



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MOMBASA

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday 23rd September, 2020

The House met at 2:39p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Aharub Ebrahim Khatri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Khatri): Hon. Members you may be seated. Yes, Clerk?

STATEMENTS

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT BY VICE CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, HON. RAPHAEL BWIRE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION BY UNSCRUPULOUS FOREIGN JOBS RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

Yes, Chairperson Committee on Labor and Social Welfare?

[Silence]

The Vice Chair Committee on Labour and Social Welfare? Yes Hon. Bwire please give a response on the Statement.

Hon. Bwire: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker indeed we had a meeting yesterday and we resolved to invite the Labour officer and here is the response. I wish to give a statement response to a request by Hon. Amriya Boy, Nominated Member who on Wednesday 19th February, 2020 sought to know what measures were being taken to safeguard the public against the exploitation by unscrupulous foreign jobs recruitment agencies. Hon. Speaker, the Committee has made efforts to come up with this response through research efforts by our Secretariat, our County government Department of Youth, Gender and Sports and the County Labour Office of the National government. Hon. Speaker, we wish to deliver a response as follows: Labour standards are a national government function pursuant to Schedule Four of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Further Hon. Speaker employment matters are regulated under the Labour Institutions Act, 2007, Employment Act, 2007, National Employment Authority Act, 2016 and the Labour Institutions (Private Employment Agencies) Regulations, 2016.

Hon. Speaker, due to scarcity of employment opportunities locally, citizens have resorted to seeking opportunities in foreign countries, mainly the Middle East. Hon. Speaker, local jobs recruitment agencies which are registered by the national government and licensed by the County government enable most of the foreign jobs seekers to get jobs abroad.

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Hon. Speaker most of the jobs provided in the Middle East are unskilled and open to exploitation and abuse since they do not pass through the formal government channels. Hon. Speaker the Committee was informed that some of those seeking jobs abroad do not follow laid down government channels for seeking employment but go abroad on tourist visas, stow away or go abroad through illegal means thus making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Some of the foreign recruitment agencies use informal and unprofessional means to engage and recruit job seekers who they abandon once abroad. Some unscrupulous people and agencies have conned and frequently collected funds from unsuspecting members of the public promising non-existent foreign job and vacancies. There have been several cases highlighted in the media over the years of people employed abroad who were abused or killed by their employers and left unassisted. Some of the recruitment agencies have sent job seekers abroad to work for positions other than those which they sought ending up in menial jobs where they are abused and exploited.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the County government of Mombasa has partnered with the National Employment Authority, Ministry of Labour, Trade Kenya, International Organization of Migration and local foreign jobs recruitment agencies and held three awareness forums on human trafficking and exploitation. The national government is implementing a software system to store information and track those working abroad with a view to offering necessary services and assistance when in need. This has significantly reduced incidents of exploitation of abuse and incidences especially in Saudi Arabia.

Hon. Speaker Sir, in 2015 the Ministry of Labour formed a Task Force to implement labour migration policies to the Middle East and review effectiveness of policies on jobs recruitment agencies. Prior to that in 2014, the national government revoked the license on 930 recruitment agencies for violating regulations in recruiting Kenyans for jobs in the Middle East. The existing policy and legal framework is good but should be enhanced to address the problem; heavy fines and severe jail terms should be preferred against bogus and rogue agencies. A requirement that these agencies should be responsible for safe return of job seekers should be legislated. Hon. Speaker both levels of government and stakeholders need to enhance sensitization on the problem of human trafficking, labor malpractices and exploitation by unscrupulous employers and agencies. Further, the two levels of government should enhance vocational training to equip job seekers with skills that will make them employment locally and abroad. The Committee will continue engagement with stakeholders to hopefully find a sustainable solution to the problem. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

[Applause]

The Speaker (Hon. Khatri): Thank you Hon. Bwire. Yes Clerk, next order.

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON HEALTH HON. KIBWANA SWALEH
ON THE STATUS REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO CURB THE SPREAD
OF CORONA VIRUS IN THE COUNTY

Yes, Chairperson Committee on Health Hon. Kibwana?

Hon. Ngare: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand on behalf of my Chairman on Health and the Committee at large to give the response to a statement that was brought to this House. I will read...Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to give a status report on measures taken by the County government to curb the spread of Corona Virus in the County as requested by Hon. Tobias Samba MCA Tudor Ward on Wednesday, 4th March, 2020 during the 12th sitting.

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Health wrote a letter to the Chief Officer, Medical Health requesting the status of the above stated matter. The department of public health responded on the matter as per the attached report, we received it on 17th September; I will go through and containment measures of Covid19 at Technical University Isolation Centre. The following mitigation measures that are put in place to protect our frontline workers from contracting Covid-19 in the line of duty:

- Provision of appropriate PPEs for the clinical team and the support staff,
- Regular training and sensitisation of staff on infection prevention and control, training the clinical staff on the proper procedure for donning and doffing;
- Regular Covid 19 test for staff at the facility and quarantine for a fortnight after completion of 16 days of duty;
- The clinical team is divided into two separate teams that work in different shifts to avoid exposure to the entire team in case a member turns positive for Covid-19;
- Training support staff on IPC, meaning Infection Prevention Control measures and handling of different types of waste;
- Clear demarcation of the green and red zone to reduce unnecessary interaction with Covid patients admitted at the facility;
- Staff in the green zone area are provided with surgical masks, hand sanitisers and hand wash points;
- CCTV provided within the ward to minimise patient staff interaction;
- The facility uses a paperless system for recording patient's clinical data.

Most of these run across all the hospitals and for Likoni hospital I will only touch on the number five because most of them have been touched in Technical University there is regular disinfection of clinical areas and IEC materials displayed to remind staff and clients on preventive measures. Then for Port Reitz Hospital we have weekly CMEs, meaning Continuous Medical Education to sensitize medical staff regarding Covid-19 and for the same hospital one that was not mentioned initially, the provision of support to set up hand washing areas/stations at all entry and reporting points of hospitals and departments. Finally at Tudor Sub County Hospital which is of interest to Hon. Samba who requested for the statement and this is his ward there is provision of PPEs, testing of hospital staff, training and sensitization of staff, regular support supervisor for Infection Prevention Control (IPC) implementation measures, provision of hand sanitizers and sensitization of community members through provision of displayed materials.

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

[Applause]

The Speaker (Hon. Khatri): Thank you Hon. Milkah Moraa, Yes Clerk?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday 29th of September, 2020 at 10:00a.m.

The House rose at 2:55p.m.