

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION

Thursday 29th February, 2024

House met in the Main Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

(The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Nereah Okombo) in the Chair)

PRAYER

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, may I request the Serjeant-at-Arm to ring the quorum bell for five minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for five minutes)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Madam Clerk, take us through the Order Paper of today.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Next order!!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, I have the following communication to make. Before me is an invitation from the Reproductive Health Rights Champion Network for the Proposed Kisumu County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024/2025. The Network for Adolescence Youth of Africa (NAYA) is inviting the following listed participants to a breakfast meeting to deliberate on the Proposed Kisumu County Fiscal

Strategy Paper 2024/2025 and provide recommendation and key requests from the young people in Kisumu. The meeting will be held on Friday 01st March, 2024 at Pinecone Hotel from 9:00 a.m. The following persons are invited to attend, the Hon. Speaker, Members and the Secretariat of the Standing Committee of Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation, the Chairperson of Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs Committee and Member Representing PWDs.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Next order!!

PAPERS LAID

AUDITOR GENERAL ON AHERO COUNTY LEVEL IV HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022.

AUDITOR GENERAL ON JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL LEVEL V FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

BY

HON. KEN OOKO, MCA, AHERO WARD

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Leader of Majority.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I wish to lay the following Papers. That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 32 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, I wish to lay today Thursday 29th, February, 2024 a report by Auditor General on Ahero County Level IV Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 2022.

Two, That pursuant to the provisions of Section 32 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, I wish to lay today Thursday 29th, February, 2024 a report by Auditor General on Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital Level V for the year ended 30th June, 2022. Thank you.

(Leader of Majority lays the reports before the House for consideration)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, I am in receipt of two Papers laid by the Leader of Majority. That is a report by Auditor General on Ahero County Level IV Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 2022 and Report by Auditor General on Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital Level V for the year ended

30th June, 2022. I want to commit the two reports to the Select Committee of PIC/PAC for scrutiny and report back to the House within 21 days.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Next order!!

MOTION

CONTINUATION OF INTERRUPTED BUSINESS
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION DURING 1ST AND 2ND
SESSION OF THE THIRD ASSEMBLY

BY

HON. HENRIETTA BODO, NOMINATED MEMBER.

(CHAIRPERSON, SELECT COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, this business was interrupted and it was Hon. Moses Ochele who was on the Floor and pursuant to Standing Order No. 30, the debate on this business be resumed at the point it was interrupted and any Member whose speech was interrupted shall have the rights to proceed on such resumption for the remainder of the time available for him/her and if such Member, does not avail himself or herself for this right, his/her speech shall be deemed to have been concluded.

Hon. Ochele had stood to make an amendment on certain aspects of the report. That opportunity was granted to him but since he is not here we will assume he is done with his submissions. Let us continue with the debate on the report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): What is it Hon. Millicent Omuya?

Hon Omuya (MCA North Seme Ward): Madam Speaker, by the look of things and many a times when Members are silent, it means either they have understood everything or they have accepted. Therefore, I call upon the Mover to reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Yes Hon Were, you are the mover of the motion and you have been called upon to reply.

Hon Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B” Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Committee Members and secretariat for having worked tirelessly in coming up with this report. Madam Speaker, I also wish to extend my appreciation to the office of the Clerk for facilitating the secretariat to ensure that this report is done to its logical conclusion.

Madam Speaker, I also want to congratulate Members who took part in the deliberations; whether they made positive or negative comments. It was to the benefit of this House. Madam Speaker, I can quote a few issues that were flagged out by Hon. Ochele concerning timelines of the report. I want to make it clear that, this report was tabled last year before adjourning for the Long Recess. Madam Speaker, last year, we had a lot of challenges and this report was deferred many times. It was not the mistake of this House Committee for the report to delay. We had a lot of agendas in our in-tray: Madam Speaker, the County Assembly Sports Association Games, the Governor’s State of the County Address, then ultimately came the Long Recess. These are some of the factors that interfered with the committee programme of creating time for this report to be deliberated upon.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank all the Members for the positive comments and ensuring that this report see the light of the day. Otherwise, I beg to reply. Thank you Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Thank you Honourable Members, a concern that is important to note, however, is that this report has many overdue resolutions. Therefore, I want to task the Select Committee on Implementation to ensure that the resolutions and recommendations made in the report are fully followed to execution for effective service delivery because the electorates of Kisumu county expect Members to deliver on our mandate.

Honourable Members, a report by the Select Committee on Implementation on the Status of House Resolutions passed during the First and Second Sessions of the Assembly was moved by Hon. James Were on behalf of the Chair, seconded and now fully debated upon. I want to put a question of adoption?

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, the Report of the Select Committee on Implementation on the Status of House Resolutions passed during the First and Second Sessions of the Assembly is adopted today Thursday 29th February, 2024 at 1456 hours.

Consequently, I direct that a copy of the report, together with the Hansard be taken to the Executive, to various departments involved to ensure that the recommendations made in the report are adhered to. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON THE MATTER OF DEGRADING ACTIVITIES AGAINST WOMEN TRADERS IN EXCHANGE FOR FISH ALONG BEACHES IN KISUMU

BY

HON. ZACHARIA OKOYO, MCA, CENTRAL KISUMU

(CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. PURSUANT to Standing Orders No. 41 (2) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, Hon. Henrietta Bodo requested for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Services on the degrading activities against women traders in exchange for fish along the beaches in Kisumu County and was committed to the Sectoral Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Services on 23rd February 2023. In the statement, the Chairperson was required to inquire into and report on:

- i. The action(s) and or plans the County Department of Gender has put in place to provide gender sensitive first response points of call in such gender degrading activities along the beaches, such as *jaboya*, can be immediately reported and addressed to give the women traders confidence and protection as they go about their trade

Establishment and Mandates of the Committee

Hon. Speaker and members, The Committee on Labour and Social Welfare is established pursuant to Standing Order No. 193 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders and is mandated to oversight over all matters relating to labour, trade union relations, manpower or human resource planning, gender, social welfare and National Youth Service.

Committee Membership

As is constituted by this House, the committee on Labour and Social Welfare is currently made up of the following members;

Name	Designation
1. Hon. Zack Okoyo	Chairperson
2. Hon. Ken Ooko	Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Alice Wajewa	Member
4. Hon. Benson Adegga	Member
5. Hon. Eunice Alandoh	Member
6. Hon. Mildred Ajumbo	Member
7. Hon. Emily Oginga	Member
8. Hon. Seth Kanga	Member
9. Hon. Mickey Ochieng'	Member
Secretariat	Designation
1. Pst. David Ochieng'	Senior Clerk Assistant
2. Oguta Chrispine	Clerk Assistant
3. Wycliffe Owade	Researcher
4. Jesca Otieno	Hansard Reporter
5. Zackary Nyalalo	Sergeant -at- Arms

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Committee wishes to thank the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly for the support extended to it in conducting its meetings and investigations. The Committee also thanks the county government department of Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs and all other stakeholders for their valuable indulgence in the matter.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honorable Members and Secretariat of the Committee who made productive contributions towards the preparation of this Report.

On behalf of the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Services and pursuant to provisions of Standing Orders No. 182, it is my pleasant privilege and honor to present the Report of the Committee for consideration by this Honorable House.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION Hon. Speaker and Members, The Committee pursuant to Standing Order No. 41 (2) of the Kisumu County Standing Orders received a statement request that sought an explanation on the degrading activities against women traders in exchange for fish along the beaches in Kisumu County. (See *Annexure 01*)

In the statement it was noted that there is widespread degrading activity perpetrated against women fishmongers in the beaches in Kisumu County where, women fishmongers are forcefully duped into dangerous sexual encounters in exchange for fish from fishermen. The practice is escalated by organized cartels of fishermen and established traders who purposefully hoard fish thus making it difficult to acquire by ordinary female traders thus forcing them into sex-for-fish; a dangerous gender degrading practice commonly referred to as “jaboya”

COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS

Hon. Speaker and Members, the Committee held a meeting to deliberate on this matter and resolved to invite Hon. Henrietta Bodo to appear before the committee to shed more light on the statement request in its subsequent sitting.

In her appearance before the committee, the committee noted the following from the submissions of Hon. Henrietta Bodo, the author of the statement request:

- THAT sex for fish along the beaches in Kisumu County is not consensual and that women traders are coerced by the culture, norms and the harsh economic situation to engage in such degrading activities.
- THAT the practice has caused emotional anguish and trauma to the women traders along the beaches in Kisumu County.
- THAT the degrading activities along the beaches of Kisumu County have potentially enhanced the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV & AIDS.
- THAT Nyamware and Dunga beaches among other beaches within the County are examples of beaches affected by such degrading activities.

Hon. Speaker and Members, the committee in another sitting to deliberate on this matter resolved to seek response to the issues raised on the statement request from the County department of Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs.

The CECM Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs in a letter dated 21st March, 2023 referenced REF: CGK/SCS&YA/CECM/GENDER/2023/VOL. II dully responded (*See Annexure 02*) to the statement request and the committee noted the following from the response:

V The cycle of poverty coupled with high illiteracy levels and vulnerability, compels older women to introduce their daughters to this practice. As a result, the daughters engage in multiple partnerships, exposing themselves to Sexually Transmitted Diseases, including HIV.

V Lack of awareness on sexual exploitation in its various forms and manifestations.

The only spaces available where such reports are made are at the police stations where unfortunately the burden of proof becomes a challenge.

The Department has proposed the following interventions to address the challenge;

- Need to gain a deeper understanding of the sexual abuse and exploitation experienced by women and girls while documenting their first hand experiences as they engage in economic activities.
- The Department of Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs, intends to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture to set aside spaces within the beaches for women to put up fish cages.

REPORT BY THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker and Members, arising from the statement and subsequent response from the Department of Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs, the Committee on Labor and Social Welfare Services tabled a report before the House, on the matter of the degrading activities against women traders in exchange for fish along the beaches on 6/9/2023, for debate and adoption.

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

Hon. Speaker and members, the House debated the report during which the following issues were raised;

The report on degrading activities against women traders in exchange for sex should be backed by evidence such as;

- Need for the Committee to take site visit along the beaches to determine the validity of the allegations and report back to the House;
- Number of recorded cases with relevant authorities including the police station;
- Names and number of culprits or victims involved;
- Statistics on girls who have dropped out of school due to the influence of their mothers, compelling them to engage in sexual activities in exchange for fish;
- Statistics from the Department of Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation on the high prevalence of STDs and HIV infections in women and girls as a result of engaging in sexual activities in exchange for fish.

Other views expressed were as follows;

- a. People who hoard fish for sex purpose are not real owners of the business. Need for the committee to interview fish owners to determine whether they have complained of the fish loss due to fish for sex;
 - The Committee report has put more emphasis on the Department of Culture instead of Department of Trade;
- b. Recommendation on the fish caging by the Department of Culture is not catered for in the current budget. Focus should be on empowering women to get access to caged fishing;
- c. The situation rooms recommended in the report should be pegged on budget allocation;
 - o Sex is a consensual agreement between the two parties, it's 'a willing buyer-willing seller';
- d. The practice is not about sexual exploitation but women and girls exploiting economic opportunities; This practice is non-existent; it is not a serious activity.

HOUSE RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT BY THE LABOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker and members, after incisive debate on the matter, a Question was put and negated.

The House rejected the report and directed the committee to visit a sample of beaches in Kisumu

County and compile elaborate report with recommendations and to inform the House within two weeks for debate and consideration of the report.

COMMITTEE FACT-FINDING MISSION

Hon. Speaker and Members, on October 11th 2023, the Committee on Labour conducted a fact-finding mission to Nyamware and Dunga Beaches to gather information and evidence regarding alleged degrading activities against women traders in exchange for sex (*See Annexure 03*). The mission was in response to a House resolution directing for further probe into the matter.

The goal was to gather thorough, trustworthy and impartial data to assist in making well-informed decisions regarding this issue.

The use of various data collection methods including survey questionnaires, Key Informant Interviews, and observations, facilitated the gathering of rich information on this important matter. The application of audio as a valuable data collection tool assisted the team to capture the richness and context of the information. Several interviews were recorded to produce word-for-word transcripts which were later transcribed to improve the accuracy of the results and gather evidence.

Limitation of the Fact-Finding Mission

Hon. Speaker and Members, key challenges included time, resources and logistics. Consequently, the mission was limited to Nyamware Beach in Kobura Ward and Dunga Beach in Nyalenda A Ward, hence the committee was not able to visit other beaches as directed. The heavy downpour was particularly obstructive, especially with the site visit in Dunga. Fish traders are typically occupied due to the nature of their work, but we are pleased to report that, the committee successfully reached and engaged with several of them to delve into the heart of the issue.

Additionally, verbatim recording also faced few challenges of ambient environment and some intermittent interruptions. One significant challenge the committee encountered from the Department of Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs, was the inability to access secondary data with statistical support for the allegations. But overall the committee was able to capture deep seated issues in the matter of degrading activities against women traders for fish exchange along the beaches. The committee is confident that its findings have, to a large extent, unveiled the underlying issues. The findings contained in in the draft fact finding mission report (*See Annexure 03*) aided the committee in formulating recommendations to address the problem.

The Target Population (Key stakeholders)

Hon. Speaker and Members, there was voluntary participation with responses collected from a total of 107 participants who were organized into different clusters for data collection and analysis. The committee ensured that the sample represented the whole population; those involved in the fishing trade in one way or the other. These included the Beach Managers, Fishmongers, Welfare Officials and security personnel. The sample also included respondents who were not directly involved in the trade but were knowledgeable about issues in the fish business along the beaches.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Hon. Speaker and Members, based on the fact finding mission undertaken by this committee and the responses adduced by the department of Sports, Culture, Tourism, Arts, Gender and Youth

Affairs to the committee regarding the issues raised in the statement request, the committee made certain observations from the sites.

The Committee observed the following;

1. THAT, the intricacy of this matter is compounded by the fact that fish has become extremely scarce in Lake Victoria, turning it into a fiercely competitive arena for key players in the trade. It is also important to note that women often considered the 'weaker' gender, can be vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation.
2. THAT, there is genuine concern about the need for economic empowerment for women in fish trade including their participation in cooperative societies and establishing linkages with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to access credit facilities.
3. THAT, opinion is divided largely across gender on whether there are degrading activities against women in exchange for fish. Majority of the men were by consensus in agreement that there are no degrading activities against women in exchange for fish along the two beaches while women especially the fish mongers, were of the converse.
4. THAT, some of the respondents and especially men admitted that it was a practice in the past which has since been eliminated.
5. THAT, the top management of the BMU including its top officials was broadly in agreement that there are no degrading activities against women in exchange for fish along the two beaches.
6. THAT, the majority of the women fish mongers has become submissive due to their impoverished conditions and the prevailing harsh economic situations, which deters them from addressing the underlying issues of the degradation. 7. THAT this is a long term social and ethical issue which comes with complex moral dilemmas. Addressing this issue will require balance between competing values and interests for a more just and equitable society. Among others, are issues of psychosocial counseling which need to be addressed
7. THAT the body language among majority of the respondents during the exercise suggested grave issues that warrant further investigation. Therefore, it is essential to engage in thoughtful negotiation and dialogue with the community including all stakeholders, to reach a broad consensus on the key salient issues and to develop a roadmap for addressing them.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker and Members, after a thorough examination of the main issues raised on the floor of the House and careful consideration of recommendations from various stakeholders, along with the underlying complexities uncovered during the site visit, the committee presents the following recommendations to help in addressing the issues raised in the Statement;

1. THAT the Department of Sports, Culture, Arts, Gender and Youth Affairs to provide the Assembly with an evidence-based data concerning degrading activities against women

involved in the fish trade along the beaches in Kisumu County in exchange for fish within 90 days upon adoption of this report. This will assist in developing appropriate policy framework.

The data should include;

- I. Specific number of cases reported to relevant authorities including local police stations if any. If there is evidence of the issue being prevalent, it is important to understand why these cases are not being reported and what should be done.
- II. Statistics on the dropout rate of young girls from schools, driven by older women who introduce their daughters to engage in sexual activities in exchange for fish, largely attributed to the circle of poverty, high illiteracy levels, and various vulnerability factors
- III. Statistics indicating a rise in STDs and HIV linked to girls who engage in multiple sexual relationships in exchange for fish along the beaches
- III. Any additional evidence and documentation regarding the experiences of women and young girls concerning sexual exploitation and abuse

2. THAT there is need for appropriate and multi-faceted intervention programs to enable women and girls along the beaches improve on their livelihoods and gain financial independence.

This will drastically reduce their dependence on individuals who may exploit them for personal gain. To effectively implement these multi-faceted programs, the Committee further recommends the following actions to be undertaken;

- I. THAT the County government should allocate an annual budget for the empowerment of women involved in the fish trade along the beaches. This allocation can assist in reducing or mitigating instances of harmful or degrading activities.
- II. THAT there is need to develop a comprehensive intervention program for young women and girls, including the establishment of situation rooms and counseling services. The County government can achieve this through partnerships and collaborations with development partners and other agencies.
- III. THAT the Department of Agriculture should allocate dedicated spaces on the beaches for women groups to establish fish cages, with the goal of creating a controlled environment that enhances fish growth, quality and health. Additionally, providing transportation solutions and storage facilities can further ensure fish freshness and safe storage.
- IV. THAT the Department of Trade should promote boat ownership opportunities for women (either as individuals or in groups) to avoid perceived gender discrimination at purchase points
- V. THAT the Department of Trade should explore enrolling women fisher-folk in cooperative societies and affiliating them with SMEs. Membership in a cooperative society enhances collective bargaining power, provides access to financial resources, fosters skills

development, aids in risk mitigation for disaster preparedness such as floods, and promotes empowerment. This will contribute to the empowerment of women engaged in fishing, leading to enhanced economic stability and an improved overall quality of life. This improvement may manifest as better access to healthcare, education and enhanced living conditions.

VI. THAT, partnership with micro-finance institutions is essential since it provides opportunities for access to financial services, including small loans and savings accounts, which can strengthen and improve livelihoods of women in the fish trade.

VII. THAT there is a need to raise awareness on this practice along the beaches through a sustained effort and collaboration among all relevant departments. This may involve advocacy and information campaigns, trainings, workshops, seminars, partnering with NGOs, Public Private Partnerships initiatives and establishing hotlines and sharing survivor stories.

Hon. Speaker and Members,

3. THAT, this is a complex issue and spans across multiple County departments including that of Sports & Gender, Finance & Economic Planning, Trade Marketing & Industry, Agriculture Livestock & Fisheries, Medical Health & Public Health and the National Government. As such, a holistic approach is necessary.

- I. The Gender Department in collaboration with other relevant departments, should develop and present a comprehensive action plan framework both short-term and long-term plans to ensure an inclusive and structured approach to addressing this matter.

The integrated action plan framework should be presented to the Assembly within 120 days upon adoption of this report.

4. THE Committee proposes that the Implementation Committee should follow through on the execution of the aforementioned recommendations to scale down degrading activities along the beaches in the County.

CONCLUSION

Hon. Speaker and Members, the Committee acknowledges that the issues raised herein are pertinent and remains a menace along the beaches in Kisumu County.

It is, therefore, my honor and privilege, on behalf of the Labour and Social Welfare Services Committee to move this Motion before this Honorable House for consideration. Madam Speaker, I would like, therefore, to call Hon Deputy Majority Whip to second on behalf of the Whip.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Order!! Hon Okoyo. The Hon. Deputy Whip is not a Member of your committee, unless she is ready to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Yes, the Deputy Whip.

Deputy Whip (Hon. Obonyo, MCA, South West Kisumu Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I second. Thank you

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, irrespective of the fact that the Deputy Whip is not a Member of the Labour and Social Welfare Committee, I have allowed her to second because once a paper becomes a document of the House, then any Member is allowed to second. Therefore, the report has been rightly seconded. I, therefore, want to propose that the report be open for debate.

(Silence)

Honourable Members, we have before us a report by the committee on Labour and Social Welfare Services on the Matter of Degrading Activities against Women Traders in Exchange for Fish along beaches in the county. I expect, especially the men who are the sisters, husbands and grandchildren of the women to come up and give viable resolutions to assist curb this matter and protect the weaker gender that God placed under their care. The Motion is open for debate Hon Members.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Yes, Hon Boitone.

Hon Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda “A” Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to support this Motion with some level of input that I want to put across. If I look at this report keenly I am not seeing the recommendations that have been given by this House Committee which will help curb the major problems that our young women and ladies are experiencing in our beaches. One of the biggest problems that the committee highlighted, Madam Speaker, is lack of fish that maybe lures ladies and these young women into sex for fish trade with the so called ‘*Joboya*’.

Madam Speaker, this House Committee should have directed and given proper avenues of solving the issue of lack of fish through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and irrigation. The recommendation that they should have given should make the department taxable in providing solution to that problem.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Order!! Hon. Boitone. Honourable Members, I just want to inform us the report tabled by the Members of the Labour and Social welfare Committee is not absolute that is why it needs deliberations by the House. Any amendments to the report if desired, is welcome and so, we discuss the report with an open mind of making it more concrete. So, by noticing any gap within the report, you are allowed to bring forth your amendments so that the resolutions we will come up with, will be those that will practically help the women that we so seek to help. So, Hon. Boitone, I do not want us to crucify this House Committee but if we have suggestions on what ought to have been done or a recommendation that ought to have been made, you can put it across by way of doing an amendment on the report. Hon. Boitone, the floor is still yours.

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda “A” Ward): Madam Speaker, I totally concur with you, it is only that you cut me short before I gave a solution according to how I view it. Of course, there was a time when this House suggested, during the calamity period when fish was scarce on our beaches. There was a report that was discussed in this House that we enhance fishing activities on our beaches by introducing Fishponds. I believe that if the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development Fisheries and Irrigation could be tasked into organizing how these women would be supported to establish fishponds, this could be one of the best avenues in addressing this matter. Madam Speaker, the second problem that was itemized is the way these ‘*Jaboya*’ take advantage of the fish folks. This I believe that the Department, if engaged also in a proper manner, would provide a solution to this problem. There are many ways where the cultural activities could also be introduced...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Boitone, please allow me to give direction. You have great amendments and proposals that you seek to add into the recommendations. Can you rightly move the amendments, seek for a seconder so that we can deliberate on them and procedurally adopt them into the motion. Unless you just want to discuss them and let them go but for us to adopt them, you have to raise them, seek for a seconder, we deliberate upon them and adopt them before we can incorporate them into the main motion. Go ahead Hon. Boitone, and remember that we passed a Procedural Motion on Limitation on Debates. So, you are almost exhausting your time of five minutes but I will add you three more minutes, thank you.

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda “A” Ward): Madam Speaker, I want to thank you once again, although this type of interruption Madam Speaker...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Order!! Hon. Boitone, I am giving direction based on the provision of Standing Order No. 52. This House being a House of procedure, we just want to make sure that your wonderful suggestions are incorporated into the report. So, your amendments Hon. Boitone, should be procedurally put forth so that they can either be put as amendments across or exhaust your remaining 2 minutes and we call another Member to deliberate.

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda “A” Ward): Madam Speaker, I want to beg to stop there and I want to call Hon. Reuben Rakwach to second the amendments that I have put across.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Order!! Hon. Boitone. Can you clearly list the amendments additions that you wish to be incorporated into the report. Can you approach the Chair Hon. Boitone?

(Hon. Boitone approaches the Speaker)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, Hon. Boitone does not have any amendments or recommendations but instead he has additional amendments is sufficiently captured in the Hansard report. I believe that the Member is done with his submission.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Reuben Rakwach, the time is yours.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, East-Kolwa Ward): Thank you, Madam Speaker; I also rise to support the report by the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare. I am aware that many institutions nowadays, those who are involved in fishing, suffer from scarcity of fish. Just as have been indicated by the report, and we also know that we are in hard economic times generally as Kenyans. So, I know hard economic times sometimes may lead people to these immoral activities like for this case now of sex for fish and all those that has been captured in the report. But, Hon. Speaker I want to propose, some amendment on some recommendations. Looking at recommendation Number Eight; the County Government to assist women with adequate storage facilities and how to access and to expand market for fish. I believe that one is misplaced because, why we should expand market for fish and that fish is what is not there as depicted in this report that there is scarcity of fish. So, this market that we are going to expand for fish, what are we going to have to sell there. Again, these storage facilities, I believe they are being used when the fish is in surplus such that we cannot sell them in a day, which is why we need storage facilities so that we can store fresh to be sold maybe the following day or some days in future. But, if there is scarcity, then, there is no need of storage facilities because we have nothing to keep. It is like what we can produce in a day can be consumed all. I therefore propose that we expunge that one since it does not solve the problem that we are dealing with (Jaboya).

Hon. Speaker, the amendment that I wanted to put across is on number nine...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach, you are seeking to amend recommendation number eight by expunging it or by deletion?

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Yes Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Member, can you seek for a seconder before you move to another amendment?

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Madam Speaker, I wish to ask Hon. Were to second that we expunge recommendation number eight.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach, you have not sought for a seconder. I can see Hon. Were standing without him being called upon to second.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): (*Laughs*) Hon. Speaker, It is my belief that we are not reading from the same page.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Have you called Hon. Were to second your amendments?

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Madam Speaker, the Member stood because I called him to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): That is fair enough.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B” Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I arise to second the amendment that recommendation Number Eight be expunged from the report, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, a proposal to amend recommendation number eight of the report of the Labour and Social Welfare Committee on Matter of Degrading Activities against Women Traders in Exchange for Fish along the beaches, has been proposed by Hon. Rakwach and seconded by Hon. Were. I therefore want to propose a question of debate on the same. The amendment seeks to expunge recommendation Number eight from the report. Therefore, the proposal to amend is open for debate.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Yes Hon. Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu Ward): Madam Speaker, I rise to object or to oppose the removal of recommendation number eight. That is; the County Government to assist women with adequate Storage Facilities and how to access and to expand market for fish.

Madam Speaker, I believe all of us know how perishable fish is. Madam Speaker, when we conducted a site visit for the investigation purposes, we realized that one of the reasons why the female fish mongers have challenges is, besides the scarcity, the little they get, if they do not have it in time and take it to the market, then they will not sell it when it is still fresh. This is one of the reasons why “*Jaboya*” comes because he identifies one female trader because maybe she has no market to go and sell the fish. This is one of the reasons why the male fish mongers pick one of the ladies in exchange sex. That is because they know where to take the fish. There are a lot of reasons but, the main one is expansion of market for fish. So, Madam Speaker, it should not be expunged. I stand to beg.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Yes Hon. Kelvin Oraro.

Ho. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I was really struggling to follow up the recommendations from the said Nyamware Beach Stakeholders plus the ones recommended by this House Committee. It would be prudent that if whoever was proposing that we expunge that particular recommendation to come out clearly and inform the House which part

did he want expunged. From what Hon. Okoyo has just read, it is a very critical recommendation. Nyamware Beach Stakeholders themselves, those who are involved in the activity recommended that the County Government to assist women with adequate storage facilities and how to access and expand market for fish.

Madam Speaker, if you go to Kaloka Beach and many other beaches today, you will realize that fish is on higher demand. Therefore, most of the time when the fishermen or the fishmongers come out with the fish from the lake, you will realize that there is no fish that will be left. So, if we can try and introduce these refrigerators where they can have the ice cubes so that they can store fish and they have fresh ones they prepare early in the morning. That is because some fish can be brought late in the evening, it advisable that we recommend the construction of these storage facilities. So, I do not see any logic or any reason why Hon. Rakwach believes that the County Government should not assist these women. Unless, he has another agenda apart from these women given assistance by the County Government. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach, can you give the House a solid reason as to why you want recommendation Number eight to be expunged.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. It is only that I was not given enough time to explain it elaborately. I want also to ask for an amendment of recommendation number nine. So, maybe if you give me adequate time ...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Order!! Hon. Rakwach, we do one amendment at a time. We are on amendment number eight.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Okay, and thank you. The reason why I am talking of recommendation number nine is because the last speaker Hon. Oraro has just mentioned Nyamware Beach...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach, can we just go procedurally? You proposed an amendment by deletion of recommendation number eight.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Madam Speaker, it is the reason as to why I am here to explain.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Member, can we get that proposal done with before we move to the next proposal.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker, the reason as to why, according to this report, I don't see the need of the County Government to provide adequate storage facilities is because we are all aware that we know the use of these storage facilities, they are useful when fish are in surplus that is we produce more fish than what we can sell. That is the reason why we need these storage facilities so that, fish can stay fresh when they are not sold on

the same day. But, in this report, it talks about scarcity of fish and that is what is bringing the issue of Jaboya sex for fish.

Madam Speaker, if fish is scarce it means that it is not there and therefore what is the need of constructing or having these storage facilities? The Speaker, Hon. Oraro had stated that there is high demand for fish, such that sometime you do not get fish in our beaches. I am not wrong and it is there in our records that we have a high demand for fish. If that is the case, then it means that there is no need for storage facilities, and again that implies there is no need of these storage facilities because there is no fish to store.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Point of order Madam Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach, Hon. Oraro is on a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Which Point of Order?

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Madam Speaker, the provision of Standing Order 189 on Statement of Facts. If I am wrong you might correct Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker I want Hon. Rakwach to understand that when you're talking about members or stakeholders...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Order!! Hon. Oraro, a well-established teacher knows that statement of facts means that there is a fact that that has not been stated right and now you want the Honourable Member to state it clearly. But from your explanation, you're informing the Honourable Member on something that he seems to understand differently. Therefore, you are out of order. Please resume your seat

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): So, that is the reason Honourable Speaker why I say, if at all it is the scarcity of fish that is bringing this issue of “*Jaboya*”, then we need not to focus on establishment of these Storage Facilities because storage facilities will only help us when we have surplus. The issue of “*Jaboya*” has not been elaborately explained here. I come from around the lake and I know this issue of “*Jaboya*”. It is a female male relationship at the lake but you get the males who do the real work, those who go to the lake at night or day to do the hands on work. This is the “*Jaboya*” that this report is talking about. So sometimes they befriend the traders.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Rakwach, stick to the amendments that is, do we expunge or do we retain the topic for discussion.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): You have sufficiently explained so please allow other Members to deliberate on your proposed amendment and if they are convinced that your proposal sorted needs amendments then they will support it. I'll give you time to reply just sit down.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Thank you but I also wanted to give another explanation that Hon. Okoyo had given. That, because of maybe market that is why “*Jaboya*” is coming in. I believe that “*Jaboya*” does not look for market for these female traders. The female traders are the ones who buy fish from “*Jaboya*”, then they take them to the market. They know where the markets are. So, “*Jaboya*” does not involve himself looking for the market for the female traders. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Thank you Hon. Rakwach. Honourable Members, we are still on amendments on recommendations from Nyamware Beach Stakeholder, that is recommendation number eight that the county governments to assist women with the establishment of adequate storage facilities and how to access and expand market for fish. Which, Hon. Rakwach so seek to expunge from the report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honorable Millicent Omuya.

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. Basically we need to understand what the report is talking about and what Hon. Rakwach is talking about. We are going to do storage facilities suppose there is surplus of fish. And given that we don't have enough fish for our people, that one shows that that we don't have surplus fish. Then, I will ask myself, why do we buy these storage facilities if we are not going to have a surplus fish to put in?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Omuya are you in support of the deletion or expunging of the recommendation?

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Yes, Madam Speaker, I am supporting the deletion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Thank you Hon. Omuya.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Dede are you seconding the amendment?

Hon. Dede (MCA, Kisumu North Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me give my opinion concerning the amendment. You will note that the establishment of these storage facilities are not just meant for the surplus but being that fish is a perishable commodity, which can get spoilt at any given time if not properly handled. That's why we might be in need of getting a storage facility, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Hon. Dede, the Honourable Member is seeking for expunging of that recommendation because the report expressly says that we have inadequate fish, that fish is scares and that is the reason why the women are getting to the "Joboyas" for favours. So, it is my considered opinion that the Hon. Member has sufficiently given his reason for request expansion. If we don't have any more submissions for the amendment, can we have someone to call the mover to reply, someone who has not contributed on the amendments?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Yes Hon. Kennedy Ajwang'.

Hon. Kennedy Ajwang (Nominated Member): Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to call upon the mover to reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Hon. Boitone. Hon. Rakwach.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who have deliberated on my proposed amendment, equally, those who have opposed it with the reasons that they have relayed out and those who have supported and most abundantly I would like to thank Hon. Omuya for understanding my explanation well, because the establishment of these storage facilities are normally provided so that our fish doesn't go bad if it is not sold. Madam Speaker, here the report is stating well, that there is scarcity of fish and we know there is a scarcity of fish nowadays and if there is scarcity, we should not look for a market for our fish and talk about the establishing storage facilities. We should only talk about how we can enhance the production of our fish through provision of cages and Water view so that we can have sufficient fish in our beaches then we can talk about our market. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Members, a proposal of an amendment of recommendation from Nyamware Beach Stakeholders, that is recommendation number eright that the County Government to assist women with adequate storage facilities and how to access and expand fish markets was moved by Hon. Rakwach, seconded by Hon. Were and debated upon by Hon. Members. I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same that recommendation No. 8 be expunged from the report.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, recommendation number eight that the County Government to assist women with adequate storage facilities and how to access and expand fish markets now stands expunged from the main report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Yes Hon. Rakwach.

Hon. Rakwach Reuben Okoth (MCA, Kolwa East Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I also seek to propose an amendment on recommendation number nine; consider fish cages for women along Nyamware Beach. It is my considered opinion that we should generalize and talk about our beaches in totality since we have both men and women in these beaches. At the same time giving women these fish cages means that we are discriminating against men. If we are talking of cages, I am proposing amendment so that it read;

“We provide cages for self-help groups in our beaches so that we focus on female and male gender”.

Madam Speaker, if we provide fish cages for women and most of the women are the traders in fish farming, it means they will be producing from their cages and selling. Where will the men take their fish? We are all faced with hard times and so if there is an intervention from the County Government then it should consider all gender. Most people who are involved in fishing are the male gender. I therefore call upon Hon. Were to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Were.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B” Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. We are striving to address a pressing concern: discrimination. This problem arises due to a shortage of fish, leading some individuals to exploit our female population for personal gain before sharing the fish. Introducing cages will be crucial in resolving this issue. With the implementation of cages, we anticipate a significant increase in fish availability, thereby eliminating the need for people to vie for access to them unfairly. I therefore want to support the amendment on recommendation number nine that we introduce fish cages to both genders so that we can cure the incidences of one gender taking advantage over the other. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, an amendment has been proposed on the recommendation from Nyamware beach stakeholders on recommendation number nine which states that the County to consider fish cages for women along Nyamware beach and Hon. Rakwach seeks to amend that the County Government to

consider giving cages for both men and women along all the beaches in Kisumu County. I therefore want to propose a question that the amendment is open for debate.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Oraro.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Madam Speaker, I beg you to guide the House properly. When I am following the report and I believe that the Clerk can also advise. The report has sections and to me it was like this House Committee did their research, went to Nyamware and the residents there gave their recommendations. It is not our business to amend their recommendations. Which recommendation should we be acting on? Is it the one reported by Nyamware traders or the committee’s recommendation from the Assembly?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Oraro, your concern is very valid but according to the mover of the motion, it sounded like they embraced all the recommendations from the report. So, it is no longer a raw report from Nyamware Beach but there are recommendations from the House Committee. This is a report from the House Committee and not from the traders. That the said recommendations have not been put as annexes but part of the report so the whole thing now becomes a report of the House.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Madam Speaker, the reason why I still throw the question back to you, there is that final House Committee recommendations...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Oraro, you can still bring fourth your proposal in the report but according to the presentation made by the House Committee, they took all those and put them together as their recommendation. So, what we are discussing is a recommendation of the House Committee not a report from Nyamware.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Madam Speaker, since I was following, the Nyamware and Dunga people provided their recommendations so I wanted to get a report so that when we talk we don’t thwart away what other people have recommended For example, in Nyamware Beach.....

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Oraro, did you listen to the Chair while reading the moving notes?

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Madam Speaker, I did follow the report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Whatever he read in the moving notes are part of the report and as recommendations of the House Committee.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): It is ok Madam Speaker. Under the recommendation by the Nyamware Traders, it is my belief that they wanted to be empowered through giving them fish cages in groups and may be jointly owned by the group members. I have been to Ogal Beach in Obambo where I used to teach, those who own the fish cages are very rich and they may believe that we are degrading these activities that they are undertaking. Giving fish cages to a few women group is not discriminatory to the other gender. It is a better way of harvesting fish collectively without engaging into the activity we are talking about.

Madam Speaker, we must focus on seeking a lasting solution to activities that are demeaning to a woman and one of the recommendation is captured in the notes submitted by the Chair. That is provision of fish cages. That is a clear indication that they should not depend on their body to get fish. This is not a general recommendation for the entire beaches in Kisumu but it specifically meant for Nyamware Beach. I don't understand why recommendations given by the Member can be seen as vague. For that reason, I want to oppose that in the strongest terms possible.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Members, following this report, I can see your interest or recommendation is also captured in recommendation number four. That is, the Department of Trade should promote both ownership opportunities for women, either as individuals or groups to address perceived gender discrimination in purchase points. I therefore, recommendation number four and nine are almost the same. No, they are not the same with then proposals by the Mover of the amendment. Let us discuss amendment number nine which Members are disagreeing with based on the spirit of the report; which is also supported by recommendation number four (4).

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Yes, Hon Okoyo.

Hon Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I have realized that Hon. Rakwach has not gone through report as required. Indeed, he is focusing his amendments from recommendations on beach by beach. You know, Madam Speaker, when this report was brought for the first time, of which Members advised that we go and do a better report, we had to do a report and recommendations from beach to beach. Therefore, if you can focus, say on Nyamasaria Beach (sic), these are recommendations we obtained from that particular beach.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Members, we are debating the committee recommendations. Therefore, taking us back to debate on recommendations from every beach, which is a task of the House Committee, which is out of order. Can we look at the House Committee recommendations?

Hon Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu Ward): Exactly. Madam Speaker, I am sorry for mentioning Nyamasaria. There is no Nyamasaria beach. The correct position is Nyamware Beach. I am sorry

about that. Madam Speaker, speaking about recommendation number nine on Nyamware beach, the recommendations are very crucial to Nyamware Beach. This is because, at this moment, it is the men who go to the lake to catch fish. Therefore, however scarce that commodity is, they will still sell it to the women traders. In this case, the recommendation is going to balance, that is, when men come with the fish, we will also find the women who are trading on fish also have another source of fish. Therefore, if we will have women either in a group or individually, then they will also have their fish and we will fight the scarcity.

So, I still stand to defend recommendation number nine as a very important to that one of Nyamware Beach. It may not be the same with other beaches because in other beaches we may have the fish cages. However, when we went to Nyamware Beach, there were no fish cages.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Hon. Okoyo, I want to direct that for proper understanding of the amendment on the floor, you re-read the House committee recommendation number three;

1. Is that the County Government should allocate the Annual Budget for the empowerment of women.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Number two. Can you read number three for better understanding of the amendment? The committee recommendation number 3?

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu Ward): It reads; *THAT this is a complex issue and spans across multiple County departments including that of Sports & Gender and those of Finance and Economic Planning, Trade Marketing & Industry, Agriculture Livestock & Fisheries, Medical Health & Public Health and the National Government. That is committee recommendation number 3.*

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, I am not sure we are reading from the same page. But if you look at recommendation number three from the main report, it reads and I quote;

“The Department of Agriculture should allocate dedicated spaces on the beaches for women groups to establish fish cages, with the goal of creating a controlled environment that enhances fish growth, quality and health. Additionally, providing transportation solutions and storage facilities can further ensure fish freshness and safe storage”.

Is that what we have Honourable Members? Hon. Kelvin is that what you have? That is the recommendation of the House Committee. So, Honourable Members, I believe and want to understand that the proposal for expunging made by the Hon. Member in view of these other

recommendations stands null and void because it will imply that we delete so many other recommendations. So, Hon. Member that amendment...

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Central-Kolwa Ward): Madam Speaker that is the reason why I really wanted us to major on the House Committee's recommendations.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Yes, Honourable Members, so, that amendment stands obsolete.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Next Hon. Member.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Yes, Hon. Kelvin.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Now I believe you have given me freedom to contribute on the same motion apart from the amendment. Madam Speaker, I believe the team has done a good job and the issue of fish and other issues being raised like fish cages are things that are very important. From the report, we have noted that even the people who are talking about "Jaboya", the practice has really gone down according to statistics. The reasons are what Hon. Rakwach spoke about them like; the scarcity, the demand for fish, the fish will come and they will be sold within few minutes. So, there will be no such room where a lady will come crying for a fish monger or "Jaboya" to assist. Madam Speaker, I believe that in our county here we are making progress and some of these things will be the things of the past.

Madam Speaker, in addition, the issue of fish cages is becoming a practice that is trying to solve the scarcity of fish and it has been addressed well by this House Committee. In fact, in the recommendation that the Hon. Speaker has just read, I believe that the County Government should try to assist our women against the other investors who have decided to invest in cages. In Ogal area, you will realize that we have many cages which I also saw yesterday while watching a television documentary that in Homabay around Sindo, there are many fish cages.

Madam Speaker, we therefore need to also let the County try to invest by helping our women so that we can balance the price of fish while at the same time, our women get profit. Due to that reason, there are people who like fish which are directly from the lake while others can eat fish from the cages without having a lot of problem. I therefore believe that this House Committee did a good work by conducting research, getting stakeholders from different beaches and having their recommendations captured in the report. I believe that is the way to go.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, maybe, I do not know if those things that we have recommended are put in the budget. It would be advisable that some of these issues raised can be pushed by the various Chairpersons so that we can see one or two things as a House Committee captured in the

Budget estimates. That is because fish cages might not be in a ward. But, that is something that if we recommend as a House Committee or as an Assembly and we see various women group being given support and coming up with cages. We will recognize that as one of the fruits of this Assembly. Nevertheless, from the report that was presented, many women groups will realize that by owning a cage, their fish businesses can be boosted and even make them sell their fish from town to even other distant places.

So, I support and I am only wishing that the Chairperson or the Assembly to go further by trying to push this recommendation in the next year's budget. With that, we will see our women knowing that the Assembly is doing a good work for them, thank you Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Hon. Kennedy Ajwang.

Hon. Kennedy Ajwang (Nominated Member): Thank you Madam Speaker. Going by the mood of this House, I want to call upon the mover to reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Yes Hon. Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. Having been given the opportunity to reply, let me highlight some of the issues which I have noticed during debate on this motion.

Madam Speaker, Kisumu is well known for producing fish and one of the counties that borders Lake Victoria. Other counties might also be having products that they are known for but Kisumu is known by fish. Madam Speaker, I felt sad when other Members were stating that the women should not get support. This is the commodity that is locally found, we need to encourage our women to be engage in fish business because it is there. What we need to do as a county is to see how we can empower our women to have the commodity available for them to trade on.

Madam Speaker, it is true that at the moment, the availability of fish is low and scarce but what can we do as an Assembly is to ensure that we have fish in Kisumu. One of them is to have fish cages. Because we were doing fact findings on the degrading activity, that is the "Jaboya" issue, we need to see how we can empower our women folk so that they don't get themselves in this activity by having other sources.

Madam Speaker, I am happy for those who have supported this report and just like I had said that this report is here to stay. This is a report which should guide the county so that they can find a way of putting some money in budget to empower the women. Madam Speaker, I therefore, reply. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, before I put a question for the adoption, it is worth noting that we all recently attended the Kisumu County Women Representatives’ Activity on the Unveiling of seven Major Strategies. One of the pillars of those seven strategic plans was the Blue Economy which envisioned investing in fish cages and motor boats for the women to curb the issue of “jaboya”. It is evident that the “jaboya” issue is a very big concern along our beaches and it has attracted the attention of many other development partners as well. As we adopt this report, it is worth noting that the office of the Women Representative has an allocation and we must not only focus on the County Government to provide remedy to the menace of “jaboya” so we therefore need to seek assistance from other offices.

Honourable Members, a motion on the report on the Matter of Degrading Activities against Women Traders in Exchange for Fish by the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare was moved, seconded and debated upon. I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same with the amendment in the recommendations therein?

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, the report on the Matter of Degrading Activities against Women Traders in Exchange for Fish by the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare is hereby adopted with the amendments in the recommendations therein today Thursday, 29th February, 2024 at 1609 hours.

Honourable Members, I further direct that, this report together with a copy of the Hansard report be prepared and forwarded to the relevant department and any other relevant body which has shown interest in the curbing of these degrading activities against these women in Kisumu County be forwarded for execution. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Next Order!!

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B” Ward): Honourable Members, there being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to Tuesday, 05th March, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 04.10 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>