condition.

- c. Kathiani Sub County got five ambulances and all of them are in good working condition.
 - d. Matungulu Sub-County got nine ambulances and all of them are in good working condition.
 - e. Kangundo Sub-County got six ambulances and the ambulance meant for Kawauni Dispensary was written off. The Sub-County is currently being served by five ambulances.
 - f. Mwala Sub-County got 13 ambulances. The ambulances meant for Kathama and Miu dispensaries were involved in different accidents leaving a balance of 11 ambulances.
 - g. Yatta Sub-County initially had eight ambulances and all of them are in good working condition.
 - h. Masinga Sub-County got nine ambulances and all of them are in good working condition
3. The ambulances are managed by the Director of Emergency Services who is based in Machakos Headquarters. The scope of the fleet management is on maintenance, fueling and daily operations.

4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Hon. Speaker, the committee observed the following:

1. That most of the ambulances lack fuel and this risks the lives of patients. In some cases it was noted that members of the public are forced to fuel the ambulances so that they can access the services of the ambulances. The Committee was informed of various cases where workers in a certain health facility had to raise funds to fuel the ambulance to ensure that needy patients are ferried to a referral hospital.
2. There are no clear guidelines on how the ambulances are fueled. For instance, an ambulance in Ndithini health Centre was being fueled at Matuu town which is 60 Kilometres away. This is not cost-effective since the fuel consumed during the trip is simply a waste of public resources.
3. Some of the drivers attached to the ambulances lack professionalism and customer care skills. A case was reported of a driver who reports to work drunk.
4. The ambulances are poorly maintained with some lacking spare tyres which are key. Mechanical repairs were reported to be taking long before being attended to. Some exceeded the required mileage before they are taken for service and mechanical maintenance.
5. The ambulance drivers and EMTs attached to the ambulances do not have duty relievers and when they are out of their work stations, the ambulances don't have other personnel to manage them hence inconveniencing in case of emergencies.
6. Some ambulances lack the key equipment required in an ambulance. This means that they only serve the role of ferrying patients to the health facility but the patients don't receive even the basic first aid measures.
7. It also worth noting that all these ambulances were procured in 2014 and some have served in areas with poor road network therefore exposing them to severe mechanical faults. In this regard, there is dire need to start phasing out the old and faulty ambulances and replacing with the new ones.

8. Cases of misuse of the ambulances were reported. For instance, the Committee was informed of a case where an ambulance was seen carrying livestock fodder and passengers. The ambulances were also being used as facility vehicles in most hospitals whereby they were being used to serve and transport other materials and personnel other than their intended purpose.
9. The Directorate of Emergency Services does not have a clear service charter on delivery of services to residents.

5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, the Health and Emergency Services Committee recommends the following:

1. Devolution was envisaged in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 which got overwhelming support from the majority of Kenyans with a thirst to see resources and service delivery from the government brought closer to them. Hon. Speaker, Article 174(d) of the same Constitution provides that ‘one of the objects of devolution of government is to recognize the right of Communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development.’ It is in this spirit of devolution that the Committee recommends that for effective fueling of the ambulances, the Department of Public Health and Community outreach ensures that various petrol stations are pre-qualified to curb the challenge of ambulances travelling long to get fuel. Monitoring of how the ambulances are utilizing the fuel should be left to the Sub- County MoH who shall be reporting to the Director, Emergency and Services.

This will ensure prudent utilization of public funds as provided for in Article 201(d) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 which stipulates that ‘public money shall be used in prudent and responsible way.’

2. The department of Public Health and Community Outreach should initiate refresher courses for the drivers and train them on customer care and primary first aid skills. This will boost their morale and empower them with the important knowledge for application in their work stations. Disciplinary cases of unprofessionalism should also be dealt with in cases where misconduct is noted.
3. The department on Public Health and Community Outreach should devise an effective way of handling mechanical breakdown without compromising the operations of the ambulances. This can be achieved by decentralizing the County garage to the Sub-Counties. This will ensure prompt repairs in cases of mechanical faults and limit situations where ambulances are grounded for minor repairs.
4. The drivers and EMTs attached to the ambulances needs to be relieved and at the same time caution should be taken to ensure that the operations of the ambulances are not compromised. The committee recommends that the management of these rural ambulances be decentralized to the sub County MoH who will monitor and relief the officers based on work flow.

Further, the Committee recommends that drivers not in transit to report to the facility where the ambulances are stationed and help in subordinate services. The Committee acknowledges the measures taken by the Department in ensuring that the EMTs are engaged in the health facilities when the ambulances are not in transits.

5. Hon. Speaker, the County Assembly in exercising its mandate as set in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 passed a budget for the FY 2019/2020 which included funds for purchase

of state of the art ambulances which are well equipped. The Committee acknowledges the Department of Public Health and Community Outreach for the recently procured ambulances. The Committee further urges the same Department to endeavor procuring the same model of ambulances to all the Level IV Hospitals in the County.

6. Hon. Speaker, there is dire need for the Department of Roads, Transport and Public Works to prioritize upgrading of roads connecting health facilities. This will help in accessing such health facilities in cases of emergencies and also safeguard the ambulances from mechanical breakdown occasioned by poorly maintained roads.
7. The Department of Public Health and Emergency Services should formulate a Bill on the management of the ambulances. The Bill should incorporate the recommendations of this report and be forwarded to the Assembly 60 working days from the date this report is adopted. A clear service charter should also be formulated and displayed in office of the Director, Emergency Services.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hon. Speaker, for effective management of these rural ambulances, there is need to decentralize their management. This will limit the challenges currently experienced and bring services to the residents in the spirit of devolution.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to express my appreciation to the office of the Hon. Speaker and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded during the preparation of this report.

Further, I thank the Department of Public Health and Emergency Services for availing the requisite documents and information. Hon. Speaker I finally thank the Committee on Health and Emergency Services for their efforts in consideration and preparation of this report.

Hon. Speaker, it is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Health and Emergency Services Committee to table this report and recommend it to this Hon. House for adoption. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cosmus Masesi for the report well-read.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, you may now debate on the motion. Hon. Judas Ndawa

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the chairperson and the committee on health and emergency for such an elaborate and good report that they have tabled before this House. Mr. Speaker, the report is very comprehensive and if the recommendations given by the report are implemented to the letter, I am very sure most of the problems we face at the local or at the grassroots are going to be solved Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, however, I have some reservations on the report. It is not something that the committee overlooked; it is just an omission. Mr. Speaker, when we were debating about the motion, I raised an issue where one of the ambulances in Yatta sub-county is being driven by somebody who is not authorized to drive. What do I mean by saying he is not authorized to drive? He is employed as a watchman; he has good driving license, he has all the qualities of a driver but he is employed as a watchman.

I remember very well, Mr. Speaker, the chairman made it very clear that he is going to make sure that the driver is absorbed and he is going to be assigned duties in the area where he is supposed to be working. In fact, that driver or that watchman in the entire sub-county, I can say that he is the best driver that we have ever had in Yatta sub-county. He is competent, disciplined and available all the time.

He can make at least four trips from Matuu to Machakos back to Matuu; four trips and whenever he is called he is always available. So, Mr. Speaker, I would humbly request that the gentleman by name Wambua be absorbed as a driver. These are the employees who were devolved from the National government when we came to the counties; he was employed by the former ministry of health. So when we came to devolution, he was just transferred and up to now he has never been elevated to that position. So, I would kindly request that gentleman be absorbed.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue that I am saying is an omission. When the 70 ambulances were bought, there is a dispensary by name Kwa Matu; the locals of that particular area only saw an ambulance branded Kwa Matu dispensary and they saw it for only---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of order Hon. Helen?

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Yes. Is the Member on the floor properly dressed? He does not have a tie.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I was waiting for you people to see; the Speaker is normally blind to these things. Hon. Member, you may need to go and come back properly dressed. Thank you, very much and you will continue your debate once you are properly dressed.

(Hon. Ndawa withdrew from the House)

I will be able to see you. Hon. Members, you may continue with the contributions. Hon. Moses.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you for granting me the opportunity to air my views on the report by Hon. Cosmus Masesi, chairman health and emergency services committee. Hon. Speaker, first is to thank the Health Committee for the elaborate report they have brought through their able Chairman on the status and the management of County ambulances.

It is worth to note and appreciate that there was the first bunch of ambulances or a fleet of ambulances and receiving this status report on them it clearly indicates how they have been used since the time they were bought and even the allocations per the Sub-Counties and the report is very clear on the way forward.

My humble request is if we can adopt, I think we discussed something in this House that we localize management of these ambulances. The reason is because sometimes you find the channel of communication is long and we have emergencies.

A recent case, I think last Friday but one, in our hospital Kangundo Level IV, there was a hiccup or else a challenge whereby we had two patients at the same time who needed ambulance services at the same time and unfortunately because of the availability of the drivers and even the people who operate the ambulances, Mr. Speaker, we eventually lost one life which was very sad

because by the time we got an ambulance it was too late and this was a patient who needed ICU attention.

So, Mr. Speaker as much as we debate on the status, I must request the Committee to ensure that we localize the operations of these ambulances, we increase on the staff because that was an outright challenge even a driver; lucky Hon. Ndawa they have a driver who could be available within a very short time, even getting a driver to use another ambulance which was available was a challenge.

It is very unfortunate that we lost that life and I believe that we do not need to again talk of another lost life though at that time I must recommend or appreciate the County Government of Machakos. Yesterday we had a very brief session whereby we received one of the advance life-supporting ambulances and my request also to the committee to ensure that those ambulances are fully equipped with manpower and even the facilities because it is very easy for us to have the ambulances but we lack the manpower. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Moses. Hon. Kisini.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that, through the Chairman, the Committee has brought a very elaborate report which is true that the distribution of the ambulances and so forth. The only thing I want to point out is about the management as said by our earlier Hon. Member who has just completed presenting from Kangundo that, the Management of the ambulances is the one which might be wanting. An example is more about the fuel.

Many a times you will be called by people who want that service and when you try to locate or to connect, you will be told that there is no fuel. I have witnessed that and the committee needs to check on that and then the other thing is about the management; you might be referred to Machakos where we have the Central Management.

So as much as we support the report we support the distribution and we support the ambulances services, Mr. Speaker. I think it is very good we check about the management more especially the fuel and also the key points to reach them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Hon. Hellen Ndeti.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mine is just to say that the report is very well written and if implemented, I think we should be able to see better services to our people. However, I would like to add one more recommendation. For future procurement of these ambulances, it is also important to look at our terrain and include more ambulances with higher clearance because of the rough roads in the interior of Machakos County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Hellen. Hon. Francis.

Hon. Kalumu: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving a chance to contribute. I do not have much to say because what I wanted to say has been said but I will say this; that sometimes you will call for an ambulance and you will be told that it is broken down and it takes a lot of time for it to be maintained or to be put into service again.

So, my request to the Department is to make sure that the ambulances are there to meet emergency cases and if they are not there or they are broken down then it means that emergency cases cannot be handled. So, if they are maintained well, they will meet the idea of helping our people from losing life and also answering the question of prudent use of our resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Jeremiah Munguti.

Hon. Munguti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, mine is to congratulate this committee which sat down and brought this elaborate report and also give my input on the same. Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me that the ambulances we have given a lot of relief to our people especially during the emergency services but nevertheless we gave some challenges especially when we have emergencies during the night. Majority of our drivers are residing in their homes simply because they do not have residential houses in the facilities that they work.

Also on the same, the ambulances themselves do not have enough security in the facilities that we have. You find that in majority of our health facilities have no watchmen to guard the facility and for that matter the ambulances are taken to the nearest police station or to the Chief's Camp where we have policemen who can guard them and for that matter when you request for an emergency service you have to wake the driver to look for a motorbike, to travel all the way to the police station or to the nearby Chief's Camp, pick the vehicle and go where the patient is which is taking a long time for an emergency and by so doing we are losing life.

Therefore, my humble request on this report is that, if we can ensure that, our subordinate staff who are the drivers driving the ambulances can be accommodated within the facilities. If not so we can ensure that, they are within the compound of the facility so that when an emergency occurs, they can take care within the soonest time possible.

The other issue is about fueling of the ambulances. Mr. Speaker, without much ado, many Members have talked about the fueling of the ambulances. It is my concern that if we can have a kitty which will be given to the Officer in charge of the facility so that in case of emergencies, they can have some little amount which can fuel the ambulances to the nearest petrol station then from there they can seek the services where it has been procured.

Those are my reservations that I have seen and I thought they were good to be included in the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jeremiah. Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I first want to commend the committee for health for the report on the status of the ambulances across the County. As the majority of Members who have contributed before me have said that, there are some ambulances that are not in operation and at the beginning the plan was to have an ambulance at every sub-location within the County. Hon. Speaker, you find there are sub counties they have two or even less than two meaning they have one ambulance in the Sub-county.

This means that, our people may not get the attention and services that they deserve to get. Hon. Speaker, this needs to be looked into to ensure that our people get services closer to them. Now that Universal Health Coverage is one of the Big Four Agendas that the Jubilee Government is spearheading and that means our people need to have better services on the matters health.

Hon. Speaker, a closer look at health facilities that we have and the operations that are happening there and work that some of these ambulances do, it is amazing and actually calls for this House to look into how these ambulances are being used. Hon. Speaker, in some of the facilities that we have these ambulances are used as utility vehicles and not for the primary purpose they were procured to do.

You will find that the ambulances are used to carry oxygen cylinders, they are used to carry linen as they are being taken for laundry and Hon. Speaker, if God forbid, that during this time that the ambulance has been used to come to Machakos let us say from Ndithini or from Kathiani to carry oxygen cylinders and then there is an urgent need for its use, then it means that our people will die. Hon. Speaker, then it calls for a closer scrutiny on how these ambulances that we have are being used and to ensure that their primary purpose is kept and where in facilities, say a Level IV facility and we do not have a utility vehicle then such a facility need to be equipped with a utility vehicle to run errands.

On another note, Hon. Speaker, this House passed a motion sometimes last year to have more than five ambulances procured and each given if I remember very well we passed a motion for the county government to procure at least nine if not 10 ambulances meaning each sub-county will get one ambulance and we got only five. Then in those sub counties where these new ambulances were not supplied, our people are crying and asking why they were left out.

Then it begs the question from the Hon. CEC Member for health to come out clear and explain to our people if there are still hopes for them to get specialized ambulances that are to serve them. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic. Hon. Judas Ndawa; you may conclude your presentation.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me another chance to conclude what I was saying and thank Hon. Matee for reminding me that I was not in proper attire. I can see you are very observant. Mr. Speaker, I was talking about a dispensary by the name Kwa Matu; the residents of that area only saw an ambulance branded Kwa Matu Dispensary only once. Since 2014, the said ambulance has never been spotted there and it cannot be located where it is. So, I would urge the chairperson committee on health and the entire House to investigate and to know where the ambulance of Kwa Matu is.

Finally, about two months ago, His Excellency the Governor launched what we used to call triage kitty. Mr. Speaker, that triage kit is supposed to be in every ambulance so whenever there is an accident somewhere, instead of the ambulance going to pick the patient and take them to the hospital when they are still suffering, others are bleeding, that kit has all what is required. It has something to measure the pressure, the heart beat and the rest and then it has what we call aids that will ensure treatment is given at the scene of accident.

So, if the ambulances are well fueled and well managed and we implement what the chairman has come up with, I am very sure we are going to reduce the number of fatalities that we have been witnessing. So, Mr. Speaker, I support and request the House to pass it so that it can be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. May I request the mover of the motion to respond please.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to appreciate the Members for their positive response to the report and the Members will agree with me that despite the big numbers brought about by the UHC, the health department led by the Executive has really improved in so many areas. Of late we have done so much towards taking care of our members at the grassroots. Mr. Speaker, I would like to agree with Members that we need more than one ambulance per health facility.

As an occasion which has been mentioned by Hon. Ndambuki whereby an ambulance has taken a patient to Nairobi and another case comes up, Mr. Speaker, there is a challenge there because I want to imagine once the ambulance which is meant to be in that facility is out for an emergency, then another comes up. Mr. Speaker, I will urge the Executive to come up with a budget in the coming supplementary budget so that we can take care of the sub-counties which have not received the modern ambulances and more so my report dwelt on the Level IV hospitals that must have a modern ambulance.

(Applause)

Again, I have noted with a lot of concern that within the ambulances, drivers have been given.....some of them like a permanent job to a certain ambulance. In the absence of that driver or in case where the driver is off duty, the ambulance is just parked in the yard. That is a case we need to it up with the Director in-charge to make sure that whenever a driver is off duty, his ambulance is being used by someone else who is able and up to the task, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to urge the Members to take this as a collective responsibility for us all to make sure whenever we come across the mismanagement of these ambulances, we raise the alarm and I want to believe the handshake has done a lot; the response will come in a positive way when you call Mr. Mwongela who is in-charge of all as we try to push for the management of the same to the MoH within our Level IV hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the Members will pass the report and urge the implementation committee to take their task and make follow up on the resolutions of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cosmus.

(Question put and agreed to)

I just want to make one or two comments before we close for the day. One thing which has come out clearly here and which I would like the committee especially the Chair of Budget and the Chair of Health; when I saw the purchase of these ambulances come just the other day, I was 100 percent sure that this is not what we budgeted for in the current year.

In last year's budget we budgeted for 10 ambulances; this year we budgeted for another 10 ambulances so I am sure the ambulances which were brought here are the ones for the financial year 2018/2019. So we need to make sure that the budget which was allocated for the financial year 2019/2020 where we allocated, if am not wrong Ksh. 80 million for the purchase of state-of-the-art ambulances one for each sub-county is followed through and not confused with what was delivered recently.

Remember the procurement process for the current year has not yet opened so I am very sure what you received was of the previous year 2018/2019 so we need to follow the ones for the

year 2019/2020 and ensure they are delivered. It is an ageing fleet as some of you have highlighted and it needs to be replaced through constant purchasing every year of new ambulances. The management needs to be decentralized as the committee has recommended and so that we can be able to have proper oversight of these things.

If the person who is in charge is seated in Machakos and he is overseeing an ambulance which is in Matuu and just liaising by phone on its operations, it is not as easy as when an MoH who is based in that facility overseeing it. So, I think that is very key. The issue of decentralization of fueling, because fuel is a very key item; there is no one time, when we should have an ambulance which has not been fueled to the brim. Reason being, that you cannot afford to lose life because of 20 litres of fuel. You can imagine losing life because you do not have 20 liters of premium; so you will be equating a life to Ksh. 2,000.

So we need to ensure once that one is decentralized then the fuel management is done properly in each and every area so that we avoid those issues. Hon. Ndawa talked about a driver who has been employed as a watchman and he is now driving an ambulance. So, his entry level was a watchman and he is now driving an ambulance and there is one thing you need to note about an ambulance, yes he is a very good driver but for you are licensed to drive an ambulance. You have to be trained to drive an ambulance; ambulances do not follow the normal traffic rules. For example, they have got specific things which the driver needs to know.

So in as much as the recommendation he has made of the guy being employed as a driver now and not as a watchman, we also need to ensure the competencies of the drivers driving our ambulances and that competency is assessed so that we make sure that we have got the proper people riding on this equipment; both the nurses manning the ambulances and the drivers who are driving them. Then to reiterate on what Hon. Ndeti has said, when we are purchasing the new ones we need to ensure we try and get Land Cruisers or ambulances which can be able to get into the inland.

I am very sure if an ambulance like the ones which were bought here goes to Ndithini or Muthesya, it might have to wait somewhere for the person to be brought there because it will not be able to pass where the roads have not been done properly. Most counties have seen other counties they are buying Land Cruisers. So for the areas which are outside the metropolitan area, we might need to look for specialized equipment like ambulances which are Land Cruisers to be able to cater for that.

Hon. Members, the Liaison Committee will be meeting immediately after this plenary; we will not be waiting until 4 o'clock, and we will meet immediately so that we can be able to discuss the issues affecting Liaison Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: With that Hon. Members, this House is adjourned to Wednesday 11th September, 2019 at 10 a.m. Enjoy your afternoon.

The House rose at 3.24 p.m.