

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



### COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

### **THE HANSARD**

#### *Official Report*

#### THIRD ASSEMBLY - FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

House met in the Main Chamber at 09:00 a.m.

**(The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Emily Oginga) in the Chair)**

### PRAYERS

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, as per the provisions of Order No. 32 (2) of the Kisumu County assembly Standing Order, I would like to direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to ring the quorum bell for the first five minutes.

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

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): I can see Honourable Adegga sitting in the position of the Leader of Majority. Can you please confirm if we have quorum.

**Hon. Adegga** (MCA, Kajulu): Thank you Madam Speaker. We still don't have quorum.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, with reference to the provisions of the Standing Order No. 33 (3), allow me to again direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to ring the quorum bell for the next eight minutes.

*(Quorum bell rung for eight minutes)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): I can see the Deputy Speaker in the House. Can you confirm if we have quorum?

**Hon. Okombo** (MCA, Manyatta “B”): Thank you Madam Speaker. We have quorum.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Clerk, take us through the order of the day.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Next order!!

## MOTION

APPROVALS OF THE CALENDAR OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY REGULAR SESSIONS  
FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF 2025 VIDE THE GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5804

BY

HON. KENNEDY OOKO, MCA, AHERO

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

*(Motion moved by Hon. Okombo on behalf of the Leader of Majority)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Okombo.

**Hon. Okombo** (MCA, Manyatta B): Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Leader of Majority, Honourable Ken Ooko to move a motion on the Approval of the Calendar of the County Assembly, (Regular Sessions) for the Fourth Session, 2025.

Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, acknowledging that the provisions of Standing Order No 25 establishes the schedule for the regular sessions of the County Assembly to run for the second Tuesday of February of the first Thursday, to the first Thursday of December.

First, acknowledging that the County Assembly Calendar for the Third Session, that is 2024, was approved by this House on its sitting of 22nd February, 2024, and published by the Gazette Notice No. 5804, expired on Monday, 10th February, 2025, necessitating the approval of a new calendar for the Fourth Session in 2025.

Recognizing that, pursuant to the provisions Orders No. 25 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, of the Standing Orders, the new Assembly year for the Fourth Session, that's commencing on Tuesday, 11th February, 2025.

Further recognizing that, Orders Number 26 (1), mandates the County Assembly Business Committee to determine with Assembly's approval the Annual Calendar.

Now, therefore, the Assembly resolves that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Orders No. 25 (1), this House approves the Calendar of the County Assembly Regular Sessions for the Fourth Session, 2025, as follows. Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, that from Tuesday, 11th

February, 2025, to Monday, 9th February, 2026, the Assembly will run as follows; That from Tuesday, 11th February, 2025, to Thursday, 3rd April, 2025, we'll have on Tuesdays, afternoon regular sittings. (Wednesday morning and afternoon, then on Thursday's afternoon).

Madam Speaker, we'll have a Short Recess between Friday, 04th April, 2025, to Monday, 21st April, 2025.

The second part of the calendar, Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, we'll run from Tuesday, 22nd, April, 2025, to Thursday, 03rd July, 2025, and we'll have our regular sittings from on Tuesdays in the afternoons, Wednesday's morning and afternoon, then on Thursdays in the afternoon.

Madam Speaker, we'll have a Long Recess between Friday, 04th July, 2025, to Monday, 04th August, 2025.

Madam Speaker, as we move to the third part of the calendar, which will begin on 05th August, 2025, to Thursday, 23rd October, 2025, where we will have our regular sittings on our Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday's mornings and afternoons, and Thursdays in the afternoons.

Madam Speaker, we'll proceed to a Short Recess between Friday, 24th October, 2025, to Monday, 03rd November, 2025.

Madam Speaker, the House will resume for the Fourth and the last part of the calendar between 4th November, 2025, to Thursday, 4th December, 2025, where we will have our regular sittings on Tuesdays in the afternoons, Wednesdays we'll have morning and afternoon sittings, and on Thursdays we'll have afternoon sittings.

Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, a Long Recess will proceed from 05th December, 2025, to Monday, 09th February, 2026.

Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, it is worthy that the County Assembly may resolve to hold sittings on other days outside this published calendar in accordance with the standing orders.

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, and I would wish to call upon Honorable Seth Okumu to second.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Hon. Seth Okumu.

**Hon. Okumu** (MCA, East Seme): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the adoption of the calendar of the Assembly. Madam Speaker, if we don't plan for the year, then Members will not know how to plan the activities for the rest of the year. Madam Speaker, even though it is a requirement in our Standing Orders that we approve the calendar in this Assembly, it is equally important that this calendar, once approved, be shared with the public so

that they know what Members will be doing for the rest of the year. So that, when the Members are supposed to be in the Assembly, the public do not engage them in other activities other than what's in the calendar.

If the members are supposed to be in their constituencies, then members should also not lie that they are busy in the Assembly. So, other than passing this document, let's make it public so that the public knows what we have and plan on the activities of this House for the rest of the year. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I second the adoption of the calendar.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, and now that, this calendar of the County Assembly - Regular Sessions for the Fourth Session, 2025, has been presented and seconded, and as part of our Standing Orders, I would want to propose a question, and I propose that this calendar is now open for debate.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes Honourable Nyaoke.

**Hon. Nyaoke** (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me start by saying that Members never lie as insinuated by my fellow Member. Madam Speaker, I stand to support the adoption of this calendar. Personally, when I saw the schedule, the way it has been outlined, it gives me leeway to plan for myself throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, it, it therefore goes without saying that, it is a very necessary motion that we have to support unless we want something added. But so far, I believe that, the schedule as has been outlined, is just worth adopting. I, therefore, adopt it without any further ado. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Sammy Onyango, representing Railways Ward.

**Hon. Onyango** (MCA, Railways): Thank you, Madam Speaker, May I call the mover to reply?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Nereah Okombo.

**Hon. Okombo** (MCA, Manyatta "B"): Madam Speaker, I want to agree with the truthful man, Honourable Sammy Onyango that the Assembly Calendar for Regular Session is a provision within our Standing Orders, and it's very straightforward.

Madam Speaker, we may not have so much to debate upon. I just want to remind us that, this calendar for the Fourth Session marks the second last calendar of the life of this Third Assembly. Madam Speaker, when we do the next one, that is the calendar for the Fifth Session, which will be the last, the very last of the life of the Third Assembly, and it's worth remembering or noting that, Honourable Members, when you see us doing the second last calendar, then it is time we prepare either to come back to the Assembly, expand your vision to higher levels, or retire, for those of us who want to retire from active politics. Otherwise, it is a commitment, that we took an oath to serve the electorates of Kisumu County.

Madam Speaker, you can see the House is half. I just want to add, the Honorable Members, that even as we prepare to go, come back or climb higher ladders, we take seriously our work in this Assembly. Otherwise, we all recognize that after approving this calendar, it will be available in the website of the Assembly so that the public may also have access.

Madam Speaker, most of the time, Honourable Members have had issues with the members of the public calling them when they are deliberating or engaging in serious businesses of the House. So, they can share with the public, uh, so that they know when to engage their representatives and when to let them legislate on matters concerning County of Kisumu. Otherwise, Honourable Speaker and Honorable Members, I reply.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, and now that the County Assembly Regular Sessions Calendar for the Fourth Session, 2025, has been presented, seconded, and debated, and it's time for me to put a question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): The Calendar of the County Assembly Regular Session for the Fourth Session 2025 has been adopted today Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1025 at 937 hours. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga): Next order!!

## MOTION

DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS TO THE  
COUNTY ASSEMBLY

(FIRST SITTING)

BY

HON. KEN OOKO, MCA, AHERO

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

*(Motion moved by Honourable Okombo on behalf of the Leader of Majority)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Nereah Okombo, the Deputy Speaker.

**Hon Okombo** (MCA, Manyatta “B”): Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to move that this House does debate on the Governor's speech.

Madam Speaker, you know when some of these roles are delegated ---. Madam Speaker I rise to move a Motion on the debate of the Governor's State of the County Address to the County Assembly, first day. That pursuant to the provisions of Standing Orders No. 22 (5), that the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the Governor delivered at a special sitting on the Friday of 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2024. Hon Speaker, I ask Honorable Seth Okumu to second.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Seth Okumu.

*(Hon Okumu bowed)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, now the debate on the Governor's State of the County Address to the County Assembly that was delivered on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 has been moved and seconded; it is time to propose a question. I propose that this Motion is now open for debate. Honourable Members, I would wish to do a quick reminder that we have limitation on debate. We shall have three sessions for this debate although we have to be strict on the limitation on debate for each Member. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Seth Okumu

**Hon Okumu** (MCA, East Seme): Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to give precedence to the North Nyakach MCA, the Honorable Tom Nyaoke.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Nyaoke, kindly proceed.

**Hon Nyaoke** (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to put my observation on this Governor's State of the County Address. On that day Madam Speaker, we saw the Governor talk passionately about serious issues affecting our County. Madam Speaker, I would want to confine myself to one particular item that I found to be of importance to my Ward. At some point in my Ward, we have thought about the issue of cotton farming.

Madam Speaker, during those days when we were young, we used to see a lot of cotton farming and related activities being done in our area. I could see it as a fine means of generating income. Madam Speaker, in the Governor's speech, he outlined the plans for the County to bring back cotton farming, particularly in areas believed to be suitable for cotton farming.

Madam Speaker, from the speech, we were informed that the expected production of cotton in Kisumu County is about nine hundred and sixty (960) tonnes. However, so far up to now we have not yet reached that limit. In fact, cotton farming has really gone down but it is going down because of lack of knowledge, in my view. Otherwise, we are able to make good income out of it.

Madam Speaker, apart from sugarcane, cotton growing should be the second biggest thing in most parts of Kisumu County. This is also what I am trying to strive and I have been trying to bring my people particularly the residents of North Nyakach Ward. If we cannot do sugarcane farming the way it is done in places such as Muhoroni and other parts of Kisumu County, we can concentrate on cotton growing. This is also going to help some of the families subsidize on things like school fees and even money for consumption. I can see the Governor has also promised that they are going to liaise with the National Government to provide appropriate seeds that we are able to use and that can also be able to be grown within a very short period of time so that the harvesting can be done as fast as possible. It is my humble appeal to other areas that feel that apart from growing sugarcane they can also concentrate on cotton growing.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, this is something that we really need to inform our people through a series of public participation in form of *Barazas*, among others so that we start sensitizing residents of our County into attending to things which are particularly income-generating. Madam Speaker this is going to help our people also to be financially stable so that they can manage some of their things without necessarily waiting for donors or handouts by politicians.

Madam Speaker, if we take this initiative and follow exactly what the Governor has outlined for us here Madam Speaker it is my belief that, we are really going to have less people following politicians for handouts because now everybody will be having something going into their pockets. Thank you Madam Speaker. I beg to end it there. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Seth Okumu I believe you can go ahead now.

**Hon Okumu** (MCA, East Seme): Thank you so much Madam Speaker. Allow me to also give my submission on the Governor's State of the County Address to the County Assembly. Madam Speaker, so many things have happened since the Governor gave this speech up to now, so many things remain the same, so many things have changed and some have even deteriorated.

Madam Speaker, as the Governor was speaking, he tried to cover almost all departments. However, I will only focus on three issues because we are so many in this Assembly.

On Agriculture, the Governor mentioned and it is truly so that the County Government has employed a hundred and eleven (111) Extension Farmers and for those of us who are keen and interested in agriculture, you will see the presence of these extension officers in our Wards.

Madam Speaker, it is also true that we have a donor funded project as the Governor mentioned the NAVCDP that was to anchor on the hundred and eleven (111) extension farmers. Other than that, we also had Agripreneurs that were employed to help in sensitization of farmers.

Madam Speaker, on Education, the Governor mentioned, and I want to give these figures because this is where this Assembly gave me the responsibility. It is worth mentioning that, in ECDE the County has endeavored to construct 653 ECD centers across the County. We also have 815 private facilities. The 653 are public and 815 are private. Honourable Members, the public ECDs have close to 43,000 learners.

If you were to have with a ratio of one teacher to 25 students (1:25), you get the numbers of teachers that we need in our ECD centers. When the Governor spoke, he mentioned that we will add additional teachers to our ECD centers. Until now, I believe the ECD teachers were interviewed are receiving letters to be posted to this ECD centers so that we minimize the ratio that we are having currently.

Honourable Members, it is also worth mentioning that we have a very controversial responsibility that we are undertaking as County governments which is the provision of Bursaries to needy students. The bursary we are providing is for both Vocational Training Centers, which is a devolved function, but we are also doing it to non-devolved functions which are in primary, secondary schools, universities and tertiary colleges. Madam Speaker we agree, because it is appropriated in this House, that every year we give Kshs. 205 million towards bursaries for Vocational Training Centers, Secondary Schools and Universities. Madam Speaker, out of this bursary, we have been giving Kshs. 63,350,000 to 1,400 students on Scholarship Programme alone.

Therefore, out of the Kshs. 205 million we spend close to Kshs. 63 million on scholarship. Madam Speaker, we had planned to spend some money on marine students. However, that is proving to be a challenge right now because the institution in which we intended to have these students go to, that is the Kenya Railways Institute, is not able to provide the training that we want them to have.

Madam Speaker out of the Kshs 205 million the Governor mentioned, and it is truly so, that we provide 30,479 students with bursaries for both secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Madam Speaker, it is worth mentioning that other than that, we have Vocational Training Centres that the Governor mentioned in his speech, and one of them is Rotary, which is now providing first-class training to our students. We agreed that other than providing training to our

students, Rotary should be providing services to the County government. Right now, we are having our vehicles, the vehicles of the Kisumu County Government, being serviced at Rotary Club, which is a big plus.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Roads and Public Works, I will applaud, because it is happening in my ward, that the County government of Kisumu did a tarmacked road from *Namba Kapiyo* to Bodi, which should go up to Bodi and Asat. Right now, 15.2 kilometers of that road is truly tarmacked. The impasse between the County governments and the National government over Kenya Roads Boards (KRB) funds has stalled the project right now, and we are not able to continue with the rest until the decision of the court is rendered. We are appealing with the courts to appreciate that the monies that are coming to the County governments are well-spent and reach the smallest villages in this County. They should allow the County governments to still receive KRB funds for maintenance of our roads.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, I want to agree with the Governor that several boreholes have been drilled using the rig machines that is in the County. However, Madam Speaker, as much as the Governor's speech touched on things that happened, there are others that we can also give our comments so that they can be improved on.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Medical Services, we have Lumumba Level 4 Hospital. For some of us who have visited that hospital, we agree that it is serving our populace, but mostly mothers and young children. Madam Speaker, I would prefer that Lumumba Level 4, if it is agreed with our Governor, be changed to Lumumba Women's and Children's Hospital, so that we have a special hospital for our mothers and our children, so that they get the best out of that hospital.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Blue Economy, we mentioned a lot of things, including mechanization.

However, Madam Speaker, it was not clear in the Governor's speech how we handle post-harvest losses, especially for rice. We boast of over- production of rice in Ahero, but we do not say what we do with the farmers when they get bumper harvest.

Madam Speaker, we have a rig that is operating in this County, but it is also worth mentioning that the management of the rig that has been used to drill several boreholes is not so good, and we need to improve on that.

Madam Speaker and honorable Members, we appreciate so much that bursaries are helping our students. Bursaries are a Social Protection Fund. However, we appreciate, and I mentioned that

things have changed since the Governor gave this speech. The Office of the Controller of Budget did a communication/circular that they will not release or approve the withdrawal of any money to County governments on requests on activities that were not devolved related. Yes, we do appreciate that our voters and citizens need these funds, but again, we are reminded to first restrict ourselves to functions that were provided to us under the 2010 Constitution. If the National Government insists so, then I only equate this with when you are helping someone's child and the person has requested you to take back the child to him because he's now able. I believe that it is just graceful to let the child go back to the owner and you remain with yours. On this matter, our children are ECD centres. Our children are Vocational Training Centres. The National government has agreed that they will cater for the education of secondary schools and universities.

We cannot proceed with 40,000 students and only 700 teachers. I want this to be very clear to some of our Members who are nodding their heads, maybe in agreement or not. We have in our ECD centres, we have 43,000 students and we are only having 700 teachers. In some situations, we are having a whole ECD centre without even a single teacher. In other situations, we are having a teacher handling more than 150 pupils, and yet, we are very happy when we are doing activities that are not meant for us. It is unfair. We might be thinking we are doing the right thing, but it is very unfair to let these young kids die. No teacher can handle 150 pupils in a class. It is sad that some of our children are going completely without teachers and yet we pretend to be nurturing those who are already having teachers in other institutions. Let us focus on the roles that we were given by the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Sports and Youth Empowerment, it is worth mentioning that over time we have been putting money for improvement of Moi Stadium, but this has never been so. It is my considered opinion that, we need to find a Public-private partnership (PPP), that can help us finish Moi International Stadium.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Member, I want to remind you that your time is up. Can you please conclude?

**Hon. Okumu** (MCA, East Seme): Thank you so much. As I finish Madam with Moi International Stadium, Kisumu, that we need to find a Public-Private Partnership to help us finish the stadium so that we can make use of it. Thank you so much Madam Speaker. I rise to support the adoption of the Governor's speech.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honorable James Omollo of Nyalenda "B". Honorable James Were, sorry for that. You know you are friends. You might confuse me.

**Hon. Were** (MCA, Nyalenda “B”): Thank you, Speaker. One James is taller and the other one is shorter. Madam Speaker, I also rise to give my remarks on the Governor’s State of the County Address to the County Assembly.

Madam Speaker, the Governor highlighted the successes and all the plans that he has for this beautiful County. I believe that the Governor touched on all the departments, but I will only comment on two since others have been highlighted by my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I will touch on the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Blue Economy and I will talk about this program of NAVCDP. This is the program where we have partnership with the donor funding that is going to ensure that our farmers are given grants to support their farming. Madam Speaker, it is my opinion that, this is going to encourage so many of our farmers to do farming. When so many of our farmers do farming, we shall have food security within our County. That is a plus for us and laudable. I believe that it is a good gesture and a good plan for the Governor.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the Governor talked about *Huduma Mashinani*. When the 2010 Constitution was promulgated, it gave birth to devolution, and devolution meant that we are devolving services to the grassroot level. Madam Speaker, this brought the counties that we have, but our Governors found it so well even to devolve this service further by ensuring that we have Huduma Centres within our smaller units. I believe that, this is a plus for us as a county, and this is going to save our people the energy of struggling to travel from sub-counties to our county headquarters. Madam Speaker, it is my belief that with this, Kisumu County will move to the next level. Thank you. I therefore support the adoption of this Governor’s speech.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honorable Members, I just want to remind you that you have a maximum of ten minutes each to prosecute your case, and that is enough for each Member to debate. Let us proceed.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honorable Lawino Opar.

**Hon. Opar** (Nominated Member): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to air my views on the Governor's speech. First, I would like to thank the Governor...

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Ajwang’, MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): Order!! Honourable Members. Kindly, Honourable Seth Okumu, move to your seat or consult in low tones.

**Hon. Opar** (Nominated Member): Thank you. Madam Speaker the Member is still on, and Honorable Seth Okumu has not adhered to your directive.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Please proceed, Honourable Lawino Opar.

**Hon. Opar** (Nominated Member): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to give my support on two areas on the Governor's speech. First, before I do that, I would like to thank the Governor so much for his exemplary performance, because I believe that we are leaving on a clean city, and at least every place that the cities are being mentioned, we are among the top. So, on that note, I would like to speak only on two departments.

One, I would like to speak on the Department of Education, Technical Training, Innovation and Social Services. Madam Speaker, this one is concerning the VTCs. Now, the VTCs have been helping our children who are not able to continue with their secondary schools or who are less privileged, and they can have skills to do work that are related even in the societies. So, on that note, if we look at the VTCs, which is Rotary, they are doing a very good job. If I look at the Governor's speech, among the upgraded VTCs is Obwolo VTC. I would like to urge the Governor to continue with that spirit and look at Kihanja VTC, which is on the verge of collapse.

*(Silence)*

I was talking about Kihanja VTC, which is at the verge of collapse. In the Governor's speech, we saw Obwolo VTC.

**Hon. Dede** (MCA, North Kisumu): A point of Information Madam Speaker

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): What is it Honourable Samuel Dede?

**Hon. Dede** (MCA, North Kisumu): *(Member not audible)*.

**Hon. Opar** (Nominated Member): I think I said VTC. That is it.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Okay, Members, the Standing Orders of the House allows you to only talk through the chair. Therefore, it is Honourable Opar's turn to contribute.

**Hon. Opar** (Nominated Member): Thank you, Madam Speaker for helping me. But I'm talking about Obwolo. I do not know what I am supposed to say after that. I am requesting the Governor, after considering Obwolo, to now consider Kihanja, which is at the verge of collapsing.

In Kajulu, we have people who are coming from east and west. So, the children who are coming from west are privileged, while those who are coming from East Kajulu are less privileged because of the distance that they have to cover when they are going to undertake their courses at Obwolo.

Madam Speaker, the next one is on the recently established Municipality. It is very good that we know that there are municipalities which were created. But up to now, they have not been given that autonomy to finance their own or to have their own account, which will give them access to do their own work, especially when we talk of paying their workers. I believe that the workers are not motivated because they've been going for long without getting their pay and they don't have the ability to manage their finances, even in the market levels, the hospital, and the gender mainstreaming.

In that regards, I would like the Governor to check on the municipality and to give them the autonomy and operational accounts so that they can handle their finances without their finances being handled at the central place. Honourable Member, I believe that there is so much to be considered on the municipalities. Otherwise, I stand to support.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Samuel Dede of North Kisumu Ward.

**Hon. Dede** (MCA, Kisumu North): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to contribute on the Governor's State of the County Address to the County Assembly. Foremost, Madam Speaker, as per the Governor's speech, he was working according to the 10-point agenda which he had promised to deliver during the electioneering period. Madam Speaker, we found that in different departments, there were interesting issues to be discussed.

Madam Speaker, to begin with, is the Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development, It was noted that, in this Department, we have achieved a greater height by introducing the Land Banks into the county, Madam Speaker. But, my biggest worry in this department is that by the time we are introducing the land bank, under the Governor's Address, he talked of that we had already acquired a land called Nyahera Sub-County Hospital. However, Madam Speaker, up to this moment, the land still belongs to the owners and it has not been transferred to the county. We still do not possess the land as the county and that brings a lot of commotion within the ward, whereby if they hear the governor's speech saying that they've already acquired the land, but the land has not been compensated for, it brings a lot of commotion to the people within the ground, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we placed a budget which cannot be implemented, being that the owner of the land still seeks that no activity shall be done in this parcel of land without compensation.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, in the Department of Education, Technical Training, Innovation and Social Services which my colleagues have already spoke about. We talked of the 2023/2024 financial year budget allocation, which was Kshs 205 million which is meant for Bursaries and Scholarships. Madam Speaker, it was realized that in that financial year, about Kshs 1.934 million was spent in the marine studies, where we have about 70 students enrolled in that Marine School. These 70 students, as per my knowledge, we were informed to identify two students from each and every ward, considering gender. And at the time we brought them, they were inducted. After the induction, they were told that they would be coming back to start their classes. Yet, they said that they utilized Kshs 1.9 million. That is the 1.9 million appropriated was for the induction of the 70 students, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works, Madam Speaker, we are talking of putting up of floodlights each and every and about 14 floodlights were erected. Why do we go on an the issue of putting up more floodlights and the maintenance of the floodlights is not catered for? Madam Speaker, if you take a walk in town during the day, you will realize that in some of the street floodlights remain lite throughout the day, while others do not work. So, we are continue putting up more floodlights, but no maintenance for the floodlights is factored in the budget of subsequent financial years, Madam Speaker, which hinders the development.

Madam Speaker, again in the same Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works, Madam Speaker, it was stated on the distribution of the Machine-based Programme. Madam Speaker, this programme has collapsed, and it has been changed to the funeral-based roads programme. We appropriate monies to this programme, yet they are not being utilized. You see that there is no regional balancing when it comes to distribution in the department. Madam Speaker, you get some wards getting over 10 roads, while other wards getting two roads in the machine-based programme. If you have a machine, then please use it and consider other wards who are equally in need to it.

Madam Speaker, concerning the KRB roads, this issue has brought a lot of commotion. According to my opinion, it was a good invention to establish board to administer this fund. But, if you see the distribution of the KRB roads, Madam Speaker, for that ward, consider five million for KRB road. Another ward, requests for Kshs 20 million for the KRB roads, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I consider that not to be fair in relation to distribution of KRB roads. Even if it will be brought back to the county departments, but it should be reshuffled, whereby equity should be observed in the distribution, and none of the wards should get 20 roads while other wards get only four.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Development and Irrigation and Blue Economy Madam Speaker, we have to applaud the Governor for having constructed the Pap Konam ATC, which will enhance the agriculture production, where our students will be learning different varieties of farming activities. And that one, we applaud the Governor for doing so.

Madam Speaker, in the Department of Public Service, County Administration and Participatory Development, Office of the Governor. Madam Speaker, this department has really failed the Kisumu County Government, Madam Speaker, currently; we are claiming that we should revert the money to ECD teachers, to ECD classrooms and VTC.

Madam Speaker, the county undertook the recruitment of ECD teachers. Madam Speaker, the time they were recruiting the ECD teachers, they followed the due process and procedure by announcing, shortlisting, then conducted interviews. The list of those shortlisted was pinned on the wall. After the shortlisting and interviews, those qualified should be getting letters of appointment, but what the department is doing is sending them messages one-on-one. It is my belief that this process should have been transparent the way it was placed clearly on the wall, so that the public is aware that so-and-so has qualified and picked, so we can work on the regional balancing in terms of the employment of the ECD teachers, Madam Speaker? Otherwise, that's my submission. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Order!! Order!! Honourable Members. I believe silence means we have exhausted our debate for now. With this, I'll make a reference to the provisions of Standing Order No. 22(5) in regards to the Governor's Address.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes Honourable Oiko Pete, do you want to contribute of the motion on the floor? Because I can see you on your feet.

**Hon. Oiko** (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Honourable Speaker, before you make that pronouncement, the MCA for Kabonyo/Kanyagwal was still going through the report, and I've just learned you wants to make some pronouncements. Madam Speaker, before you make the pronouncements, there's plenty of time. If you will do me a favor, I'll also make a little contribution on this address by His Excellency.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Oginga Nominated MCA): Oblige, Honourable Oiko.

**Hon. Oiko** (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Madam Speaker, this is a very important report to the people of Kisumu County because it is the annual report of the County Government of Kisumu that is supposed to highlight how the financial year of that period was handled. And I can prove that, Madam Speaker, when we look at page 3, yeah, the pages are numbered, when we look at

page 3, the Governor is trying to explain why he gives the State of the County Address. Even as I expound on development achievements by my administration in the past financial year, the past financial year the Governor is referring to is 2023/2024, 30<sup>th</sup> June. And that is why the report comes by the end of the year.

So, when we look at this report for the financial year 2023/2024, what does it show us? What does it tell us? One thing we must tell those the County Executive Committee Members and the Chief Officers of the Governor, they need to capture the financial implication of this report. When you look at the reports on each department, the financial implication is not indicated.

Madam Speaker, the ceiling of the department, the allocation given to the department, and how they spent it is not indicated, Madam Speaker. The Governor is merely giving us stories of his development.

Madam Speaker, for instance when we look at page 4, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock, Fisheries, and Climate Change. I believe that, this could have been a mistake, but they have written it. We wanted to see the allocation for this department, the projects that were undertaken, done to completion, the ones that were ongoing, and the ones that did not take off as per their location, so that we see on the development the Governor is talking about. In the absence of that, the Governor is merely giving us stories.

I wish, Madam Speaker, we should pass a message to the Governor. When the Assembly is discussing his address to the county, his watchdog should be in this Assembly to take the message back to him. This is because this is what reflects what the Executives mean to the people, and this is what reflects our oversight role. And when we just get mere stories like this, what is it that was done during that financial year? We don't get that accurately. We know the financial...

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

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Zackary Okoyo.

**Hon. Okoyo** (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I was listening to my colleague giving his statement on the speech, I heard him saying the Governor has his watchdog in this Assembly. I just wanted some clarification on this matter, because maybe I do not know who the watchdogs of the Governor in this Assembly are.

**Hon. Oiko** (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Madam Speaker, that is very simple, the first watchdog of the Governor in this Assembly is the Leader of Majority, followed by the Minority

and here I'm referring to his Executive. Madam Speaker, I am referring to the Governor's Executive and wish to emphasize my point. On page 3 of his address—though the pages are not numbered—if you read carefully, you will find where my emphasis lies. The Governor states, "Since my last address to this Assembly," but what exactly is he referring to? Even as he expands on his administration's development achievements, we must ask—what are these achievements?

Madam Speaker, these so-called achievements were expenditures for the financial year, and we must clearly understand that. Therefore, we need a comprehensive and transparent report from the Governor to assess our progress and future direction accurately. I will take a little time to reference specific pages.

Madam Speaker, on page 22, the Governor speaks about the Machine-based Programme, presenting it as a success. However, according to this Assembly, is it truly a success? No—it is a failure, as reflected in reports presented before us.

Even recently, we discussed this matter with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works. In both the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 financial years, roads under the Machine-based Programme were left incomplete. The department revealed that out of the Ksh. 86 million allocated for this program, Kshs. 50 million was not disbursed. So, can we honestly call this program a success?

We must tell the Governor the truth—this was his initiative, yet it has failed. If the Governor is being presented with misleading reports claiming otherwise, he must be made aware. This failure is precisely why there is a public outcry over poorly maintained roads in Kisumu County. If I am mistaken, I invite any member to challenge me.

Madam Speaker, moving on to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock, Fisheries, and Climate Change the Governor mentions the NAVCDP (National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Program. NAVCDP, initiated by the national government, aims to empower local farmers through Co-operative societies. However, critical details are missing from the Governor's report.

Since the program's inception, how many cooperative societies in Kisumu County have become active? What is the total funding allocated to this program, and how effectively is it being disbursed to the farmers on the ground? These are the details we should have received.

In mid-June 2023, National Government officials assessed Kisumu County and found that Co-operative Society development was weak. This evaluation was directly linked to the NAVCDP. The Governor's report should have highlighted the department's response to this issue. Have more cooperative societies been revived? Are funds reaching the intended beneficiaries? Without this information, how can MCAs effectively address their constituents?

Madam Speaker, I previously spoke about cotton farming in Kisumu County, a vital economic activity in our past. Cotton farming thrived, with harvests taking place from September to December, benefiting many livelihoods. However, this sector has now collapsed, despite being listed among the value chains under the NAVCDP.

Where are the success stories on cotton farming? The same applies to rice farming. In the Governor's initial manifesto, he pledged to promote rice farming and introduce branded rice products such as Kisumu Rice, Ahero Rice, and Cardinal Rice. What progress has been made on this commitment? Why is it no longer a priority?

Madam Speaker, it has been advised—and rightly so—that for rice farming to thrive, we need private investors. However, the Governor's report does not address this critical aspect.

These are the pressing concerns we must raise, ensuring that reports presented to this Assembly reflect the reality on the ground.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Oiko, just a reminder on your time limit. I'll give you one more minute.

**Hon. Oiko** (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Madam Speaker, as per the House rules—and as we emphasized yesterday—there will always be instances where certain matters require further discussion. For rice farming to thrive in Kisumu County, a private investor should be brought in to establish a milling plant. Additionally, cooperative societies must be strengthened and sensitized to maximize the benefits of rice farming. A well-established milling plant would provide a ready market for our farmers, ensuring their produce is processed and sold efficiently. Given the financial resources being allocated to this sector, we must address this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

Madam Speaker, agriculture is the backbone of Kisumu County's economy. As we review this report, we must question the Department of Agriculture on the status of the county's value chains. There are five key value chains—rice, cotton, tomatoes, local poultry, and dairy farming. These should be clearly highlighted in the Governor's speech, rather than being scattered or overlooked. With financial support from the national government aimed at empowering our people, it is crucial that we see tangible results.

Madam Speaker, on page 28 of the Governor's address, he speaks about *uncollected revenue* in Kisumu County, portraying it as a success. However, what we know is that the Kisumu County Government had established the Kisumu County Revenue Board, which is no longer operational. The dissolution or failure of this board has raised numerous concerns, and this House must interrogate the County Executive regarding revenue collection in the county.

Madam Speaker, in the Governor's speech, he states that misconduct in revenue collection will not be tolerated. Yet, this House has received reports on irregularities surrounding revenue collection, and various House Committees have been tasked to handle the matter. It is time for those House Committees, which is the Departmental Committee of Labour and that of Finance and ICT—to take decisive action and ensure accountability, rather than allowing this House to function as a mere rubber stamp.

Madam Speaker, the people of Kisumu County are asking about the young workers who were employed to collect revenue for the county. What happened to them? Are they still on payroll despite not executing their duties? There are concerns that without proper disciplinary action within six months, the culprits may walk free. This is unacceptable.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, a report presented to this Assembly on this issue contained inconsistencies. It mentioned both *suspension* and *compulsory leave*—but how can one individual be placed on compulsory leave and suspension simultaneously? Clearly, someone within the County Executive is manipulating the process. The Governor has stated that such misconduct will not be tolerated, and it is now up to the relevant House Committees to follow through and ensure accountability.

While this is a generally good report, it lacks a crucial element—it is a financial report, yet it does not adequately detail how each department has utilized its allocated resources. The people of Kisumu County deserve to know how public funds have been spent.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me additional time. I know that as we proceed, I may request just a little more—perhaps even 0.0 minutes. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, I was just in the process of making a statement, and I don't know whether I should continue giving you more time?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Odari.

**Hon. Odari** (MCA, Chemelil Tamu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to call upon the mover to reply.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Odari, you're out of order. Honourable Members, actually that calls for an adjournment, and as per our standing orders...

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Okombo.

**Hon. Okombo** (MCA, Manyatta “B”): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Considering that our term is well advanced and we have just returned from an extended recess, it is important to remind Members that the Governor's speech is discussed over three consecutive sittings, or at most, four. Members still have ample time to prepare for the discussions. I also acknowledge that Honourable Odari’s remarks were not made with any ill intent. In fact, I must admit that I, too, still feel as though I am in recess to some extent. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your time and attention.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Members, as Honourable Okombo has just mentioned, I would like to refer to the provisions of Standing Order No. 22(5), which states that;

*“ the Governor’s address to the County Assembly, a Member may give notice of motion for the Assembly to record its position on the public policy outlined in the Governor’s address. However, the debate on such a motion shall not exceed four sitting days”.*

Today marks our first sitting on this matter, meaning we still have three more sessions for discussion. Therefore, Members are encouraged to prepare accordingly. As per the motion moved by Honourable Okombo and seconded by Honourable Seth Okumu, we are only at the beginning of this deliberation, and there will be ample time for further engagement in the upcoming sittings.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, I therefore adjourn this House until today, the Wednesday, 26th of February, 2025, at 02.30 p.m.

*(House rose at 10.42 a.m.)*

*Addendum*

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