



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KILIFI

SECOND ASSEMBLY –THIRD SESSION

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 3rd December 2019

*The House met at the County Assembly Chamber,
Malindi Town, at 2:30 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER

THE KILIFI COUNTY FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET ESTIMATES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020

Hon. Kiraga: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Kilifi County First Supplementary Programme Based Budget Estimates for the financial year 2019/2020.

NOTICE OF MOTION

THE KILIFI COUNTY FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET ESTIMATES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020

Hon. Kiraga: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I would wish to give the following Notice of Motion;

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Kilifi County First Supplementary Programme Based Budget Estimates for the financial year 2019/2020 laid on the Table of this House on 3rd December, 2019. Thank you so much.

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MOTIONS

ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIT TO LINK YOUTHS TO OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE

THAT, AWARE THAT, Section 44 (3) (a) of the County Government Act, 2012 provides that the County Secretary is the Head of the County Public Service;

FURTHER AWARE THAT, many youths in Kilifi County in educational training institutions have experienced challenges on internships, attachments and other opportunities within the County Public Service due to the lack of an institutional framework and a specific section within the office of the County Secretary to link them up to all the County Executive Departments;

CONCERNED THAT, the lack of a policy and a specific section/unit to link the youths to opportunities has resulted to confusion, haphazard and unstructured handling of the internships, opportunities within the County Public Service; therefore, this honourable Assembly urges the County Secretary to develop an Internship Policy and initiate measures for establishment of a Section/Unit within the Office of the County Secretary that will be a structured and centralized one stop shop for information and all internships, attachments and other opportunities for the deserving persons within Kilifi County Public Service.

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Stanly Kenga is not there so this Motion is dropped.

(Motion dropped)

FREE ADMINISTRATION OF SNAKE BITES ANTI-VENOM IN HEALTH CENTRES

Hon. Ziro: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to move a Motion to the County Executive Committee Member in charge of the Department of Health Services on free administration of snake bite anti-venom in health centres:-

THAT, AWARE THAT, there is an abundance of snakes in various parts of the county mostly in Magarini, Ganze, Kaloleni and Kilifi South Sub-Counties which poses a high mortality rate from snake bites in the County;

FURTHER AWARE THAT, all patients bitten by snakes should be assessed by medically trained staff to determine the species responsible, the amount of venom injected and the variable time course for development of signs, requiring that patients be kept under observation for at least 24 hours;

CONCERNED THAT, these incidences of snake bites are a neglected emergency in the County owing to the low awareness of snake bites as a public health problem in the county resulting to victims being maimed and even losing lives;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT, poor infrastructure and poverty contribute to delays in seeking and receiving treatment for snake bites including the high cost of acquiring and storing the anti-venom;

RECOGNIZING THAT, it is essential for snake bite victims to get supportive care followed by the administration of the anti-venom as soon as possible following a snake bite;

NOTING THAT, Article 43 (1) (a) of the Constitution provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health;

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Now therefore, this House urges the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Health Services to establish programmes to sensitize people on the management of snake bites and to ensure timely supply and free administration of the anti-venom in at least three health centers in every sub-county, and further ensure that these health centers are equipped with the necessary infrastructure for the storage of the anti-venom.

Mr. Speaker, before I call upon hon. Kiraga to second, I wish to make the following submissions. As I have stated, we have a problem in this county in regards to snake bites. There have been cases where people have been bitten by snakes and while on the verge of looking for redress from our health centres you realize there are delays and sometimes we don't get the patients to hospital on time so that they can get proper medical attention. Let me cite an example from my ward. This year alone we have had about 13 snake bites in my ward, and within the 13 cases, five people have died. As we are talking, we have a child aged 10 years in Kilifi Hospital who was bitten by a snake a month ago. When he was taken to Marafa Health Centre, they said they cannot give any assistance. There was a delay because our ambulances are always not in working order so by the time the patient got to Malindi it was a bit serious. He has stayed in Malindi Hospital for two weeks and was then transferred to Kilifi Hospital. Mr. Speaker, if there was proper care at Marafa Health Centre in administering of the anti-venom, this kid would not be in Kilifi, and as we are talking, the kid can even lose his leg.

My prayer to this House, Mr. Speaker, is to urge the CEC Health to make sure that anti-venom is administered at least in three health centres in every sub-county, especially in Ganze, Kaloleni and Magarini; these are areas which are prone to snake bites. The biggest problem we have come to realize is our roads are in a very bad state, even if you want to take a person who has been bitten by a snake, it takes time to reach the facility because of the condition of the roads. Again, our ambulances are not enough, and those that we have are not in working order. As we are talking, there is one ambulance that is serving the whole of Magarini Sub-County. Now imagine a person has been bitten by a snake in Bombi and the ambulance is in Gongoni; the distance from Gongoni to Bombi and then from Bombi to Malindi, I don't think that person can survive. Now we have floods and most snakes are coming to the higher lands for food and shelter.

I want this House to take this matter serious and I urge Members to support this Motion so that we can have this anti-venom supplied in every sub-County in at least three health centres and again it should be made free because if we charge for it, most people might not have the money to pay for this anti-venom. It is my humble prayer that we support this Motion so that we can be able to help our people in this county. With those few remarks, I wish to call hon. Kiraga to support this Motion. Thank you.

(Hon. Kiraga seconded)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Kiraga: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. If there is any serious issue the Member for Garashi would be remembered for in this Second Assembly then it is today and it is this Motion that the Member has brought to this House. These are some of the Motions which really capture the concerns of the residents of Kilifi. Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank the hon. Member for Garashi, Peter Ziro, for bringing this Motion to this House.

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Going by the prayer of this Motion, this House urges the CECM in charge of Health Services to establish programmes to sensitize people on the management of snake bites and to ensure timely supply and free administration of anti-venom in at least three health centres. Mr. Speaker, this prayer is in two parts, one is the element of first aid; these people to be made aware on how to administer first aid on the occasion of a bite happening. This is one way of promoting health care in our communities.

Secondly is to establish timely supply and free administration of the anti-venom in at least three health centres. Most of these anti-venoms are found in these big hospitals like Malindi, Kilifi and Mariakani, but funny enough, we do not have snakes in these towns. If we have snakes, then they are very minimal. Snakes are found in the remote areas but the anti-venoms are found in the towns and that's why there is this gap. I also understand this County has been relying on this private practitioner I think within Malindi and he has established a very well equipped facility to offer medication as far as anti-venom is concerned. He has established an outstanding facility Mr. Speaker; most patients going to either Malindi or Kilifi are referred to that private facility.

These are the priorities that the Department of Health should consider. We understand the Department of Health gets the lions share when it comes to budgeting, and I think the Health Services Committee should advise the Department to put their priorities right. It is true that after these floods, most of these snakes will run away from those areas to where the people live. I have also been a victim; one of my village elders was bitten by a snake and he took less than 30 minutes and passed on. So when we talk of anti-venom administration, I think we should be very serious.

I urge and not only the health centres, if the anti-venoms are given proper conditions then they can even be stored in the dispensaries because what we need is power. If we have power we can store them and people can be helped right away from the first level of medication. I must also thank Rural Electrification Authority (REA) for they have done a lot. Most of the dispensaries have been served with power so I believe these facilities can be served with anti-venoms so that if anything is to go by, then the people of Kilifi can just be helped from home. With those few remarks, I stand to support the adoption of this Motion.

Hon. (Ms.) Koki: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support the Motion. Being a victim of snake bites, I was bitten twice when I was in school in Kaloleni Sub-County at Kadzongo Girls Secondary School. Those days it was compulsory that when you are reporting to school you have to carry the black stone and a razor blade in case of a snake bite. It was very common because our school was built near the forest. I think the snakes which were biting us those days were not very poisonous as the snakes that are there now because most of us would have lost our lives. I remember I was bitten on my hand when I was opening a tap to fetch water to go shower. In the following week, I was bitten on my leg as I was going to the bathrooms to shower. So if this is a problem that is affecting our people in the county, then I think the anti-venom should be administered in all the hospitals be it a dispensary or a referral hospital so that people can get these services for free because most of these snakes are poisonous and when a student like me is asked to carry a black stone and a razor blade so that I can administer first aid on my own, then this could turn hazardous and affect most of our people. I stand to support this Motion and the Department of Health should treat this as an emergency. Thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

Hon. (Ms.) Messo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support the Motion. I would like to congratulate the hon. Member from Magarini because we have just talked about sand

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harvesting and the Mover was from Magarini, now we are talking about snake bites, the Mover is also from Magarini. We have wise men in Magarini though I wonder, our Governor is from Magarini but most problems are experienced in Magarini; what is really happening in Magarini? Something must be very serious in Magarini.

I have a story about a man bitten by a snake; by then my lovely husband was the accountant at Malindi District Hospital. So a guy came bitten by a snake and to my surprise, they were told they do not have the anti-venom. I asked myself what is happening? He was in great pain; the parents were moving from place to place looking for Dr. Anisa. One of the doctors said they have to run to Watamu. There is a man who had anti-venom; they went but unfortunately when they came back the man was no more.

My able Chairperson I support you so much and I beg this House to pass this Motion to save the lives of Kilifians. I support the Motion. Thank you very much.

Hon. (Ms.) Saumu: Thank Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to air my sentiments and first to appreciate the Mover of the Motion and the Seconder of the Motion. Just direct to some sentiments; the Seconder of the Motion gave a brief summary of where these anti-venoms are. He briefly said these anti-venoms are in hospitals in the big town like Malindi, Kilifi and Mariakani but the demand of these products we see are in the rural areas. It is high time that the resources follow demand and it was good that the Seconder of the Motion is the Chairperson for Budget and also a Member of the Health Committee. Every time we would be going for budgetary allocation, these are the things we should consider Mr. Speaker. With those few remarks, I wish to support the Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Reuben: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I stand in solidarity with my fellow Members to support the adoption of this Motion. Health is paramount and comes first. I have heard the Mover of the Motion explaining the troubles that the people in the stated wards have been encountering. We have seven Sub-Counties and we have four which have victims of snake bites. We suggest that we have three quarters of people in Kilifi County who are victims.

Mr. Speaker, the Mover has stated that he has witnessed eight people bitten by snakes and five lost their lives. It is very sad and needs very urgent assistance. I am also a witness of this. I have a colleague from Adu Ward in Magarini Sub-County who during campaigns for the Ganda Ward by-election was bitten by a snake and had to be transferred from Adu to Malindi Sub-County hospital. It took almost eight hours because of technicalities of transport. There was no ambulance. We had to solicit for a private van to take that colleague to Malindi Sub-County Hospital. In the trajectory we also encountered very huge traffic and upon reaching the hospital, it did not take even five minutes when he lost his life. We buried that colleague even before the 17th of October.

I urge this House to support this Motion that we have at least three health centres to be equipped with anti-venoms to assist these people. Looking at their income status, poverty is dominating in our county and we were elected to be of great help to these people. When this Motion is passed, it will not only assist people in Magarini, Kaloleni, Kilifi and Ganze Sub-Counties, it will even extend to Malindi and other sub-counties in Kilifi County. With those few remarks, I would like to urge this House to be in solidarity with the Mover of this Motion and support this Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mwayaa: Asante mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia fursa hii niunge mkono Mswada ambao umeletwa na ndugu yetu mjumbe wa Garashi Peter Ziro. Kabla niunge mkono, nafahamisha Bunge hili kwamba leo ni siku ya walemavu na vile vile hapa Kilifi Kaunti sikukuu

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hii inasheherekewa sehemu za Bamba. Kwa hivyo baada ya Bunge kuisha tunaweza kutembea huko.

Mheshimiwa Spika, naunga mkono Mswada huu ambao umeletwa na mheshimiwa Peter Ziro. Ni juzi tu pale sehemu za Kayafungo Kaloleni Sub-County ambapo kuna kijana mmoja aliumwa na nyoka na ile hospitali ambayo ilikuwa iko karibu ni pale Gotani na kusema kweli, hii dawa ambayo inatibu sumu ya nyoka ilikuwa hakuna na mguu ukaanza kuoza. Hata saa hii ninavyoongea yule kijana nyama yake sehemu zingine ilikatwa ili kuziba pale mahali ambapo kulikuwa pameanza kuoza kwa sababu mfupa ulikuwa unaonekana.

Ni kweli dawa hizi zifikishwe sehemu ambako kuna nyoka na zahanati zilizoko kule zikawe kuwa na dawa hizi ili mikasa kama hii isiweze kupatikana tena hapa Kilifi. Saa hii ukimuona yule kijana bado anabebwa na mfupa bado unaonekana; nilisikitika sana. Nikiwa mwanakamati wa Kamati ya Afya, wacha niunge mkono ili tunapopata dawa hizi kule sehemu za mashinani zitasaidia hali hizi zisipate jamii zetu. Mheshimiwa Spika, naunga mkono na naomba pia waheshimiwa wenzangu waweze kuunga mkono ili tuweza kupata dawa hizi kule sahemu za mashinani ambako nyoka wanapatikana. Asante mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Mramba: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the Motion as brought by Bishop Peter Ziro Ngowa, the able MCA (Member of County Assembly). Yes, he is a bishop because he mans a ministry of his own in Mombasa. I also congratulate the people of Ganda having elected a very able MCA and it is now evident that when we were saying vote for Reuben, we were on the right truck. His maiden speech was eloquent and his predecessor could not even utter at least a quarter of what he said.

Mr. Speaker, this issue of anti-snake venom is very crucial. I once witnessed a woman who had visited his uncle in Madunguni area and he was living 10 meters from Madunguni Dispensary. At around 10:00 a.m. she was bitten by a snake. She was taken to the dispensary, which is 10 meters away, but she could not get treatment. There was no ambulance; the moment an ambulance reached there she was taken to Malindi Sub-County Hospital but died immediately.

When we went to the Kenya Wildlife Services, they told us the snake was 70 years old, while, the woman was around 50. Therefore, I still believe though it has not been proven scientifically that when you are bitten by a snake which is older than you, you cannot survive unless a doctor like hon. Kiraga can give scientific evidence Mr. Speaker.

There have been incidences of people living with disability who have died most of them as a result of snakebites. You will come to find that even when a hand was taken off some even died. So, we need anti-snake venom in all dispensaries not even health centres...

(Hon. Kiraga stood on a Point of Order)

Hon. Kiraga: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. The Member is misleading this House. I am not a medical doctor and that should not be in the HANSARD. I am a laboratory technologist Mr. Speaker, for your information.

Hon. Mramba: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I had referred to him as a medical doctor because he specialized in circumcision.

(Laughter)

So, according to me I thought he is fit to be a surgeon.

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(Hon. (Ms.) Messo stood on a Point of Order)

Hon. (Ms.) Messo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Member on the Floor is still misleading this House because how come the doctors say that the snake was 70 years and the lady was 50 years, where did they find that snake?

Hon. Mramba: Mr. Speaker we killed the snake on that day. We took the head to Kenya Wildlife Services. It is not the doctor who told us the age of the snake; it is the Kenya Wildlife Service's personnel. They examined that snake and told us that the snake was 70 years old.

(Hon. Ziro spoke off record)

Hon. Mramba: Were you there? Thank you so much Bishop. Now, in the olden days when we were still young children we depended on medicine men or herbalists. When one was bitten by a snake, a herbalist would mix some concoction and that thing will be gone but nowadays those traditional herbalists are gone. Most of them were killed for being suspected of being witches while others died natural deaths. The only place where we get this service now is either a dispensary, a health centre or the sub-county hospital. These cases are in fact very rampant in Gongoni Ward, Sosoni areas in Adu and Marafa; those areas are notorious.

Another incident happened in Adu. Two children riding a bicycle were bitten by a cobra snake. A clinical officer manning Adu Dispensary called Malindi and told them we are coming now two people have been bitten by a snake, prepare medicine immediately. It took 50 minutes for them to drive from Adu Kamale to Malindi but when they reached Malindi there was no medicine. They had to call James Usher, a Briton living in Watamu but there was no medicine at that time. Those two young men died. Let us do something so that we save the lives of those people in the rural areas who are mostly affected by snake bites. Thank you and I wish to support the Motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Member, in the absence of any other business in the Order Paper, I move to adjourn the House until tomorrow. Thank you very much.

The House rose at 3.05 p.m.