

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



### COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

### **THE HANSARD**

#### *Official Report*

#### **THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION**

**Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**

*House met in the Main Chamber at 02:30 p.m.*

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

#### **PRAYER**

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I direct that the Serjeant-at-Arms to ring the quorum bell for the first five minutes.

*(Quorum bell rung for the first five minutes)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Clerk, please take us through the order of today.

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

#### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I have got two commissions to make. Number one, I received a letter from the Governor communicating his intention to have the State of the County Address. The Governor has proposed a date of Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. We discussed with him, we looked at the calendar of the Assembly. So we have agreed on that date. Similarly, I'm equally aware that the Public Participation of the three proposed legislative agendas are still on. Therefore, the Public Participation will commence at 09:00 a.m. up to 12 noon on that date. The State of the County Address will start from 02.30 p.m. Nevertheless for

Members, you have to be seated earlier enough, say by 02:00 p.m. to allow other guests to come in.

Consequently, I have already signed a notice of the same for gazettelement and the event will be held at the Tom Mboya Labour College on Friday, 13th of December from 2.30 p.m. Once the Gazette Number is out, I will be able to communicate the same to this House. So, note it down in your diary that, on Friday, 13th of December, 2024 from 02.30 p.m. we shall be having a State of the County Address just like what we have been doing in the previous year, in 2023 at Tom Mboya Labour College.

Secondly, I am aware that today may mark the last day of our sitting in this Third Assembly. The Third Session, being Session Number 123. It is on the basis that if the Leader of the Majority will be moving the motion, like I have seen in the Order Paper, if the Members agree that we proceed for the Long Recess. I am equally aware that, there are pending works that are still remains unattended to, but I have been informed by the Chairperson, Select Committee on Liaison that, there is need to have some engagement after the plenary.

So, Members of the Select Committee on Liaison, you can agree with your Chairperson on that request. Thank you.

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

## MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF KISUMU INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
AND INVESTMENT PLAN FOR 2024-2025

BY

HON. KENNEDY OOKO, MCA, AHERO

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

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

**Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion for Approval of the Integrated Urban Development Plan and Annual Investment Plan 2024-2025.

AWARE that, Article 184 of the Constitution of Kenya provides for the Governance and Management of Urban Areas and Cities through the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011, and that Sections 104 and 109 of the County Government Act 2012 require every county to have plans to guide, harmonize, and facilitate development within the county.

FURTHER aware that, Section 36 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011 requires Urban Areas and Cities to develop the Integrated Urban Development Plan, which is harmonized with county plans, and that implementation of projects and utilization of funds within urban areas must be aligned with the Approved Urban Development Plan, the integrated urban development plan.

Whereas the City of Kisumu has developed an Integrated Urban Development Plan aligned with the objectives of the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2019 amended to serve as a blueprint for sustainable growth, addressing critical areas such as land use, infrastructure development, environmental conservation, economic growth, and social equity for the planning horizon of 2024 to 2034.

WHEREAS, the Annual Investment Plan 2024-2025 has been prepared as part of the Implementation Strategy for the Integrated Urban Development Plan to ensure efficient allocation of resources for priority development projects.

NOTING, that the said documents were prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and their preparation are there to start the guidelines under Section 23 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

COGNIZANT, of the importance of these plans in enabling access to funding, ensuring compliance with statutory mandates, and advancing the City's Development Agenda Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members.

ACKNOWLEDGING, that these documents have undergone rigorous Public Participation and stakeholder engagement, and

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING, that these plans have been revived, reviewed, and approved by the City Board of Kisumu.

NOW, THEREFORE, I wish to move a motion that this House resolves as follows that;

- a) The Kisumu City Integrated Urban Development Plan for the City of Kisumu covering the period 2024-2034 be approved and adopted as the city's primary planning document for sustainable urban development.
- b) The Annual Investment Plan 2024-2025, outlining specific projects and financial allocations for the implementation of the IDeP in the fiscal year 2024-2025, be approved and adopted.

- c) The County Executive Committee Member in charge of Planning and Urban Development and the City of Kisumu ensures prompt implementation of the IDeP and Annual Investment Plan 2024-2025 and provides quarterly updates to the County Assembly on progress made: and;
- d) This House prioritizes any future legislative and budgetary measures necessary for the successful execution of these plans.

Mr. Speaker, I implore all the Honourable Members of this Assembly to support this motion and I would like to ask Honourable Ratib Boitone to second. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Proceed Honourable Boitone.

**Hon. Boitone** (MCA, Nyalenda “A”): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to second the motion that has just been moved by Leader of Majority. Honourable Speaker, as things stand, it will be prudent for this House to approve the two documents. This is because one, Honourable Speaker, we all understand that, one of the requirements that is required by one of the donors that is helping Kisumu County in terms of infrastructural development. That is the World Bank. Is that these two documents be approved by this House.

Mr. Speaker, on the same regard, the infrastructural development that is being undertaken in this county is in line with Urban Development and the Department of City. In that respect, as a County the infrastructural development, we need to ensure that the donor money, the donor funds that will be directed for this development is used prudently. That is why one of the requirements that should be complied with, that is the quarterly updates for the development that will be undertaken has to be brought and approved by this Assembly for interrogation. For that matter, Honourable Speaker, I want to urge all the City MCAs to support this document. I want to urge the Assembly as a whole.

Mr., Speaker, because these developments will not only be undertaken in the City, but we understand that these infrastructural developments will go further to our newly conferred municipalities. So, we need to keep these municipalities up and running for the betterment of Kisumu County residents. On that matter, Honourable Speaker, I support second. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the Motion Approval of the City of Kisumu Integrated Urban Development Plan and the Investment Plan has been moved by the Leader of the Majority and seconded by Honourable Ratib Boitone, I want to propose a question that the Motion Approval of the City of Kisumu Integrated Urban Development Plan and the City of Kisumu Investment Plan 2024-2025 is open for debate.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Gard Olima.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this motion moved by the Leader of Majority.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard the seconder of the motion saying we approve two documents. None of these documents are before us. We don't know the plan the City has for the next 10 years, that is 2024-2034. Mr. Speaker, you are aware today Kisumu being a consumer town, not a consumer city. Mr. Speaker, today you walk in Kisumu and people say Kisumu is clean. But by 4:00 in the evening, the City of Kisumu is empty because of poor planning. How I wish that the Leader of Majority would have furnished us with these documents so that we have a glimpse of which plans they have in place for the City for the next 10 years to ensure that Kisumu grows as a city and becomes a city.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): I'm asking Honourable Gard Olima, do you have the documents? You are a member of the official communication page and I can see the documents are there.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm talking of the two documents the Chair of Planning is talking about. If you look at the two documents that we've not interrogated, Mr. Speaker, I wish this thing could have come through maybe a House Committee so that we could discuss and take it for public participation beforehand. This is because, looking at Kisumu today, in the last six months, we've lost two supermarkets in Kisumu due to poor planning.

There's nobody in the city by four o'clock because our people are consumers and there's nothing to do in the city after four when the offices are closed, this is for those who are in employment. If you go to the biggest street in Kisumu, which is Oginga Odinga Street, which was being served by the people who are working along the previously known Akamba area, when the Railways demolished their stalls through the area MCA, Market Milimani, the people went away and today the City is empty. Again, we have lost Shivling Supermarket residents don't have the purchasing power to buy goods from there. Nobody's in town. We've lost Carrefour in Mega plaza because nobody is buying from these retail chains.

Mr. Speaker, how I wish that we know that Kisumu is a consumer town and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish that we would have interrogated these documents further before approving these development plan. Mr. Speaker, if you look at Kisumu today, anybody coming to Kisumu will tell you Kisumu is clean. But what else do the people who stay in Kisumu get in terms of investment we are being told about?

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has been approving budgets and as the Chairperson for Planning has said, we have donors coming to Kisumu. Again, the donor funds comes only to the City Wards

but then, you still get the County Assembly approving budgets from the County Revenue Funds Accounts (CRF) to work in the City.

Mr. Speaker, what I am aware of is that the city, through the donors, they have a menu of what they need to do with the money and one of them being the Solid Waste Management. Mr. Speaker, you still again find us approving money for the waste removal in town from the CRF account. Mr. Speaker, we know that the infrastructure in town is being done by the donor funds. Today, again, you find us approving money for the same from the CRF account while the City Wards get double allocations, because they have a donor funded project and they have the CRF Account project, the rural wards don't get anything.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that we could agree that if the City is going to be provided with donor funded projects, then they release or relinquish the CRF projects to the rural wards so that Kisumu can grow in equal measure. Mr. Speaker, you walk to some wards outside the city and you feel you are somewhere in the desert. Where some of us represent today, you still find people being carried in tracks to hotels because of lack of roads. We carry bodies of dead people, our respected dead people, on our shoulders because we don't have improved road networks. Kisumu today, we have walkways where our Indians can stroll with their puppies in the evening, and our people in the village are crying for such services. We don't have roads; we don't have water. I wish that if we were to approve these plans then, we have to agree that let the city wards be funded by the donor funds and the rural wards be funded by the CRF account money that we get from the exchequer release. But just approving these plans in blank, and then we expect the same time when we are allocated Kshs 20 million for each ward, the city wards are again allocated a further Kshs 20 million plus the donor funded projects, that will be demoralizing and will not be equitable, and our people will keep on crying.

Mr. Speaker, today, Kisumu has enough water, infrastructure, it has more facilities than any other place. Therefore, if we can leave them with only the donor funded projects, then it is my belief that, we will be doing justice to the constituents of Kisumu County, because Kisumu is the only county in this country where we have the rural and the urban. All other cities, be it Mombasa, be it Nairobi, they are all cities all over, but Kisumu, we have much of the rural than the city, and we want to invest so much in the city than the rural.

Mr. Speaker, this will not be justice to our people, this will not be justice to the Kisumu constituents, and therefore, I wish that as a House we oppose this motion, bring the Kisumu City Board on board so that we are able to discuss with the city MCAs so that, we agree that they be keen on the donor funds, and we be keen on the CRF funds. Thank you, I oppose.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Seth Kanga, the Chief Whip.

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market Milimani): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion as read by, or as outlined by the Leader of Majority, and seconded by the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House is aware that we have a Kisumu County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for the County. The Leader of Majority, in his opening remarks, stated that the provisions of Section 36 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, read together with Section 104 and 109 of the County Government Act, 2015, states that there is a requirement in law that the County Integrated Development Plan be realigned with the Integrated Urban Development Plan of the Cities. Mr. Speaker, currently, the Urban Areas and Cities Act does not cover only the city, as highlighted by my friend, Honourable Gard Olima, who is a ranking member. The urban areas within the city do not only fall within the 14 wards of the City. There are some urban areas which were gazetted by the Governor, which falls within the jurisdictions of other Wards, that is Katito, Muhoroni, Maseno, Holo, and Kombewa.

Mr. Speaker, you are aware that there are a lot of infrastructural developments going on in those areas that are within the city, which are not controlled because we don't have an Integrated Urban Development Plan, which is a 10-year plan, which expected to run from 2024 to 2034. Mr. Speaker that is why we are going to have an Annual Development Plan for each urban area within the County. Each urban area will come up with its Development Plan. Mr. Speaker, you are aware that some parts of the city are developing in terms of infrastructure. Real estates are coming up, for example, in parts of Kolwa East and Kolwa Central Wards. There are no Sewage Treatment Plants in those areas. If you go to South West Kisumu, there are no Sewage Treatment Plants in those areas. Therefore, when we come up with an Integrated Urban Development Plan, which is going to take into consideration those critical areas as far as infrastructural development is concerned, then we are going to cure the anomalies which arise as a result of a County not having a clear outline on how we want to develop, not only the city but also other parts of the County.

Mr. Speaker, on Environmental Conservation, people are removing trees in an uncontrolled manner, especially in the city, and bringing up storey buildings without necessarily planting more trees. If you visit areas along Nairobi Road, you will find a lot of buildings being constructed. However, in terms of forest cover, there are no trees in those areas. As a result, you will find, when you are driving towards Nairobi Road, you will realize an anomaly in terms of the smell from the sewers and septic tanks both during the day and the night. You know, during the day, the sun heats the ground. Then, during the night, the heat which the ground absorbs comes up with the foul smell. I believe this will be cured when these plans are approved and operationalized.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to economic growth, Kisumu currently is running without a designated industrial area expected of a city. You will find that an industrial area such as manufacturing is coming up everywhere. Mr. Speaker, as a city, we should designate an area for industrial growth, where manufacturing and attendant activities are going on.

Mr. Speaker, in other areas, for instance Ahero, Dumping of Garbage is done along the road we do not have an Urban Integrated Plan. In Muhoroni or even Katito town, there are no designated areas for dumping of garbage.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to Road Networks, there are no designated areas where it is indicated that there is going to be a road of a specified kilometer and width, so that we control development. Even those developing are informed that there is a road that which come up in in a particular area hence the need to put that into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of Majority talked about Social Equity. We need to take into consideration issues such as which Honourable Gard Olima was talking about; revenue. Revenues are located towards the city. We should take into consideration issues of the magnitude of an urban area, such as Katito, when are allocating funds. We need to ask such questions as: what do we allocate to Katito that we should not allocate to Muhoroni, for example? Those are the social equity issues we are talking about because devolution talks about equity. What percent are we going to allocate to Maseno Town? What percent are we going to allocate to Kombewa Town? What percent are we going to allocate to Muhoroni and other areas?

Mr. Speaker, those are the issues the Motion is addressing and it is a requirement. If this Assembly does not pass this Motion, it will deny the County Government donor funds. The County Government of Kisumu or even the Ministry of Urban Planning can request for donor funding. The donors will ask such questions as:

- a) How are we going to finance you?
- b) What consideration did you make?
- c) How do we finance Katito, for example?
- d) What are we supposed to do in Katito which is not done in Kisumu City?
- e) What are we going to do in Muhoroni which is not done in Maseno?

Mr. Speaker, those are the areas that should be taken into consideration so that we have a Comprehensive Integrated Development Plan for all our urban areas so that as a County, we are going to develop between the year 2024 and 2034.

Mr. Speaker, many legislators will succeed us. Other new Governors will also come after Professor Peter Anyang' Nyongó leaves office. Those Governors who will succeed Prof Nyongó

will have a roadmap may ask him/herself; was Professor Nyongó developing these towns without a Comprehensive Integrated Development Plan? Mr. Speaker, you know we have Vision 2030, which was developed by the late former President of Kenya Mwai Kibaki. That Vision is still running today. When we have plans such as Millennium Development Goals, we are taking into consideration Vision 2030. Everything that is done in Kenya is anchored towards Vision 2030.

Therefore, as a County, we should also have a development plan which will run from 2024 to 2034; such that those who will be coming after us will have a roadmap to follow. As a result of that, I urge this Honourable House to approve this Motion so that we have an Integrated Development Plan for our urban areas and this city from the year 2024 to 2034. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Ouko.

**Hon Ouko** (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to oppose this motion with specific reasons. Mr. Speaker, it is good that we have plans for infrastructure development. It is equally true that it is through this that we can achieve planned development. However, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about fairness, it should be spread to the whole County of Kisumu, not to a specific area.

Mr. Speaker, recently the same municipality or city was provided with a fund worth almost worth Kshs. 4,000,000,000. Other areas and other municipalities were not given anything. I believe or trust that, it was now this time for the County to prioritize on other municipalities instead of repeating or giving more money to the city which is already developed. Mr. Speaker, equity that you many are talking about, means that everyone is provided with what they need in order to succeed. Mr. Speaker, really, if those who have are the ones being added, what about those who do not have? In that case, we do not talk about equity but something else, altogether.

Mr. Speaker, truly, the Municipalities are not working. The Boards are not complete and the Managers themselves have nothing to do. Mr. Speaker, if funds which were appropriated to the Municipalities are not given to them, we would not be having a problem in Ahero waiting for the machine meant for the city to go and extinguish fire in Ahero if we had working Municipalities. Mr. Speaker, if fairness is to be seen to be achieved, we should first prioritize on real equity, not favouring other areas and others are equally taxpayers just like the people within the city.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Order!! Honourable Ouko. I want to give this House some guidance.

**Hon. Ouko** (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Members, if I heard the Leader of the Majority move the Motion well, it is about a Plan and not appropriation. I believe we have got other urban areas which should equally bring their plans for approval by the Assembly. And what we are discussing is the Plan for the city. Therefore, I want to give guidance that we are not discussing the Motion that has been moved unless I did not clearly get the Leader of Majority. It is about Investment and Integrated Urban Development Plan. It is a plan about what should be done in the next ten years and in the next one year. I believe Katito, Kombewa, Maseno, and Muhoroni should equally bring their plans. Therefore, I want to guide that you confine yourself to the Motion.

**Hon Ouko** (MCA, West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, really over concentration of resources in one place is quite dangerous. And this is what we should always note very clear because other areas also need resources. In addition, they do not have personnel to even draw up these plans. It is only the city which is favoured to have such opportunities. If it is a matter of equity, then staffs should be in our Municipalities too so that we can have these plans developed. Who will develop and bring the plans? For sure, I oppose the Motion. It is advisable that we go and talk to the people first. We first conduct Public Participation before these plans are brought to the Assembly. Now, when we come to the Assembly, we have the wishes of the people and the views of the people included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Deputy Leader of Majority

**Deputy Leader of Majority** (Hon Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. I have heard my colleagues that have divergent views. They are talking about inequality or lack of equal development plan in their areas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the opposing Members that this is the only way that will help solve that problem of inequality or inequity in our rural areas. If the donors concentrate in the city and maybe we apply what my senior is lamenting about, that the rest of the money, the CRF, goes to the rural areas, then we will have solved the problem.

Therefore, let them just be patient, and as Members of the Assembly, as brothers, let us accept the gentleman's agreement that going forward, we will look into the concerns of the opposing party, and then we concentrate the donor money in the city, then the CRF goes to the rural areas. But as it is now, it is not that all that is concentrated in the city does not benefit our rural Wards.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state here without fear of contradiction that, my Ward and my Sub-County has been benefiting from the subsidy that we get from KIWASCO. Mr. Speaker, for the last two weeks we have been doing without water in Nyakach due to a huge water bill. However, the day before yesterday, KIWASCO team, which is a part of the city, paid over Kshs. 8 million

to salvage the water bill that made our water being disconnected. Mr. Speaker that is support that we must appreciate. Therefore...

*(Hon. Olima rises on a Point of Order)*

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honorable Olima, what is your Point of Order?

**Hon Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House that the Member on the Floor is misleading this House. The water in Nyakach under NYANAS/KIWASCO, is being given at a fee, and everyone is paying bills. Nobody is paying for us bills, and I do not think KIWASCO has the capacity to pay Kshs. 8 million for the people in Nyakach to get water.

Mr. Speaker, the water that runs in Nyakach is being paid, and everybody is being billed. The only problem is that the money given by the customers are used at source. Therefore, there is no prudent management of that, and there is no way the city is helping us to pay our bills. Therefore, I ask the Member to withdraw and apologize to people in Nyakach for saying that we do not pay our bills and that the bills are paid by KIWASCO.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Lumumba.

**Deputy Leader of Majority** (Hon Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, if you heard me very well, I did not say that members of my Ward or constituency do not pay bills. I said the bills were sorted out by KIWASCO, and I am not going to withdraw. I stand by that because it is the truth. Just two days ago, if the Member, who is supposed to be part of what I am saying, disputes, then I do not know where he is coming from or where he lives. Either he is living in Kisumu, but does not know the problem that we are undergoing and how the problem was solved. No wonder, every time there is this problem, I am the one who is called. I complained in the social media and told them I am not the only MCA here from Nyakach. Every time there is a problem, it is me the constituents call. Therefore, I am informing the members that, I was part of persuasion...

**Hon Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Point of information, Mr. Speaker. I do not want the Member to digress on the issue we are talking about.

*(Hon. Olima rises to interject)*

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Gard, I was still listening to the sentiments of Honourable Lumumba.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct the member once again and state that, I stay in Nyakach. I am an elected Member in Nyakach. Secondly, I want to inform the member that, if there is a breakdown in the firm, which is NYANAS/KIWASCO and Sondu, which apparently is in his Ward, it does not mean you are doing anything to help other people solve their problems. We are equally involved. If there is a transformer issue, that can only be done by the Kenya Power because they are all being paid as well. They get revenue from us. Mr. Speaker, I want the member to withdraw his statement that the bill was paid for the people of Nyakach. Which bill was this and whose bill was that KIWASCO paid for the plant in Sondu at Kshs. 8 million? And can he give us the documents and the details of the said payment and what would prompt KIWASCO to come on board to pay it.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Members, I do not want it to be an exchange, but if I heard Honourable Gard well, he did say that they pay for the bill when they use the water. The only thing is that they use it at the source. Therefore, it means all the money is used at the source. So somebody must pay for the city bill.

**Deputy Leader of Majority**(Hon Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, I was just trying to appreciate some of the services that are extended to us by the city institutions. That was all I was saying. So, I was informing my fellow Honourable Members to be patient and accept that going forward, what we are trying to debate about, the Motion, if passed, will give more room for us to benefit from the resources, the mega resources that we get from the CRF.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in a very delicate situation. It is like a mother in the labour ward who is about to deliver and you are told that there are only two options. Either the kid will be saved or the mother will be saved if you wait for a doctor to be flown from South Africa. But for the mother and the kid to be saved, we take a risk with a Clinical Officer to operate and save either. But if you wait for more hours, then even if the expert flies in, one life will be lost. That is the situation where we are. What do we do? Do we take a risk with a clinical officer to do an operation? If the operation succeeds, then we will save both lives. Or do we wait for the expert to come when one life is already gone? That is where we are. This is because of the constraints of time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge Members of this House, to see the future of this city with the donor's money. If it will be beneficial enough to pass this Motion, or we suffer and we wait for another one year, or we miss out on this programme altogether. I, therefore, ask Members of this Honourable House to consider the pros and cons of this donor money.

Mr. Speaker, when you talk of the City Wards benefiting, just the other day in the Supplementary Budget, money that was meant to develop Moi stadium was withdrawn only for our funds to be lifted and taken back to the Department of Roads in order to carry out that

particular project. We have to appreciate what the city has sacrificed for us. We have municipalities being created in our rural areas. Once this takes off and we get the donor money, Mr. Speaker, someone like me who is not covered in any of these Municipalities may benefit by getting more allocation to develop our roads. Let us look at it critically along that line. Mr. Speaker, I rest my case as I support the Motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon Oraro): Honourable Seth Okumu.

**Hon Okumu** (MCA, East Seme): Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the adoption of this Motion.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to my brother, the Honourable Gard Olima, and I know from his life experience, he cannot appreciate Plans. You know, Honourable Gard lived in Apoko, and then he left Apoko, then he went to Lainisaba in Nairobi, then he moved to Lucky Summer; places that do not have Plans. But Honourable Members, it is said, and we all appreciate that, failing to plan is planning to fail. We cannot talk about development of the city when we do not have a plan for that development, and that is what we are doing here today.

Mr. Speaker, as a House we need to approve a plan for the development of the city so that the monies that the Honorable Member, the Honorable Gard Olima was talking about can be channeled to a plan that has been approved by this House. So, if we agree that we are supposed to have a Fire Station, Walkways, Markets, it is within the plan that we have approved in this Assembly. Honourable Members, we cannot keep requesting money from different stakeholders for the development of the city and by the time that money is coming we are not sure what we want to do with it and we start thinking. That is why we must have a plan. That is why we are passing a five-year development plan for the city. This does not restrict development plan for other counties, for other wards, or for other urban centres. But this one is a requirement that the city has a development plan.

Honorable Members, we all know and appreciate that the city is supposed to get funding for development. But we have not approved those developments that they want to do. That is why we have to agree with them so that if we do not want a walkway, you read the plan and you say, in this plan we are amending so that we do not have walkways, we are going to have markets. If we do not want tarmacs, we say we do not want tarmacs, we want markets. But the development plan that they have given us, Honourable Speaker, I believe it is just fair for these Honorable Members because it encompasses everything for those who have read it.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that you know the challenge we are having with us Members here is that we send documents through our WhatsApp group but people are not keen to read and know the contents of those documents. If you read through the documents that have been sent, the Development Plan, which is from 2023 to 2027, and the Investment Plan for 2024-2025, which I

believe is borrowed from the other document; I do not see the reason as to why we should not approve it. Honourable Members, for us to have leeway with the little resources we are raising in the city, we must create channels to get funding from other sources, and these funders will only come if they have a clear plan on what they are coming to do. That is what we are passing here today. If we do not do that, then it means the donors won't come.

Mr. Speaker, if these development partners do not come then, it means the little money that we raise will be shared for developing the city and also developing the rural wards. So, I believe that, it is just fair, Honourable Members, that we allow this Assembly to pass the plan and if anything, we can only amend the plan that they are having, to match what we want to see being developed in the city. However, we must have a development plan for the city. Honourable Members, with those very many submissions, I support the adoption of those two motions. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Peter Obaso.

**Hon. Obaso** (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me also be in concurrence with the previous speakers in supporting these motions. There is a tendency in this House that every report is being posted a bit late. So, it is giving us a bit difficult time to go through these reports, and most of them have been posted two hours to the plenary. It is my belief that, this matter should be addressed. Like the one that is before the House was posted at around noon. That was about two hours ago, and it is giving us a bit of difficulty given our busy and tight schedule. Mr. Speaker, let me go on by supporting this motion because I think having a plan for the city is a good thing.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Obaso, are you trying to say that, the document was posted at noon?

**Hon. Obaso** (Nominated Member): Mr. Speaker, yes at 12:00 noon.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Member, are you sure, unless I am in a different WhatsApp group?

**Hon. Obaso** (Nominated Member): That is the time. Confirm. Thank you. So, I think having a plan for the city is a good thing. We have a city. That is Kisumu City. And there is so much that should be done in the city and without a plan, then, we are going to fail as a city. So, I am in support of this because we want the best for our city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support it.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Tom Onditi.

**Hon. Onditi** (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you Honorable Speaker. I rise to oppose this report. First, allow me to build on the premise built by my fellow two colleagues, Honourable Gard Olima and my Chairperson, Honourable Ken Ouko.

Mr. Speaker, we are all in agreement that having a plan for the city is a good thing. Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, going by what, if I can borrow from what the seconder of the motion said that, this means that this motion is only good for the city wards because he only requested the City MCAs to support this motion. Mr. Speaker, I have tried to run through this report. These two reports were posted around 01:30 p.m. and 01:40 p.m. which is this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, unless it is a strategic plan to gag members here, to unilaterally pass something that they do not know and probably sneak certain things that somebody knows that members would have ordinarily opposed, then I do not know what it is. The rule requires that documents such as this will be posted at least 48 hours to the debate time. We are having an important document as this being posted one and a half hours or two hours to the session time. The reason being is only known to the person who is doing this job, Mr. Speaker, and therefore, it is my belief that this House is likely to pass something that they do not know. Most members sitting in this House today, I am confident have not read this report. I am not disputing the fact that having a plan for the city is good. But sometimes, even in court of Law, people lose cases on technicalities, not on the content. Hence, we need to have time, as suggested by my other colleagues, so that members go through this document thoroughly. Because, yes, it is good to have a successful city or urban, but the success of the city majorly depends on the success of urban areas. For example, cases like Muhoroni. Today, there is a lot to be sold or traded in Kisumu city or town, for that matter. However, people cannot come to town because there are no roads. We need a plan that also encompasses or takes care of the interest of what we call the peri-urban wards or areas, so that the city can build wholesomely, not city builds or succeeds selectively.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, with those many remarks, I oppose this motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honorable James Omollo.

**Hon. Omollo** (MCA, West Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion. Mr. Speaker, we have a city, and I believe that, we are the luckiest counties in this country that have cities in them. Kisumu being one of the cities in this country, and we have to plan for it. So far, so good with what has been going on in terms of development with our partners and donors. As a County Assembly, we also have to support to see that the city is planned well. Having the documents with us and approving them here would mean that we are seeing a future city of Kisumu.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to the first worlds of the day. All their cities, all their municipalities are very well developed and well planned. Everything is good. I believe that, it is the future we want

for this city. As an Assembly member, I really would want to support this because the vision in it is so solid that if taken into consideration and the donor funding, I think we will move.

Mr. Speaker, we have other five municipalities coming up. So, they will learn from the city. Once this city gets it right, then that implies that Katito Pap- Onditi, Muhoroni, Maseno, and Kombewa will get it right, and others. That is the only way to go. It is my belief that history will judge us for having done what should have been done. I want to thank the Governor, Professor Anyang' Nyongó. You know, he took a bold step in 2017 to make sure that the plans which were there under KUP were undertaken. Some people faulted him for really messing up with the traders, but the end results today, we are very proud of him because of what we are seeing in this city. Every other city in this country would really love to benchmark with us and the towns in this country. So, it is upon us as an Assembly to stamp our authority to support this motion because it is the future of Kisumu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Sammy Onyango, I keep on confusing you with Honourable Ngeta because you keep on changing your sitting position. Please sit in one place. Otherwise, you can continue. Honourable Sammy you know Honourable Dede is more senior.

**Hon. Dede** (MCA, North Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker for according me this opportunity to also echo my sentiments concerning the motion on the Floor. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion. This is because, if these plans are approved, and that all the projects being undertaken within the city. Other projects are usually taken to some particular wards within the city, like the Market/Milimani, and not knowing that there are also other wards within the city. Mr. Speaker, like where I come from, in Kisumu North Ward, I am a member of the city, and if the plans are well-drawn, the projects that are executed in the city for this financial year, like in Market Milimani or Migosi, so in the next financial year, it will be well-planned. If proper planning is undertaken or executed in next financial year, when the plan is there, it might be taken to Kisumu North Ward for the proceeding financial year, or in another ward. Mr. Speaker, being that plans are well-executed at the right time....

*(Hon. Olima interjects)*

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South-West Nyakach): Point of information, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Olima, whom do you want to inform?

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South-West Nyakach): *(On a Point of Information)* The member on the Floor is talking of the plan for Migosi and then Market/Milimani and again, saying he is a member of the city ward.

So, I do not know whether he has read the report, known what has been planned for his ward before supporting what he is saying. Because he is saying next financial year, it will be North Ward. I do not know what has been allocated for Migosi and Market/Milimani for this plan we are talking about. Can the Member confirm whether he has read the report?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Olima, are you informing the Member? You said you are informing the House. So, the House is informed.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South-West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is part of the House.

**Hon. Dede** (MCA, North Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. It seems the Honorable Member, who has stood on the point of information, was absent-minded. He thought that he still lives in a poor area or region. The member thinks that that the plans are well-executed, Mr. Speaker, these plans gives us the direction of what to be implemented at a particular time. If done as the plan, let us say for the CIDP 2023-2027, it has been executed at a particular time, this one will be executed in this region, the other one will be in the other regions. If all is done in that manner, Mr. Speaker, the plan, if we approve it today, we will be in a position to get development from each and every corner all within our city. Otherwise, I support. Thank you.

*(The Chief Whip rises on a Point of Order)*

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Whip, what is your Point of Order and whom do you want to inform?

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Mr. Speaker, the House and equally, my friend, the Honorable Gard Olima.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Proceed

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Mr. Speaker, there is a notion which has been created in this County that part of the CBD is dead. Mr. Speaker, you are aware that when we came to this House in the Second Assembly, the Honorable Gard Olima was equally the Chief Whip of this House, and when the manifesto of Professor Peter Anyang' Nyongó was brought in this House, we talked about Kisumu Urban Regeneration Plan. It is the Honorable Gard Olima who seconded that motion by then, about decongesting the city. It was decongesting the city.

*(Hon. Olima interjects with a Point of Order)*

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Now the city has..., please let me conclude.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, the Member on the Floor is naked.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South-West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Switch off your microphone. Just stand up, Honourable Seth Kanga. But I can see that the Member is in a suit.

**Hon. Olima** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, I think you are blind and you can please have a second attempt to confirm. Is he wearing jeans, sports shoes?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Leader of Majority, can you confirm if the Honorable member is well-dressed?

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Mr. Speaker, before I confirm, is it in order for Honourable Gard Olima to raise a Point of Order while Chief Whip was on a Point of Order?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Leader of Majority, just confirm to me first.

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Honorable Speaker, he is properly dressed in a Turkey suit.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Proceed Chief Whip.

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): *(Point of Information cont.)* Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you for protecting me. Mr. Speaker, I think Honorable Gard Olima is just trying to stop me from bringing this point home because he was there and he was the Chief Whip.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of the urban regeneration was to decongest the city so that the city is vibrant on both divides. So, I do not know why he is complaining that supermarkets are closing up while China Square just opened recently. I am urging these supermarkets to open their supermarkets in other peri-urban area like where my friend Honorable Okoyo represents the Otonglo and the Muhoroni areas. These supermarkets should move down to other places, not just necessarily the CBD of the town. The concept of Professor Peter Nyongó was to decongest the

CBD. Even in Apoko, if you can open one in Apoko, Nyamarimba, Mr. Speaker that is the point I wanted to bring home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Samuel Onyango of Railways Ward.

**Hon. Onyango** (MCA, Railways): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion. Having a plan for the City is long overdue. I want to inform my fellow Members, Honourable Tom Onditi and Honourable Gard Olima that, the Kisumu City is the face of Kisumu County. So, it must have a proper plan. It is not a matter of having 14 wards within the city. It is a matter of having a plan for a better city, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Onditi has stayed in my ward throughout. It really was a ward, and when there were no lights around, he always called me to say that there was a matter on the lights that were not working. So, with this kind of plan, Mr. Speaker, such cases will be gone cases. So, we are here to support this report, not because we are from city wards. We are supporting this report, so that we have a proper plan within the city.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, for those who feel that this report will only benefit city wards, they are also free to come and vie here. They can vie within the city so that they can enjoy whatever they think we enjoy. However, for us within the city, we believe that having a plan for the city, is better for all of us. That is why Kisumu City is the Europe of Kenya. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Adegga.

**Hon. Adegga** (MCA, Kajulu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going by the mood of the House, I call the mover to reply.

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

**Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members for their contribution. However, I want to inform the members to differentiate between allocating money and talking about the plans. Those who feel that city wards are getting more money bring such issues when we are doing the budget.

Mr. Speaker, there are Honourable Members who talked about Public Participation; I want to inform them that Integrated Urban Development Plan is generated from the Kisumu County Integrated Development Plan. The same with Annual Investment Plan, which is also generated from Annual Development Plan. (ADP) and CIDP went through Public Participation. So, we are in order.

Mr. Speaker, I started by saying that it is a requirement by World Bank for Kisumu City to qualify for funding for the Assembly to approve these two plans. Mr. Speaker, Annual Development Plan 2024-2025 is needed to help in the implementation strategy for Integrated Urban Development Plan. I was surprised by Honourable Gard Olima opposing the motion. Again, I want to say that we are talking about the motion. We are not talking about the exact plans. I want to inform all the members that apart from the city, the Governor came up with five municipalities that are also taking care of a number of rural wards. We have Ahero-Awasi Municipality that I am well acquainted with that takes care of part of Ahero, Kobura, Awasi/Onjiko, and East-Kano Wawidhi Wards. So, when you talk about development plans only within the city, we are wrong. We have Kombewa-Bodi Municipality, Katito-Pap-Onditi, Muhoroni-Chemelil, and I was surprised with my friend, Honorable Kennedy Ouko saying that his ward is not taken care of yet Maseno- Holo municipality, Holo is part of West Kisumu ward.

Honourable Members, Honourable Gard Olima whispered to me today in the morning that he was going to oppose this motion simply because he was not involved in the trip to Mombasa County by the Kisumu City Board. Honourable Speaker, some Members as Honourable Onditi were saying that the document was posted at 01.00pm but, I want to inform these members that these plans were posted at 09.05 a.m. The Chief Whip talked about clear timelines to pass this; these two Planning documents are required by World Bank for Kisumu to qualify for funding. So, it is a requirement for us as an Assembly to approve it. Furthermore, when we have cities competing for funding from any donors, the only city we have in Kisumu County is the city of Kisumu. We do not have a city called Apoko city, so the only one that qualifies from the County of Kisumu is the Kisumu City.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue is that, we must have a plan for the city and the established municipalities. I therefore want to inform Honourable Members that the Ahero, Kombewa, Maseno, Sondu and Chemelil did not qualify for KISIP simply because our plans were not approved in time. But, for Muhoroni which had its plan approved in time qualified for funding and you can see the good work going on that has changed the face of Muhoroni. In that regard, let us not look at Kisumu as a city, but let us look at ourselves as Members of the Kisumu County. The plan as has been said by Honourable Chief Whip will help us to spur economic growth and environmental conservation. Like now if you go to Ahero, we have a problem with garbage. Those who have passed through that place, the environment is not very friendly. So we must have such plans so that we develop our cities and municipalities.

Honourable Members, this is to inform you that, as we pass this document, if all of you agree, I want to inform you that there is a group of consultants from World Bank already going around to assess if the City of Kisumu qualifies for the funding. Therefore, I want to persuade all Members that we pass this motion as fast as possible. Otherwise, Hon. Speaker, I reply. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the Motion for Approval of the City of Kisumu Integrated Development Plan and The Investment Plan for the Year 2024/2025 has been moved by the Leader of Majority, seconded by the Honourable Ratib Boitone who is the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development and debated upon. As per our Standing Order, I now want to put a question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the Motion for Approval of the City of Kisumu Integrated Development Plan and the Investment Plan for the Year 2024/2025 have been approved today, Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> of December, 2024 at 15.55 Hours. I direct that the Hansard Report be prepared for onward submission to the right department for action. Thank you.

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

## MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER FOR AMENDMENT IN THE  
STANDING ORDERS TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF SECTORAL COMMITTEES  
FROM THE CURRENT EIGHT MEMBERS TO NINE MEMBERS.

BY

HON. KEN OOKO, MCA, AHERO

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko MCA, Ahero): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to move a Motion for the Approval of the Proposal to consider for Amendment in the Standing Orders to Increase the Membership of Sectoral Committees from the Current Eight to Nine Members. I had said Seven Membership to Nine Membership. Hon. Speaker;

AWARE THAT, the Standing Orders provides that the membership of Sectoral Committees be an odd number to facilitate decision making and prevent ties.

NOTING THAT, the Selection Committee on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 placed the membership of Sectoral Committees at an even number of eight contrary to the established dictates of the Standing Orders.

RECOGNIZING THAT, an odd number in House Committee membership is necessary to uphold the principles of democracy and efficiency in decision making as it prevents deadlocks during voting and promotes clear resolutions on contentious issues especially in cases of tied votes.

FURTHER AWARE, that increasing the membership of Sectoral Committees to Nine will enhance inclusivity, allowing for broader representation of the diversity within the House and fostering more robust deliberations on County matters.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this House approves this proposal to consider for amendment in the Standing Orders to increase the membership of Sectoral Committees from the current Eight to Nine members, ensuring compliance with established ethos and facilitating the smooth operation of committee function. Hon. Speaker, I would like to ask the Deputy Leader Majority to second. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Deputy Leader Majority

**Deputy Leader of Majority** (Hon. Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker, what my senior has just introduced is a very straightforward Motion. It is also being done not for any ulterior motive but; to accommodate and to satisfy the needs of our Members.

Mr. Speaker, as leaders, we have listened to the recommendations of some of our Honourable Members raising complaints that we considered genuine and came up with this as a solution so that those who feel they were not allocated enough House Committees can now be considered and placed in the various House Committees accordingly. I therefore ask Honourable Members to consider this in view of what they are going to contribute in adopting this Motion that it is in good faith and friendliness that we have considered this for all the Members to benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the Leader of Majority has moved a Motion for the Approval of the Proposal to Consider for Amendment in the Standing Orders to Increase the Membership of Sectoral Committees from the Current Eight to Nine Members and this was seconded by the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Majority. As per our Standing Orders, I want to propose a question. And I propose that the Motion for the Approval of the Proposal to Consider for Amendment in the Standing Orders to Increase the Membership of Sectoral Committees from the Current Seven to Nine Members is open for debate.

Honorable Members, this is a proposal for consideration to the amendment of the Standing Order and that is a Procedural Motion which is provided for. I have considered this motion and realized that it is one item.

So, by leave of the House, I want to suggest that we shall not move to the Committee of the Whole House. We consider it in the plenary because it is one item. If it was more than one, I would have been strict that we move to the Committee of the Whole House so that we follow all the necessary steps. Therefore, I want to open it for debate and it is either we agree with it or we do not so that we consider it once. If the House agrees with that, then I open it for debate. I have seen Honourable Sammy who stood and again gone down. Let me give Honourable Rakwach.

**Hon. Rakwach** (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I stand to support the motion which is on the floor. Simply because, in the provisions of Standing Orders, the membership of Sectoral Committees should be Seven. But as currently constituted, we have eight members. In case of any division, then it is going to be a problem to make a decision because the number is even. If you get eight votes, four for “ayes” and four for “nays” then, making a decision will be a problem. So, it is prudent that we make it odd numbers such that if there is any division, then we do not have any problem of having a tie. Mr. Speaker, we also realized that our quorum is a third of seven of the membership of a House Committee which is 2.33, which we normally round up to three members. At the same time, a third of nine is three. Then you realize, if we have seven, then a third is 2.33. There is no human being who can be 0.33 of a human being. However small in body that member is, Hon. Speaker.

*(Laughs)*

So, I am being informed that Honourable Onditi is 1.5 and maybe we can only reduce the membership of a House Committees where Honourable Onditi is a member. So, that we have maybe something like seven point something plus Onditi making it nine. But I know that one, our Leader of Majority being a wise man, will take care of that. For that reason, I support the amendment so that we make the membership of Sectoral Committees to be nine. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Gard Olima.

**Hon. Gard** (MCA, South West Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the mood of the House, I call the mover to reply.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Olima, I saw Honourable Sammy on his feet.

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Mr. Speaker, before the mover replies, I wanted to bring some point.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): You see, Honourable Gard, you have misused that provision.

**Chief Whip** (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the Motion. However, I want to urge the Honourable Members, please, for those who belong to five House Committees and above as members, spare the Leader of Majority of this matter. This is because in the spirit of broad-based government, we have some members who belong to only two House Committees. So, as the leadership, we will request you to give us peace so that we consider these Honourable Members who belongs to only two or three House Committees. In that, we bring them at par with other Honourable Members. That is my plea, Mr. Speaker. Some of those Honourable Members, like my friends, Honourable Onditi and Honourable Gard, who are always on my neck over the issue of House Committee membership, Mr. Speaker, I urge this House to give us peace so that we bring these Members at par with other Honourable Members. At least, each and every Honourable Member should belong to at least five House Committees the way others are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Yes Honourable Boitone

**Hon. Boitone** (MCA, Nyalenda “A”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to mention one thing that is also of essence to what is being discussed today. Mr. Speaker, the realignment of House Committees was done a few weeks ago and if my memory serves me well as a member of the Selection Committee, there was an oversight whereby the Selection Committee, led by the Leader of Majority who is the Chairperson placed members of these House Committees to a number of eight. That one brings confusion when a vote is supposed to be taken at the House Committee level hence brings some difficulties in taking a vote. However, in his own wisdom and following the Standing Orders, he has realized that there should be a placement of one Member to each and every House Committee so as to address the problem. But now, we have not been having problems with the House Committees' membership but rather with attending the meetings. I want to urge the new members who will be brought on board...

*(Hon. Okumu rises on a Point of Order)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): What is your Point of Order Honourable Seth Okumu?

**Hon. Okumu** (MCA, East Seme Ward): Mr. Speaker, the anticipating debate. Is it right for the Honourable Members to start discussing the Selection Committee report on Realignment when the Motion on the floor was an amendment to increase the number of Selection Committee membership from seven to nine?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Boitone, you are guided. The motion at hand is a proposal to amend the Standing Order to have nine members in the Sectoral Committee instead of seven.

**Hon. Boitone** (MCA, Nyalenda “A”): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, just as I had stated, I had mentioned that as the placement is being done, I urge the Leader of Majority to be in consultation with the Chairpersons of the House Committees and the leadership so that we get vibrant House Committees moving forward. We do not want scenarios/instances whereby House Committees will now lack quorum. Hon. Speaker...

*(Hon. Onditi interjects)*

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

**Hon. Onditi** (MCA, Ombeyi Ward): Honourable Boitone.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Boitone, do you want to be informed?

**Hon. Boitone** (MCA, Nyalenda A Ward): No, Honourable Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Then proceed Honourable Boitone.

**Hon. Boitone** (MCA, Nyalenda “A”): Thank you Hon. Speaker. I was just winding up. The most important thing that I was trying to put across is that consultations be done so that each and every House Committee gets an extra vibrant member who will contribute positively to the production of the House Committee. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Boitone, are you saying that the Members are not vibrant?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Sammy, Honourable Ngeta is senior.

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to support the motion on the floor. Foremost, let me just congratulate the leadership led by you and your team for coming up with that robust method of taking care of Honourable Members' welfare. Mr. Speaker, a number of Members who have been missing in some key House Committees will have a chance to be members of those House Committees. This will also encourage other Honourable Members to be motivated hence giving them more reason to put more effort of work in those various House Committees. Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I support and I want to applaud the leadership.

*(Hon. Oketch rises on his feet)*

**Hon. Oketch** (MCA, Kondele): On a point of Information!

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Thank you. Honourable Joachim, whom do you want to inform?

**Hon. Oketch** (MCA, Kondele Ward): Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that Honourable Member (Ngeta) does not know who moved the motion. Besides, I do not know why he is congratulating you. So, I am worried. So, did the Speaker participate in the composition of this list? This is because, he ought to have congratulated the Leader of Majority who is the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Selection. So...

*(Hon. Ngeta is consults loudly)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta, that was...

*(Loud consultations)*

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko Ward): Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the motion of, I mean altering the members of the House Committee. I do not know whether the Speaker participated in this motion because he ought to have congratulated the mover of the motion and not the Speaker. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta that was just a point of information. It is in the Standing Order and...

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Mr. Speaker, let me conclude....

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Honourable Ngeta! You do not need to reply.

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko Ward): Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow a Member who has just come on the floor...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Order!! Honourable Ngeta, please resume your seat.

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Mr. Speaker, I was just congratulating the leadership led by you, Mr. Speaker...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta...

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): A notorious absentee cannot come here and advice... thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Honourable Ngeta! That is not right Honourable Ngeta. The Honourable Member is here, legally and he stood and I gave him a chance to give his information. But the information he has given is right. The Standing Order...

*(Hon. K'Omudho rises on a Point of Order)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Honourable K'Omudho, I am on my feet. The Honourable Member has just informed the House that the Standing Order provides for the manner in which members are put in House Committees. It is through a Party and the Leader of Majority is the owner of the Party in the House and therefore the Chairperson of the Selection Committee. So, I want to agree with the Honourable Member for Kondele Ward that it is the responsibility of the Leader of Majority and his team to ensure that Members are placed in House Committees.

*(Hon. Oketch rise on his feet)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): What is it Honourable Joachim? Do you want to contribute?

**Hon. Joachim** (MCA, Kondele): Yes Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Please proceed.

**Hon. Oketch** (MCA, Kondele Ward): Mr. Speaker, you know that, Honourable Sammy has to recognize that I am still a senior. So, he has to continue waiting. Mr. Speaker, in light of the same, I believe that when a Member highlighted that some of us are absentees but, at least you can see that we could be absent but we are well conversant with the proceedings of the House more than those who come daily and do not even know the procedure Mr. Speaker. So, I trust that is very good and you can see that.

Mr. Speaker in the spirit of unity, I believe that it is important again to continue bringing in more members so that we have, if not the same, but almost the same number of House Committees. But again, just to join on to what Honourable Boitone said, when we have an even number, when we are split, again it becomes very difficult when we have a division in the House Committees. So, I also feel that increasing the number is a very good idea and I want to congratulate the Leader of Majority and his team. Mr. Speaker. I believe that, it is a noble move and I have to say it here, that when we increased the House Committees membership, and I wish Honourable Gad Olima was here. We both are in the Departmental Committee on Finance, Mr. Speaker. I think it's a new force, and it brings in a different perspective, and these Members missed these House

Committees, and I believe that they will bring in a lot of input in this House Committees. I just want to thank the leadership for this wisdom. Mr. Speaker, even if they could increase these members to 20, so that we have so many of us there, and we keep on coming, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are breaking for a very long recess, and these House Committees are where the production of the Assembly starts from and that is a very good thing. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairperson of the Select Committee of County Budget and Appropriations, I don't know why he has maintained the number of my House Committee. I wanted you to bring Honourable Sammy on board because has been on my neck, why he is not in the Select Committee of County Budget and Appropriations, and he is coming from an area where he is very cosmopolitan. So I think I want to thank the leadership for that, and may they continue with the same wisdom. And the member representing Muhoroni is also saying he want to be there, but I think it is the wisdom of the Majority Leader to find it important to bring them.

Otherwise, in general, I think it is a very good thing, and may they continue with the same wisdom. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Now I will consider. Honourable Sammy, I gave you time, and you said that you don't want to talk anymore.

**Hon. Onyango** (MCA, Railways): Mr. Speaker, this is afterthought. Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rise to support this motion, Mr. Speaker. I want to agree with the Deputy Leader of Majority that, this was good intention, and I urge the leadership, during the placement of members to House Committees, Mr. Speaker, some of us who are not friends to the leadership, they should consider us, Mr. Speaker, so that they don't bring so many of their friends to advantage of others.

Mr. Speaker, I am in a House Committee that we rarely sit. In that House Committee, we can sit even after three months. So when he's doing the realignment, Mr. Speaker, let him consider us that is my chair and i. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K'Omudho.

**Hon. K'Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): Many, many thanks, Honourable Speaker. Colleagues, kindly, let us have some observation, please. Once more, I want to thank the Leader of Majority for bringing up such a noble motion.

Again, as a privileged member of the Selection Committee, I want to say that this has been a struggle moment, especially for our leader, the chair, and even to the members of the Selection Committee.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Order!!Hon Samuel and Honourable Warindu. Please consult in low tone.

**Hon. K’Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): It's good to recognise the effort which has been brought by the Leader of Majority and I want to say, like I mentioned before, I'm privileged to be sitting in the Selection Committee and I believe that it has been a struggle, even for the Chairperson himself, to have brought this because a lot of blame games and a lot of challenges also come with it.

Mr. Speaker, I equally want to make the House know that despite being a member of the Selection Committee, I happen to belong to none of the Sectoral Committees, as of today, as I stand here. Therefore, whatever the leader of Majority is bringing on board was required like yesterday. That is an action that should have been done as of yesterday, and I am happy that such a process is going to take place. You can imagine, there's such a brilliant mind like mine here, just rotting out there when there are good Sectoral Committees like the Finance, the Planning. I belong to none of them, and honestly, some of these things are bad dreams when you think about them. I want to believe that this will be a good chance for some of us who are professional, to also be absorbed...

*(Hon. Ngeta rises on a Point of Order)*

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Mr. Speaker, point of information.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta, whom do you want to inform?

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House that it is not time for campaigning.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta, I have not given you time.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): So, let me give you the priority of what you want to say, the point of order takes precedence, because there is a Member on the Floor with a point of order.

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the member on the floor insinuating that other members who are in the Selection Committee do not have as brilliant minds as he purported his to be?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K’Omudho.

**Hon. K'Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): Many thanks, Honourable Speaker. Let's stand to be guided and not become personal. I have got all the priority, Honourable Speaker, to express myself, about my education, about my family, and about everything. I never talked about any other Honourable Members. If I happen to say what I'm experienced in, it is true.

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): A point of information, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta, you're a ranking member. When there is a point of order, we sort out that one first, and then we go to the next one. So, Hon K'Omudho, are you done?

**Hon. K'Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): Yes, it is important to make that, out of our benchmarking trips, Honourable Speaker, together with the members; we also get to learn a lot from these things. And part of the missions in the benchmarking missions, both as the Chairperson of the Ward Development and also a member of the Selection Committee, what we learned...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K'Omudho, the Member challenged you that you are saying other Members are not competent enough to be...

**Hon. K'Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): May I wish to withdraw that statement if that could cause emotions...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Thank you so much.

**Hon. K'Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): May I again withdraw...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta, what was it?

**Hon. Ngeta** (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Yes. Mr. Speaker it is now overtaken by event. I want to inform the speaker but he has withdrawn.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K'Omudho, please conclude in one minute.

**Hon. K'Omudho** (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): Honourable Speaker. I am grateful that the Motion has come up and I am equally grateful that some good actions are going to take place so that we could see the remainder of the community getting absorbed accordingly in other House Committees, as you said. Many, many thanks once more.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Onditi.

**Hon. Onditi** (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you Mr. Speaker, this matter being a straitjacket matter and of being important has been demonstrated by the fact that nobody has opposed this Motion, Mr. Speaker. I would like to call the mover to reply. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Onditi, when you want to call the mover, you do not debate. But in this case, the Honourable Gad Olima had called the mover to reply, but I extended the time for debate. Honourable Onditi, next time you want to call the mover, do not debate, just call the mover to reply.

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

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko Kennedy, MCA, Ahero): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Members for their contributions. I've listened to the contribution from various Members and I want to agree with all of them that we need to have an odd number in our House Committees to help us in any division that arises. Also, to enhance inclusivity, we need to come together as a family. Now that we donated some of our members to Broad-based and some of our Members also came from the government to join us, so we need to have a broader representation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to Honourable Ratib, that the power that we have been given, we will not delegate to you as a Chairperson for consultation because we believe that all the Members that are here are equal to the task to sit in any House Committee. So the chairpersons will not decide who sits in which House Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to the members that we are talking about opening up for several House Committees. There are not many slots. There are members who do not fall in any Departmental/Sectoral House Committee like Honourable K'Omudho. Those are the few cases that we will consider. But if you have less Sectorial Committee and you have more House Committees, then you will have to consult so that we ask you to release one or two so that we take care of everybody. We have members in this House, and members, I want to say this with a lot of passion that let us be considerate. We have members who do not get responsibility allowance, they are around three Members, and they are not chairpersons and are not Vice-chairpersons. So we will have to consider them for more House Committees. Otherwise, it is a direct Motion, and Hon Speaker, I do reply. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the Leader of the Majority has moved a Motion, Approval of the Proposal to consider for Amendment in the Standing Orders to increase the membership of several House Committees from current seven membership to nine, seconded and debated, it's time that I want to put a question.

But, before I put a question, I want to repeat again that when I proposed the Motion for debate, I did ask that by leave of the House, this being a motion proposing amendment to Standing Orders, and it is one item, I did request that by leave of the House, we do not convert to the Committee of the Whole House to do the process. This is because, if we are keen, the Standing Orders provides for conversion to the Committee of the Whole House, and we do the process like we do for the bills.

The statement I want to make is on the basis that I have seen the mood of the House. So I will say again that by leave of the House, if this Motion is approved, then we direct the Clerk that he goes ahead to effect the changes, alongside expending approvals that we did sometimes back, so that when we resume in February, 2025 we have the new Standing Orders with us, alongside what we passed here earlier. And if it is not approved, then it means we will wait, and at the right time, we will do the whole process of making that amendment. So this is a unique case, and that's why I'm saying by leave of the House.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the motion for Approval of the Proposal to consider for Amendment in the Standing Orders to Increase the Membership of the Sectorial Committee from the current seven members to nine, has been approved today, Thursday, the 05th of December, 2024, at 16:25 hours. I direct that these changes be effected in the Standing Orders, alongside the other changes that had been passed in this House previously.

Similar, I further direct that, the Clerk will ensure that the Standing Orders are printed during Long Recess so that when we resume back after the Long Recess, we have the new Standing Orders with the amendments that have been made today and those that were made earlier. But the changes take effect immediately.

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

## MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SITTINGS FOR LONG RECESS  
PURSUANT TO GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 58 (4) AND THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING  
ORDERS NO. 26 (3) OF THE KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY STANDING ORDERS,  
READ TOGETHER WITH THE HOUSE RESOLUTIONS OF THURSDAY, 22ND  
FEBRUARY, 2024, UNTIL TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2024, AT 02.30 P.M.

BY

HON. KEN OOKO, MCA, AHERO

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): The Honourable Leader of the Majority.

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko Kennedy, MCA, Ahero): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion for Adjournment of this House for Long Recess.

Mr. Speaker, as I know, remembers acknowledging that at its sitting of Thursday, 22nd February, 2024, the House approved the County Assembly Annual Calendar for 2024, that is, Regular Session, outlining that the Long Recess was scheduled to commence on Friday, 6th December, 2024, and conclude on Monday, 10th February, 2024.

FURTHER, ACKNOWLEDGING, the importance of other legislative proceedings, Notice Number 26(3) of the County Assembly Standing Orders specify that on a day when the County Assembly is scheduled to adjourn to a day other than the next normal sitting day, in accordance with the County Assembly calendar, a Motion of Adjournment shall be moved by the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of the Minority Party or another member of the County Assembly Business Committee. This Motion shall be debated for not more than three hours, after which the county assembly shall adjourn without a question put.

RECOGNIZING, the demanding nature of the legislative duties and the need for all members to adequately address constituency concerns and engage in community activities, a recess becomes imperative as it offers Members the opportunity for in-depth constituency work and overall rejuvenation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the assembly, recognizing the importance of this recess in fostering effective representation and legislative performance, this House prays that the County Assembly do Adjourn its Sittings for a Long Recess. Pursuant to the Gazette Notice No. 5804, Order No.26 (3) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, read with the House Resolutions of Thursday, 22nd February, 2024 until Tuesday, 11th February, 2025 at 02.30 p.m. May I ask the Deputy Leader of the Majority to second? Thank you.

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

**The Deputy Leader of Majority** (Hon. Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the Motion. This Motion is very much in order and self-explanatory.

This adjournment Motion will give our Members an opportunity to interact with their subject and also with their family.

Mr. Speaker, we have been moving a lot and we need time and break for both our electorates and our families. But more important, Mr. Speaker, I would urge our Members to use this recess to interrogate the projects that have already been executed in our areas and even those that are ongoing, to enable them exercise their mandate of overseeing the County Executive. Mr. Speaker, Members need to be very proactive and even investigative to prove that what we are opposing or what we are supporting is real and not just a mere rumor as it was one time dismissed that we are just bringing utter rumors. If we do our job properly, Mr. Speaker, we will be counted at the hour of need. I, therefore, second the Motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the Leader of the Majority has moved a Motion on Adjournment of the County Assembly Sitting for the Long Recess, this is pursuant to the Gazette Notice No.5804 and Order No. 26(3) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders read together with the House Resolution of 22nd February 2024. That is until Tuesday, 11th February 2025 at 2.30pm. This was seconded by the Deputy Leader of Majority, I want to propose a question and I propose that the Motion is open for debate.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): The Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B”): Thank you Mr. Speaker, without giving a very long speech, I want to support the Motion of adjournment because it is an opportunity to bond with our electorate who are indeed our employers and not our subjects as has been said by the Deputy Leader of the Majority. I believe he didn't mean that the electorates are our subjects, Mr. Speaker. Those are indeed our employers. Mr. Speaker, I support.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Peter Obaso.

**Hon. Obaso** (Nominated Member): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me also support the Motion before this House. Mr. Speaker, I believe that since August, we've really had a robust engagement in this House and now it's another opportunity for us to go and take a rest. They say a rest is good for our physical health and so we should always be there to promote it.

Mr. Speaker, this is another opportunity that we take to go and engage with our families, electorates on matters that help us grow socially and economically. So I want to take this opportunity to urge our Members that it's going to be a long holiday so they should consider taking care of themselves and come back when they are re-energized in February, 2025. And may God bless you all through this holiday. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Boitone.

**Hon. Ratib** (MCA, Nyalenda “A”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. It is obvious that the work we have as leaders in the past three months has been a great responsibility. Therefore, when it is time for us to rest and bond with our families and electorates is a great decision that we all should support.

Mr. Speaker, what is worrying me is that the holiday is long, it is sixty day... linanitiza kidogo, nikwamba hili likizo ni mrefu. Siku sitiniama zaidi. IkiwaWajumbe watakaku wanyumbaninaWajumbe hao kutangamana na wapigakura, bila hela mfukoni, Wajumbe wengine watapata shida.

Kwahivyo, ninamuomba Mheshimiwa Mwenyekiti, Spika, ya kwamba, kama kunanjia au namna flani ambayo inaweza kuwawezeshaWajumbe wapate hela yao mfukoni kupitia miezi hii miwili, itakuwa jambo bora sana. Na ninauhakika ya kwamba unahekima ambayo Mwenyezi Mungu alikupa ili uonejinsi Wajumbe Waheshimiwa wata kavyo enda likizoni wakiwa na pesa mfukoni. Asante sana.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro):Mheshimiwa Joachim Oketch.

**Hon. Joachim** (MCA, Kondele): Asante sana Mheshimiwa Mwenyekiti, Spika.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Joachim** (MCA, Kondele): Mr. Speaker, you know I want to try. Nataka kuunga na nduguyangu Mheshimiwa Boitone ya kwamba... Mr. Speaker, let me just revert to what I am used to.

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, a break is good for us having been here for a long time and Honourable Members are equally human beings. In as much as they have to go and interact with the electorates, something they do usually, it is very important to go and be with their families during this festive season.

So I would emphasize that in as much as we have work to do, please find time to be with your families, be with the extended families. I know that Members are complaining about their pockets, Mr. Speaker. In your wisdom, I know you have always done something; probably you

are working on something, which will ensure that the interaction with members of the public probably is not disturbed. But again, I trust that it is very important that after all this long period, we get time to also rest to be with our families and probably even with the extended families.

This is the only period, Mr. Speaker, where we get to get see our families who have been staying very far, some of them are even travelling from other countries, just to come back for the festive season. I also believe that this is the time we need to interact as Members, leaving work aside, let us visit each other if possible because this is the time we have that is very free. Mr. Speaker, I therefore want to support the Motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ouko.

**Hon. Ouko Kennedy** (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the Motion of adjournment. For the Members of the public...

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Nilitarajia ya kwamba utaanza kwa Kiswahili.

**Hon. Ouko** (MCA, West Kisumu): *(Laughs)* Mr. Speaker, Kiswahili is not my...

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Ouko** (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I like the framers of this calendar of the House. Mr. Speaker, this thing is really preparing us emotionally on actually what will happen in 2027. Mr. Speaker, you know when you are at times allowed to go home, you bond with your people, you talk to your people and you work together with your people. It is really enjoyable. But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind one Member, Honourable Onditi that, when it comes to the year 2027, Honourable. Onditi, you will just go home like today you are going home. So, do not worry. You are being prepared constitutionally, that when the time comes, it will be that way. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know it is reminding us that eventually people will go home. Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Honourable James Omollo.

**Hon. Omollo** (MCA, West Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, looking at the mood of the House, I call the mover to reply. Thank you.

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

**The Leader of Majority** (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Once again, I want to thank the Members for supporting this Motion. As a House, we are breaking for the

Long recess. It is very important for us, it is something that is within our calendar and it is an opportunity for the Members to go and interact with their electorates and be with their families.

Mr. Speaker, as Honourable Oketch said, ensure that you also meet with your extended families. It is also an opportunity for you to form new families.

Hon. Speaker, I want to agree with the Honourable Kennedy Ouko that our recess is ending on 10<sup>th</sup> and we are coming back on 11<sup>th</sup> and that is February 2025. So, it means that the clock is also ticking towards 2027. So, you need to go and rearrange yourself as time is running out. Hon. Speaker, I do not have much to say but to wish Members Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I reply.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Thank you so much, Honourable Leader of Majority. Honourable Members, the Motion on Adjournment of County Assembly sitting for Long Recess, pursuant to Gazette Notice No. 5804 and the Standing Order. No. 26(3) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders led together with the resolutions of the House on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 until 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 2.30 p.m. have been moved, seconded and debated. Honourable Member, you can come and sit.

Honourable Members, as per our Standing Order, that is No. 26(3), that on a day when the County Assembly is scheduled to adjourn to a day other than the next normal sitting day, in accordance with the County Assembly Calendar, the Leader of Majority party or the Leader of Minority party or another Member of the County Assembly Business Committee shall move a Motion of adjournment, which shall be debated for not more than three hours, after which the County Assembly shall adjourn without question put.

Before we adjourn, I want to say that as we adjourn for the long recess, from today, Thursday, 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, I wish to take this opportunity to thank God for his grace and guidance that has enabled us to reach this far. Today we are in Sitting No. 123 in the Third Session and Sitting No. 267 in the Third Assembly. I equally take this opportunity to congratulate both the Hon. Members of the County Assembly and the staff for their hard work and dedication towards ensuring that the County Assembly achieves its mandate.

Honourable Members, I am proud that as an Assembly, we have made significant progress that has not only transformed the socio-economic development of Kisumu County, but also earned us recognition as an Assembly. I wish to highlight as follows. Honourable Members, we have seen enhanced legislation and it is encouraging to note that this Third Assembly has so far processed and passed over 20 legislations that provides legal framework for various development activities and also enhance service delivery in Kisumu County and that one is an achievement by you as a Third Assembly. Most of these legislations have been enacted in the operationalized. We have

also debated and passed several Motions, considered several Statement requests, processed over 10 petitions, and hundreds of Committee Reports.

Honourable Members, it is my belief that, this time around there are a number of House Committee Reports and I want to congratulate the Committee of Health, the Committee of Public Investments and Public Accounts alongside other House Committees who have given us quite a number of Reports. And these Reports address the challenges of the people of Kisumu and improve their socio-economic well-being.

Honourable Members, this is attributed to capacity building of Honourable Members and staff as well as enhanced civic education and access to information by members of the public. I have realized that after the training that we had in Nairobi, there has been change in the manner in which Members debate and even in the manner in which Statements and Motions are generated.

Honourable Members, this Third Assembly has not shied away from its oversight mandates. It has worked tirelessly to ensure accountability in Kisumu County. Through the watch-dog Committees, we have interrogated Financial Statements and Implementation of Projects to ensure that taxpayers get value for their money. There are instances where we have recommended sanctions or referred matters to various government investigative agencies for further investigations.

This effort has seen the County Executive make a significant step in their Audit Rating. Moving from Adverse Opinion and that is what they have been obtaining in the previous years. So they have moved from Adverse Opinion in the previous years to Qualified Opinion in the year 2023/2024 in the Audit Report. The County Assembly, on the other hand, has consistently maintained Qualified Opinion. The County Assembly has continuously maintained Qualified Opinion in its audit rating even as we strive to obtain a Qualified Opinion. I believe, Honourable Members, now we are conversant with the kind of ratings that we have. I mean, the Audit Ratings.

Honourable Members, in line with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 on transparency, accountability, and access to information, we have made a significant milestone in the way we engage the public. In July 2024, we made a significant milestone when we conducted Inaugural Open Day, an activity which was aimed to create awareness on the mandate of the County Assembly as well as the functions and achievements made by the House Committees. Honourable Members, I can assure you that Kisumu County Assembly is the only Assembly that has carried out an Open Day. And that one has given us a lot of milestones, even with the public, in the manner in which they look at us.

The event did not only provide an opportunity for Kisumu residents to sample the success stories of the County Assembly, but also engage directly and seek answers from the County Assembly, the House Committees and the elected representatives. We have ensured that Mwananchi is part and parcel of the Assembly's deliberations and decisions and provided an opportunity for the public to give real-time feedback, either physically or through digital platforms. We have equally improved collaboration with the Executive arm of the County government, even as we diligently guard our independence.

Honourable Members, we have received a number of Recognitions and Awards. I am pleased to note that our achievements have not gone unnoticed. We have considerably been recognized and vetted by both Government and Non-governmental Organizations on aspects such as Promoting Access to Information, being Gender Responsive, and being a Progressive Assembly in Nyanza region. This week, the County Assembly received a major Recognition by the previous Mizani Awards, when it was vetted as the third most trusted County Assembly in Kenya. This research was done by Mizani, and I believe what boosted it most was the Open Day. And we were vetted as the third after Makueni and Embu County Assembly. Out of the 47 County Assemblies, I think that is something that is worth talking about.

Honourable Members, the Assembly also became a benchmarking hub with the sister County assemblies, other government agencies, and even students on study tour visiting to exchange knowledge and best practices. You may be aware that we have received a number of visitors in the County Assembly. Including the National Government which was here to benchmark on the universal health coverage.

Honourable Members, we were the first County Assembly, not in the Third Session though, that passed an Act on Universal Health Coverage. As we are speaking now, there is a Bill in the Senate on Community Health Promoters and if you are aware, we were the first County Assembly to pass legislation on Community Health Workers. And if you look at what they have, it is borrowed heavily from what this Assembly had.

Moving forward, we remain committed to achieving our vision of being a model, independent and responsive County Assembly in Kenya. And this one, I cannot go without mentioning the number of Members who have received Awards. We have Honourable Adeg, who has received awards. That one is a success to the whole of the County Assembly. Honourable Regina Kizito, I think, received an award some time back. Honourable Joachim Oketch of Kondele Ward, had received an award.

Honourable Kennedy Ooko, the Leader of the Majority, was vetted by the Mizani Awards for being the best MCA in Nyando Sub-County. Honourable Zachary Okoyo was vetted. Honourable Seth Okumu, Honourable Vincent Obuya alongside other Members, Honourable

Maurice Ngeta, I think, was vetted and the list is long. I believe we will have a forum where we can celebrate. Honourable Regina Kizito promised me that she must do something for the Members of the County Assembly on that achievement.

Honourable Members, as we break today, I wish to encourage you to take your time off to refresh and re-energize as we look forward to even a greater milestone next in the year 2025. However, even as we move and talk of the great achievements, we have serious challenges ahead.

Number one, we do not have the luxury of time. You heard the Leader of the Majority talking of February 2025. It may look far, but it is near and it is near again to the year 2027. No. 2, all of you must be aware that yesterday the Senate passed a Motion. The Motion was based on the Memorandum that was done by the President on County Allocation of Revenue Act (CARA). CARA is the formula that is used to disburse funds to the counties. It is called County Allocation of Revenue Act 2024/2025. That Bill was passed. I believe, either today or tomorrow, or let say next week, the President will be ascending to the Bill.

There is bad news in the Bill. The bad news is that all the funds earmarked for the County Assemblies have been reduced drastically. I have to report to the Honourable Members that the formula that has been used is that the 2023/2024 the funds have been reduced are those of the Motor Vehicle Reimbursement that the Members have received. For example, in the case of Kisumu, there are 47 Members, times the amount for the motor vehicle reimbursement. The Reimbursement was coming to around Ksh 103.9 million. Let us say Ksh 104 million. So the amount has been reduced by Ksh 104 million. Then they have multiplied by 4 per cent inflation rate. So it has also increased again by 4%. For the case of Kisumu, we have lost Ksh 75 million. That implies that, we have to readjust our budget. There are counties who have lost much more. The list, I think, is already out there. There are discussions elsewhere because it is a recipe for a kill.

Honourable Members, it is upon the Members of County Assemblies to unite with other Members of County Assemblies to condemn this. This is because for me, where I stand, it is like killing the functions of the Assembly. For instance, from where I sit, we are really struggling to think how we manage a reduction of Ksh 75 million in the budget. However, need not to be worried. We are in discussion. I think we will have an opportunity to discuss the same.

Three is on the issue of representation and oversight. There is limited time. There is much to be done. Based on what we have learned, we need to, again, strengthen further our oversight role.

Lastly, I know that any time the County Treasury may be calling for Supplementary Budget, which we must also join because our shillings have been affected. There shall be a call for the processing of the Supplementary Estimates.

The Honourable Chairperson, Select Committee on County Budget and Appropriations is there. I know he will be guiding as appropriate even as we move forward. I am taking it as a challenge because I know how much it affects the Honourable Members when such things happen in regards to what was passed earlier.

Otherwise, I want to encourage you to take time with your constituents so that you can build a better understanding of their feelings and challenges that we can seek to address when we resume next year.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish all the Honourable Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For now, the Honourable Leader of the Majority, together with the leadership, has informed me that they have organized some late lunch somewhere. I believe he will be guiding the Members as appropriate on where it is. The Honourable Chairperson of the Liaison Committee has also informed me that in that place where there shall be the late lunch, she will be meeting the Chairpersons of House Committees, the Liaison Committee members for some consultation.

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker** (Hon. Oraro): Otherwise, as I had read the provisions of Standing Order. No. 26 (3), the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

*(House rose at 4:56 p.m.)*

*Addendum*

**Hansard Team**

<i>Zablon Otiende</i>	-	<i>Senior Hansard Reporter (Acting Editor)</i>
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<i>Fanuel Okode</i>	-	<i>Hansard Reporter</i>
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