

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION

Wednesday 13th November, 2024

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

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

PRAYER

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I direct that the quorum bell be rung for the first five minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for the first five minutes)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): The Deputy Leader of Majority, do we have quorum?

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, we have quorum.

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

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I did communicate yesterday that we shall be having a *kamukunji* but having consulted with the Leader of the Majority, we have agreed that we convene that *kamukunji* on Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 which is next week, immediately

after the session. So, I'm officially communicating that it will be there on Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 after the afternoon session. Thank you.

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

STATEMENT HOUR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Regina Kizito.

Hon. Kizito (Nominated Member): Honourable Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Order No. 42 (2) (b) of the Standing Orders, to seek a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation regarding the growing Mental Health Challenges within Kisumu County, specifically the rising cases of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD, and Depression.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 guarantees the right to quality health care, including mental health services, as outlined in Article 43 (1) (a). Additionally, the Mental Health Act, CAP 248, establishes the legal framework for mental health services, mandating equitable and dignified treatment for individuals with mental health conditions. Despite these legal provisions, residents of Kisumu County face persistent barriers in accessing sufficient mental health care, especially for conditions such as PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder and other resource constraints.

Mr. Speaker, on county allocations for mental health over recent financial years, an examination of Kisumu County's Approved Budget Estimates for FY 2021-2022, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 shows a concerning trend that in financial year 2021-2022, mental health was allocated Ksh. 1.1 million for use of goods and services, which, while addressing some operational needs, demonstrated limited commitment to expanding mental health services and infrastructure.

Further, in the FY 2021-2023-2024, funds directed towards Mental Health Operations were unspecified, indicating a decrease in financial prioritization. In FY 2024-2025, the mental health allocation stood at Ksh. 290,500, a significant reduction from previous years.

Mr. Speaker, this amount is intended for general recurrent and capital expenses, is insufficient for expanding programming, infrastructure, or specialized staffing. While mental health has been consistently recognized as a program area, the funding levels across these financial years have been inadequate to facilitate meaningful program development or expansion. Currently, only Kisumu County Referral Hospital has a Psychiatric Ward, and its conditions require improvement. The limited financial support for mental health has constrained the county's ability to meet rising mental health needs, impacting service delivery effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, under-resourced mental health services, coupled with stigma and restricted access to care, have worsened the crisis, leading to heightened vulnerability, social isolation, and increased suicide risk among affected residents.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, the Chairperson should undertake to do the following by conducting a detailed inquiry into and provide a comprehensive report on,

- a) Data on the prevalence of PTSD and other mental health conditions in Kisumu County, including details on how this data is collected, monitored, and applied in resource allocation and program planning.
- b) Details on the specific indicators used to measure progress in addressing mental health challenges within the county.
- c) Information on how frequently mental health programs and services are assessed, the actions taken based on evaluation outcomes, and how these findings influence decision-making and resource distribution.
- d) Information on the current condition of the psychiatric ward at Kisumu County Referral Hospital, including the number of wards, bed capacity, and accommodations for male and female patients.
- e) Details of any plans to expand Kisumu County Referral Hospital's psychiatric ward or enable other facilities in the county to provide mental health services to meet the growing demand.
- f) The current count of mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, and counselors, noting any staffing gaps and details of recruitment aimed at addressing these shortages.
- g) The availability of mental health services in primary health care facilities and any wellness centers in place or under development to provide accessible community-level mental health support.
- h) Any ongoing or planned community initiatives to reduce stigma surrounding PTSD and other mental health conditions, including partnerships with community health workers, religious groups, and local leaders.
- i) Information on any training programs for health care workers aimed at enhancing skills in mental health diagnosis, trauma response, and patient referral.
- j) Details on any existing collaborations with NGOs, mental health advocacy groups, or other counties to enhance resources, training, and program support for PTSD and related mental health needs.
- k) Explain any factors that have contributed to the limited prioritization of mental health issues in past years.
- l) Information on any external funding received specifically for psychiatric and trauma care. Thank you, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I'm struggling to spot the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, or the Vice Chairperson of Health.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Tom Nyaoke.

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I've just consulted with the Chairperson of Health, and he's saying that I deliver his message that it requires like two weeks to bring back the reply.

(Hon Odari rises on his feet)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it, Hon. Odari?

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil Tamu Ward): Mr. Speaker, this is to bring to your attention that, Honourable Nyaoke has not been sworn in as a Vice Chairperson.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Honourable Odari.

(Leader of Majority rises on a Point of Order)

Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Point of Order Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Leader of Majority let me first deal with Honourable Odari's issue. Honourable Odari, I believe that's what Honourable Nyaoke has done is right, unless I got him wrong, the Member did not mention that he's the Vice Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health. He only stood and said that he has consulted the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, and the Chairperson has said that he will work on that statement a period of two weeks.

(Hon. Omollo rises to his feet)

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach): Point of information!! Mr. Speaker, according to the list read yesterday, I think Honourable Nyaoke is a member of Health Committee, and with regards to that, his Chairperson communicated to him. So he doesn't need to be sworn to be a member. And it was immediately. Mr. Speaker, were it that the Health Committee was on an official duty in Ghana, he would have gone to Ghana. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable James Omollo, that's exactly what I'm saying. That whether he's a member of this House Committee or not, he stood up as a member of County Assembly. I didn't hear him mention that I am the Vice-chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Medical Services and Public Health or what, but he gave the information that I wanted. But I saw the Honorable Leader of the Majority on his feet.

Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I know you commented on this, but now the member is walking out. I wanted to ask the Chairperson, Select Committee on Procedure and Rules to give us guidance on that.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Joachim Oketch, I saw you up. Is it all the same?

Hon. Joachim (MCA, Kondele Ward): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to clarify a matter because I am a member of the Departmental Committee on Medical Services and Public Health.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Proceed.

Hon Joachim (MCA, Kondele): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I was with the Committee Chairperson as we were consulting as well as Honourable Nyaoke. Because Honourable Nyaoke was a little bit excited, he wanted to be the one to communicate the message. But I know I was the one who was totally to convey this message to the House.

(Laughter)

Therefore, because of his excitement, I decided to allow him to communicate on behalf of the Chairperson of Medical Services and Public Health. I believe that whatever the Member has communicated is the true position. The Chairperson requested that this House Committee be accorded two weeks to be able to authoritatively respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Honourable Members, I commit the Statement raised by Hon Regina Kizito to the Departmental Committee of Medical Services Public Health and Sanitation. Please, ensure that you adhere to the provisions of Standing Orders and work on the Statement within a period of two weeks. I am aware that the Departmental Committee of Medical Services and Public Health c has been working within deadlines. As such, I am sure that they can deliver on this.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Yes, Honourable Joachim Oketch.

Hon Joachim (MCA, Kondele): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a Statement. In fact, there are two statements that I intend to seek. However, I will start with the one on the matter of Disposal of Movable Assets in the County.

Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No. 42 (2) (b) to seek a Statement from the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT on the matter of Disposal of Movable Assets in the County.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2015 and its Regulations read together with the County Government Act of 2012 provide that all County assets deemed unserviceable, obsolete, and surplus be transparently managed and, when necessary, disposed of it according to the laid-down procedures. Mr. Speaker, these laws mandate the counties to maintain an accurate and up-to-date Register of Assets and periodically review and dispose of assets to ensure efficient use of public resources. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, since the inception of devolution, however, the County Government of Kisumu has not publicly disclosed the assets marked for disposal, leading to questions regarding the status and transparency of assets disposal practice within the County.

Mr. Speaker, given the absence of publicly available information of these disposable assets, clarity is needed on the current status of the County's Fixed Assets and the processes undertaken for any disposal up to date. Mr. Speaker, I have never seen a field full of furniture and computers. Mr. Speaker, again, in this regard, the Chairperson of this House Committee shall carry out an inquiry and provide a detailed report on the following attendant matters:

1. Register of fixed assets in the County detailing the following;
 - a) Motor Vehicles: provide the total number of motor vehicles in the County, those inherited from the Former Defunct Local Authorities, those acquired since devolution, and any donated to the County by other bodies. Secondly, detail the current status of these motor vehicles, include number of vehicles disposed of since devolution, and the number of vehicles that are operational. Thirdly, detail information on all unserviceable motor vehicles with the location where such are grounded.
 - a) Office equipment: provide the total number of office equipment assets in the County, those inherited from former local authority, those acquired since devolution, and any donated to the county by other bodies. Secondly, detail the current status of this equipment, include number of equipment assets disposed of since devolution, and number of operational equipment assets.
 - b) Furniture and fittings: That is, they provide the total number of furniture and fitting assets in the County, those inherited from the former local authority, those acquired since devolution, any donated to the County by other bodies. Secondly, they also provide details on the current status of these assets, including number of furniture and fittings disposed of since devolution, and the number of operational furniture and fittings.
2. A breakdown of total amount spent on the purchase of motor vehicles, office equipment, and furniture and fittings since devolution.
3. Provide a list of unserviceable assets donated to any learning institution or any other institution, as the case may be.

4. Status of Assets Disposal; a detailed report on the process and outcome of asset disposal, including that is;

- a) Provide a detailed asset disposal plan.
- b) Method of disposal, that is, like auction, tender, or trading.
- c) Revenue generated or projected from the disposal, if not, provide justification.
- d) Compliance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015.
- e) Lastly, Mr. Speaker, provide information regarding the valuation, the insurance coverage of the assets. If valued, please attach a report detailing the asset value of each asset. If not valued, provide a justification for this decision, Mr. Speaker. Thank you

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Is there any Honourable Member of the Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT in the House? Is the Chairperson, Finance and ICT present? I am able to see Honourable Owade. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, I have heard the concern or the Statement of the Member for Kondele. It is valid and I can promise on behalf of this House Committee that we will be able to give a comprehensive report within 21 days. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): What is it, Honourable Odari?

Hon Odari (MCA, Chemelil): Mr. Speaker, I have a Statement to make.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Please, let me sort out this one first.

(Leader of Majority rises on his feet)

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): What is it, Hon Leader of Majority?

Leader of Majority (Hon Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before Honourable Odari gives his Statement, now that the Vice Chairperson of Finance has given us the timeline, I just wanted to request the Honourable Gard Olima who is now a Member of Finance, to second. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): The Leader of Majority, it is my opinion that we do not require him to second. However, the Deputy Leader of Majority was just giving feedback. I know that the Departmental Committee on Finance has a lot of work. But as I suggested earlier, sometimes the way House Committees can work is to divide yourselves into subcommittees of two or three Members so that you can handle a number of items at the same time. There is no need of all of

you sitting together and working on an item at a time. You can divide yourself into subcommittees so that you handle these matters. Some of the items that are committed to your House Committee have deadlines. Therefore, you must work on them according to those timelines.

Honourable Members, I direct that this Statement be committed to the Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT, but I want you to work closely with the Select Committee of Public Investments and Public Accounts because the Statement touches on the matters of investment. As such, the Select Committee of Public Investments and Public Accounts can be of great assistance. This is the reason I want you to work very closely with the Select Committee of Public Investments and Public Accounts on their reports and even the previous resolutions that were made earlier. On this, I believe that if you are able to organize yourselves well, I give you three weeks.

Honourable Members, three weeks from today means you are supposed to report back in the first week of December and that should be on the 3rd of December. The Honourable Deputy Leader of the Majority, I hope you have noted taken note.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Honourable Joachim, you said you had two Statements.

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

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Proceed.

Hon Joachim (MCA, Kondele): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one last Statement to seek on the Matter of Compliance with Regulation No.70 (1) of the Public Service Commission Regulations 2020 by the County Public Service Board on the Mandatory Retirement Age.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pursuant to Standing Order No. 42 (2) (b) of the Standing Orders to seek a Statement from the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Services on compliance with Regulation No. 70 (1) of the Public Service Commission Regulation 2020 by the County Public Service Board on the mandatory retirement age provision.

Mr. Speaker, Regulation No. 70 (1) of the Public Service Commission Regulation 2020 provides the mandatory retirement age in the public service to be 60 years and 65 years for Persons with Disability and such an age as may be determined by the Commission for Lecturers and Research scientists serving in public universities, research institutions or equivalent institutions as determined by the Commission in consultation with such universities, research institutions or equivalent institutions.

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, I request that the Chairperson provide a comprehensive report covering the following.

1. A detailed record of all employees of the County Government of Kisumu since 2013 evidenced by a payroll printout including their names, ID numbers and dates of birth as per official identification.
 2. A report on officers who have reached the retirement age since 2013 including those who have retired during this period.
 3. Information on employees due to retire within the next year including specific timelines for recruitment and onboarding processes.
 4. A detailed report on officers who have reached the mandatory retirement age yet continue to draw salaries while still employed by the County Government of Kisumu. These reports will include reasons these officers have not retired as stipulated by law.
 5. A report on any instances where contracts have been extended or reissued for officers' post-retirement detailing the rationale for each extension, the specific roles these officers are serving and the terms of their engagement.
 6. Information on policies or guidelines the County Government of Kisumu has in place regarding succession planning, especially in departments with a significant number of employees approaching retirement to ensure continuity of service.
7. An outline of any training, mentorship, or skill transfer programs to be designed to prepare younger employees or successors for roles that will be located during mandatory retirements, Mr. Speaker.
8. A summary of any audit findings or internal reviews conducted since 2013 regarding compliance with the retirement Laws and Regulations within the County Government, including any corrective action, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Zachary Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chairperson, Departmental Committee of Labour and Social Welfare, we accept and we receive the Statement and I believe we are going to work within the period which is required, and bring back the report to the Assembly and the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I want to direct that the Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Welfare looks into this Statement, but I also want you to work very closely with the Departmental Committee on Law, Justice, Legal Affairs, and Good Governance, because there are also issues cutting across governance, and report back with a progress report within two weeks. Be able to give us a report within two weeks from the date of commitment, Honourable Zachary Okoyo.

Honourable members, the same approach that we said, you can divide yourself into groups. Honorable Members, when we have committed work to committees, I mean, I do not see why it becomes even challenging to work on them even when the House Business Committee is trying to schedule committees. I believe that it makes no sense, because you already have work. It is you who is supposed to be giving us your program that this is how we are going to handle these matters, so that we approve it and you proceed.

So, I believe we are not going to have any excuses. Honorable Zachary, Honourable Mr. Owade, Honourable Chairperson of the Finance Committee, I expect you to sit as soon as possible, furnish us your work plan. So, it is from the work plan that we should be feeding into the schedule that we develop as House Business Committee. It is still Statement time. Honourable Odari, where are you seated? You keep on confusing me. I have to struggle to know who is standing. Has Honourable Oiko chased you away?

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Honorable Nancy Matara has attracted him.

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil/Tamu): That is, it, Mr. Speaker. I am *Egonga* from Kisumu.

(Laughter)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Odari, can you please present this House with your Statement?

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil/Tamu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honorable Speaker, person to Standing Order No. 41(2)(b), I rise to seek a statement from Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Development and Irrigation, about the Schedule of the use of Ploughing Tractors Purchased by the County Government of Kisumu.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the ongoing short rains in the country, it is also the season of ploughing when farmers need ploughing service the most.

Honorable Speaker, aware that the County Government of Kisumu purchased ploughing tractors with the intention of providing ploughing services to the residents of Kisumu County at a subsidized cost in all eight sub-counties. Honorable Speaker, I therefore wish to seek a statement from Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Development and Irrigation to provide response on the following matters.

1. Detailed report on the number of tractors purchased by the County Government of Kisumu stating their current condition, whether grounded or operational.
2. Report on the number of farmers who have benefited from the tractor this season, including the Sub-Counties where these farmers are based.

3. A clear procedure for accessing and using the tractors, including the cost of hiring them and the terms of service.

Thank you, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I am struggling to look for the Chairperson of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock development and Irrigation or the Vice-Chairperson. Honourable Deputy Speaker, are you the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Development and Irrigation?

Hon. Okombo (MCA, Manyatta “B”): No, I am not, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to say that a member has walked in naked, but he is walking out again. However, when you are done with Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, I will ask your Chairperson to give leave on a matter of concern in relation to the Speaker's rules on dress code. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Vice Chairperson of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock development and Irrigation?

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my chairperson...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is happening today? Everybody is jumbled up. I am struggling to identify Members because I am seeing Honourable Bill Oliver has escaped, he is seated somewhere. I saw Honourable Matara seated in a different place, now I am not able to spot her. Honourable Bill, who has chased you from your seat?

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Mr. Speaker, there was some confusion. There is a member who has resurfaced, so I had to create room.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Who is the Member?

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Honourable Gard Olima.

(Laughter)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I have always been seeing Honourable Gard Olima. Why do you say that Honourable Olima Gard has resurfaced? But I have always been seeing in the House

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Honorable Speaker, there is a confusion here. We normally sit on one seat when I am there. I will sit here when Hon. Olima is the first to arrive. He is sitting there because he was the first to arrive today.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Members, there is a reason why you should maintain where you sit. It is for ease of identification. So, it is important that you maintain where you sit. Honorable Bill, proceed.

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, on behalf of my Chairperson, I wanted to ask the House to give us two weeks to give a detailed report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Members, I direct this statement is committed to the Committee of the departmental Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Blue Economy. And they should work on it and give a report to the House within a period of two weeks. We are still Statement time.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Deputy Speaker, what was it?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B”): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, mine is not a Statement but a matter of concern in regards to Speaker's rules on dress code, especially for our brothers. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed lately that the ‘*Zakayo*’ dress code is slowly creeping into the parliamentary session where we have our male counterparts coming in with Kaunda suit which are not official parliamentary in nature. Mr. Speaker, we know that for a Kaunda to be official it has to be long-sleeved, it has to have a collar and a cap.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of visiting the National Parliament, and as a shadow of the National Parliament, we need to learn from our big brothers. Our brothers in this House even come to the Assembly chambers in jeans, trousers, rubber shoes, in t-shirts and put on coats on top of them. So, Mr. Speaker, our brothers are diluting the dignity of this House. So, it is a matter of concern that we be taken to a recap on the dress code of this parliamentary system, Mr. Speaker, sir.

(Hon. Nyaoke rises on his feet)

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): A Point of Information, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Nyaoke?

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North-Nyakach): *(On a Point of Information)* Mr. Speaker, I just wanted the Member not to generalize because it is not only the brothers, Mr. Speaker. We also do have a problem with our female counterparts. If it becomes that we agree, if we agree that let us be decent, let us all be decent, Mr. Speaker. It is not only brothers. Even some of our sisters are giving us a lot of problems, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Honourable Odari?

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil/Tamu): Mr. Speaker, I was struggling. I wanted to know from the Deputy Speaker, who *Zakayo* is, and before she answers, we lead by example. Even her sometimes, you will see her thighs outside when she is going on the other side. So, this is something which we have to be very, very serious about. Even in the House, whatever you are doing, your children are coping. So, thank you.

(Laughter)

(Hon. Dede rises on his feet)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Hon. Dede?

Hon. Dede (MCA, North Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think the Honourable Member who has raised the Statement was just joking. This is because the member was talking about brotherhood, and this is an Honourable House. The Member should have called the Honourable Members within the House. The Honourable Member was talking about 'my brothers'. So, the brotherhood should be outside the premise of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members let me remind ourselves that each and every Member was given a copy of the Speaker's Rules on a dress code. Again, I want to call upon the Serjeant-at-arms. It is your responsibility to ensure that when Members are coming in, you must be able to identify them based on their dress code, because all of you have copies of the Speaker's rules on dress code. So, you must be able to guide the Members. Those who are not properly dressed will not be allowed to get in. If any Member comes in forcefully, you should bring that to the attention of the Speaker because we have different House Committees dealing with such issues. So, let it be a reminder that we have our dress code.

Further, the only thing that we allow is that if you are in a corporate shirt, you can come in and I believe that we have suggested certain days that you should be in corporate shirts. Otherwise, let us maintain our dress code. It should be official for both female Members of the County Assembly and the male Members of the County Assembly.

So, if you have misplaced your copy of the Speaker's Rules, please you can call upon the office of the Clerk or the office of the Speaker so that you are furnished with one. You can as well ask your neighbor for a copy. So, before you come, look at yourself in the mirror and see if you are properly dressed as per the rules of the House.

So, let us not compromise them. Going forward, if anybody comes not properly dressed, please bring it to the attention of the Speaker so that he/she is dealt with accordingly. Otherwise, we can proceed. We have exhausted the Statement Hour.

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

MOTION

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SPORTS, CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS ON THE STATUS OF VARIOUS CULTURAL SITES AND FOOTBALL PITCHES WITHIN KISUMU COUNTY

BY

HON. NANCY MATARA, NOMINATED MEMBER

(CHAIRPERSON)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Okay, even Honourable Nancy has disappeared again. What is happening on this side of the isle?

Hon. Matara (Nominated): Mr. Speaker, I have resurfaced.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Nancy, please proceed?

Hon. Matara (Nominated Member): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move a motion on the Statement of Various Cultural Sites and Football Pitches within the County of Kisumu. Mr. Speaker, the report outlines the findings from site visits conducted by the Committee on its own initiative during the extended recess.

The Committee visited the multiple locations throughout the County to gather the first-hand information and evaluate conditions, thereby fulfilling its oversight by responsibilities. These visits were part of the Committee's proactive efforts to ensure comprehensive monitoring and assessment of the County's various sites. The Committee visited the following sites in the County.

- i) Abindu Shrines in Kisumu, that is in West Sub-County.
- ii) Got Kadaniel Shrine in Kisumu East.
- iii) Kit Mikayi in Seme.
- iv) Kombewa Football Pitch in Nyakach.
- v) Alango Football Pitch in Kisumu East.
- vi) Muhoroni Stadium in Muhoroni.

vii) Nanga Football Pitch in Kisumu Central.
observation.

During the site visits, the committee noted the following issues;

- 1) Poor road accessibility to the sites and most pitches,
- 2) Undefined boundaries.
- 3) Most pitches are not well-leveled and lack essential facilities such as goal posts, terraces, and changing rooms.
- 4) Absence of proper structures for the generating revenue.
- 5) Most of the sites lack proper fencing.
- 6) Six, most of the sites are located on a private land and you can see the annexes.

General Recommendation

- 1) Infrastructure Enhancement.

The department should invest in the development and the upgrading of the essential amenities such as restrooms, terraces, and changing rooms across all the football pitches constructed by the County.

- 2) Accessibility Improvement.

The department should prioritize the construction and maintains the access roads leading to various sites within the County. This will ensure smooth and safe passage for visitors, including tourists, worshippers, and sports enthusiasts.

- 3) Security Measures.

Install star defense and implement security measures to safeguard the integrity and sanctity of the sites, protecting them from encroachment and vandalism and unauthorized access.

- 4) Revenue Generation.

The Department of Revenue should deploy stars to various tourism attraction sites to monitor and manage the revenue generated from these locations. This will ensure that the funds collected are effectively utilized to benefit the County of Kisumu. By having dedicated personnel at these sites; the department can oversee revenue locations, prevent potential losses, and enhance the financial resources available for the community development and tourism infrastructure in the County.

- 5) Tourism Promotion.

Develop comprehensive tourism promotion strategies and marketing campaigns to raise awareness of the cultural and natural significance of the sites. Target both Domestic and International Audiences through; digital platforms, travel agencies, and cultural events to increase visitation and economic impact.

- 6) Signage Installation and Refurbishment.

Erect clear and informative signage and strategic locations to enhance the; visibility, recognition, and accessibility of the sites as cultural, religious and the recreational landmark.

Refurbishing existing signage to maintain relevance and effectiveness in the guiding visitors.

7) Acquisitions of Lands.

The County Government needs to establish a structure to oversee the acquisitions of privately owned lands where it has initiated and completed projects.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, it is now my pleasure to move this motion that this House adopt this report of this of the Departmental Committee on Sports, Gender, Culture, and Youth Affairs on the Status of Various Cultural Sites and Football Pitches within Kisumu County. Mr. Speaker, may I call upon Hon. James Were to second. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Were.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B”): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this report. This House gave a mandate to this House Committee to go round so that they could check on the status of the sporting facilities that are mentioned and the cultural sites that are also mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, during our site visitations, we found out that there were a lot of things that were happening to our important facilities. There were no proper access roads to these facilities. Some of the facilities were dilapidated and without fence. There were no signboards that are erected that are showing the people where the facilities are located. Mr. Speaker, there are a raft of recommendations that were made by this House Committee that there is need for the County to improve on those facilities so that they could fetch revenue. Because, when all our sporting facilities are done in a proper way and in a usable way, it will help especially our youths. It will help them in talent development. They will be having good places where they can train and as they engage in training and playing different games, we ensure that even the well-being of our people is taken care of. Mr. Speaker, when we have our facilities fenced properly, the security even of the people that are using those facilities are guaranteed. If all the recommendations in this report are considered then, even the County is able to generate more revenue which will be a benefit to our County. I therefore beg to second the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the Honourable Nancy Matara has moved a motion and seconded by the Hon...

(Hon. Bill stood rises on his feet)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Honourable Bill? What is it? I am on my feet Honourable Bill so what is the problem, Honourable Deputy Speaker? What is the problem with Honourable Bill?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B”): Mr. Speaker, I think Honourable Bill wanted to second.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): He wanted to do what? What is it Honourable Deputy Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta “B”): Mr. Speaker, Honourable Bill wanted to come back to his seat now that Honourable Gard Olima has left.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, as per our Standing Order, I want to propose a question that the motion is open for debate.

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

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta “B”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to oppose the adoption of this committee report.

Mr. Speaker, this House Committee has listed a number of tourist sites within the County and in their report, they are clearly informing us that most of those tourist sites are not located in the land owned by Kisumu County Government. The Chairperson of that House Committee has clearly read that most of them are located in private lands but they still go ahead and inform us; to invest in those sites, provide security in those sites and then deploy our revenue officers, to collect revenue from those sites.

Mr. Speaker, how do we secure private land and collect revenue on those same lands? How do we use public funds to improve or to construct personal lands and expect the county to collect revenue on the same? Have we turned into a government that now wants to snatch people's properties and claim it as our own? Mr. Speaker, I request this House Committee to go back, do due diligence, inform this House which sites belong to the county and which ones are resting on private lands. If there are measures in place by the county to get the ownership of those lands, then, they should inform this House to what extent are the talks being made by those private land owners and if they can allow or allow the county government to acquire those lands. But we cannot go and take people's lands, collect revenue on them.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot do that. So, Mr. Speaker, I oppose the adoption of this report and ask this House Committee to go back and do a thorough job and tell us which ones do they specifically mean do not belong to the county. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Pamela Oyoo.

Hon. Oyoo (MCA, Migosi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report. Mr. Speaker, I'm standing to support the report because cultural sites are locations recognized for their historical, cultural and archaeological, which are significantly protected by law to preserve the value for future generations. Mr. Speaker, I want to say, I want to support this report because this need to protect our cultural heritage spaces.

In Kisumu, we are looking forward to enhancing our revenue. Secondly, we are looking forward to enhancing our cultural, tourism, and heritage sites. I want to support this report because for us to enhance our tourism hub, we need to protect our cultural sites to enable us market Kisumu as a tourism hub.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state that, out of the identified cultural sites, it is important that the county should move forward, formalize their being by getting title deeds to those areas. I oppose the idea of not adopting the report since whatever is there, we need to do something about it to make it authentic, to make it formal so that we enhance our growth in tourism area. I want to say as Honourable Members, we have visited other counties to see what they are doing with their cultural centers, how they are enhancing their ability in Tourism to enhance their revenue collection. I want to say these sites need to be protected, fenced, formalized for future generations because if you allow them to degenerate, what will our children see as cultural values?

Mr. Speaker, I want to say the Motion is important and that this House should discuss this Motion extensively and give it power that those sites are formalized and protected and the ones which have not been formalized and have no title deeds, the country should take a step forward to formalize their existence and enhance our revenue collection. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Dede.

Hon. Dede (MCA, Kisumu North): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me also echo my sentiment concerning the Motion on the Floor. Foremost, I take the opportunity to congratulate this House Committee for having brought the half-baked report to this House.

Mr. Speaker, to begin with, an area has been mentioned like Abindu Cave or Abindu Shrine, which falls within my ward. Mr. Speaker, in the Abindu Shrine, we've seen that they lack a variety of things like a fence. Yes, fencing is needed, Mr. Speaker, but is there a marked area which should be fenced? We should be working on an area which has got proper demarcations like the Abindu Shrine. If no proper demarcation, Mr. Speaker, where will we fence?

Again, we found out that the Members went ahead and googled the fact of the heritage site, Mr. Speaker. They've talked of other lands owned by the county government, they should have gone deep to show us the planning report or the title deed or the title numbers should have been annexed for this sites which they visited. Mr. Speaker, with that, we have not been given the title deed number for the Abindu Shrine, and we don't know where it falls.

Mr. Speaker, from the annex which was brought from the County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development, it has been indicated that in the initial report which was brought was not comprehensive, and we've been told that by 17th of September 2024, a detailed report shall be brought to this Assembly so that at least we know more about these cultural site. Yet today, we are on 14th of November, a detailed report we've not seen indicating from the letter which we received on the 26th of September. So, Mr. Speaker, in my considered opinion, the cultural site should have been revisited well, but up to this time, it has not met the threshold of passing this report, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, concerning our football pitch, we have seen that the report which has been brought to us by this House Committee of Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs Mr. Speaker, we've noticed that even maintaining the pitches which we have, because if you go to our pitches, you see that the 'Oangla' is not being done to the required standards. They are not serving the purposes which they were intended for. Pitches like the Kenyatta Sports Ground, Mamboleo Kenyatta International Sports Ground, the grounds have been changed for what they were not meant for, for that is the dancing of the 'Oangla'

Mr. Speaker, recently we were with the Vice-Chairperson, Honourable James Were while training at one of the pitches, and he also complained over the usage of the pitches. Mr. Speaker, according to my opinion, this report should have been returned to this House Committee, so that they dig deep and bring for us proper information concerning all what was expected in this report. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, that's my submission.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Tom Nyaoke.

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The scope of this report, to me, meets the standard of acceptance, Mr. Speaker, and I stand to support the adoption. Mr. Speaker, this House Committee has simply listed the areas of concern as far as sports is concerned in this county.

Mr. Speaker, and if you look at the report properly, they have identified each of them, they have underlined what they observed vis-à-vis the recommendations they have given, Mr. Speaker. Where the land belongs to the community, they have recommended that something should be

done so that we see how the transfer can be done, Mr. Speaker. There is not any finer detail that can be done beyond that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, This House Committee has gone a step further and given sufficient recommendations, and I believe that these recommendations are adequate enough to change the dimension and the pitches that we have in this county as far as the sports are concerned, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, if we say, for example, that we don't adopt this, Mr. Speaker, then where are we heading, Mr. Speaker? We need to move from one point to the other. Please, let us all unite to change the face of our sporting activities in the whole Kisumu County. I therefore stand to support, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okoyo, let me give Honourable Kizito the opportunity first.

Hon. Kizito (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to support this report, simply because if I look at the report now and if I compared it to last one that was brought, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of improvement. And on the recommendations that have been listed for the recommendation that is listed for Muhoroni Stadium is a good one because we really need an upgrade and on site observation for Muhoroni Stadium I can see, there was something on ownership of land that was originally owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and transferred to the Lake Basin Development Authority in 1999 the to the County Council on behalf of the Tonde settlers. Mr. Speaker this is true and I am privy to that.

I also want to say that, it is my belief that the County Council is part of the county government so definitely its part of the county government. Mr. Speaker I support this report, please let us adopt it. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this report because it is a good start and I think it will, at some point, help us know, identify and do something about the sites which, to me, I'm rising to put my point across.

Mr. Speaker, I believe many Members are aware that there are certain sites we should have identified and made publicly known long ago. If title deeds are missing, they should be prepared and designated as public utilities or official sites. Mr. Speaker, I have been in communication with the department regarding the site associated with the late Okoro Gonda, a notable hero from Kisumu. To my surprise, I recently discovered that this site had been illegally acquired, with some individuals even attempting to sell it to another private developer, though the sale was unsuccessful. With this report, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we can reclaim such sites,

officially recognize them, and listing them as locations to be preserved and managed by the Kisumu County Government. So, Mr. Speaker, I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Omollo.

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the mover to reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I spotted Honourable Oraro on his feet. Yes Hon. Oraro.

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a robust report, though I believe it would benefit from including a key area that I had hoped to see addressed. I suggest that we all take the time to thoroughly understand the report. While reviewing it, I noticed that Honourable Were appeared to be somewhat selective in its scope. I felt it was necessary to include Nanga in this report, as he is in the House Committee and may have access to privileged information.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of sports facilities is highly sensitive. I believe that most MCAs in our 35 wards would want a recognized county pitch and the necessary funding to bring these fields up to standard. However, my concern lies in the registration practices for these fields. For instance, Nanga's field is registered under Nanga Primary, while Alango's field is also claimed under the primary school grounds. I am also encountering issues with some Headteachers in my wards who are fencing off school grounds, effectively limiting public access to these community spaces.

Mr. Speaker, to some extent, young people are currently unable to access these fields for recreational purposes. As I reviewed the report, I felt this could be an area of concern that required addressing with this House Committee. Perhaps we could look into issuing letters to officially designate certain school fields for county use, allowing young boys and girls to play football and other sports there. However, with MPs using NGCDF funds to fence off these schools, an issue of ownership has emerged. This ownership conflict creates tension between the community and school administrations. With this report, I would appreciate clarification from the mover of the motion, particularly regarding why specific schools like Nanga and Alango were chosen. It would also be helpful if Members could be advised on how to identify at least one school per ward where the county government could coordinate and approve the use of their fields for public sporting activities. That is my submission and I support the report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes mover of the motion, it is you time to reply

Hon. Matara (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all Honourable Members who have contributed to this report. First, I want to express my gratitude to

Honourable Nereah for her input. Honourable Nereah, I encourage you to review the report carefully to get all the details.

Honourable Pamela Oyoo, thank you as well. As a House Committee we endeavour to work closely with the County Executive to ensure that the land that can be acquired is properly secured.

Honourable Dede, thank you for your contribution; we are committed to addressing all areas, including yours.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to extend my thanks to all Members who have shown support, and specifically to Honourable Regina for endorsing our recommendations. To Honourable Oraro, I'd like to clarify that we did not prioritize any specific football pitch. Our team conducted a comprehensive review of all football pitches and cultural sites across Kisumu County. Nanga may have been highlighted due to the input we received, but this is part of a broader effort. Approving this report will empower the Executive to initiate and plan effectively for these sites.

Mr. Speaker, during CASA rehearsals, the need for proper changing facilities came up as an issue, as athletes often lack appropriate spaces. Therefore, we should consider including changing rooms in all football and sports facilities to ensure proper amenities across disciplines. I appreciate the support of all Members, and with that, I reply. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the motion report of the Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs on the Status of various Cultural Sites and Football Pitches within the county has been moved, seconded and debated, as per our standing orders, I want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs on the Cultural Sites and Football Pitches within Kisumu County have been adopted today, Wednesday, the 13th of November, 2024 at 15:53 hours.

Further, I direct that the recommendation of the said reports be communicated to the relevant department for action.

Honourable Members, you must also be aware that this is the time when the budget making process is starting. We are in the process of handling the Kisumu County Annual Development Plan for the FY 2025/2026 financial year. Remember, it's an opportunity for you to ensure that whatever you have resolved in this report, is part and parcel of it in ensuring that it appears in the

next Proposed Budget Estimates. Otherwise, I saw the Honourable Deputy Speaker and Honourable Dede, you know the rules of the House.

If within five seconds, not less than five people are in their feet, then we call for division. So, I looked around and I could only see two people on their feet. So it means my judgment was right.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, please be upstanding. Honourable Members, there being no other business to transact, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, the 14th of November, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 03.56 p.m.)

Addendum

Hansard Team

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