

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

The House met at 2.35 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Mwangangi) in the Chair]*

**PRAYER**

**PAPER LAID**

THE MACHAKOS COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE BILL, 2020

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business from Hon. Kisini, Hon. Kisini or any member who is able to hold the brief of Hon. Kisini. It is just about laying the paper. Yes, Hon. Cosmas Kieti.

**Hon. Kieti:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this chance. I am standing in for Hon. Kisini, Chairperson, Environment, Energy, Lands and Natural Resources committee.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay the following paper on the floor of the House today, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021; the report of the Environment, Energy, Lands and Natural Resources Committee on the Machakos County Climate Change Bill, 2020.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Cosmas Kieti, I trust that the paper is signed. Alright let us proceed.

**MOTION**

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL UNIT AT MACHAKOS  
LEVEL V HOSPITAL TO TAKE CARE OF FISTULA PATIENTS

**Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka:**

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT Article 43(1)(a) provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health which includes right to health care services; Aware THAT Counties have been mandated with promotion of primary health care;

Aware THAT there has been an increase in the number of cases of obstetric fistula in the County and in Kenya as a whole;

Further aware THAT obstetric fistula most often develops during labour and birth when the infant's head descends into the maternal pelvis and cannot pass through,

usually because a woman's pelvis is too small or poorly developed and when the infant is too big or is poorly positioned;

Acknowledging THAT millions of girls and young women with fistula are living in shame and isolation, often abandoned by their husbands and excluded by their families and communities;

Noting THAT the affected mothers shy off from seeking health services because of fear of stigmatization, cost of consultation fees and lack of information;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion THAT this house discusses and approves that:

- i) The County Government of Machakos under the Department of health establishes a special unit at Machakos level V Hospital to take care of fistula patients.
- ii) All procedures of treatment of obstetric fistula be made free
- iii) The County Government comes up with a programme of identifying such patients with a view of medically assisting them.

At this point I call upon Hon. Phoebe Koki to second my motion.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Alice Nzioka.

**Hon. (Ms.) P. Koki:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I second the motion. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Phoebe Koki.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the motion is now open for debate, Yes Hon. Dominic.

**Hon. Ndambuki:** Hon. Speaker, I first wish to applaud Hon. Alice Nzioka for the timely motion. Hon. Speaker, our dear mothers are having joy of bringing forth children and doing so in a dignified manner. It is the joy of every other mother that when they bring forth a new born, they do not have complications arising from the birth process and Madam Speaker, it makes our mothers lose dignity and feel that they lose self-esteem when we have cases of fistula coming up.

To restore dignity, Madam Speaker, it is prudent that the County Government of Machakos moves with speed and ensures that we have a fistula unit at Level Five because we have quite a number of our mothers who are at home and are living in shame and they do not want to come and seek medical help and if such a unit is set up, I am sure with the help of our community health volunteers and other medics, Madam Speaker, we will be able to help our people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Cosmas Kieti.

**Hon. Kieti:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Alice for bringing this motion. We have so many mothers who are suffering in our villages because the matter at hand about fistula is very expensive and it is also an affair that needs to be kept as a secret and this causes a lot of trauma to so many mothers back in the villages.

Madam Speaker, I want to support the motion that the County Government of Machakos sets a department or a clinic in that matter in our Level Five so that those mothers who are suffering in silence may have a place where they can visit and be treated and be given the care that they need because one, it is very expensive to maintain the cleanliness that is required when one is suffering from such and two, these people need to interact with other citizens free and because of that condition, some of them find it very hard to maintain themselves so that they can have that freedom and more so, others are even working in some areas so you find that these people do not have the freedom that they may need so that they are free in our society.

So I support the motion that the County Government of Machakos comes in place to support such mothers who may have encountered that condition so that they may cut the expense of maintenance and they may also find solace or a place where they can get treatment so that that condition is taken care of. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kieti. Hon. Mueni.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mueni:** I support the motion and congratulate *Mheshimiwa* Alice for bringing this motion. Madam Speaker, even the girls who are in school you know when they get pregnant, they don't tell their parents and on the way of giving birth, they stay at home not saying what they are feeling. They say that they are sick until even the child dies in the stomach, and at the end of the day, the girl cannot even hold the urine.

I know one woman; I asked her why don't you go to church? She told me *Mheshimiwa* I am very sorry I cannot sit where the people are because I just sit on a chair where there is a hole so that urine can be going down. I felt so bad; even now that woman sits like that, so *Mheshimiwa* Alice has done so good and I ask the Executive just this motion to be taken to them and mostly to a woman who will understand what the women who have that problem feel like, because if it is taken to a man, he will not understand. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you.

*(Laughter)*

Hon. Kamitu, will you understand? You see, she has a point because it is written somewhere the husbands run away! Is it not? Oh my God, it is unfortunate but *Mheshimiwa* Kamitu the Hon. Minority Leader, yes please go ahead.

**Hon. Kamitu:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In fact, I will not. Madam Speaker, one thing, I would really appreciate Hon. Alice for having brought this issue of establishing a unit for fistula for our ladies. Madam Speaker, in reality when such issues are brought up by one of our Hon. Members and it is Hon. ladies that know the need for such a unit, us as men we should not even stand to argue or even stand to debate other than saying, it is true this is the time and because Machakos County has a Level Five hospital, my appeal is because also Madam Speaker we have got our health units within the Sub-Counties, immediately we establish such.

It will be information from the health centres that in case there are our ladies, our mothers within our sub counties or within our villages, they should not even delay. If such a situation happens, they should outright report to Machakos Level 5 where that unit has been established.

So as a priority Madam Speaker, I stand here to support and say if anything, we should even go to a supplementary budget and ensure that there is that unit that will help our mothers, our sisters and our daughters. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kamitu. Hon. Constance Mbula.

**Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate *Mheshimiwa* Alice for the motion. It is a very good motion and especially that it touches on women and I want to say Madam Speaker, apart from even that shame women get because you cannot sit, you have no freedom to walk because you either drop there or sit on it. There is also the danger of women losing their husbands because I believe no man will be able to sit for long or to live for long with a woman who is suffering from that kind of thing and I would wish the Government comes up with that department.

I know we have cancer department, we have other things and if we have cancer, the other one we are talking about is even worse, because you cannot walk, you cannot sit you have no freedom. You are just there and you become almost not a woman because you are no more admirable, you children have seen you, they know what is happening with you and I think it is high time this is taken seriously as a matter of seriousness to women because women are the ones who are suffering.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Speaker, a woman will give birth and that child will be there but she would not be able to do anything for herself. We have seen this department in National Level. They go there, they are treated but how many of women would make it from rural area to Kenyatta National Hospital. Even to get that fare is bad enough, you don't have fare, you do not have food and your people are not near you to support you.

So I think this is a department we need as soon as yesterday because Machakos is near almost everybody and we are able to go there and look after these women and they get healed. My hope as I support is that we shall have this department working as soon as possible. I support, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Mbula. Hon. Museku.

**Hon. Museku:** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this time. I would like to congratulate Hon. Alice for this well thought out motion and for her concern for fellow women who are suffering as a result of giving birth.

As the motion has said, Madam Speaker, it is disheartening to learn that there are ladies who are suffering from this fistula disease which is not really what you can call it. It is not a disease which you acquire; it is something which is brought unto you by the process of giving birth, by the process of bringing life to this world. The lady actually suffers irreparable damage because of trying to give birth.

Madam Speaker, if it is treatable and ladies can be able to be operated and they get back their normal functionality Madam Speaker, I don't understand why it has taken that long up to now to actually notice that problem and bring it to the attention of the necessary people. Madam Speaker, if people go all the way to Kenyatta National Hospital and they get assistance, we have a Level 5 facility in Machakos and we get a lot of support including support which comes from the National Government and county support where every year as a member of the Budget committee, I see us committing more than Ksh. 350M to Level Five support.

I know we are also having the local collection of revenues in that hospital, and we are also having the budget which we put apart from those other supports which we put for purposes of capital expenditure and also operational expenditure.

I would like to sincerely request that this motion, once it is committed to the relevant committee, that the committee sits down with the CEC, Dr. Ancent Kituku in-charge of Level Five hospital and find out what budgetary requirements might be needed for us to be able to quickly provide the required funds so that we can stop our ladies from suffering through such a serious illness. Again, Madam Speaker, I support the motion and I thank the Hon. Member for bringing it to the attention of the House. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Museku. Hon. Majority Leader.

**Hon. Muendo:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me also stand together with Hon. *Mama* Alice and thank her for having seen the right to bring this motion to this House.

Madam Speaker, we are all aware of this disease which is actually affecting our women and ladies and in fact, Madam Speaker, most of the advanced countries what they have done, they normally have hospitals for women only, and that is not something that is impossible. This is not to be built; I don't mean that Madam Speaker we are supposed to build a new hospital; we just take one wing completely for women and bring specialists to treat that disease.

Madam Speaker, it is actually becoming common and even you find some adverts, nowadays government is advertising about the disease. It is killing our mothers and also our wives and also our young ladies because it seems there is no awareness in the County Governments like the national level because even the adverts come from the national level. Therefore Hon. Alice, I think this is not something we need to put a lot of money on. It is within our budget, Madam Speaker.

What I suggest is that we do like Makueni; when you go to Makueni, you find the Level Five and another new hospital which was put up by the County Government for women only that would take care, we will be having specialists who will be dealing with those cases and Madam Speaker, it is not hard. We have Kathiani here which has got a lot of facilities; I suggest the Machakos government if they can take some of the wings, because there are a lot of buildings in Kathiani which are underutilized, from here to Kathiani is not far; you can go even with *bodaboda* than going to Nairobi.

Therefore, I support the motion and if passed Madam Speaker, the relevant committee must move with high speed because I know this disease is killing our women a lot. The speed and we engage the Executive on the side of giving us one wing for women to deal with that case and other cases for women. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Majority Leader. Hon. Annastaciah Mutuku.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mutuku:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to applaud the mover of this motion. It is a very touching motion and I think, Hon. Speaker, this is the right time although it is late but we as Hon. Members, I think this challenges of fistula is very touching and it is affecting our sisters and mothers as many have said here. I stand to support if the County Government can set aside that department.

I am sure they will get so many donors to support that department because it is something touching the lives of the people. It is something touching everybody who is in the family if they

have some victim of that fistula because you have no peace of mind if you have someone in your family affected.

So, I stand to support that motion and I would like to request the Executive because I know now we are going to the final financial year 2021/22, before that time as many have said here, we can have a supplementary budget to support some little to the Department of Fistula through health and for the women to get peace and to get good health and I understand it is in the Constitution, everybody has a right to get some of the health issues; Government need to take care everybody.

So, I request and again if we can and because I know you will send that motion to the Health committee, I would like to request through your mandate, whatever the committee will take that issue, to move faster so that we can see our mothers, our sisters, get the solution of this problem because it is a lot of challenges. They do not enjoy their lives and they do not have envies. So, Madam Speaker, with all due respect, I stand to support the motion. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Annastaciah. Hon. Cosmus Masesi.

**Hon. Masesi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion. We all know that health sometimes for some of us who are challenged financially, becomes a very heavy task, which ends up in our brothers and sisters ending up selling their pieces of land and stocks; it is really painful.

Madam Speaker, we are among the counties which are benefiting from Universal Healthcare and I want to believe if we have such a service within our county, it will be one of the major benefits we can offer to our residents. This might be as a result of infection or prolonged child birth and how I wish we could have this as early as yesterday to ensure we assist our women, our wives and our mothers in taking care of these uncertain causes.

Madam Speaker, this reminds me, and I am happy that Hon. Museku did mention about budgets, I am really requesting this 2nd Assembly to stand with our County Health Volunteers (CHVs). Madam Speaker, you remember we passed a budget of Ksh. 84 Million and up to date, they have not received a penny. We have gone down for 24 months and they have never been paid anything. What was given lastly was Ksh. 600 and when I try to inquire from the Chief Officer, I was told that it was a token from other 1-2-3 they have done.

Madam Speaker, it really pains to see our brothers and sisters who are cross cutting (??) down the wards for 24 months for just a stipend of Ksh. 2500, going for two years, Madam Speaker. It really pains and we need to stand up as an Assembly to know what is not happening and have these CHVs given what belongs to them because we passed a budget towards the same. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Masesi. Can we have the mover of the motion reply, Hon. Alice.

**Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to bring to your attention that, remember women in our county travel all the way to Nairobi or Kikuyu Hospital. Most of the women who are suffering from fistula do not have money, and if they have money, they are not comfortable travelling from their places to Nairobi.

So Madam Speaker, the Assembly has done marvelous today by agreeing and supporting this motion that we have a special unit in our county to treat women and girls who are suffering

from fistula. Madam Speaker, I had a view that before they make or they build or they prepare the special unit, can we have mobile clinics to be going either in the Level 3 hospitals or Level 2 hospitals so that women who are down there can get services.

Madam Speaker, it is really disturbing we as women leaders, we face a lot from the ground because we happen to meet these women. They need assistance from us; if you try to help them, provide a woman with bus fare, she still says that if it is possible if you have a car, you carry the woman or the girl to the nearest hospital because she is shying off and she is not comfortable. So, I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Hon. Members for the support they have given me in my motion. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Alice.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Hon. Members, as the motion was just going on on the floor, I wished I was on that side so that I contribute, but because you have given it the justice that it deserves, it is a congratulatory message to Hon. Alice having thought about this sector of our population that is living in not only suffering, but also shame and the aspect of marriages breaking up because of a condition that really was occasioned by the marriage in the first place, and so the issue of mobile clinics is wise and the issue of specialized hospital for women because of special issues of women, they are matters that need to be taken up even by the committee that is going to look into the matter.

So, let us all be objective and think outside the box as we deal with this motion which really should have come like yesterday. So, the resolution of the House is that it is committed to the committee on Health and Emergency Services of course for implementation with the relevant department of Health and Emergency Services and it is a matter that of course has urgency. We are talking of persons who already are in this kind of a problem, so we can have the report on or before the 9th of March, 2021.

Hon. Masesi it is good you are here. So Hon. Members that is as it should be.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** At this point, the sitting will stand adjourned. We are going to resume, Hon. Members, on the 23rd day of February, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Remember after this Hon. Members, we are going to have the *Kamukunji*. It is good that we gather as soon as possible so that we can release each other early enough. Thank you very much.

The House rose at 3.20 p.m.