

THE HANSARD

Wednesday 11th September, 2024

Assembly Building

The Assembly met at 9.00 a.m

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu) in the Chair]

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Members I think we have delayed the Sitting by twenty-five minutes which is against the Standing Order, which is our law. So we need to keep time. Morning session starts at 9:00 sharp, so you need to be here by 8:30. We need to adhere to that, please.

Next Order.

MOTION

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) THROUGH ALLOCATION OF REVOLVING FUNDS

(Hon Francisco Letimalo)

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you, Honorable Speaker. My Motion is Empowerment of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, through allocation of an evolving funds. They say that you if you empower women; you've empowered the whole Country, the whole population. I think the issues of especially more, sorry, I am supposed to be reading. Aware that..

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Honorable Letimalo, you are not in order. You cannot contribute to your Motion before introducing. Can you first introduce, then you get a Seconder, you cannot just continue without being seconded?

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you. My Motion is empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDS) through

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allocation of revolving funds. That Aware that, Article 56 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that the State shall put in place affirmative action programmes designed to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups are provided with special opportunities and other spheres of life;

Further Aware that, Article 54 of the Constitution of Kenya provides that a person with any disability is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and referred to in a manner that is not demeaning.

Appreciating that, Isiolo County Government has assented, the Isiolo County Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Enterprise Development Fund Act, 2019;

Concerned that, to date these marginalized groups have not benefitted from enactment of the Act;

Further concerned that, these marginalized groups have never accessed monies from the fund that ought to assist them in the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget, subjecting them to being marginalized hence suffering;

This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Early Childhood, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sports and Labour to empower Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through allocation of revolving funds;

I am sorry Hon. Speaker, I started the other way round when I began. So, I started by saying that to empower women is to empower the whole population. To empower also youth, especially these days when we have these group called Gen Z. And if they are not empowered, they are a very big threat and are going to be an enemy of the people. Because youth are becoming so many and unemployed. Every year they leave school without an employment. Others have Degrees, Masters, PhDs, Certificates and Diplomas and so on; and all of them are at home. If we don't empower and employ them, we are in trouble, as we saw the other day. Actually, the main thing which brought them out for demonstrations was because of unemployment. So many of them are at our homes, we are actually feeding them still after school, after Colleges and Universities. They are still with their parents, causing a lot of havoc, issues of drugs; Especially in Isiolo, where we know that there is the trafficking of drugs here and there, the chewing of Miraa, and all these other things. And they also need food and where a place to stay. Others have even reached the stage of marrying, and yet they are not employed. And they have no money and nowhere to stay. So who is actually doing all this? It's us parents. Most of us, parents, who have the Gen Z, and even the other group known as, it's called, before Gen

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Z, is known as Millennial. That group as well, we are with all of them, because all of them are still youth. And we, parents are in trouble. So if the Government is not going to do something, I think they are going to be a very big threat. Like me, I am a parent with about five Gen Z and Millennial. And I am not even in a position, like today, to even go buying other things, buying a car or something like that, because of them; they require a lot of expenditure, money, food and accommodation. So, some of us who have these youths are actually in trouble. The same with disabled persons, these are persons, like any other, with their own minds; and they also require to be assisted. So, there is this money, according to this Act, which was enacted in 2019, Disabilities and the Enterprise Development Fund. I don't know why that money has not been used, especially in this County. I don't know what's the problem, and this is why I decided to bring this Motion; so that, we put pressure to the Committee. The Chairman is here, he is listening. We want this to be put in action, because it has taken long. What's the problem? We want to know what the problem is. And it is you to bring this issue here.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Order! Honorable Letimalo you're addressing the Speaker and not the Chair. You are not in order.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, but I wanted the Chair to listen, to take care, because this has taken long, and we wanted this fund actually to be there, and to assist the youth, disabled persons, and women, So, I'm sorry to the Chair of the Committee, because I'm supposed to address the Speaker. Thank you so much. But, otherwise, it is becoming an issue, and which we need to actually think about it, so that something is done. I'm not really threatening anybody, but I'm requesting, kindly that the concerned Committee, at least sit down, and assure us that, at least, we have a response in this House about this fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Seconded.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Temporary Speaker: The Motion is open for debate.

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. It is a very touching Motion Mr. Speaker Sir, because when we go back to what we have been discussing in our Committees, we are very much concerned about the allocation of this fund to those special groups, from the inception of this County Assembly, but we have not seen the fruits so far, because when we were sworn in that time, in the Budget which was approved by our predecessors, the money

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was there, but those groups have never benefited because of lack of some documents which is very important. The Bill for approval of that allocation was passed, but we have been following that document as the Committee concerned but I don't know what is going on. We really wanted those groups to benefit. We know the suffering of the women outside, of our youths and of people living with disability Mr. Speaker. Remember the money which was allocated in the budget is appropriated in the Supplementary just because of lack of that document. It is what is really causing headaches to some of us. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is an urgent matter for this group to benefit from that amount. If it is a matter of bringing back the Bill or even bringing another vellum copy for this House to approve, so that those people will benefit, is what is needed the most. When we go back to our Wards, we see how our women are hardworking, being supported by development partners and we are working day and night as the County or even the National Government on how we can eradicate poverty or even achieve the Millennium goal. But how can we achieve this if we are not doing what is required of us? Mr. Speaker, it is upon the mandate of this House. Let it be brought here again for us to pass for the next year Budget or even the Supplementary for those individuals to benefit from that money. We need to trace and get the vellum copy and if we can't, let us by the guidance of the Clerk who is the head of this institution, get another copy so that our people will get benefits of that amount allocated for the next Financial Year. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Lorot (Burat): Ahsante Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi ya kuweza kuchangia katika Mswada hii. Mheshimiwa Spika katika Bajeti yetu kunakuwa na hii pesa na inapofika wakati wa Bajeti ya *Supplementary*, sisi wenyewe kama Waheshimiwa ndio tunaenda kuondoa hii pesa na ku *approve*. Kwa hivyo hatupaswi kupeleka lawama kwa *Chair* ama kwa mtu mwingine, tunapeleka lawama kwa sisi wenyewe, kwa sababu sisi ndio wale watu ambao tunapitisha pesa. Ikifika wakati wa *Supplementary*, tunapigiwa simu tunakuja tunapitisha bajeti kwa haraka, bila kuangalia. Kwa hivyo, ni sisi ndio tunanyanyasa masikini ambao ni *disabled, youth*, kwa kupewa kitu kidogo na kupitisha *Supplementary* bila kuangalia. Kwa hivyo ni sisi tunafaa kujilaumu..

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Lorot, you are not in order when you are saying *tunapewa kitu kidogo*. Can you give that justification, can you be in a position to justify what you are saying or else you withdraw and apologize?

Hon. Nicholas Lorot (Burat): Mheshimiwa Spika nime *withdraw* hiyo *statement*. Sisi tumeletwa hapa kuhakikisha haki imefanyika kwa kila mmoja. Lakini inapofika sisi kama Waheshimiwa hatuna muda wa kuangalia ile Bajeti, kwa sababu wakati nyingi sisi hatukai kuangalia bajeti yetu; ya kwamba ni ***Disclaimer:*** *This Electronic Version of the Hansard Report is for Information Purposes Only. A Certified version of this Report can be Obtained from the Hansard Editor*

sehemu gani ambayo inafaa kutolewa pesa ama kuongezwa. Ukiangalia PFM Act inasema 10%, lakini utakuta Waheshimiwa wanavunja hii Sheria. Tunaondoa pesa yote ambayo haifai. Hatuwezi laumu watu wengine, tunafaa kujilaumu sisi wale ambao tumechaguliwa na ambao Mwenyezi Mungu ametupatia nafasi kibali ya Miaka tano ya kuongoza wananchi. Hivyo basi hatupaswi kuja kulialia hapa na kusema sijui watu wananyanyaswa na sisi ndio tunanyanyasa watu. Lazima turekebishe tabia yetu, tukae kama Waheshimiwa ambao tumeitwa kutetea wananchi na raia. Ndiposa wakati vitu kama hii inapofika wakati ya *Supplementary Budget*, tunaangalia ni wapi inapaswa kuweka pesa na ni wapi tunafaa kutetea wananchi. Najua hii Nyumba ikisimama na kutetea wananchi, wale wa huko chini watasikia mzuri na kila mtu atapata haki yake. Nyingine, tunafaa kutengeneza *regulation* ya kuweza kuchunga mali ya wananchi. Usiogope mtu, wewe umeletwa na Mungu na raia katika hii Nyumba kuhakikisha wanapata haki yao, na wakati wewe unafanya vitu ambayo haifai, hata mbele ya Mwenyezi Mungu si haki, umevunja Sheria. Hivyo basi, nataka kuwaambia Waheshimiwa kwa hii Nyumba, hizi vitu ni sisi wenyewe tuko na ufunguo. Kwa hivyo, tusimame na kutetea wananchi na tusimame na haki. Ahsante sana Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Members, I refer you to the Rules of Debate and also use of the Parliamentary language. We should not use any vulgar language in the Assembly. Assembly has its own language that you are supposed to use. You need to use a Parliamentary language, not just any other language or any layman language in the House. So, Hon. Lorot you need to stick to that because if maybe am not fair to you, I will not allow you time to speak, because you are using vulgar language. So next time be guided on what you are discussing. Or any other Member, you need to use a Parliamentary language. Thank you.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. This Law or Act was passed sometimes in 2018. Until now, this revolving fund has not been received by the Youth, Women, and people with Disability, who are the marginalized section of the population, who are special. We are the ones who are supposed to protect them and ensure that they receive their rightful share of the bread that comes into this County. But, we rush with the Budget when it comes. One, we have to consider the number of days that are given, seven days, I don't know whether we are going to follow the same or we continue. We are not fair to our community. Secondly, in Isiolo County, you know, sixty percent of the population are the youth, the women are the voters following, and the others. But you see, our youth mostly engage in illegal businesses, like drug and human trafficking, taking them or leading them to dangers or risks, whereby they are usually jailed, remanded, or fined and they

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have nothing. So mostly, most of our youths are facing such challenges. Just recently in the previous Government, there was Youth Renovation Center, which was celebrated and brought in place. You have seen that this Center was providing opportunity for our youths. The same is now down. I think we are the leaders in the County, whose peoples' hope and eyes are on. You see these days in social media people have really lost hope in this House, and saying that they will go themselves now. I don't know whether you are reading the social media, colleagues. So I'm saying it is us to stand up and ensure that this Act comes to the House, the department concerned to follow up and ensure that this law if it is lost somewhere after completion of the approval and assenting, then can they start anew? Why is it that from 2018 up to now, they still continue searching something that the answer is not forthcoming? So, can we go back to square one and start a new Act? I think it is our responsibility to ensure that if it is there, it comes out and brought to the House and we approve. If it's not there, let it be initiated so that we know that there is something ongoing; Rather than now, always discussing the issue that does not bear any fruit. We were discussing even since we came in, I think, this subject has always been coming in our House for discussion. But, there is no clear way forward, or resolution. So I'm urging the department concerned kindly, follow up and at least come up with the result; that the Act is there or not there. So that now if it is not there, it started again. So, that is my request to the department and also to the House; the Members, our colleagues, please it's time for us to wake up. Yes, if we have eaten, we have eaten all those...I'm sorry the language which I'm using may be vulgar but we should talk with immunity here. So I'm saying that let's work.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Honorable Halima, there is difference between when you are discussing or you are making your speech and when you are using a vulgar language in the Parliament. That one does not guarantee the immunity of talking unparliamentarily language in the House. So Members need to be in order when they are discussing. Thank you, continue.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you, Honorable Speaker. So for me I'm saying that this is a revolving fund for our women groups because most of those who have no job usually look for their daily bread in these groups. They make some small income generating activities, and need to be supported. So it is our responsibility as Members of this House to ensure that the fund that comes from the National Government will support this important groups in our society. Thank you.

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I rise to support the Motion; empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities through allocation of revolving funds. I can see the frustration of the

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Members. They are frustrated because we live with these people in this County. We know what this money can do. And if you people can recall, when we were in Mombasa, I carpeted the Clerk of this House. Because this one as we can see, it was a Law that was passed in this House. So, it is not a Law that we need even to talk about, they are supposed to produce it. We talked about vellum, it is a thing that can be redone and taken to the Executive for signature. So for me, I feel there is a deliberate effort not to help our youth because this song we have sung it since we came to this House. For that reason, I feel this one should not be left to a Sectorial Committee. I feel this House, all of us, if we are really serious to assist our people. You can see how our youth are suffering. And I said it in this House; it is a time bomb, because for sure, some of us, any Member of this House, even walking in town, has become a problem. It is not easy because they feel you are the privileged lot and you have money. So it is us to make sure that we empower our young men, women, and people with disability. I remember we had set around Kshs. 25 Million, when Supplementary came, we removed all the money. And this time, we did not even budget for that. Does it mean that we don't care for our youth? This one is wrong, because I feel we are using the wrong method to empower our people. These young men don't even require much. I remember about three to four that I have assisted. They just ask for five thousand shillings. And some of them, I see them even selling, what do you call these fruit that makes people eat? Water melon, and those people can feed themselves. So, can you see, if we can put that small seed to our young men and women, they can go far. You know, sometimes I feel poignant once again, when I see a person with a disability, If we people who are able bodied are going through strains, what about someone who has some disabilities? Its ten times more and these are the people that we are supposed to help, that we in this House as Members are removing that money and putting it to other things. Even God in Heaven one day will ask us, Hon. Waithaka you were in that House, what did you do to defend the weak? So, it is on all of us, Hon. Members, because it seems it has become hard for us to bring that vellum. I don't know what method we are going to improvise to make sure that this Law is in place and we set aside money for these members of our society who are vulnerable. So, Hon. Speaker, this House has failed because they are the ones who keep those Acts, and as a section of technical officers are here, especially the clerks, I think I have gone to all those offices, including the legal office, it seems all of them are reaching a dead end and that is why I support Hon. Halima Gole, if it is possible, if we are not going to find this Act, we can re-invent it and bring a Bill to this House, so that by next Financial Year, for sure our people should benefit. And Honorable Speaker I really thank you for giving me this chance and I am talking with a lot of bitterness because I know what this money can do to Women, Youth and People

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with Disability. Thank you Sir.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: I call upon the Mover to reply.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you Honorable Speaker. I think if you continue becoming the Temporary Speaker of this House, this House will be in line with most of the issues. Secondly, I must thank all the Members for their contribution and especially the Chairman of the Committee. I thank you for seeing the frustration. I never really wanted to threaten you. It is the frustration as you have said. Thank you so much.

I think with these funds, what we are learning is that it is this thing called Regulation. Who should come up with it? Because the other time we asked about these funds and they told us that the funds is there but the Regulation is not there and yet we need it. Is it this House that is meant to come up with it? Maybe it could be this House. Because that is what is lacking in this fund. So, my Honorable Speaker sometimes we should be taken for some workshops on how to come up with these things, like the Regulation, because we have not really gone into details on how or who should formulate a Regulation. When an Act is there and then they say again a Regulation is required, so who or how we should do it? Otherwise, thank you so much Honorable Speaker for giving me this chance. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Thank you Members. I now put a question. That Aware that, Article 56 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that the State shall put in place affirmative action programmes designed to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups are provided with special opportunities and other spheres of life;

Further Aware that, Article 54 of the Constitution of Kenya provides that a person with any disability is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and referred to in a manner that is not demeaning.

Appreciating that, Isiolo County Government has assent the Isiolo County Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Enterprise Development Fund Act, 2019;

Concerned that, to date these marginalized groups have not benefitted from enactment of the Act;

Further concerned that, these marginalized groups have never accessed monies from the fund that ought to assist them in the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget, subjecting them to being marginalized hence suffering;

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This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Early Childhood, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sports and Labour to empower Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through allocation of revolving funds.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

Next Order!

MOTION

SENSITIZATION OF COMMUNITIES AGAINST THE PRACTICES OF FGM

(Hon. Kamila Warsame)

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, sir. I stand to move a Motion on sensitization of communities against the practices of FGM.

That Aware that, article 59 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that there is established the Kenya National Human Rights and equality commission to promote gender equality and equity generally and to coordinate and facilitate gender mainstreaming in national development;

Acknowledging that, Female Genital Mutilation has come down from 38% in 1998 to 15% in 2022,

Further acknowledge that, the national government has enacted Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2022 to create objects of handling issues to curb Female Genital Mutilation malpractices.

Concerned that, the FGM actions cause devastating effects to the victims such as severe pain, excessive bleeding (hemorrhages), genital tissue bleedings and prepuce swelling including victims' trauma among other, early marriages;

Further concerned that, there is minimum efforts on health education, communities' dialogues, use of media and social marketing, effective culturally sensitive community based Programmes to educate the practicing communities, parents, religious leaders, boys and girls on effects of FGM;

This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Early Childhood, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sports and Labour to facilitate to educate communities against Female Genital Mutilation practices;

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Mr. Speaker Sir, when we are talking of female genital mutilation, the demographic data shows 15 % Nationally, Mr. Speaker, whereby when we come to the County of Isiolo, Mr. Speaker Sir, the rate we are practicing the FGM, it is ranging from 67 % to 69%. Mr. Speaker Sir, when we are talking of female genital mutilation, Mr. Speaker, why is it that our society are practicing these harmful practices? It depends with the societies, the different aspects they are taking, why they practice this, whereby some of the societies are practicing this as a rite of passage while others is to suppress the sexuality, the urge. Girls, and others are practicing it as a prerequisite for marriage. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is saddening when societies are expecting girls to be circumcised so as to be married. It is what has really caused a shock to me, as we have learned there are some of the societies which are doing it. As community of Boran, I personally have undergone that, Mr. Speaker, and literally we are doing it to suppress that sexual urges in girls. But Mr. Speaker Sir, it is now time for us to eliminate, and even Nationally we have the development partners, such as civil societies in collaboration with religious leaders, who are looking forward to its elimination; that is zero percent. But before we get into zero percent, Mr. Speaker Sir, we have to do gradual reduction, whereby we go from 80, 90 percent to now at 60, then we go to 50, so that we reach to elimination, Mr. Speaker. And how do we get to this, Mr. Speaker? We need our communities to be sensitized against the effect, Mr. Speaker Sir. These people, they must be taught the effect of what we have been saying about severe bleeding. When that act is done against our child, Mr. Speaker, there is that severe bleeding which causes our children to be anemic, eventually causing death, Mr. Speaker. Also repeated infection happens, where this child is exposed to that FGM activity, she is prone to infectious diseases, and at this age, some of us are going through labour problems, which causes threat to the mother and the child, Mr. Speaker. Having communities get to know about these effects, they will in turn learn gradually how they will remove themselves from practicing these activities. They are very innocent Mr. Speaker; a good number of our people have never gone to school, they don't understand the effect of these malpractices, they should be taught through the media and sensitization; so that our people will get to know the effect of this and eventually reducing malpractices of FGM.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when we are talking of this, we must appreciate, the organizations. As I stand before you, Mr. Speaker Sir, I am really appreciating the Action Aid, they have spearheaded a mentorship programme for boys to educate those girls who are in schools and who have never gone to school, championing for those who have gone under that problem. They teach those guys the effect and what they have experienced. Experience is the best teacher, when we are getting the champions which are being used by Action Aid; to go down into our Wards, to educate our people, parents, not to do that. Mr. Speaker

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Sir, such kind of programme will really help our people and am proud of it. One time, I listened into their discussions, and they are really making a difference. We need more of such organization to join hands with Action Aid, to sensitize our people on the effect of FGM. Mr. Speaker Sir, the rate is still high, in as much we are saying it has reduced, we are still far from the aspect of us reaching the level of elimination. Mr. Speaker Sir, with those few comments, I urge the Members in the House to contribute on the same, so that we all read from the same and see how we can help our communities against these malpractices. Thank you.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Seconded. Thank you Honorable Speaker. I stand to second, and also to contribute to the Motion.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: The rule of the debate is you Second, and then you take your seat. Then the Speaker proposes the Motion, and then now the debate is open. That's the rule of the debate. So you need, to just take your seat. Honorable Members, you, know we are still learning. For those who have the it, Standing Order 94 states; Upon a Motion, other than a Motion by the way of amendment to a question proposed by the Speaker, a Member may second by arising in his or her place, and signify acquiescence by bowing the head, without speaking, and such Member shall thereby reserve the same rights of speech as the Member would have had if some other Member had seconded such Motion. So you are at the liberty of the Speaker to speak, already you have spoken. This Standing Order is your principles. You are supposed to be guided by this. I now propose the Motion.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Temporary Speaker: The Motion is open for debate, and I am giving Hon. Letimalo, as much as I have already revoked that Standing Order. You can read that so that next time you will not second by talking, you will do it by bowing so that you reserve your opportunity of debating later. But for now, you are at liberty of the Speaker. Continue.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I stand again to support the Motion on sensitization of communities against the practice of FGM. Honorable Speaker, I come personally from that ethnic tribe which practices FGM more in this Country. The Government actually tried, through creating an advertisement, to try to sensitize the communities on FGM. But it shows that they are doing very little, and they are doing it through NGOs. And in this County, I think, few NGOs, I only understand one, actually Action Aid is doing something, but it's not covering the whole County. And other NGOs go

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for funds because they give funds to NGOs, so as to sensitize the communities. But most of the NGOs don't do that. I think they just stay in places like Isiolo town, they visit areas or Wards, once per week or once per month. And so, actually, little is being done to sensitize the communities. So, I don't know whether that department is represented in the Counties. Because I thought the department should be represented in the Counties. We've been seeing them visiting Counties from the head office in Nairobi, to launch these FGM issues. But to me, I don't think they are serious; because Samburus are known for doing it, and it's a practice which they don't want to leave. They just put it at par with the circumcision of boys. When boys are circumcised, the girls also want to be circumcised. And in this practice, they circumcise boys once after 10 years, and so many of them have been circumcised. And such girls also feel that they are at the same level with the boys, and they also want to be circumcised in that big mass, in big numbers, like the boys.

So, I am urging the concerned Ministry and Committee of this House also, to do something so as to ensure that some communities which actually practice this, receive more attention, especially Samburu. Because, in this Counties like Maralal the number of those who have gone to school is a bit higher and when these women are married, they are circumcised and are brought to our Counties because you know, the way Samburu marry, is that you don't do it from your location, you marry from the other far clan, from where you come from. So, like the Oldonyiro Samburus, marry from Samburus in Samburu County and vice versa. Maybe those from Wamba, marry from Maralal and Baragoi from Oldonyiro, it's like that. So, like in Maralal, those ones are educated and are not circumcised; the moment they are brought to Oldonyiro and when they are giving birth, the other women see them and they find that they are not circumcised; they circumcise them there. So, you see, it's bringing a lot of issues. Which really I'm requesting the concerned Committee of this House to do something through those NGOs, because it's a very big issue, which needs to be looked at very seriously. When you are giving birth, it's another painful issue, and on top of that, you are doing something again, so its double tragedy, and it's very serious. So, I think I need to have time with the concerned Committee, and NGOs, especially, Action Aid Kenya and those others, to do frequent sensitization to curb the menace. Thank you so much Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Fatuma Abdullahi (Nominated): Mheshimiwa Spika, nashukuru kwa kunipatia nafasi hii kuweza kuchangia mjadala wa leo ambayo imeletwa na Mheshimiwa Kamila. Mimi imefurahi sana kwa hii mjadala kwa sababu jamii nyingi sana bado inaendeleza vitendo ya ukeketaji, *especially* jamii ambayo mimi nimetoka. Jamii ya Garre wanapenda sana kufanya hili jambo. Utakuta wakati shule zinafungwa kwa muhula wa mwisho, utakuta kina mama

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wamesafiri na si vile wanaenda kutembea, wanatoroka Isiolo huko Moyale wanaenda wanafanya hizi vitu. Saa zingine si hata mama ndiye anataka, ni baba mwenyewe analazimisha mama aende afanya hiyo jambo na huwa kunatokea mazozano kati ya mama na baba kwa sababu hawakubaliani mama hapendi, baba anataka. Baba labda hataki mama anataka hiyo jambo ifanyike na unajua hii vitu bado ni kinyume na Sheria na mtoto saa zingine wakipata *emergency* vile wanafanyiwa hicho kitendo, halafu damu nyingi inatoka, hawawezi kuenda kumfikisha hospitali kwa sababu wanaogopa Serikali. Utapata huyo mtoto anahangaika sana. Kwa hivyo ni vizuri Wizara husika iweze kufika katika kila Wadi na waweze kuwaelezea na kufunza jamii ili watoe hiyo fikra ya kuwa mtoto asipotairiwa, anapata mimba. Pia waelimishwe kupitia kundi za kina mama ili hizo maono zitoke katika akili zao. Ahsante Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I stand to support the Motion. FGM is a big health problem in our society, which is associated to our traditional practices. In our area, I think mostly the pastoral community, the Samburu, Borana and the Somali communities practice these deadly practices. And it is done silently, without anybody noticing. It is done to kids of 13 years, 10 years, who cannot voice out their problems. I myself underwent, just like Honorable Mover of the Motion said, and we know what it feels like to undergo FGM. And I think we are the ones who should advocate for these practices to come to an end. However, maybe the resources at our exposure may not allow us to go directly, but there are other ways of reaching the community. So to sensitize the negative side of the FGM to our community, we can address in all the forums.

We know the health effects of the FGM at all stages, at adolescence, child bearing age and at birth. It has affected all the process of the life of this poor little girl. Because when in adolescence, a kid who has undergone FGM has difficulty in menstruating, because the menstruation is concealed causing infection to the kid. At birth, it brings difficulties, whereby there is prolonged labor and then there is Physical Vaginal Fistula, whereby the nature calls that is urine and feces mixes which brings a lot of stigma to this girl. Because at long last, the prolonged labor usually results to Physical Vaginal Fistula, whereby the path between the urethra and the anal breaks and it joins, that in turn causes this child to be uncomfortable her whole life. I think this is a very important subject that we, as female caucus need to focus on and that are going to address to our community, to sensitize them to understand, so that they completely eradicate the practice. Because these practice is still on going to date, although it is silently done. These days, you know, there is law, which people fear. So, usually, even those in town, during holidays, they send their kids for circumcision home at the suburbs, whereby nobody hears about it. It is done and

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they come back. So, I say that this Motion is very important, and it is us who need to advocate for that voiceless girl child, so that this practice comes to an end. I used to be working for an organization, Action Aid which usually advocates very much for issues of the FGM. When we went round for mobile clinics, there were some mothers who feared to raise their voice, to tell you that they have Physical Vaginal Fistula, they suffer with it. Even the management and treatment of that fistula takes years. That particular person, child, or woman, who has suffered that, stays for long before the repair is done since it is a very delicate operation, and sometimes it fails. So, this is a very important topic. I concur with Hon. Kamila, and it is our responsibility to advocate and make sure that these practices come to an end. It is possible and doable. Thank you.

Hon. Dekha Bonja (Nominated): Asanti Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipatia nafasi hii. Nimesimama kuunga huu mjadala mkono. Jamii yetu huwa wanapenda hii mambo ya ukeketaji sana. Hata wale ambao hawajafanyiwa wakienda shuleni, wanachokozwa na wale waliofanyiwa. Pia wale hawajapitia ukeketaji wako na huzuni, kwa sababu mtoto anatoka shuleni na kuja kukuambia fulani amefanyiwa, kwa nini mimi hujanifanyia? Sasa inabidi unamdanganya nimekufanyia kitambo. Mheshimiwa Spika sisi kama kina mama ambao tuko kwa hii Nyumba na sisi ndio tunaongea mambo ya jamii yetu na tunajua yale tunapitia huko nje. Na ni vizuri hata tukitoka nje kwa mkutano yoyote tujaribu kuongea hii maneno. Tusingoje wafadhili wale watakuja kuwasaidia watu wetu. Sisi tukijisaidia ndio pia hawa NGO wakipitia ndio wanaweza kutusaidia. Sisi ni vizuri kama *caucus* ambao wako kwa hii Nyumba, na pia wale Waheshimiwa wa kiume waliokuwa hapa pia wajaribu kutusaidia ili tuweze kusaidia jamii zetu. Mheshimiwa Gole amesema hata kiafya ni shida, kama kujifungua ni shida na kuna *terms* nyingi ametumia kama daktari amejaribu kutueleza zile shida watu wanapitia. Alisema amefanya na Action Aid na akaona vile watu wanaumia. Kuna ile sehemu ambayo watu wanaumia kama kina mama na ni wale tu ambao wamefanyiwa ukeketaji vile sisi hapa tumeathirika. Tusikubali vile tumeumia, watoto wetu ama wale kizazi ambayo inakuja baadaye wapate hiyo shida Mheshimiwa Spika. Hata tukiwa nyumbani Mweshimiwa Spika, vile Mweshimiwa Fatuma ameelezea kwa kusema watoto wao wanaenda huko sehemu ya mbali kama Moyale kufanyia watoto ukeketaji. Tunawajua na tukijaribu kuwakataza tunaweza kwa sababu tunatafuta haki ya huyo mtoto Mheshimiwa Spika. Ni vizuri sisi kama viongozi, *Chiefs* wanajaribu na pia Serikali Kuu wanajaribu kuangalia kama watoto wanafanyiwa mambo ya ukeketaji. Hata sisi kama viongozi tujaribu kuiangalia, na pia tuone kama tunaweza weka hata bajeti ambayo inaweza kusaidia hawa wasichana wetu; wale wamekeketwa na wale hawajakeketwa. Ndio wale ambao wamekeketwa wasiwe na shida kwa shule. Nakumbuka kuna wakati tulikuwa kwa mkutano

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huko sehemu ya Nanyuki tuliitwa kina mama tukafunzwa mambo ya ukeketaji. Mheshimiwa Spika wakati huo kuna mama wengine walikuwa wakisema kuna shule zingine hata watoto wanaogopa kwenda kwa vile hawajakeketwa. Kwa sababu ni aibu na sasa sisi tunakataza ukeketaji na wale wamepitia na wale hawajapitia pia wako na shida. Kwa hiyo, ni vizuri tuwapatie masomo na kuwaambia vile ukeketaji ni mbaya na pia tujaribu kuwakataza wazazi; sisi kama kina mama tufanye mkutano na tujaribu kuwasaidia. Mheshimiwa Spika ahsante.

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Hon. Speaker, before I contribute to the Motion, I remember yesterday you brought a very important issue about the House Media, and Honorable Speaker gave an assurance that it will be here. So because they are our staff, I expected them to be here. So I don't know, because this one is a very important Motion that our people need to know what we are talking about. I start Honorable Speaker, to support this Motion. I believe almost all tribes, especially where I come from, they used to circumcise, you know that is initiation, is clacking it out. Circumcision is what goes around, if I'm not mistaken. So circumcision is for men I think. This is the highest human rights abuse to a very innocent young girl. And surely, the law is very clear. Those who do it should face the law. In my place, it used to be rampant. But the people themselves, not even the NGOs, started preaching the harmful effect of, let me use the one that everybody is using, circumcising women. And gradually, it diminished, or it was eradicated, but not completely. I believe there are one or two there, you know, in every society, there are some radicals and rebels. So, this is a human rights abuse. And, if we want to change our people's mind, we must give this one a bad name. What am I trying to say? You know, we can say, if you look over a house, when God created us all, everything that God found, it was good, so, there's nothing that we are supposed even to subtract. So, that house, God has made it that way, it is a good house. Why should you remove the furniture and you leave the house empty? We need our men, also, to know that they should go to a house that has got furniture, not where the furniture has been removed. You know, as the doctor has rightfully said; we are lucky we have got some medics here; Honorable Halima Gole, has stated so clearly, this thing is harmful, it affects our children's health, even when they become adults. I have heard of fistula, I know, something like that. But, are you aware, even it kills; some people might have hemophilia, where the blood does not clot. Why do you leave this young girl... that's why you find they die in the bush, can you see? Because people are doing it in hiding. We need to educate our people and as Honorable Letimalo has said, when the Samburu marry women who are not circumcised, I don't like that word, but let me use it. When doing that, they are also circumcised, what a pain! But let me tell you, things are changing, people are marrying women, infact they go for those who are not circumcised. And it is

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us men to even teach our people to make sure that we don't diagnose those who are not circumcised. We go for those one. You know, it is you, your family and your wife, if you love her, would you like her to go through such pain?

I know most of your people have married even girls from our place who have not been incised, isn't it? And, they're living very happily. Why should you bring your wife when she is giving birth to Oldonyiro where you know that she'll be incised? So it is important that you do it elsewhere because that is your privacy with your wife. So it is my prayer that we tell our people, we make sure that they understand and I feel even the best place... because me I learnt about many years ago in the 60s that it was harmful. We have been taught in school during parade, the headmaster did not hesitate to tell us. So we grew knowing that this thing is harmful. You know sometimes we make things so expensive and they are things that are cheap. If we can make sure that it is done in schools, I don't think it will cost any extra money but since we are in this Country and County, it is good that we budget for it so that we can make sure that our people benefit faster, because it might not move as fast as we would expect. So, it is my prayer Honorable Speaker, that this one is a worthy Motion. It is affecting our people, which is very sad. We need to act and make sure that we put measures in place that will protect our people. With those few remarks Honorable Members, we must remember of a house without furniture is an empty house. So we must remember that, you know I am giving that bad name so that people can know it is not good, but if we will give it a very good name that's why a woman will move here and go even to Ethiopia to get incised because it has got that good feeling. And also we need to educate our boys, that it does not make a difference with it. I can talk through experience from both; so it is the same thing.

Honorable Speaker let me sit down and I support the Motion fully and as it is in my department, I have realized that also Members of this House need to be educated, so that wherever you go to a meeting, we are able to touch on that one, because Honorable Members interact with a lot of people. So It is good that we are also inducted, so that when we talk, we do it from a point of knowledge. Thank you Honorable Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: I now call upon the Mover to reply. You can also have your time and maybe you can donate even two minutes to any other person if you like.

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I take this opportunity first to thank all Members who have contributed to this Motion, especially having professionals in the House has motivated me today. I thank
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Hon. Halima Gole for teaching us the new terms in the House today. Secondly Mr. Speaker, you have heard what Honorable Letimalo has told us. I am today empathizing for those young girls who it is mandatory for them to go under that FGM to be married. Remember, for those men who are outside, Mr. Speaker, waiting for a small child to be circumcised; that girl will not get an opportunity to go to school, and at the end of it, there is no bright future for those individuals. Let us advocate for these young girls and use our boys to advocate for elimination to have that anti-FGM campaign. When these boys are being mentored to do that Mr. Speaker, the other men will adopt Mr. Speaker. With those few remarks today, I want to say as my parting shot Mr. Speaker, FGM is not safe and it is a violation of human rights. Thank you.

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): I think she has donated two minutes to me. Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Honorable Waithaka, she had not stated that. Can you take your seat?

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Mr. Speaker, he is my Hon. Chair for that department, can I donate two minutes?

Hon. Temporary Speaker: You had already finished your speech. Honorable Kamila, you can take your seat. The rule of the debate is you cannot contribute to a Motion twice. Read your Standing Orders.

In the first Motion, it was all about your Committee. So, you can liaise with your sector to establish whether that Law exists and how much they are making practically; you can even have a report on the same to the Assembly.

Secondly, on the second Motion, you have heard what Honorable Letimalo, Hon. Fatuma have just said. So it means that what we are discussing here is what is happening even now. So can you do some better analysis with your department? You can as well combine the same and bring as one report as a Committee. And from there you can furnish the House with the same figures with actual data on the same, so that we can know where we can intervene.

Honorable Members, I now put the question. That Aware that, article 59 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that there is established the Kenya National Human Rights and equality commission to promote gender equality and equity generally and to coordinate and facilitate gender mainstreaming in national development;

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Acknowledging that, Female Genital Mutilation has come down from 38% in 1998 to 15% in 2022,

Further acknowledge that, the national government has enacted Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2022 to create objects of handling issues to curb Female Genital Mutilation malpractices.

Concerned that, the FGM actions cause devastating effects to the victims such as severe pain, excessive bleeding (hemorrhages), genital tissue bleedings and prepuce swelling including victims' trauma among other, early marriages;

Further concerned that, there is minimum efforts on health education, communities' dialogues, use of media and social marketing, effective culturally sensitive community based Programmes to educate the practicing communities, parents, religious leaders, boys and girls on effects of FGM;

This House resolves that, the County Executive Committee Member for Early Childhood, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sports and Labour to facilitate to educate communities against Female Genital Mutilation practices.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Members, I thank you for that productive debate and this is how the House should be, now and then. We need even to have more Business than this. You know the law provides that you need to sit up to 12.30 p.m. So we are not limited to any Motion or Businesses in the House. So, I thank you today you are very actively engaging and that is very productive, as Hon. Waithaka has just said. I even said yesterday, that we need to be covered live so that the public will know exactly what we are doing here as Members. With these few remarks, thank you.

Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Speaker: So, the House stands adjourned until today at 2:30 p.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 11.05 a.m.

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