COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Tuesday, 11th February, 2025

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

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

PRAYERS

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

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members I wish to welcome you back from the long recess that began on the 07th of December 2024 and ended yesterday the 10th of February 2025. I hope that you had a wonderful moment with your families and esteemed electorates and you similarly took your time to refresh yourself and that you are now more integrated and ready to face the tasks ahead of us in this Fourth Session in a more comprehensive and robust manner.

Honourable Members I am aware that during the break, a number of you turned up for various committee assignments that were critical to the effective and the continuous operations of county government. Among the House Committees that convened during the long recess included but not limited to the Select Committee on Public Investments and Accounts which met the management of various sub-county hospitals to respond to the audit queries for the financial years 2021, 2022, 2022, 2023. The Departmental Committee of Lands, Physical Planning,

Housing and Urban Development which conducted site visits to the five municipalities in Kisumu County to assess their progress since they were established. The Select committee on General Oversight also held its meeting with the County Executive Committee Members to deliberate on the rollout and implementation of the development projects in the financial year 2024/2025.

Honourable members, I want to applaud you on your commitment and I expect that House Committee reports for all the activities that were undertaken during recess on the committees I've mentioned along the others shall be ready and shall find their way on the floor of this House anytime from now.

Honourable Members, you can also see from the bulletin for February 2025 which has been shared by the communication or the Public Relations department. The task ahead of us is enormous and it ranges from the debate our first assignment which will be Debate on the Governor's last State of the County Address.

Honourable Members, I'm aware that each and every Member had a copy and you had enough time to go through the report or the address by the Governor and you are ready to criticize or to critique the governor's address appropriately. That shall be our first agenda and we shall have it in the first three sittings. So, every member will have an opportunity to debate the governor's address and on top of that, we have got a number of bills that were introduced when the House was on recess as well as the pending committee reports.

Honourable Member, please rush to the next seat! As I was saying our first agenda shall be the debate on the State of the County Address, we have got a number of bills that were introduced in this House when the Members were on recess alongside other activities including at the vetting of different personalities who are appointees of the of the governor.

Honourable Member, we equally have pending committee reports and pending bills that were not concluded when the Members were proceeding for the long recess. We must therefore double our effort and I pray for enhanced commitment and peaceful coexistence.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, I want to communicate that today in the morning we received a report of the demise of one of the Chief Officers who was currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya County Revenue Board, Dr. Benta Omollo who passed away in Aga Khan, the body is at Aga Khan. All of you are aware and I think the committee of Administration of Laws, Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Good Governance and Security would have participated in the vetting of Dr. Benta Omollo when she was being appointed as the Chief Officer of Public Service Department. We have equally received the conclusion of the demise of the mother to a former Member of the County Assembly, Honourable George Ogutu,

who was a Member representing West Nyakach Ward that is currently being headed by Honourable James Omollo. I'm informed that the burial shall be on the 28th of February at 2025 and as a practice, once an Honourable Member, you are a Honourable Member, our welfare committee can find a way of engaging towards the same. Honourable Members, I want to encourage every one of us to strive to leave a mark. A mark in the manner that you play your opposite role to ensure that the county government remains accountable.

A mark in a manner that your voice and push for the interest of your electorates by submitting Motions and Statements request to this House. That is the main reason you were elected. A mark in the manner that you do your legislative mandate and in this case I want to encourage you to come up with sponsored legislations that can improve the service delivery as well as social economic development in Kisumu County.

Honourable Members, it is your responsibility to do legislation, oversight and representation. I am also aware that in Bondo, in a House Committee that I chaired, the Select Committee on General Oversight, it was resolved that outcomes were supposed to be seen within two weeks' time. It is the responsibility of this House to ensure that a follow-up is made on the same.

Honourable Members, we however have a challenge that in the course of this week or next week, the House may be receiving the First Kisumu County Supplementary Budget for the Financial year 2024/2025 including that of the County Assembly. You are aware that sometimes last year, the Senate in their own wisdom reduced the ceilings of all the Assemblies under the Executive especially on development and this one has necessitated the need to prepare a supplementary budget for both the County Assembly and the County Executive. I want to call upon all of us to look into these matters with a keen eye, taking into consideration the matter in the House which has normally been the Own Source Revenue and the Wage Bill. I notice the Honourable Chairperson of the Select Committee of Budget and Appropriations and the Honourable Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT in the House. Please, let's make it our responsibility to do what is expected of us.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge, the Leader of Majority, Honourable Ken Ooko, Honourable Tom Nyaoke, the MCA North Nyakach, and myself on being recognized and awarded an Honorary Doctorate, Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership and Governance by the Royal Priest College of Divinity and Humanity on the 8th of February, 2025. This demonstrates the Leader's transformative leadership and commitment to public service. And, I was there as the research on the Kisumu County was being presented. It is not our effort, it is what has been seen to be done in the Kisumu County Assembly.

Additionally, I also received communication from the Governor that he was in the Inter Budgetary Economic Council (IBEC) meeting last week. And Kisumu County Assembly was

positively mentioned for doing its work. So, we may not see what we are doing, but somebody is noticing what we are doing. Again, I want to encourage us that we proceed. So, this demonstrates the Leader's transformative leadership and commitment to the public service and I say congratulations.

I equally want to appreciate the Clerk and the staff of the County Assembly for being available during the recess and assisting various House Committees that worked during that period. Once again, I welcome you back, Hon Members, and I pray that you have a fruitful session that is the fourth session of the Third Assembly beginning today.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order, Clerk.

STATEMENTS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Statement time, I can allow for those who have personal statement because I have not received any statement of topical concern.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Moses Ochele is here.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to make a personal statement. First, Mr. Speaker, it is a sad morning today when I heard of the demise of Benta, as you mentioned. The County Executive Committee Member Judith and I were preparing to visit her at the Agha Khan Hospital Intensive Care Unit but barely five minutes later, the County Executive Committee Member called me that Benta was no more.

She's a lady I worked with closely, being the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration of Laws, Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Good Governance and Security, and she was the Chief Officer of the Department of Governance, Administration, and Participatory Development.

Mr. Speaker, it is sad that we have lost her at a time when the family was still mourning. The other day, she had lost her spouse, and it is from then that she got this attack which has now claimed her soul. I pray that may the Lord take her soul to rest with the angels and take care of the children and other members of the family. May the Almighty grant her peace and fill the void that she might have left when she finally left this world.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, may I take a cue to congratulate the leadership headed by you, Mr. Speaker, and Majority Leader, and my colleague and my friend Honourable Tom Nyaoke. I was just called by a friend who read it in the social media that Kisumu County Assembly was being recognized and represented by three who are being awarded Doctorate Degrees.

It is not a mere achievement for a House to get three nominees at the same time. Most County Assemblies went without, but luckily the Kisumu County Assembly got three nominees who were awarded, and the County Head was also recognized. Mr. Speaker, it is not just achievement by the three of us, but it is a collective effort by the members in this county assembly, the Third Assembly, and effort of the Secretariat to make work easy for the leadership and some of us to gain recognition, not just locally, but even internationally, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that more is expected to come, because this is just laying ground. And the other day, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we continue doing good work, and as you see, good work, you might not see it, but somebody somewhere is busy and keen watching and grading us. So we keep on working hard and working as a unit in Kisumu County. I wish all of us good luck and a nice day in this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, we can be upstanding. I refer to the provisions of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order No. 26(3). I read that;

"On a day when the county assembly is scheduled to adjourn to a day other than the next normal sitting, the day in accordance with this county assembly calendar, the leader of majority, the leader of minority party or another member of the county assembly business shall move a motion for adjournment that shall be debated for not more than three hours, after which the county assembly shall adjourn without question put.

In this case, we are in a normal session. That is why we moved a Motion for Adjournment on the Thursday, 05th of December, 2024. So, we are moving to adjourn to a normal sitting. But as practice, when we receive session after long recess, we adjourn for a week to allow the leadership to constitute the Select Committee on House Business, the Speakers Panels, and even to work on the urgent matters that comes to the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, in that case, the House is adjourned until the Tuesday, 18th of February 2025 at 2.30 p.m. But I want to request that we have a meeting with the House Leadership tomorrow at 11 a.m. in my office.

(The House rose at 02.56 p.m.)

Addendum

Hansard Team

Zablon Otiende	-	*Senior Hansard Reporter (Acting Editor)*
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