



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY
(FOURTH SESSION)
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Statement read by
Hon Joseph Ndung'u
on 12/11/2023.

Status of unclaimed bodies in the County Health facilities

Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order 47 (2) (c) I wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee Health Services regarding the handling and management of deceased persons and unclaimed bodies at Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital and other Level 4 and 5 health facilities within Nairobi City County.

Hon. Speaker, taking into consideration that matters of law enforcement fall under the National Government, the County Government of Nairobi, through its Health Sector, bears responsibility for the management of County health facilities, including hospital mortuaries, under the Fourth Schedule, Part 2(2)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which assigns County health services as a devolved functions.

Hon. Speaker, there have been growing concerns and allegations that some County health facilities, including Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital, are holding deceased persons under questionable circumstances. Families seeking to trace their missing relatives have reportedly been denied access or clear information regarding the presence or identity of bodies within these facilities.

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

- i. Comprehensive report on the total number of unclaimed bodies currently held at Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital and other Level 4 and 5 hospitals within Nairobi City County;
- ii. Whether there are policies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and guidelines governing the handling, storage, and release of deceased persons and unclaimed bodies within county health facilities;
- iii. Whether it is procedurally acceptable for deceased persons to remain within hospital wards or grounds, instead of being transferred to designated mortuaries, as required under Section 35 of the Public Health Act; and
- iv. Measures put in place by the County Executive to ensure transparency, accountability, and humane treatment of deceased persons in all County health facilities.

HON. JOSEPH NDUNG'U, MCA
KIAMAIKO WARD