



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KILIFI

SECOND ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 5th August 2020

*The House met at the County Assembly Chamber,
Malindi Town, at 2.30 p.m.*

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

PRAYERS

PAPERS

THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, CULTURE, SOCIAL SERVICES AND SPORTS

Leader of Majority (Hon. Mwathethe): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to lay on the Table of this House the Third and Fourth Quarter Report for the financial year 2019/2020 from the Department of Gender, Culture, Social Services and Sports. Thank you.

(Hon. Mwathethe laid the document on the Table)

STATEMENTS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT, 2019 AT COUNTY LEVEL

Hon. (Ms.) Mbaru: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to read the Statement first:-

Whether the County Secretary (CS) in charge of County Public Service is aware that, there is a National Policy on Gender and Development, 2019, spearheaded by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) meant to achieve gender equality and women empowerment in the country.

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Whether the CS is aware that County Governments are supposed to be implementers of the policy to ensure that key thematic areas outlined in the policy that is; Labour and Employment, Education, Peace and Security, Governance, Power and Decision making, ICT, Respect for Human Rights, Sexual and Gender- Based Violence are integrated into county Sectoral policies, planning and programmes.

Whether the CS is aware that the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) formulated a Leadership Guide on Integration of Gender Equality and Inclusion in County Development to assist in implementation of the Gender and Development Policy.

If yes, what actions has he taken to ensure that this Policy is implemented at the county level? I call my colleague to respond.

Hon. Baya: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Allow me to read a Response for the County Assembly Statement on National Policy on Gender and Development, 2019.

The Department of Gender, Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services is aware of the National Policy on Gender and Development 2019.

The Policy is aligned to the Constitution in particular the Bill of Rights and subsidiary legislation;

- National and County Government system and their respective mandates.
- Kenya Vision 2030.
- Medium Term Plan III (MTP III)
- The Governments 'Big Four' Agenda (Universal Health Care, Food Security, Affordable Housing and Manufacturing)
- International and regional gender treaties that Kenya has ratified as well as emerging issues to achieve gender equality and women empowerment in national development so as to enhance participation of women and men, boys and girls, vulnerable and marginalized groups for the direct attainment of sustainable development goal No. 5 on gender equality and No. 10 on reduced inequality and general impact on all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

It is the mandate of the State Department of Gender to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Policy. This being a National Policy, the creation of the Department of Gender, Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services in 2018 specifically is the Executive's full commitment and mandate by the County Government to implement the Policy. The following activities have been implemented in keeping with National Gender Policy:-

1. The Department conducted Inter-Sectoral collaboration with other County Departments of Kilifi County Government and Non-Governmental Agencies to champion and enhance gender equality and women empowerment.
2. The officers in the Department analyzed and interpreted the National Policy to facilitate its implementation and contextualization. In this regard, the Department has undertaken to domesticate the policy to the Kilifi situation. The draft Gender Policy is in the process of being established along with other related policies such as the Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Gender Mainstreaming Policies.
3. The Department has since identified and trained gender champions in all the ten departments of the Executive office in gender issues and in particular, Gender Responsive Budgeting. The County Executive Committee Members and Chief Officers were all identified and trained with support from FIDA (Federation of Women Lawyers). The Department in partnership

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with FIDA trained all the House Committee Members of Budget and that of Gender, Youth, Culture and Social Services and the women caucus.

4. The Department has undertaken keen concern and put programs for anti-gender based violence and awareness creation against teenage pregnancy. In the FY 2018/2019, the Department carried out county-wide campaigns against teenage pregnancy that saw the reduction of teen pregnancy drop from 17,000 to less than 13,000 the following year. These campaigns have been sustained through social media and other public platforms.
5. This year we have been able to set up a toll free mobile number 0800720307 and recruited two tele-counselors in the month of June 2020 supported by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) which the public can call to seek guidance and reporting GBV incidences from any part of the county and the country.
6. In this current FY 2019/2020, the Department implemented a programme on women economic empowerment known as Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLAs) that was done on a small scale and hopefully can upscale it in this coming FY 2020/2021. The Department has further through the Department of Finance been keen on monitoring and reporting on the Presidential Decree on 30 percent AGPO (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities) programme requirement on all procured goods and services.
7. The Department is working closely with all the other Departments in the County as it is essentially a mainstreaming sector especially the Directorate of Gender. The Department works very closely with namely the Department of Medical Services and Public Health, Departments of Agriculture, Water and Environment, Co-operative and Trade and Tourism, Department of Education and ICT. These Departments do not only gender mainstream their activities but also have joint programmes and carry out joint activities with the Directorate of Gender.
8. Notable is the development of the Adolescent and Young People Sexual Health Rights/HIV (AYPSRH) Strategy and Programmes which aims to give knowledge, sensitize and create awareness and protect young people from all forms of vulnerabilities, building and strengthening their capacities to achieve overall good health. The two Departments launched the AYPSRH Strategy in April 2019 which currently is being reviewed. This review is being done using multi-sectoral approach involving the Department of Education from National and County Governments, Health, Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and young people's representation.
9. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has implemented jointly with the Department of Gender to implement an Agribusiness project in partnership with USTADI, an NGO (Non-governmental Organization). The project is ongoing and is dubbed as VIJABIZ targeting youth groups. The Department is also implementing a project dubbed NAGRIP which also targets youth groups of farmers.
10. The Department of Education and ICT in partnership with the Department of Gender has implemented an ICT literacy programme that was rolled out in the whole county. Presently, the Department of Education jointly with the Directorate of Gender and Youth has renovated and equipped a number of Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) famously known as youth polytechnics, and the Department in collaboration with the Department of Trade, Cooperative and Tourism to developed a Policy and criteria for Mbegu Fund which has been successfully implemented. It is our commitment to continue championing the implementation of the National Gender Policy.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. (Ms.) Saumu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to give my sentiments on the Statement. Before saying I agree or disagree to the Response, Mr. Speaker, the Statement that I raised is unique because it was addressed to the County Secretary in regards to a Policy that is in line with the Department of Gender.

We recall that in 2019 there was a National Policy on matters of gender and development. This National Policy was supposed to act as a framework for all 47 counties to be able to domesticate and customize policies with regards to the situations that they have at their own county level. That notwithstanding, the Department has answered but from the answer, it has generally majored on the mandate of the Department as expected of it.

Counties were supposed to customize the Policy and bring them to the county assemblies for oversight on the activities that have been highlighted. For example; Labour, Education, Health but that has not been done. If you go to response number two; they are trying to say that the draft Gender Policy is in process..., this now is supposed to be the answer that we are in the process of doing a draft policy to domesticate it according to the situation that we have at Kilifi County.

So, this answer is not satisfactory because what I was expecting as per the prayer of the Statement was for them to say, “yes, we understand that there is a National Policy and at a county level and this is what we have been able to do towards customizing our policy” but the answer is just highlighting the general mandate of the Department.

So, I am not satisfied with this Response and I request if you can guide the Committee that the Policy needs to be domesticated for the County Assembly to be able to oversight the role of the Department of Gender. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Chairperson and hon. George Baya, I think what you need to state in the next session is how far the Policy has gone. I think that is what the hon. Members need.

PROTECTING KILIFI COUNTY AGAINST YOUTH RADICALIZATION

Hon. (Ms.) Mbaru: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me to read the Second Statement; to the County Executive Committee Member in-charge of the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services through the Chairperson Gender, Youth, Culture and Social Services on Youth Radicalization:-

Whether the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services is aware that, Kilifi County has become a hot-spot for radicalization and violent extremism.

Whether the CECM is aware that there are over thirty (30) regions in Kilifi County that have been identified as hotspots for youth recruitment into terror groups like Al-Shabaab.

If yes, what actions is she taking to ensure that the youth in Kilifi County are protected and seize from becoming vulnerable to such groups?

I call my colleague to respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Baya: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me to help my able Chairperson to respond to the Statement:-

Response for County Assembly Statement on youth radicalization; the Department is well aware of the occurrences and all observations tabled. The County has witnessed presence of

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militia groups and notable hot-spots for recruitment of candidates into these groups. Notable of these groups are Mombasa Republican Council also known as MRC and the Al-shabaab outfits of terror gangs. The operation of these gangs are a serious risk to the peace, security and stability of not only our Kilifi County but the nation as a whole hence a top sensitive security issue that is being handled at and by the County Security Committee which the Department is not represented.

However, the Department being aware and mandated to protect and empower young people against such and other retrogressive cultures, traditions and practices such as alcoholism and drug abuse. In light of the above, the Department has over the years in its work plan been undertaking diverse programmes and activities to address the same. These include the following;

One; the Directorate of Youth has been collaborating particularly with the International Organization for Migration to address radicalization through a Programme for Human Security and Stability (PHSS); two-pronged programme approach towards individual livelihood support on one hand and the other being Community Revitalizing Projects dubbed as Community Assisted Projects. The beneficiaries of this project or programme were identified from all over the county but specifically in identified hot-spot areas for militia and fertile grounds of violent and extremism groups.

Two; a total of five Community Assisted Projects which included renovation and equipping of Vocational Training Centers (VTCs); Mwarakaya (Mwarakaya Ward), Hademu (Mwanamwinga Ward), Mwamtsunga (Rabai-Kisurutini Ward), Roka (Matsangoni Ward), Msumarini (Magarini Ward) and equipping of one Youth Empowerment Centre, Magarini Youth Empowerment Centre in Magarini Sub-County.

IOM BENEFICIARIES SINCE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2016

No.	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
1	2016	102	73	29
2	2017	20	12	8
3	2018	33	16	17
4	2019	24	15	9
5	2020	41	27	14
	Total	220	143	77

Three; budget allocation for individual beneficiaries; first group of 179 beneficiaries received an allocation of Kshs180, 000 each Kshs32, 220,000 and the second group of 41 beneficiaries received an allocation of Kshs150, 000 each Kshs6, 150.00. This project came to an end this April 2020.

Four; the Department has in partnership with that of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries been giving groups start-up kits to groups of youth and women in various value chains to undertake income Generating Activities (IGAs) in order to address vulnerability against being recruited in to these militia groups.

Five; establishing, renovation and equipping of various VTCs by the Department of Education and ICT in partnership with youth agencies are some of the efforts to curb and address vulnerability of communities against the influence of the militia/terrorist groups.

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Way forward; there is need however to carry out mass campaigns and sensitization on career and alternative livelihoods pathways as some are lured into joining the terrorist groups unknowingly in their search for jobs outside the county. Kindly note that the Department has always proposed to undertake programmes aimed at addressing these vulnerabilities in diverse ways but unfortunately have not been allocated any budget for the same. Given the observation by the County Assembly of Kilifi, we sincerely do hope that we will earn your support in trying to attain appropriation on the same in future financial year budgets. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. (Ms.) Saumu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Again, before I agree or disagree on this Statement, I would like to highlight something first. There are two issues that had been highlighted; first, what action the Department is taking to make sure that youth in Kilifi County are being protected towards youth radicalization and violent extremism and how it is going to cease them from becoming vulnerable to such groups. From the response, all the items that have been highlighted are geared towards question two of the Statement but the question that was of most importance was how we are going to protect our people?

Mr. Speaker, economic empowerment is not bad but if you recall from the census that was done last year, out of the 1.4 million people in Kilifi County more than 700,000 are youth, aged from 18 to 35 years. Out of the 700, 000 we are only seeing beneficiaries of 220, 000 from 2016 financial year all the way to 2020. What happens to the remaining number, Mr. Speaker? If you cannot economically empower them, how then do we protect them? That has not been answered. I was looking forward to see if the Department has tried to come up with a Policy that will be countering youth radicalization and violent extremism that is the way we are going to protect our youth, Mr. Speaker, and it has not been highlighted. What has been highlighted is just the issues on economic empowerment.

On the way forward, she is also highlighting on the issue of budget estimates that when money is being put to solve these issues, the money does not see its way into the estimates. How will she be able to convince Members that she wants this money to use it for the programme if we do not even have a Policy on the same?

So, the most important thing here is we are looking forward to a Policy into countering youth radicalization and violent extremism. Question one, has not been properly answered. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Baya do you have a Response on that or you would like to seek further clarifications?

Hon. Baya: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I agree with the Member and I will seek more clarification from the CECM on this matter.

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): Thank you. Is hon. Reuben Katana in?

Clerk- at- the Table: No.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): There being no other business in the Order Paper, the House stand adjourned until next week Wednesday.

The House rose at 3:05 p.m.

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