

THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

16th June 2020

*The County Assembly met at the
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 9.30 am*

[The Speaker (Hon. D.J. Mbaya) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, let's get seated.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, good morning. I take this opportunity to welcome you to today's sitting and also welcome our colleagues from the National council of population development. On 11th June, 2020, the Assembly received a letter referenced CPC/Embu/133/13 from the National council for population development a semi-autonomous agency of Government mandated to provide leadership development, coordination and implementation of population and related programs and policies for quality population for sustainable development requesting to have a sensitization meeting with members of the County Assembly on 16th June 2020 which is today. Honourable members, this is to request that you avail yourselves after the plenary for the sensitization meeting with the representatives of the National Council for population and development. The house is accordingly guided. Thank you.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Peterson Mwirigi

Hon. Kathanya: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give a notice of motion on facilitation of blood donation drives in Tharaka Nithi County. That aware that section 2 of part 2 of the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the County Governments functions and powers over health services which is the most critical sector in ensuring healthy wellbeing of the citizens. Farther aware that the Kenya National blood transfusion service (KNBTS) was established in 2000 under the ministry of health and it's mandate is to collect, test process and distribute blood and blood products to all the transfusing hospitals in Kenya. The KNBTS has six regional blood transfusion centres namely Nairobi, Embu, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu and

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Mombasa. Cognisant over the past few weeks, there have been had reports that Kenyans in need of blood transfusion are being sent away from hospitals due to lack of blood while blood is a vital healthcare resource used in a broad range of hospital procedures including but not limited to accidents, emergencies, obstetric services and other surgeries. Concerned that shortfalls in blood supply have a particular impact on women with pregnancy-related complications, accident victims and patients with severe life-threatening anaemia, effective and dependable supply of safe blood and blood products is an important public health responsibility of every government;

Deeply concerned, that there is an increase in demand for safe supply and blood transfusion service in this country and yet the National Government support for blood transfusion services is inadequate to ensure every County has Blood Transfusion Centres;

Now therefore, the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi urges the County Government through the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Health Services to collaborate with Embu Blood Transfusion Centre to facilitate and plan for continuous blood donation drives across Tharaka Nithi County as this will boost availability of blood to hospitals within the County in times of need. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, the notice of motion by one Honourable Peterson Kathenya is hereby acknowledged pursuant to standing order No 67. Thank you.

STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Dennis Mutwiri.

Hon. Dennis: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.55 (1) (a) to seek a statement from the Chairperson Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries.

I hereby seek a statement from the Chairperson committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the following:

- a) The number of tea buying centres benefited in the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 and the amount of money spent ;
- b) The activities undertaken in each of the centres and their current status;
- c) Were the contractors paid and what was the actual amount paid to each of the contractors.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, the statement by one Dennis Mutwiri statement on the status of tea buying centres is hereby referred to the committee on Agriculture, livestock and

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fisheries. Where is the Chair. Yes Honourable Njagi Mucee. How much time do you require to respond.

Hon. Njagi: A span of 21 days.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Dennis Mutwiri, are you comfortable with 21 days?

Hon. Dennis: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, the response on statement of the status of the tea buying centres be brought to this house within the 21 days.

MOTIONS

MOTION ON FACILITATION OF BLOOD DONATION DRIVES

IN THARAKA NITHI COUNTY

Hon. Kathenya: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I seek the leave of the house to move the motion and I request Honourable Wilson Nyaga and Honourable Jones Kinegeni to second.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Wilson Nyaga. Do you support the leave to be granted.

(Honourable Derebia rose and bowed to second the leave of the house)

Yes, honourable Jones.

(Honourable Kinegeni rose and bowed to second the leave of the house)

Honourable members, pursuant to standing order No 2, and with the sympathy of the Speaker, the leave of the assembly is hereby granted. Thank you.

Hon. Kathenya: Thank you Honourable Speaker. motion on facilitation of blood donation drives in Tharaka Nithi County. That aware that section 2 of part 2 of the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the County Governments functions and powers over health services which is the most critical sector in ensuring healthy wellbeing of the citizens. Farther aware that the Kenya National blood transfusion service (KNBTS) was established in 2000 under the ministry of health and it's mandate is to collect, test process and distribute blood and blood products to all the transfusing hospitals in Kenya. The KNBTS has six regional blood transfusion centres namely Nairobi, Embu, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu and Mombasa. Cognisant over the past few weeks, there have been had reports that Kenyans in need of blood transfusion are being sent away from hospitals due to lack of blood while blood is a vital healthcare resource used in a broad range of hospital procedures including but not limited to accidents, emergencies, obstetric services and other surgeries. Concerned that shortfalls in blood supply have a particular impact on women with pregnancy-related complications, accident victims and patients with

severe life-threatening anaemia, effective and dependable supply of safe blood and blood products is an important public health responsibility of every government;

Deeply concerned, that there is an increase in demand for safe supply and blood transfusion service in this country and yet the National Government support for blood transfusion services is inadequate to ensure every County has Blood Transfusion Centres;

Now therefore, the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi urges the County Government through the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Health Services to collaborate with Embu Blood Transfusion Centre to facilitate and plan for continuous blood donation drives across Tharaka Nithi County as this will boost availability of blood to hospitals within the County in times of need. I request Honourable Nyaga to second the motion. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Wilson Nyaga.

Hon. Derebia: Thank you Mr Speaker. I second the motion and I want to thank the mover of this motion Mr Speaker because as we have heard pertaining the blood transfusion Mr Speaker, within our jurisdiction and even our neighbouring counties, there is one in Embu, meru they have one but what we know Mr Speaker, and since health functions are devolved, health is very critical to our people. It is good for us and I urge Honourable members to pass this motion so that our people who are the inhabitants of this County can benefit from the blood transfusion drive. When somebody is in need of blood, instead of travelling all the way to Nairobi, he can get it from this drive Mr Speaker. Therefore, I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Wilson Nyaga. Honourable members, allow me now to propose the question. That the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi urges the County Government through the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Health Services to collaborate with Embu Blood Transfusion Centre to facilitate and plan for continuous blood donation drives across Tharaka Nithi County as this will boost availability of blood to hospitals within the County in times of need. Honourable members, the floor is now open for debate. Yes Honourable John Njagi Mucee.

Hon. Njagi: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir for granting me this opportunity. Allow me first to thank the mover of this motion. He is very kind he ought to have practised being a nurse or a doctor and that is why he is so much concerned. The issue of blood, I support the motion because the last time when I was admitted at Komarocks hospital, I needed blood before I went to the theatre and I found that it was very difficult for a person who does not have followers to get blood. Different beings have got different capacities. There are some who are very vulnerable and the very vulnerable persons normally have serious problems when it comes to getting blood when they don't have enough blood contents in their blood. I had a case in my ward whereby a woman admitted in Embu level 5 hospital and she had a problem of blood. I had to sacrifice myself and

go there and donate because she had nobody in their family to get people and go and donate the blood. If we had a blood bank in our county or a centre which can preserve effectively blood of well-wishers who can donate blood to help people within our county who are very vulnerable and having blood problems. I support. Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Njagi Mucee, Honourable member for Chiakariga. Yes, Honourable member for Mukothima.

Hon. Gataya: Thank you Honourable Speaker, this motion is quite timely. I think the mover has just brought an important issue that this county requires. As a county, and as an assembly, it is our duty and an obligation as members, we are supposed to see to it that some of these essential services are offered in this county. I support. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Mwenda Gataya. Yes, Honourable Charles Nyaga. Honourable member for Mitheru ward.

Hon. Nyaga: Thank you Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the mover and say that there are some motions we should not debate Honourable Speaker. Something like blood. We know what is in our bodies, we know why people get blood from others. Once we have a blood bank, we will be a step ahead of others because in case there is an accident or a woman delivering somewhere and she is short of blood, we are sure that she will go home safely. It is even more important to have a blood bank than to have a big stock of medicine because you can be very safe but without blood you cannot survive. You can dilly dally one or two days looking for medicine but blood, we require it and we know what is in our bodies is blood and it is very necessary and very important such that anytime that somebody is in need of blood, we have a storage facility for it, so that we can save the people. Be it in Tharaka Nithi, be it outside Tharaka Nithi we need to save people's lives. So Mr Speaker, I thank the mover and say that it is important and it is actually self-explanatory. Let's walk the talk. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Charles Nyaga. Yes, Honourable Millicent.

Hon. Muggana: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the motion and also thank the mover of the motion. The motion is quite timely owing to the fact that 60% of blood donors in Kenya are high school students. Remembering that now during this period these students are currently at home. We are aware that this is not a problem to only our county but it is affecting the whole country. I recently witnessed a case where a mother was delivering at Chuka general hospital and she needed blood and she could not get the transfusion. The doctors were so frustrated and she was turning yellow. They could not literally tell her that they had no blood because they wanted to give her hope. They tried to call other counties trying to see whether they could get blood but they were not successful. The mover of this motion has made a very good move to ensure that our county is stable in terms of having a blood bank. It will help our people and also our neighbouring counties and the country as a whole. I am glad that honourable

members are in support of this motion. I want to say that if we can expedite this and have it as soon as possible, it will be very helpful to our people. This applies to everybody both the vulnerable and the entire county. This is a problem for all of us. With that, I want to say that I really support and I also thank the mover of this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Millicent. Yes, Honourable Njeri.

Hon. Njeri: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion and also highly thank the mover of this motion. Blood is life. It is a very critical and basic need especially when people are going through processes like operation and various other sicknesses. It's therefore very necessary especially now the Government has done good to equip the level five hospital in the county. If we can also have a blood bank, it can be very good. Most of the blood is donated by youths, college students and young people. Since it is normally voluntary, if we can have a blood bank, at least people can benefit from the donations that people volunteer to give. With that, I strongly support and congratulate the mover of this very noble and timely motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Njeri. Yes, honourable Gitonga Leonard. Honourable member for Nkondi.

Hon. Gitonga: Thank you Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in supporting this motion and also thank the mover. Mr Speaker we know that nowadays, getting quality blood, is becoming a nightmare and all hospitals do not have enough blood for transfusion. I believe what this motion is intending to achieve for this county of ours has sufficient blood in the bank so that once we get a patient who is in need of blood, we can have the same commodity availed at the right time to ensure that we minimise the number of casualties that comes due to lack of blood. The CECM health should move forward and also the Executive should offer incentives to the residents who wish to donate blood. This will go a long in ensuring that the citizens donate blood and this blood is tested and stored in a quality manner so that it's used on future days when need arises Mr Speaker. I therefore support and wish that this issue moves to implementation so that we can have a blood bank of our own. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Gitonga Leonard. Yes, Honourable Karen Karimi.

Hon. Karen: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion and also support what honourable Gitonga has said. In yesterday's news, there was a report of some women who were giving birth in hospitals having anaemia Mr Speaker. Still in the report there was an issue of Kenyans being worried on the issue of blood. I want to support what honourable Gitonga has said that the CECM for health should talk well to the people who are supposed to donate blood in this county so that we can clear the issues of blood being sold out there hence not helping our people. I also want to support what Honourable member for Gaanga has said that we really need a blood bank in our county. We have seen so many cases happening to our people whereas we are lacking blood Mr Speaker. The honourable members of this house are going to really work

on it and especially the committee on health. This will enable us to donate blood and the blood can be used to help our people. I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Karen Karimi. Yes, Honourable member for Marimanti.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this motion but I think I will take a different direction. It is important as we bring motions in this house, we need to go ahead and do proper deep investigation. I have been listening to most of the supporters and I was just looking at what the mover of this motion has concentrated on and the major concentration was to urge the county Government through the county Executive committee member in charge of health services to collaborate with Embu blood transfusion centre to facilitate and plan for continuous blood donation within Tharaka Nithi County. So the major point here is to ensure kind of mobilization and sensitization to people in this county to ensure that there is continuous blood donation. Even as most of us have concentrated on blood bank, the motion has not concentrated on ensuring that there is an establishment of blood banks in at least two level IV hospitals in our county. I wish to inform this house that early last year, I had an idea of ensuring that people in Marimanti ward donated some blood to Marimanti hospital Mr Speaker Sir. At that point I was guided very well and I even consulted Red cross and I was told that there is only one blood bank in Embu. Once we donated blood as residents of Tharaka Nithi county, this blood will not be marked that it is Honourable Susan or a resident of Tharaka Nithi who donated. Once blood is donated, it's packed in those bags and anybody in this country can get that blood Mr Speaker. Even as we donate as we donate as this motion seeks, even if all the residents of Tharaka Nithi county donated blood it's not meant for people in Tharaka Nithi county Mr Speaker, it is for the entire nation. Currently I am aware that there is a blood bank in Marimanti hospital and that is why I was saying that the motion should be well researched. There is a blood bank at Marimanti hospital though it is not big as such. What I would insist as a member of the County Assembly representing the people of Marimanti ward and as a member of health committee, I wish this motion could be added another page and add that the CEC in charge of health and the people concerned should ensure that at least two level IV hospitals in this county have a blood bank. So that when the people of Tharaka Nithi county donates blood, we are almost sure that it's stored somewhere very close to them. This is because even if we go around donating blood whether through Red cross or any other organization concerned as long as that blood is stored in Embu, that blood is meant for the entire nation. We cannot be so convinced that the blood will really belong to the community. so Mr Speaker Sir, I support but on the other hand request that Tharaka Nithi county should have at least two efficient and effective blood banks Mr Speaker Sir. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Susan Ngugi. Yes, Honourable member for Chogoria.

Hon. Margaret: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion. It is a motion that is coming at the right time and I want to support what Honourable members because getting blood to this county, it will be a plus to our vulnerable people. Our patients going to hospitals and they

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need blood. Mr Speaker, you will bear with me and you will agree with me that in most cases when a patient lacks blood, the relatives are forced to donate blood. As we pass this very important motion, we should also include that this blood, should be given non-conditionally to the deserving patients in this county. You will also find that nowadays, there are so many communicable diseases in the bloods of different people therefore we should also have a well equipped lab to ensure that all the blood that has been donated from institutions, from individuals have really been tested to ensure that what the patients are getting is a quality blood that has been tested and it's free from diseases that may become a problem to the patients who have received the blood. As we pass this motion, we should also be cautious that we need people in this county to receive blood with or without having their relatives donating blood. I have also been a victim. Here in Tharaka Nithi county is different from Nairobi. That if you do not donate blood as relatives, your patient will not get blood. If we have a blood bank, blood should be given freely to the patients in hospitals and not being sold. Thank you. I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Margret. Honourable members, the floor is still open for debate. Honourable members, regard being taken to the mood of the house, I now put the question that the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi urges the County Government through the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Health Services to collaborate with Embu Blood Transfusion Centre to facilitate and plan for continuous blood donation drives across Tharaka Nithi County as this will boost availability of blood to hospitals within the County in times of need.

(Question put and agreed to)

Honourable members, there being no other business on the order paper, the house stands adjourned until the next sitting.

*****The House Rose at 10:02AM*****

