



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
1ST ASSEMBLY-3RD SESSION



OFFICIAL REPORT

(The Hansard)

Wednesday 10th June, 2015

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chambers at 9: 00 A.M

The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, in the chair.

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

Speaker: Clerk, confirm that there is quorum

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

Speaker: There being no quorum, I invoke the provisions of the standing order 35 (1) and ask that the division bell be rang for an initial ten minutes or until such time, within the ten minutes, that the quorum will be achieved.

The division bell rings for four minutes and quorum is attained as confirmed by the clerk- at -the table.

Speaker: Quorum having been achieved, the bell may be disengaged and we can proceed with the business of today. First order

PAPERS

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE STATUS OF THE E.C.D.E CLASSES

Hon. Kamau Ngotho rises on behalf of Hon. Josphat Kamau

Speaker: Member for Karau, Hon. Kamau Ngotho, on behalf of the chairman Education Committee.

Hon. Kamau Ngotho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the chairman of the Committee on Education, Labour and Social Services I wish to table the report of the Committee on Education, Labour and Social Services on the Status of the E.C.D.E Classes (Phase 1)

Speaker: The report is duly tabled and the House Business Committee shall allocate time for the notice of motion on the report and time for moving the motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY HON. SILVESTER KAGIRI

Hon. Suleiman Kimani rises on behalf Hon. Silvester Kagiri

Speaker: Yes member for Kanjuiri Ridge, Hon. Suleiman Kimani, on behalf of the Chairman of PIC/PAC.

Hon. Suleiman Kihika: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to seek leave to give notice of this motion at a later date because currently the committee has too much workload.

Speaker: Member for Kanjuiri Ridge, notice of a motion is usually given after a report is tabled on the floor of the House. You cannot give notice of motion for a report that is not in the custody of the House.

When I couldn't find that report in my file, I thought that it was a mistake but if it is not in the rest of the members' files, then this notice is premature. You cannot give notice on a report that is not in the custody of the house.

The Speaker consults with the clerk-at-the-table

Is there anyone with that report? I have checked my file thoroughly but I can't find it. Chairman PIC/PAC can you give us clarity on this. Do you have the report on which you were supposed to given notice today?

Hon. Silvester Kagiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Please accept my apologies for being late. We have not done that report and I even wonder how it appeared on the order paper.

Speaker: I thought that I was the only one without the report. The practice is that you first table the report before giving notice of motion. I hope that the clerk-at-the-table has noted that because this is a very big anomaly; preparing an order paper on a paper that is not there.

MOTION

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES ON THE ABSORPTION OF THE NURSES UNDER THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROGRAM (ESP)

Speaker: Yes, member for Githabai and the chairman of the Committee on Health Services, Hon. Peter Njoroge Kairu.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to move the following motion:

That this house adopts the report by the Committee on Health Services on the Absorption of the Nurses under the Economic Stimulus Program ESP as a report of this house and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee on Health Services was mandated, by this honourable house, to write a report on the Economic Stimulus Programme presented to this Committee on 21st October 2014, following the outcry of Kenya National Union of Nurses in Nyandarua County that the County has failed to absorb them as permanent health workers. (See Annex 1.)

Nyandarua County has a shortage of more than 150 technical personnel, excluding the support staff and therefore any opportunity available to employ health personnel should be highly welcomed. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Health Services Committee has the pleasure to report to this Honourable House that the committee followed the matter and currently forty five (45) Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) staff in the County have already been absorbed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, provision of Health Services is a basic human right under Chapter 26(1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and every person has a right to life. This covers everyone in the Community.

Speaker: Chairman, did you say chapter 26 of the constitution? The constitution is only up to chapter 18. We need to amend that because it is very critical. Health is a fundamental right and, obviously, it is in article 26 of chapter four. You can move an amendment to read chapter four article 26.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Mr. Speaker sir; I beg to move an amendment that the second paragraph, the first line which reads chapter 26 (1) be deleted to read chapter four article 26. I call Hon. Kamoche to second.

Speaker: Yes member for Rurii, Hon. Peter Wahome Kamoche.

Hon. Wahome Kamoche: Mr. Speaker sir, I second.

Question on adoption of the amendment proposed

Question on the motion of the amendment put and agreed to.

Speaker: The amendment will be effected. Proceed.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to appreciate the County Government of Nyandarua (Executive Arm) since the County Public Service Board has taken into account the challenges that the Department of Health encountered by absorbing the said staff.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Pursuant to standing order 186 (5), the committee resolved to act as follows:-

- i. Investigate, inquire, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- ii. Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- iii. Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- iv. Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with the stated objectives;
- v. Investigate and delve into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the Assembly;
- vi. To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the Assembly to approve; and make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee on Health Services comprises of the members as listed on that page. The committee on Health Services is grateful to you and all the Hon. Members of this honourable house for the support granted in executing its mandate.

The Speaker consults with the clerk-at-the-table

Mr. Speaker Sir, I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank my fellow committee members for sacrificing their time while they should have been celebrating the Easter holidays with their families. The committee is also grateful to the office of the clerk for facilitating and providing technical support to the committee.

The committee is further grateful to the County Executive Committee Member for Health Services and the Chief Officer of the same for their support and response whenever the Committee required their input. The committee also wishes to thank all the medical staff and other officers who volunteered to give information needed to make the report successful.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, On behalf of the Members of the Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 186 (5) (g), it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's Report on the Absorption of Staff under Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP).

The issue here is that nurses, and other health workers, who had been employed on contract basis by the National Government before devolution under the Economic Stimulus Program, and later seconded to the county governments, were not absorbed on permanent basis.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) Nurses have now, like all the other health services, been devolved to the County. These are the nurses that are operating our health centres and dispensaries and are providing crucial health care all over the County. The National Treasury and Public Service Commission of Kenya were expected to approve their absorption once they complete their contracts accordingly.

They were to be absorbed into the regular establishment on permanent terms. Consequently, their confirmation to get into the payroll should be effected on the date of expiry of their contract. This will help boost their morale and serve as a way of motivating them in executing their mandate. This will also ensure that the County is not in contravention with the directions issued by the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. James Macharia via the letter MOH/ADM/1/1/130/VOL 1/ (19) dated 24th January 2014 attached.

Mr. Speaker Sir, despite the presence of the above staff in our Health Facilities, the crisis of staff shortage in the Health Facilities is still an obstacle in the provision of effective health care services in the county. The Public Service Board should consider recruiting more staff to address the issue. This would ensure that the workload doesn't overwhelm the staff available.

Our county inherited some health workers that had been employed on contract by the National Government whose contracts had since expired. The County Government of Nyandarua later absorbed all the Economic Stimulus Program health workers whose contracts had expired and their salaries were backdated. I appreciate the government because in some counties, there still is an outcry that they were not absorbed by the County Government.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of writing this report, contracts of nineteen staff members under ESP had not expired. As a matter of practice, we will ensure that once they expire, they will be absorbed as permanent employees. It is important to mention that not all employees were satisfied by County Government's move to absorb them permanently probably because of the expectations they had about remuneration. However, the provisions of the circular and regulations of the Ministry of Health were followed to the letter and we hope they will work with dedication.

We have a grave shortage of health workers and particularly nurses. Indeed, Kenya Union of Registered Nurses has been complaining that a large number of nurses has been moving out of the country in search of better remuneration. Hence, the apparent shortage of nurses is not only a county's problem but also a national problem. It is my humble request that the County Government looks into this matter and prioritizes on areas where there are acute shortages when hiring new nurses.

With those few remarks, I request Hon. Suleiman to second.

Speaker: Very well, Member for Kanjuiri Ridge Ward, Hon. Suleiman Kihika

Hon. Suleiman Kihika: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the motion as brought by the Chairman of the committee on Health on the absorption of staff under Economic Stimulus Program (ESP).

As stated by the Chairman, this report relates to the manner in which the ESP staff were absorbed. Concerns were raised about the procedure that was followed in the absorption of some ESP staff while others remained under contract and the report has clearly outlined the reasons as

to why that happened. Largely, it is because their contracts have not yet expired. We, therefore, hope that when their contracts expire, they will also be absorbed by the County Government.

I have an issue regarding remuneration of nurses. Most of them are complaining about their salaries. As a committee, we recommended that their salaries be reviewed, albeit progressively.

I suppose the rest of the report is self-explanatory and quite easy to understand. Therefore, I second. Thank you.

Question on the motion of adoption of the report proposed.

Speaker: Yes, County Member from Githioro, Hon. Dorcas Kihara.

Hon. Dorcas Kihara: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the report on absorption of members of staff employed under ESP. I only hope that the staff employed under ESP was registered during the biometric registration of county staff. This, I believe, will largely avert the risk of ghost workers that has befallen many counties.

Everyone has the right to quality health care services as stipulated in the Bill of Rights. The problem of shortage of health workers highlighted by the Chairman could be resolved if we had a medical training institute in this county. Our children will receive training and therefore will work whole-heartedly for our county regardless of the salary. This is in contrast to the current scenario where we have to hire people from outside the county.

Mr. Speaker, I support. Thank you.

Speaker: Member for Rurii, Hon. Peter Wahome Kamoche.

Hon. Wahome Kamoche: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this report. I have a few comments to make. As a committee, we sat and recommended that the County Government absorbs the health workers under ESP.

We also looked into other aspects of the health care system and I wish to say that the county does not have a director and/or deputy director of medical services. The one in office, and his deputy director, are serving on acting capacities which makes it very difficult for them to execute their mandate effectively. We cannot afford to ignore the sensitivity of our health sector. According to Chapter 4 of the Constitution, every person has the right to access quality health care services.

The establishment of a county medical training institute is a noble idea since 60 percent of the trainees and staff will be from our county. The training institute that we have currently belongs to the national government since not all aspects of health care system were devolved.

The national government still controls 2 percent of the health care system in the country. For instance, in central province, the Provincial General Hospital (P.G.H.) is under the national government. However, I would like to state that Kenya Medical Training Colleges (K.M.T.C.s) were devolved.

This implies that 60 percent of the trainees and staff should come from counties where the colleges are located according to the Health Act. For Nyandarua County, we are supposed to have at least 60 percent of the staff. At least 20 percent of the staff members should come from Nyandarua Central Sub-County. In my view, it is possible for the County Public Service Board (CPSB) to consider hiring specialized medics such as surgeons and medical doctors.

Mr. Speaker I am requesting this Assembly, through your wise leadership, to give a direction to CPSB. Principally, the board should give us a director and a deputy director of medical services in the county who we can ask questions. If today you call them into this Assembly, they cannot answer any of our questions. They will claim that they are serving in acting capacities. If this problem is not addressed, we will be missing the point. In addition, you should direct the board to give us a surgeon because it is possible and that the County Government can afford to pay him or her. The surgeon in Nakuru General Hospital hails from Nyandarua. The reason he works there is because he is paid well by Nakuru County. We need to attract such specialists in our County by paying them competitively.

I believe that it is essential that we have a medical training school even if it means that we look for an investor Mr. Speaker. Besides, it is vital that we have a medical specialist particularly a surgeon serving our people. This will reduce the cases of people going to other counties to seek specialized health care services. With those remarks, I second. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Gatimu, Hon. John Kieru Wambui.

Hon. Kieru Wambui: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to appreciate this committee's work. I frequently wonder why our committees must do these reports for the Executive to implement some of these things. In as much as we play the oversight role, common sense dictates that one should do his or her work.

We have passed so many resolutions and debated on so many issues but they are never implemented. Most of them never see the light of day. We are wondering what is happening on the other end of our government. The number of calls I receive and the nature of work we do for

our people is enormous. I wish the people of Nyandarua would know the much we do on the floor of this House only to be frustrated by the Executive. I am sure they would change the perception they have about the Members of the County Assembly.

It is ridiculous how the Executive grapples with very minute and basic management issues. How shall we help *Wanjiku* who does not work in this county? this report was necessitated by an issue that was raised on the floor of this house regarding the ESP nurses who had been hired during president Mwai Kibaki' s tenure and were yet to be absorbed into the mainstream health system.

The essence of this particular program was to ensure that Kenya realizes vision 2030 and, actually, my ward benefited from this project, that is, Gatimu Health Centre and Gatimu Girls Secondary School — which was later branded a Centre of Excellence. There were only two nurses working in Gatimu health centre when the county government came into power; one was sourced through the Economic Stimulus Programme on contract basis while the other one was usually sourced from J. M. Memorial Hospital to supplement the services of the other. As a matter of fact, the members of staff employed under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) are very hardworking.

The recent recruitment of nurses saw Gatimu health centre staffed with six nurses — five permanent ones and the one on contract. Most of the nurses have, since, gone back to school to advance their skills, a move I strongly advocate; professionals should constantly augment their skills.

Unfortunately, the people of Gatimu complained that the nurses employed on permanent basis rarely attended work; only the one sourced through the ESP would turn up for work. Consequently, two nurses were added to the six. I am not quite sure why the nurses would become lazy after being confirmed but perhaps it is because when one is employed on contract basis, they tend to work harder in order to retain the job. The permanently employed nurses at Gatimu health centre, for example, tell the patients who go for injections in the afternoon that such services can only be offered in the morning. The nurse on ESP contract, however, was reported to serve the patients diligently and they always yearn for her services when she is not in.

I launched a mock strategy to investigate the truth behind the above allegations. So I donned a hat, put on goggles and visited the health center. I found out that the people's

allegations of differential between the services rendered by the permanently employed nurses and the ones on ESP contract were indeed true. Immediately, I decided to convene an impromptu meeting with all the nurses. Surprisingly, three of them were in Nyahururu, claiming to have gone there to attend classes. These problems have to be dealt with since they are similar to those we raised about J. M. Memorial Hospital.

I do not know why the Committee on Health Services did not highlight in the report that some of the nurses on ESP contract have not been absorbed permanently by the county government of Nyandarua. There are some benefits like gratuity that the staff on contract should also enjoy. There are nurses whose contracts expired in the year 2013 and are still working on probationary terms. That means that they still receive very low salaries with no gratuity. It is very difficult to classify the exact status of their services; even the human resource department can hardly provide the nurses' records.

Speaker: Well, I was waiting for the chairman of the Committee on Health Services to stand on a point of information since the member for Gatimu is insinuating that this report is not correct.

The report states that all the nurses whose contracts expired have been absorbed, and that the rest will be absorbed when their contracts expire. What the member of Gatimu has said is to the contrary, thereby implying that the report is not correct. Do you have anything to say, Chairman of the Committee on Health Services, Hon. Peter Kairu?

Hon. Peter Kairu: Mr. Speaker, actually the nurses whose contracts expired have been absorbed on permanent basis and are being paid their salaries. Only those whose contracts have not expired are yet to be permanently absorbed by the government, but on expiry of their contracts they will fill forms for permanent employment. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

Hon. Kamau Ngotho rises on a point of order

Speaker: Yes, Member for Karau.

Hon. Kamau Ngotho: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Chairman of the Committee on Health Services has saved the situation because the report indicates that there are 108 medical officers contracted within the county. The engagement contracts of 17 of them are yet to expire. Page ten

of the report highlights that only 45 of the officers have been permanently employed. Forty five and seventeen does not add up to 108.

Hon. Peter Kairu rises on a point of order.

Speaker: Yes, the member for Githabai, Hon. Peter Kairu.

Hon. Peter Kairu: The forty five and the seventeen officers amount to the total number of nurses.

Hon. Kamau Ngotho: Okay, my query is quelled.

Speaker: The member for Gatimu can proceed. If you have any evidence that any ESP contracted officer has not permanently been absorbed even after the expiry of their contract then, in another sitting, you will have a chance to point it to the House pursuant to Standing Order no. 44 which allows the same if a statement has been filed in the House.

Hon. Kieru Wambui: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would wish to provide the evidence credibly and transparently. In February this year, nurses were required to fill forms for promotion. However, the nurses on probationary terms were not allowed to fill the forms for the sole reason that they were yet to be permanently absorbed by the county government. I can substantiate that.

The report also highlights the issue of payments. The committee recommends that the County Public Service Board should ensure that the ESP nurses whose contracts have not expired should be absorbed permanently and included in the permanent payroll immediately their contract time expires. Inclusion in the permanent payroll indicates that the committee is only interested in salaries. The second paragraph of the report's conclusion intimates that:

Mr. Speaker sir, due to the above fact their confirmation for inclusion in the payroll should be effected.

The report puts too much emphasis on the permanency of the staff in question which depicts that the committee was only focused on the salaries of the staff. Mr. Speaker I appreciate your guidance since, I was wondering what to do after raising my concerns, now I know I will provide the aforementioned evidence in another sitting of the House.

Nevertheless, I support the report. Thank you.

Speaker: Very well. Member for Gatimu, in order to bring that issue to rest, you can raise it in another sitting pursuant to standing order 44 which has a provision for raising a statement seeking any clarification on an issue that has been dealt with conclusively.

Yes member for Karau, Hon. Kamau Ngotho

Hon. Kamau Ngotho: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is good that Hon. Kieru Wambui has highlighted the background of the introduction of the ESP by the former president, Hon. Mwai Kibaki. The ESP was geared towards the attainment of the millennium development goals as well as the Vision 2030.

Nevertheless, the letter by the Secretary of County Public Service Board only makes reference to 45 nurses. The chairman has submitted to me that the letter refers to the forty five nurses because they are the only ones who lodged complains. But was the Executive not aware that the number of the officers was 108? We also need to know whether the 108 officers have been fully absorbed.

I know of a nurse at J. M. Hospital who was under the ESP and she has been rated as one of the best nurses. But she was told to go and seek permanent absorption in her county of birth since she did not belong to the majority tribe in our county. I will investigate whether she was absorbed after which I will make a report on the same to this House. She, accompanied by other nurses, came to my office to lodge a complaint. We would wish to know whether she was seconded and what her terms are, currently. I have read an annexed letter whose reply by Mr. Irungu, to the secretary of CPSB states that:

Attached is a list of ESP staff members whose contracts have expired and need to be absorbed in the workforce.

I would like to know the response of the CPSB when this need, in accordance to the County Government Act, was expressed by the Chief Officer for Health Services. I overheard that after confirmation, the remuneration of the nurses would change. What will the CPSB do to avoid future litigations by the nurses?

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of secondment, allow me to read section 73 (1) and (2) of the County Government Act:

1. The national government shall put in place measures to protect its public officers on secondment to the counties from loss or disadvantage with respect to pension benefits, gratuity or other terminal benefits.
2. Unless there is an agreement to the contrary, it shall be the responsibility of the national government to pay the salaries, remuneration, allowances and other benefits

This is until the transition. We need to know whether the officers in question would after the secondment continue receiving the same benefits as were being disbursed by the national government or they would enjoy new benefits from the county government

Mr. Speaker, there is another issue that I would like to talk about. There were teachers deployed by the Teachers Service Commission to work in the ECDE centres. Their predicament is yet to be determined. Letters were written by the TSC indicating that the teachers had been deployed and they were yet to be absorbed by the county government. This has not happened because the county government fears that it might absorb the officers and the CRA disbursement fails to consider them. Some officers who used to be called District ECDE Officers who work for the county government still receive their salaries from the national government.

The Committee on Health Services, after a certain survey, observed that there is need for more than 150 technical personnel in the medical field within the county. Hon. Peter Kamoche has also proposed the need for a surgeon at J. M. Memorial Hospital. The advertisement for a surgeon was done two years ago but no surgeon has since been recruited.

I was once invited by the chairman of the Committee on Health Services to attend the committee's meeting and they agreed, in the meeting, that they would ensure that a proper working environment was developed, so that professionals would opt to work in our county. We would also like to know whether, as has been claimed by Hon. Peter Kamoche, there is no County Director of Health in place. The other day, I heard that directors of several departments in the Executive had been confirmed. We need to know, for instance, whether Dr. Kariuki is the permanent director of Health Services or he is working on an acting capacity. The chairman of the Committee on Health Services, if possible, should provide an answer to that.

We need to know whether the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Macharia, the director of Health Services and the Chief Officer are working in harmony. How is their professional relationship? There are allegations that these three officials are always conflicting. If that is the

case, I do not see the reason why we should pin down the Medical Superintendent, though I cannot spare him because I know that J. M. Memorial Hospital has been allocated Kshs. 34 million.

Our governor here seems to be, for lack of a better word, sleeping on his job. When the Machakos level 5 hospital is mentioned, we never hear of MCAs. It is always the governor, Doctor Alfred Mutua, who takes the full responsibility in ensuring that the hospital meets the best standards possible.

If the governor could come out clearly, and show them that there is need to up the standards of our hospital, forming the ad-hoc committee will not suffice. Those doctors, and nurses, will not listen to us. I remember the time Hon. Teresiah visited the hospital and she started asking questions, the chief officer was the first one to ask who she was and at what capacity she was asking questions. We also need to know whether the 108 million shillings has been absorbed. There is something else that caught my attention though I am not quite sure whether it is part of the report, on the issue of a pharmaceutical technician that was recalled, I would like the chairman to clarify the circumstances surrounding his recall in his final submission. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Yes member for Njabini Kiburu, Hon. Beth Wahito Njoroge

Hon. Beth Wahito: I rise to support the report. When we visited the various dispensaries, we found some nurses working without appointment letters and when we asked them when they started working, we were able to verify that they indeed had been appointed but they had no letters to that effect. I support the report and call the mover to respond.

Speaker: Chairman of the Health Services Committee, Hon. Peter Kairu

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the members' contributions and concerns regarding the report. If a health worker is not well remunerated, needless to say, it lowers his morale. However, some people are simply sleeping on the job. We have called the chief officer for health twice and still nothing has been done.

The issues we are always complaining about- patients waiting for long hours before they are attended to, lack of water, drugs e.t.c. still persist. With your guidance, Mr. Speaker, I feel it is time we took some serious measures...

Hon. Wahome Kamoche rises on a point of information.

Speaker: Hon. Peter Kairu, do you require any information from the member for Rurii?

Hon. Peter Kairu: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate the information.

Speaker: Proceed Hon. Kamoche

Hon. Wahome Kamoche: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the chairman of the committee on Health that in his absence, yesterday, the House resolved that the House Business committee constitutes an ad-hoc committee to probe the issues raised concerning JM Hospital.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you. I would like to apologize for my absence yesterday. I was seized by an issue that required my urgent attention. I am glad, however, that the issue was settled. Allow me to touch on the issue of the acute shortage of health professionals in our hospitals.

We are always advertising for these positions but we never get people willing to apply because what we pay them is peanuts. The service board should review their package. About the pharmaceutical technologist that was recalled, it was necessitated by the fact that on expiry of his contract, the position was advertised but no one applied. Since pharmaceutical services are critical to any hospital, the administration was forced to recall the former technologist. Some of the specialist retirees were also recalled because we did not get qualified people to apply for those positions.

I am shocked that there are cases where patients have been denied tetanus injections because they report to the hospital in the afternoon. A tetanus infection could be fatal, Mr. Speaker, and a health practitioner who denies a patient its prevention can only be described as inhumane. They are flouting the health practitioners' ethics with impunity. Let those who are not ready to work be sent home and I appeal to the Hon. Members to report any such cases to the health committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

Question on the motion of adoption of the report put and agreed to.

Speaker: The resolutions will be communicated to the relevant authorities. The Hon. Members have raised myriad issues surrounding the county's health sector and one of them is the issue of training our own medical personnel.

Schedule four of the constitution assigns the issue of policy to the national government and health services to the county government but is silent on the issue of training. Clearly, the national government has taken it up. We are, in fact, in receipt of a circular from the national government that instructs us to set aside a five-acre piece of land from the land that the JM hospital sits on and have it registered under Kenya Medical Training Institute and any money, even the 15 million we have committed, for the purpose of its expansion should be channeled to the KMTC in Nairobi. Unless there is a clear interpretation by the CIC, the national government will not readily relinquish the function to the county governments.

The other issue is on directors and their deputies. I actually thought that the issue had been settled because I raised it in a meeting with the executive, the chief officers and the board and I made it clear that these nominations ought to be done not only in the health sector, but also in all the other sectors like Agriculture.

I was surprised that there are people who have been serving on an acting capacity yet they were directors in the national government for twenty years! Some of the officers in the health sector were provincial directors! I was promised that the nominations will be done by this Friday, so we can only wait. On the issue of ECDs, let us have statements come in so that we can address them appropriately. I will communicate to His Excellency the governor on the concerns of this Hon. House that he should take charge of our hospital.

Applause

Let us set aside sometime, tomorrow or Friday, and visit that hospital, led by the governor and inspect it as we also hold a crisis meeting with those officers. Appropriate communications will be done on the same.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Having exhausted the business for the morning session, the House stands adjourned until today the 10th day of June 2015 at 2.30 P.M. The members of House Business Committee let us convene a meeting immediately to expedite the business before us.

The house rose at 10.22 A.M.