

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023

The Assembly met at the County Assembly Chambers at 2:30 p.m.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen), in the Chair

PRAYER

MOTION

The Majority Leader, (Hon. Lentukunye Christopher): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, pursuant to provisions of Standing Order No. 23 (5), the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF) Kenya Representative. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Leleruk to second the Motion.

(Hon. Leleruk bows to second the Motion)

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): I now propose **THAT**, pursuant to provisions of Standing Order No. 23 (5), the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF) Kenya Representative. Members, you can deliberate and give your views about the statement. Hon. Leshimpiro

MCA Ang'ata Nanyokie Ward, (Hon. Leshimpiro Paul): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to appreciate the address by the dignitary of UNICEF to our Assembly. Hon. Speaker, I think the most important researched information is in this speech. So much information is available in this speech and if we try to it; it is a non-political statement that really gives us the true picture of our County.

Among the things that the dignitary cited out as one of the failures or achievements that we have not met is the high mortality rate of children before their fifth birthday. Hon. Speaker, the dignitary stated that about 38 children under the age of five years die out of 1,000 children, this is a very big number of children to lose in every 1,000 children. We us the Legislators of Samburu County need to take some considerations on measures that we need to put in place so as to reduce this high mortality rate, I consider this as a high mortality rate.

Another thing that we are very low in doing or improving is the nutrition status of our children in our County. We are told, and that is what we know; that 31% of our children are stunted, stunted

means that these children are too short for their age, about 15% are wasted, too thin for their height and 32% underweight are too light for their age.

We are also informed that stunting is a lifelong effect, once stunted, this affects you in your entire life and your thinking capacity is tempered with and your academic performance will not be good in your entire education life. That is a very big percentage that we as the Samburu County leadership need to address.

I remember even in 2013-2014, it was still around that thirty-something per cent of that stunting so it is not going down. It is so slow. It therefore means that the measures we are putting in place to reduce this stunting are not working or we are not putting in enough to reduce that stunting. We are also informed that Samburu is ranked third in open defecation in the country. That is a very bad position to be in as a county. I have seen of late the department of health and sanitation are doing a lot for our community. I saw that in almost all villages there is an active team of public health workers who are going around to see to it that each and every house, no matter the state of the house; whether it is made of blocks or that small hut, must have a toilet.

That is a very good indicator but one other thing, we may have the toilets but sometimes people can decide not to use them. It does not make any sense, having the structure no people using it. So we need to have the structures and educate our people on how and why they must use it. These are some of the things, I know they are so many. We were given this speech just a few minutes ago and we did not have enough time to register our gratitude to the UNICEF. I also want to take this time to recognize the important role played by UNICEF among other NGOs in our country.

UNICEF by itself is doing so much and they have given us the budget showing how much they are spending in our county. It is a large amount of money we should be so thankful to them and provide them with a conducive environment so that they continue assisting our community. Lastly, a few weeks ago we were in Nanyuki to discuss the Disaster Management Bill. We wanted to revoke the former Disaster Bill of 2014, which was a copy/paste of Laikipia County's Disaster Management Bill. We want to make one of our own, to customize it to fill our needs and requirements. We were facilitated by UNICEF. We know they are doing a lot to help our

County. Allow me to appreciate and thank UNICEF for what they are doing in the country and in our county. Thank you.

MCA Suguta Ward, (Hon. Leleruk James): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also rise to appreciate the speech of the UNICEF dignitary. For real, if we mean what we say, the whole truth is in this statement because everything has been documented. We know where the shortcomings of our County is, where we need to be improved. As the legislators of this house, I urge my colleagues that we look at this statement keenly and see how we can improve what she has recommended that we do because it has touched all the parameters of all the we do in the County such as in the issue of education, health and water shortage.

I think those are the areas we need to focus on as a County. These partners needs to be encouraged. We need to partner and work with them because UNICEF is doing quite a lot in our County. There are some projects we were not even aware of but have been documented in this speech. In terms of health, there is this group called CSVs. These volunteers are in every village working free of charge through these NGOs. As a County we need to focus on those trained health workers so that this issue of maternal deaths can reduced.

If these volunteers will be given some token by the County Government as incentive I know we can achieve more. Our County does not have enough trained medical personnel. These volunteers are bridging a big gap. I would like to give my appreciation

to the UNICEF team for the good work that they are trying to do in our area. They have also really tried on education matters, I know malnutrition is very high in our County and the UNICEF team has shown us slight improvements, what they have done and the records we have within our ECD centers almost the same and the numbers they have given us and so we are not badly off; what we need is to follow up on what they have promised us to do. Some can be short term while others long term but we will improve.

I urge our legislatures on gender about FGM and teenage pregnancies, I think the beginning of this year Samburu has been in the map being said that it is leading in the County because of early pregnancies and as elected leaders we need to be weary of what is happening within our communities, the dignitary has touched and even given us figures and as an Assembly we also

need to focus and give our women caucus support. I did not believe that Samburu is leading in Early pregnancies but when I look at this UNICEF report it is not political, there is truth in it.

I urge my colleagues in the women caucus to take the lead role to hit the ground and see what is happening in our County so that the report that we discuss here and the recommendations you bring here I know you will act because we will support you fully and it is you to go and ventilate if there is truth about the early pregnancies in Samburu County so that we cannot be on the bad books always saying that it is Samburu and maybe we are not caring as leaders of Samburu County we just assume.

We do not want to assume things. We want to support our women caucus and I urge the Speaker to facilitate them to bring us a report on FGM, teenage pregnancies and also gender based violence, the gender-based violence is not just on one gender, even our men are facing gender-based violence but fear to report it. It is upon us now to accept the reality and accept that these things are happening within our communities, wards and our County. I thank you Mr. Speaker as the leader in this Assembly since I know that we have signed a partnership with UNICEF.

Going forward I am urging our colleagues that we support UNICEF so that we can do much that is being needed and if there are somethings that we cannot do I know if we partner with them I know we can bridge the gap being discussed here, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Lenamatiyo Silapia): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also rise to recognize and appreciate the address by the UNICEF dignitaries' representatives; I really felt, recognize and appreciate the partnership between UNICEF and Samburu County on matters on enacting Bills in this House. I also recognize development and enacting the implementation of the Samburu County Water Bill that UNICEF supported the County Executive and also the County Assembly to ensure that the Bill is in place. They also try their best to help our people on eradicating FGM in Samburu County and since 2014 to 2017 I saw there was a large increase or decrease in the number of FGM practice and honorable Speaker lastly the other day we were in Nakuru on the facility improvement fund bill and their respective regulation that UNICEF partnered with the department of health and also the committee on Health to make sure that, that Bill will be in place to improve the progress and also the services within the Health sector and

honorable Speaker I sit and say that we recognize and also we support the UNICEF Kenya also to make a better Samburu, thank you Honorable Speaker.

Specially Elected Member, (Stacy Nareyo): Mine is also to stand before this honorable House and stress on what my colleagues have just said I would really want to appreciate the UNICEF dignitaries for highlighting the key issues that are affecting our county and one of them that is also one of my area of concern is teenage pregnancies, you are all aware there is a Motion that I brought to this Honorable House and am kindly requesting the honorable members of this House to support me in that Motion. The area of teenage pregnancy is becoming a very pressing issue that will be treated with very much urgency and I think as Honorable House it is department comes out with good measures to curb the issues.

I think we can do better leading in all this bad things is not a good thing , because we are leading in teenage pregnancies we are leading in stunting growth HIV/AIDS and it all narrows to down to teenage pregnancies because the moment a teenage becomes pregnant it will automatically leads to school drop outs most of them are actually engaged in unprotected sex and that may lead to HIV/AIDS infections and high rise in school drop outs which will also continue increasing the rate of illiteracy in our county which we are trying to eradicate.

So, am just requesting the honorable members of this House especially our elected members to kindly support the women caucus and empower them so that we can go around all this schools that are mostly affected and the wards that are mostly affected to address the issues and to talk to our young girls so that we can curb the issue without your support Honorable Members there is nothing that we can do so we are requesting you Honorable Mr. Speaker with your able Honorable Speaker to support us to support the women caucus to support so that we can address this issue with urgency. Lastly I would just like to appreciate the great work that the UNICEF team is doing for the people of Samburu County, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Ndoto Ward MCA, (Hon. Lealmusia Ali): Thank you Honorable Speaker I raise to really thank the UNICEF dignitaries for addressing this Honorable House and I stand therefore to really thank the organization for the good work they intend or they have been doing to this great county of Samburu and particularly on the access to water your honorable Speaker I think you realize that

water in this county is a teething problem and really we really appreciate and we recognize the effort the UNICEF is doing to assist and to strengthen our community resilience what they are doing Mr. Speaker is that just the other day 2 weeks ago before even the dignitaries were here they sent a team my ward and to audit all water points and the boreholes which were done to track and to find out where there were problems so that they could assist, indeed if they continue doing this they will definitely benefit efforts to ensure that we get access to water.

Honorable Speaker Sir, I do recognize that there are quite a number of boreholes which the UNICEF team has done in our county and it has really assisted a thousands of our families and communities around that water point and they have also assisted several Schools for the kids to access water.

I therefore really thank the UNICEF team for recognizing this ad being in a position to really help our communities' access to water, especially now that there is this climate change we anticipate some shortfall of rains and so if we improve our water points then we can be able to address that problem. I would like to urge all the Hon. Members of this House to really get ready for us really assist the UNICEF to develop some policies which will be able now to give them greenlights to assist in terms of access to water. Thank Mr. Speaker Sir.

MCA El'barta Ward, (Leitoro Jeremiah): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I also stand to thank the UNICEF dignitaries for this elaborate address to Country Assembly of Samburu. You find that most of this address touches on matters of health and just to start with, one of the chronic issue in the County of Samburu is matter of non-nutrition and I want to appreciate that the UNICEF are really doing a lot managing especially issues to do with non-nutrition that is both stunted and wasting.

This people are doing a lot and it is a high time us as a County to must focus and find ways to deal with this under nutrition issue because it will come a time this NGOs will actually move and all this issues will be left to the County Government and it will be a bigger issue if we will not be ready to tackle this important issues because the percentage of Children with under nutrition is really astonishing and just to mention, in 2023 alone UNICEF have invested over 10 million

Kenyan shillings ‘in Samburu to support the procurement and lifesaving nutrition, commodities and equipment.

I know and having served as a health care provider, there are docket in healthcare that have been left to be handle by NGOs and especially to UNICEF and to other NGOs like NAWIRI and one of the docket that has been left to be dealt with by those partners are issues to do with nutritional.

We really need to do something on that and I want to request the Hon. House so that they can be able to support us in the Department of health in getting enough budget because I think the issue is on budgetary allocation for the Department of health.

Another issue is on sanitation and I want to inform the Hon. House that just a week, last Thursday and Friday, I happen to attend the seminar organized by the UNICEF on sanitation that was towards open defecation free status by 2025. You will find that the status of open defecation is around 7.5 in whole Country but 31 percent open defecation happens amongst 15 Counties, that is Samburu, Turkana, Moyale, Wajir, Garissa, Homa Bay, Kajiado, Narok so, amongst the 15 Counties Honorable Speaker, I think we are also topping there, we are amongst the top three that are contributing to 31% of open defecation Honorable Speaker and there was a commitment that we signed that by 2025 we can be able to move from open defecation to open defecation free.

And as mentioned by my colleague Honorable Paul Leshimpiro, that public health officers are really working hard to ensure that at least every homestead has a toilet Honorable Speaker and Honorable Speaker, I think I want also to involve this House Honorable Speaker because it is really a shame if we can be able to go to a village and you cannot find a toilet.

Just to give an example, where I come from, Honorable Speaker, there is a village called Soit Naibor. It happened that we went for...during campaign times, during that moment Honorable Speaker, we had one of our candidates who was seeking votes on our behalf and she happened to have been expectant Honorable Speaker and, in the process, she wanted to actually relieve herself and we tried to look for a toilet nearby. There being no any public utility, there is no school, there is no hospital Honorable Speaker and there is no single toilet in the village. Honorable Speaker we had to take her somewhere, it was really a shame Honorable Speaker.

As we speak Honorable Speaker, that village is doing well, we have school, hospital both have toilet and we are working to shift the village from where they are now to another site and already a number of toilets have been constructed.

Honorable Speaker, another strategy that we are employing, us and public health officers because I am in close contact with them Honorable Speaker. The public health officers are doing door to door visits and to make sure that every homesteads has toilets, those homesteads that have no toilet and we know a number of them have youths or sons or daughters who are employees of Samburu County Government or employees of the National Government like police officers, we try as much as possible to contact them and to tell them, it Is really a shame if you are an officer and you are drawing salary from the County or National Government but back at home you do not have a toilet Honorable Speaker and we have seen a number of toilets being constructed through that effort.

Honorable Speaker, we have also employed another strategy through the administration of the National Government that is through the DCC (Deputy County Commissioner), we came to realize that a number of homestead and especially homestead belonging to Chiefs or Sub-Chiefs *lakini hana choo Mheshimiwa Spika*. So, we employed a strategy, we usually contact the DCC and the DCC will command the Chief of the area that we are coming for a goat eating party in your home and you know after eating food Honorable Speaker, you know what will follow. So, that one will force a number of Chiefs to construct toilets Honorable Speaker.

Honorable Speaker, this is important because if we can be able to curb on issue of open defecation, we will be able to prevent a number of illnesses Honorable Speaker because a number of illnesses especially these communicable are being contributed by poor sanitation and now that we are expecting to have El-Nino rain very soon, with open defecation we expect a number of cholera out breaks but if we will be able to have toilets in places and people doing right eradicating open defecation Honorable Speaker, we will not be having such cases Honorable Speaker.

On matters on access to water, I want to appreciate UNICEF because on a number of times I have interacted with them in my Ward Honorable Speaker. There is a borehole that they have

done in Bendera Honorable Speaker although the water is a bit salty but we hope with time, we will find technology Honorable Speaker to have a clean soft water. With that remarks I want to stop there. Thank you, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): So, Honorable Members, this being a very important speech from the UNICEF, I think it is prudent that I give you Member a chance to peruse it and contribute to the best of your knowledge. So, as it is being allowed by our Standing Orders 23 (5), we are going to continue discussing the speech tomorrow, so that is what we are going to discuss because the Standing Order states that we are supposed to discuss it not more than four sittings, so we will discuss it tomorrow. So let us continue perusing and understanding it.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Honorable Members, the time being 22 minutes to 4' O clock and there being no other business, this Assembly adjourns until Wed 4th 2023 at 9:00 Am.