

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
2ND ASSEMBLY- 2ND SESSION
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday 16th May, 2018

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 9.00 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Ndegwa Wahome) in the Chair]

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(The clerk-at-the-table confirms that there is no quorum)

Speaker: Hon. Members, quorum having not been achieved, pursuant to Standing Order no. 35, I direct that the bell be rung for an initial ten minutes or until such time within the ten minutes when quorum will have been achieved.

*(The bell is rung for two minutes and quorum is achieved
as confirmed by the clerk-at-the-table)*

Hon. Members, quorum having been achieved, we can proceed with the business for the sitting. Before we proceed, I would invoke my discretion pursuant to Standing Order no. 41 and direct that the House will transact the business for the sitting as follows; orders 1,2,3 and 4 will be transacted as usual. The paper on Annual Development Plan will come last together with the notice of motion on the ADP. Tabling the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, as item one on Papers and the notice of motion on the same shall be transacted at 2.30 pm. With those adjustments, order no. 4 will be followed by orders 7 and 8, after which the House will go back to order no. 5 on tabling the ADP followed by order no. 6 on the notice of motion on the same.

First order.

MOTIONS

1. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON LESHAU-KARAGOINI SELF HELP WATER PROJECT IN KIRIITA WARD

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Yes, the Member for Mirangine and the Chairperson of the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel Mathu.

Hon. Samuel Mathu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg to move the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources on Leshau-Karago-ini Self Help Water Project in Kiriita Ward as a report of this House and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee is grateful to the House through the Office of the Speaker for the support granted to it. We are also grateful to the Office of the Clerk for providing technical support to the Committee in execution of its mandate. The Committee extends appreciation to all parties involved in this matter and those who appeared before it during the committee sittings and the public hearings and for the insights given in the submissions.

Further, the Committee acknowledges the exemplary services rendered by staff of the County Assembly. Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honourable Members of my Committee who sacrificed time away from their families and residents to participate in the activities of the Committee including the extended Committee sittings, site visits and report writing exercises.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to confirm that the recommendations of the Committee in this report are by unanimous agreement. It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Committee to present it to the House for debate and adoption.

Committee Mandate

Pursuant to Standing Order 195(5), the mandate of the Committee on Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources is to:-

- (a) investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- (b) study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- (c) study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- (d) study, assess and analyse the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- (e) investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the Assembly;
- (f) to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the Assembly to approve; and
- (g) make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

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Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee is composed of the following members;

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Hon. Samuel Mathu Wainaina | -Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Reuben Gitau Karanja | -Vice-Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Justus Gaita Wagura | -Member |
| 4. Hon. Wangari Methu | -Member |
| 5. Hon. Samuel Kinyanjui Njatha | -Member |
| 6. Hon. Hussein Ndung'u Kassana | -Member |
| 7. Hon. David Mwangi Maitai | -Member |
| 8. Hon. John Kieru Wambui | -Member |
| 9. Hon. Kenneth Mukira Mahianyu | -Member |

Committee Secretariat

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. David Mutahi N. | -Committee Clerk |
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BACKGROUND

Project Location

The project starts from Kiriita ward about 6 Km from Nyahururu town and stretches from Mairo-Inya town to Leshau Pondo and Central wards of Ndaragwa constituency. The project coverage is 370km² of which are the driest and mostly densely populated.

History of the Project

It is an old giant project whose implementation commenced in 1982 under operation and maintenance of the beneficiaries, with an objective of serving over 70,000 people. The project was funded by the Government of Kenya (G.O.K) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and handed over to the local community (Leshau-Karagoini) for operation and maintenance. It sources water from Ewaso-Narok river but the project is not operational due managerial and operational challenges, the biggest being high electricity bills.

The source of water is Kamukunga springs from Lake Ol' Borossat whose mode of transmission is pumping. Currently the two pumps are not in operational and therefore the project is procuring water in bulk from Nyahururu Water and Sewerage Company to enable them deliver services to their customers. They are rendering services to 3,500 people with a deficit of 66,500 people. The daily demand is 6,000m³/day these includes institutions and shopping centres.

The project has nine (9) masonry tanks with a storage capacity of 1,300m³/day and a piping network of 80km ranging from 8'' to 1 ½'' diameter. There is also an existing pumping house.

Terms of Reference

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this report is catalysed by a statement which was sought on 29th September 2017 by Hon. Justus Gaita Wagura where the committee responded to the statement sought. The house directed committee to come up with a motion. The statement was as follows:

Aware that the Constitution of Kenya 2010, under Article 43 (1) (d) provides for the right of access to clean and safe water in adequate quantities and also recognizes other related rights that are complimentary to the fulfillment of the right to water and sanitation, an example being the right to health, among other rights;

Further aware that in Kiriita Ward there exist a self-help water project known as Leshau Self-Help Water Project which faces serious issues with regards to its management;

Concerned that despite various attempts to have the County department responsible for water address the issues facing the aforesaid Self-Help Project, the issues have not been adequately addressed and the situation is deteriorating each passing day;

Arising from the foregoing, I seek that the Chairperson of the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources provides the following information:

- i) How the Self-Help Water Project determines the area of water distribution and coverage;
- ii) The volume of distribution to the diverse areas under supply;
- iii) The extent of water loss;
- iv) The applicable water tariffs and the terms and conditions of supply to the consumer; and,
- v) The financial sustainability of the Water Project.

Legal Background

Mr. Speaker Sir, water is one of the most important substances on earth. All plants and animals must have water to survive and without water, there would be no life on earth. Apart from drinking it to survive, people have many other uses for water.

Article 43(1) (d) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides that “*every person has the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities*”. Further, Section 63 of the Water Act 2016 provides that “*every person in Kenya has the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities and to reasonable standards of sanitation as stipulated in Article 43 of the Constitution*”.

Section 103(b) of County Government Act 2012 provides that the objectives of county planning shall be to facilitate the development of a well-balanced system of settlements and ensure productive use of scarce land, water and other resources for economic, social, ecological and other functions across a county.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee undertook to do an in-depth scrutiny of the matter at hand by requesting for documents from the Leshau-Karagoini Self-Help Water Project leadership. The committee also made an onsite visit to the Project on 24th October, 2017, where it held a public hearing inviting the residents to make their submissions concerning the project. On Friday 16th of

March 2018 the committee was invited by the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources to witness a handing over of Leshau-Karagoini S.H. Water Project to Nyandarua Water and Sanitation Company (Nyandawas). The residents and leaders made the following submissions during site visit;

A) Leshau Self-Help Group Water Project

The vice-chair for Leshau-Karago-ini S.H Water Project Mr. Joseph Gichohi Waweru was the first resident to give information concerning the project. He started with a brief history as follows;

Leshau-Karago-ini water project was founded as a self-help water project in 1978. The project was intended to supply water to Leshau and Mathingira Locations in Ndaragwa Division. Currently, these Locations have been divided to form Mairo-Inya, Mathingira, Kiriita and Leshau locations all in Mutanga Division.

The project was designed and surveyed to supply water to a population of 35,611 people and their livestock. The source of the project is from Kamukunga springs in Ewaso Narok River. The name Kamukunga originated as a result of during dry spelt the spring produces rainbow which in Kikuyu is called Mukungabura.

After giving a brief history, he submitted the following information:

PHASE I

Phase 1 of the project is complete and is under operation and maintenance. These areas include Mairo-Inya Location, parts of Kiriita and Leshau Locations.

Currently, the project has connected about 300 consumers and several institutions such as; Mathingira Girls, Leshau secondary, Ngaindeithia secondary, Baari secondary, Highway Junior/Senior schools and Baari Dispensary.

To implement phase 1 of the project donations have been received from the following:-

1. Development Committee (DDC) Kshs 560,000/=
2. In 1982/1983 Batist mission-pumping unit Kshs 150,000/=
3. In 1983/1984 European Economic Community (EEC) Kshs 1,660,000/=
4. Ministry of water development Kshs 400,000/=
5. Community participation in terms of unskilled labour and contribution
Kshs 1,000,000/=
6. Mr. Thumbi-Electrical panel Kshs 400,000/=

In 2008 to date, the project has received funding from CDF and International Food for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

7. CDF disbursed between 2008-2012 -4 plots @Kshs 160,000/= totalling to Kshs 640,000/=
- CDF disbursed between 2008-2012 -3 kiosks amounting to Kshs 800,000/=
- CDF disbursed between 2008-2012 – payment for electricity amounting to 300,000/=

8. In 2002-2007 the CDF office, funds to water groups hence had to quantify the amount.

The work accomplished for phase 1 of the project include:-

1. Pump-house -1 in number.
2. Pumping unit -1 in number.
3. Storage/tanks -11 in number.
4. Rising mains of 4 inches in diameter.
5. Rising mains of 6 inches in diameter.
6. Feeder line to intake 6 inches in diameter.
7. Laying of the distribution system of various sizes.

PHASE II

Phase II of the project began in 2008 when International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through Central Kenya Dry Area Programme ventured into the lower parts of the project supply area.

IFAD was able to accomplish the following:-

1. Pumping unit- 1 in number.
2. Rising main of 8V to 225m³ storage tank.
3. Construction of storage tanks -5 in numbers.
4. Laying of main distribution lines of (6-10) inches diameter pipe as follows:-
 - i. Gachonjora-Waikwa-Corner -7.5 km.
 - ii. Mugamba-Kamukunji -4km.
 - iii. Kamukunji-Ndivai Dispensary -4.5km.
 - iv. Corner Tatu-Ngawa Primary -3.5km.
 - v. Kamukunji-Kalampton -6.5km.
 - vi. Kalampton-Big River -5.5km.
 - vii. Gwa Kihara-Mayu -4.5km.
 - viii. Mugamba Ciura-Equator -3km.
 - ix. Equator-Kandoro -10km.
 - x. Curio-Gathaka ga thirikari -8km.
 - xi. Nyakinyua junction-Muthiga -10km.
 - xii. Ndungata-Forest -5km.

In total IFAD has injected approximately Kshs 50m to the project which includes sinking Kandoro Borehole and rehabilitation of Munyaka Dam in Mathingira Location, Ndivai Sub-location.

In addition, he informed committee that they have constructed 8 water kiosks in different areas within the supply area.

Remaining Works:-

1. Mugamba cuira- Kamukunji-Kalamton line	-2,500,000/=
2. Gwa Kung'u-Equitor tank	-500,000/=
3. Kamukunji Center-Ndivai Dispensary line	-1,500,000/=
4. Equator tank-Kandoro line	-3,000,000/=
5. Leshau Secondary-Karago-ini	-4,000,000/=
6. Waikwa tank-Gachonjoma-4 corner	-2,000,000/=
7. Thige-Baari area	-1,500,000/=
8. Stand-by pumping sets 2 in numbers	-2,000,000/=
9. Construction of valve chambers 30 in numbers	-500,000/=
10. Solar panels 2 in numbers	-8,000,000/=
11. Minor tunnel at Starshine Schools	-200,000/=
12. Kiriita tank-Kiandegge-Mathingira girls line	-2,000,000/=
13. Kiandegge-Ndiiri-Aberdare T.T.C line	-2,000,000/=
14. Kiboya-Ndogino-Raichiri Secondary line	-1,000,000/=
15. Raichiri function-Kalampton line	-500,000/=
16. Monir Tunneling at Baari	-200,000/=
	<u>90,000,000/=</u>

In conclusion, he informed members that, the project ceased to function for about 2 years and the management started buying bulk water from Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company to supply water to its 300 consumers. The management charges their consumers 400/= per 6m³ and 50/= per any additional m³ above 6m³. The vice-chair recommended that, if the above-mentioned funds are provided, the Leshau-Karago-ini Water Project can provide water to the entire Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and lower part of Ndaragwa Central Wards.

The vice-chair informed the committee that, the management is ready to hand over the project to the County to manage. A resident by name Mr. James Thuku gave his submissions as follow;

- i. That the major problem facing the project is high electricity charges.
- ii. Recommended solar panels to be used instead of electric power.
- iii. A booster to be put in place to ensure water reaches high areas.
- iv. When the management is employing Staff, it should include young and old people and the four locations are represented.
- v. To fast-track processing of ownership documents of all parcels of land where tanks are constructed.

Another resident by name Mrs. Elizabeth Gitonga, the chairperson of Mung'etho Borehole project gave her submissions as follows;

- i. That the Leshau-Karago-ini Self-help Group Project belong to individuals and therefore recommended the project to be managed by the County.
- ii. That Mung'etho and Karagoini people were the ones who dug the pipeline tunnel but they don't access water.

- iii. She added that Water does not reach the intended stakeholders.
- iv. That all institutions be represented in the management team.
- v. Professionalism- right people for the right job.
- vi. Cost sharing-this will avoid duplication of funds.
- vii. Management- lack of competent in management and unqualified workers.
- viii. Future plan- to have a future-plan and work-plan.
- ix. The County to initiate water harvesting programme.
- x. The County Government to ensure minimal planting of blue-gum trees along water sources.

Committee findings and observations

- i. That the project lacked good management and therefore resulted in its downfall.
- ii. That water technicians be sent to Kiriita, Leshau Pondo, and Ndaragwa Central Wards to come up with cost analyses showing the cost required to ensure that water is available to all.
- iii. The pumps were broken down.
- iv. That the Kamukunga Spring is not fenced to protect it from damage by the hippopotamus.
- v. That the land parcel where the Kamukunga spring lay and pump house the community have no ownership documents.
- vi. That there is a lot of water from Kamukunga spring, which can provide water to a larger population if well, managed.
- vii. That the connection fees are too high amounting to 12,000/=
- viii. That the water tariffs of 400/= which committee realized is too high for a common man to afford and way above the tariffs charged in other counties.
- ix. That the project buy bulk water from Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company at a low cost of 35/= per 1m³.
- x. The committee observed that the leadership is a cartel to exploit consumers.
- xi. The committee observed that through the mood of residents there is a dire need of new management.
- xii. That some of the pipes are prone to theft and some have been vandalized.
- xiii. That there was no water-treatment system in place to clean water and therefore during rainy season consumers receives muddy water.
- xiv. That there was no booster to help the pumped water to reach Ngai-ndeithia Tank which is erected in a high level.

B) Githunguchu Water Project

The chairperson of the project, Mr. Paul Ndung'u Gatitu, gave a brief history concerning the project as follows:

The project is located in Githunguchu area and the borehole was done during the era of colonialism. The project was funded by the European Union and former County Council of Nyandarua and it was meant to supply water to residents of Githunguchu area. But during installation of the pump, the European assured people that the borehole can provide water to a larger population. The borehole supply water to two masonry tanks each holding capacity of 225m³ where one is located on the lower side and the other one is located on the upper side. The management was in office for one year and it has done a good job as it had increased the number of consumers from 25 to 70 within one year. The following were officials;-

- i. Paul Ndung'u Gatitu- Chairman.
- ii. Peter Mucheru Kamau- Secretary.
- iii. Virginia N. Mburu- Treasure.
- iv. Ruth K. Kabiro- vice-secretary.

He went on giving the following submissions:

- That the project provides water to consumers within 3 km.
- That the project area is sparsely populated.
- The connection fee is 3,200/= and the consumer buy T-join and other requirements for connectivity.
- The project account had accumulated 427,700/= by the time committee visited the project.
- That the minimum tariffs charge is 400/= from 0m³-5m³ and any additional m³ above this attracts 50/= per m³.
- That the former County Council had contributed 2,000,000/= and the European Union had contributed a total of 17,000,000/= to enable the project to function.
- That the European Union had donated to the project two pumps and which have broken-down 3 times.
- That the management takes responsibility of replacing broken pump without involving consumer to contribute where it uses connection fee collected on the same.
- The two masonry tanks are each erected on a ¼ an acre piece of land and the borehole lay on ¼ an acre in 4 acres belonging to the public.
- The management requested Water Committee to assist the management to fast-track processing of ownership documents of all public land parcels in the Ward.
- That the project employed three staff: - a watchman, a meter patroller and pipe repairer.

Challenges facing the project

The project chairman highlighted the following challenges:

- The high cost of electricity bill per month amounting to 20,000/=per month.
- The tank on the lower side has cracks around it and therefore cannot hold water due to leakage.

- Late payments of water tariffs and some consumers never pay.
- Illegal connections.
-

Committee findings and observations:

- i. That one of the masonry tank is leaking water.
- ii. That the cost of using electricity pump is very high and therefore affect consumers.
- iii. That the borehole is drilled in a higher altitude, therefore, can provide water to a larger population using gravity.
- iv. The borehole can provide water to many households if managed by the County though well managed.
- v. The borehole can also provide water to parts of Ndaragwa Central Ward.
- vi. The committee observed that the leadership is not ready to handover management to the County Government.

C) Mung'etho Water Project

Committee finding

The project has a borehole located on a public land parcel approximately 0.1013 hectares in Mung'etho area. The land parcel number is **Nyandarua/Leshau Mung'etho Block 2/200** and the ownership documents are with County Government. The County government to fast-track processing of ownership document. The pump is in place and functional. Currently, the pump uses diesel oil to pump water. The Electricity is within the piece of land but not connected to the pump due to lack of fund.

The borehole supply water to an elevated plastic tank on another piece of land located on upper side to enable water to flow by gravity and in the same piece of land, another erected masonry tank is in place, which is not connected to the pipes from the borehole. Due to lack of public land parcels in the area, Mr. Joseph Wang'ombe (Gitero) donated 30m by 7m piece of land as a public on 18/8/2010 where the elevated plastic tank with water capacity of 10,000 liters, a store and a cow trough. Then the County government erected a masonry tank beyond the donated area which attracted the County to purchase the additional area of 50ft by 100ft at a cost of 300,000/= to 500,000/= which has not been paid to the owner. The County Government should fast-track the process of purchasing the plot to safeguard the tank. The project benefits only six homesteads where water is pumped whenever one of the six consumers contribute the amount to get water.

RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee having considered all information provided either as oral or written submission (documentary evidence) and after making its findings and observations as aforementioned herein above, the committee gives the following as response to the statement of Hon. Justus Gaita Wagura.

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- Determination of Area of Water Distribution and Coverage

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after failing to pay power bills and the ensuing disconnection by Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), the areas served by the project experienced serious water shortages. To alleviate the problem, the management of Leshau-Karagoini entered into an agreement to purchase water in bulk from Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company. However because of the limited supply of 250m³ per day, only Mairo-Inya town, Gwa Kung'u, Ngai Ndeithia, Baari and Shauri are covered.

- Volume of Water Supplied

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the volume of water currently purchased in bulk from Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company by Leshau Karagoini Self-Help Water Project is 250m³ per day, which is not enough and is therefore supplied through rationing.

- Extent of Water Loses

Mr. Speaker, Sir, water loses are currently high due to the following reasons:

- Illegal connections
 - Water misuse for purposes other than domestic water consumption
 - Low capacity to effectively patrol the distribution system to promptly attended to leaks and bursts
 - Some non-functional and inaccurate meters
 - Lack of computerized services
- Applicable Water Tariffs, Terms and Conditions of Supply to Consumers

Water Tariffs are;

- From 0m³-6m³ per month –Ksh 400
- From 6m³ and above –Kshs. 50 per m³

Terms and Conditions of Supply are;

- Registration as consumer
 - Commitment to abide with the project's by laws
- Financial Sustainability of the Water Project

Mr. Speaker Sir, the project is not sustainable as evidenced by the number of times it has been bailed out of its debts by other well-wishers. To be sustainable the project needs to address the challenges listed in (3) above.

Recommendations from the Department

Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Department of Water, Tourism, Environment, and Natural Resources has recommended the following when responding to the statement;

1. Leshau Karagoini water project, which has its source form Ewaso-Narok River, should be rehabilitated to make it operational to serve an estimated 50,000 people in Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and Ndaragwa Central wards. The proposed works will include:-
 - Purchase and installation of two (2) pumping sets at estimated cost of Ksh 2 million.
 - Repair of vandalized pipe sections at an estimated cost of 5 million.
 - Purchase of motor bikes for line patrollers at an estimated cost of Ksh 600,000.
 - Purchase and installation of functional meters at an estimated cost of Ksh 3 million.
2. The management of the rehabilitation project should be handed over to Nyandarua Water and Sanitation Company, which has the required capacity to operate and maintain the scheme.

Expected Benefits of rehabilitated project

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Self-Help Group shall:

- serve an estimated population of 50,000 in Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and Central Wards
- Benefit from an already laid infrastructure
- Coverage area of about 30km²

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, Sir, following the compilation of this report and the mutual agreement between all parties that this project be revived, the Committee recommends implementation of recommendations of this report. I urge the members to adopt this report to enable the people of Leshau, Kiriita and lower parts of Central Wards access water.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the committee findings and observations, the Committee recommends as follows:

1. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does provide water pumps to ensure water pumping to the existing storage tanks.
2. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does liaise with the Directorate of Public Works to ensure the repair of pipelines which were destroyed by graders during road grading is promptly done.

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3. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does redesign the distribution off-takes of the projects to increase the volume of water distributed and tackle the current water demand.
4. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does in future plan to install solar pumping system to reduce the high cost of production and hence lower the water tariffs.
5. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does institute measures to ensure all leaking water tanks are promptly repaired or replaced.
6. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does formulate a policy on the proper management of all water projects in the County for effective and efficiency management and service delivery.
7. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does liaise with the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development on the acquisition of land and processing of ownership documents where these water sources and tanks lay.
8. THAT the Department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources does liaise with the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) to contain hippopotamuses from destruction of the Kamukunga springs intake.

Mr Speaker, I urge this august House to adopt the report to allow the people of Kiriita Ward, Leshau Pondo Ward and some part of Ndaragwa Central Ward, who are expected to be served by the water project in question, get access to clean water. It is the mandate of both the elected and nominated leaders of this county to ensure provision of water to the people. I now call my able vice chairperson, Hon. Reuben Gitau to second the motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Shamata and the vice chairperson of the committee, Hon. Reuben Gitau.

Hon. Reuben Gitau: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to second the motion. Ndaragwa region is disadvantaged in terms of environmental conditions. Leshau-Karagoini Self Help Water Project is situated at the furthest end of Ndaragwa Sub-county. Actually, it is the driest part of the county. A lot of money, from the national government, private investors and CDF¹, has been pumped into the project which started in 1978. Some of the money was misused. The project had a very promising beginning, but soon after its management failed. The locals could not manage the project, and therefore the committee concluded that the county government has to come in to facilitate revival of the project.

Should the project be revived it would serve a population of about fifty thousand people. That is why the committee recommends that the county government should take over the project and source funds from either its kitties or the national government for purposes of reviving the same. With those few remarks I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes the County Member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu.

¹ County Development Fund.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise from the onset to support the motion on the Report of the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources on Leshau-Karagoini Self Help Water Project in Kiriita Ward. I thank the committee for its thorough work.

I come from that area and I confirm that the report has captured the situation on the ground. It is as if the members of the committee have been residents of Kiriita or Leshau Pondo because in the report they have laid the facts bare about the project.

For the more than thirty years I have lived in Kiriita, I have not seen the people of the said two wards get access to piped water. Since I did not have a brother, I twice participated in digging trenches for installation of water pipes but all this was in vain since the water project never came to operation. Consequently, we had to, for example, move our domestic animals to other places in the county to drink water; we were made to become nomads in our own county. I remember once taking our cattle all the way to my grandfather's home in OlJoro-Orok for them to get some drinking water.

The challenge of lack of water in Kiriita and Leshau Pondo is a serious one and I hope the recommendations of the committee will be taken with the seriousness they deserve.

Mr Speaker, we had taken the initiative of compelling the management of the Leshau-Karago-ini Self Help Water Project to hand over because it was failing.

(Hon Sambigi Mukuria rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it the Member for Githioro, Hon. Sambigi Mukuria.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuria: Mr Speaker, I am wondering if the nominated Member from Kiriita is in order to give us a chronology of her earlier life instead of discussing the subject of the motion at hand. We all have our personal histories.

Speaker: The Member for Githioro, I think you are out of order; the County Member from Kiriita is very ably trying to ably demonstrate the importance of provision of water services. She has shown where we have come from and that we are not out of the woods yet. In her contribution I believe she will propose the way forward on sustaining provision of water services. She is really trying to drive the point home on sustainability of provision of water services.

Proceed the County Member from Kiriita.

Hon. Wanjiku Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker for coming to my defence. The management of the Leshau-Karago-ini Self Help Water Project would initially collaborate with NYAHUWASCO², which is in Laikipia County, in order to provide water to the people. In view of this, about three months ago the leaders from Kiriita and Leshau Pondo, in collaboration with the Executive and the County Assembly, sat down and handed over the project to NYANDAWAS³, which is under the administration of the county government. That is a great step in actualising the project. This way, we are going to solve the problems of water provision to the fifty thousand people expected to be served by the project in question.

For purposes of installing a water tank, a member of the community donated a parcel of land and the county government was supposed to buy another parcel of land adjoining the donated

² Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company.

³ Nyandarua Water and Sanitation Company.

one. Unfortunately, the County Government has not paid for the said parcel. In the report, the committee has therefore recommended that the parcel owner be paid since if they decide to reclaim their land it will be very challenging to implement the whole project.

The source of water, Kamukunga Spring, generates a lot of water and if the project is revived it would not only serve the people of Kiriita and Leshau Pondo but also the people of Ndaragwa Central.

I strongly support the motion and I pray that the Executive takes the report at hand seriously. I know they have made some progress. They have our support. You can imagine a people going for over forty years without piped water. This is serious. It is high time we ensure fruition of the project as a means of alleviating poverty in the county. The resident of the said ward are very committed to farming in general but without water their initiative remain unsustainable. In fact, cattle farmers rear their animals for some months and then sell them out of circumstance.

Finally, I hope this House will adopt the motion at hand for the benefit of our people. I beg to support.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Leshau Pondo and the Leader of the Majority, Hon. Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important motion. The people of Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and Ndaragwa Central have really suffered water challenges. Accordingly, I urge this House gives us a caring eye and help us alleviate the water problems that we have experienced for years.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuria will have to get another history because we have to relate where we have come from; we have really suffered for year.

(Hon. Sambigi Mukuria rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it the Member for Githioro, Hon. Sambigi Mukuria?

Hon. Sambigi Mukuria: Mr Speaker, is it in order for the Leader of the Majority to refer to a matter that you have already ruled on?

Speaker: Well, I think it is not necessary because the matter has been ruled on. The Leader of the Majority just proceed and give your history and propose solutions as we go forward.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. Born and bred in Leshau Pondo, I can confirm that the people of that area have suffered lack of water for a very long time. The project in question started in 1978, some of us were not yet born, and today elders ask us the younger generation whether we will ever ensure provision of piped water to the people of the three mentioned wards. We have been promising them that the wards will get the water. I am sure with the support of this House and the Executive this will be attainable.

I thank the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources for the comprehensive report it has brought to this House. I really appreciate the many hours they spent to ensure that the report was compiled. As the committee observed, there are unusable pipes that were installed using the money from Equalisation Fund, CDF and donors. Some of the pipes have been vandalised. The management of the Leshau-Karago-ini Self Help Water Project has been poor. The project is supposed to serve households that boarder the Nyahururu-Nyeri Highway all the way down to the lower parts of Ndaragwa as well as those occupying the upper parts of Kiriita.

If the project is revived the people of the said wards will not require boreholes since there will be plenty of piped water. Boreholes have been sunk in Leshau Pondo, for example, with a lot of public money; but some of them have not generated enough water even to serve five households. I was a co-opted member of the committee and we visited Kamukunga Spring in the company of the CEC Member for Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources and concluded that the spring has sufficient water to serve the residents of the three wards. In relation to this, I appreciate that NYANDAWAS has taken up the management of the Leshau-Karago-ini Self Help Water Project. We have been buying water from NYAHUWASCO in order to supply to our people whereas we have water sources in our county. That has made the Ndaragwa region a colony of Laikipia.

The Leshau-Karago-ini Self Help Water Project just requires proper management. If this House adopts the report at hand and the resolutions emanating from the same are implemented, the residents of the said three wards will get access to the precious commodity. During my secondary school days we used to fetch water from Mugamba Ciura dam due to lack of piped water in the school. In fact, I remember suffering scabies for lack of bathing due to lack of water. That is something I would hate to see fifty years after this country attained independence.

I hope this House will adopt the motion and that the Executive will do the necessary. When we call you to support the project at hand, please respond because provision of water to the people of the said wards will be a great reward. Remember these people mostly survive on relief food. With those few remarks, I beg to support and urge this House to adopt the motion because I know they know we come from the 'North Eastern' of this county. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Gathanji, Hon. Ngumo Ngamau.

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this chance to stand in solidarity with our neighbours from Ndaragwa Sub County. It is true that there has been scarcity of water especially in Kiriita and Leshau Pondo wards and we need to ensure provision of water to residents of these wards.

Ndaragwa Sub County is currently producing between 30 and 40 percent of milk produced in the county through hardships of zero grazing. If people from this region are supplied with water, they would improve the economy of the county through farming.

Mairo-Inya town is one of the biggest urban centres in the county and the county government collects substantial amounts of revenue from the town. Unfortunately, lack of water supply in the town poses a great risk of outbreak of diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

Nonetheless, I urge the people of Ndaragwa to work in solidarity. It is discouraging for this House to advocate for provision of water to them only for them to engage in infighting. It is advisable for them to work in solidarity especially to ensure that the water project in question is revived. On the same note, it is important that leaders in all the other sub counties work together to ensure implementation of projects. With those few remarks, I beg to support. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes the Member for Nyakio, Hon. Zachary Njeru.

Hon. Zachary Njeru: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion. Ndaragwa is the driest part of Nyandarua. Water is a basic need and provision of the same to the people is an item in the Big Four Agenda. Mr Speaker, stalled projects have consumed millions of money. I think implementation of projects should be regulated by firm policies. It would not be advisable

for the Department of Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources to fail to institute policies to regulate water related projects.

Mr Speaker, there are other wards that are assumed to boast supply of water yet they face scarcity of water more than the wards in Ndaragwa that are mentioned in the report at hand. My ward, Nyakio, has not operational boreholes; neither does it have rivers. People there rely on shallow wells and temporary water pans for water. Magumu Ward, Murungaru Ward and some parts of Githabai Ward are also faced by water scarcity. In tackling water challenges in the county, the Department of Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources should put into consideration the said four wards too.

Sinking of borehole is a matter that should be done with uttermost seriousness. There are plans to install solar panels to power pumping of water from boreholes. Nonetheless, currently powering pumping of water from boreholes with electricity is becoming a challenge due to high electricity bills. To substitute water from boreholes, pans should be sunk and dams built especially in areas within Ndaragwa, where, through irrigation, farming could be done. With those few remarks, I commend the Committee on Water, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources for a job well done. I beg to support.

Speaker: Yes, the Member for Githioro, Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuria: I rise to support the motion. People of Nyandarua are said to be living in a water tower. However, quite surely, we have limited supply of water despite our county having a lot of potential in water supply. I identify myself with the sentiments that have been aired by the Members who have spoken before me. Turasha ridge in my ward is very dry. Yet we have been treated to a verbal show of how boreholes have been sunk. You wonder why in this age of scientific excellence boreholes could be sunk without ascertaining availability of water underground. Most of the boreholes do not generate water. We cannot fail to reflect on the amount of resources that have been spent on water projects.

We cannot solve water challenges in our county with half-baked solutions. The Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, in collaboration with the relevant department should forge lasting solutions to these challenges. The county government should enter into an agreement with the entities that draw water from our county; that for every 10m³ of water drawn, the entities should ensure that the same amount of water has been supplied to our people. We have been like a colony. Resources are being taken away from us without evidence of reciprocating corporate social responsibility.

With those remarks, I support the motion.

Speaker: Yes the County Member from Wanjohi, Hon. Jane Waweru.

Hon. Jane Waweru: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion that has been moved by Hon. Samuel Mathu. I commend the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources for the good work it has done. The said committee has shown that it is equal to the task. “*Maji ni uhai*”⁴. The motion at hand is of benefit to our people, especially the people of Kiriita Ward. Supply of water in the said ward could help its residents improve their agribusinesses. Much of the income in Nyandarua is generated through farming. Provision of water to the people is in line with fulfilment of one pillar of our President’s manifesto on manufacturing

⁴ Water is life.

because it cannot be realized without water. With those few remarks, I support that Kiriita ward be given more water. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Njabini/Kiburu, Hon. James Kiiru Gachomba.

Hon. James Gachomba: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Committee on Water, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources for coming up with this report regarding Karaguini Water Project. You are aware that water is scarce in our county because of poor management and lack of good policy framework.

In their recommendations, the committee says that they would like the department of water to put some water pipes and to repair the storage tanks. I also recommend the same because if the water pumps are installed and the storage tanks are not repaired, we will still experience water shortage.

The committee has also recommended that the department of transport, energy and public works should repair some broken pipelines within the project area. We are in agreement and we shall also add that the director of public works ought to move with speed and ensure that the pipes are repaired so that the community can enjoy this resources.

Mr Speaker, the committee has also recommended that there is need to redesign the project due to the water increase. This is important because it will increase the volume of the water that the tanks will be able to store because the population is also rising and we need to have sufficient water. The committee has also recommended that there is the need to install solar water pumps so that we are able to reduce the cost of power bills and subsequently, lower the water tariffs and connect more people to the resource.

Mr Speaker, the report also talks about the policy framework. Not only have the people of Ndaragwa lacked this but people from the entire county. As you are all aware, the water that comes from the Aberdare Ranges is consumed in other counties but we who live adjacent to the ranges have never benefitted from the water. We therefore need clear policies. Even if they are trying to build dams such as Pesi, Malewa and Kinja, we require clear policies on how we shall manage the water. Our mandate, as a county government, is to make those policies to help our people get water in future for domestic use and livestock. The report also talks about Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Wild animals have been destroying the water springs in the area. We are requesting the service to put up an electric fence so that the springs are conserved and our people benefit from them. With those remarks, I support the motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Rurii, Hon. John Mburu Githinji.

Hon. Mburu Githinji: Mr Speaker, I rise to support this motion fully. As we know, water is life. It is everything. Even here in this Assembly, we would not be able to come if we do not have water. I know that Leshau-Karaguini water project serves so many people. Fifty thousand people are not few. Again, we know that it serves there wards; Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and Ndaragwa Central.

As a House therefore, we should support this project. However, the committees that have been managing these projects have failed throughout the county. In my ward, there are so many water projects but the committees have failed us. We must know how the existing and new water projects will be managed.

Mr Speaker, I have seen in the report the issue of electricity bills. In my ward, we have plenty of boreholes and water is available but the cost of electricity is very high. The consumers are not even able to foot this bill. I therefore support the use of solar energy for the water pumps

so that our people can enjoy lower water tariffs. We are sinking boreholes yet our people cannot manage to pay for it. Why do we want to charge our people Kshs.400 as the water tariffs? We hear that other counties charge Kshs.350 or as low as Kshs.250. Why do we charge our people such a high amount? We must look at the issue of the tariffs so that water is affordable for our people. I support this motion because people in my ward are facing similar problems. I reiterate that water is life. Thank you Mr Speaker, I support.

Speaker: Yes, Member from Ndaragwa Central, Hon. David Mwangi Maitai.

Hon. Mwangi Maitai: Thank you Mr Speaker. As the Hon. Member for Rurii has put it, water is life and is a paramount agenda. Actually, this is one of the main agendas that if well dealt with, we shall be seen to be working for *Wanjiku*. Other agenda include electricity and roads. I really congratulate this committee for the work well done. If we can solve the problem of water, everything will fall into place.

We had a meeting with the management of Karaguini water project. They handed over the management to NYANDAWAS, which is the way to go. We all understand that the committee on the ground are a major stumbling block to efficient management of water. If we streamline the whole thing and water is then managed by NYANDAWAS, everything will be okay. This is the way to go since springs are more sustainable than the boreholes, which are more expensive.

(Consultations)

Please protect Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Order members!

Hon. Mwangi Maitai: Thank you Mr Speaker. They have heard. I was saying that using springs is the way to go due to their sustainability. They will serve the people of Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and Lower Ndaragwa Central. We, as a committee, also talked about use of solar energy. Electricity bills are very high and the common *mwananchi* may not be able to afford the water tariffs. The committee also recommended that the pipelines be repaired and pay the pending bills for land where one of the storage tank has been installed.

I urge the House to adopt this report if we will have to realize the dreams we have for this County. Such issues as relief food will be a thing of the past. When we talk of relief food, most people think of Ndaragwa. However, with sustainable water supply, the issue of relief food will have been solved and we shall have been given the fishing rod but not fish. Again, I urge this House to adopt this report and we shall move forward.

I support. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes Member for Kaimbaga, Hon. Gabriel Gathure Wambui.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion. I can remember, the committee on water responded to a statement on this issue which the Member for Kiriita Ward disagreed with. I don't know whether this is the second response from the committee because the Member is absent and he could have said whether he agrees with has been tabled today.

Mr Speaker, the County Member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu is in the House and that is the reason why I did not want to contribute ahead of her. I wanted to be sure that they agree with the committee. However, the aforesaid member and the Member for Ndaragwa Central, having agreed with the report, whom am I to disagree with it? I therefore support this project and

I hope that it shall be actualized. The most important thing is not passing the resolutions but to ensure that they are implemented. We are therefore tasking the Chairperson of the Committee on Implementation to follow up and ensure that the County Executive implements them so that the people from Ndaragwa can benefit from the resource. I would like to see how NYANDAWASCO or what did the member for Ndaragwa Central call it?

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Can I give information?

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Yes.

Speaker: Okay you can give the information County Member for Kiriita but the Member for Kaimbaga should be very much aware that you cannot seek information without passing through the chair.

(Laughter)

If the Member is not sure about anything, he should pass it to the mover of the motion to respond at the appropriate time. If a member feels that there is some information that is not coming out, a member can request to give information. That is the procedure.

Proceed.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker for guiding the Hon. Member. It is not NYANDAWASCO but NYANDAWAS and it is squarely under County Government.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to see how NYANDAWAS is going to function because it is one of its kind and you know, sometimes, the government fails in management of these bodies.

In Ol'Kalou constituency, we are experiencing problems to do with water shortages due to the lack of proper management of the defunct Rift Valley Water and Sanitation Company and Ol'Kalou Water and Sanitation Company. If you visit the lower side of Kaimbaga Ward, you will find that most of the people do not access clean water yet there were committees that were managing water projects. We want to see the board that has been set up to take up all the water management issues in the county because some of these alien water management companies were the problem.

I was listening to a clip by the Governor of Murang'a County, Hon. Mwangi Wa-Iria. He had issues with the boards that are managing water in that county. We are aware that there is a resolution that was passed by this House courtesy of the former member for Karau ward, Hon. Kamau Ngotho on the issue of charges or tariffs that the board was charging the residents. Nothing has been done. The solution to this problem is to ensure that these boards no longer manage the water resources in our county. We should have our own board that controls our resources. With those few words, I support this motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes Member for Wanjohi, Hon. Isaac Kung'u Wanjiru.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mine is to thank the Chairperson of this Committee for such a detailed and good report and make one recommendation. When I look at the project, I find that it is serving three wards – Kiriita, Leshau Pondo and Ndaragwa Central. It is in order that when we provide money, as the Committee on Budget and Appropriations, for ward projects we make sure that the all wards are well catered for. For instance, we are providing Kshs.10.6 million and therefore it is important that each of the three wards get about Kshs.3 million so that the project can be operational. Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir and I support.

Speaker: Yes Member for Kanjuiri Range, Hon. Suleiman Kihika Kimani.

Hon. Suleiman Kimani: Thank Mr Speaker. I would like to refer to page 7 of the document. There is a project that was funded by the Government of Kenya through International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). Down there, you can see that the project was given back to Karaguini community to maintain and ensure that it is operational. It is unfortunate that we introduce so many projects in our county but when they are given back to the community, they collapse due to poor management. If you look at the recommendation of the committee on page 22, it says that the department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources should liaise with the department of public works to ensure that the repair of pipes which were destroyed by graders during roads grading are properly done.

Mr Speaker, the project was handed over to the community and it was important for the community to have proper management team. You cannot be crying to the government about broken pipes so that it can repair them. That means that the community does not own the project. For the project to run efficiently, the community must own the projects. Yes, we support the motion but with reservations. There is no way you can say that when a pipe is broken, you call upon the government to repair it yet we have the management team. The community needs therefore to own these projects in our county.

Mr Speaker, we need to sensitize and educate our people that when they have a project that is funded by the county, they should manage it because it is not impossible for them to be repairing broken pipes. I support the document but the community must take care of their projects. I now call upon the mover to respond.

Speaker: Yes, the mover and Member for Mirangine, Hon. Samuel Mathu.

Hon. Samuel Mathu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Hon. Members for supporting this document. I am also hoping that they will adopt it. I also know very well that the people of Nyandarua can testify they have the best leaders who have their interests at heart. Almost all the members have contributed and supported the report to see that our people in Ndaragwa access water and I am sure that tomorrow, the same will be replicated in other wards.

Mr Speaker, I urge the Executive to implement all the resolutions of this House and request the Chairperson of the Committee on Implementation to follow up to ensure it is done.

Without any doubt Mr Speaker, I am sure that you can see that the Committee on Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources is one of the best performing committees in this House.

(Laughter)

I beg to move. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed)

Speaker: The motion has been taken. I really appreciate this particular report and the recommendations. You go through the report and you will appreciate that these are the true aspirations of the people. Are we able as a government to actualise these aspirations? Actually, these aspirations are very modest and I was trying to compute the figures involved so that the

project happens. It is very modest when compared to other hundreds of millions we allocate to other issues, which in the long run, will not touch on the lives of the people.

As it has been said therefore, these are the issues. The Committee on Implementation should ensure that some of these things happen. For us as politicians, we have to play a role in some of these issues. Even if the management of water projects is either under NYANDAWAS or County Government and we don't have the right boards and committees, the story should not be any different. Ol'kalou Water and Sanitation Company is under the government and does not deliver any water at all.

Hon. Members, we have to agree on this one. Let us put the right people in the right places. This country is destroyed by political patronage. Putting an illiterate person to go and argue with engineers on matters concerning water just because the person supported me to get some few votes is not right. We have to divorce ourselves from political patronage to be able to realize the dreams of our people. Putting the right people in the right places is the way to go. For example, for Kiriita water project, let us have the leaders of Ndaragwa constituency come together. Let the project committee have a committed person who is a lawyer, a doctor, an accountant or even an auditor. A person committed to the welfare of the people of Ndaragwa but not putting political mandarins whose sole objective is to sit and get five hundred shillings as allowances. This is what is driving us down the drain. It is not that we don't know these problems or how to resolve them but politics is in every component of our lives. These are issues we can get right.

We cannot, Hon. Members, be paying water tariffs at Kshs.400 per homestead whether you get water or not yet we are a water tower. Other counties, which have no water, charge an average of Kshs.250. Where are we driving our population? However much we are able to talk about handing these management committees to the government, there should be people to oversight the government. These people should have the knowhow and are accountable. Secondly, we have to bring these water tariffs down and ensure that our people pay for what they have received. In Ol'Kalou, we can pay water for four months without receiving a single drop yet we are paying Kshs.400 for tariffs. This is stealing. Is the government stealing from the people? How long will it continue? So, we have to streamline these things and the Committee on Water has a lot of issues to deal with and ensure that water sector in this county is streamlined.

Next order.

2. MOBILIZATION AND ENROLMENT TO NHIF

Yes, the County Member from Kiriita, Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu and also the brand new Chairperson of the County Assemblies Women Caucus. I think she requires some appreciation for that.

(Applause)

Proceed.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have accorded me. Were it not for this Assembly, I would not be where I am today. Were it also not for women of this assembly giving me the opportunity to serve them

as their chair, I would also not have been where I am. I therefore thank the Speaker, the elected and nominated MCAs. And now Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following;

Aware that pursuant to Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 guarantees a right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care;

Further aware that Article 53 and 56 guarantee the rights of children; and the minorities and marginalized groups to health care among other rights;

Noting that the National Government has formulated a policy on universal health coverage which aims at among other things enrolling all citizens to the National Health insurance Fund which will enable access to affordable health care to every person;

Concerned that the achievement of the universal health coverage cannot be achieved unless all state organs and the County Governments mobilize the people to enrol; now therefore, this House does resolve that:

- a. That the County Government does enter into an agreement with the State of Health, National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and other partners to ensure that all residents of Nyandarua are mobilized for enrolment and registration with NHIF;
- b. That the County Government does engage the Cooperative Societies and other organizations for the purposes of reaching out to their members on an agreement to ensure monthly deductions are remitted to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF);
- c. That the Department of Health Services does formulate a policy on achievement of universal health coverage which shall entail mobilization of the people to enrol for National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) or establishment of a similar sustainable fund and further, to allocate resources for improvement of health care facilities;
- d. That the County Government does engage the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and other organizations in the county for them to participate in improvement of preventive and curative health care services in Nyandarua through Corporate Social Responsibility (C.S.R.) and;
- e. That the Department of Finance and Economic Development does set aside funds in its 2018/2019 budget estimates for the mobilization of the people to enrol with NHIF.

Mr Speaker, when I was thinking about this motion and how far we have come as a county, I looked at several issues that affect us every day. I got a few quotes that truly guided me on how to go about these motion. This is something we had really thought about.

For us to save our county and the planet at large and if we want to lift our people out of poverty and desperation that comes along, we must connect some dots. This dots are water provision and scarcity, poor infrastructure, health care, food security and women empowerment. If we do not connect all these dots to make one circuit, then, our county and even the globe are going nowhere. Universal health care is among the dots that we are connecting for us to be able to achieve development both in our county and in our country.

Mr Speaker, I want to say that good health and good sense are two greatest life's blessings. If we do not have good health, even our sense would not operate because we could be concentrating on our bad health. Our output would be limited.

Renowned televangelist, Joyce Meyer, once said, 'the greatest gift you can give to your family and world is a healthy you'. This is very true because if you are not healthy, it is impossible for you to serve your family. If the members of this House are not healthy, they will not be able to serve their constituents properly. The same applies to our electorate. If the electorate is not healthy, it is not able to work in the farms. Therefore, if we don't have a healthy nation, then I can tell for sure that poverty will not end.

Mahtma Gandhi once said that, 'it is health that is the real wealth not pieces of gold and silver'. This means that we are not healthy, the pieces of gold and silver will not make any sense because we will not even enjoy them when we are sick. This is why the government thought about universal health care.

I want to borrow heavily from the two quotes and say that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. The National Government knows this too well and that is why it has universal health as one of the four main agenda of transforming this country. The introduction of NHIF came in handy and complemented the government's efforts of achieving this. However, the big question is, have our people in the county embraced this fully? I would say, it is a big no. Why am I saying this? Hon. Members will agree with me that when we visit our people in the grassroots, sometimes we try to ask people whether they are aware of what the government is giving them in terms of NHIF. I can tell that the answers we get are worrying. Only about ten percent of our people are aware.

Many a times, Hon. Members receive calls every other time for help them on medical bills and even to take people to hospital. This is happening in front of our eyes Mr Speaker. Yet, we have NHIF scheme that is supposed to help our people. Why is this not happening? Why are we having a very small percentage of people enrolled in the scheme? We should also ask ourselves why our people suffer yet we have NHIF scheme that is supposed to pay for medical bills and all this stuff.

I embarked on a research to answer the following questions. Are people aware of NHIF? How many people are enrolled to NHIF? Why haven't they enrolled for NHIF? Is it because they cannot afford or is it lack of information? Are they not aware of the benefits? Are they just ignorant? Out of the samples we had, we realized that lack of awareness has contributed largely to low rate of enrolment. We also realized that many could afford the Kshs. 500 if divided into small amounts for each day. They say that Kshs. 500 is a lot of money for them but when you ask them how much they spend on airtime per day, they will say Kshs. 50 a day. They need about Kshs. 16.50 to make Kshs. 500 a month but they do not want to save Kshs. 20 each day. If there would be an application for the public to pay this amount in bits, I am sure that they will have paid Kshs. 500 by the end of the month.

We are asking the county government to enter into an agreement with the state ministry of health. This ministry is doing mobilization but it is being done at the Huduma centre. In our county the Huduma Centre is in Ol'kalou. How many people will come from the furthest part of Ndaragwa, Shamata or Raichiri and use a huge amount of money to come and enrol for NHIF? We need to take this closer to the people as a county. There are other health organizations to

collaborate with and they cannot come without our invitation. ‘*Hawawezi kujileta*’⁵. We must involve them. The World Health Organization is already mobilizing people to enrol for NHIF but we have to invite them. There is a kikuyu saying ‘*urutagwo mwiruti*’⁶. We have to start working so that we can have them come in.

We also have to partner with NHIF. They are doing mobilization but only at the headquarters. Have we gone to the people on the ground? This is where the county government should come in, go to the ground and tell people how important this is.

The county government can also engage the cooperatives. Many citizens are members of cooperatives. That is where they take their products. At the end of month their payments comes through the cooperatives. If the government engages the cooperatives and the women groups, they can, agree with the members to be deducted Kshs. 500 at the end of every month for contribution to NHIF. These people will be helped because if they take money from there, they may not be able to pay. It can be done as it is done for us. We pay through check-off system. We do not even feel the pinch of paying it. To help those that are not employed like us, we should engage the cooperative societies. I cannot see Hon. Joseph Kariuki here and he would be very good in mobilization of the motorbike riders. They have cooperative societies.

We have many football clubs in this country and county; if we engage these clubs, they could pay for their members or even mobilize them to enrol for NHIF. When players get accidents in the field, they are not able to foot their medical bills. If the ministry of sports takes this to them, they could pay for this health insurance. The women and the youth groups can do this.

The department of Health services should formulate a policy of achieving universal health care. I know of counties where this is happening, for example Makueni. I was discussing with the chairperson, Committee on Health. We need to go and benchmark with Makueni on this so that we can know how they handle their policy. The citizens pay to the county government and there is a policy to manage that. The committee on Health needs to follow up on benchmarking with Makueni, we shall be able to advise the governor on how we shall achieve universal health coverage.

In Laikipia County, they started mobilization and I can tell you that they are at 70% enrolment. I was talking to one of the CECMs while doing my research. I was told that they have developed an app with AMREF, which is helping the members to make payments bit by bit. The app is in their phone and if one gets Kshs. 20 they pay and at the end of the month they are able Kshs. 500. This is a good initiative and the county government can partner with such groups to see that our people register. We know that most of our people earn from the farms produce and if one gets Kshs. 200 shilling a day, with such an app on the phone, one is able to pay slowly and at the end of the month will have paid Kshs. 500. If we have many people are members of NHIF enrol, possessions being auctioned to pay bill will be a thing of the past.

The other prayer was that the County Government does engage the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and other organizations in the county for them to participate in

⁵ They can only act through invitation.

⁶ Help follows an effort.

improvement of preventive and curative health services in Nyandarua through Corporate Social Responsibility (C.S.R.). We know that there are so many diseases nowadays and they are effecting our people and making them pay huge medical bills. The NHIF is also paying a huge amount to hospitals. How can we reduce these illnesses so that we can use money for development and not for hospital bills? This can be done through corporate social responsibility. We have organisations like USAID and the County Government can partner with them to do preventive and curative care training, do check-ups for cancer, diabetes and other diseases. This will improve the health of the citizens and we shall be more productive in the farms and alleviate poverty. We can also partner with other companies such as Osho, Twiga chemicals, Sygenta and Juanco. They bring chemicals in our county and if they are prevailed upon to involve themselves in preventive health care then we shall move forward as a county. Some of the respiratory diseases with our people are as a result of inhaling these chemicals while we are spraying animals and crops. These companies can provide protective gear to the farmers and reduce the risk of respiratory diseases.

Finally is that the Department of Finance and Economic Development does set aside funds in its 2018/2019 budget estimates for the mobilization of the people to enrol with NHIF. If we want to be helped, then we have to start somewhere. For us to get help, we need to set aside some money so that the donors can also see that we are doing something about it.

I was discussing this issue of NHIF with someone. You know that health care has been devolved. All the health infrastructure is with the county government. The doctors are also under the county government. The person I was talking with about this issue said that NHIF should be the one going to the people. Whose problem is this? I told the person 'you are so ignorant of the *'serikali saidia'*⁷ phrase when the people of this county suffer, we suffer along. It is our initiative that will be of help and not the national government. What are we going to do as a county to ensure the people are enrolled for this? We are relieving them from the burden of paying huge medical bills.

I urge the members to consider this motion and give it the seriousness it deserves. I pray that they will pass this motion and after this, they get involved in mobilizing the people to get enrolled for NHIF. I call upon Hon. Gathure to second the motion.

Speaker: Yes, member for Kaimbaga Hon. Gabriel Gathure Wambui

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to second this motion. I appreciate Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu to for giving me a chance to second the motion. This motion has come in late. It was supposed to have been moved like yesterday. We can see that the mover is requesting the executive to have this in the budget for the financial year 2018/2019. We are currently dealing with the ADP (Annual Development Plan) and the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. It should have been in the ADP. We have allocated money to the department on health and I am sure that they are going to navigate and have something that will be allocated to this project.

Mr Speaker if there is something that these Hon. Members are supposed to check and support is NHIF coverage. The greatest problem we have is that we the MCAs are always requested

⁷ Government Help! — A slogan.

to support in raising medical bills in *Harambees*⁸. As you are aware, we have no any allocation to cater for the sick people in our wards. I was sharing with the member for Murungaru the predicaments of the members when they go to those ward offices, eight out of ten people that visited my office for the two days I was there last week but one had issues relating to medical bills. I could not tell whether it is a reality or not because the members of the public are aware that the only way that a member of the County Assembly can give money is only when you tell them about sickness. They know if they tell you about school fees you will tell them that there is a bursary fund. If it is about the road, the member will tell them that the implementation of budget is underway. If a person comes to your office saying that she has a sick child, mother or father, the member will have to part with some few coins. In less than one hour, I had given away about Kshs. 7500. At one point, I got angry when the sixth person entered the office and the issue was medical bill too. We do not have a fund in the county government to cater for medical bills. We only cater for staff, medicines and other medical facilities. I asked them where they expect me to get this money. Since I was recording their needs, I opened those pages for the person and showed him the amount that the rest had asked from me. I told him of another that had be admitted at J.M Memorial and had been discharged but could not leave the hospital because he could not get Kshs. 2000 as bill. I sent the Kshs. 2000. I told him I had parted with Kshs. 8000 that day, if I was to do that every day that would add up to Kshs. 240,000 in a month. Where do they expect us to get such money?

This is a very important motion. We are not late as Nyandarua and as a country. I know that you follow international politics and you know that before the former president of the USA finished his term, he proposed a universal health care insurance. The Republicans were opposed to it but it saw the light of day. However, the current president said that he is going to revisit that cover. If a developed country like USA is experiencing these problems, along with Germany and Britain; what of a developing country?

The government under the big four agenda is looking at this issue and has come up with a policy on universal healthcare. As a county however, we cannot wait for the national government. We have 47 counties. Why can't we be the first one to have our own way of dealing with universal health care? The second prayer of the mover of the motion is to have our own way of sensitizing citizens to register with NHIF. Members here are in NHIF, how about their family members. I could be a member of the county assembly but not all my siblings are registered with NHIF. Hon. Gachomba will confirm to you that he has been in government for 15 years, his brother is a senior chief and the other one is as CDA and not all their siblings are enlisted in the NHIF. This is a big problem. The mover is saying that we have to create awareness so that the members of the public can be registered in the NHIF. The mover of the motion did some arithmetic that for a common member of the public to be able to pay for NHIF, he or she needs to save about Kshs. 16.50 per day and that becomes about Kshs. 500 a month.

We were allocating bursaries to the public and there was an outcry from the day scholars that they were not give bursary fund, the day schools are only paying Kshs. 3000 per term, and

⁸ Fund raisers

that translates to Kshs. 9000 per year. If a parent divides that amount by twelve months in a year, that would be Kshs. 700 per month. That is the only amount that parent should save every month. They do not do that. They are all over applying for bursaries. All we need to do is to create awareness. I do not want to belabour more on this and I urge the members to support this motion. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to respond...

Speaker: To respond?

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr Speaker I do not support the motion. The reason I am opposing this motion is that, one, the mover of this motion has quoted articles 53 and 56, which guarantee the rights of children and the minorities and marginalised groups to health care among other rights. I do not see how NHIF and the County Government is coming in on this.

As a County, we do not have the time, the resources or the capacity to engage with NHIF whose role in the Health sector should have been defined. NHIF in my understanding is a Government entity that is charged with ensuring the citizens in this Country are insured on Health issues.

The County Government on the other hand enjoys devolution of Health and it has to play its part. I believe if the County Government was to play its part, it would be done in the Hospitals at the local level.

We have also been told about universal Health care, we know that this is one of the agenda that the National Government has. We also know that it is in the piloting phase where four Counties in the Republic have been selected for pilot study. Mr Speaker, if the Government has found it fit to use other Counties as test case for this agenda, why then is Nyandarua rushing to partner with NHIF, when NHIF is already on the testing grounds? I find this pre-mature and uncalled for.

We also look at the approach, the mover is talking about using the Cooperative Societies. How many of our people are members of Cooperative societies? We might start segregating our people to certain classes for them to qualify for NHIF. Instead of so doing, I would urge the mover to have NHIF, which is ultimately the utmost beneficiary of this exercise come, and carry out civic education to our people. When the seconder talks about people going to his offices to ask for transport to go to Hospital, NHIF does not come in anywhere. It does not transport anybody to the Hospital. It does not in any way appear here, we should not in any way argue this debate from an emotional point of view...

(Hon. Gathure Wambui rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Kaimbaga Hon. Gabriel Gathure?

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker, is the member for Githioro in order to purport that I have said that members of the public were coming to my office to ask for transport.

I think he was absent minded. I said they came because of hospital bills and not transport.

Speaker: Member for Githioro, I agree with the member for Kaimbaga, member for Kaimbaga was very categorical one person had a bill of six thousand shillings and he paid one thousand, another one had a bill of ten thousand and had gave Kshs 500. Actually, the issue of transport never rose at all, in his seconding. Proceed.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker, but if my memory serves me right, the opening statement was that a person was asking for transport to go to hospital. The Hansard can bear me witness. The medium through which the member is proposing that our people start paying for these monies is unattainable, how many of the elderly people in the villages have these sophisticated gadgets in the name of phones that can deal with money transfers? What is the cost associated with transferring this sixteen shillings per day? This is prohibitive and we are not as a County, agents of NHIF.

We also realise that this culture of dependence is slowly creeping into our population. When we talk about the County assemblies partnering with NHIF to ease the pain in hospitals, then we will also realise that apart from the dependency syndrome we are witnessing with the bursaries, the milk projects and the others, then we realise that our population will wait to receive more ‘*morio*⁹’ from the Government.

The mover alluded to some partnership with NHIF, can she define what kind of partnership she is talking about? Talking about partnership is amorphous, because it could be a conduit for spending more....

(Hon. Gabriel Gathure rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Kaimbaga Hon. Gabriel Gathure?

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Mr Speaker, I think it is not wise for the member of Githioro to continue misleading the people. In fact, he is using some words in vernacular like ‘*morio*’ These Hon. members cannot understand what ‘*morio*’ is, he continues to say... I had a girlfriend from that area, the Kamba land, actually let me say that ‘*morio*’ means something that is given for free. What the mover is saying is that we want to sensitize the people about NHIF and even get to pay for them. The mover of the motion said that members of the public could save as little as sixteen shillings to pay...

Speaker: No! Now you are arguing, I think your point of order was on the word ‘*morio*’ I expect the member for Githioro to give a background. When you quote something that is not English, Kiswahili or sign language, you have to give a back ground of that particular word that you are going to issue whether it is in kikuyu, sheng’ or any other language. The member for Githioro should give a background of that word and its meaning so that it can go on record.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker, I stand guided. Just before I used the word ‘*morio*’, I referred to the dependency syndrome that is creeping into our economy. We all know that a few days ago we underwent some training somewhere and the members of this County

⁹ Kamba for free gift or donation.

Assembly were introduced to the term. I used that term to show fast we are degenerating towards that end. If that is not the case, then I wonder why the mover would be in a hurry to say that there be an allocation in the 2018/2019 budget. Anything that has cost implication to this economy must also be a true state of this people.

Mr Speaker instead of doing this we should ensure that our people have enough water to practise agriculture so that they do not depend on rain fed agriculture and hence generate...

(Hon. James Gachomba rises on a point of information)

Speaker: Do you require that information?

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: I do not need any information. I am saying that instead of taking the dependency route we should empower our people economically so that they do not only afford NHIF but also other insurance covers. The way to liberate our people is to have better roads for them instead of allocating money to pay for NHIF for them.

Mr Speaker, the four counties that are carrying out pilot study are well known and it would be premature to invite the same body that has not even built capacity to come and do the same in Nyandarua. Even if the idea could be noble, it has to be put aside and we wait for that time. I oppose.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Kipipiri Hon. Wangari Methu.

Hon. Wangari Methu: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion, I start by congratulating Hon. Milka for coming up with such a noble idea. I want to start by saying that when we go back to our villages, *Wanjiku* is truly suffering not necessarily because of financial incapability but because of lack of information. I urge and encourage this House, even from you Mr Speaker, sir, to facilitate even the nominated members to move from Karampton to Kenton to preach this Gospel of NHIF to every homestead. It is not only the elected members who are being approached for Hospital funds, they come to our homes too. The elected members will agree that we will be helping our people and not looking for votes. I request your office Mr Speaker, to have something like an RRI, Rapid Result Initiative to inform our members the need to have NHIF. I support.

Speaker: Yes member for Wanjohi, Hon. Isaac Kung'u.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to support this motion and start by congratulating the mover for this very important motion. As we are aware, our constitution under article 43, on the human rights clearly states that every human has the right for the right standards of health and no one should be denied emergency medical treatment. This is re retrogressive since the Government does not have enough resources to make sure that this is attained by every Kenyan.

I also want to state that if you look at the statistics of NHIF coverage in Nyandarua, it is at 17 % far below the National Recommended coverage of 26 %, this tells you that there is something wrong in Nyandarua. If at the National Level coverage is at 26 and in our own County, coverage is at 17 %, this means that the people of Nyandarua do not have information about NHIF. I want to state in this House as the member for Wanjohi, every week I am invited for fundraising for one of my electorates to assist in paying hospital bills. Our people are suffering and we have never

taken a move to go out there and sensitize them and tell them that they are able to pay for NHIF, most of them believe NHIF is for the employed. They do not have the critical information and some of them do not even know where to start. This is a good motion.

As a County, we have the social responsibility to make sure that our people access good health. We are spending a lot of money on Health, developing related facilities while our people cannot afford to go to this hospitals. We have all seen the rise of non-communicable diseases like Cancer, it is a killer disease, people are selling their properties, selling land and all they have. I think it is time we sensitized our people, we move out and inform them. We have to come up with a serious framework on how we are going to our people. Our people can pay, I thank the mover because she is not saying that the County Government should pay because this can be a very big burden, we believe that our people can pay for themselves for they work and with the right information, I believe they will pay for the best health care. Therefore, what the mover is saying is that we partner with NHIF, concerned non-governmental organisations and educate our people. I also want to say, now that we have political good will, Jubilee government is talking of universal health care, Nyandarua County should be in line with the National Government. We will also be conveying the agenda of the National Government too.

As I conclude, I want to say that when you look at spending per Capital, you will realise that spending at the National Level is higher than at the County Level. So when we look at NHIF, let us look at it from what the mover has illustrated. Let us view from the Makueni model point of view, Let us look at how we can make health care accessible, such that we are able to add more facilities, equip them, add more personnel and make sure that in this County, every member can access affordable health care. It is in the Referral Hospitals and the mission Hospitals that people are charged highly. So if we are able to equip health centres and provide medicine, our people will enjoy.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Njabini Kiburu, Hon. Wanjiku Muhoho.

Hon. Wanjiku Muhoho: Thank you Mr Speaker. I first start by commending my colleague Hon. Milka Wanjiru for a well-researched and timely motion. You will all agree with me that universal health is one of the big Four agendas of the Jubilee Government. You don't need to have come from another planet to know that this is a timely message. Quoting what J.F Kennedy once said, "You should not ask what America can do for you; you should ask what you can do for America." As a County Government, much as it that NHIF is National Government function, we should not wait for the National Government to come up with policies for Health, but as County we should help the National Government come up with these policies so that they come up with universal health. We all agree that the people who suffer most are the children, women and the elderly when there is a health crisis Madam Speaker.

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Leshau Pondo Hon, Majority Leader

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker, is it in order for Hon. Wanjiku Muhoho to say that the MCA opposed to this motion is from another planet? I do not know whether in the other planets, Mercury, Venus, Pluto, Satan and Jupiter have members of County Assembly.

Speaker: I think she is in order.

(Laughter)

Hon. Wanjiku Muhoho you can continue with your point

Hon. Wanjiku Muhoho: Thank you Madam Speaker, members you will agree with me that we have idiomatic expressions, oxymoron and personifications in English words do not necessarily have to mean what they are.

Moving on Madam Speaker, I was saying that the people who suffer most when there is a health crisis are the children, women and the elderly. We have very many cases of maternal deaths, infant deaths, and the recent case in Engineer of a child with a decomposing behind is a very good example. The reason why such incidents occur is because our people are looking for cheap services and they end up in the hands of quacks thus having very sad cases.

Member of the County Assembly is the most localised seat, being localised we end up having many cases of health bills to assist in paying. Daily and monthly, we receive cards to attend *harambees* and assist in offsetting this bills. With access to NHIF, will reduce the case of *harambees*, all we will have to do is deliver quality health care services in our hospitals. Our people will easily access good health care with NHIF cards. With those few remarks, I support. This motion should be supported and implemented in the fastest time possible.

Speaker: Yes Member for Magumu Hon. Hussein Kassana.

Hon. Hussein Kassana: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to support the motion but with reservations. Whereas we encouraging our people to register for NHIF, I think it is good for people suffering from terminal illness to enrol now that it does cater for everything. When these people are admitted for two weeks or even a month, they accrue high bills of up to a hundred thousand and they end up doing *harambees* to pay the bills. I think it is good for members to understand that as much as we all want to register our people, this NHIF initiative is a good thing, but we have to agree it is in a way failing us.

When a person is hospitalised and accrues one hundred thousand and the NHIF only pays thirty thousand, what about the remaining seventy thousand? This initiative appears as if it has come to help those with terminal illness, but when they go to hospitals, they end up dying slowly. This can happen, but for individuals with chronic illnesses who accrue big bills it does not cater for everything. This is why I am supporting with reservations. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Githabai, Rimui

(Hon. James Gachomba rises on a point of order and addresses the Speaker while seated)

Speaker: Yes Hon. Gachomba.

Hon. James Gachomba: Rimui is not a County member, County member is you and the rest.

(Laughter)

(Consultations)

Speaker: Yes Hon. Rimui, Continue.

Hon. (Eng.) Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you Madam Speaker, May I begin first of all on a different note, the fact that you were addressed by the Hon. member while seated, I think that is very disrespectful and before I proceed I think...

(Hon. Gathure Wambui rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Kaimbaga?

Hon. Gathure Wambui: You know Hon. Speaker, before Hon. Rimui continues, Hon. Gachomba had just ruled out that you're out of order. The Speaker cannot be out of order. He would just have said that the County member is Mrs Wangari Methu and you. When you are seated on that seat, you are the Hon. Speaker; can he withdraw or you chase him out Madam Speaker.

(Laughter)

Speaker: The Hon. Member from Njabini you are out of order because the Speaker never be out of order so withdraw that statement.

(Laughter)

Hon. James Gachomba: I do not know whether I mentioned that, when you are seated there I cannot say you are a nominated member or such kind of shenanigan that has been said by Hon. Gathure, Mr Speaker I apologise.

Speaker: Okay thank you, member from Githabai you can continue.

Hon. (Eng.) Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, while I was on the floor, I made a statement to the member who has just stood, that he indeed addressed you while seated. I found that disrespectful and before I continue I would want that addressed so that in future no member will ever address the Speaker while seated, please make a ruling on that before I continue.

Speaker: Yes member for Njabini, what you did was wrong, so next time behave.

Hon James Gachomba: Actually Mr Speaker I rise to say that the Hon. Member from Githabai...

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani rises on a point of order)

Speaker: Hon. Member from Njabini you are out of order let Hon. Rimui continue with his statement.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you Madam Speaker for your wise counsel, this house is well guided, and as long as a member is seated on the Speaker's chair, all respect should be accorded to that chair. I want to start by congratulating the member who moved this motion, for a timely and well thought out motion. I want to begin by quoting several declarations some of which have already been quoted. Article 25 of the United Nations on Personal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948: "Everyone has a right in a standard of living, adequate for health and well-being of himself and his family including food, shelter, clothing and Medicare and necessary other services." Madam Speaker, I also want to refer this to the constitution of Kenya that has been severally quoted, and furtherance to that I also want to refer to what the Bible, the good book that teaches us morals states, "My people suffer because of lack of knowledge.

The whole world, and coming down to the Human Declaration by the United Nations on Human Rights, the jubilee Government has been campaigning so seriously on the matters of health. I do recall a few days back when the Deputy President said that time has come when no more cows, goats, sheep or even land should be sold by families in order to cater for Hospital bills. I think it is timely that our constituents are informed about the benefits of this Health care.

When the mover was moving this motion, she did allude that it only takes a bout sixteen shillings daily to be able to pay the necessary amount for this insurance cover. Let me quote some of the experiences that I have had from my constituents, when some of them have gone for medication and they have had to come back to us for support. I remember one time members of Githabai ward did challenge one of the sick and told him that he did not see sense in this insurance cover whereas she had a hefty amount to pay. Members were questioning why this person could not pay the five hundred a month only for her to come back with half a million bill. The question was what was easier, pay the five hundred or the five hundred thousand?

I agree with the Hon. Member for Magumu when he says that the terminal illness are well covered by the insurance cover, and therefore since they are the illness that accrue a lot of money, if the insurance can pay for them then they would have eased a huge burden from our people. The way the mover had moved this motion and the fact that she is alluding information is not on the grass root level, we should not spare any single effort, second, minute or anything necessary anymore by failing to inform our people adequately. In fact, like Hon. Wanjiku said, we should move out of our way and make sure there is a crusade. The Gospel on enrolment with NHIF must be preached to all. This motion is timely and must be supported by all members who mean well to our people and would want to see the people enrolled into this scheme. I strongly support.

Speaker: Yes County member, Hon. Wambugu

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Thank you Madam Speaker, and on a lighter note, I am not a County member but a member for North Kinangop ward.

(The Temporary Speaker Hon. Jane Waweru leaves the Chair and the substantive Speaker assumes the Chair.)

Speaker: Yes Hon. Member we know you are from Nyandarua County, so proceed.

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Thank you Mr Speaker for the correction, I rise to support this motion, which is very timely. I remind the opposers of this motion that issues pertaining to health policies are at the National Level. Schedule 4 part 128, and the issues pertaining to the County Health services is devolved and under the County Government, and this is where we are. The question here is whether Nyandarua County is in line with agenda four of the National Government in the Jubilee manifesto where we have universal health care.

Mr Speaker, in Africa, no Country has managed to do this, maybe Kenya will lead in this. So the question is: Will the County Government of Nyandarua work together with the National Government in implementing policies? As the mover has stated, we depend so much on the National Government in aligning this, we are also a government and we can do this. From research, we have learnt about the Abuja declaration where all the African Countries agreed that that fifteen percent of the national expenditure be set aside for Health care. I am happy we have the Chair for Budget in the House, I do not know to what extent they have managed to achieve this. The fifteen percent required. With this, we will be able to mobilise our people door to door.

Every member should strive to preach this. Every year, one million people in Kenya relapse below poverty line because of unfordable health care and every member should get to see how serious this is. Political good will is more important starting from our leaders: our Governor, Speaker, MP, senator and MCAs. I believe if we join hands in support of this, we can achieve it in the first year and when it comes to analysing, Nyandarua will remain on top. Therefore, I support this because I understand that no one failed to know that we have spent a lot of money, which would be our savings. We have sold assets, borrowed and even done fund raising in the name of health care. I believe your office Mr Speaker, can be able to push this through to the executive and particularly to the office of the Governor so that this work can be done. Thank you.

Speaker: Very well; yes the member for Gathanji, Hon. Ngumo Ngamau.

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would feel unappreciative if I do not contribute to this motion and I want to use very few words. With your permission and I did mention it to you last time, that the only miracle we can perform to the Nyandarua people is to make sure all of them are members of NHIF.

The Hon. Member for Kiriita said that we want to go to Makueni and I can smell a miracle there. Should we come back here and our people pay Sh. 500 per year, it will be very good. Through the County Government, the National Government is supposed to pay Sh. 60 million and after calculating, we have found that in Nyandarua, we have about 100, 000 homesteads which if they only pay Sh. 500 per year, it amounts to Sh. 50 million. This means that the whole population will be catered for by the NHIF. That would be very little if the county government should supplement. Therefore, I want to support this by saying that, let us benchmark, and see what we can do for the people of Nyandarua.

Hon. Wambugu said that Nyandarua ranked position one and the curse that can befall on Nyandarua, is or it ranking position 47 of 46 in the health sector. Should we have this and become the first county within the Mt. Kenya region or in Kenya and have everybody registered, it's going to be very good. I support this motion.

Speaker: Yes member for Mirangine, Hon. Samuel Mathu.

Hon. Samuel Mathu: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to support this motion and I congratulate the County Member Hon. Wanjiru for coming up with this timely motion. I will start by quoting the Bible that, “my people perish for lack of knowledge.” In Nyandarua County, our people are using a lot of money due to lack of information about the importance of NHIF registration. The Hon. Members can bear me witness.

Cancer has become a common disease that is killing our people and not only that but also taking with it everything that they have, even leaving them as squatters and having accrued a lot of debts in banks. So, as the elected leaders of Nyandarua, let us do a vigorous campaign to create awareness about the NHIF registration and let the people know that there is an amount that is paid by the NHIF. With few words, I will urge this house to adopt this motion.

Speaker: Okay. The County Member from Gathanji, Hon. Wanja Kimondo Loise.

Hon. Loise Kimondo: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion and to commend my colleague Hon. Milcah for this timely motion. I would like to only emphasize on the civic education part, in trying to show our people and educating them on the importance of enrolling with NHIF.

In my case, last week I had to support four people from my ward to enable them clear their hospital bills without forgetting that there are other fund raising, which I am yet to contribute. With that, I wish to say that prevention is better than cure. Its better we educating our people to enrol with NHIF and this does not mean that once you get that card, you will fall sick, but if you have it and you find yourself in that situation someday, you will be on the safer side. With those few comments, I support. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes member for Shamata, Hon. Reuben Gitau.

Hon. Reuben Gitau: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support this motion and also commend member from Kiriita Hon. Wanjiru for the good work she has done of coming up with this motion. The main problem in Kenya is in the health sector. The fundraising issues that we have even in our wards are basically about health. There is no month that goes without a fund raising function related to medical bills in our wards and the county at large.

You will agree with me that NHIF positioned itself as the primary provider of health insurance and actually, it is the cheapest insurance cover that our people can afford. If you compare it with other insurance companies like Madison and the rest, the people who cannot afford those bigger amounts, cannot register with those bigger insurance companies.

NHIF is a key player in the attainment of the universal health cover. Any county that ignores the issue of health will end up with many people suffering physically, economically and also socially. If a county is suffering in those areas, we are going to end up with an ailing county which will be economically weak.

What the mover of the motion is proposing is that we come up with a policy whereby we shall mobilize our people to move from the seventeen percent to a higher percentage of people who are enrolled with NHIF. I remember that even in the budgets that we have been passing in this Assembly, we have been allocating money for public participation. I do not think it would be wrong if the county was to allocate some funds to mobilize our people and give them civic education on the importance of the NHIF. Therefore, I fully support this motion.

Speaker: Yes, County Member from Wanjohi, Hon. Jane Nyambura Waweru.

Hon. Jane Waweru: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion. I congratulate Hon. Milcah for coming up with it. Our old parents are dying because they do not have the money for their clinics. Others are not able to afford the medicine, which have been recommended for them. Others are held up in hospitals after they deliver due to lack of money to pay their bills. So it is our duty as the county government to engage with these organizations, go to the ground and if possible, door to door to encourage our people to enrol with NHIF. Now I call the mover.

Speaker: The mover and the county member from Kiriita, Hon. Milcah Wanjiru Ndirangu.

Hon. Wanjiru Ndirangu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand here to Thank you Members for contributing to this motion, and agree with many members who have said that this motion is timely. To the opposers of the motion, I don't need to add anything. The members who have supported the motion have said all. I want to remind those who are opposing that after the expiry of this Assembly, we won't be having the insurance cover, Mr Speaker, you worked hard to get for us. We will all go back to NHIF. Therefore, it is the high time we think about this and urge the National Government to do the necessary.

Hon. Kung'u talked about the 17 percent enrolment, which is too low. We need to raise this and through the recommendations, am sure we are able to do it. Hon. Wanjiku also mentioned about the quack doctors who give our people quack treatment. NHIF will help in avoiding that. There is an important issue that has been raised by Hon. Kassana, about the NHIF not paying for the terminal and the communicable diseases. I would urge, if there is a way we can talk to the Hon. Members of the National Assembly, that they seek an amendment to the NHIF act and to the policy to make sure that they include this in it. These members can help us in moving an amendment in the national assembly, so that these ailments can also be catered for.

I heard Hon. Rimui's concern. Hon. Wambugu King'ori talked about the Abuja declaration, which is very okay. We need to be doing a lot of research. Thank you Hon. Ngamau for the comments and I hope with the guidance of the Speaker we will do this benchmarking. Hon. Mathu, Thank you for the Bible verse that, "people get lost for lack of knowledge." Hon. Loise, Hon. John, Hon. Gitau and everybody who has supported this motion, I want to thank you because your sentiments are good and I know they are going to help our county in a great way.

I want to end with a few quotes about health. Two of them are from Roy Bennett. He said that, "among the fifteen things money cannot buy is health." So it is very important we take care of our health and in another one he said, "When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless and intelligence cannot be applied." Finally from Tony Lesiu, "fit health body is the best fashion statement. With these, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: The motion is taken and as we always say, it is about implementation; laying down the infrastructure to ensure that it happens. Otherwise, it will still go and gather dust in the shelves as our people continue to suffer.

Our people are able to pay this Kshs.500. What they require is sensitization and to us as the leaders and the heads of the families, it is almost becoming a nuisance especially the issue of hospital bills, which are very small like maternity. I remember last week I was talking with the Deputy Governor about a woman who gave birth at J.M but cannot be released because her condition requires an injection that costs five thousand shillings, but she had no such money. So, the Deputy Governor had to intervene in person.

You have also heard the case at Engineer Hospital where a woman was saying that she will have to leave her baby in the house to rot because she doesn't have a cover. This is an issue of universal application for all of us, it's the only way we can change our county and ensure that our people live lives of dignity. Therefore, I hope that the Chairperson of the committee on Implementation and your membership are going to ensure that some of these things are catered for in the budget because we have the motion trackers. As I always say, it is not the big things we talk about that will create acceptance of leaders by the people of Nyandarua, it's the small things that impact on them. *Wanjiku* has not gotten the basics and the assembly as the representative of the people, let's ensure that what we do directly impacts on the lives of our people. This motion will have a direct impact on them.

Next order.

PAPERS

THE NYANDARUA COUNTY ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR FY 2017/2018

Very well member for Njabini/Kiburu and the chairman of the committee on budget and appropriations, Hon. James Kiiru Gachomba.

Hon. Kiiru Gachomba: Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to table the report of the budget and appropriations committee on the approval of the Nyandarua County Annual Development Plan for the 2017/2018FY. Thank you.

Speaker: Very well. The document is duly tabled and the House Business Committee shall give directions on how the same shall be processed if it has not been done.

Next order.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE MOTION ON THE NYANDARUA COUNTY ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR FY 2017/2018

Yes, member for Njabini/Kiburu and the Chairperson of the committee on Budget and Appropriations, the Hon. James Kiiru Gachomba.

Hon. Kiiru Gachomba: Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

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That this house does adopt the report of the budget and appropriations committee on the approval of the Nyandarua County Annual Development Plan for the 2018/2019FY as a report of this house and the recommendations therein as the resolutions of this house.

Thank you.

Speaker: Very well. The notice is duly given of that motion, on that particular budgetary instrument and the House Business Committee shall give directions on how the same shall be processed.

Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, the business for this sitting having been exhausted, this House will now adjourn to again today, Wednesday the 16th day of May 2018 at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 12.16 p.m.)