

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

SPECIAL SITTING

(Convened vide Gazette Notice No. 16118 dated 07th November, 2023)

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – SECOND SESSION

Friday, 01st December, 2023

House met at the Tom Mboya Labour College at 02:00 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Your Excellency the Governor Kisumu County, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen and esteemed guests and fellow colleagues. It is my honour to welcome you to this Special Sitting of the County Assembly of Kisumu as gazetted through Kenya gazette Notice No. 16118 dated 07th November, 2023. Today's purpose for gazetting is to receive the fifth State of the County Address by the Governor of Kisumu County Professor Peter Anyang' Nyongó. I therefore, want to inform you that, today's sitting is within the law because we have ensured that we adhered and followed the required in arranging and organizing such sittings.

Honourable Members and esteemed guests, I wish to extend my warm welcome to the First lady of Kisumu County the Deputy Governor Kisumu County, Professor Khama Rogo. We have team from the Inter-governmental Relations Committee (IGRTC) Linet Mavu, Angeline Hongo, John Kimwela. I equally want to recognize in our midst all the County Executive Committee

Members together will all County employees. I similarly want to recognize the presence of the Orange Democratic Movement leadership, the Fourth Estate, all delegates and all invited guests.

Honourable Members and esteemed guests, today's address by the Governor shall be guided by the provisions of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders No. 22 with specific reference to Orders No. 22 (3) which stipulates as follows:

“That the Governor shall be heard in silence and the Address shall not be followed by any comment or question”

Following the address, the Leader of Majority shall lay the address on the table of the Assembly and give Notice for its Deliberations. Members of the County Assembly shall have not more than four sittings to debate on the same. I have consulted with the Leader of Majority and I have been granted permission and I do grant the same to the Governor the permission to invite his dignitary whom he has informed me that he is on his way who is the Governor of Nandi County to address the Assembly at a desired moment within today's sitting.

Honourable Members and esteemed guests, I consequently want to direct our guests at the gallery to observe silence and the Serjeant-at-Arms will be available to provide any assistance where necessary. Before I conclude, I similarly want to recognize the presence of the Member of Parliament of Kisumu Central Constituency who is actually the host of where we are seated Dr. Oron. I also want to recognise the presence of the Member of Parliament for Nyakach Constituency Honourable Aduma Owuor.

Honourable Members and esteemed guests, I want to remind both the Honourable Members and the guests seated at the public gallery that, when the Governor will be delivering his speech, you can applaud him by thumping your feet down and we would really encourage that you hear the Governor in silence. I eagerly want to hear the address by the Governor and the contribution from our esteemed Members during the subsequent deliberations. Please let us proceed with utmost decorum and respect for the proceedings.

Honourable Members and esteemed guests, it is now my pleasure and honour to welcome the Governor, Kisumu County Professor Peter Anyang Nyongó to make his Fifth State of the County Address. Please welcome Governor!!

(The Speaker invites the Governor to deliver his Fifth State of the County Address)

(During the Speech, The Speaker occupies the seat which the Governor occupies)

The Governor, Kisumu County (Professor Peter Anyang Nyongó): Honorable Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro, The Deputy Governor of Kisumu, Dr. Mathew Owili, Mama Kisumu, H.E Dorothy Nyongó, Chairman of LREB Eminent Persons on Covid Pandemic

Professor Khama Rogo, Honorable Members of the County Assembly, CECMs and County Executive Officials, Invited Guests, Members of the Fourth Estate, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am happy to inform this August House that His Excellency the Governor of Nandi County Sang is delayed but will arrive in the meantime but my other guest Professor Khama Rogo is with us. I am equally happy stand before this distinguished Assembly to deliver my State of the County Address for this year, the year of our Lord 2023.

This Address requires me to give an account to the people of Kisumu how we have delivered our promises on development. It is also a confirmation that I remain a servant of the people of Kisumu County.

I am deeply indebted to the people of Kisumu. You elected me in 2017 and reaffirmed support for my government in the 2022 general elections.

Our collective aspiration to stop walking with the chicken and to start fly with the eagles is getting realized - step by step; day by day, through the plans, innovations and results of our work.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to report that during the period under review, we made various innovations making significant impact in service delivery to the people of Kisumu.

In health services, we partnered with Zipline Ltd in an innovative faster delivery of essential medical requirements such as drugs and blood through drones.

Livestock farmers are also set to benefit from this innovation because perishable products like Semen for our livestock would be delivered to their doorsteps in any part of the county within minutes hence saving the expiration of such semen products.

Kisumu was one of the first Counties to establish an Emergency Call Center open to the public on a 24-hour basis. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) based at Kisumu County Hospital has enabled the County to contain the spread of communicable diseases and reach out to communities under distress. I must acknowledge that it was during the Covid-19 pandemic that the necessity of establishing this Quick Response was found to be very vital and I thank Professor Khama and his team of advisors that helped us achieve this fete.

To increase our Own Source Revenue, we started to revamp the technology for automation and integration of the revenue management system last year, culminating in the full installation and roll-out of a new system this financial year.

Our innovations in infrastructural development, namely the Roads Maintenance Teams and the Machine-Based Programme continue to produce good results in opening and maintaining roads in the rural areas where infrastructural development is needed most.

Mr. Speaker, let me now go through the key achievements of our government in each sector in the last year which is the year just ending.

First, The Ministry of Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation

Hon. Members, we have made good progress in improving our curative, preventive, public, and family health by training, expanding, and equipping a formidable team of community health workers who supplement our large team of healthcare professionals at various levels. Indeed, the National government has recently followed our footsteps and established what they CALL THE Health Operators but, we would rather call them the Health Worker because they have really worked for the County with diligence.

Our health indicators have systematically improved as reported by the Annual *Demographic and Health Surveys*. We continue to invest in training, research, data collection, hospital modernization, and service delivery. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, but we are not there yet and a lot still needs to be done.

Notably, we have recorded a reduction in maternal mortality by about 30% from 495 to 343 per 100,000 live births and child mortality from 54 to 39 per 100,000 live births with the under 5 mortality reducing from 79 to 63 deaths per 1,000 live births as recorded in the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, on access to services, the number of women delivering in health facilities increased from 69% to 94%, and this is because of the completion and operationalization of various health facilities in the county and investment in community health services. I must thank their partners who are the men who have realized the importance of having early proper health for their partners when they are expectant. Thank you very much fellow men.

We have operationalized 280 Community Health Units, working closely with 151 Public Health Facilities and 5 Faith-Based health facilities across the County.

The number of visits made by CHWs to family households increased from 187,977 in 2022 to 206,420 in 2023.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our Electronic Community Health Information Systems (e-CHIS) has been a trailblazer. It has increased efficiency and improved the quality and consistency of patient care.

Further, the Department of Health's commitment to efficient data management is evident in the successful transfer and storage of 100% of community health data to our centralized database.

Mr. Speaker Sir, through strategic collaboration with partners, our commitment to completely digitalize the Community Health System continues. Notably, 84% of Community Health Workers (CHWs) are now digitally empowered.

I am proud to report that the National Government has picked lessons from our successful UHC Pilot Implementation and the program is now being rolled out countrywide.

Our Marwa Solidarity Health Insurance program is a statement of success. Many counties have come for benchmarking here for the design and implementation of their own Social Health Insurance Programs.

Launched in March 2021, the scheme currently covers a population of 5409 principal indigent households and approximately 21,636 dependents, including spouses and children across all our sub-counties.

Health care facilities have so far recorded 38,950 clinic visits by the indigent population (1551 inpatients, 37,400 outpatient visits) since 2020.

Mr. Speaker Sir, implementing Marwa has led to a steady increase in the Claims Reimbursements by our health facilities.

In the financial year 2021/22, the facilities made claims worth KES 175Million. This amount increased to KES. 279Million in the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

To achieve 70% Health Insurance Penetration in Kisumu and effectively finance the healthcare system, the program is working towards gaining traction in the informal sector targeting organized groups and self-paying members for example Market vendors, Jua-kali traders, and Cooperative SACCOS among others.

Mr. Speaker, as we can all recall, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our government established the Emergency Operation Centre at the Kisumu County Referral Hospital to act as a center for coordination of all medical and public health emergencies, humanitarian responses, and all public inquiries. This facility continues to play a significant role in our health system and continues to be our command center for all emergencies.

In the last financial year alone, the call center received 6109 calls and coordinated 2270 medical referrals. One disease outbreak was managed and Four (4) diseases namely Dengue Fever, Scabies, Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Rabies with the potential of causing outbreaks were detected and appropriate action is taken.

One major success for the center was in the coordination of a cholera outbreak in record time in April 2023.

The EOC has continued to coordinate emergency services during major national celebrations, and international, social, and religious events including the *Africities Summit*, the national Madaraka Day, among others.

Allow me at this point to remind you of our toll-free line and please take the number– 0800 720 575 that is available for the citizens of Kisumu County to call and report occurrences and make inquiries on a wide range of health issues.

Honourable Members, last year, we piloted the use of Zipline Logistics Company for the warehousing, storage of medical supplies, and the use of drone technology to deliver emergency lifesaving medical supplies and replenishment of stock-outs in health facilities.

Since its launch in February 2023, a total of 1,382 deliveries have been made in the 24 facilities where flight authorization has been obtained in the County. Of these deliveries, 99 (7.1%) were emergency medications like rabies vaccine for the treatment of dog bites, injections for the management of hypertension, and adrenaline injections, among others.

Mr. Speaker Sir, all the interventions in the health docket require functional structures to take place.

Among the key projects undertaken in the year include the completion of five health facilities namely Ombaka Health Centre in Nyando Sub-county, Aluoch Adhier Health Centre in – Nyando Subcounty, Michura Health Centre in Nyakach Sub-county, Malela Dispensary in Seme Sub-county and Nyadado Dispensary - Seme Sub-county.

This year, the government intends to begin the process of rehabilitating one facility per ward (thirty-five facilities) to be our mini hubs at a cost of 150 million Kenya shillings.

We have also started the construction of Ratta Mother and Child Hospital in Seme Sub-County in collaboration with the Safaricom Foundation.

In addition Honourable Members, we are working on the completion of the JOOTRH Cancer Centre in partnership with a Russian company on a joint venture, and the Sickle Cell Management Centre in collaboration with Fortis Hospital from New Delhi, India.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would be doing a disservice to the health docket if I did not elaborate on our other ambitious programs at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH).

Over the last two years, JOOTRH made great strides in various endeavours just to mention a few. The facility served 305,089 clients, these included 1791 major operations and 868 minor surgeries mainly for Neurosurgeries, Cleft palate/lip repair and oncology surgeries just to mention but a few.

Ladies and Gentlemen, due to the good relationship we have with our partners, the facility recently widened its scope in the management of cancer and other conditions by bringing on board a maxillofacial specialist and GYNA Oncologist. The two are expected to deliver quality and highly specialized services to patients who would otherwise travel many miles for treatment.

Our women diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer, Endometrial or Uterine Cancer, and gestation trophoblastic disease will now experience improved services.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to confirm that I am a beneficiary of our highly specialized medical camps at JOOTRH. I underwent a very delicate surgery on my back at the facility and I can assure you that indeed JOOTRH is a facility of international standards with very competent and highly professional doctors and nurses. But this does not mean that we have closed all the gaps in our health delivery system.

Honourable Members, just recently, the JOOTRH acquired the Gasless Laparoscopic Infrastructure that ensures less pain during surgery. Please remember that term when undergoing surgery the Gasless Laparoscopic. This technology also ensures that the surgery is carried out without opening up the patient's body. Just imagine that, you just lie there and surgery is done without opening the body. Good!!

Another new acquisition is the new MRI equipment, a first of its kind in the region, and a special donation from the Bill Gates Foundation. The list of new innovative services is long and we don't need to tell it all today.

The setting up of the hematology center will boost the functions of an infection control center run by a group of about 25 people, strictly adhering to infection control guidelines, as infections should be kept at bay for those who have gone through transplants. This intervention will also cover the treatment of sickle cell disease. Kisumu has one of the highest burdens of sickle cell with one out of every five children affected with the blood disorder.

Other new infrastructural developments at the facility include; Kwee Funeral Home which although vandalized during the demonstrations and has now been restored to its former self will be offering executive morgue services in the western region and the Ultra-Modern Kitchen whose construction is at 80% completion. So, make sure that, when you final complete your journey in this earth, you leave a will that I want to be taken to the Kwee Funeral Home in Jaramogi. You will lie there in peace until you get to heaven or to hell whichever is the case.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to pause there and give you an opportunity show you short documentary while I also take a break because this is a marathon speech. Thank you very much

Documentary please!!

(Documentary show-casing Milestone achieved during the Governors First and Second term in Office)

Mr. Speaker has kindly allowed me to take off my coat which I believe is not procedural but, it is hot over here. I hope you enjoyed the documentary. Now, let me move from Health to;

Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries

Mr. Speaker Sir, Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and continues to play a critical role in ensuring that our County is Food Secure. Our government through partnerships recorded remarkable achievements in boosting food production in the County.

To improve the area under irrigation, increase agricultural productivity, and build resilience to climate change risks, through a partnership with the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP), we trained and supported 255 farmer groups across three value chains of cassava, chicken, and sorghum in six (6) wards in the County.

In building resilience to climate change risks in the targeted smallholder farming areas, we put up Ten (10) water pans and boreholes serving more than 500 households. These include; Kodikre Water Pan and auxiliary structures in Central Nyakach Ward in Nyakach Sub-County, Holo Orucho Water Pan and auxiliary structures in East Kano/Wawidhi Ward, Nyando Sub County, Gem Rae Irrigation Scheme and Kaloo Borehole, both in Nyakach. Others include the Siany CC3 Irrigation Project in Kabonyo Kanyagwal, Awach Kano Irrigation Project in Nyando, Kaloka Borehole and Banda Works in East Seme, and Chiga Irrigation Project in Kolwa East, Kisumu East Sub County among others.

Hon. Members, to help our farmers make informed decisions on weather patterns and planting cycles, our government has so far registered 22, 763 farmers with the Department's digitization program. These farmers are receiving agro-weather information through their mobile phones to help them make informed decisions.

In a bid to scale up existing interventions around productivity, our government is working closely with the National Government's National Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) to increase market participation and value addition for targeted farmers in select value chains in project areas.

My administration has prioritized Five (5) value chains including as you saw in the documentary; Chicken, Dairy, Tomatoes, Cotton, and Rice Value Chains that have been validated at the National level.

Additionally, the National Government has hired 45 supervisors at different levels and 600 Enumerators to help in the Farmer Profiling Exercise in Kisumu County ahead of the NAVCDP program commencement.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we continue to make significant strides toward enhancing rice productivity and reducing milling costs for our farmers in the Rice sub-sector.

We have installed a new rice mill in Ahero that awaits commissioning to begin operations. We believe that this project will enhance rice cultivation by 500 Hectares.

In addition, the expansion of areas of rice irrigation and mapping of more schemes such as Southwest Kano irrigation schemes has improved food and nutrition security within the project area. Enhanced extension services to rice farmers have also led to improved productivity and household incomes.

Under Fisheries, my administration has achieved several milestones including the distribution of 87,400kgs of fish feeds to 582 farmers thereby contributing directly to an overall projected fish production increase of 125 Metric Tons by December 2023.

There was also direct assistance to 7,752 fisher folks who were supported with 282 pond liners to address seepage challenges, and, 587 predator kits to ensure production is not impaired.

Additionally, 459 farmers and 4 public primary schools have also been supported with 463,300 fingerlings each receiving 1,000 pieces.

We also provided fish fingerlings and fish feed worth KES 3 Million to fishermen who lost fish during the massive death of fish in cages at Ogal Beach. I am sure that some of you were there when we were handing them these monies.

On youth empowerment through aquaculture, 38 youth entrepreneurs were trained in fish entrepreneurship and their direct contribution is projected to inject an additional KES 11 Million into the sector by the end of this year 2023.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we are aware that local farmers still face challenges of access to capital and most importantly, high-quality feed. To bridge this gap, we have partnered with Aquarech. Akwarech or Aquarech you can choose whichever you want. To bridge this gap, we have partnered with Aquarech a Kisumu based Start-up Company to improve small-scale farmer economics, and promote the overall growth of the aquaculture industry. This is initiated by somebody who is an indigenous Kisumu resident.

Aquarech is working to streamline the production behind fish farming with a mobile app platform that allows manufacturers, farmers, and buyers to trade, buy, and sell quality fish-feed, as well as learn best aquaculture practices and how to improve their incomes. As you are all aware that, at the moment we are all dependant on importing fish feed mainly from Uganda. And this becomes very expensive to farmers. We have actually realized that we can develop fish feed here especially by using the rice products and Aquarech is coordinating this data and communicating to farmers.

Founded by James Odede – a member of our Kisumu Social and Economic Council and I am sure that James is here. Yes he is over there and Mrs. Dave Okech, Aquarech has mobilized 1.7 million US dollars (About 60 million Kenya Shillings) from the international financial markets to support small scale farmers by providing quality feed and climate smart precision fish feeding

techniques, market access, technical training and financial access, including a 90-day credit period to pay for feed. Mr. Speaker Sir, you will realize that the Kisumu Social and Economic Council including my friend Mr. Peter Odoyo seated there who is a member are very useful to the County because in the Council, there are members with entrepreneurial contacts globally and some good local knowledge of Kisumu County economy.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in the Dairy and Livestock sub-sectors, we focused on the improvement of milk production, household incomes, nutrition, and food security in the county.

We have so far distributed 515 calf dairy cows to 500 farmers, in addition to 706 dairy and Galla Goats resulting into a 10% increase in annual milk production in the past two years. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to encourage our farmers that when they get these improved breeds, please encourage them not to sell them even when that are facing school fees difficulties because it is very difficult to acquire such animals which improve you breeds.

Through the commercialization of poultry production, we distributed 49,119 day-old chicks to farmer groups comprising women and youth leading to increased household income and improved food and nutrients in the last two years.

We have in addition trained seven thousand farmers on best practices to improve productivity in the livestock sector.

Now, let me go to the Sector of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

Mr. Speaker Sir, five years ago, Got Puth village in Kisumu West Sub County was a common feature in the media. The news was that local villagers lost their loved ones to crocodiles as they walked to Lake Victoria to fetch water. Their sufferings finally came to an end this year after we completed and commissioned a Water project there that was started in the 2022-2023 Financial year. The Got Puth Water project which consists of a solar-powered borehole, complete with storage tanks currently serves over 1000 residents. There women are now safe from the crocodiles.

Our focus has been on developing new water infrastructure, rehabilitating and augmenting existing viable water supplies, networking partnerships, and collaborations for up-scaled safe water service provision.

A total of 52 water projects were constructed across the county while 14 non-functional water facilities were rehabilitated since 2021.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in a bid to combat the effects of Climate Change and ensure sustainable management of water facilities, we embarked on Solarization of all our water facilities.

Ten boreholes that were either pumped manually or installed with electrically driven pumps which you all know are very costly under the KPLC rates were upgraded and equipped with solar-driven pumps which have become more manageable currently.

We also commissioned the Kanyipola Water project in Nyando Sub County. The project is equipped with a solar hybrid pump with a 10,000 litres capacity water tank and is expected to transform the lives of over 1500 residents in the area.

The Kibigori Water project in Muhoroni Sub County will on the other hand transform the lives of 3500 residents within the Kibigori Junction market and its environs while the Kuoyo Kowe project in Seme Sub County will save the local villagers from trekking long distances in search of water. It will also improve services at Kuoyo Kowe Dispensary bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 1,500.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with support from partners, we have managed to increase access to safe water to reach approximately 21,000 residents through the development of 27 new water facilities and the rehabilitation of 14 water facilities.

Some of the projects include St. Martin Deporres – Nyabondo Water Project supported by Living Water Services Center in Nyakach Sub County and Kochogo Water Project supported by Habitat for Humanity (HFH).

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, our forest cover stands at a dismal two percent but I don't believe that figure by the way but let me leave it to the experts. As a way of intensifying our efforts in changing the tides and combating Climate Change, and in line with the National Government's agenda of planting 15 billion trees by 2032 to reduce carbon emissions, my administration this year planted over 200,000 seedlings in institutions and public places in an effort to green Kisumu. I believe that this data has not been captured at the National Level hence it remains at 2% but I believe that with the efforts that we have made, it should be recognized when compiling the national data.

We commend our 'Greening Champions' comprising various corporate organizations. Key players in the county tree planting initiative include the Aga Khan Hospital-Kisumu, Ciala Resort, Equity Bank, Kenya Forest Service, Kajulu Forest Committee, First Community Bank, Selela Resort, Inuka hospital and so on.

Others are Tayiba Hospital, VSO Kenya, KURA, Le Pearl hotel, KEMFRI, Standard Chartered Bank, Undugu Society, United Mitumba Kibuye, KENHA, County Commissioner's office, Bandani Community, African Air Rescue and the University of Nairobi not to forget to mention the Members of this County Assembly who have who have mobilized your various units to join in this tree planting exercise and I am sure that by the end of next year, when the national data is collected Kisumu will have a higher percentage in terms of forest cover than we have now.

My government encourages everyone to plant trees and nurture them to maturity ‘Miti Ni Uhai’.

To deal with the perennial flooding in parts of the County, we desilted well over 50 kilometers of waterways. Notable waterways desilted during this period included Ngere Stream (2021/2022), Oroba Stream (2021/2022), Nyakoko Stream (2021/2022), Apuche waterway, Lie Lang’o Stream, and Usoma Canal amongst others.

Mr. Speaker, the infamous Kachok dumpsite is no longer an environmental eyesore as it was the first victim of our ambition in 2018. A thriving children’s park and an arboretum, named after our famous baby Pendo, killed by police during the 2017 post-election violence has given the former dumpsite a new identity.

We have directed that garbage generated from Kisumu City and environs be ferried to Kasese in Ombeyi Ward where we are establishing a waste-to-energy plant.

The *M-taka App* launched during the 2023 World Environment Day stands as one of the County's most innovative and transformative initiatives, revolutionizing waste management and recycling practices through its tech-integrated approach for a sustainable and circular economy.

M-taka App leverages technology and social incentives to create a positive impact on the environment, society, and the economy.

The project has engaged over 2500 community members and has been implemented in three schools with more than 200 waste agents and champions empowered.

Now, let me move to Education, Technical Training, Innovations, and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,” to quote former South African President, Nelson Mandela, the African icon.

In Kisumu County, we have built a strong foundation in education through Early Childhood education, which is a devolved function, besides the management of Technical and Vocational colleges.

Kisumu County has 686 ECDE centers, of which 629 are anchored in primary schools and 57 are stand-alone public ECD centers. The public ECD centers have a total enrolment of 50,724 children of whom 22,180 are girls and 28,544 are boys.

To ensure the retention of children in ECDE centers, the County Government started a feeding program, which has been a huge success.

The budgetary allocation for the feeding program in the financial year 2022/2023 was KES 16.9 Million.

To ensure increased enrollment at the ECD with infrastructure, we constructed more classrooms and toilets.

In the financial year 2022/2023, Twelve (12) new classes were constructed to completion whereas 72 others are currently undergoing construction.

To build the capacity of the newly recruited teachers for the young learners, in the financial year 2022/2023, the County Government in collaboration with our partners trained a total of 1,141 teachers from all the Sub-Counties.

In addition, to ensure quality education at our ECDE centers, the County Government allocated KES.20 Million in the FY 2022/2023 for the purchase of learning materials comprising textbooks, exercise books, pencils, and erasers. This intervention is aimed at creating an impact that results in quality education, high completion rate and 100% transition to Grade One.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, in the Financial year 2023/2024, my government will offer scholarships to 1400 students in Secondary Schools and bursaries to 29,966 beneficiaries in Secondary Schools, Vocational Training Centers, Colleges, and Universities drawn from the 35 civic wards in the County.

In the last financial year, we spent KES 205 Million on bursaries and scholarships for needy children in all 35 wards. This high allocation to scholarships and bursaries has been retained every year since we took office in 2017.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, let me go now VTCs;

Kisumu has also been on the fast lane in Technical Education and Vocational Training.

Two of our VTCs- Akado in Kisumu East and Ahero in Nyando Sub-counties have won accolades from the Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA) whose officials recently visited our county. Thank you very much the Managers of Akado in Kisumu East and Ahero in Nyando for those accolades.

Akado is one of the few VTCs in the country that has innovatively created a breastfeeding room to allow Teen mothers to attend classes. As they attend lessons, their babies are looked after by caregivers. They then get to breastfeed the babies during break and lunch hours ensuring that the babies get the best of nutritional uptake required for growth at this age. This has increased the student population and given new hope to teen mothers. Other VTCs with such facilities are Rotary, Katito, and Nyang'oma.

At Ahero, the VTC students make clothes including school and corporate uniforms which they sell to the Public. They also have a flourishing vegetable garden that helps to reduce the college

food budget.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in the past two financial years, we completed six (6) construction projects, disbursed capitation grants to VTCs, and had linkages with partners in the sector.

Last year, we completed the construction of Lela VTC in Kobura Ward which is ready for official opening.

Our aim is to establish at least one VTC in each ward within Kisumu County.

For the very first time in our County, we held a joint VTCs graduation ceremony for 2229 VTC graduands across the County on 25th March 2022.

Enrollment in our VTCs has also increased from 4,000 trainees in 2014 to 5,456 currently.

To strengthen gender-responsive practices, we recently established a Gender Mainstreaming Policy and trained 35 Ward Administrators on Gender Mainstreaming in Public Participation. This is in addition to establishing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Committees at the Sub-County level.

Infrastructure, Public Works and Energy

Mr. Speaker Sir, the El-Nino rains predicted by the metrological department are here with us and we are making efforts to ensure the safety of those living in flood prone areas.

We remain committed to the promise and will not relent on our efforts to make roads in Kisumu fully motorable to improve accessibility and service delivery.

In the past two years, we focused on key infrastructure programs which included upgrading key gravel roads to bitumen standards, Machine-Based Program, Roads Maintenance Teams Program, Roads stabilization through Claycrete Technology and contracted roads, and Box Culverts.

One of our flagship projects is the upgrading of 15.2km Namba Kapiyo – Bodi-Asat- Bao Beach Road in Seme Sub County to bitumen standard.

By engaging the National Youth Service (NYS) to construct the road, the County has saved KES 7 million per kilometer. Previously the cost per kilometer of road stood at KES. 35 million compared to the NYS/ County Government contract current cost of KES. 27.7 Million.

Phase One of this project is 85% completed with 5.8km of the road already tarmacked.

In a bid to improve the condition of existing infrastructure in key facilities in the City, we upgraded internal roads within Mamboleo Showground to cabro standard as it houses key facilities such as the Jomo Kenyatta International Sports Complex and the Africities Convention Centre. These two facilities will host key events in the region.

Hon. Members, last year, through the Machine-Based Program, we opened and rehabilitated 200 kilometers of roads within the County.

Honourable Members, my administration also made a decision to shift focus to a 2-pronged strategy of rehabilitation and maintenance of existing networks using the Road Maintenance Teams Strategy.

Under this program, we managed to rehabilitate and maintain 350 Kilometres of roads by undertaking minor works. Two Hundred and Thirty (3230) residents comprising of youth and women have been employed in various categories serving for a period of Nine months.

Mr. Speaker Sir, to help reduce the cost of road maintenance, we opted to using our own equipment. We revived key road construction equipment to support the machine-based road program.

Through the machine-based program, the department is able to save KES. 500,000 per kilometer as compared to contracting. Some of the roads constructed through the Machine Based program include Konono-Arombo in Kabonyo Kanyagwal, Riat-Bur Ayirko in Awasi-Onjiko, Kagengo road in Kolwa East, Laban Ogendo Road in Kolwa East and Magwar-Nyarombo road in East Seme.

The Roads Maintenance program has also ensured early intervention before the roads completely deteriorate thus saving about 20% of the overall road maintenance cost. Through the savings, we managed to construct an additional 50 Kilometers of road last year.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, in striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 which emphasizes universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030, and my government partnered with Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) to hasten electricity connectivity through rural electrification.

We connected 10 villages (grid-marginalized areas) with 12 new transformers awaiting metering to over 1200 households, within the last two years. These villages are- Ngopolewe in Kisumu West, Achego Central, Keyo, Nyamaroka in Muhoroni, Central, Kachan villages in Nyakach, Ayweyo HC, Wawidhi, Lower Kinasia, Gul Awach and Kotieno villages in Nyando, Kadero and Korombo villages in Seme.

In addition, we have successfully fixed 25 high mast floodlights (15 meters) across 14 wards during the year under review.

Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, our dream to provide decent housing for residents of Kisumu is coming to fruition. Through the partnership with LAPFUND, we are constructing 1800 affordable houses of different sizes at Makasembo estate.

Nearly 80% of the units have been taken up off plan. This project has provided local jobs to 1,000 youths, besides local suppliers contracted to deliver construction materials.

In line with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, we elevated Katito, Ahero, Maseno, Muhoroni and Kombewa centres to towns. Currently, we are classifying them further into municipalities and the report has been approved by the County Assembly. My administration has also granted service charters and transfer of functions to the new municipalities.

Mr. Speaker Sir, without strong partnerships, we would not be able to do much with the limited funding from the exchequer.

For this reason, we continue to collaborate and partner with development partners across the globe to realize the promises we made to the people of Kisumu. Our scorecard on prudent use of resources from development partners is impressive.

Kisumu qualified for the Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvements Project (KISIP 2) funding following the successful implementation of KISIP 1 which came to a close in 2020.

KISIP 2 will be implemented in Bandani, Nyawita, Migosi, Manyatta A, Kondele, Manyatta B, Kibuye, Kaloleni- Shauri-Moyo and Muhoroni and will majorly focus on infrastructure such as roads and drainages and service delivery.

Under Urban Development and Physical Planning, we have successfully completed the Kisumu City Physical and Land Use Development Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan has taken into account the future development framework for five key areas of the city, namely; - the historical urban Core, Kisumu waterfront, CBD, the informal areas, and the extended city boundaries.

The plans will serve as essential tools in guiding urban growth in a systematic and sustainable manner.

Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Kisumu is blessed with a robust sporting culture. It is also home to massive talents. In October last year, Kisumu successfully hosted the 9th edition of the

Kenya Inter-Counties Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) in which 34 Counties sent some 6,000 participants.

Kisumu County emerged at position two overall with sterling performances in various disciplines.

To support our young boys and girls, my administration has distributed sporting gear to various teams across the County.

The department also has been supporting Ward and Sub- County sports events where talented youths are identified and recruited into more established teams.

To identify and promote talent, we established the Governor's football tournament to be played from the Ward to the county level. We will also be using the tournaments to campaign against Gender-based Violence.

To strengthen national unity and cohesion and to appreciate and promote Art and Culture, the department organized cultural festival dubbed "Kisumu Arts and Cultural Festival."

This annual festival seeks to promote Art and cultural diversity in Kisumu County with a focus to raising awareness on the safeguarding of cultural heritage and preserving traditions and folklore.

Our investment in making Mama Grace Onyango Social Hall the fulcrum of cultural activities and intellectual debates and for promotion of youth mentorship in the medium of Arts, Film and Visual Arts has borne fruits. The Centre has been the most vibrant and creative Arts and Culture space in the entire Lake Victoria Basin hosting several organized a number of high profile cultural and intellectual events.

In 2020, the Centre organised "The Return of the Stimulating Interlectual Discourse to rekindle the great creative and Intellectual Public lectures by Okot p'Bitek", a forum that was also addressed by Prof. Austin Bukonya a Ugandan poet, playwright, novelist and academic administrator.

The Centre also hosted the International Grace Onyango Health Digital Foundation Conference where pioneer African Women Ministers graced the event. This event was also graced by the Ugandan 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga.

In recognition of these gains, the Centre will in May 2024 host the 5th World of Blacks and Africans Festival of Arts and Culture also known as FESTAC Africa Festival.

In collaboration with the World Federation of Talents, the Centre launched "Anthro-Biometric Talent machine that can detect talents of children 20 to 30 years in advance.

These achievements have been made possible by the passion and hard work of the Centre Director Mr. Obat Masira, an internationally acclaimed thespian and film maker.

Mr. Speaker Sir, As we celebrate Mr. Masira and what he has achieved with Mama Grace Onyango Centre, I am saddened to announce the untimely demise of his only, Phoebe Achieng Obat which occurred on 19th November this year. Let us stand with the family in prayers in during this trying moment as we wait to lay Phoebe to rest on 12th December 2023. May the Almighty God grant her Soul eternal rest.

Mr. Speaker Sir on Trade, Tourism, Industrialization and Marketing

Honourable Members, to improve the business environment, the department completed the construction of the Korowe Modern Retail market in Nyando Sub-county, Kobura Ward, and settled 132 traders in the market, out of which 117 are women and 5 are Persons living with Disabilities (PWDs).

We also constructed market sheds at Koru Market in Muhoroni Sub-County, Oboch Market in Kisumu Central in Nyalenda B Ward, Sigoti, Kodonga, Apoko, Omwonyo Lee Market Sheds in South West Nyakach and Angola Market in Kisumu East Sub-County.

To build sustainable and resilient enterprises, the department conducted several trainings, capacity buildings, and coaching to equip entrepreneurs across the county in different sectors with the relevant skills.

During the first training, dubbed, Jinue Business Accelerator, 100 youths were trained on three value chains of fish, poultry and indigenous vegetables.

Further, the County Government of Kisumu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Stanbic Kenya Foundation to support entrepreneurs in digitally enabled jobs, capacity building, and offering affordable credit facilities to Micro and Small Enterprises.

Under this arrangement, 40 Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) were trained for six (6) months through coaching, and facilitation of business linkages as well as access to services including finance.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, cognizant of the critical role played by the cooperative movement in our society, my administration embarked on an intensive program to revive and strengthen the cooperative movement in the County.

We are working closely with the National Government, specifically the State Department of Cooperatives of the National Government together with other relevant partners, to revive the societies.

Honourable Members, we remain focused to promoting industrialization and a vibrant service sector.

One of our flagship projects in this sector is the Kochieng' Tomato Processing plant in Kobura ward in Nyando Sub-County.

The project is expected to help farmers market their tomato produce and to infuse the value addition component.

More than 3,000 tomato farmers along the shores of Lake Victoria who have been facing challenges with their produce and value addition will benefit upon commencement of work at the plant this financial year.

State of the Art machines have been procured by the plant and we are partnering with KIRDI to have them installed.

Honourable Members, we have developed a strong tourism brand for Kisumu under a strategy named *Kisumu My Pride*.

In the past two years, the directorate of Tourism has held promotional activities including the *Fish Fiesta* that helped to market our potential. The fish Fiesta attracted more than 5000 local and international tourists and became a big marketing campaign for Lake Victoria and the Western Tourism Circuit.

The visit to Kisumu by well-known Jamaican Reggae Star- Ritchie Spice early this year raised Kisumu's profile as an entertainment tourism destination. The hosting of Africities last year has also raised our ratings as a tourist destination, especially on MICE (Meetings, Incentives, conferences and Exhibition). This has led to the opening of new hospitality facilities in the County.

We have refurbished and re-branded the Kit Mikai culture and tourism site in Seme Sub-County. The site is now fenced, complete with a gate.

Mr. Speaker Sir on the County Treasury, Economic Planning and ICT Services

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the County Treasury facilitates the operations of the County Government.

During the 2022-2023 financial year, our total Own Source Revenue (OSR) was KES 1.1 billion against a target of KES 1.6 billion for the year, representing 68% attainment of the target. However, this was only 24% of the National Treasury estimates of our County's OSR at approximately KES 6.7 billion per year.

To enhance Own Source revenue, we have continued the automation of collection and reporting at the County Treasury and financial management across government, enlisting cashless payment methods in most of the County's revenue streams.

We have also minimized leakages by enhanced supervision of revenue collection at the ward and Sub-County levels. This has seen growth in the County's Own Source Revenue in the last two years, driven mainly by health sector revenues.

Hon, Members, notwithstanding these strides, we recognize that the County's Own Source Revenue is still far below potential and we initiated key processes, in the last financial year, to streamline governance, improve human resource performance and enhance data resources for revenue enhancement. We are currently collecting only 48% of what we can collect with a more efficient, transparent and effective system.

These processes, initiated in the 2022/2023 financial year, have matured in the current financial year with the recruitment of the County Revenue Board and enactment of a new revenue management system provided by Safaricom PLC, complete with cashless payment platforms that will minimize revenue leakages

The stock of the County's development and recurrent pending bills was KES 1.7 billion shillings at the beginning of the 2022/2023 financial year. By the end of the year, pending bills stood at KES 900 million.

The reduction of pending bills was driven by enhanced efficiency in key financial management processes including procurement, strict internal control mechanisms and budgetary allocation to pay pending bills. We piloted the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) in the financial year under review and continue to develop the system further this year. The EDMS enables step-by-step tracking of documents in the payment process to avoid inefficiencies associated with human error in the payment process.

We have also strengthened the budgeting process to include estimation of project costs in concept notes and full proposals before financial allocation so as to reduce time lost in project preparation after budget approval by the County Assembly.

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The county government enhanced stakeholders' consultation and public participation in the citizen-centered planning and budgeting process. In the period under review, the County Treasury produced statutory planning documents as required by the law. The Annual Development Plan(ADP), The County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), the Budget Estimates, and the Finance Bill, were all prepared within statutory timelines and up to the established quality standards,

To enhance value for money in public projects, the County Treasury is implementing a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for tracking project implementation across departments.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our utilization of Information and Communication Technologies have not only been restricted to process efficiency within the County Treasury. We have entered into partnership with an international organization called *Zero-One Talent* to offer high quality Digital Literacy training to 100 young people in the County, in basic programming and web management skills that would enable them gain employment in the dynamic tech-world. The programme will run for an initial three years, training more than 200 youths at the Rotary Business Incubation and Innovation Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir, while Disaster preparedness and mitigation activities are undertaken by the Office of the Governor, the County Treasury maintains the County Emergency Fund to enable swift response to emergencies.

In the context of Kisumu County, such emergencies typically entail flooding due to heavy rains, causing humanitarian crisis.

In 2022/2023, KES 60 million was spent in emergency response beyond flood control to fire tragedies and road accidents in different parts of the county.

Public Service, County Administration and Participatory Development;

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, all these developments in the various sectors would not be possible without proper coordination from a centralized command center.

During the period under review, my government established a new Department of Public Service, County Administration, and Participatory Development to enhance service delivery, corporate governance, and stakeholder management and decentralized Administrative services.

One of the Department's major projects is the ongoing Governor's official residence which currently stands at 80 percent complete by the time of publishing this report.

To help improve the working environment for our Administration officers, and provision of services closer to our people, we were able to complete the construction of Three (3) Ward offices in Seme East, Ombeyi, and South West Kisumu wards. Plans are underway to construct additional 5 offices.

Participatory, inclusive and consultative engagement by the Government and her people, with effective feedback mechanism are the cornerstones of development and form the exact basis for the devolved governments.

In enabling accountable, accessible and sustainable service delivery, my government executed an innovative countywide citizen-centric program coined “*HUDUMA MASHINANI*” in all the 8 Sub-Counties. Packed halls and loads of Memoranda received from the audience, underscored the success of the “*Majadiliano Mashinani*” forums initiative.

This Government and Citizen Dialogue Forum created an open County platform on service delivery and feedback management, profoundly enhancing citizen participation in government projects.

One of the outcomes of this strategy is the successful establishment of Seme Sub-County Service Delivery Unit coordinated by both levels of Government.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the effective path of growth and development is to track implementation and engage the population through sensitization of government plans and agenda. In fostering meaningful citizen participation, the department in collaboration with various partners developed the Kisumu County Public Participation Policy that is before the County Assembly

In building a responsive public sector workforce and inculcating a mindset of citizen-centricity and continuous improvement, a total of 790 employees were promoted during the year.

The department developed a Staff Establishment to ensure the County has the requisite Human Resource capacity, staff complement, and optimum staffing levels with the right competence for optimal performance.

We continue to engage in sound labor-management relations *practices to ensure employee productivity and satisfaction.*

Honourable Members, our resource allocation from the National Kitty is barely enough to take care of all our development needs. Therefore, we have to seek support from like-minded development partners.

To achieve this, we created the Directorate of Partnerships, Resource Mobilization, and Diaspora Affairs to assist with the mobilization of external resources from development partners, as well as organizing investment promotion activities both locally and internationally.

Mr. Speaker Sir on the Office of the First Lady.

I wish to thank the Office of the First Lady led by Mama Kisumu Dorothy Nyong'o for its commitment to the realization of key development projects in the County.

To strengthen Early Childhood Development and Nurturing Care and Nutrition, Mama Kisumu in partnership with Kidogo Innovations launched a lactation space at Kibuye market to offer women traders a safe and private environment to breastfeed their babies.

The lactation space at Kibuye is a replica of the Dots and Rocks Model ECD Space, a model child care center which has been operational since July 26th, 2021 and is located at the Office of the First Lady in Kisumu.

This facility had its first graduation ceremony in November 2022 where Ambrose Lamar, the oldest and longest-standing child at the Centre graduated to PP1.

The office of the First Lady has also been working closely with the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital and other partners in the fight against Cancer. The First Lady has held medical camps in the county to screen women for cervical cancer while advising young girls to test early for HPV –Human Papilona Virus which is a major cause of cervical cancer.

Hon Members, allow me to pay much gratitude to this Assembly for being a valued enabler of our development and important activities.

Members of this Assembly should rightfully lay claim to all our successful development projects and operational initiatives because they have been passing many Bills and policies to support our development programs.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, indeed a lot has been done but we can do much more with both your support and the goodwill of Kisumu residents at large. I urge you to continue supporting us on this beautiful journey of making Kisumu to fly with the Eagles. “*Wasetimo*”, “*Kendo Pod Watimo*”. Asanteni Sana, God Bless Kisumu.

(H.E. the Governor lays the Address before the House)

(H.E. the governor resumes his seat)

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

PAPER LAID

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Leader of Majority.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero Ward): Thank you His Excellency the Governor and the Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders No. 22 (4), I wish to table today Friday, 01st December, 2023 the 5th State of the County Address of the Governor, Kisumu County. Thank you.

(The Leader of Majority lays before the House the Address of the Governor)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Member, I acknowledge receipt of the 5th State of the County Address delivered by the Governor Kisumu County Professor Peter Anyang Nyongó. I commit this address to the Select committee of House Business to schedule it for debate by the House for not more than four consecutive sittings. Thank you.

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders No. 22 (5) I wish to give a Notice of Motion that, the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the 5th State of the County Address of the Governor, Kisumu County. Thank you.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, there being no any other business to transact, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday 05th November, 2023 at 02:30 p.m.

(House rose at 04:35 p.m.)

Addendum

Hansard Team

<i>Zablon Otiende</i>	-	<i>Senior Hansard Reporter (In-charge)</i>
<i>Edward Odanga</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
<i>Fanuel Okode</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
<i>Patrick Okoyo</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
<i>Jesca Otieno</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
<i>Dennis Onyango</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
<i>Jacklyne Otieno</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
<i>Valery Achieng'</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>