

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 30th April, 2024

The House met at 2.35 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW REPORT FOR 2023/2024

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this one I call upon Hon. Nicholas Nzioka, the Majority Leader.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today, Tuesday 30th April, 2024; the Report of the Controller of Budgets on the First Half County Governments Budget implementation Review report for the FY 2023/2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(The Paper was laid on the Table)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Majority Leader. So Hon. Members, I commit that Paper to the Budget and Appropriations Committee and the sectoral committees.

STATEMENT

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FOR 30TH APRIL AND 7TH MAY, 2024

Hon. Deputy Speaker: This one I call upon Hon. Nicholas Nzioka to come and present the Statement.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met today 30th April, 2024 to prioritize business for the House as forwarded by Committees and Hon. Members pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151(6)(d). The Committee balloted business as follows:

Tuesday, 30th April, 2024
Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

- (a) Statement on Status of Iiani Dispensary in Kivaa Ward by Hon. Aliphonce Mutinda, MCA, Kivaa Ward.

- (b) Machakos County Finance Bill, 2024; First Reading by Hon. Francis Kitaka, Chairperson, Finance and Revenue Collection Committee.
- (c) The Motion on sensitization of mothers on importance of vaccination of Children by Hon. Judas Ndawa, Minority Leader/MCA, Matuu Ward.

Tuesday, 7th May, 2024

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Motion that the County Government considers constructing all the necessary amenities that are required to set up an ECD Centre by Hon. Everlyne Kavila, Minority Whip/MCA, Kangundo East Ward.

STATEMENT SOUGHT

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF STATUS OF IIANI DISPENSARY

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Majority Leader. I now call upon Hon. Aliphonce Mutinda to come present his Statement.

Hon. Aliphonce Mutinda (Kivaa, MCCP):

Hon. Speaker, aware that article 43(1)(a) of the constitution of Kenya provides 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

Aware that part 2(2)(a) and (c) of the fourth schedule to the constitution of Kenya provides that the functions of the county government to include county health services, including county health facilities and the promotion of primary health care;

Further aware that on 6th June, 2023 the House approved the 2023-2024 ADP which was extracted from the 2023-2027 CIDP which contained Projects as provided by the citizens of Machakos County through public participation. The department had provided an estimate of Ksh. 16,500,000 for construction and maintenance of buildings providing a target of five health facilities that will be constructed for the current fiscal year as provide in the ADP;

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order 41 of the Assembly Standing Orders, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson of Health and Emergency Services Committee concerning the following matters:

1. If Iiani dispensary has been factored as a priority project for the current fiscal year by the department.
2. We are in the know that the development absorption rate is below 20 per cent as provided by the Controller of Budget and that the current financial year is closing on 30th June, 2024 which is less than three months away.
 - (i) What is the current status of Iiani dispensary in terms of construction and equipping?
 - (ii) What steps or counter measures has the department put in place to ensure that the project is completed before the end of the financial year.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Aliphonce and I would wish to commit the statement to the committee on Health and Emergency Services to respond on or before the 11th day of June, 2024.

BILL

(First Reading)

THE MACHAKOS COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2024 - KENYA,
GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT NO. 2 (MACHAKOS COUNTY BILLS NO.2)

*(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time and
ordered to be referred to the Finance and Revenue Collection Committee)*

MOTION

SENSITIZATION OF MOTHERS ON IMPORTANCE
OF VACCINATION OF CHILDREN

Hon. Deputy Speaker: On this one I call upon Hon. Judas Ndawa to come and move this motion.

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCP): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I move the motion I would like to inform the Hon. Members that there is need for us to differentiate between Articles and sub-orders because in most cases we hear a Hon. Member referring Article then he talks about sub-Article. The Constitution talks about Articles and Standing Orders talk about sub-orders so it is good to note.

Hon. Speaker, THAT aware that Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides 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;

Further aware that Article 53(1)(c) of the same Constitution states that every child has the right to basic nutrition, shelter and health care;

Aware that a baby's immune system is not fully developed at birth hence the reason why children face a greater risk of becoming infected and getting sick;

Aware that vaccination is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children against harmful diseases, before the disease causing micro-organism come into contact with them;

Further aware that the Ministry of Health established the Kenya Expanded Programme on Immunization (KEPI) in 1980 with the main aim of providing immunization against six killer diseases of childhood, namely tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and measles to all children in the country before their first birthday;

Aware that the vaccination uptake for children under the age of one year here in Kenya is 83 per cent against the global average which is at 86 per cent according to the National Institute of Health, 2023;

Acknowledging that the uptake of these mandatory vaccines is lower in rural areas and the ripple effect is children with deformities and high mortality rates;

Aware that some of the young mothers in our rural areas are not privy to the mandatory vaccines due to lack of exposure;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion THAT this House urges the County Government of Machakos through the Department of Health puts up measures to ensure that:

- (i) Mothers are sensitized on the mandatory vaccines for children both at pre-natal and post-natal clinics;
- (ii) Community Health Promoters are well equipped with knowledge to sensitize mothers on the Kenya Expanded Programme on Immunization (KEPI) schedule.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I call upon Hon. Helen Ndeti who is my good sister to second my motion.

Hon. Helen Ndeti (Nominated, WDM-K) seconded.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You have seconded? Okay. Thank you, Hon. Ndawa and Hon. Ndeti.

(Question proposed)

I now invite Members to debate the motion. Hon. Helen Ndeti.

Hon. Helen Ndeti (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Kisila spoke off record)

Can the Hon. Member stop disturbing me when I am talking.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Brian let the Member proceed.

Hon. Helen Ndeti (Nominated, WDM-K): Hon. Members, I stand here to support the motion that Mheshimiwa Ndawa has brought to this House because a healthy nation is a progressive nation; a healthy county is a progressive County. If our children are being born and they are not getting the required inoculation or vaccines, they will grow up incomplete in the sense that they will not be healthy enough to grasp even what they read in school. I am calling upon the department of health in Machakos County to ensure this sensitization is done without wasting a lot of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Helen. Hon. Constance Mbula.

Hon. Constance Mbula (Nominated, MCCC): Hon. Speaker, thank you.

(Hon. Kisila spoke off record)

Hon. Speaker, can you protect me from Hon. Kisila.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Proceed Hon. Constance.

Hon. Constance Mbula (Nominated, MCCC): Yes. What I want to say is---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Brian, kindly let the Hon. Member proceed. Hon. Constance proceed.

(Hon. Kisila spoke off record)

Hon. Constance Mbula (Nominated, MCCC): Why are you disturbing Hon. Kisila? Anyway, Hon. Speaker, I stand to support this motion fully and I want to say maybe this is a forgotten thing. The immunization and all other things were there before. If you look at yourself either on your left hand or the other one you will see a mark and that was done a long time ago even before our mothers went to school and because the original *mzungu* man was around Kenya he made sure all the children were vaccinated and everyone was doing well. Hon. Ndawa thank you for the motion and it is up to you also to mobilize from your own area to start with.

If you know some of those children who have not been vaccinated it is up to you to do that and make sure we all do the same in our wards. Hon. Speaker, this is a good motion and everyone needs his place of residence to have people who are healthy, people who are not mad because those are the people.....our children will be the people who will be leaders of tomorrow. We will not be here forever. We need to teach them. So all of us it is our duty as MCAs to go round and see those old mothers let them say if there is anyone who gave birth in the house because they do that. They are called medicinal doctors. Those old women and they are not aware of these injections so please follow up in your areas and see that every child has been vaccinated. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

Hon. Francis Kitaka (Ndalani, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion that we sensitize our mothers in our localities so that our children and our babies stand to benefit from the immunization of polio. As a matter of fact, this is a dangerous disease that normally affects young babies and the best thing to do is to make sure that the immunization is done right on time and so that we might prevent it because it is a disease that is preventable.

I would also urge that this information that is relayed also by using our volunteers because we have our CHPs who are in our rural areas and also who are equally supported by our County Government. They can be important conduits to pass this information. I thank the mover Hon. Ndawa and I support. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Francis. Hon. Muoki then Hon. Leader of Majority.

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I think I stand to support the motion and in fact my biggest contribution would be the methodology of attaining this. As we try to sensitize the mothers, we need also to look at the ECDE because they all converge there so that we can be immunizing them directly there those who have not yet be immunized when their mothers did not know or they did not take them to the facilities.

Remember others are at places where there are no clinics or they might be like now when it is raining some mothers may not be able to reach the health facilities as quickly. So can we be looking or can there be found some means of reaching to the children by these particular the volunteers because they can reach the ECDE facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Muoki Musila. Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion on the premise that the assumption is that every birth happens in a health facility or in a hospital. There are so many births that happen outside the health facilities where mothers are able to access the.... is it called card; the blue clinic card where it has some information about when to come for the next jab. I think Mheshimiwa Ndawa the motion comes in very handy especially when births happen outside the health facility and the mother is not able to get the clinic card.

Secondly, there are vulnerable groups there are a lot of people due to their vulnerability maybe because of poverty or where there is a young lady who gives birth and because the mother does not want to expose them fearing maybe the daughter has given birth too early and you know there is a lot of judgment in our society those are the targeted groups also that this sensitization is going to be focused on them. I agree with my good friend Mheshimiwa Muoki that we need all platforms that are available including ECDE centers to directly have access to kids who have not been vaccinated.

On that note I hope and wish that the County Government of Machakos is going to mainstream this information about immunization in all its operations so much so that if you go to a public participation that is talking about the Finance Bill, that we will have someone also talking about the vaccination and how the service can be accessed easily from the County Government of Machakos. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Majority Leader; that is a good one. Hon. Felix Ngui.

Hon. Felix Ngui (Katangi, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this Motion that has been brought by Hon. Ndawa from Matuu Ward. Mr. Speaker, you realize that vaccination is one of the greatest achievements in modern civilization. By vaccinating our children, we prevent so many diseases like smallpox, polio and others. Also we prevent recurrence of other diseases that may come in future. You remember recently when there was Corona outbreak those people who got vaccination of different diseases was not prone to getting corona.

This Motion is timely and vaccination is a right of the children and the responsibility lies purely on the government. I want to urge the department of health in our County that they should be providing this vaccination and devolve it down. In a place like Katangi you can only get vaccination at Katangi health center yet there are people who come from very far ends like Ndiuni and Mekilingi. Some of them do not have bus fare to come to Katangi and if we can devolve this service to the dispensaries so that our people can access this vaccination. I support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Felix. Hon. Mulinge.

Hon. Joseph Mulinge (Muvuti/ Kiima Kimwe, MCCC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I start by applauding Leader of Minority for coming up with a very sensitive Motion which is touching Machakos County. Mr. Speaker, I am very much surprised at this era when vaccination was started 1980 to hear that diseases that can be cured by vaccination Machakos County being within the cosmopolitan area, we have very many issues of the same.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion with these reasons; vaccination can be done to very many children but research has shown that because of some issues like immunosuppression can be caused by stress, malnutrition, immaturity of the babies among others and so the cases of diseases coming back do not mean the factor is lack of vaccination. The reason why I am arguing like that is because when they have the vaccination, a lot of communication is been done through radios and even for instance my area you see the health providers are moving around with vehicles assisted by Chiefs and village administrators. Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion but research has to be done further to establish why polio is coming back. Thank you so much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mulinge. Hon. Katiti.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I want to thank the mover of the Motion because we know a sick nation cannot prosper. Somehow good health translates to better wealth. These things were put to the minds and were enshrined by the people and authors of our Constitution under the bill of rights which falls under article 43(1)(a) to (f) which says everybody has a right to health, adequate food, clean water, adequate and decent housing, social security among others. We encourage our people to be protected taken care by the government because it is requirement enshrined in our Constitution.

It is very paramount that I support this Motion as well I thank the Kenya Kwanza Government that came up with that policy of the health care givers which they said they have to be part and parcel of so that those (.....inaudible) and health promoters can engage the people down from the ground so that they can know what entails them and what our people are suffering from. As they move around I also encourage them to sensitize those people back in the community so that they can understand the importance of vaccination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Katiti. Hon. Kavyu and the mover will reply.

Hon. Francis Kavyu (Kinanie, MCCC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the Motion and I also propose that the same way it is a requirement for every child joining education they are normally required to produce birth certificate to prove their years. Also to encourage the community members to ensure that the kids are vaccinated should be made a requirement. At the point of joining school, every parent should provide vaccination certificate that shows that particular kid has undergone all through stages of vaccination.

We have seen the adverse effects of lack of babies been vaccinated at times they even come to affect them when they are grown up. Something that needs to be encouraged and also the department of education need to ensure the Community Health Providers (CHP). Nowadays the CHPs are no longer volunteers so we also need to equip them because we they have the kits so we need to include it and sure that it is part of their mandate to go in every homestead where there are kids and countercheck and confirm that those kids either they have been vaccinated for the vaccines that are due and even get details on when they are supposed to get the next vaccine.

Through that, the department will have a database for instance if it is Machakos Central, Kinanie, Matuu or Katangi the department will have an exact population of the kids who will be that are there and what stage of vaccination they are in. With that we will be able to reduce and also as leaders whenever we get an opportunity we also need to encourage our people, even if it is through the media especially the local media, radio station, we should not only be going to radio to do politics or talk about development issues. Sometimes I also challenge ourselves that we find time, go and try talk to our people on issues that on daily basis.

One of the key steps that we can make towards achieving 100 per cent is creating awareness because an informed society is the best that we can have. It is a good Motion that the Leader of Minority has brought. There is almost a similar Motion that the Minority Leader had brought concerning these infants that were using the traditional ways on teething and we debated it here and sometimes the Minority Leader should also learn something from one person who went back to Jesus when he was healed of leprosy.

I think from what I have heard from him, the discussion yielded some fruits so we also need to get some status report from the Minority Leader, to what extent the discussions and actions that were taken have assisted to alleviate the situation in his ward. It is a good debate and we fully support that the department moves with speed and make sure the dangers that come with lack of vaccinating the babies are averted at early stages. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kavyu. Hon. Ndawa, you can reply.

Hon. Mbili Ndawa (Matuu, MCCC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will start by thanking the Hon. Members who have contributed to this motion. I am confident that the Members are in agreement with the motion and I want to thank them because they have a right to say yes or no. I have seen they have taken the right path of supporting this motion. Starting from where Mheshimiwa Kavyu left, the other motion was discussed in this House and immediately after this House, I have come to realize the electorates back at home usually listen to what is happening in this House. Again, the same day the deliberations were aired through our local stations and from that I want to confirm here, the problem is almost over. In fact, it is over by 80 per cent. So, the discussion we do here are very important.

Coming to the motion before the House Hon. Speaker, I request the leaders in this House and the electorates; we have a duty. There is a law in Kenya which says every Kenyan has a duty to his neighbour. In law, the word neighbour is not the same as the meaning of neighbour in English. In English, a neighbour is somebody who is close to you or has a house next to you. In law, a neighbour is anyone who can be affected by your deeds directly or indirectly regardless of where he/she is.

Hon. Speaker, if my action can cause harm to another person, if I write a message insulting somebody in America, the law says I have injured my neighbour regardless of where they are. So, as leaders, we have a duty of educating our people and from the motion, this is something set in 1980 that all kids below five years must be immunized. The County Government of Machakos has spent a lot of resources to ensure that we have enough health facilities, staff and enough drugs so that the immunization can be undertaken.

Hon. Speaker, I can say those who are not taking their kids for these vaccines can be cited for negligence because if you fail to do what you are supposed to do then you cannot repudiate from blame of negligence. I am requesting and I need to be advised accordingly, I know in most cases the motion is not enforceable so I will be moving a Bill before this House to

make it mandatory for kids to be admitted in ECDE and before admission, the parent is will be required to produce those vaccination certificates for the five killer diseases and I am very sure Hon. Speaker if we go that route, everybody will be more serious and the kids will have the required vaccines.

Again, the kids we are talking about are minors and in our constitution anyone below 18 years has got no legal capacity to make decision on his/her own. Therefore we encourage their parents to be the ones with that duty of ensuring what needs to be done to that child is done without delay. Again the policy in our County on issue of health is that any child below five years is not charged in our health facilities and sometimes I fail to understand why a parent can deny that child the chance of getting that vaccine yet the service is given free of charge. So, Hon. Speaker, we need to advice our young mothers to ensure that they use our facilities.

Hon. Speaker, of late we have witnessed even in the National Government, setting dates for vaccination of Polio between 9th and 13 May, 2018 and from the report we are getting from Google, over 800,000 kids got that oral vaccine. That was the second round and the third round was on 29th January, 2024 and from how things are going, WHO is saying those who are travelling, before they do so, they should show the certificates for these vaccines.

So, Hon. Speaker to avoid future problems to our kids, we need to take care of the young ones so that they can take over from where we shall leave. So, Hon. Speaker, the motion does not require a huge budget because the request we are making are very simple; we are only saying that mothers be sensitized on mandatory vaccines for children in both prenatal and post natal. There are those who just go for the pre-natal and the moment they deliver they do not go back to those clinics and that is where we have this lacuna of kids not being vaccinated.

The second request is health promoters to be equipped with knowledge to sensitize mothers. Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the County Government of Machakos and the National Government because of substituting the letter 'V' with 'P.' In the last two weeks, the health promoters were paid each Ksh. 10,000 which is a plus to our health promoters. Since the two governments are using resources to facilitate these health promoters, let the department ensure that they see value for these monies paid there. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The House adjourns to 7th May, 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.21 p.m.