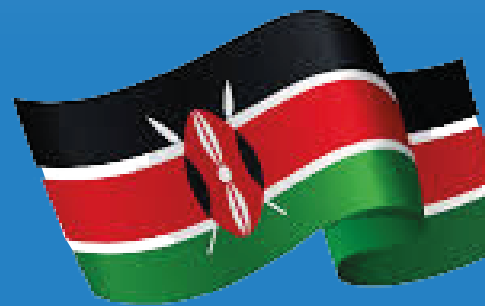




COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU



BUNGE BULLETIN



EXCITEMENT AS CONSTRUCTION OF KISUMU ULTRA-MODERN ASSEMBLY IS COMMISSIONED

After many years of wait, Members of the County Assembly and Staff were excited to witness the commissioning of the construction of ultra-modern Assembly.

Apart from the Chambers and offices, the building will also comprise a cafeteria, gymnasium, Members' lounge and a playing ground for indoor games.

The new Assembly will be located in Milimani, adjacent to Tom Mboya Labour College.

Kisumu Deputy Governor Dr. Mathews Owili graced the ground breaking ceremony of the ultra-modern Assembly on behalf of the Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o.



Kisumu Deputy Governor Dr. Mathews Owili plants a tree to mark the groundbreaking ceremony of Kisumu ultra-modern Assembly

But why the ultra-modern Assembly?

The foundation stone for the current Assembly Chambers was laid on 25 June 1949 by K.L. Hunter O.B.E, the then Provincial Commissioner of Nyanza during the days of the African District Council (ADC).

Inherited from the defunct local authority, many feel the building is so deplorable that it is not fit to host the legislative arm of the County Government.

Apart from lack of a conducive working environment for Members of the County Assembly and Staff, the colonial structure is so squeezed that the Assembly has had to rent offices for some of its Departments.

The Ksh436 million building is expected to offer adequate working space and a more conducive working environment for Members of the County Assembly and Staff.

The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) gave guidelines capping the total cost of construction of County Assemblies in the country to Ksh. 500 million.



Artistic impression of Kisumu ultra-modern Assembly

Dr. Owili hailed the Assembly leadership for the milestone – saying it was as a result of the good working relationship between the Assembly and the Executive.

“There have been futile attempts by the previous leadership of the Assembly to put up this facility because there was a disconnect between the two arms of the county government,” stated the Deputy Governor.

The Speaker said the construction is expected to be complete by December, 2024.

“We want the contractors to go out of their way to ensure the project is completed within the timeline,” he said.



Kisumu Deputy Governor Dr. Mathews Owili and Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro unveiling a plaque to commemorate groundbreaking ceremony of the Kisumu Ultra-Modern Assembly.

“There have been futile attempts by the previous leadership of the Assembly to put up this facility because there was a disconnect between the two arms of the county government,” Deputy Governor Mathews Owili.



Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o and Speaker Hon Elisha Oraro unveil the plaque to commemorate the groundbreaking of construction of the speaker's official residence.



Speaker's official Residence under construction.

Speaker's Official Residence

Last year, the Assembly began construction of the speaker's official residence, a project which is now nearing completion.

The county government led by the Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o provided the Assembly with land to put up the building at Milimani next to Kisumu State Lodge.

"The contractor is currently doing the final touches, thereafter the residence will be ready for occupation," says the Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro.

In August 2020, CRA in a letter to County Secretaries and Clerks of Assemblies provided up to June 30, 2022 as the deadline for leasing houses to governors, their deputies and speakers of Assemblies.

"The contractor is currently doing the final touches, thereafter the residence will be ready for occupation," Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS: ASSEMBLY TAPS INTO WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE FROM THE SENATE



Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro and Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok pose for a photo with officers from the Senate who visited the Assembly to share their experiences with staff.

A team of senior officers from the Senate visited the County Assembly of Kisumu to share their experiences on Parliamentary services in the Senate with the staff of the County Assembly in order to improve performance at the Assembly.

The officers who were led by the Deputy Chief Sergeant at Arms Mr. Wilson Bosmet took the Assembly staff through their tour of duty and how they have risen through the ranks to become senior officers in the Senate.

“As staff, you must be disciplined; that is when you can grow professionally,” said Mr. Bosmet.

“You work in a political environment but you must learn that you are here as a technical person and not as a politician,” he stated as he addressed more than 80 staff in the Assembly Chambers.

The officers hailed the transformation the Assembly has made in the recent years, spearheaded by the Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro and Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok.

“We have been here before, but we must admit that this time things have really changed. We are amazed by the ongoing developments,” they confessed.

Hon. Oraro and Mr. Ojuok thanked the officers for the good gesture, saying the Assembly was partnering with the Senate to enhance the capacity of Assembly staff to improve service delivery.

“We have now rolled out a program where we take various departments for attachment at the Senate for between one to two weeks so that they can enrich their practical knowledge,” said Hon. Oraro.

“We are amazed by the ongoing developments in the assembly. Things have really changed,”

Mr. Bosmet, from the Senate.

WHEN THE TWO ARMS OF GOVERNMENT WORK TOGETHER, GREAT THINGS HAPPEN



Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o deliver his state of the county address during a Special Sitting of the Assembly in November, 2021

At the beginning of the year 2022, Kisumu County Assembly hosted the Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o and his Executive to an annual breakfast meeting at the grand Royal Swiss Hotel in Kisumu to brainstorm on how the two parties would move the county forward.

The platform provided both the Assembly and the Executive with the opportunity to take stock of the achievements and challenges facing the two arms of government.

At the get-together ceremony, the Assembly and the Executive came up with measures to address the challenges facing both parties and improve service delivery.

"We are here to look at where we are coming from and where we are heading to," said Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro.

Both the Governor and the Speaker hailed the close working environment between the

Assembly and the Executive, saying the camaraderie has helped boost performance of the County government.

"I am pleased that the Assembly and the Executive are working together and particularly pleased that the Assembly has been very supportive of our transformation agenda," Prof. Nyong'o said.

At the end of 2021, the Assembly also hosted the governor to deliver his annual state of the county address and to highlight his scorecard to the people of Kisumu.

From a perception that the two levels of government were treating each other with contempt, suspicion and sabotage, the frequent meetings highlight the cordial relationship that currently exists between the Assembly and the Executive.

Assembly Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok says the

"I am pleased that the Assembly and the Executive are working together and particularly pleased that the Assembly has been very supportive of our transformation agenda," Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o

camaraderie has helped the Assembly to effectively discharge its mandate.

“If you take the example of the construction of the ultra-modern Assembly whose ground-breaking we witnessed few days ago, we have had that plan right from the 1st Assembly but it could not take off because the Assembly and the Executive were not reading from the same script,” says Mr. Owen.

But despite the close working relationship, the Assembly has not forgotten its oversight role as it continues to ensure the Executive remains accountable.

“When we invite you to the Assembly to shed light on a particular matter or write to you to respond to certain issues, we are doing that in line with our oversight role and for the benefit of Kisumu residents. Do not consider it as witch-hunt,” Hon. Oraro said at the breakfast meeting.



Kisumu Governor Prof Anyang' Nyong'o and MCA Hon. Gard Olima in joyous moment during an annual breakfast meeting at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel

PARTNERSHIPS: ASSEMBLY PARTNERS WITH UK BASED ORGANIZATION TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF MEMBERS AND STAFF



Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro (centre) and Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok (3rd from left) pose for a photo with officers from Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Kisumu County Assembly has benefited from an initiative dubbed "Kenya Devolution Program" that aims to build capacity for Members of the County Assembly and staff.

The initiative funded by Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and being implemented by the Assembly in partnership with the UK based Westminster Foundation for Democracy seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Assembly in matters financial management and oversight.

Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro, Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok and a section of staff today held a consultative meeting with officials from Westminster Foundation for Democracy led by the organization's Parliamentary lead, Mr. Elijah Ambasa at the Assembly offices.

Mr. Ambasa hailed the transformation the Assembly has made under the leadership of Hon. Oraro and Mr. Ojuok, saying "this is the reason why Kisumu County Assembly was considered for this program".

The program is being implemented in six other counties which include Mombasa, Kilifi,

Mandera, Turkana, Isiolo and Elgeyo Marakwet.

Hon. Oraro and Mr. Ojuok thanked the organisation for the good gesture, saying the initiative will go a long way to improve performance of the Assembly and service delivery to the people of Kisumu.



Mr. Elijah Ambasa of Westminster Foundation for Democracy

“Kenya Devoluton Programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Assembly in matters financial management and oversight,” Mr. Ambasa

HOW LEGISLATIONS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION UNITS HAVE IMPACTED ON SERVICE DELIVERY IN KISUMU COUNTY

The concept of public participation has been made intrinsic with public policy formulation in Kenya since the advent of devolution. Article 196 of Constitution of Kenya and Section 115 of the County Governments Act No.17 of 2012 mandates the County Governments to facilitate the inclusion of and participation of the people in all planning and policy decisions. Moreover, despite the

express provisions of the Constitution and County Governments Act, the principles of devolution, the principles of public finance management and Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya on values and principles of Governance and Public Service make additional requirements for public participation in all spectrums of governance including but not limited to management of public

funds. However, despite the provisions of the law on public participation, the concept is still loosely structured in many counties with expectations of enactment of County specific laws to streamline public participation with respect to the unique circumstances in every jurisdiction.

The benefits of a comprehensive public participation approach resonate around the realization of people-centred approach to public policy issues with home grown and realistic solutions. It allows the people to be part and parcel of government decisions thus entrenching the provisions of Article 1 of the Constitution of Kenya on exercising the sovereign power of the people directly. Public participation also enhances project ownership by the people thus facilitating flawless implementation of various government policy choices with little or no community/ stakeholder opposition.

The County Government of Kisumu was one of the earliest County Governments to enact

a public participation law, the Kisumu County Public Participation Act, in 2014. The Act provided for a streamlined and coordinated approach to public participation through the establishment of the directorate of public participation. A part from the existence of the directorate of public participation, the County Government of Kisumu has a network of governance administrative officers spread from the director governance, to sub county officers, ward officers and village administrators -who, pursuant to Sections 50, 51 and 52 of the County Governments Act, equally facilitate and supervise government operations and activities in their jurisdictions including but not limited to public participation activities through the village councils. It must be noted that very few counties have actualized devolution upto the extent of village councils. Kisumu County Assembly successfully legislated and passed the Kisumu County Administration Village Units Act in 2019 setting pace for the



A section of Kisumu residents during a recent public participation event held at Mama Grace Onyango Social Centre

subsequent establishment of village units, recruitment of village administrators and the appointment of village councils pursuant to Section 53 of the County Governments Act. Additionally, pursuant to Section 137 of PFM Act 2012, the Kisumu County Budget and Economic Forum is equally actively involved in county budget and economic policy consultations in the interest of public participation.

Apart from the two landmark legislations by the County Assembly that are facilitative of public participation; the Kisumu County Public Participation Act 2014 and the Kisumu County Administrative Village Units Act 2019; the County Assembly of Kisumu has equally been on the forefront in facilitating public participation through ward based structures in all her 35 wards. Under, the leadership of individual MCAs and their ward managers, each ward mobilizes participation of community members in public participation forums organized per ward. The office of the Clerk, through competent team of officers and committee clerks, have also been instrumental in logistical arrangements, technical input and sensitization of the public on the various public policy issues, including bills, development plans (CIDP, ADP), budget, amongst others. Moreover, the County Assembly ensures compilation of reports from all public participation exercises for purposes of adequately informing the final policy outputs, and for parliamentary memory & references.

Despite, the elaborate public participation structures in the County, there is still room for improvements. It is recommended that the County Assembly should further operationalize the public participation Act through internal policy guidelines which shall enhance the public participation structures within the Assembly by designating specific office(s) to coordinate, consolidate, document and provide, to respective legislative committees, timely and relevant public participation reports on all public policy documents presented for public participation.

The Assembly could also enhance the use of technology in facilitating public participation in order to enhance timely access to, review and submission of feedback or memoranda on any public policy documents presented for public discussions. This can address the challenges of inadequate copies of the policy documents given to the people (limited access), limited time for public participation and low quality input from the public.



Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson guiding participants during a recent public participation exercise at Grace Onyango Social Center

The Concept of Public Participation/Engagement in the Assembly.

- *The Assembly Broadcasting Unit that livestreams proceedings during the Plenary ensures that residents can participate and give real-time feedback on debates in the assembly.*
- *Bunge Mashinani is a new concept the Assembly has initiated to ensure wananchi are part and parcel of the happenings in the Assembly.*

Capital projects progress and achievements

| Program | Project | Status |
|--|---|--|
| | Acquisition of land within the city for construction of ultramodern Assembly and Speaker's official residence | Completed |
| Development of assembly Infrastructure | Construction of ultramodern Assembly building | Groundbreaking ceremony conducted; construction set to begin |
| | Construction of Speaker's official residence | 90% Completed; finishing work ongoing |
| | Renovation of existing Assembly infrastructure | Completed; Chambers, committee rooms, offices, walk-ways - 100% renovated |
| Strengthen staff establishment and capacity | Recruitment and training of additional staff | Completed; 18 additional staff recruited and inducted into the County Assembly services |
| | Promotions | Completed; Staff promoted based on Human Resource Advisory Committee report |
| | Staff trainings | Completed; Inductions, specialized trainings, benchmarking and professional conferences conducted. |
| | | |
| Strengthen the overall objectives of the Assembly | Development and launch of the County Assembly Strategic Plan 2020-2024 | Completed; Strategic Plan unveiled; and implementation begun |

CAPITAL PROJECTS IN PICTURES



The Speaker's Official Residence under construction



Sideview of the renovated Administration offices



Artistic impression of the Ultramodern Assembly



Renovated Assembly Chambers



Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o presides over the unveiling of the Assembly's Strategic Plan (2020 - 2024) in September, 2021

SURVEY RANKS ASSEMBLY CLERK THE BEST IN NYANZA REGION

Kisumu County Assembly Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok has been ranked the best Assembly Clerk in Nyanza region.

A recent survey of the 4th County Gala Awards placed Mr. Ojuok top of his colleagues in the region in terms of service delivery in line with the Assembly's mandate of legislation, representation and oversight.

Nyanza region has six County Assemblies comprising Siaya, Nyamira, Migori, Kisii, Kisumu and Homa Bay.

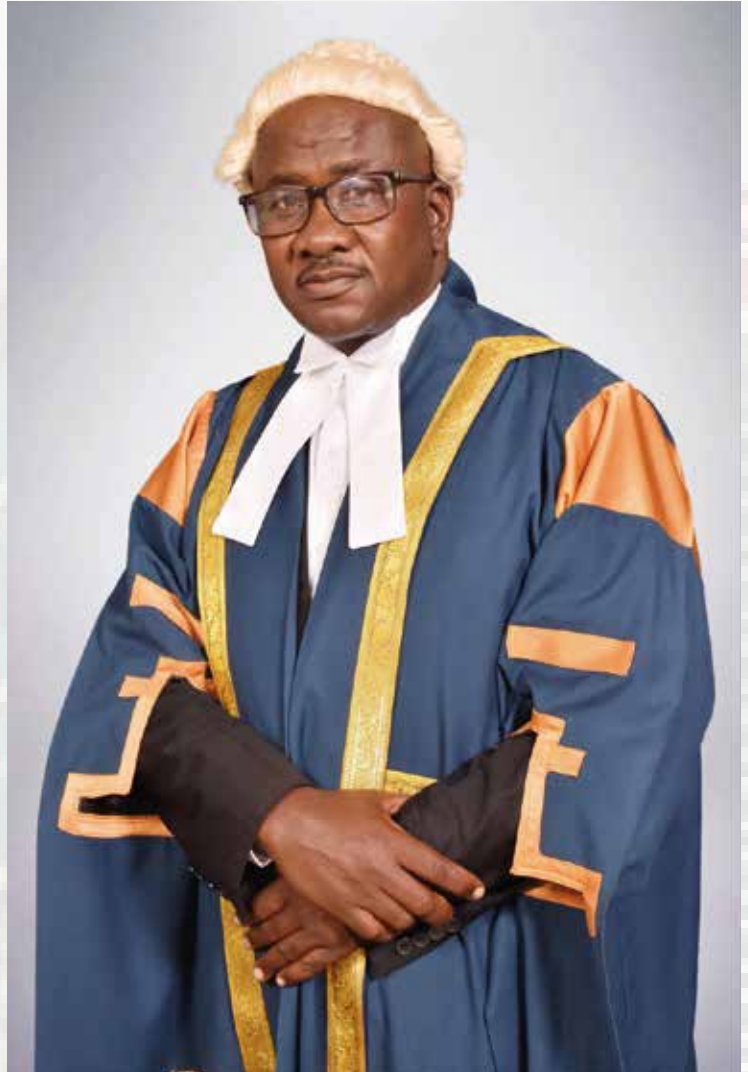
The Clerk is set to be feted at the prestigious Sarova Whitsands Beach Hotel - Mombasa in early March. He will be feted with a certificate, trophy and gold plated wall plaque to be given by the County Gala Awards in recognition of his outstanding performance and achievements in leadership.

Mr. Owen attributed the success to the transformation the Assembly has had in terms of development and the peace the institution currently enjoys - which has assisted in administration and enabled the Assembly to effectively perform its key functions.

"This achievement is not mine alone but for all Members and Staff who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that the Assembly delivers on its mandate effectively and efficiently," he said.

Congratulating the Clerk, Assembly Speaker Hon. Elisha Oraro said the achievement was a reflection of the milestones made by the Assembly.

"We are happy of the achievement. It indicates we have a working Assembly, that is effective and efficient," said the Speaker during his communication at the Plenary.



Mr. Owen Ojuok - Clerk of the Assembly

"This achievement is not mine alone but for all Members and Staff who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that the Assembly delivers on its mandate effectively and efficiently,"

Mr. Owen Ojuok, Assembly Clerk

KNOW YOUR MCA

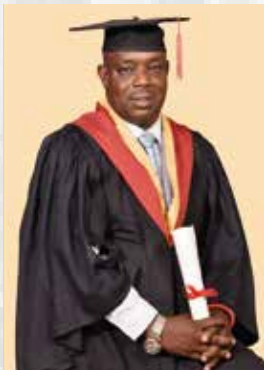
Focus on Kolwa East Ward Representative Hon. Steve Owiti

'Telomaonge Akwede' translated as 'leadership for all' is his slogan as he pushes to have equitable distribution of resources in all parts of Kolwa East Ward and Kisumu County in general. Hailed by many as a robust legislator, Kolwa East Ward Representative Hon Steve Ouma Owiti who also doubles up as Chair of Budget and Appropriations Committee has undoubtedly carved a niche for himself in matters political leadership.

An alumnus of Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA University) and San Juan de la Cruz University in Costa Rica, Southern America. Hon Steve Owiti was born on 28 May 1973 in Kisumu East Sub county, Kolwa Location, Buoye Sub-location.

He began his elementary education at Buoye primary school and later Rang'ala Boys High school. Thereafter, his passion for figures would see him join KCA where he graduated with a distinction.

His background in governance has immensely enriched his contributions on the Floor of the House, making him one of the most active legislators in the Second Assembly.

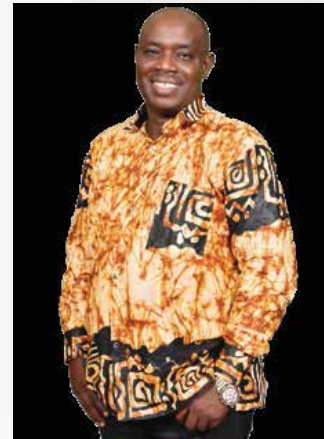


Hon Owiti during his graduation ceremony

He served the defunct Local Authority with adroit diplomacy and sheer dedication in stations such as Kisumu Municipality, Ugunja Town Council and Migori Council before resigning on 3rd September 2012 to join politics. He was however unsuccessful in his first attempt but would later clinch the seat on an Orange Democratic Party (ODM) ticket in 2017.

At the Assembly, Hon Owiti chairs the Budget and Appropriations Committee. He is also the Deputy Chair of Liaison Committee that brings together chairpersons of all House committees.

He sponsored a Motion that saw bursary allocation increased from Kshs. 2 million to Kshs. 4 million per Ward. He has also presented robust Reports on all money bills in addition to numerous Financial Reports before the Assembly.



Hon Owiti says he has earned the moniker Chair of impeachment because of his commitment to matters oversight.

Among the projects implemented during his first term include construction of Obino dispensary, construction of Kakoth bridge, construction of Chiga health centre maternity wing, construction of Angola market, construction of various ECDE centres, desiltation of various rivers and streams to control floods.

Hon. Owiti is vying for a second term to complete the projects he had initiated and mentor young and upcoming leaders.



GROUND-BREAKING OF ULTRA MODERN ASSEMBLY IN PICTURES



Speaker Hon. Elisha and Deputy Governor Dr. Mathews Owili unveil a plaque to commemorate the groundbreaking ceremony



Assembly Clerk Mr. Owen Ojuok planting a tree to mark the groundbreaking ceremony



Market Milimani MCA Hon. Seth Kanga and his counterpart Hon. Aslam Khan pose for a photo at the groundbreaking event



Assembly Members and Staff witness the groundbreaking ceremony



A section of Assembly Board members speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony



A section of staff enjoying the moment

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Note: More details on House Reporting can be accessed from the Hansard available on Kisumu County Assemble Website 48 Hours after every Sitting



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