



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA
GARISSA COUNTY ASSEMBLY



Third County Assembly
(NO.096)

Fourth Session
(NO.288)

THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY – (FOURTH SESSION)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 2:30 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PRAYERS

1. Administration of Oath
2. Communication from the Chair
3. Messages
4. Petitions
5. Papers
6. Notices of Motion
- 7*. Questions and **Statements**

1. (STATEMENT SOUGHT FROM THE CHAIR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH)

Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Garissa County Assembly Standing Orders and in exercise of my oversight mandate under Article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, I rise to seek a statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Health Services regarding the lack of essential audiological diagnostic equipment at the Garissa County Teaching and Referral Hospital (GCTRH), specifically the Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA) and Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA) machines.

Hon. Speaker, GCTRH serves as the primary referral facility for the entire county, yet it currently lacks the necessary equipment for proper assessment and diagnosis of patients with hearing impairment. PTA and BERA are globally recognized standard diagnostic tools used to evaluate the degree, type, and nature of hearing loss in neonates, children, and adults.

The absence of these devices has resulted in:

1. Delayed or missed diagnosis of hearing impairment;
2. Forced referrals to distant facilities, causing high out-of-pocket costs for poor households;

3. Increased risk of irreversible hearing loss among infants who require early detection and intervention;
4. Violation of constitutional and statutory obligations relating to disability rights and healthcare provision.

Hon. Speaker,

The Constitution of Kenya guarantees the right to the highest attainable standard of health under Article 43(1)(a). Furthermore:

Article 54(1)(a) mandates that persons with disabilities are entitled to access devices, materials, and facilities that enhance their functional capacity.

Article 21(2) obliges the State—including county governments—to take legislative and policy measures to ensure progressive realization of economic and social rights.

Article 56 requires affirmative action programs to ensure vulnerable groups—including those living with disabilities—access essential services.

In addition to constitutional provisions:

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003 requires governments to provide appropriate assistive devices and medical interventions to persons with disabilities.

The Health Act, 2017 obligates health facilities to meet minimum equipment standards and ensure accessible, quality healthcare services.

The County Governments Act, 2012, particularly Section 102(1)(c), compels counties to promote equitable access to basic services, including specialized healthcare.

Under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, the County Government is responsible for county health services, including ensuring adequate equipment in county referral hospitals.

Hon. Speaker, despite these strong legal, policy, and institutional frameworks, patients in need of audiological assessment continue to suffer due to lack of essential diagnostic equipment at GCTRH. Many of them, including children at critical developmental stages and older persons who depend on early intervention, remain underserved and at risk of permanent disability.

Hon. Speaker, this situation calls for urgent and decisive intervention by the County Executive. The Department of Health must take immediate steps to acquire the PTA and BERA machines, allocate adequate budgetary resources, and ensure the recruitment or training of qualified audiologists to operate the equipment.

Hon Speaker in the statement the Chairperson should inquire into and report on:

1. Whether the Department of Health is aware of the lack of PTA and BERA diagnostic equipment at GCTRH and the challenges this has caused to patients with hearing impairment.

2. What measures have been taken so far to procure these essential devices and the timelines for acquisition, installation, and operationalization.
3. What long-term strategies the Department is implementing to strengthen ENT and audiology services across the county, including staffing, training, and equipment distribution.
4. What interim arrangements are in place to ensure that needy patients can access audiological assessment services while waiting for the full equipping of GCTRH.

(STATEMENT SOUGHT BY HON ABDIWELI ADEN ABDULLAHI- MCA SAKA WARD)

8*. Motions and Bills

MOTION: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PUBLIC PETITION BY THE RESIDENTS OF GARISSA COUNTY REGARDING THE STREETS NAMING/RENAMING WITHIN GARISSA COUNTY.

Hon Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

That, this House Considers and approve the report of the committee on Lands, Physical planning and Urban Development on the Public petition by the residents of Garissa County regarding the streets naming/renaming within Garissa County.

(Hon Abdiweli Aden Abdullahi-Committee Chair)
