



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second County Assembly – Second Session

Tuesday 13th March, 2018

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

(Hon. Speaker (Ms. Beatrice Elachi) in the Chair)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Members I want to welcome you back from the short recess. It is my sincere hope that you had a wonderful and fruitful week as we embarked on Public Participation and consideration of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

Hon. Members as we continue with the first part of recess of the first session of the Second Assembly, I wish to remind you of the business before us. First, we are currently in the budget making period which will culminate in the Assembly's consideration for approval of estimates in the financial year 2018-19. Hon. Members I am truly delighted that the Assembly has come out robustly through its consideration of the CIDP to ensure proper planning of the City's finances and the appropriation of development of the coming five years. Committees will be reporting in this exercise soon.

Other than the budget process, we will also be considering all pending business which includes the Motions, the Statements, the Bills, the reports and petitions. Committees with pending reports are advised to move with speed to expedite conclusion of the same. Hon. Members, you are therefore encouraged to continue working with the diligence you have exhibited in executing your mandate for the benefit of Nairobi residents. Once again I warmly welcome you back from the short recess. Thank you very much.

PAPERS

THE FIRST QUARTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-18

Hon. Chege Mwaura: Madam Speaker I rise pursuant to Article 228 (6) of the Constitution of Kenya, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly today Tuesday 13th March 2018. Madam Speaker this is the first quarter County Government Budget Implementation Review Report for the financial year 2017-18.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REHABILITATION OF STREETS AND LANES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR STREET VENDORS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Pius Mwaura

Hon. Pius Mbono: Thank you Madam Speaker. I beg to give Notice of the following Motion. THAT, aware that Article 175 (b) of the Constitution on the principles of devolved government provides that county governments shall have reliable resources of revenue to enable them govern and deliver services effectively, noting that street vendors or business people who are commonly referred to as hawkers have the potential to contribute immensely to the City's revenue streams and create job opportunities if the sector is well managed, deeply concerned that frequent violent confrontations between City *askaris* and hawkers has not solved the challenges associated with the sector and only worsens the situation, further noting that various backstreets and avenues remain under-utilized in terms of the potential for street peddling e.g Arrow lane, Gaberone, Taveta and lanes joining Kirinyaga and Lower Kirinyaga Road. This Assembly urges the County Executive to rehabilitate these streets and lanes and utilize them to provide space for street vendors within certain strict parameters per the planning requirements and operating times; for instance, from 5.30 p.m. to 5.30 a.m. at least two days a week.

CONSIDERATION OF DEVELOPING MULTI-STOREY PARKING SLOTS THROUGH PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Madam Speaker I beg to give Notice of the following Motion, THAT aware that part of the Nairobi City County Governor's 7 point Agenda in the improvement of traffic management within the CBD, promotion of an enabling environment to enable job creation, business growth and wealth creation, observing that the attainment of the foregoing might prove difficult given the limited parking space in the City centre, a major contributor to traffic snarl-ups and gridlock, noting that the County has several vacant parking slots; for instance the parking adjacent to the Supreme Court and many others which remain underutilized, appreciating that some of the plots are utilized as temporary markets over the weekends such as Masai Market, further noting that the plots have the potential to greatly help the City ease congestion by creating additional parking and thus earn new revenue streams. This Assembly urges the County Executive to consider developing multi-storey parking slots through Public Private Partnership in all available County plots within the greater CBD to create additional parking space and generate additional crucial revenue as well as create job opportunities. Thank you Madam Speaker.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT REGARDING THE SUBMISSION OF REGULAR AND ANNUAL REPORTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Pius Mbono: Thank you Madam Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (c), I wish to request for a statement from the Leader of the Majority party regarding the submission of regular and annual reports to the County Assembly by the County Executive Committee. Hon. speaker Article 183 (3) of the Constitution provides that the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County. Further, the County Governments Act 2012 under Section 92 (2) provides that the Governor shall submit an annual report to the County Assembly on citizen participation in the affairs of the County government. It is evident that these two kinds of reporting have not been adhered to over the last six years of the Nairobi City County government existence.

Hon. Speaker, in the statement, the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:

1. Reasons for failure by the County Executive Committee to submit these regular and annual reports as stipulated by law;
2. Measures taken by the County government to ensure that these reports are forwarded to the Assembly without fail going forward; and
3. When the Assembly will receive its first full and regular reports on matters relating to the County from the County Executive Committee that was recently sworn in.

Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kiragu do you have something to say?

Hon. Anthony Karanja: I think the printing of the Order Paper is not in order. This is a very serious document that we needed to get the correct statement, the Notice of Motion that he gave is not what is here. I just wanted us to note that.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Whip. Thank you, Chair.

Hon. Chege Mwaura: Madam Speaker, I rise on the same request that the Hon. Member has alluded to. This is a House of rules and procedures, I am not aware if there are any reports that the County Executive has not passed to the Assembly with regards to the specified time frame. However, if there are I would have wished that they clearly be put that this is the kind of report that we wanted and did not appear this way, so that we can now follow up because I can also see the Chairman of budget who is here and I don't know whether he has anything to add before you commit it to the Leader of Majority, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Chair Budget, do you want to speak on the same?

Hon. Robert Mbatia: Madam Speaker, what I am aware of is the quarterly reports that have been forwarded religiously to this Assembly. But on these other reports, as much as my brother has quoted the section of the law, I am not aware. I want to confess that I am not aware that there are some reports that should be forwarded and the relevant committees should be seeking clarification from the Executive why those reports have not been forwarded. Because we work through committees, thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Wahinya.

Hon. Peter Kumuhu: Thank you madam Speaker. Basically what I wanted to ask is, I am seeking for clarification in respect to what Hon. Kiragu has said because indeed what is appearing in the Standing Orders is different from what has actually been read. I am just wondering whether the Assembly has got the mandate to make corrections so that we can proceed with what is exactly in the Standing Orders and what he has read can come in in another business of the day.

Hon. Speaker: Was that on the statement or the Notices of Motion?

Hon. Peter Kumuhu: Notices of Motion.

Hon. Pius Mbono: Madam Speaker, I did have two Notices of Motion, maybe I have gone through them so quickly that the Members are confused somewhat. I don't know whether I should repeat them or not and I think also the statement, I referred to 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya.

Hon. Speaker: The Constitution, yes I understood you on that one.

Hon. Pius Mbono: They are confusing those two Motions and this Statement.

Hon. Speaker: That is okay, I want to dispose the statement and I am leaving it to the leadership to guide the memo and you will look at Article 1 as he says, of the Constitution and then guide him properly. So, I will give the statement back to the leadership to look at it. Yes, Hon. Chege.

Hon. Chege Mwaure: I stand by that Madam Speaker, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I believe you will help him. Hon. Kiragu John.

Hon. Anthony Karanja: Madam Speaker, the Order Paper; I meant the Order Paper and what he read is different.

Hon. Speaker: The Notices of Motion, isn't it?

Hon. Anthony Karanja: Yes, I think it is a printing error.

Hon. Speaker: There is a Motion which he is about to bring...

Hon. Anthony Karanja: He has a Motion?

Hon. Speaker: Yes, he has a Motion and then he has two Notices of Motion, for clarification so that we do not have a HANSARD that has a challenge with its sequence. I think he has two Motions or Notices of Motion and he has a Motion that he is just now going to stand and tell us what it is about. Is that okay Chair? Planning, you are okay now? Yes, Chair.

Hon. Robert Mbatia: You guided accordingly but I wanted to say that Hon. Pius is busy today and that is why he is confusing us. He has a Motion, he has a Statement, he has a Notice of Motion, he happens to be our goal keeper so today he is very busy and that is why he is confusing everyone. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Hon. Speaker: He is away, he is away on business (*Laughter*). Thank you.

MOTION

DEPLOYMENT OF COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ON VOLUNTARY BASIS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Pius... Jared, you have something before he gives the Motion?

Hon. Jared Okode: Madam Speaker, I just wanted to bring to your attention that we sought for a statement which expired two weeks ago and the nature of the statement that I sought was an emergency. So, I just wanted to bring to your attention that I have not been given any feedback so far.

Hon. Speaker: Was it the statement on the issue of your Ward on the burning of Langata?

Hon. Jared Okode: Madam Speaker, it was not specifically for my Ward, it was cutting across issues of disasters and what they are doing, in terms of the Executive as far as fire fighting is concerned. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I will ask the leadership. I remember him asking that. I think it is a matter of how we want to manage disasters in future after what happened in Langata. So, I think it is something which you can assist us to get answers from the Executive.

Hon. Chege Mwaura: Madam Speaker, I will ask the relevant Member and where the Committee has reached so that we can expedite that issue within the shortest time possible now that we are back in business and we apologize if there has been any delay. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: It was more on bringing in a process and I think the Chair, Budget...because I think it has financial implications on how we can start the fund for disasters. I think, if I remember properly, that was part of the statement so you can liaise together with Budget Committee. Okay, Hon. Pius, proceed.

Hon. Pius Mbono: Madam Speaker. THAT aware that Article 43(1)(a) from the Constitution on Kenya 2010 provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standards of health which includes the right to health care services including reproductive health care, appreciating that health services including but not limited to County Health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services and promotion for

primary health care were devolved to the County Government. Further appreciating that in provision of health services counties deploy Community Health Workers (CHW) who voluntarily interlink the services and health services providers in providing, preventing and promotion of rehabilitation health care to communities. Concerned that community health workers in the County lack basic protecting gear and tools to enable them to effectively provide their voluntary health service to the communities. Further concerned that the community health workers in the County are technically incapacitated due to lack of training, seminars and other forms of exposure facilitated by the County Government. Disturbed that communicable diseases are on the rise with no effective, preventive and mitigating measures, this Assembly urges the County to move with speed and come up with a policy framework that it provides for community health workers roles, operations and general welfare with an aim of improving their overall working conditions.

Madam Speaker, as the Motion suggests, the group community health workers is a voluntary group which operates under the health sector and which was inherited from the National Government when the sector was devolved. Madam Speaker, the concept of a committee of health workers was universally adopted at the ALM-ATA conference in September 1978 as a means of achieving the goal of health for all. As I have said, the role was seen as the link between the health services and the community. Madam Speaker, the working conditions of this group has become very hostile especially during the rainy season. They face persons with HIV/AIDS, acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhea etc.

Madam Speaker, this group goes right into the interior of our villages and our informal settlements where health officers cannot reach. The same group provides the County or the sector with data, they do report but at some levels we have so many people, a certain number who are affected with HIV or all those other diseases that I have just said. This group, Madam Speaker, when the department was devolved the County Government has for 6 years now... they do not have policies to engage these people so they have been suffering.

They acknowledge that that group exists but I know that even my colleagues especially the new MCA's, some of them I know that they are not aware there is that group that exists on the ground because we do not have direct engagement with them. I am privileged because I was there in the last Assembly. At Roysambu I know that this group works very hard going into these homes and what they meet there are very ugly situations. So, this group needs protective gear, they need gloves, masks, gumboots, incentives and seminars etc. Therefore, what I am asking so that this group may be saved is that the Executive move with speed to make proper guidelines or policies that will be able to engage this group that works with courage every day. Madam Speaker, I call on Hon. Mathenge to second the Motion.

Hon. Naftali Mathenge: Madam Speaker, thank you. It is true that this group, the Community Health Workers need some serious attention and that is why I stand to second this Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: I will propose the question.

(The question is proposed and agreed to)

Hon. Millicent Mugadi: Madam Speaker, I would like to rise in support of this Motion because personally I have had experiences with CHW women from my Ward and to be honest these women need a lot of empowerment, not only gumboots, gloves and anything.

These Women work on voluntarily basis and not forgetting they are voluntary mothers and they have children and they have responsibilities. If we could have a way we can accommodate them and have them on a payroll, because the work these women do is not just counseling and lecturing they usually go from house to house to find out issues that poor women have, what less fortunate children are going through. They then recruit them in chief camps and offices of the local leaders.

I tend to feel what they go through and let me tell you Madam Speaker nothing breaks a woman's heart when she is working for free. If we can come up with a policy that will ensure at the end of the year we have done a budget for these women in our County budget and have some money for them, so that we can be able to motivate them. We can also involve them in small scale businesses when they are not doing their work. I fully support this Motion.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mary Ariviza!

Hon. Mary Ariviza: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I have worked with a group that is called Feed the Children and we went to Dandora and visited some of these families that are very vulnerable. I agree with this Motion that women do a lot and we have some few men also who help along and not necessarily in giving birth but they help in many other ways.

So I stand to support this Motion, but with a few amendment and am not sure if you can amend at this stage, but you can give a direction. This is because the sentence at the beginning says that everyone according to article 43 (1) (a) the Constitution of Kenya 2010 privileges provides that every person has the right to have the highest attainable standards of health which include the right to health care services including reproductive health care. The western Nation where this reproductive health care comes from is used it includes abortion.

I would like for us to say that we are probably in a caveat, in a bracket not abortion so that our women do not try to help young girls to procure because when the western World Health Organization talks about reproductive health care they talk about the right to abortion apart from the other ways of having chaos and prevention of pregnancy. So I would like for a caveat to be put there because it is prohibitive in our Constitution for people to do abortion.

I support that these women to do a great job and many of them work in very difficult situation I know it because I am a Counseling phycologist and we have counseled several of them. There is need to be

facilitated with gloves as our Hon. Member who brought the Motion stated and they need to be probably be facilitated.

But at the same time I would like to say that we don't want to look like we want to give money because we have put incentives for money and we will have those who really don't know what they are doing because, they will arrive there to get some money. Let it remain voluntary but they are facilitated because the Community themselves organize in such a way they are given some incentives. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Okay Hon. Mary, were you amending so that I can tell you how to do it.

Hon. Mary Ariviza: I was supporting the Motion but at least with some amendments, this which I am saying so that there is a caveat. If you say reproductive health it includes the right of contraceptives which are okay and not against them. But when the World Health Organization and the western countries talk about reproductive health they also include abortion. In our Constitution everybody has a right to conception until natural death. So we must not put this and then somebody will come and one time use it and say that actually the County of Nairobi allowed us as women to procure abortion. So that is the caveat that I wanted am supporting the Motion but with some amendments. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Okay Mary! But if you want to amend a Motion, so that the other can also learn it is important you draft on a paper on the amendment that you wanted and take it to the Clerk because when you finish amending. We have to redo the process and read the new Motion which reads with your amendments. So next time when you bring...

I know what you have said it's very true but it is good to learn that process. Anyone who wants to do an amendment in a Motion can do the amendment but it is always good to read and you come to the Clerk and they will assist you very first to put the language. So, when you agree with the amendment you read the Motion the way Hon. Pius has done but now with the amendment so that when everyone will be debating on the new amendments that you have put. But for now we have taken note but we have not amended but will proceed with the original Motion, but I know Hon. Mary has made all of you to know. So Hon. Chege Mwaura!

Hon. Chege Mwaura: Thank you madam Speaker, I have decided to stay a bit so that I could support this Motion. For the strong reason that I am so delighted although I am not a regular in terms of staying so long but I must applaud the Member for keeping us very busy today, and he is one Member who is doing very well in terms of representing people of Zimmerman and I want to congratulate him.

Secondly Madam Speaker, even for the amendments I think we are in a good trajectory where the debates are going to be more engaging. The topic of this Motion is about the Community Healthy Workers and all over the world there are known systems that augment the usual structured Health care system of a Country.

I think the Member is on point and it is important that we even find a way of putting a budgetary allocation, so that if it is not there, it should be the important role that they do play especially for ensuring that

they are working within the condition that they are supposed to be working with. They can be encouraged because they play more important role in that capacity given the kind of work they are supposed to do.

Madam Speaker, I am also not aware that the Member didn't know that he was in the Health Committee so as his Chairman here. I think it is maybe important that through the good House you would allow them sometimes to commission a study to know because we don't have many health centers in the County. So, study and we get a detailed report of the exact position of our health workers in terms of what they are suffering from or the challenges. They find in the work and how best they want this Assembly to be part of strengthening that work so that can be captured so that they can do further budget when they come up with a proposed frame work because I have noted the Member has requested that the County Government also comes up with a policy framework.

I would also urge may be when the executives are not up to task they can go ahead and come up with a proposed policy frame work which we can debate and put it to be taken up to the Executive. I rise up with the few remarks and I am so pleased to also support this initiative. So I urge as much as the County Government and Head of the Governor is also very keen with health matters, more can be done. I think this is a good direction and support this Motion thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Jagero!

Hon. Millicent Jagero: Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to support the Motion the Community Health Workers ceased to call themselves the Community Health Workers and changed to Community Health Volunteers. Since they believed that being called workers they were entailed to payment either on monthly salary or weekly wage. So they no longer call themselves Community Health Workers but Community Health Volunteers.

They have a very nice module if you go through it, that teaches them a lot and whenever they are recruiting their members they do not look at the literacy part. They can take you as an illiterate if you have not gone to school and they will take you through that module and you will be able to understand everything. They are also well conversant with the community that they work in and they also work as consultants to different sectors that deal in health.

The County Government really offers them trainings, seminars or workshops. The only time they are given in the above is when an outbreak has occurred or is about to occur. They are called during the polio, measles and vitamin A vaccinations that is when they are usually called for trainings. It is the NGOs and the FBOs that mostly calls them for trainings in these workshops so that they can be more conversant with the work that they do.

Hon. Millicent Jagero: In their daily routine with the community they meet with different people and some have communicable diseases, and they usually don't have those protective gears. It is easy for them to contract those diseases and no one will be able to pay for their medications since you find most of the health centers within the communities don't have medications. They will have to be referred to other hospitals

and taking care of them is a bit challenging. The County should therefore enhance their work and allocate a budget for them so that they can work efficiently within the community and they also need to come up with a detailed framework that will guide the CHWs in efficient conducting their voluntary work.

Sometimes back in the year 2016 the government agreed they were supposed to be given a monthly stipend of Ksh. 5,000/- which has never taken place. It is very difficult to work where you are not being paid anything. You live your house, you have a family that you have to fend for and by end of the day you are not given anything. It forces some of them to ask for something small from the clients they visit during their home based care. So if the County government can allocate for them a small stipend to be given every month to sustain them, it will encourage them and they will be able to work more efficiently and provide their services as required. I stand to support the Motion.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon Herman?

Hon. Herman Azangu: Madam Speaker I stand to support the Motion since it touches some people, most of them being women-CHW-who work within the slums even during the night. They always support people who are bedridden, the small clinics. If we have polio they always do a good job in the slums. I support if the government will move with speed to make a policy framework so that this people can feel they are like other people. Most of them don't get anything from volunteer work. They work with village elders and NGOs. Most of the NGOs sometimes give them something but the County government should allocate a budget for this women and men who are doing the good job. I support the Motion, thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Anthony Gathumbi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I also stand to support the Motion. This Motion has come at the right time in my case. We shall have a meeting with these health workers tomorrow in our Ward. I have had engagement with them during my time as councilor and during the campaigns. That is when I got to know their importance because they would go round the Ward giving medicine and they do these jobs voluntarily without asking any cent from anybody. They do a good job of mobilizing people, like when I met them they had mobilized my area MP Mutura, myself and other leaders. We were able to do a good job of facilitating them with some token here and there so that they can do their job.

I want to agree with the mover that we need to look into their general welfare. General welfare is a big term. I agree with Hon. Millie and Hon. Jagero on matters of budget to see if we can put something small for them. Also we should recognize the message given by [Hon] Mary that if we give money, some of the people who don't have the calling will come on board and so we must have a framework that will help to have this people motivated yet we see how we can sieve those who have a calling for doing this particular job. So Madam Speaker I support the Motion and thank the mover for bringing it. Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Karanja?

Hon. Anthony Karanja: Thank you Madam Speaker. I can see the spirit and intention of this Motion clear. However the Standing Orders of this House do not provide a middle ground so I stand to oppose this Motion with good reasons.

Madam Speaker like we have heard from my colleagues, they are called Community Health Volunteers. This is the only true human face in the society and the danger of swallowing this thing into mediocrity will come the day we introduce the so called welfare.

Madam Speaker I see the joy, the happiness when this people are doing their job and we all agree they are doing a very good job. I do not see why we should do something that will put this thing under any risk of the service.

Madam Speaker when we say a policy framework, it means that we will at some point have to control their numbers. But this is voluntary and I remember some years ago when we had a Bill that was brought by some NGO in this House that they wanted to register all volunteers. Madam Speaker it was a heated debate because we cannot control the number of people who want to do good things.

Madam Speaker they were looking at registering them, such that even in accident scenes you could not act if you are not registered by these people. The Community Health Volunteers do not have working times. It is purely voluntarily and it is done when you have done your other stuff and you feel that you have time to give to the community. They are the link between the very poor patients and the medical personnel. These are not medical personnel.

Madam Speaker part of their work is to monitor patients taking drugs. It would be unfortunate if we grab these noble activity from the community to the County because I can tell you for free today that this will be the end of such beautiful and noble activity. For lack of a middle ground I will beg to oppose this Motion and urge my hardworking colleague to go back to the drawing board and think of a way how we can make this activity better, not to control or introduce the aspect of money into it. The risk of it being invaded by commercial community health workers will be real and it happen in front of our very own eyes. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Wahinya

Hon. Peter Kimuhu: Thank you Madam Speaker I also wish to register my position to this Motion and I am opposing it basically because of the reason I will give you just now. First and foremost, I have very little regard for Motions because of past experiences I have seen. The normal practice here is that once Motions are passed they end up in Executive section of this government and more often than not our experience has shown that usually nothing really happens.

One of the reasons why I want to oppose it is because I believe that community health workers are important sector within our government. I have already taken the initiative to do some little research in whether this particular matter which again is properly captured in this Motion and as to whether it can come in and be anchored in law. The business of recognizing community health workers within what we are calling a policy framework, this in itself unless it is anchored in law, we will be beating about the bush just as we have always done whenever we pass Motions in this House. So am asking Bwana Pius Mbono the member who moved it, if possible he should come and make consultations with myself so that we can see how it can

be anchored in law. I need to give Bwana Pius an advice which can be for free, that no matter what you, Motions become business...

Hon. Speaker: Yes Hon. Kennedy

Hon. Kennedy Oyugi: Is the member in order to insinuate that Motions should be discarded in this House since from the experience he has in the House all the previous Motions have never been taken into consideration by the Executive. Are we really in order if at all that is the true position to debate any Motion or move any Motion from the floor of the House? If at will they will ever be considered by the Executive?

Hon. Speaker: You are right. He is out of order by the way. But proceed Hon. Peter.

Hon. Peter Wahinya: Thank you Madam Speaker. If anything, I was expressing a word. I am not exactly stating it as a matter of authority. I was just expressing a worry. Madam Speaker, nevertheless, back in my Dagoretti South, we happen to be suffering quite a great deal because of people who are suffering from different illness. Dagoretti South unfortunately falls partly in the urban and partly in the rural.

So we have a major combination of very serious problems that require community health workers. Unfortunately that is why I am opposing the Motion because I strongly believe that if it comes in the manner in which it has been introduced, this may never have any effect in Dagoretti South and we truly require that the community health workers are recognized in law. They are facilitated inclusively financially. And we are more than willing to reduce them. For example, in my area, Ngando, alone we have 110 community health workers. We don't need that number. I have divided Ngando into 10 villages. If I can have 3 community health workers in every village that I have in Ngando, it brings the number to 30. By having a small number of that nature, we can have all the community health workers facilitated financially and also with materials and recognize them within the law. So, I am asking again that Pius Mbono I need to touch base with you and we need to reintroduce this Motion within the context of a law. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Silvyia.

Hon. Silvyia Moseiya: Thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity to speak. I rise to support this Motion and provide a middle ground. The middle ground being that, we can have the community volunteers through this policy registered but remain volunteers and we shall have an outlook like the Kenya Red Cross Society so that we check on their experiences and expertise. Members of the community will have a control and say on how they want them motivated so that the welfare according to the Motion that Hon. Pius is introducing looks at their general welfare in terms of whether they have the necessary operational tools like gloves and things like that. Members of the community can also decide on their own on how they are going to motivate members. For instance, in some communities I know, during annual meetings, give a sort of acknowledgment or a present to one of the outstanding community members. so that this Motion is supported, it remains that it is for a welfare minus finances and that these people are registered because we have had incidences where community health volunteers issue immunization to children and then they get paralyzed because of poor training or exposure.

So we need a data base as a County of who our community health volunteers are. As Hon. Antony said we do not want to interfere in this process by introducing resources in terms of monetary award. So that this motion becomes a place or registration and a place of looking at their general welfare minus finances and we have something looking like Red Cross. If you look at Red Cross it is very clear, it works in each region, 64 branches and about 7000 members. I am a registered member of the Red Cross society. I accept that I am a volunteer like many others. We are going to check community health workers abuse because sometimes they abuse their responsibility. So, I rise to support this Motion. It is a very good Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Chair, take us through.

Hon. Peter Warutere: Thank you Madam Speaker. They say that which is given for free, much is expected. We are not here to look at the qualitative monetary value that we need to give to the health workers. First and foremost I am in support of this very important Motion. I have been privileged to sit down with the health workers. I know their plights. They take in enough hours to ensure that this particular department is taken care of. Just as I have alluded, that which is given for free much is expected.

We have a responsibility as an Assembly, as a government, to ensure that those that are given value and add value to the society, to our people, we can do some sort of appreciation. We need not to kill the messenger but to dissect the message, internalize if there are some shortcomings within this particular Motion, as a department I think that is something we can sit down with the Executive and since we are doing the CIDP we can give this activity some budgetary allocation because it is within our powers to ensure that we enumerate people who are really working to ensure that we are able to fix Nairobi.

It is in this spirit that I want to commend both the mover of the Motion and the seconder and I think this is a step in the right direction. This should have been done yesterday rather than today. As an activity, I think we need to sit down, see if we want to increase value of the output from these health workers, the best that we can do is to ensure that at least we give them something so that at least we give them a motivation to ensure that whatever they are doing can increase both efficiency and the output of this particular people. I think, in terms of policy framework, that is something that we can work internally between us and the Executive and we should be able to midwife this particular activity and not basically allow the private sector to take charge. I believe this is our baby and we must give the best out of a good situation. I want to congratulate Hon. Pius Mbono for coming up with this particular Motion.

I believe our issue here is to ensure that we fix Nairobi so that when we leave we will be proud to say that during our time we were able to fix this particular department. What we are getting in terms of what the health workers are doing, I am sure we are adding value. We are increasing the life of our needy Kenyans. When that health worker takes two or three hours out of his/her busy schedule, trust me this is a sacrifice that must be appreciated in whichever way. Therefore I think because we have the capacity as a people the best thing that we can do is to incorporate this policy framework, sit down as a department, work with the Executive and I believe Nairobi is big enough for all of us. We cannot miss to allocate a little bit of our budget

to ensure that it goes to a noble course like we have. Thank you very much Pius and other Members who have supported this Motion. And for those who are opposing, I am sure they had their issues and nobody has opposed this Motion for the purposes of just opposing but I think it just need that we sit down, work out on a Motion that can help and at the end of the day we need to get a win-win situation for Nairobi. I support this Motion. Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you so much, Chair. Hon. Patrick.

Hon. Patrick Musili: Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me say I am in support of this very important Motion and I want to congratulate Hon. Pius Mbono for coming up with this Motion. First of all, I don't want to repeat what my colleagues have said but when I look at this Motion, I am looking at three key things. And one is that we have to identify whether we have gaps in the services that these community volunteers give to the society. And to me I say yes there is a gap because as I stand here I represent Mathare community and I had an opportunity to meet with these health workers, and shared so much on what they go through for them to offer the services to these dear communities.

One, I try to believe and agree that we are looking in a way that we can engage this community health workers in a structured manner within the health sector setup and if we have a policy framework that will give the community health workers the opportunity in a structured manner then their services will be recognized within the County health sector.

Two, these community health workers go through a lot and sometimes they even work late hours and jeopardize their lives to save a life. Sometimes they say they get challenged, they are not welcomed in some hospitals, and they are rejected. Other times they are told to pay money where the patient requires some specialized testing or x-rays. And for example, there is one patient who was taken to Mbagathi and the community worker was told to pay for an x-ray that was costing around 7000. You worked very hard to bring this patient to the hospital but when you reach there, you find another barrier. So, I think this policy will streamline the process that when they take a patient to the hospital they need to be taken and attended to because I believe everyone has the right to access healthcare.

The other issue is to increase the output of these community health workers and the efficiency will translate to building their capacity. When we talk about being recognized within the County health sector and also able to access the trainings and seminars, this will expose them to the accepted standards of health community services and it also translates to building their capacity. So, with those few remarks, I am in support of this Motion. Let us support Hon. Mbono.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, after this, the House Business Committee will meet. The House is adjourned to tomorrow 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 4.08 p.m.)