



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU 3 <sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY	
DATE: 27/03/2025	Time: 2:30pm Day: Wednesday
TABLED BY:	Hon. James Kone
CLERK AT THE TABLE	A. Obonyo

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU**

**THIRD ASSEMBLY – SECOND SESSION**

**CHILDREN, CULTURE, GENDER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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**CHILDREN, CULTURE, GENDER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT ON KISUMU COUNTY CULTURE AND ART POLICY**

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**PRESENTED BY:**

**HON. NANCY MATARA OCHIENG**

**CHAIRPERSON**

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## **PREAMBLE**

### **Background**

#### **Hon. Speaker**

Pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly of Kisumu Standing Order No 193(5) (g) which mandates Sectoral committees to make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible including recommendation of proposed legislation, the sectoral committee on Children, Culture, Gender and Community Services prepared a report on the County government of Kisumu Culture and Arts policy.

The committee in its sitting noted that since the House was to proceed for Recess effective 2nd December, 2022 to 14th February, 2023 and there be pending tasks that had not been concluded, it was important that the Committee make a formal request to the Office of the Speaker to authorize the committee to convene sittings during Recess.

The Office of the Speaker consented to the request and Committee was instructed to prepare a report with clear objectives for the intended activities which was a report on Kisumu county Culture and Arts policy. The Committee obliged and was approved by the Hon. Speaker, thereby the exercise was conducted on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 within Nakuru County.

## **LEGAL FRAME WORK AND COMMITTEE MANDATE**

### **Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members,**

The Committee bestows its mandate pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 193(5), the Committee on Children, Culture, Gender and Community Services shall among other supervisory duties:-

- (a) Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned department.
- (b) Study the programme and policy objectives of the department and the effectiveness of the implementation.
- (c) Study and review all County legislation referred to it.
- (d) Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the department as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives.
- (e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned department 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 Appointment).
- (g) Make reports and recommendation to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

Further, pursuant to the provision of the Standing Order 193(Second schedule), the Committee is mandated to inquire into, investigate and report on;

*All matters relating to cultural activities, public entertainment, public amenities, including betting, casinos and other forms of gambling, racing, liquor licensing, cinemas, video shows and hiring, libraries, museums, sports and cultural activities and facilities and county parks, beaches and recreation facilities; children's welfare; and control of drugs and pornography.*

### **1.3 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The following are the members of the Committee on Children, Culture, Gender and Community Services as currently constituted in line with the provisions of Standing Order No 193 (6)

*Table1:Committee Members*

No.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1.	Hon. Nancy Matara Ochieng	Chairperson
2.	Hon. James Were	ViceChairperson
3.	Hon. Mildred Ajumbo	Member
4.	Hon. Boitone Ratib	Member
5.	Hon. Jenipher Obonyo	Member
6.	Hon. Vincent Obuya	Member
7.	Hon. Zacharia Okoyo	Member
8.	Hon. Maurice Ngeta	Member
9.	Hon. Eunice Alandoh	Member
10.	Hon. Benny Oiko Pete	Member
11.	Hon. Samuel Dedeh	Member
12.	Hon. Regina Kizito	Member
13.	Hon. Mariam Abeid	Member
14.	Hon. Reuben Rakwach	Member
15.	Hon. Joachim Oketch	Member

Source: Selection CommitteeReport,Oct.2022

**Secretariat**

Annebelle Wabuge

- Senior Clerk Assistant

Naomi Orutwa

- Clerk Assistant.

Judith Akoth

- Sergeant-at-Arms

Valarie Achieng

- Hansard

**Acknowledgement**

**Hon. Speaker**

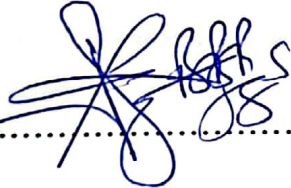
Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Children, Culture and Community services members, I wish to extend our gratitude of the invaluable support accorded to the committee by the office of the Speaker and Clerk of the County Assembly towards ensuring that the committee mandate is achieved within the time allocated.

I wish to thank the members for their commitment and participation during the whole process and wish to assure them that the observations and recommendations therein were unanimously agreed upon by all members as objectively as possible.

On behalf of the sectoral committee on Children, Culture, Gender and Community Services pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Order No 163 (c) and 182, it is now my pleasant duty and privilege to submit this report on Culture and Arts Policy to this House for consideration and approval.

Thank you

SIGNED.....



**HON.NANCY MATARA OCHIENG,**

**CHAIRPERSON CHILDREN, CULTURE, GENDER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **KISUMU CULTURE AND ARTS POLICY**

**Hon. Speaker,**

The constitution of Kenya 2010 recognizes culture as the foundation of the nation and cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people. It consequently commits the Government to promote all forms of cultural expressions and protect the intellectual morality rights of the people herein, the people of Kisumu County.

Culture and arts in this Policy context includes the performing and visual arts, crafts and fashion/design, community art, media, digital, film, television, language, literature, writing, publishing and all forms of creative thinking and expression.

Heritage on the other hand is something inherited from our ancestors and valued enough today to be carried along for future generations. Heritage incorporates both tangible and intangible and presents itself in form of buildings, objects, languages, landscapes, landmarks, customs, and ceremonies among others.

Kisumu County as a dynamic, contemporary and cosmopolitan County that actively appreciates, protects and promotes the values of the Luo Culture demonstrated through cultural heritage sites, libraries, art galleries, museums, sports and events, building, parks and recreational facilities and also the lake. , while it esteems all residents, neighbors and visitors in pursuit of their own values and culture. The county is thereby committed to support cultural diversity and fullest expression and dissemination of culture in all their facets among all their residents and neighbors.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

### **1. TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Hon.Speaker,**

Tangible Cultural Heritage refers to objects, movable and immovable, which men and women use to benefit for their physical environment. Tangible culture is therefore the outcome of design and product development that incorporates our past and adds value to our future. This includes the archeological findings which testify to the past degree of our past civilization, as well as contemporary architecture.

It constitutes of

- i. Visual Arts** which The County Government of Kisumu delves on encouraging public art initiatives on County Government property and cultural centers and also develop a virtual museum to increase public access to the entire county heritage sites and showcase web based exhibits.
- ii. Health and Medicine** that aims to protect traditional healing methods and indigenous knowledge thereby preserving natural resources as a source of traditional medicine. In addition establish regulatory measures and licensing guidelines with the adherence to international standards for herbal medicine and practice of traditional medicine.
- iii. Use of cultural centers** as official outlets of growing, preserving, preparing and serving of inter-ethnic traditional **foods and drinks** as well as promoting the role of traditional Luo diet in enhancing healthy and sustainable dietary patterns in the county.
- iv. Tangible Cultural Heritage** also consists of **Historical Sites, Monuments and Physical Environment** that the County Government of Kisumu undertakes to establish a heritage sites management fund, raise donations and funding from individuals, private and nonprofit sectors and apply funds to develop and promote Kisumu's heritage sites

It also seeks to align official calendar of annual festivals, commemorative cultural events, thematic years and exhibitions with cultural center activities together with allocating appropriate annual funding to conserve and maintain county heritage sites.

## 2. INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Hon. Speaker

Intangible Cultural Heritage Refers to the practices, representations and expressions, knowledge and cultural spaces associated therewith that communities, groups and in some cases individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. It manifests itself through oral tradition, performing arts and practices concerning nature and universe and traditional craftsmanship.

- I. Under the constituent of **Performing Arts**, The County Government of Kisumu has a goal to ensure that appropriate administrative and regulatory framework is put in place to ensure equity and cohesion in the use and accessibility of performing arts center both local, provincial and at the national level. It also seeks to develop some open public parks into cultural parks where regular culture and arts activities such as performances exhibitions and games will be continuously held. Together with decentralizing cultural and arts events to all parts of the county to increase participation by all residents.
- II. The County Government of Kisumu also intends to use community cultural centers to revive, preserve and promote traditional forms of sport, **games recreation** and entertainment.
- III. The County Government of Kisumu pursues the use of community cultural centers to promote and train clients in **local languages** including non-verbal, sign and text languages.
- IV. On **Culture talent identification and development**, the County Government of Kisumu implores to Set up and implement Kisumu cultural industries career forum for youth in partnership with local universities, colleges and training institutions. In addition, develop and implement a privately funded creative county culture and arts revolving loan programs to provide seed funding for new cultural offerings to attract cultural tourists to Kisumu County.

### **3. CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

**Hon.Speaker**

With the globalization of cultural exchanges and server cultural exchanges with the severe international competition accruing from it, the promotion of strong cultural industries has become a strategic challenge for Kisumu County.

In this regard industries such as the publishing industry, Cinema and Audio visual industry, multimedia industry and recorded music industry seeks to encourage activities in their respective reference an enabling environment that contributes to the dissemination and development of Kisumu County Cultural industries and that of the overall economic development of Kisumu County.

### **4. THE FAMILY**

**Hon. Speaker**

The family as the smallest unit of society and kinship relationship is faced with the advent of modern culture and have gradually embraced contemporary concepts of family brought about by inter marriages.

Kisumu County Government seeks to provide easy access to families by developing cultural activities at local level i.e. libraries, facilities for performing visual arts for the benefit of small rural communities.

### **5. PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY RIGHTS**

**Hon.Speaker**

The people of Kisumu have unique cultural innovations that result from long term interactions with the environment. These cultural expressions are threatened with extinction by internal and external influences leading to the need to adopt interventions geared towards promotion and protection of Kisumu County Culture. The County Government of Kisumu pursues to ensure protection of the rights of all people and particularly promote the rights as are enshrined in International legal Instruments by either adopting or domesticating them to curb extinction of cultural community rights by internal and external influences.

## **6. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE**

**Hon. Speaker**

Luo traditional knowledge generally means traditional practices and cultural knowledge of plants and animals and their methods of propagation. This includes beliefs, rituals and Community laws, expression of cultural values and knowledge regarding land and ecosystem management. The County Government of Kisumu strives to create a framework for the recognition, understanding, integration and promotion of Luo people's indigenous knowledge, wealth and resources. It also pursues to enact legislations to protect indigenous Luo knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and the holders of such Knowledge against exploitation.

## **7. HEROES AND HEROINES**

**Hon.Speaker**

Persons who fall in this category include individuals who through patriotism, integrity, commitment and vision contributed to the liberation, struggle, prophecy, knowledge, cultural values and practices, arts, sports, and other special achievements of the Luo culture. In their recognition it is in order to celebrate and accolade them both in existence and fallen.

## **8. MEDIA**

**Hon.Speaker**

This constitutes of Cultural information, Print Media and Electronic Media. The County Government of Kisumu seeks to encourage dissemination of positive cultural information about Kisumu County Communities through all media, and undertake further ensure that organizations, individuals and institutions in all forms of media offer Kisumu residents culturally oriented programs which are competitive in terms of relevance and aesthetics.

## **9. EDUCATION**

**Hon. Speaker**

Education is a continuous process in which knowledge, skills and values are passed from one generation to another. It can be formal informal institutionalized or occasioned by various social dynamics within the society. Education should lead to appreciation and strengthening of one's cultural identity as well as other diverse cultures.

The county Government of Kisumu seeks to encourage and support holistic education process to enable learners develop their personality and identity thereby enhancing their broad prospects.

#### **10.CULTURAL TOURISM**

**Hon. Speaker**

Cultural tourism being a vital foreign exchange earner and a major employment sector falls short on negative values that may come with tourism and globalization. This in turn leads to distortion of aesthetic and ethical values. The County government of Kisumu seeks to encourage tourism activities that contribute to increasing public awareness and support for the protection and conservation of Kisumu Cultural heritage whereas ensuring sufficient revenues derived from local tourism activities go towards its management and conservation.

#### **11.CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Hon.Speaker**

A sustainable County Policy on Culture requires highly trained and informed professionals in all sectors in order to ensure its implementation and achievement of its goals. Due to globalization of the cultural markets and the diffusion of their products the training of Kenyan nationals in the field should have an intellectual look. This necessitates the establishment of capacity building programs in all cultural sectors including cultural project management, cultural research and information, cultural administration, regional and international cultural cooperation.

## **COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS**

**Hon. Speaker**

That the committee in its sittings observed that the policy is addressing key issues in the County which includes;

- 1) That the department address gaps in the delivery of arts, heritage and cultural programming and services
- 2) That, the department proposes the establishment of cultural community centers or hubs for development, promotion, preservation and dissemination of culture and substantially serve as Centers of intercultural dialogue for Kisumu residents and its neighbors.
- 3) That the department identifies new opportunities for engagement within the arts, heritage and cultural subsector
- 4) That, the department expand its engagement in the Sports sector and youths to be majorly incorporated.
- 5) That the department map out Kisumu County's cultural identity through creative and cultural expressions.
- 6) That the department expand cultural participation and broaden the impact of arts heritage and culture.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Hon. Speaker**

The committee resolved that legislation be made to address the following

- a) That a bill to be tabled to ensure that an appropriate legal and administrative framework is established to expedite the identification and recognition of Heroes and Heroines.
- b) That there is need to establish strategies that ensures the maximum protection and optimized preservation of indigenous knowledge.
- c) That there is need to adopt interventions modeled towards promotion and protection of community rights as are enshrined in International legal Instruments by either adopting or domesticating them.


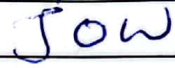
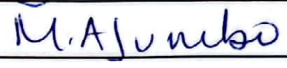

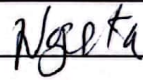
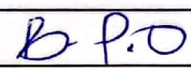


## **CONCLUSION**

**Hon.Speaker**

The Committee would like to implore this House to consider adopting this report on the consideration of the Kisumu County Culture and Arts Policy. May I call upon Hon. ....to second.

## ADOPTION SCHEDULE

We the undersigned do confirm and append our signatures in affirmation that these are the true deliberations of the committee

No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Nancy Matara Ochieng	Chairperson	
2	Hon. James Were	Vice Chairperson	
3	Hon. Mildred Ajumbo	Member	
4	Hon. Boitone Ratib	Member	
5	Hon. Jenipher Obonyo	Member	
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