

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF UASIN GISHU

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 2nd November 2021

The House met at Assembly chambers at 3:25 pm

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) in the Chair]

PRAYER

NOTICE OF MOTION

ASBESTOS ROOFING MATERIALS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Hosea Korir): Hon .Catherine Barmao

Hon. Dr. Barmao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I beg to give a notice of the following Motion:

Aware that Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 states that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment; **Further aware** that the Ministry of Health developed Occupational Safety and Health Act in the year 2007 which prescribes several measures to be undertaken at places of work to mitigate occurrence of occupational safety dangers that include: Safety and Health Audits, Reporting any dangerous situations and Prohibition against creation of hazards; **Concerned that** in the month of March 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) cautioned that asbestos is one of the leading occupational health carcinogen causing nearly half of deaths from occupational cancers and special attention should be paid to elimination of asbestos related diseases; **Further Concerned** that most institutions in Uasin Gishu County constructed during colonial and early post-colonial era were roofed using asbestos which currently, require repairs hence, posing a health risk to users due to inhalation of fibers from contaminated air; **Noting that** section 37 of the second schedule of Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2007 states that working, handling or repair of asbestos is the primary cause of malignant cancers: This Honourable House Urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Health Services to ensure owners of property roofed using asbestos safely change their roofs to non-hazardous roofing materials.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Hosea Korir): Thank you, Thank you, Hon Barmao. Clerk!

MOTION

REOPENING OF REVOLVING FUND PHARMACIES (RFPs)

(Hon. Goretti on 2.11.21)

(Resumption of debate interrupted 2.11.21 morning session)

1

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Aware that article 43(1) (a) of the Constitution of Kenya states that every person has a right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care; **Further aware that** the Ministry of Health (MOH) in the month of July 2014 developed the Kenya Health Policy Framework 2014-2030 with the aim of attaining the highest standard of health through creation of enabling environment for increased private sector and community involvement in health services provision; **Cognizant that** in the year 2013, Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with various Sub-county hospitals and community representatives with the aim of setting up Revolving Fund Pharmacies (RFPs') across the County; **Further cognizant** that, revolving fund pharmacy model improves access to essential medicines in rural health facilities by providing back-up supplies of crucial medications in the event that government health facilities runs out of stock; **Noting that** the County Government of Uasin Gishu resolved to close all RFPs in the County effective 16th May 2019 and the County Assembly Committee on Health Services undertook site visits to health facilities across the County that had Revolving Fund Pharmacies and tabled its report on 12th June 2019 recommending a legislation on health financing be enacted and subsequent reopening of RFPs: This Honourable House therefore, Urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Health Services to open all RFPs with immediate effect.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Members. I know this is a resumption of the Motion, which was debated in the morning session. The Motion was moved by Hon Goretta and an amendment has been considered at Speaker's desk. Hon. Members, there is a view of considering that amendment so that we can conclude the deliberation of this substantive Motion. I will kindly request the mover to proceed and accept that amendment below there and then we can proceed. Hon Goretta

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to accept the amendment that the prayer of the Motion reads this way ... "That this Hon House therefore urges the county Government of Uasin Gishu through the department Health services to open all the revolving fund pharmacies with immediate effect."

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Hosea Korir): Just proceed and agree on that amendments as well as the reason.

Hon Boroswa: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reason we are really very pertinent about this motion is that ---- You are aware and all of us are aware that the revolving fund that was initially at the sub counties - in fact Turbo had two because there was one in Huruma and another at Turbo. In Soy, we had it in Ziwa and in Moi's Bridge and other sub counties also had like Kapseret, which had their revolving fund at Kapteldon.

We want to urge this county Government to consider because, as Leader of Majority said, sometimes some programmes can fail to be implemented within a period but it does not really cause a lot of harm. However, when it comes to health, once a life has been lost there is no way you can bring it again to life. Therefore, we are considering the life of our people and we want to say that nobody can actually replace life with anything. That is why we are saying in this Hon House, Mr Speaker, we have accepted the amendment to be done reason being ----- this motion is very important because, at the end of the day, once the revolving fund is opened and our people are able to get the services for the terminal illness, I want to believe that their lives will be prolonged.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking with a lot of attachment as I said in the morning that people, for example, those who are living positively have been able to live positively because the opportunistic infection have been managed and by managing the opportunistic infections, that could actually cost their lives they are able to live taking their ARVs .

Further, we are told HIV is not a killer disease but other diseases will actually take somebody to the grave and those are some ---- we cannot say that people who have diabetes, , high blood pressure are HIV positive. No! There are those who have these ailments but are not positive but still they also need that drug that is going to have them sustain their lives.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I really want to urge this Hon. House to stand very firm with this motion and I want to appreciate because each and every member was yearning to see that we make these amendments that we have already made. Further, they were looking forward to see that this motion sees the light of the day because the Hon members in this House are very much concerned about their electorates. Those are people we need tomorrow and especially right now that we are going to the electioneering year 2022. we need everybody including the aged people and, if we continue with the trend by denying them the services to receive the medication from the revolving fund pharmacies, which actually cutting the cost of purchase as compared to what is sold at the private chemists. It is as if we are denying them basic health care services. This is very important and we want to put our passion into this and urge the executive to open them with immediate effect. We are not requesting but demanding because once life is lost, it is never given back.

Therefore, let us take the Motion as it is and may I ask Hon. Amos... I want to urge the entire House including Hon. Amos to support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Member. Contributions Honourable Members, over this Motion. I had already given direction why an amendment was made and I think we are in concurrence. Honourable Member for Racecourse, you are not observing the COVID protocols and it has been noted by the Chair. Have your mask on, Honourable Member, and proceed with your contribution.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I apologize for not coming with a mask as I dropped mine at the washrooms and I could not access one at the precincts of the County Assembly.

I stand to support this Motion moved by Hon. Mary Goretti and I commend the Member for coming up with this Motion as it is targeting service delivery and improvement of services being offered in our County about health services. More so are the services that are meant to enhance immunity and prolong lives for those who might be ailing, As it has been indicated by the mover that some of the international standards such as the World Health Organization in regard to the approach that has been provided and accepted worldwide to be used in provision of medication and other related services.

Mr. Speaker, as a County we really have to put into place measures that have been there before like setting up of Revolving Fund Pharmacies across the County. This will enable access to health services and more so medicines that used to be offered by these pharmacies which assisted a number of people who had some underlying ailments. Since the closure of the Revolving Fund Pharmacies, we have not seen positive outcomes but instead it has led to some loss of life. Given the economic situation of our country, most of those who are suffering from underlying ailments could not access medication and it has exposed them to other ailments which have compromised their health. In that regard, I do support.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Member for Racecourse. Any other member? Honourable Member for Segero/Barsombe?

Hon. Yego: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for this opportunity.

I also stand to give my contribution on this Motion touching on the Revolving Fund Pharmacies. Many lives have been lost since the closure of this programme; I do not know what happened to the recommendations that were tabled in this House by a committee about the closure of these pharmacies by the concerned department. I think the recommendations were directed to the department on Health Services and to date, two years and some months down the line, nothing has been done on the same by the department.

Hon. Speaker, I do not know which one supersedes which; is it a Motion that supersedes the recommendations of a committee or vice versa? If I can get some clarification then I am ready to support this Motion. If the Committee recommendation or report has much weight than the Motion then I will stand to oppose. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Member for Segero/Barsombe. As you have clearly stated that it has taken quite some time and this is reinforcement on the report inform of a Motion and a reminder, we cannot draft another report again. This is a wake-up Motion that informs the Executive so that they may also still refer to the recommendations on the report. Stand guided, Honourable Member. You can now give your position over the same.

Hon. Yego: Thank you for the clarification, Hon. Speaker. In deep concern of the lives of the majority of our residents, I support the Motion that Revolving Fund Pharmacies be opened with immediate effect so that we save lives. I support the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. any other Member with contributions over the same? I therefore now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): The ayes have it, Honourable Members, and this Motion has been taken. I want to still further direct that this should be taken seriously by the relevant department to kindly open all the revolving fund pharmacies to be effected as soon as possible. Thank you.

Clerk!

MOTION

ASBESTOS ROOFING MATERIALS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Dr. Barmao!

Hon. Dr. Barmao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion:

Aware that the Constitution of Kenya Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 states that every person has a right to clean and healthy environment; **Further Aware** that the Ministry of Health developed occupational safety and health Act in the year 2007 which prescribes several measures to be undertaken at places of work to mitigate occupational safety dangers that include safety and health audit, reporting any dangerous situation and prohibiting against creation of hazards; **Concerned** that in the month of March 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) cautioned that asbestos is one of the leading health carcinogens causing nearly half of deaths from occupational cancers and special attention should be paid to eliminating of asbestos related diseases; **Further Concerned** that most institutions in Uasin

Gishu County constructed during colonial and early post- colonial era were roofed using asbestos which currently requires repairs hence posing a health risk to users due to inhalation of fibers from contaminated air; **Noting that** Section 37 of the Second Schedule of Occupation and Health Act 2007 states that, ‘working, handling or repairs of asbestos is the primary cause of malignant cancer: This honourable House urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu through the department of Health Services to ensure owners of property roofed using asbestos safely change their roofs to non-hazardous roofing material.

Honourable Speaker, it is well stipulated that our Constitution requires that we all have a right to clean and healthy environment. Moreover, according to WHO 2014, it is revealed that asbestos is the leading cause of death and many other diseases.

Mr. Speaker, in this County we still have some buildings that still have asbestos like schools, hospitals and it is very risky.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware we have very many causes of ... exposure of asbestos causes many cancers and non-cancerous diseases, for example, lung cancer, throat cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer or any other kind of disease.

Honourable Speaker, this Motion is very helpful because if we can all remove this asbestos, then we are going to eliminate these kinds of diseases that are caused by this fiber from asbestos.

Mr. Speaker, as we are also aware, it is very expensive to do x-ray, CT scan, biopsy as a result of testing these diseases caused by asbestos. In addition, it also brings about long- term use of, for example, oxygen if you have a problem with respiratory complication and sometime it can also bring about lung transplant.

So this issue of asbestos should be eliminated because we have very many diseases caused by this.

Honourable Speaker, I want to request honourable Ramadhan to second this Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. Honourable Ramadhan!

Hon. Werambo (*Seconded by bowing*).

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. A Motion has been moved, Honourable Members, and seconded. Allow me to propose the question.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Ensuing debate, Honourable Members! Honourable Menjo!

Hon. Sambai: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I want to support the mover of the Motion, Hon. Dr. Catherine, for bringing this issue of asbestos.

Mr. Speaker Sir, most of the schools within the municipality were actually roofed by asbestos. There was a directive from the ministry of education back in 2014 that all houses and schools that have been roofed with asbestos should be removed.

Honourable Speaker, most of the schools have been done but several of them within the town have not been repaired.

So, I would request, Honourable Speaker, that anybody within this town, we have learned that asbestos is a very serious thing that through this asbestos, when we get the water, we

have what it causes cancer. It was in the advert at the ministry of education together with the ministry of health.

Therefore, we want to advice the County Government of Uasin Gishu, together with the people dealing with planning, to go round and make sure that we remove all these asbestos to have our people get clean environment for the safety of their health.

Otherwise, if we continue having this, there is a problem coming. We have a problem because it was announced. It is not just to remove but also decide where you have to put them. It is not good to remove asbestos and put it on the surface; it has to be buried in a deep for the security of our children.

Otherwise, I support this Motion. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Menjo. Any other Member? Then I will now proceed, Honourable Members, and put the question over the same motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): The ayes have it, Honourable Members. This is still directed to the department on Health services, to ensure that there is some safety while handling these hazardous materials and they should ensure they use and non-hazardous proofing materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Members, there being no other business on our orders of the day, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9:30 am.

The House rose at 3:25 pm.