



Kisumu County Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro (3rd left), Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok (2nd left), Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Hon. Gladys Boss (Centre) pose for a photo with delegates and partners after the official opening of the 8th HAK conference in Kisumu on 11th May, 2026.

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MCAs Call For Urgent Action to Resolve SHA Stalemate at Kisumu Referral Hospital

Kisumu County Assembly Members now want an inter-governmental approach to resolve the SHA stalemate which has threatened to paralyse operations at the Kisumu County Referral hospital. During their routine site visit to the facility as part of their oversight mandate last month, the Assembly’s Committee of Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation chaired by Hon. Vincent Jagongo was surprised to learn of a deep financial crisis at the facility occasioned by non-payment of SHA claims.

Records show that the hospital is currently owed a total of Ksh148,423,995 in both rejected and returned claims. “Rejected claims amounting to Ksh94,125,576 is permanently closed in the system without an avenue for correction while returned claims amounting to Ksh48,298,995 was resubmitted in July

2025 but remain unpaid despite compliance,” read a report submitted by the Health Committee to the House. These rejections, the report indicated, are primarily due to ‘system -induced discrepancies’ rather than fraud.

The non-payment of these claims is said to have severely affected the hospital’s operational capacity such as procurement of essential medicines and medical consumables, settlement of utility bills like electricity and water, payment of wages and other statutory obligations and sustaining uninterrupted health service delivery to the residents of Kisumu County.

Contributing on the report, Hon. Benny Oiko Pete representing Kabon-yo-Kanyagwal ward wondered whether enough induction was done in health facilities during roll-out of SHA.

“The case at Kisumu Referral Hospital is not an isolated case – which points to the fact that these facilities need proper training to avoid such standoff,” he observed.

Hon. Kelvin Oraro representing Kolwa Central Ward on the other hand urged the House to seek intervention of the Senate and other national government entities to resolve the stalemate.

In its recommendations which was adopted by the House, the Health Committee tasked the Governor of Kisumu County Prof. Anyang’ Nyong’o to urgently undertake direct engagement with the management SHA and relevant national government authorities to ensure all outstanding claims owed to health facilities are paid. *(By Macreen Lajah)*



Health Committee Chairperson Hon. Vincent Jagongo (insert) and officials from the Dept. of Health during a past committee meeting.

House Mulls Legislation To Tame Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence



Nominated MCA Hon. Regina Kizito championing for the legislation on GBV.

The County Government is currently reviewing the Kisumu County Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Policy to strengthen coordination, prevention, protection and response to sexual and gender-based violence in the County.

Alarmed by the emerging forms of violence perpetuated through digital platforms, the House has approved a motion seeking to incorporate express provisions addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence in the revised policy.

Moving the motion in the floor of the House, nominated MCA Hon. Regina Kizito observed that the review would make the policy more responsive, inclusive and protective against emerging forms of violence.

“In this evolving technological space, there is urgent need to ensure that everyone -especially women and girls are protected from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence,” she stated.

“This is therefore a bold and timely move towards strengthening legal and policy frameworks to combat all forms of SGBV in Kisumu County” she added.

The revised policy shall provide clear definitions and classifications of Technology-Facilitated Gender Based violence, prevention strategies including digital literacy and online safety awareness programs.

Contributing on the motion, Hon. Members decried rise in Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence such as online harassment, cyber stalking, and non-consensual sharing of intimate content – causing psychological trauma, insecurity, reputation-al harm among other dangers.

“Campaigns around SGBV should not focus on women and girls only but also on their male counterparts. There is need to raise awareness in Kisumu County,” observed nominated MCA Hon. Peter Obaso.

“Women politicians and political aspirants are often victims of sexual and gender-based violence during political seasons and technology has made them easy target,” said Hon Mildred Ajumbo representing Central Seme Ward. *(By Macreen Lajah)*

Match Tariff Review With Improved Services, MCAs Tell Kiwasco at Public Participation Forum



A section of Hon. MCAs pose for a photo outside the Chamber after a committee meeting.

A section of Hon. Members of the County Assembly joined residents and key stakeholders in a public consultation forum on the proposed tariff review by Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO) at Tom Mboya Labour College on the 22nd of April 2026.

The meeting brought together representatives from Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency, the Water Services Regulatory Board, County Government officials and members of the public. At the heart of the discussion was a proposal to slightly adjust water tariffs from Ksh83 to Ksh88 per cubic metre.

KIWASCO officials explained that the proposed adjustment was necessary to match the rising cost of service provision, noting that Kisumu still maintains one of the lowest water tariffs in the country.

The proposed adjustment is expected to support sustainable operations and improved service delivery over the next five years, they reiterated.

The event created a platform for open dialogue on the future of water service delivery in the region.

The MCAs present called for a balanced approach that safeguards affordability, particularly for residents in rural and underserved areas, while also enabling the utility to meet its service obligations.

Emphasis was placed on ensuring that any tariff increase translates into tangible improvements, including reliable water supply, expanded sewer coverage, and better overall service quality.

Stakeholders were also briefed on ongoing infrastructure developments under the Kisumu Water and Sanitation Program. Notable projects included the rehabilitation and expansion of sewer networks, as well as the extension of water pipelines to surrounding areas such as Maseno and other satellite towns. These efforts are aimed at improving access, reducing water losses, and strengthening the region's sanitation systems.

Members of the public actively contributed to the discussion, raising concerns about billing transparency, particularly in rural areas, as well as the need for clearer communication on service disconnections. Residents also highlighted challenges in accessing sewer connections in some neighbourhoods, calling for more inclusive infrastructure planning.

The regulator underscored the importance of public participation in ensuring accountability and maintaining service standards. Such engagements, it noted, are essential in building trust between service providers and consumers.



Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Chairperson Hon. Samuel Dede (right) chairing a past committee meeting.

The forum concluded with a shared understanding among stakeholders on the need to move forward with the tariff review, alongside firm expectations for improved efficiency, transparency, and delivery of planned infrastructure projects.

(By Macreen Lajah and Daisy Atieno)

Assembly Welcomes Delegates as Hansard Professionals Convene in Kisumu for the 8th Annual Conference.



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Gladys Boss (left), Kisumu County Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro (centre) and Clerk of Kisumu County Assembly Mr. Owen Ojuok addressing delegates and partners during the official opening of the 8th HAK conference in Kisumu on 11th May 2026.

The 8th Hansard Association of Kenya (HAK Conference) kicked off in Kisumu on 11th May, 2026 as Hansard professionals gathered at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel to harmonize standards and embrace the digital frontier of governance.

The forum sponsored by Parliament of Kenya was officially opened by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Gladys Boss and graced by several dignitaries, among them the Clerk to the Senate, Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Ms Serah Kioko, Bungoma County Assembly Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma among others.

Themed Hansard: Milestones, Gains and Impact, the week-long conference has brought together Hansard professionals from Kenya and across Africa to exchange knowledge, strengthen professionalism, and explore ways of enhancing information management, public access to parliamentary proceedings, and the use of modern technology in governance.

Speaker of Kisumu County Assembly Hon. Elisha Oraro, Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok and a section of Members of the County Assembly welcomed delegates and partners to the lakeside city as they recognized the crucial role the Hansard plays in advancing governance and accountability.

“The County Assembly of Kisumu continues to make notable progress in improving access to legislative

information and modernizing its communication systems in support of effective service delivery. “We have developed strategies that ensure we provide real-time transcript access to the citizens. Our current focus is to ensure that the Hansard is accessible to the persons with disabilities through braille and sign language interpretation,” Hon. Oraro stated in his welcoming remarks.

Kisumu County Assembly warmly welcomes all delegates and partners to the lakeside city as we and remain committed to advancing devolution, transparency, and institutional growth through accurate parliamentary records and open governance.

The conference programme is structured around four critical pillars designed to elevate the Hansard profession.

These include an evaluation of the transition from manual shorthand to digital systems; covering decades of documentation and deep review of the Hansard’s role as a bulletproof legal record for judicial review and parliamentary privilege.

The conference has also delved into ways of addressing cybersecurity, the risk of artificial intelligence in official records and professional certification.

(By Dennis Ogola)



Securing a Better Future for Children

The County Assembly last month hosted a sensitization session on nurturing care for Early Childhood Development – an event which sought to strengthen collaboration and align efforts for better child outcomes.

The event brought together the leadership of the Assembly and select House Committees, KMET Kenya, the County Executive and the Lake Region Economic Bloc.

The session focused on enhancing understanding of the

Nurturing Care Framework, coordinating the county action plan, strengthening the Assembly’s role in legislation, oversight, and budgeting, improving collaboration with the Executive, and identifying pathways to scale up nurturing care.

Through such collaborations, the Assembly aims to build systems that prioritize and secure a better future for children.

This is how the event unfolded in pictures.
(By David Ayieko)



How the Assembly has Become a Learning Hub for Students on Industrial Attachment, Study Tours



Nominated MCA Hon. Nancy Matara (wearing corporate shirt) interacting with a section of students who visited the County Assembly recently.

Kisumu County Assembly is currently hosting more than 50 students from different universities and colleges who have joined to undertake a three-month industrial attachment.

The students are attached to various departments to gain practical skills, knowledge and career insight relating to their field of study.

This opportunity seeks to contribute to the development of a skilled, work-ready workforce and to strengthen the bridge between academia and industry.

The Assembly has also remained committed to fostering transparency, civic education and public participation.

As part of this commitment, the Assembly has continued to open its doors to students on study tours.

Recently, it hosted students and teachers from Rangala Girls High School (Siaya County), Chulaimbo Boys High School (Kisumu County) Mau Secondary School (Nakuru County), Kachaliba Girls Secondary School (West Pokot County), St. Mary's Boys Kiranda, and Nyakach Girls (Kisumu County).

The visits provided the students with a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience of the legislative process, understand the roles and responsibilities of Hon. Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and appreciate governance structures at the County level.

Through guided sessions and interactive discussions, the students connected theoretical classroom knowledge with practical governance processes. And from the House Plenary, the students witnessed firsthand the legislative process in action—debates, motions, and deliberations that shape service delivery and growth of Kisumu County.

The warm welcoming and words of encouragement from the Hon. Members often emphasizing the importance of education, integrity, and active citizenship – have continued to inspire the students.

Institutions interested in organizing study tours are encouraged to liaise with Assembly's office in advance by writing to the Clerk of the Assembly to facilitate proper planning and ensure a well-coordinated visit.

The Assembly remains committed to this engagement as part of its broader mission to promote inclusivity, transparency and public understanding of its work. *(By Daisy Atieno and Pamela Atieno)*

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