

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 21st March, 2018

The House met at 10.04 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Let us see if we will get quorum the soonest possible. Morning, Hon. Members present. Mr. Sergeant at Arms, can you ring the bell?

(Quorum Bell rung)

Can you stop the bell I am told we have quorum. Good morning, Hon. Members. We continue to be blessed by rains and I know they are holding some of us making it a little hard to make it here on time but we can start our sitting now. Mr. Clerk, can you proceed?

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSTRUCTION A CANCER TREATMENT AND PALLIATIVE CENTER IN 2018/19

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order we have one business and it is by the Hon. Museku. I call upon Hon. Museku.

Hon. Museku: Good morning, members.

Madam Speaker, that aware that article 43 (1)(a) provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standards of health which includes right to health care services;

Aware that counties have been mandated with provision of promotion of primary health care;

Noting that there has been increase in cases of cancer in the County and in Kenya as a whole;

Aware that treatment and care of cancer patients is very expensive;

Aware that cancer centers that provide treatment and support for the patients are found in Nairobi and are few;

Acknowledging that cancer brings untold suffering to both the patients and the families of the patient;

Aware that the county can ease the burden of cancer from the residents of Machakos by construction of a cancer center;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that this House resolves that the County Government of Machakos constructs a cancer center at Machakos Level V Hospital to treat and take care of cancer patients and ease burden of the residents in the financial year 2018/2019.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Museku, please approach the Chair. Hon. Members the Chair is required to provide guidance and there is some little word I noted that has been left out in that motion. I would ask the Hon. Museku to read again, to give again the notice of motion.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker for the guidance and I will read again the notice of motion in full.

Madam Speaker, that aware that Article 43(1)(a) provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standards of health which includes right to health care services;

Aware that counties have been mandated with provision and promotion of primary health care;

Noting that there has been increase in cases of cancer in the County and in Kenya as a whole;

Aware that treatment and care of cancer patients is very expensive;

Aware that cancer centers that provide treatment and support for the patients are found in Nairobi and are few;

Acknowledging that cancer brings untold suffering to both the patients and the families of the patient;

Aware that the county can ease the burden of cancer from the residents of Machakos by construction of a cancer treatment and palliative center;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that this House resolves that the County Government of Machakos constructs a cancer treatment and palliative center at Machakos Level V Hospital to treat and take care of cancer patients and ease burden of the residents in the financial year 2018/2019.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Museku. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

CONSTRUCTION A CANCER TREATMENT AND PALLIATIVE CENTER IN 2018/19

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order there is one business and the same is by Hon. Museku?

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, that aware that Article 43 (1)(a) provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standards of health which includes right to health care services;

Aware that counties have been mandated with provision and promotion of primary health care;

Noting that there has been increase in cases of cancer in the County and in Kenya as a whole;

Aware that treatment and care of cancer patients is very expensive;

Aware that cancer centers that provide treatment and support for the patients are found in Nairobi and are few;

Acknowledging that cancer brings untold suffering to both the patients and the families of the patient;

Aware that the county can ease the burden of cancer from the residents of Machakos by construction of a cancer treatment and palliative center;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that this House resolves that the County Government of Machakos constructs a cancer treatment and palliative center at Machakos Level V Hospital to treat and take care of cancer patients and ease burden of the residents in the financial year 2018/2019.

I request Hon. Angela to second my motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Museku, Hon. Angela?

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support this motion owing to the fact that health care is a primary need of the human being and owing to the fact that many families have been suffering with cancer patients going to Nairobi, not getting treatment because of the queues and the congestion that is Nairobi.

I would like to support the motion because if we have a cancer and palliative center in Machakos County, it will ease the congestion in Nairobi and our cancer patients will get aid in good time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Angela.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, I invite debate on the motion. Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion by saying that every ward can be given a day to be coming to the Level V hospital. Every Mheshimiwa can get a date because when our people or your wife has cancer, you cannot be happy in the House.

So, I ask every Mheshimiwa to go to the ward and be active to make difference between the other people and you because if those people who are not able to come happen to recognize that they have cancer when it is too late and when you cannot treat it but if you come to the hospital early enough, the cancer goes off.

So, I ask every Mheshimiwa in the 40 wards to be having a day in the Level V to be making your people to be coming there and getting checked even if the person is not having cancer, you can be ageing because those who are too old get cancer very fast and those who are between when you get cancer you do not get kids. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mueni. Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Madam Speaker for granting me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I stand to support the Motion because of the fact that cancer is one of the leading killer diseases in the Country and it is no longer associated with the rich.

I think on the ground we have had cases of poor families who have sick people suffering from cancer and it has been a problem to them to access medicine or access hospitals because of the fact that most of the cancer facilities are found outside our County.

Two, they are run by private entities which are very expensive; in case of checking on the tissues, they charge very expensively and I would request our County Government to prioritize the issue of health because when you go back to the ground, you find people are really suffering; they are dying in silence simply because they cannot access medication.

If we would come up with a cancer center within our County, I believe our people would stand to benefit and they would feel appreciated. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Mitaa. Hon. Rozina.

Hon. (Ms.) Kanini: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to support that Motion and I think it is very timely because I am a victim of the same challenges. In 2013, I lost both my father and my sister owing to the same cancer disease and that was due to financial problems and the distance.

Of course it was not possible for them to access the treatment at the right time. So, Madam Speaker, if the facilities were accessible, the challenges would not have been the same. So, in that connection, I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Rozina. Hon. Kieti.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this chance. I stand to support the Motion and owing to the fact that cancer nowadays does not select the age, does not select even the rich or the poor and it has robbed many families most of their bread winners because people spend a lot in diagnosis, medication is also expensive, the treatment is also very expensive.

We have in some cases whereby travelling to Nairobi is not easy and other areas where we can access these essential services and at the same time, we have cases where somebody is referred abroad and therefore most families have been robbed a lot and have been rendered hopeless at the end of it all because the patient ends up dying.

I am a recent casualty beginning this year on the 1st of January, I lost a brother in-law because of the same and that is why bearing in mind that most of our people live in vicious cycles of poverty. I therefore strongly support the Motion that, the County Government of Machakos establishes a cancer treatment and palliative centre where our people can access these services at a reduced cost and timely. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kieti. Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Madam Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. Madam Speaker, as I highlighted in the Motion, cancer treatment has become expensive in this Country and we have seen in the recent past, increases in the number of cases and looking

at where treatment centres are in Nairobi, it has become expensive for our electorates to travel to Nairobi to seek medication and by bringing---

Hon. Speaker: Where is this mumbling coming from; behind me?
Somebody.....water, what about the water? No, it is somebody who is talking not water which is pouring.

(Laughter)

There is a big difference between the two. Okay, sorry Mheshimiwa Dominic.

Hon. Ndambuki: Madam Speaker, by bringing or rather by having a cancer treatment and palliative centre at Machakos, it will ensure that we bring services closer to our people. We were elected to ensure that we improve the livelihoods of our people and Madam Speaker, by having a cancer treatment and palliative centre at Machakos Level V Hospital it will be serving this purpose.

Cancer treatment especially to those people living in rural areas where income is meagre has been very expensive and majority of these elected leaders here and nominated leaders have contributed immensely in supporting patients who are seeking treatment in Nairobi to ease that burden. Madam Speaker, by having a Cancer treatment and palliative Centre in Machakos will go a long way in helping that.

On top of this Madam Speaker, I would also suggest that we create awareness so that our people get to know that they can get screening for the various types of cancers in advance and as early as possible so that in cases where it is detected that our people or rather someone has cancer, then they can seek treatment as early as possible and get treatment and be cured from it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic. Hon. Mutinda.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion and I think the County will be taking the right direction when it starts this construction of this palliative centre. I think the reason why this Centre has only be in Nairobi is because of cost and so when we talk of bringing this facility to Machakos, it is also important to consider that cost be affordable because the facility can be here and you find you cannot afford it.

So, the County Government should ensure that it looks for partners so that the costing which will eventually be forwarded to the people are affordable because of late cancer patients have been spending a lot of money to get treatment and the type of money we talk about when we are talking about cancer is high and maybe there is need for some partners to support the patients so that the facility can help our people.

So, I stand to support and say that it is the high time we also passed this Motion so that the construction of a facility is done in time so that we may get time value for money and our people start getting assisted because when it was in Nairobi, even the queuing itself could make our people suffer because you would find that a patient has to wait for some months or even a year but when we have it here, regionally the people from Machakos County and even those around will be assisted by that facility. So, thank you, Madam Speaker; I support. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutinda. Hon. Steve Mwanthi.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do support this Motion noting that our people have been suffering. I have a friend who was charged up to Ksh. 3 million for cancer treatment. So, I think if we can have the same facility in our County, it will be good for our people.

It is also good in that this is our budgetary period and as an Assembly we engage with the Executive and allocate funds for the same so that maybe we can start the same during this year's 2018/2019 budget period so that even if it means getting the same facility in two or three years we can budget for the same and have our people treated from here. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen Mwanthi. Hon. Ndalana.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndalana: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to support this Motion because our First Lady Lilian Nganga Mutua has been going round Machakos County doing screening for our people and looking for the hospital where to take them and it will be easier for her if we have a cancer treatment and palliative center here in Machakos County. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndalana. I will come to you Hon. Members. Hon. Constance.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support this Motion and thank the Hon. Members who has come up with it; it is quite overdue and it is a very good idea that we construct the Cancer treatment centre. We have lost so many people because of this disease, some not because they cannot afford it but also the mode of travel.

I remember seeing somebody dying on the road because of the handling part of it. It is not an easy disease to cope with; we have seen people sell properties to treat their love ones only for those people to die and the others are left poor.

If we can have this center, it will be very easy for every one of us to reach the center and also screening is also very important that will not require so much travelling and so much money to go to Nairobi and back.

When we have the center around us, I am sure many of us are also sick as we speak; it is the only way that we don't know where to go sometimes and when you know where to go it becomes very expensive to reach there to see the doctor, consultation fees are also very high and I expect our government to do this construction and give us very fair charges so that everyone in the county can be treated and can be able to do whatever they are supposed to do.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Constance. Hon. Minority Leader has given up but I will come back to you. Let me hear Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you Madam Speaker. I want first of all want to congratulate the Hon. Member who has brought this wonderful and timely motion which is concerned about life. I want to support the motion and say this is the best way to go because in every part of Machakos

County, if you go you cannot move more than five families, in every five families you will find a patient suffering from cancer.

So, Madam Speaker, if we can have this facility within our county, it will have assisted the locals because when they go to seek these services from other areas like in Nairobi, the queues are too long and unless you have somebody who can connect you in Nairobi, it can take you to be received in that facility that is Kenyatta national hospital.

So, Madam Speaker, again those who suffer from this deadly disease suffer double shots. What do I mean by double shots? In our Kamba, we say if we are not careful we can be shot twice. To be shot twice is to say what? You spend a lot of money ensuring that your patient gets treated. You might be forced to sell your little or your small land that you have to have the patient comes out of the hospital then finally the patient can go and the hospital will retain the body until you clear the bills.

So, you might be forced again to sell the little which was remaining to have the body. So, Madam Speaker, I would suggest that we move with speed to ensure that we have this facility around here.

Again, when you go to seek these service, if you are required to go for this thing we call chemotherapy, it is very expensive and you can be required to be coming every month, every month and every month you are supposed to come with almost Ksh. 50,000, so it becomes a big problem.

So, Madam Speaker, I would suggest that we have this facility and finally, I would also suggest that we try to talk to our people because when somebody is detected or he is declared that he has cancer, the next of kin have the feeling that the person has to die so it is good we have to eradicate that thing from our people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ndawa. Hon. Minority Leader.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, very much Madam Speaker. It is now very open that most of the members, not even most of the members, what the members have said is a fact and in this regard, it is in record that all over the country, research has been made, reports have been made that cancer is now a killer disease.

So, I am standing here through your guidance that during now our budget most likely 2018/19 budget, this is one the areas that we should give a priority so that what has been and what now members have brought into this House, to make it a reality we should budget for it because you are very much aware that us as the MCAs, we are getting a lot of concerns you know concern from our people during the harambes and when you go for those harambees you hear that it is an hospital bill in regard to cancer.

What most of the members have said is that this is a very expensive exercise where, we are talking about rich people, you are hearing rich people are going to overseas for the same treatment but three quarters of the locals who cannot afford the same are really suffering within our villages.

So, it will be of very great importance, Madam Speaker, that us as an Assembly because we have already identified and we are aware that cancer is a killer disease, now that we are aware we should budget for that and give it one of the priority as a provision in among the projects that we intend to do as a county. Otherwise, thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Minority Leader. Hon. Kaloki.

Hon. Kaloki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like first to thank the member who has brought this motion to this House. I think it is a good idea and it is quite timely owing to the fact that cancer is killer number one in our country. It is also one of the most expensive health challenges we have had in this country and especially in our county and mine is to say that if it were possible we would urge the county government to set aside a specific budget, a specific budget item for the cancer clinic and also as Hon. Mueni said, I would want to put it in a different way.

If we could also urge the county government to introduce a mobile cancer screening clinic which can be taken to the wards almost every other time you find that like today they are in my ward the next, the other week or the other month, they are in another ward to make it easier for people to access.

Especially the basic and the primary services of cancer screening where people will be able to know I am actually ailing from this. We have so many people, thousands, who are ailing out there but they are not aware, they have never had time or even the money to visit a clinic, even an opportunity even the knowledge to know that they are actually ailing and we normally say that to know the disease is half a cure.

Again cancer whenever people hear of cancer they always think of taking their people to India and South Africa which is quite costly and they end up giving up; wanasema, they normally say 'let that person just die because we can't afford. As MCAs and members of parliament, we are always in fundraisings, raising money for cancer patients.

If this could be introduced, then we could also talk to our donor partners to see to it that probably, chip in and also support our cancer center. So, I think it is a good idea, I support the motion, it will ease, it will save our people from travelling long distances, from living with cancer without knowing, from dying of cancer simply because they think that we cannot afford.

The other day, as one member has said, cancer does not choose. I saw one of the top prominent personalities in this country, one of the rich probably, I think either number two or number three, in one of the hospitals abroad suffering from colon cancer and I said if this so and so who is appearing the way he is appearing on the newspaper, then cancer is not something that you can play around with but once detected in its early stages, I am sure we can save many lives. Thank you. I stand to support.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Johana. Thank you very much, Hon. Kaloki.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion that county government of Machakos constructs a cancer palliative center at Machakos Level V. I also happen to be a victim of this illness, I lost both parents due to cancer and it was not easy. The time lost in accompanying the victims and also the suffering they go through as we also queue to book clinics for checkups or rather chemotherapy and all that. It is not easy.

You find that when you have a victim, it is like you are also suffering from the same disease because you look at the pains they go through and you feel like you are part of what they are going through. I am sure with such a center it will be possible to decongest the current major centers and also to be a center where victims will have the opportunity to have such pains controlled and hope restored in their lives.

So I support seriously that we go very fast and as one of the members said, we take care of that in the budget so that it becomes a major concern during the 2018/2019 financial year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Johana. Hon. Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you Madam Speaker and members present. I want to applaud the mover of this motion, Hon. Museku for bringing such an important motion to this House because cancer is really a deadly disease and you realize that we have level V hospital which is a referral hospital to Kitui and even Makueni and if we have a palliative center in our hospital, I think our patients will improve on their economy because they have been using a lot of money going to Kenyatta National Hospital and even in Nairobi and if the costs are reduced, I think it will improve our economy.

Palliative care also relieves symptoms; it improves their quality of life because when we have palliative treatment, I think the quality of life will be improved. It also reduces side effects of cancer treatment; Members you realize that when we have the palliative center, if the symptoms are diagnosed very early, people can prevent the symptoms because prevention is better than cure.

So, I support the motion that we have the palliative center so that our people can benefit a lot. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, I call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker, thank you Hon. Members for the very active and participatory way in which you have participated in my motion and supporting it fully as you have all heard and are all aware, cancer is affecting all age groups; it is no longer a disease for the aged and the old, it cuts across all the age groups, it has brought untold suffering to our people due to the long queues of waiting as they go for treatment centers in Nairobi.

It is a very expensive affair as you have heard; medicines are very expensive, chemotherapy is very expensive, transport is very expensive, accommodation in Nairobi, because you will not go today and get treated today. You will go there today and stay there for two days before you are treated, so there are also very high accommodation expenses.

It is also very ironical that we are paying millions and millions of money to be taken to India and other areas for treatment while we could use that money locally and be able to get our very own cancer center which will be able to take care of our sick people the same way they are being taken care of in India.

So, we end up paying millions of shillings to take people to India and they come back here either cured or not cured but we can use that money locally. Also one Member has brought forth a very good suggestion of a mobile screening unit which can be able to ease the burden of Members or our people having to come from the interior for screening in Machakos.

If we could get a mobile screening unit going round our county that would be able to assist our members very much. As a House we need to be in the fore front or be seen to be caring for our electorates.

Hon. Speaker: Point of order from Hon. Mulatya.

Hon. Mulatya: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This motion is very good, a very good idea and a good project and I think we are getting late, I was wishing we could amend that motion to read the way the mover was saying right now, to read that Machakos county government constructs a palliative center---

Hon. Ngunga: Point of order.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mulatya hold on. Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Ngunga: Thank you, Madam Speaker, good morning Members. I think the Majority Whip is out of order totally because when a debate has been opened and the Speaker has closed it, you don't open it again Bw. Mheshimiwa.

(Applause)

So, kindly I think that is untold; you want to destabilize the mover. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I was just waiting and there is another point of order Hon. Mulatya; there was an amendment that was done at the beginning its only that you came late, but we excuse you we see there are rains. Only that tomorrow we will expect you to be here on time. So there was an amendment that was moved, it is on record. Allow the mover to continue as he was doing it.

Hon. Mulatya: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Museku.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader for guiding the Hon. Member who was unsuccessfully trying to---

(Laughter)

So, as I continue, Madam Speaker, as a House, we need to be in the forefront in taking care of our electorates in making sure we are a House of compassion which shows concern for the sick among us because most of them are our relatives.

As far as cost impact is concerned, one Hon Member noted; yes, it is true it is an expensive affair but it is something which if joined with partners and spread over one or two budget periods, it can easily be able to be accommodated with the partners and the government and we can be able to do this.

Finally, I would also like to thank Madam Speaker for her input both from inception to the movement of this motion in this House; I would like to thank her very much for her input which was invaluable in by being able to bring to this House. Thank you, Members.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, it is only that procedure requires that we debate every motion that comes before this House, otherwise I would have said, like Hon. Mueni says, let us just pass it, even without debating but we had to debate.

Hon. Members, this motion could not have come at any better time because you have also seen the National Assembly was debating about treatment abroad and it is about cancer ailments. I also noted some county in the country in the country has started a process of constructing a similar center and the cost is indicated to be Ksh. 500 million that is half a billion. One of the Members said that is an expensive project but it is; and he also said that we can also have private-public partnership engagements and then we note that the cost of treating cancer patients abroad really is out of the reach of the majority of us.

Last year, I had experience to meet somebody in Mumbai in India; I had taken a relative there on a different issue in a hospital. But I met somebody from North Eastern, the family was there and it was a young man of about 28 years he had cancer of the throat and they had been there for two months; I was there for one week.

In that process we became very good friends, just the fact that we were Kenyans and we exchanged a lot and so I could see the pain of the parents and I know you said many of you have gone through the same. So, it is about easing the burden on the families and then of course assisting the patients.

Somebody said we need to prioritize; if we gave our county a center like this one maybe you will have done seven out of ten of all the work that you are supposed to do.

(Applause)

So, let us move forward, we take it up particularly on the financial year 2018/2019 and the motion is hereby committed to the committee on health and emergency services so that they can interrogate, of course with the contribution of Members and members of the public, and bring a report to this House not later than 23rd May, 2018 so that we can push the process in to now the next financial year budgeting. By small ways, I know we will make it. Thank you, Hon. Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: At this point the sitting is adjourned to Wednesday, 21st March, 2018 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.57 a.m.