

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 12th June 2018
The House Met at 2:41 PM
[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

VETTING OF VETERINARY PERSONNEL OPERATING IN THE COUNTY

(Hon. Julius Sang – MCA Megun Ward)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Julius Sang, Member of County Assembly representing Megun!

Hon. Sang, J: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

Aware that currently there are many veterinary personnel working in the County of Uasin Gishu in the livestock sector; **Further Aware that** some of these personnel could be working illegally and even without academic professional qualifications; **Concerned that** if not checked, this situation might result in poor Veterinary services leading to many animal diseases and even livestock loses; **Noting that** in order for the industry to provide quality services only qualified and accredited Veterinary personnel should be allowed to practise; This County Assembly urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Livestock Development and Fisheries to vet all the Veterinary personnel operating in the County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Member for Megun.

Honourable Members, that Motion will be moved as indicated on our Order Paper.

MOTION

VETTING OF VETERINARY PERSONNEL OPERATING IN THE COUNTY

(Hon. Julius Sang – MCA Megun Ward)

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Julius Sang!

Hon. Sang, J: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to move the following Motion:

Aware that currently there are many veterinary personnel working in the County of Uasin Gishu in the livestock sector; **Further Aware that** some of these personnel could be working illegally and even without academic professional qualifications; **Concerned that** if not checked, this

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situation might result in poor veterinary services leading to many animal diseases and even livestock loses; **Noting that** in order for the industry to provide quality services only qualified and accredited veterinary personnel should be allowed to practise; This County Assembly urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Livestock Development and Fisheries to vet all the Veterinary personnel operating in the County.

Mr. Speaker, this County is predominantly an agricultural County. Most of our residents are farmers and some of our farmers practise cereal farming, and quite a number of them practise dairy farming. We are aware that there is a move to diversify production in our farms and more especially we have now seen most of our farmers going into dairy industry. As that is happening, we are aware of the fact that there is relatively a smaller number of veterinary officers working in the field and this has occasioned quite a number of unqualified personnel delving into the industry. Because of that, we have seen most of our farmers losing animals because the person that is nearer to the farmers is somebody who probably has practised, though not qualified, veterinary medicine in the village with no qualifications. Sometimes they have done, for lack of a better word, on-the-job training. So, Mr. Speaker, this is causing a lot of losses to our farmers in terms of losing animals because these unqualified persons could be practising something they do not know; something they have learned from their friends, something they have learned from their parents that when an animal is sick in this particular manner, you can give this particular medicine and probably they are not aware even of the doses. They are not aware of the particular medicine they are supposed to give for that particular disease.

Mr. Speaker, I would not want to delve into the complex issues of the regulation of the veterinary professionals because that is provided for in the national law. But the concern of this prayer is that the profession, as it were, should be regulated. We are urging the Department of Livestock to be aware of the fact that there is a possibility of people who are not qualified practising out there in our Wards. So, we are concerned that if this situation; if this scenario is not checked, we are going to incur so much loss of animals. Improper administration of dosages to our animals is disastrous in the sense that a particular disease affecting our animals, if not treated properly, will recur in future and it might come back more ferocious; it might come back more dangerous to our animals. We have seen emergence of diseases like Foot and Mouth which at some point we were told that it is only in Uasin Gishu that you vaccinate an animal for Foot and Mouth disease and it recurs and this should not be the case. We are suspecting that probably at some point, maybe the officers practising are not qualified; they are not regulated; they are not properly trained. We are urging this department to be on top of the game so that we prevent these losses so that farmers can have their benefits from this industry.

There is another area, Mr. Speaker, that we want to be very careful in future -the area of Artificial Insemination (AI). We are aware that currently the County is mobilizing farmers to use artificial inseminators. So, we would wish that this department is really careful not to allow unqualified people to artificially inseminate our animals because it might give us very negative results. I want to plead with this Honourable House to support this Motion so that we tickle this department, so that we make this department to be aware that we have a situation on the ground that is going to affect us wholesomely in future.

As we sensitize our farmers to practise new farming methods, we would want to be on top of things and practise, and use qualified personnel so that our animals are safe, so that we prevent our farmers from having losses.

So, for those many remarks, Mr. Speaker, I ask this House to support this Motion and I request Honourable Pius Kigen to support this Motion.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Pius Kigen!

Hon. Kigen: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity. I stand to second this Motion and indeed, as the mover rightly said, there has been great concern from our farmers in this County especially the livestock farmers who have invested so much in livestock. The concern is out of the loss of their livestock owing to poor treatment. Most of them have previously complained, and they still do, and the reason why this Motion was brought is out of that concern. Honourable Speaker, you will really wonder that people can operate in a County; people who have very little knowledge on livestock or veterinary services, and they have caused a lot of losses to our customers and farmers.

Honourable Speaker, I want to believe that these are some of those people whom we can call quacks. Some of them are people who have very little knowledge of veterinary services, but perhaps some of them have been previously dip attendants. Out of that, they have started calling themselves doctors, and our people have a tendency and I think this issue should be put to an end because I think it is a perception issue, that when you go to hospital and you see anyone with a white dustcoat, you will just call them *Daktari! Daktari!* Maybe that person may not even be a doctor, and you might even be tempted to allow that person to treat you because he is in a white dustcoat. This is a menace in our County and indeed I think from the prayer of this Motion, it is important given the investment that our farmers have done that the department of Livestock should actually undertake, through their extension officers, a vetting process or kind of a go - around to look for these people or identify or license all people who are discharging these veterinary services to our farmers.

Honourable Speaker, we would like also to ask and request our farmers that they should also make effort to insure their livestock because I know now that we have gone to encourage our farmers to do livestock or dairy farming owing to the amount of money that we have invested in the cooperatives movement. Honourable Speaker, most of our farmers have gone to do dairy farming and this will mean that there will be all kind of quacks in place. Therefore, I want to strongly second this Motion that the ministry through the department of Livestock and Fisheries do vet all people who would like to offer veterinary services within this County.

Honourable Speaker, I beg to second.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member for Tembelio.

Honourable Members, a Motion has been moved and seconded and therefore I propose a question.

(Question proposed)

Deputy Speaker: Ensuing debate, Honourable Members! Honourable Member for Kipkenyo!

Hon. Rono: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. I stand to support this Motion and, Mr. Speaker, you know that we understand this as farmers because this County of Uasin Gishu is a livestock area and also agricultural area. We understand that there are so many veterinary officers who are not genuine; they are just quack veterinary officers and what we are insisting in this Motion, Mr. Speaker, we are not telling the County Executive that they are not in line with their work; we are just advising them that you know after some time, there is new knowledge in every sector, so they must vet these people for now so that they can understand if these people.... because there are many new diseases arising and maybe if you were a veterinary officer in the 1980s, in the new dispensation, those diseases can be very challenging to you. So you have to be taken for another course so that you can understand as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Zipporah!

Hon. Maiyo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this Motion and first and foremost, I would like to congratulate the mover of the Motion. Mr. Speaker, we find these veterinary officers or personnel are the ones who are referred by their institutions or where they took their education from. So we urge the County Government of Uasin Gishu to vet them thoroughly in that, at the end of the day, we will get qualified veterinary officers.

Secondly, sometimes, for example for those ones that give semen; most of the time you get poor semen. There is another one who came to my farm and inseminated my animal five times with the wrong semen. So, I rise to support this Motion so that we will not incur so many losses in our livestock. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Member for Kapkures!

Hon. Tarus, D: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to support this Motion and congratulate the mover Honourable Julius Sang of Megun Ward for coming up with this very timely Motion. There is need for this County to vet all the veterinary personnel who give services to our animals in this County. This is because not all of them who practise veterinary or who give services to our animals in this County are qualified.

Honourable Speaker, once upon a time, graduates from our institutions; those institutions that offered technical know-how to our people were employed by this Government; the Government of Kenya. Then along the line, the government froze employment of the graduates of Ahiti, Kabete. That, Honourable Speaker, gave rise to private veterinary persons all over the County. So, among those graduates, also some people; some quacks, also came up and they became very popular in some areas. These people some were specialists in dehorning cattle, some were specialists in calf delivery and then along the line, they became veterinary people and offered services. So, these people, Honourable Speaker, endangered our animals, endangered the animals of our farmers and we cannot determine their qualification unless our County vets them to see who actually is qualified.

So, Honourable Speaker, I also once upon a time encountered somebody whose animal had East Coast Fever and then a quack collected money from that farmer and went to buy multivitamins and gave the multivitamins to the animal and thought that that injection was for the East Coast

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Fever and the animal ended up dying. So, our farmers have incurred losses because of these unqualified quacks who are working in our County. So, I want to really support the prayer of this Motion and urge our County Government or officers to vet these people so that the right people give services to our farmers. Also, because those who had qualified gave services privately and earned something, these quacks have prevented the qualified people from earning something in that profession. So, Mr. Speaker, I beg to support. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Maraswa!

Hon. Korir, E. K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. I stand to support this Motion. It has come at the right time and I want to congratulate the mover of this Motion. In the veterinary sector, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of quacks. We also have herbalists who treat animals. Some of them they might come to your place; you have invited them to treat your cow or your animal, you will find that he will give a cow a dose and then start also to advise you to give some traditional medicine. Some of them even use a certain type of alcohol to treat diseases in our villages. These people actually should be... In fact, Mr. Speaker, to curb this menace, these people should be giving a certificate of maybe injections. They should be issuing a receipt showing what they have actually done to your animal.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of these people walking around pretending that they are veterinarians. We are urging our County Government, because we have veterinary officers that are in every sub-county, these other private veterinary officers should be attached to the offices at the Ward level, such that if someone is operating within a certain Ward, he or she should be known by officers of the County Government so that we prevent those that are quacks operating. You know, Mr. Speaker, if wrong medication is given to your animal, it affects even human health. Since we consume, for example, milk from a cow, if a wrong dose is given to this animal that is giving us milk, at the end of the day, it is the human being who is going to suffer and we should actually stop these quacks who think they know how to treat animals. I concur with the mover of this Motion by urging the County Government of Uasin Gishu that they should work smart and get to know who is the right person to treat the animals and who is the wrong person trying to do business here and there.

I stand to support, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Mover! You can have the right of reply.

Hon. Sang, K: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all my Honourable colleagues for their support in this Motion. I want to congratulate this House for graciously supporting this Motion because the livelihood of the residents of our County depends on livestock production and dairy farming. So, I want to thank this House and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for according us this ample time to discuss and ventilate on this issue and urge this department, more especially the department of Livestock Development to move with speed to curb this menace and take stock of all the veterinary officers that we have; those who are qualified and those who are not regulated by the profession, and give advice accordingly. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and thank all the Honourable Members for supporting this Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you mover.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

SPORTS PRACTICE

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, before I put the question, I want to seek your indulgence and do one communication from the Chair Sports and even the team manager. I am informed that immediately after this, Honourable Members, we need to go to the field, that is, Eldoret Sports Club for various disciplines that we shall be undertaking in the month of August. So, immediately after this, Honourable Members, we can meet there for our regular practice.

Allow me, Honourable Members, now to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Deputy Speaker: The ayes have it, Honourable Members. This one is taken and, as it has been noted by Honourable Members who have contributed, we want the County Government to curb and particularly we can use the term ‘quack veterinary officers’ raised by Honourable for Tembelio. We know we have qualified ones but the County Government should curb those who do not have professional and academic qualification to do the same.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: There being no other business on our order paper, Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9:30AM.

The House rose at 3:12PM