

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY- 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

*The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2.30 p.m.*

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

Prayer

**QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING**

*There is quorum as confirmed by the Clerk-at-the-Table*

**Speaker:** Hon. Members, quorum having been confirmed, we can proceed with the business. First order.

**MOTION**

WELFARE OF PWD

Yes member for Karau, Hon. Kenn Mukira Mahianyu

**Hon. Kenn Mukira:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I beg to move the following motion

Aware that article 54 of the constitution provides for inter alia in the rights of Persons Living with Disability to better living standards, better social facilities and access to assistive devices and materials

Further aware that the Nyandarua county government has in the past financial years appropriated funds in the department of social services for the purchase and distribution of and materials for Persons Living with Disability.

Concerned that the needs of these persons have not been fully met due to lack of enough information on specific needs of disabilities.

Noting that the County Government is committed to ensuring that the welfare of the Persons Living with Disability is enhanced.

Now therefore this House does resolve that

1. The County Government exempts all institutions dealing with Persons Living with Disability from paying land rates
2. That the County Executive Committee member in charge of social services does ensure that there are enough social workers in each sub county to
  - i. To check on the welfare of Persons Living with Disability
  - ii. To conduct a routine visits and inspections of the institutions dealing with Persons Living with Disability to check on the status of the public health and welfare of Persons Living with Disability.
  - iii. Keep a database of the Persons Living with Disability and have information of specific needs of each person for better assistance from the county government.

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Thank you Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker I want to bring to your attention that on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017, the county was celebrating the United Nations World Disability Day. The function took place in Ol'kalou Sub County. All Persons Living with Disability were invited. The able chair of the in this Committee on Education House was among the guest speakers. He gave a chance to the member for Kaimbaga who was the host and the member for Karau. The Persons Living with Disability felt that they are well represented in this House and therefore their interests have been left out. This is against the constitution of Kenya 2010. The members agreed with them on that the PWDS need people to represent them in this House. While giving our input however we asked them to give us time and to allow us to represent them because we shall also be heard even as we wait for a proper constitution of this House in the right channel.

Mr Speaker we have heard a number of issues with the PWDs. I can give an example because I have worked for an institution dealing with PWDs for about 7 years. As I speak on their behalf, I have the right information. I have undergone training on life of PWDs in Tanzania sponsored by donor from Italy. PWDs are our parents, brothers and sisters. Some of us are taking care of them, I have been educating a child with disability for three years and he will be joining form one next year. He is from Mundi Primary in Karau ward.

Mr Speaker we wish that the CECM for social services would come up with a data of all PWDs in the county while taking note of their respective wards. The number of PWDs invited during the United Nations World Disability Day was 1200. The exact number for those people could be more than 2000. This data will help the county government identify the type of disability each of them has and the care that the individual requires. We have seen a person with a lower tendon problem but we find that the person is given a wheel chair. This is not the correct device for such a person. This data will enable the county government to source funds to take care of these people. They will also be given a chance like all other people even with their special needs.

In the 2017 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education, the best child has albinism. Most of us do not believe that it is a disability due to lack of information. Some of the parents have gotten children with albinism but they have thrown them away. They believe that the family is cursed or something is wrong with the family. With information to the community, it will believe that disability is not inability especially looking at what has been done by that daughter of Kenya.

Looking that the status of those living with disability in the county as the data that we have, we know that not many will think of starting a business or doing farming. For those that have business, the county government should exempt them from paying license fee. Those that are interested in being business persons are not more than a hundred. The national government has exempted them from taxes. Most of us believe that starting a business is risk taking and if they are exempted from licence fees, it will not be such a risk for them but a platform to change their lives.

I would also request that they be given a chance to be social workers so that they can easily take that data and follow up on their welfare. We can have one or two in every ward. This will enable them to give PWDs information. During the United Nations World Disability Day, I enquired from the CECM for Education and Social Services on the methodology used to invite them for the occasion. They said that they used the chief and other Persons Living with Disability. The scope of one ward cannot be covered by one person.

Social workers have been trained and have been given counselling skills. They can counsel those that still have a problem accepting themselves. They will built hope in their hearts for a better life.

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On the registration to the National Council of Persons Living with Disability, one has to go for a medical check-up and then the report is taken to National Council of Persons Living with Disability. If you ask the number of PWDs that have those cards, even those that have visible disabilities, you will find that only about a third of them that have that card. This is because one has no one to make a follow up on that or even give him or her the required information.

Whenever they go the health centres for that medical check-up they are charged. Some of them do not even have money to go for that check-up. We ask that the social worker who looks after them to be able to take a medical worker to them for that evaluation and ascertain that all the people with disability are evaluated and they get that card since it is the one that is used to certify that you are a Person Living with Disability.

Mr Speaker these people have been disadvantaged in the construction works that are ongoing. In Ol'kalou for instance, as we speak no Person Living with Disability can access the banks. If it happens that there is a Person Living with Disability that needs services from the bank, the bank manager has to allow an officer from the said bank to give those services from outside the bank. Disability friendly facilities are not available for our people. They have staircases since no one is informing those constructing such buildings to consider the special needs of the Persons Living with Disability.

In our county, we have several institutions of PWDs, one for the deaf, another for the physically challenged, two for the orphans and finally one for those with mental challenges. The data collected is the one that will inform us the type of institutions that we should have in the county. This information can make the county fund at least one ward to have high school for Persons Living with Disability. After primary school, there are not many high schools for them and therefore they go back home. Their hope and dreams end there. Having such an institution will equip them with skills. Such institutions are very few. We have them in Thika, Sagana and Mombasa. Nyandarua County seems to be the one with taking most of the very young ones with disability. However, there is an institution like St. Martin, which through donors is able to give hope to these people.

Mr Speaker the county government exempting PWDs from licence fees will show unity with the National Government in giving equal chances to PWDs.

The second county government of Nyandarua started on a good note because during the appointment of the NEMA board, the governor appointed two, a man and woman who are Persons Living with Disability. That is a plus to this county.

I also recommend that we have a board dealing with PWDs in all the wards. This board should be formed from the ward level so that we have the PWDs elect leaders from their ward then Sub County and finally at the county level. This board will be used to pass information to them. Through the board all the PWDs role in the society will be felt. In the past we have had a situation where the Persons Living with Disability and is rich gets everything and the rest cannot question him or her. Having leadership for that group will enable them to air their grievances. They will also be felt in the society.

Mr Speaker I call upon the Chairperson Committee on Education to second the motion.

**Speaker:** yes chairperson committee on education and member for Githioro Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah

**Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to second this motion given its importance to not only those living with disabilities but also those that live with PWDs. As a county, it is a shame that we have very few institutions to rehabilitate those people. Mothers have had to carry their children on their backs to schools that are very far away from their homes and go collect them from school in the evening. You can imagine the man-hours wasted by the parents when they are catering for their disabled children.

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As the mover of the motion said, establishment of institutions for these people cannot be overemphasized. A society that neglects those with disability is a disabled society. We observed the United Nations World Disability Day the other day in Ol'kalou stadium and it is commendable that the county government brought them together and they were able to express themselves on the challenges they face every time.

It is important that people with disability be exempted from paying licence for their business. They struggle a lot to make earnings and this will be appreciated even by the community. The county government needs to do something for them. These people have different disabilities and not all would want to go to school. Some only need trading tools for their live to progress well.

I second the motion.

*(Question proposed.)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**Speaker:** We are going to process the resolutions and submit them immediately to H.E the Governor hoping that the resolutions will be acted on and now that the supplementary budget has not come, there will be sufficient budget to cater for this particular class of persons. We are also hoping that in that budget they will create a fund to ensure that all the disabled people get certification from both the doctors and the National Council of People Living with Disability. Further is that sufficient budgeting will be done for the schools that deal with those that have special needs. I wish that the committee on education would be able to visit those schools. The first time I visited Kwa-Njora I literally ran away from the place. The majority leader knows about it. We tried to take mitigation measures. These are issues we need to take care of. They are few but at this age, we are interested of the wellbeing of the people not only the votes. I believe that this house is up to the task to see to it that these people are taken care of and especially on certification of the PWDS because it gives them so much advantage and they are lost if that certification is not there.

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### ADJOURNMENT

Very well Hon. Members the business of the sitting having been exhausted this House will not adjourn to tomorrow Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

*The House rose at 3.00 p.m.*