

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

SECOND ASSEMBLY – FIFTH SESSION

Wednesday, 07th April, 2021

House met in the Main Chamber at 9:00 a.m.

(The Speaker (Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro) in the Chair)

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Mr. Clerk, kindly take us through the Order Paper of the day.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I still want to urge Members that we observe the COVID 19 protocols by putting on our masks appropriately, covering our mouths and especially when using the shared microphone and finally keeping social distance as appropriate. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

STATEMENT

SEEKING A STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE OF
LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Johnson Guya.

Hon. Guya: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Orders No. 41 (b) of the County Assembly Standing Orders. I wish to seek for a Statement from the Chairperson Standing Committee of Labour and Social Welfare Committee

AWARE that the County Public Service Board recruited Mr. Zacheus Okoth Oketch on a three Years Fixed Contract to the position of Chief Officer, Water and Sewerage Services.

COGNIZANT of the fact that the County Secretary vide a letter referenced CGK/CONF/14/VOL. I/75 dated 26th March, 2021 limited the Terms of Reference of Mr. Zacheus Okoth Okech to the Taskforce on the Management of Rural Water Supplies within Kisumu County to perform the duties of the Secretary,

I request the Committee to look into, inquire and report back to this House on the following

1. Why has the Chief Officer, Mr. Zacheus Okoth been redeployed to this amorphous entity in a manner likely to suggest that he has been demoted from his former position?
2. Was the Kisumu County Public Service Board involved in the redeployment process?
3. Was the Officer having any disciplinary cases that prompted the redeployment?
4. What is the role of CEC and Chief Officer Water, Environment and Natural Resources in the management of Gulf and Nyanas?
5. How was the 40 casual staffs and one permanent staff recruited at Nyanas and Gulf and what role did CPSB play in the above recruitment?
6. Are the recruited staff on county payroll?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I confirm the receipt of the Statement as presented by Hon. Johnson Guya, which is approved as required by the Standing Order. I want to direct that the Labour and Social Welfare Committee that the House affects you to work on the Statement over the upcoming Short Recess and report back on 20th April, 2021. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS

MOTION

TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT ON BENCHMARKING
EXERCISE WITH SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

BY

HON. HABIL OMONDI NYASUNA

CHAIRPERSON, TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Carren Muga?

Hon. Muga: Mr. Speaker, allow me to present the report on behalf of Hon. Chair.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed.

Hon. Muga: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage during the 15th October to 20th October, 2020 undertook a visit to Siaya County. From the visit, the committee thereafter compiled a report touching on various thematic areas which include the milestone made and challenges facing tourism sector in Siaya County.

Mandate of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee executes its mandate in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 193. (5) Of the second schedule of Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders to:

- a) Investigate, inquire and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities administration operation and estimates of the assigned department;
- b) Study the programmed and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.
- c) Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d) Study, assess and analyse the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly.
- f) To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 187 (*Committee on Appointments*).
- g. Make reports and recommendations to the county assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Sports.

OBJECTIVE OF THE BENCHMARKING.

The objectives of the Benchmarking with Siaya County Assembly Committee was to compare the achievements and challenges experienced by the two Committees as far as their mandates are concerned.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage resolved to undertake a bench marking tour to Siaya County which was supported by the Liaison Committee and the Office of the Speaker, County Assembly of Kisumu. The Committee did a background research and got to know how the County Government of Siaya have made up effort to develop tourism sector with over fifty (50) tourism attraction sites in the County. The County also have put in place strategic programs that are aimed at promoting local tourism. The benchmarking was also one of the Committee's activities amongst others as indicated in its work plan for the FY 2020/2021.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage is currently constituted as follows:-

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Habil Nyasuna | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Florence Olang'o | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Vincent Jagongo | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Jennipher Obonyo | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. George Abaja | - | Member |
| 6. Hon. Linnet Muga | - | Member |
| 7. Hon. George Ogutu | - | Member |
| 8. Hon. Consolata Ollows | - | Member |
| 9. Hon. Gard Olima | - | Member |
| 10. Hon. Maurice Ngeta | - | Member |
| 11. Hon. Caleb Omoro | - | Member |
| 12. Hon. Seth Kanga | - | Member |
| 13. Hon. Jane Manuche | - | Member |
| 14. Hon. Victor Rodgers | - | Member |
| 15. Hon. Caren Oguok | - | Member |

Secretariat

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Benard Abuodha | - | Committee Clerk |
| 2. Maximilla Awuor | - | Secretariat |

3. Dominic Muinde - Legal Counsel
4. Fanuel Okode - Hansard
5. Abraham Odegi - Serjeant- at- Arms

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Special appreciation goes to the Speaker, Kisumu County Assembly, members of the Committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage and the Secretariat who participated in this exercise. The Committee also wishes to extend its gratitude to Siaya County Assembly for the warm reception accorded to them not forgetting the special buffet for the two committees at Prides in Hotel, Bondo Town.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Orders no. 163 (c) and 182; it is my pleasant pleasure and privilege to present to this House the Report on Benchmarking exercise by the Committee with the Siaya County Assembly and other sectors from 15th October to 20th October, 2020.

VISIT TO SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Visit to the office of the Clerk to the County Assembly of Siaya.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee made a courtesy call to the office of the Clerk of the County Assembly. On behalf of the County Assembly, the Committee was warmly welcomed by Mr Erick Ogenga, the Clerk. He welcomed Committee Members from Kisumu County Assembly. He informed the Committee that the Assembly was free for deliberations with their counterparts from Siaya County.

Interactive session with the Counterpart.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee was privileged to hold a joint sitting with the counterpart committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage of Siaya County Assembly chaired by Hon. Nancy Adhiambo, Chairperson of the Committee assisted by Mr Charles Ogada – CECM, Tourism, Culture, ICT, Sports and Arts, Siaya County.

The deliberations focused on the following key areas/issues: -

1. The number of tourism sites in Siaya County.
2. Mitigation of Wildlife-Human conflict.
3. How to promote local Tourism.
4. Challenges Facing Tourism Department.
5. Impact of tourism and Wildlife to the economy.

Tourism attraction sites

Mr. Speaker sir,

Siaya County has numerous tourist and cultural attractions sites. It is a region of great culture, geographic and natural diversity. The County has approximately 50 attraction sites which are grouped into the following listed categories:

- Natural based tourism.
- Cultural tourism.
- Leisure based tourism.
- Eco tourism.
- Historical tourism.
- Community Based Tourism.

Wildlife – Human Conflict mitigation

County Government of Siaya is working closely with Kenya Wildlife and other NGOs in the community to sensitize the locals on conservation of wildlife which has helped in reducing the wildlife-human conflict. The County Government has also employed the use of Land Use plan which has specified on the parts to be used by human beings and areas left for Wildlife.

Ways through which Siaya County promotes local tourism

Siaya County Government through the department of Tourism, Culture, ICT, Sports and Arts has significant roles and responsibilities that impact on the development of local tourism to the extent of its roles and responsibilities that impact on the development of local tourism, to the extent of its contribution to economy.

The department has promoted the local tourism through:

- Development and promotion of County tourism products and services.
- Organization and promotion of local festival such as Got Ramogi fest and Arts performances such as Siaya talent such.
- Development of marketing materials such as tourism guide, heroes guide, birding guide, hospitality guide, signages, banners and community-based tourism initiative guide to foster branding, destination image and competitiveness.
- Sensitization of Local Community on the value and need to conserve and protect tourism resources and attractions within the County.
- Promotion of community tourism entrepreneurship development through marketing Community based tourism initiative.
- Organization of consultative meetings with tourisms stakeholders.
- Collaboration with other counties in staging and hosting regional tourism festival and events such as Piny Luo and Boat race.
- Promotion of traditional sports through organization of sporting activities and distribution of required sports items.

- Promotion of Agro tourism through exhibitions.
- Provision of village/ community tourist accommodation services such as homestays.
- Development of creative and innovative tourism activities at the County level.

Impact of Tourism and Wildlife to the economy of Siaya County

Tourism plays a critical and central role in the development and transformation of local economies, environment and communities. The sustainable developments of host communities largely depend on how the tourism industry evolves.

Tourism plays a key role in economic development. It is identified as a vehicle to poverty reduction in developing nations.

Since the inception of devolution, tourism activities have tripled if not doubled within Siaya County from the increase of number of tourism facilities, community-based tourism initiative to the number of visitors visiting the tourism sites which have boosted the economy/ living standards of Siaya Community through employment creation.

Above all, tourism is a source of revenue to Siaya County Government.

Challenges Facing Tourism Development.

- Inadequate budgetary allocation.
- Limited mobility. Lack of enough department vihecles.
- Underdeveloped road networks to tourism products.
- Underdevelopment of tourism products.

GENERAL FINDINGS

From the visit, the committee observed the following:

1. That Siaya County has put in place elaborate and robust management plan for the tourism attraction sites in the county resulting to attracting large number of tourists. This has led to continuous increase in the local revenue collection from the Sites.
2. That they have promoted tourism through the promotion of community tourism entrepreneurship development through marketing Community based tourism initiative. This has led to attraction of tourists in the region.
3. That through continuous sensitization of the communities on the need for peaceful coexistence with the wildlife and the creation of conservancies surrounding the Reserve, there is no or if any, few incidences of human-wildlife conflicts. Communities have learnt to live with the wildlife.
4. That they have also encouraged the development of tourism in the County by organization of consultative meetings with tourism stakeholders. This has encouraged the players in the sector to feel part of the initiatives.

5. That the County Government of Siaya has put in place elaborate infrastructural facilities that not only provides suitable amenities to Wildlife but also visitors.
6. That with respect to development of marketing materials such as tourism guide, heroes guide, birding guide, hospitality guide, signages, banners and community-based tourism initiative guide to foster branding, destination image and competitiveness.
7. That the County, through the department, collaborates with other counties in staging and hosting regional tourism festival and events such as Piny Luo and Boat race.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

From the foregoing findings, the Committee hereby recommends the following to the CECM in charge of Tourism, Arts and Sports;

1. That to protect our culture from erosion, there is need to continuously sensitize the residence on the importance of preservation of culture. This calls for organization of annual cultural events in the County.
2. That to avoid human-wildlife conflicts, the department should sensitize the communities in Kisumu County on the need for peaceful co-existence with the wildlife. This should go hand in hand with the immediate community directly/indirectly benefiting from the Reserve/Conservancies in areas such as employment of locals in the Reserve/Conservancy.
3. That the Department should find a mechanism to improve infrastructure such as road networks, development of eco-lodges among other amenities at tourist sites in the County. This calls for consideration of venturing into public-private partnership especially in regard to development of eco-lodges and hotels in various areas.
4. That there is an urgent need for the Department to partner with the local and international news agencies in advertising Game Reserves in Kisumu County as good tourist destination, this shall put the facilities in the global map.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is important to note that cultural activities and facilities, under fourth schedule part (2) of the Constitution of Kenya, were devolved. The fuctions purely rest with the County Governments.

The committee wishes to inform the members of the house to adopt the report and the recommendations listed to consider borrowing from County Assembly of Siaya and apply the same at Kisumu County Assembly to compel the Tourism Department to uplift the sector to greater heights in the County. May I call upon Hon. Florence Olang'o to second?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed Hon. Olang'o.

Hon. Olang'o: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the Honourable Member. I want to appreciate the warm reception we received in Siaya and we also had an

opportunity to visit Kango Ka-Jaramogi to see where Mzee was laid to rest. We learnt a lot, in Siaya as indicated in the report and I want to urge the Honourable Members to support the report. I second. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage Committee Report on its Benchmarking with their sister Committee of the County Assembly of Siaya has been presented by Hon. Caren Muga on behalf of the Chair Hon. Habil Omondi Nyasuna and seconded by Hon. Florence Olang'o. I therefore put a question that the report is open for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Pamela Odhiambo.

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report on the Floor. I want to say that we are now in the right direction because we are comparing notes through benchmarking with the Counties in the region. Siaya County being the county that has given us the President of the World and a Prime Minister, is a better county to share and compare notes with. You are all aware that Siaya is one of the counties that is still following the Luo community culture in totality, I don't know if they would also allow the burial of people in cemeteries as it is happening in Kisumu. I support the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Erick Agolla.

Hon. Agolla: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am on my feet to support adoption of this report. I was following keenly the well-researched report and this is a clear indication that the committee went out to do a research. Tourism is one of the avenues that any government can get revenue and resources to run their day today activities. The other day, we interacted with the Department of Tourism in my Ward and we also went to Hon. Seth Okumu's Ward for a boat racing. It is in order for this County to learn from Siaya County.

Mr. Speaker, Siaya County is rich with areas that we can learn and relax because we have just come from the holiday and if we don't have a center for learning then, we cannot attract revenue. I only have areas that I would like to urge the committee that I want to echo so that they may note down as they deliberate and work hand in hand with the department. Mr. Speaker, ours is just to legislate and do oversight and the implementation lies in the hands of Tourism, Culture and Sports.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that the department has not been working with the committee. I was perplexed when I was just informed that a very important event was taking place in my Ward. I had an opportunity to visit Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, they bury their heroes and heroines in the designated areas and this area generates them a lot of revenues when it comes to revenue from the local and international tourists.

Mr. Speaker, it is also disturbing if you come up with the issue of burying people in the cemeteries and this department needs to sit down and agree through a public participation so that we do resource mobilization of our cultural and believes because we should modernize our management

of this county just to forget where we have come from. I happen to visit Jaramogi Oginga Odinga's home where he was laid to rest. It is a very interesting site where you can learn and gain more. In this County, there are some of the things that our children cannot mention, if you ask my daughter or son what is *odhwaro, kiru, oswaro* name them. They will not be able to identify them. Where are we heading to as a community? We must have sites in this county where our children can be able to learn these things.

Mr. Speaker, we need to restore our heritage, our culture through the Department of Tourism. This benchmark is like eye opener to this county that we are not in the right track. Mr. Speaker, we have been appropriating funds to the Department of Tourism yet, nothing tangible is coming out of it apart from O&M and Recurrent Expenditure. As I conclude Mr. Speaker, I want to strongly recommend that, let the department work closely with members of relevant committee in this Assembly. I want to agree with the well-researched recommendations by this committee. I want to commend your committee Hon. Olang'o that, this is a well-researched report and it is an indication that other House Committees should follow suit so that we have reports that can stand the light of the day. I rest my case and ask Honourable Members to support this report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Misachi

Chief Whip (Hon Misachi): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I want to support the report. It is true that as a county, especially if you look at our tourism sites, they are not well guarded and are underdeveloped. If you go Siaya for example at the home of Jaramogi, you will see well-guarded tourist attraction sites.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that tourism, even in Kenya, is a major income earner and are well taken care of. I want to say that let us not talk about the burials because when the new President of United States of America (USA) was sworn in and was about to start his work, where did he start from? He visited the place where ancestors were buried. These were people buried in designated places. However, if we bury bodies of our heroes everywhere, we cannot preserve important sites.

Therefore, when it comes to burial, let us talk about burial in designated areas for heroes which is different from that of any other person. When the town or city catches with you, I cannot talk of being buried at Arina Estate I know if I die today, I will be taken to the cemetery. Let us therefore put a stop to making comparison between sites for burying heroes and any other burial place.

This is a good report that we should only borrow from. We always appropriate money to the Tourism Department. Even if you visit Kit Mikayi, you won't see any development; you won't see any storey building. Here, we have Lwanda Magere and the place is not developed let alone being secured. I would say that let us put this report into action and forwarded to the Tourism Department. I support the adoption of the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Khan.

Hon. Khan: Thank you. I rise to support this report. As a person who grew up here when Kisumu was a municipality and now a city, I used to mingle with Impalas that is why the logo of the Municipality was impala at that time. That shows how animals were close to human beings. Mr. Speaker, we would chase impalas and mingle freely with them. Eventually, they were confined to Impala Park, now run by Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) which is now a good job. When you move there, you will see an expansive nature terrain where you can walk and view the animals.

Mr. Speaker, as said earlier, we have many tourist sites, and in fact, they have not been properly managed to become income generating projects for the County. The Tourism Department should take Honourable Members to all the tourism sites so that they can have a one on one experience and think of how these sites can be developed for the better. It would also be good as leaders to lead in promoting local tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I have reservations on Human Wildlife Conflict. The committee did not cover the issue of compensation to those either injured, maimed, or killed. Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, remember that hippos have attacked many in Nyakach and compensation takes a lot of time. It is high time we made sure that we work with relevant authorities so that when residents have an issue they can be appropriately compensated.

Mr. Speaker, the committee could also visit the National Museum of Kenya so that we can also learn from the National Museum, Kisumu Branch especially in matters cultural heritage. You will note that majority of the people do not visit such sites and are not conversant with our cultural heritage. This is why Hon. Agolla said that my friend Hon. Guya does not understand certain Luo terms. I must say that he forgot the most important tool in the fish trade known as *Osadhi*. This is why we are saying that we have so many names of fish like *otikseu* and the rest that the current generation does not know including names of vegetables like *osuga*, among others.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many things to learn and therefore, Mr. Speaker, what we are saying is that tourism goes with culture and we want it strengthened and brought up to date rather than visit the Equator only to find nothing there. With those remarks, I support the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Oiko Pete, Leader of Minority.

Leader of Minority (Hon. Oiko): Thank Mr. Speaker for allowing me to air my views on this report. I get delighted from the report I'm seeing coming from Siaya County. Yesterday, the Welfare Committee was full of praise of the County Assembly of Siaya. When you compare the two, what picture are you giving us? That is food for thought! Today, they are giving us a report on the Tourism Department. When you analysis the comparison they are giving us with the one of Kisumu County, what picture are we getting?

The challenges are there but despite such, they are still making it and our Members who traveled have acknowledged that fact. That means the work is going on. It also means value for money allocated to that department can be seen at the end of financial year. They have given us a picture

that they do not see that in Kisumu County. That brings a question to the Sectoral Committees; do they engage relevant departments in the course of the FY? That does not happen.

The committee on Agriculture tried it but failed on the way. So where are we as an Assembly? Honourable Members, when we reflect on the records of Kisumu County Tourism Department, we were told 2019/2020, of all the allocation made, only four million was spent. The amount for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) was not spent. What steps or actions have we taken to interrogate the department? Members let us not just praise the report then adopt it.

Mr. Speaker, let this be a stepping stone to tell our departments that we are going wrong. When we go that extent, we are not killing the government. We are only putting the government to task. It appears in this House that when a report is brought, you interrogate and say that the department has gone the wrong way. This should not make anyone an enemy of the system. Let us not go that route because it is not the way of helping the government.

Yesterday, a colleague did not want Kisumu County Assembly to be compared with Siaya County Assembly. Remember, some of us learnt in the rural areas and are basically based in the rural area. Would it mean that we cannot go to visit USA because of the level of their development? That's not the case. We know schools are classified; counties are classified but we all still need to interact and that is the essence of development.

Mr. Speaker, I praise the report and advice that we do not read it just for the sake of reading. Let us read, make good comparison and take serious note of where we feel we have not achieved. I support the report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I will give Hon. Okiri, then Hon. Ojuok and Hon Guya in that order

Hon Okiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report. Mr. Speaker, for a county to run, it must have funds, and one way of realizing this is through taxes. Through this committee, we are able to raise taxes that can help Kisumu County achieve its goal.

Mr. Speaker, one of the ways of raising taxes is investing in this sector. I want to give examples of neglected areas that if well considered, the County government can get income. Mr. Speaker, there is *Got Abindu* which is a known tourist attraction site. However, the County Government of Kisumu is not exploring enough to ensure it looks more attractive to tourists. It is such a conspicuous site in Kisumu County yet only about 0.05 per cent is done towards it. Such sites will bring many activities in Kisumu. There is also Lwanda Ngonglo which for far too long has not been considered as a tourist attraction site.

The locals in the area do visit Lwanda Ngonglo in West Kisumu Ward. I also wish to add Siala Resort among other places. Mr. Speaker, there is further need for the County Government to liaise with International agencies. Here in Kisumu, we should not forget about *Omieri*. Why do we give other counties the advantage of seeing *Omieri* and other places yet *Omieri* belongs to us.

Mr. Speaker, I wish we could say as a county that we need Omieri back to Kisumu in order to attract tourists. Over and above, the bottom-line is one: infrastructure. How do we access Lwanda Ngonglo? Ort Got Abindu? Or that place in Seme where it was said that Jesus was spotted? There are no roads. We should therefore think of a way of developing our road networks so that such places can be easily accessed. Otherwise, I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Ojuok

Hon. Ojuok: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I support this report. I am in support of the findings save for a few gaps. I would have wished that the House Committee found out about the budgetary allocated to the Tourism Department in other counties and their Annual Absorption Rate.

Mr. Speaker, as you are also aware that the department in question has one of the worst development absorption rates and in the CFSP; it is quite unfortunate that we allocate this department more money despite the worse absorption rate. We have seen the type of reports that are coming from the Sectoral Committees and as well as those other committees when we come from benchmarking exercises with other sister County Assemblies. It is undeniable that in the two areas they are ahead of us. Therefore, we first need to accept the defeat on those areas then we work on them because it's only through that that we can grow as a county. I would also urge that they identify the tourist attraction sites. For instance in North, West, Central Nyakach area, there are a number of hippopotamuses and what we are experiencing is the Human Wildlife Conflict yet these are areas we can be fenced off to prevent the wildlife from encroaching homesteads and killing residents or destroying their livestock and property. In doing so, we can safeguard the agriculture in the area and make these tourism sites manageable to generate income.

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo Hon. Paul Okiri's sentiments that even in identifying and improving these sites, we must ensure that first, our roads are improved. The major problem we are facing in this county is on the Own Source Revenue that's dwindling every day and developing these sites could aid in increasing revenue collection streams. Kisumu is best placed to have KICC of its own so that some of these major conferences can be held in Kisumu and should be among the flagship projects to be prioritized. Our work is not just to find good ideas from other areas but to also ensure that these findings are implemented. It is required of us to hold anyone accountable because we are representatives of the people who ensure that we get value for money; and that we aren't doing so as a form of witch-hunt. We have also been given the power to impeach the non-performers. The best way to help this non-performers is to do so before the impeachment is necessary, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Guya.

Hon. Guya: Thank you Mr. Speaker, allow me to join my colleagues in the contribution on this report. Unfortunately, it is undeniable that these benchmarking exercises are exposing our county wrongly in terms of low performance in almost every sector. As a House, we need to really find a

way forward on the same. The committee did a commendable job, and as Hon. Agolla has reiterated in his submission that; the implementation of this department at the Kisumu County government is close to zero. It is quite true and alarming being that he is the Chairperson of the Committee on Implementation and he has confirmed the same. When we went to Naivasha sometime this year, we were told by the same department that they were only able to implement projects worth Kshs. 4million, out of all the projects that we gave them. Even after they hadn't not implemented the remaining projects, they did not commit those funds yet the issue of Pending Bills keeps on increasing in this county.

Mr. Speaker, as a committee, they now need to engage the department as it is in the report's recommendations especially number 3 on the Improvement of Infrastructure that was stressed by Hon. Okiri. The rural areas have a totally different phase in terms of infrastructure, especially road networks. There is no tourist who would want to visit a site through which the roads are impassible. In Siaya, Vihiga and even Kakamega Counties, roads are well improved and well maintained to the villages. We need to look into that in depth.

There was recently a heated debate on a snake park that was supposed to be constructed in Nyakach area but it is not there as was agreed upon. One of the major reasons why it was not implemented was because there was no road to the site. Further, it was proposed for construction during the rainy season, which made it impassible by the contractor who wanted to visit the site. Mr. Speaker, I just want to urge this department to pull up its socks because it is also the department that had the least absorption rate yet much is given to them. It is quite surprising that they spent everything on the Operations and Maintenance Expenditure yet they didn't implement projects they were tasked with.

Mr. Speaker, the committee has done great and I would have wished that they listed some of these tourist attraction sites in this county and the challenges those sites face. In Nyakach area, there used to be several tourist sites which have been neglected from caves, to plateaus, etc due to inaccessible roads to those sites. Lastly, I want to talk about the issue of burying of the dead, and in concurrence with what Hon. Misachi had said. Everything good comes at a cost. We just got a town launched at Katito in Nyakach, and we are planning to have a cemetery and therefore we won't allow people to be buried within the town. Am happy to have learnt that the city is planning to acquire 3 more cemeteries and we are in support of that so that we get adequate space to bury our people who live within the city. We will ensure that we get adequate allocation for the same in Nyakach. Otherwise, thank you.

Hon. Kanga: A point of information Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Seth Kanga, who do you want to inform?

Hon. Kanga: I want to inform the House as well as Hon. Guya.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Please proceed.

Hon. Kanga: *(On a point of information)* I want to inform Hon. Guya that; although I represent the cosmopolitan, that is largely Market Milimani ward, my hometown is a relatively remote area known as Kolwa Central. In our area, we have two types of land that is freehold and leasehold. My father has ancestral freehold land of approximately 49 acres, so do you want to tell me that when I die, I won't be buried on my father's ancestral freehold because my ancestral home happens to be in a city ward? Mr. Speaker, we must know that one can only be buried in a freehold but not on leasehold. For instance; no one can be buried in Market Milimani Ward but instead taken to either the Muslim Cemetery or a Christian Cemetery in Mamboleo because this ward has leasehold land, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Guya, I believe you have been informed and you would agree with him.

Hon. Guya: Mr. Speaker, I have received the information but I also want to remind him that even if he represents Market Milimani Ward, when residents of his area die, they have to be taken to Kajulu Ward where the cemetery is. For anything good to come therefore, we need to prepare for the consequences of the same. We must try to avoid the double speak at all cost, so if the city acquires land for the new cemeteries then we will support their move, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Members let us not lose track of the discussion at hand and make the topic on burying within or without the city can come in later on a different slot.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Pamela Odhiambo, I hope it is on the discussion herein.

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is on the discussion on the cultural issues, and I want to acknowledge us being on live coverage...

Hon. Guya: A point of order Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is your point of order Hon. Guya?

Hon. Guya: *(On a point of order)* Mr. Speaker, is it in order for an honorable Member to contribute twice on a debate?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Mr. Clerk can you confirm whether Hon. Pamela had contributed?

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: Mr. Speaker, I had contributed when I stood on a point of information that I wanted to pass on cultural issues but ...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order! Hon. Pamela Odhiambo, you can only rise on a point of order or information because you had contributed on the discussion.

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: I have a point of information.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Who do you want to inform?

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: I want to inform the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Please proceed.

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: (*On a point of information*) I want to inform the Hon. Guya that you cannot talk about cultural issues but bring about your personal issues to our people...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Pamela Odhiambo, I directed that I do not want a discussion on burials in the city until it is slotted for another sitting in the House.

Hon. Pamela Odhiambo: But Hon. Guya is out of order.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): That is exactly why I have ruled that we stick ourselves to the current debate. Please stand guided.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Rashid Miruka

Hon. Miruka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, allow me to also associate myself fully with the members who have supported the adoption of this report. I congratulate members of the Tourism Committee who took their time to benchmark with Siaya County.

Mr. Speaker, when we were growing up, we used to read books like *Thuond Luo* by Shadrack Malo, where we had the heroes Okore Chieng' Ralala, Luanda Magere, Gor Mahia among others. If you ask our children today, they know nothing about these people. As Kisumu County, if we embrace our heritage then, we can make a step in terms of tourism.

In North Nyakach Ward, in as much as we blame the Tourism Department, we must also blame ourselves as members of the County Assembly. When it was brought here that we have Omieri, it was taken to Nairobi and preserved there instead of Nyakach. We ought to have looked at the positive side of preserving the snake here in Kisumu County. We want Omieri to be brought back to Nyakach for people to see...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Whom do you want to inform, Hon. Philemon Ojuok?

Hon. Ojuok: The House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed and onto the point.

Hon. Ojuok: I come from Nyakach and I interact a lot with the people of North Nyakach. They did not want a snake park. We representatives of the people and we simply echo what they wanted.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Rashid Miruka.

Hon. Miruka: Thank you. Let us not divert attention; I believe that my point has reached. Secondly, as a committee, in your findings, the challenges that you learnt from Siaya included the

aspect of budgetary allocation, the road network – which are also experienced here. But you did not include how they are addressing the challenges that enables them to stand out. You also did not capture what Siaya County was getting before the heritages were put in place and what they get now that they have been improved – so that we can learn from that; that some value can be added, it can improve the accounts of the county, among others. Thank you, I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Atieno Atieno.

Hon. Atieno: Thank you Mr. Speaker. In as much as I would like to support this report, I have serious reservations. The report lacks some basic information that we ought to have gotten. It has become a tendency that whatever is being done to Kisumu is inferior to members. But if you go to page 9 of the report, the challenges that Siaya is facing – inadequate budgetary allocations, limited mobility/lack of enough departmental vehicles, underdeveloped road networks to tourism products - all these cut across. So is there anything unique?

Mr. Speaker, as we speak now, Kisumu has got Conference Tourism – the leading in Western and Rift Valley regions. We have Medical Tourism; every weekend, most of these counties come to Kisumu. Why are they not going to Siaya? It is because Kisumu is the leading tourist attraction site. That also ought to have been captured in the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Agolla, I thought you have contributed?

Hon. Agola: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to inform Hon. Atieno.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Atieno, Hon. Agolla wants to inform you.

Hon. Atieno: I don't think Hon. Agolla has any capacity to inform me – on anything and on any issue.

(Applause)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Agolla, Hon. Atieno doesn't want to be informed.

Hon. Agola: Mr. Speaker, that is unparliamentary and Hon. Atieno must withdraw.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Atieno, there is no way you can say that Hon. Agolla has no capacity to inform you; maybe you don't want information, but not that he cannot inform you.

Hon. Agolla: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to inform Hon. Atieno but he has decided to violate the House rules. So I will ask for his withdrawal and apology because I was within the Standing Order.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Whom do you want to inform, Hon. Guya?

Hon. Guya: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I believe that it is not a must that a Member has to be informed. You only inform somebody who is willing to be informed. But you cannot force to inform somebody by force. So, Hon. Atieno is very right when he says that he doesn't want the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members, I believe that you got me right when I was personally persuading Hon. Agolla to have Hon. Genga proceed because Hon. Atieno didn't want to be informed.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Hon. Genga.

Hon. Genga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the report. You agree that the issues that touch on culture make the House quite robust. But I stand to express my reservations and support what Hon. Atieno has said. Not every report that we bring to the House should make us look inferior or portray an image that we lack everything. We should make use of the report to improve on what we already have.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that Kisumu City is the capital of Conference Tourism in this region. The Department of Tourism started well in the early years of the current regime where it was robust with ideas and it really wanted to project the image of the county. I don't know what happened with that vision and vigour. I will ask the Leader of Majority – since he is the government informer in the House – I am sure he knows much about that.

The report recommends building of...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Leader of Majority?

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Mr. Speaker, I want to inform Hon. Genga that I am not an informer, unless he doesn't know what that word means.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): No, he says that he doesn't want to be informed.

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker, I didn't want to be informed. I want to build on one of the greatest talents that we have in this county – one in the name and personality of the Hon. Leader of Majority. He is a linguist we have in this part of the world and he should be very proud when we stop calling him a linguist and call him an informer. That is basically his job. He is the linkage between the County Executive and the County Assembly.

We have very serious entry points in this county. There was an attempt by this regime to put signages at the border with our neighboring counties...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Atieno?

Hon. Atieno: Mr. Speaker, I am a bit disturbed by the assertion by Hon. Genga that our Leader of Majority should be a tourism attraction site.

(Applause)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Atieno, I think the Leader of Majority has not complained so you cannot complain on his behalf.

(Applause)

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Hon. Atieno is well informed. We have our strengths, and equally have our weaknesses. Kisumu still stands out in terms of tourism. But the department should have the energy and vision that the CEC had when she started.

Mr. Speaker, I still stress on Branding and Signages. I also want to clarify on one thing. We are being told about Omieri. I believe that everybody would want to come to Kisumu to see Omieri. The only problem then, when Omieri was brought to Kisumu, what the National Government feared is on the safety of our revered snake. So, my brother Hon. Rashid Miruka should have told us that indeed the National Government, through the National Museum was not comfortable taking *Omieri* to North Nyakach, because; it was going to disappear the same night. So, it was a matter of insecurity and the place where the snake was going to be placed. I believe that one is in order. We still uphold our culture and we should encourage the department to be robust in engaging with the leaders from every corner.

As I said that there was an attempt by the previous regime- go to *Lwanda Magere*, the only thing I see is small...that is demarcating...

Hon. Guya: On a point of order Mr. speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Guya?

Hon. Guya: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Is it in order for the Hon. Member to imply that the people of North Nyakach Ward would disappear with *Omieri* the same night? Does it imply that they steal snakes?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just as I mentioned, I told you that matters to do with culture and you know that the people of North Nyakach Ward, since *Omieri* was taken away, it is indeed true that they have been befallen by serious calamities. We have had serious floods there but the only concern that I can tell you without fear because I was there when the snake was brought around...

Hon. Miruka: On a point of information Mr. Speaker Sir.

Loud consultations

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I know Hon. Rashid is the member representing North Nyakach Ward but I want you to reply to the concern raised by Hon. Guya.

Hon. Genga: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Maybe I will allow Hon. Rashid also to comment because I know he is representing North Nyakach Ward.

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker, I know that they have a lot of concerns but, Mr. Speaker you and I will agree that if that was not the case, then *Omieri* would have been in North Nyakach and attracting tourists today. Without fear, I can tell you that the issue of insecurity in North Nyakach is something that needs to be deliberated on another day. So, we cannot take our resource to a place where insecurity is a key concern Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Miruka: On a point of information Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Whom do you want to inform Hon. Rashid?

Hon. Miruka: I want to inform the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Proceed.

Hon. Miruka: Thank you. I want to reiterate here that we are five Members here coming from Nyakach. However, I am wondering where Hon. Genga is coming from. Mr. Speaker, does he have the audacity to talk about security issue in Nyakach? To be honest, *Omieri* was taken by the National Government. Even as we speak, we still have room and we are waiting for it. Which is still work in progress. We are not complaining of insecurity. If you have insecurity issues from Muhoroni, then just own it, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga.

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker, I am very much informed and I can assure you that I am a grandchild of Nyakach. Everything that takes place from that place, I am much informed because that is where my ancestors came from. Mr. Speaker, I need your protection.

Hon. Okiri: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order!

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): what is it Hon. Bonn, what point of order?

Hon. Okiri: Mr. Speaker, I am a walking Standing Order. Can I refer these Hon. Members to Standing Order No. 89 which talk about Statements of Facts? Is the member under that section implying that if the said snake was left in Nyakach, it could have disappeared the following day? He must furnish this House with statements of facts on the same. In the same light, being that this

thing happened sometime back and to date what can prove that if it is brought back, still it will be stolen on the same day? Let him convince this House that if it is true that incase Omieri could have been left in North Nyakach, they could have stolen it on the same day? Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga, the Hon. Member is seeking for facts concerning the people of North Nyakach. Just withdraw and continue.

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker, it is in public domain and the only advantage that I may be having for the moment is that when *Omieri* was taken back to Nairobi, I took time and visited the National Museum. I was informed by the Director General who is my friend that on matters of safety, they could not leave the snake in Nyakach. Number one...

Hon. Okiri: Mr. Speaker...

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker, I believe that I am responding to what the Hon. Member...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Paul, let him conclude then I will ask you if you are satisfied.

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker, such information can only be found from the National Museum which I am privileged to have visited. So, nobody has the ownership to talk about *Omieri's* safety other than the National Museum because they are the custodians and that is the place I visited.

However, if the Hon. Member feels that what I am saying is not true, then he can do his own research. He can go and visit the National Museum and ask the people in charge, why they did not leave *Omieri* in North Nyakach. It is that simple; a matter of safety and security.

Mr. Speaker, as I go on to conclude, I told you...

(Hon. Okiri is consulting loudly)

Hon. Okiri: Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Genga: Mr. Speaker I need your protection.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Paul Okiri?

Hon. Okiri: Mr. Speaker, the tradition in commonwealth, if you are talking about the statement of facts and a member inquire over the same, that a member gives proof to the House that whatever he /she is saying is true, then it is him or through your chair to be given an allowance of two days to prove to this House that this is what he got from the Kenya Wildlife Service. It is not I that should go and look for the statements of facts but rather he to table it here in the House to prove to the Hon. Members of what he is talking about Mr. Speaker. That can only be directed through your chair. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga, I did say that when say that *Omieri* was taken to the National Museum for lack of security, it will depend on how you justify it. However, when you say that when it is brought today it will disappear, that is what the Hon. Member is asking for. If you do not have facts that can be tabled today, then just withdraw and proceed.

Hon. Genga: Thank you very much. I thought he is a very senior Hon. Member. The only problem is that he has moved his statement from what I said and I repeat...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Erick Agola, I directed the Hon. Genga to do something. Maybe immediately after that I am giving you a chance.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga, let me hear what Hon. Agolla has to say.

Hon. Genga: Okay.

Hon. Agola: Mr. Speaker, for the interest of time, I want to help this House. Hon. Paul Okiri raised a concern under Standing Order No. 89 (The Statements of Facts). Hon. Genga had alluded that he hails from Nyakach. He is one of the mastermind thieves who want to steal the snake.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

He has confirmed that incase that snake steps in Nyakach, it will not even spend a night. Why are we delaying with the debate yet he has confirmed that he is one of the Nyakach people who have planned to steal the snake, thank you.

(Laughter)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Genga, I want help you on the issue of the snake. On the matter of the snake coming to Nyakach and being stolen the same day; withdraw that and continue with your statement.

Hon. Guya consulting loudly

Hon. Genga: My statement was very clear that the reason as to why we did not have the snake kept at North Nyakach by then, was due security matters. That is what I stick to. Any other statement that is brought about by Hon. Paul Okiri and his neighbor who is my good friend Hon. Agolla; I know that they also deal with wildlife and it is their concern.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, it is my humble appeal for this House to always interrogate on the reports that are brought before us. We also have to appreciate even though we have so much to

lament as Kisumu residence, I believe that we still stand tall and above the rest and this department should come out clearly by giving us the way forward on the image of this County.

Mr. Speaker, I still insist that this is the destination of whoever wants to come for Conference Tourism, site visits and any other tourism activities. I therefore pray and also going to implore the Director General of National Museum for future consideration by having *Omieri* brought back. In as much as the matter is done, I urge the Hon. Member who is the host to ensure that there is a site secured for *Omieri* to be brought back.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Seth Okumu. Hon. Members; Hon. Otura and Hon. Inviolata, I did direct that you put your face mask well to cover your mouth. Yeah, Hon. Ogendo, put on your face mask.

Hon. Okumu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support my colleagues in adoption of this report. The touring of Siaya County that the committee did is an eye opener to us as a County Assembly on some of the things that need to be done to improve the tourism.

As I heard my brother Hon. Genga talk and I wondered why he was losing direction. If I remember so well, in Masogo Nyang'oma, we have *Lwanda Magere* which we are celebrating as a tourist site. In Hon. Genga's Ward (Muhoroni/Koru), we have *Got Alila* where we lost our very renowned Dr. Robert Ouko which we also need to put as a tourist site for our children and those coming into the county.

In my ward (East Seme) we have *Kit Mikayi* that is renowned worldwide that needs to be improved as a touristy site. Mr. Speaker, if you go to North Kisumu Ward where Hon. Samuel Dede comes from, we have *Abindu Cave* which needs to be improved.

These are some of the things that the people of Siaya County do that we need to copy. Recently we had boat racing here in Kisumu which most of the Hon. Members are not aware of. But, it was done in South West Kisumu and East Seme Wards. They are also soon doing the countywide somewhere along the beaches of Kisumu. Those are some of the things that we need appraised that can attract people into our county as tourists.

When I look at the findings that the committee got during their bench-marking exercise, up to now I am still wondering why we decided to put the Stadium under Tourism Sector. That is because; it has been the biggest hindrance for the CEC. In every other thing that has been mentioned here, she has been doing so well, until the matter of the Construction of the Moi Stadium came in, that is where she let it all.

Hon. Members, I do not know who made that decision. I believe that we need to take it out of Tourism Sector so that all these recommendations that we are having here; the Signages and the Products for Development of Kisumu County can be implemented by the current CEC as she has been doing.

Mr. Speaker Sir, if all these recommendations have to be done; I am seeing one on Civic Education of people and wildlife. I know that we lose a lot of lives along the lake by attack from either crocodiles or hippopotamus. However, at the same time, those animals also attract people along those beaches. So, it is true that what the House Committee is recommending that we need to sensitize our people on how to live with wildlife, that we do not encroach on those places inhabited by the wildlife. If that happens then, we are aware of the measures that we can take.

Recently, we lost a boy from my ward, who was bitten by a snake while at the same time we keep snakes at the museums. How do we merge those two so that we can use these snakes as tourist attraction and they are safe with the people outside there?

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairperson and the members of the committee for their recommendations. I think we have been saying this over and over again that these recommendations be implemented. However, I do not think we do a follow up. The Chairperson Implementation Committee is a very robust debater in this House. He is also the one who told us that Hon. Genga having mentioned severally that *Omieri* being stolen might be the mastermind behind that theft.

(Laughter)

On matters of Insecurity. We know where he stands. But, when it comes to implementation matters, he is doing poorly. I want to request Hon. Members that he put into task these recommendations given by the committee after their trip are implemented by the Kisumu County Government, thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, the Leader of Majority.

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Onyango): Thank you so much. Mr. Speaker, allow me also to add my voice in support of this report. While doing so, I want to align myself with the argument of Hon. Atieno Atieno and Hon. Genga by informing the Hon. Genga that an informer is somebody who informs against another specifically: one who makes a practice especially for a financial reward of informing against others for violations of penal laws. That is not what I do in this House as the Leader of Majority

Mr. Speaker, this County is doing great in matter of tourism but sometimes it is important that we have facts. This is because when you want to confirm whether Kisumu is doing well in tourism sector as opposed to Siaya County, then what does the statistics show?

We have various types of tourism mainly;

- a) Conference tourism
- b) Eco-tourism
- c) Traditional tourism, where people go to the attraction sites.

Mr. Speaker traditional tourism is slowly losing traction. People are now trending towards Eco-tourism and Conference Tourism. That is why you are seeing today there are so many hotel facilities coming up in Kisumu. Where Hon. Okiri comes from, somebody invested massively within the village. In fact if you are not somebody who has studied the marketing trends then you would have imagined that person was disinvesting. That is part of eco-tourism because you must gel with the community and that is what needs to be encouraged. At the moment even though COVID-19 is within us, you will find that most of our hotel facilities are more than half the capacity which means that there are a lot of people coming in and that is a lot of income that is being generated through tourism. The County is on track in developing more tourist attraction that is why there is the intention of developing around Dunga, developing the ring road from Dunga to Camp David Beach. If this is done, then, it will open up entirely a wide new spectrum through which tourism can be developed.

So it is a pity sometimes when you go out for benchmarking then you want to imagine that this County is doing very poorly and yet when those people will come here they are so much overwhelmed with what they are seeing in our County. Sometimes when you stay with a woman in the House you may not know the value of that woman until she leaves you. Probably that is the kind of disease that some of us are suffering from. I want to say that the development of traditional sites is okay. It is important because then it will help us to conserve our heritage like we have talked about Luanda Magere and Gor Mahia. Those are just good but the percentage of market value that they control is so small and that is why you must diversify into other attractions like what I have talked about conference tourism and that is something that the County is really doing well in.

Otherwise, I want to commend the good work that was done by the committee but allow me to also advise our committees that let us not be crybabies all the time that we think that we are doing so poorly yet the records show otherwise. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Otura.

Hon. Otura: Mr. Speaker much has been said and I would only wish that the committee would also recommend the Department of Tourism to also categorize the different tourist attraction sites. Mr. Speaker, in Siaya you can see the six bullets under item 6.2.1 that talks about tourist attraction sites. If the categories that are here are done well in Kisumu, this will also promote our tourist attraction sites. For example the Natural based Tourist Attraction sites; Kisumu has the best sites of this nature and it is only for the department to take action and do something about the Odino falls. Odino Water falls is naturally placed and I did accompany the committee to see how nice that site is.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we boast of some of the best conference tourist attraction. The challenges we have is that we are forgetting about other categories of tourist attraction sites which

we can as well improve on. Mr. Speaker I would wish that the committee also recommends that the department also categorizes the way Siaya County did.

Our committees are nowadays trying and I would not wish that they lose track. With these numerous reports that we get what is very important that I would say is that the Chairperson of the Committee on Implementation to always follow up on your directives. You always direct that this be communicated to the aligned department or committed to a committee for further action but the implementation reports regarding the same is lacking. I would advise that the Chairperson of Implementation Committee should always track of all the directives that you issue. This is a very good report that other committees should emulate. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Dede.

Hon. Dede: Thank you Mr. Speaker I also rise to support the report on the benchmarking with Siaya County Assembly by the Committee of Tourism with few reservations. My colleagues have already talked of Abindu Cave. Abindu is in my ward where I represent the people. My observation is that there should be proper administrative system. I have got a problem with the wildlife; recently people came to my ward and started calling me concerning the baboons and monkeys with the area. There is a cry over these creatures terrorizing my people and I am urging the County to do something about the issue of security. The mothers around there are complaining over the loss that they are undergoing and they cannot be compensated on the same. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Ogaga.

Hon. Ogaga: Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to call the mover to reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Muga.

Hon. Muga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all the Members who have given their views on this report and they saw the importance of discussing this report. It is true that Kisumu County is much bigger and has so many tourist attraction sites. The sites in Kisumu like the few that have been mentioned are Luanda Magere, Got Abindu, Kit Mikayi, Siala Resort and many others. This shows that we have so many tourist attraction sites but seemingly they are not working.

Hon. Members wanted to know the whereabouts of Omieri which is in the custody of the National Government and it has come clear that there is need for it to be brought back to Kisumu so that it can make add on our tourist attraction sites. There is need for contracted museum. There is also the sites for heroes and heroines which is also very attractive. The issue of funds also came up; we have been allocating funds to the Department of Tourism and it has come clear that there is need for interrogation for that department to know.

There is also need for the committee to visit National Museum. It has come out clear that, the work of the committee is good but they need to expand their venture. The department also needs to know

that there is a lot that should be done but it should only come when they generate to us those who are on the ground and those who are at the sites. I am happy that even our last debater brought out that there is a lot of fear in their areas because of human wildlife conflicts. It has come out clear that these tourist sites can be a good contributor to our revenue collection. We can get more taxes if only they are well guarded and if only the department can put more interest on the improvement of infrastructure. This is a challenge that is also encountered by Siaya County. Something needs to be done but it can only come clear from us.

Mr. Speaker, we are saying that this study tour was an eye opener and we would like the department to put more effort and identify the sites of heroes and heroines. We lose a lot of lives in snake bites; there is need for a lot of sensitization to our people on wildlife conflicts. We have also found out that there is need of additional conferences tourism attraction. It is not that we are doing badly but there is need to see to other goals. I want to thank all the Hon. Members and would like to request you that this report be adopted. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Members now that the report on benchmarking visit to Siaya County Assembly by the Committee of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage has been presented by Hon. Muga on behalf of the Chairperson, seconded and debated I want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question out and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Therefore Hon. Members the Report on Benchmarking visit to Siaya County Assembly by the committee of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage is hereby adopted with the recommendations therein today Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 11.06 a.m.

Hon. Members, I direct that communication of the same be taken to the relevant department and the Committee of Implementation follow up on action of the same.

Consequently, I also want to remind Members that we are in the month of making the Budget and I want to urge members that whatever we pass in the report that requires allocation is upon the Members to ensure that is effected as per the CFSP and the recommendations with the needs therein from the public.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next Order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): There being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to today 07th April 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 11.16 a.m.)

Addendum

Hansard Team

Zablon Otiende - Senior Hansard Reporter (In-charge)

Edward Odanga - Reporter

Fanuel Okode - Reporter

Patrick Okoyo - Reporter

Jesca Otieno - Reporter

Dennis Onyango - Reporter

Jacklyne Otieno - Reporter