



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KILIFI**  
**SECOND ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION**  
**THE HANSARD**

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

*The House met at the County Assembly Chamber,  
Malindi Town, at 11.00 a.m.*

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

**PRAYERS**

**PAPERS**

HEALTH SERVICES IMPROVEMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Mwathethe): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to lay on the Table of this House, the Kilifi County Health Services Improvement Fund Annual Report for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

*(Hon. Mwathether laid the Paper on the Table)*

REVENUE STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020

I have yet another Paper that I want to lay. I wish to lay on the Table of the House, the Revenue Statements for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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*(Hon. Mwachether laid the Paper on the Table)*

## STATEMENTS

### LACK OF LABORATORY SERVICES AT KILIFI COUNTY HOSPITAL

**Hon. Thaura:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I will read a Response to a Statement sought by hon. Thomas Mumba Chengo. The Statement was on laboratory tests at Kilifi County Hospital:

Whether the CECM in charge of the Department of Health is aware that patients requiring laboratory tests at Kilifi County Hospital are referred to a private facility hence exposing the patients to extra charges which would have otherwise have been avoided if the tests were done at the county hospital.

If yes, what are the reasons behind the referrals and what measures is the CECM putting in place to ensure that tests are done at the hospital to ensure that the great people of Kilifi are not exposed to a private facility and probably other charges that are unnecessary?

Mr. Speaker, there is a very long Statement with a lot of figures which I am sure Members...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): We have the document so just go to the narrative...

**Hon. Thaura:** The Department of Health Services hereby confirms that the CECM is aware that officially, specimens from Kilifi County Hospital are referred to the following laboratories as part of the sample referral mechanism;

- Viral Load is taken to Coast Provincial General Hospital.
- EID is taken to the same; Coast Provincial General Hospital.
- HIV Discordant/discrepant is taken to HIV reference laboratory, Nairobi.
- TB Culture is taken to TB reference laboratory, Nairobi.
- Blood samples for transfusion screening are done at the Regional blood transfusion centre.

The workload report for Kilifi County Hospital for 2020 is as below; there is a table there. Then on the next page, from the above workload analysis for quarter one to quarter three, 2020, a total of 63, 368 samples were analyzed from 57, 031 patients. Out of this 62, 085 (98 percent) samples from 55, 876 (98 percent) patients or beneficiaries were analyzed at Kilifi County Hospital laboratory. The analysis indicates that 1,283 (two percent) samples from 1,155 (two percent) patients or beneficiaries were referred to Coast Provincial General Hospital, HIV reference laboratory, Nairobi, TB reference laboratory, Nairobi and Regional Blood Transfusion Centre respectively.

However, we also note that some clients are unofficially referred to private facilities for tests. We have routinely taken action against rogue staff that unnecessarily refer clients to these private facilities including reshuffling and issuance of disciplinary letters. The Department is currently implementing HSIF and as such stock outs have substantially minimized at the hospitals.

The below table shows the period the hospital was stocked out and when the reagents were received; the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2019 our chemistry testing commodities reagents were out of stock then until the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2020.

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On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, the chemistry testing haemogram reagents were out of stock up to 24<sup>th</sup> of July the same year.

We endeavour to improve on both strategic stock management and leverage for reduction of lead time in delivery of orders by our pharmaceutical suppliers. We are also committed to improve our resourcing of laboratory services as exemplified in this 2020/2021 financial year, wherein we have allocated Kshs 40,000,000 for the procurement of laboratory supplies up from Kshs 18,456,082 in the previous financial year.

Currently, the county hospital laboratory has the required supplies to run the facility optimally. We shall also endeavour to ensure steady supply of these commodities through timely ordering and also taking stern action against staff who collude to make unwarranted referrals outside the hospital. Signed by the hon. CECM Health, Charles Dadu Karisa.

**Hon. Mumba:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Response is very long but I will start by saying health remains a fundamental Department which is an enabler to the other Departments. A healthy county will contribute to all the development that we are looking forward to but if we are not going to take this Department seriously, it means we shall be an ailing county.

Mr. Speaker, I will not go through the whole Response but I will quickly take you to the second page whereby it talks about the rogue staff that unnecessarily refer clients to these private facilities. The CECM has acknowledged that indeed there are patients who are referred to the private laboratories to carry out the tests and the Statement has referred to them as 'rogue.' My worry is I am not very sure whether the action claimed to have been taken here is true because there is nothing to show whether these rogue staff have been dealt with.

Again, my fear is before the laboratory was erected adjacent to the hospital, what was the motive? Because Mr. Speaker whenever you want a site for a business venture first you must look at the possibilities of you getting the clients. So it means this was a very orchestrated move by the same people whom I referred as 'rogue' so that they could do business with the County Government leaving our people at stake that they are being exposed to paying high costs for these tests things that the County Government can handle. And if again it's a case whereby we are lacking the facilities to carry these tests, what has the Department been doing seven years down the line after devolution? I think these are the things the Department should have given priority to so that they procure the necessary equipment to carry out these tests.

Mr. Speaker, the laboratory they are referring people to is not a very big business venture like LANCET and all that. It means this is a facility that the County Government can procure and save exploitation of the patients that attend to that referral hospital.

So does it mean we are too blind or we are so much interested in doing business with our people rather than taking care of the same people who voted us in and expect to get services from people who are employed by the same County Government? So that is my fear Mr. Speaker.

The whole narrative here does not even answer my question because my prayer was whether is he aware those people are referred for the tests? I am also a victim Mr. Speaker. I must confirm to this House whoever said we do not attend those hospitals, I do attend the county hospital myself and I fall victim to these tests. I was referred to the same laboratory. So it pains me if I should pay more while the same government can procure the same machinery and offer the same services at a low cost.

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Mr. Speaker, the same way you have guided my able Deputy Speaker in consultation with him we shall use Standing Order No. 42 to make sure the CECM appears before this House and respond to these critical issues. Thank you. I am not pleased.

**Hon. Kenga:** Mr. Speaker, my attention is drawn to the second page of the Response. There is a table that is showing the date a certain service was interrupted. Now my concern in the first service that was interrupted on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 but resumption of the same service was on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. I am looking at 1<sup>st</sup> June of 2019 then you complete the year then you take another seven months from January up to 27<sup>th</sup> of July for that service to resume Mr. Speaker. I am worried if this is an internal service. I am not a medical expert and this Assembly is short of doctors who may assist us with the medical knowledge in this because this service is chemistry testing commodities reagents out of stock; but out of stock from 1<sup>st</sup> June to December of the same year, again from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to the 27<sup>th</sup> of July. That is a whole year. So I am worried that what may have prompted this interruption of this service. Thank you.

**Hon. (Ms.) Ngari:** Asante Mheshimiwa Spika kwa hii nafasi. Nasimama kuunga mkono mheshimiwa Mumba kulingana na haya maswala ya maabara ya hospitali ya Kilifi. Hata mimi ni mmoja wapo. Siku moja nilienda na mgonjwa na nikatumwa katika hii maabara. Yale ambayo yapo katika hospitali zetu ni mambo ya kusikitisha na mbali na hiyo maabara ya Kilifi na Malindi huko mashinani kwa zahanati ndio kubaya zaidi. Mgonjwa akienda pale hakuna dawa; akifika Malindi hakuna daktari kwa hiyo anatumwa Mombasa na huko nako mgonjwa hana pesa. Labda anarudi kwa Mheshimiwa kwa usaidizi.

Kwa hivyo hii idara ijaribu iwezavyo; tuungane mkono. Kuhusu hilo swala la Mheshimiwa, Waziri aje ajibu haya maswali ili wananchi wetu waje wafaidi hizi huduma za afya. Asante.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Thaura, do you have anything to say? Sorry, hon. Maitha...

**Hon. Maitha:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): Maybe you have some laboratory information concerning the same...

**Hon. Maitha:** Infact that is the reason I have stood up...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): Assist the House to know whether these things are expensive that the County Government of Kilifi cannot afford...

**Hon. Maitha:** The point is they are expensive but the County Government can afford. The chemist testing is one of the sensitive tests in the laboratory. We have the liver function test dealing with the liver; we have the urea electrolyte that deals with the kidneys. So I am surprised for one year, how do they perform transfusion without doing these tests? You cannot do blood transfusion without carrying out these tests! Thank you, hon. Stanley (Kenga) for identifying the gap between the dates; 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. One year down the line. I am very worried Mr. Speaker. It is high time we call the CECM in this House to clarify ...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Kenga, we do not have a medical doctor but at least we have a lab expert. Now, before I give direction on this, a friend of mine was telling me about a policy in Kakamega whereby Governor Oparanya... I am yet to confirm that, maybe the Committee can look into it; that these things are happening everywhere. There are clinics mushrooming along the major hospitals and what the County Government did is they banned all the licenses of all the clinics that operate I think within 20 or 30 kilometers radius. Maybe it is an

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issue you would want to bring a Motion on so that, that could be the same because probably you want to be interested who owns these laboratories? Are the same reagents that are supposed to serve the County Government going to the laboratories? I mean these are the questions other counties have been asking themselves and I am informed that in Kakamega, you will not find a private clinic near a general hospital. If you want to do your business do it elsewhere because of the evidence that has been produced elsewhere. I am not saying you do it but I think it is an area you would want to check on. You cannot miss a service for a whole calendar year. And then how can you say we did not have money yet we passed our budget on 30<sup>th</sup> of June. It does not make any sense and I am not trying to debate this but as you are interrogating look at the facts. We pass our budgets on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June that means even if we do not have money in July, we have money in September, October, and November.

Now the reagents ran out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and come back three days before the end of the financial year of the other year. There is more than what meets the eye. So hon. Mumba and hon. Kenga, now I direct you to use Standing Order No. 42 and let us have the minutes up here before this Assembly because this now is getting way too much and the people now have more questions than answers. Next? Hon. Thaura, you have another one?

#### DELAYED UPGRADING OF MARERENI DISPENSARY TO A HEALTH CENTRE

**Hon. Thaura:** Mr. Speaker, seemingly today is a very busy day for me. My good friend hon. Ndagoo had declined that I give him some information but he was trying to inbox me so that I give the information to him. For the benefit of your people, he is an incompetent Member so we do not expect him in this House.

I am reading a Response to a Statement sought by the hon. Member for Adu hon. Stanley Kenga who also doubles up as our Deputy Speaker in this honourable House:-

That, whether the CECM in charge of Health Services in the county is aware that the workload at Marereni Dispensary warrants the facility to be upgraded to a health centre. Two; that previously efforts have been made to have the dispensary upgraded to a health centre. That the process to upgrade the facility has taken a lot of time.

If yes, what has delayed the upgrading process? At what stage has the Department reached on the upgrading process? When will the facility be upgraded to a health centre?

Here is the Response; that we hereby confirm that the CEC Member, Department of Health Services is aware that the workload warrants upgrading of Marereni Dispensary to a Health Centre. The Dispensary had a total outpatient attendance of 25, 540 in 2018/2019 and 18,812 in 2019/2020 respectively.

The CEC Member, Health Services is also aware that there have been previous efforts to upgrade the Dispensary to a Health Centre. We hereby wish to confirm that the Department of Health Services is committed to ensure the upgrading of the facility to a Health Centre (Level 3). The Department has pursued this vision by ensuring compliance with the set guidelines and standards as per the second National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2018 (NHSSP I).

The Department is cognizant of key investments that must be undertaken in order to gazette the facility as level three. These include; deployment of pre-requisite number of health workers; four nurses, two clinical officers, one lab technician, one nutritionist, one pharmaceutical technologist, one records officer, construction of wards for in-patient

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infrastructure; maternity ward, laboratory, observation room. These shall be captured in the Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2021/2022 for budgeting and implementation.

Signed by Hon. Charles Dadu Karisa; County Executive Committee Member (CECM), Health Services. Thank you.

**Hon. Kenga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am aware that the Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2021/2022 was submitted to the County Assembly and just last week as MCAs (Members of County Assembly) we were engaging the document; it is voluminous but maybe the Chairperson can confirm to me whether the same... because it was now for the Committees to start interrogating the document and make recommendations and forward to the Budget Committee for onward submission to the Assembly for approval therefore maybe the Chairperson can confirm to me whether the same has been captured in the Annual Development Plan.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Thaura, hon. Kenga is requesting you as the Chairperson of the Health Committee to confirm whether the issues raised have been captured in the ADP because as a Committee you have the prerogative of interrogating the Health CEC on that document. The CEC says this shall be captured in the ADP 2021/2022; can you confirm the same has been done?

**Hon. Thaura:** I am not very sure, Mr. Speaker, so perhaps the secretariat can seek the same from the ...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): Kindly get that feedback and lay it back in the House next week.

**Hon. Thaura:** Thank you.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kahindi): There being no other business on the Order Paper, this House stands adjourned.

**The House rose at 11:30 a.m.**

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