

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 04th June, 2025

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

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

PRAYERS

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

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

MOTION

NON-FUNCTIONAL STREETLIGHTS AND FLOODLIGHTS IN AHERO AND COUNTY
AS WHOLE

BY

HON. REUBEN RAKWACH, MCA, KOLWA EAST

(CHAIRPERSON, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORKS)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Rakwach.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, East Kolwa): First, I wish to state that this report is in our WhatsApp group and I believe Members have gone through it. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, allow me to use the move the same report.

Mandate/Legal Framework

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the Assembly standing committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works is established under Standing Order 193 and the Second Schedule of Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders. The committee is mandated to look into all matters relating to energy, County transport, including County roads, street lighting, traffic and parking, public roads transport and ferries and harbors, excluding the regulations of international and national shipping and matters related thereto; County public works and services including storm water management system in built-up areas, firefighting and disaster management.

Members of the Committee

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works comprises of the following Members:

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| 1. Hon. Reuben Rakwach | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Anne Atieno | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Ken Ooko | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Lumumba Owade | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. Tom Onditi | - | Member |
| 6. Hon. Jenipher Obonyo | - | Member |
| 7. Hon. George Abaja | - | Member |
| 8. Hon. Kelvin Oraro | - | Member |
| 9. Hon. Vitalis K'Omudho | - | Member |

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Peter Anditi | - | Principal Clerk Assistant. |
| 2. Mr. Benard Abuodha | - | Clerk Assistant |
| 3. Mr. Edward Odanga | - | Hansard Reporter |
| 4. Ms. Kennedy Okise | - | Sergeant at Arm |

Acknowledgements

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the committee extends its gratitude to all stakeholders who participated in the proceedings, their cooperation and contributions have been invaluable in compiling this report.

Additionally, the committee expresses its appreciation to the offices of the speaker and the clerk of the Assembly for their unwavering support, which has been instrumental in enabling the committee to fulfill its duties effectively.

May I also take this opportunity and thank Members and secretariat of the standing committee for their tireless commitment in consideration of the statement.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, on behalf of the committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 193 (5) (a), it is my duty and privilege to present to the County Assembly, the Committee's report on a statement sought by Hon. Ken Ooko in regards to the non-functional streetlights and floodlight in Ahero Ward and the County as a whole.

Executive Summary

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the report focuses on a statement delivered by Hon. Ken Ooko, the Member of County Assembly (MCA) representing Ahero Ward, regarding the issue of non-functional streetlights and floodlights in Ahero Ward and the wider County of Kisumu. The statement was made during a session of the Assembly, as part of the ongoing efforts to address pressing infrastructure issues affecting the County.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in his statement, Hon. Ooko invoked Standing Order 41(2)(b), a procedural rule that allows a Member of County Assembly to formally request a statement from the relevant committee within the County Assembly. Through this invocation, he sought the intervention of the Committee on Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works to investigate the ongoing issue of non-functional streetlights and floodlights, not only in Ahero Ward, but also across the entire County. This request underscored the MCA's concern for the safety and well-being of the public, as functioning streetlights are crucial for ensuring security and providing visibility, particularly in areas with high pedestrian activities at night.

In his statement, Hon. Ooko outlined several key concerns and sought clarity from the committee on the following points;

1. The specific reasons behind the failure of streetlights and floodlights in Ahero Ward and the entire County.
The Hon. Member requested the committee to thoroughly investigate the underlying causes of the non-functioning lights.
2. Any immediate and/or long-term interventions being undertaken to restore the functionality of these lighting systems.
Hon. Kennedy Ooko sought information on the current efforts being made by the County government through the Department of Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works to address the problem.
3. Specific timelines for the restoration of each individual lighting installation, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The Hon. Member called for clear and specific timelines for the restoration of each lighting installation. He emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in the process, requesting that the County Assembly and the public be kept informed about the progress of the repairs and restoration efforts.

Observations

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the committee deliberated extensively on the statement raised by Hon. Ken Ooko regarding the non-functional streetlights and floodlights in Ahero Ward and throughout the County. After a thorough discussion, the committee resolved to request a comprehensive report from the Department of Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works to obtain a detailed understanding of the situation. The report was expected to address the various causes behind the failures and outline the steps being taken to rectify the situation.

Once the report was submitted and reviewed, the committee made the following observations;

1. Widespread failure across the county;

The committee noted that the issue of non-functional streetlights and floodlights was not isolated to Ahero Ward alone. Several other areas within the County were similarly affected, indicating a broader infrastructure challenge that requires urgent attention.

2. Maintenance and repair delays;

One of the primary observations was the significant delay in the maintenance and repair of streetlights and floodlights. The committee found that many lights had been non-functional for extended periods due to delayed or inadequate repairs, which in turn impacted public safety.

3. Power supply and electrical faults;

The report highlighted that inconsistent power supply and electrical faults were contributing factors to the failure of many streetlights and floodlights. These interruptions in the power supply further hindered the functionality of the lighting systems, especially in areas with unreliable grid connections.

4. Budget constraints;

Committee identified budgetary constraints as another major factor impeding the proper maintenance and functioning of streetlights and floodlights. There was insufficient

funding allocated for both repairs and installation of new lighting systems, leading to a backlog of unresolved issues.

5. Lack of coordination and monitoring;

The committee found that there was a lack of effective coordination between the relevant departments responsible for managing street lighting infrastructure.

6. Refusal of service providers to take up jobs

The committee established that the department had encountered challenges in securing services from providers who are reluctant to take up jobs due to delayed payments for completed work or failure to settle outstanding payments.

Recommendations.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the committee recommends the following;

1. Adequate Budget Allocation for Streetlight Maintenance and Repair.

The department to ensure a sufficient and consistent allocation of funds within the county's budget to effectively support the ongoing maintenance, repair, and replacement of streetlights. This will ensure the longevity of the lighting infrastructure and help maintain public safety throughout the county.

2. Regular Monitoring and Evaluation of Lighting Infrastructure.

Conduct routine assessments and inspections of both streetlights and floodlights across the county. These evaluations should include checks for malfunctioning lights, energy efficiency, and overall performance to ensure the lighting systems are functioning optimally and to identify areas in need of repair or upgrade.

3. Employment of Qualified Personnel for Infrastructure Maintenance.

The department should hire and train adequate number of qualified professionals, including electrical engineers, electrical technicians, and artisans, to oversee the installation, maintenance, and repair of the lighting infrastructure. This will help ensure timely responses to any technical issues and extend the lifespan of the lighting systems.

4. Establishment of Kisumu County Energy Bill.

This Bill will provide a legal framework for the creation of a dedicated fund account for the maintenance and repair of lighting infrastructure in the county. The bill will also help in creation of a unit to oversee the installation, maintenance and repairs of the lighting infrastructure and also collaborate with National Government Agency that deals with energy such as REREC for improvement of energy infrastructure in the County.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, during a session convened on Thursday, November 11th, 2024, the MCA representing Ahero Ward invoked Standing Order 41(2)(b) to request a statement from the Committee on Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works regarding the non-functional of streetlights lights and floodlights in Kisumu County.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in the statement, the Honorable Member requested the committee to investigate and report on:

1. The Specific Reasons behind the Failure of Streetlights and Floodlights in Ahero Ward and the Entire County.
2. Any Immediate and/or Long-Term Interventions Being Undertaken to Restore the Functionality of These Lighting Systems.
3. Specific Timelines for the Restoration of Each Individual Lighting Installation, Ensuring Transparency and Accountability.

In response to these concerns, the Committee resolved to formally communicate with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works, requesting a comprehensive report on the issues raised. The communication was sent via letter reference CAK/ADM/IE&PW/07/2024 dated 08/11/2024 (Annex 1).

In their response, the department outlined the following;

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the County Government of Kisumu has installed a total of 381 lighting infrastructure units, including street lights and floodlights, across the City of Kisumu, major highways, and the emerging satellite towns. However, a significant portion of this lighting infrastructure is either non-functional or experiencing faults. This issue has led to inadequate street lighting, compromising safety and security for residents and commuters in these areas. The lack of proper maintenance, timely repairs, and regular monitoring has exacerbated the problem, leaving many areas poorly lit, especially during the night.

The entire county is facing significant challenges due to faulty lighting systems, which are directly affecting market operations, particularly after dusk. The lack of proper lighting in key

areas, including markets, has led to reduced visibility, hindering trade and posing safety risks for vendors, shoppers, and passersby. This issue is not only disrupting economic activities but also diminishing the vibrancy and security of the local markets.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, it is important to recognize that all lighting infrastructure naturally wears down over time and, as such, requires periodic maintenance and timely repairs to remain functional. Without regular upkeep, lights can become prone to failure, leading to widespread outages. In Kisumu County, the lack of a systematic maintenance schedule and the failure to address faulty lights promptly have contributed to the persistent lighting challenges.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, to mitigate the ongoing issue of faulty lighting systems, the department has made several attempts over the past three years to have the lights repaired. However, despite these efforts, no contractor has shown any interest in the tenders issued for the repair work. The framework advertisement for the maintenance of the lights has been severely impacted by the poor response from bidders. According to the Public Procurement and Disposal Act (PPDA), a minimum of seven alternative vendors is required to form a valid framework agreement, but this has not been achievable due to the lack of competition in the bidding process.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the department faced challenges in securing a contractor despite running three separate advertisements. Unfortunately, none of these efforts yielded a successful outcome. In the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the department made three more attempts without success but eventually managed to onboard two contractors—Nyando Power Technique and Nadir. However, even after being issued with Local Service Order (LSO), both contractors rejected the work, citing. This has left the department in a difficult position, with no contractors willing to take on the much-needed repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the department issued three advertisements once again in an effort to address the ongoing lighting maintenance issues. This time, the department successfully attracted seven bidders, all of whom were awarded contracts for a three-year maintenance period. However, despite this progress, only two of the seven bidders responded by submitting their acceptance letters and proceeded to the next stage of the contracting process.

Out of these two contractors, only one agreed to sign the contract and subsequently collected the Local Service Order (LSO). Unfortunately, despite receiving the LSO and entering into an agreement, this contractor failed to execute the work.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works has proposed the following strategies as a way forward to effectively address and mitigate the challenges associated with the maintenance of lighting infrastructure;

1. Prioritization of Maintenance Contractors in Payment to Avoid Apathy.

To ensure the successful execution of maintenance contracts and prevent contractor apathy, it is crucial that the payment process for contractors is given high priority. Delayed or inconsistent payments can lead to dissatisfaction, disengagement, and ultimately, a lack of motivation from contractors to complete their work. Contractors are more likely to prioritize projects that guarantee timely and reliable compensation, which can drive efficiency and commitment to the project at hand.

2. The department should be fully equipped with the necessary infrastructure, resources, and a sufficient number of skilled staff to effectively carry out maintenance tasks.

This will ensure smooth operations and allow the department to address any maintenance needs promptly and efficiently.

3. Transition from Grid-Connected HMFL/Streetlights to Solar-Powered Systems to Save on Maintenance and Operational Costs.

A strategic shift from traditional grid-connected High-Mast Floodlight (HMFL) streetlights to solar-powered lighting systems can significantly reduce both maintenance and operational costs over time. While grid-connected lights often require frequent repairs, energy consumption, and costly replacements of components such as bulbs and ballasts, solar-powered systems rely on renewable energy, reducing dependence on the electrical grid and lowering utility bills.

Committee's General Recommendation

1. Adequate Budget Allocation for Streetlight Maintenance and Repair.

The department to ensure a sufficient and consistent allocation of funds within the county's budget to effectively support the ongoing maintenance, repair, and replacement of streetlights. This will ensure the longevity of the lighting infrastructure and help maintain public safety throughout the county.

2. Regular Monitoring and Evaluation of Lighting Infrastructure.

Conduct routine assessments and inspections of both streetlights and floodlights across the county. These evaluations should include checks for malfunctioning lights, energy efficiency, and overall performance to ensure the lighting systems are functioning optimally and to identify areas in need of repair or upgrade.

3. Employment of Qualified Personnel for Infrastructure Maintenance.

The department should hire and train a sufficient number of qualified professionals, including engineers, electricians, and technicians, to oversee the installation, maintenance, and repair of the lighting infrastructure. This will help ensure timely responses to any technical issues and extend the lifespan of the lighting systems.

4. Creation of a Kisumu County Energy Fund.

Establish a Kisumu County Energy Fund Policy, which will provide a legal framework for the creation of a dedicated fund account for the establishment, upkeep, and expansion of lighting infrastructure in the county. This fund should be specifically allocated for the improvement of streetlights and floodlights, helping to ensure a sustainable financial source for the ongoing development and maintenance of the county's energy infrastructure.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to call upon Honourable Jennipher Obonyo to second.

(Hon. Obonyo seconded by bowing)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, now that the motion on the adoption of a report of the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works on the matter of Non-functional Streetlights and Floodlights in Ahero Ward and the county as a whole has been moved, seconded, I want to propose a question. I propose that the motion is open for debate.

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

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda "A"): Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the report that has been moved by Honourable Rakwach. Mr. Speaker Sir, before I give reasons of supporting this motion, I want to state that I thank Honourable Kennedy Ooko for bringing this statement. However, again, I recall very well, Honourable Speaker, that sometimes in 2023, I, Ratib Mohammed Boitone, Member of County Assembly representing Nyalenda "A" Ward, brought the same statement with the same prayers. It was tabled in this Assembly and approved. Honourable Speaker, since 2023, up to date, we have not seen implementation of what was approved in this County Assembly.

Mr., Speaker, the recommendations were more or less the same. But again, to our surprise, is that, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works did not do anything. This makes us worry that even if today we pass or we approve today's report, what will happen? Will it be swept under the carpet and nothing is done with regards to our resolutions? If that is the case,

why do we even approve reports in this House? This is because, the basis of approving reports here, we want implementations to be done.

Honourable Speaker, it is absurd that most of the departments are taking us for granted. And if something is not done, then the business will be just as usual. Honourable Rakwach mentioned one of the causes of lack of power in our streets and floodlights, as no maintenance and no repairs.

Mr. Speaker, this is the sole mandate of that department to do repairs and maintenance of these streetlights and floodlights. It is my belief that, they should be held to task as why maintenance and repairs are not done. Though I don't agree with cause number two, where they said one of the causes is also non-payment electricity supply.

This needed a proper explanation or elaboration. How power is supply becoming and makes our streetlights not to be functioning? The main reason, Honorable Speaker, apart from vandalism that is being done by the people, is payment of power bills. A number of floodlights, the bills are not being settled by the respective department tasked to do this. And if the Kenya Power and Lighting Company disconnect power, what do you expect? Honourable Speaker, the department should be serious.

Mr. Speaker, the other observation that they have made is recruitment of professionals to do the routine maintenance. This may be okay. But again, we all know and we are all aware that this county is struggling with issues to do with the wage bills. Can this department come clear and inform this House that they lack professionals to do the maintenance? And what are they doing with the available human resources available? I want to support the creation of a coming up with Kisumu County Energy Bill.

That if properly put in place, then some of the issues that are causing our county to lack power in our streets and in our floodlights will be regulated from an anchored law. So, Honorable Speaker, I support this motion. Nonetheless again, I say categorically that implementation, if it was not done in 2023, I don't see any reason why it will be done this time.

Mr. Speaker, this department should be serious in handling matters that originate from the floor of this House. Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I submit.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Mildred Ajumbo.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was very keen when the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works was reading the observations. And one of the observations, I just want to pick it out, is the one touching on lack of coordination and monitoring.

Mr. Speaker, we all know, some of us, when we came to this Assembly in 2022, September, some of our areas within our wards, the streetlights or the floodlights were not functioning. Up to now, one of my areas it's not captured here, Riat Market. When I came in as the area MCA, the floodlights had gone off, and only one bulb was working. I have severally talked to the Ward Administrator, because he says every week he writes a report to the Department of Energy. And every week he does reports, and any other Ward Administrator in this part of the county. This department is, the committee is talking about lack of coordination and monitoring. Yet, many of us, when we came in, our floodlights or our streetlights were not working.

Mr. Speaker, the department is aware, because every week they receive reports. Most of the MCAs here have brought reports; they've brought statements on floodlights and streetlights. I want to thank our Leader of Majority for bringing up this matter.

Mr. Speaker, one of the observations made was that they have budget constraints and insufficient funding. Yes, it is true, the department has insufficient funding, because even the machine-based programme and they also don't have funding. It is the same department that also has insufficient funds to repair and maintain our streetlights and our floodlights.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendations provided by this House Committee, this House Committee is similarly complaining, and they're even talking of employing qualified personnel. This same House Committee is talking of this same department employing qualified personnel, when the streetlights are not working and floodlights. I am wondering if they employ permanent and pensionable personnel.

Mr. Speaker, assuming the floodlights have been maintained, and you've been employed to maintain the floodlights, what will you do for the rest of the year that the floodlights are working? I do not agree with that recommendation, that we employ qualified personnel, because we are the same people talking of budget constraints, we are the same people talking about the wage bill, yet small things like just changing a bulb from a streetlight, you want the department to employ permanent and pensionable staff.

Mr. Speaker, I really don't trust some of the recommendations provided by this House Committee, that they are suggesting that adequate funding should be channeled to this department, so that they can replace the streetlights and the floodlights. We all know the budget constraints this financial year we are going through, and it is true that even if I support, these streetlights or these floodlights will not be replaced, because it is common sense, there's no money.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that, the monitoring and evaluation team, yes, they have the reports of the streetlights and floodlights that are not working, so Mr. Speaker, I'm not very okay with this report, because I know nothing will be done, no implementation will be done, Mr. Speaker. I do not support this report. Thank you.

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

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to first take this opportunity to thank our Honourable Kennedy Ooko for having brought this statement to this House. Mr. Speaker, practically speaking, we have a serious challenge in terms of floodlights and street lighting in our areas.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to this House in 2022, when I was still very strong then, I can confirm that I did go through my ward and mercilessly repaired all the floodlights that I found not to be working. Mr. Speaker and I spent some quite good colossal amount of money by just recruiting a temporary basis, just a simple electrician at home, just around in my ward, who went through all this and had all this repaired which I did at a cost from my pocket.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at this report, the response that the department is misgiving, there is a lot of linguistic, too much linguistic about it. And when they say, for example, that the department has made several attempts to have this lighting infrastructure maintained for the past three years without success, Mr. Speaker, how can a whole department, with all the technocrats available from the County Executive Committee Member of the department, give us a statement like this?

Mr. Speaker, this demonstrates that there must be some things that they simply do not want to do. Mr. Speaker, they also go ahead and inform this House that; a framework advertisement for maintenance of the lights has been seriously affected because of poor response of bidders. According to the PPDA 114, a minimum of seven alternative vendors are required for a framework agreement. Each time an advertisement is done, we get extremely poor response that cannot qualify for a framework contract.

Mr. Speaker, in the financial year 2021-2022, they are stating that indeed they got some contractors who did the tendering, but they are saying, in 2022-2023, after two failed advertisements, we managed to on-board two contractors on the third attempt, namely Nyando Power Technique, who again rejected the work even after award of the Local Purchase Order (LPO)

Mr. Speaker, this would have been, I consider this to be a deliberate attempt not to have a proper agreement. Mr. Speaker, even if I could be requested to give, to participate in such kind of a tender, of just repairing the floodlights within the county, Mr. Speaker, I would just do that running because these are working infrastructure that only need, not new installations, but only maintenance. I am sure with a properly designed, with qualified people, a properly designed tender, nobody can reject that. And if the respondent is informing us that they have done those advertisements, even the awards that they've been given, people are not going again to respond and even give back the acceptance letter. It means there is some fundamentally flawed with that particular advertisements or with that particular tenders.

Mr. Speaker, as much as I want to support this motion, because I know where we are going to have a dilemma. Now I am stating this that, as a member of the Select Committee on Implementation, My chairperson is present here in the House. We want to take up this matter and ensure that we want to see all the floodlights in all our awards up and running.

Mr. Speaker, if it doesn't work then, I don't know, I don't want to preempt what should happen to us, I hope that I want to support this and the catch-22 is going to be with the Implementation Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Bill Oliver.

Hon. Bill (MCA, Kobura): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Leader of Majority for having considered to bring this statement to this Assembly on operational status of Streetlights in this county. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works, Honourable Ruben Rakwach, for presenting to us this document. I'm saying this because I don't want to qualify it as a report fit to be read in this Assembly for very many reasons. This is because, Mr. Speaker, I expected the Chairperson, in moving this report, to give us something that is very detailed and something that gives us direction as an Assembly. Mr. Speaker, something that we can, after some few periods, follow-up. However, clearly, there's nothing. I am saying this because, if you look at the observations that we have, everything is pointing towards his last recommendation of establishing a Kisumu County Energy Bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is because if you talk about maintenance and repair delays, the budget constraints, lack of coordination and monitoring, all that points to establishing Kisumu County Energy Bill. And we must agree, as Honourable Members, that this shows that it is really right for us, as a county, to have this bill. And so I expected, from this document that we are going to have at least the Chairperson to inform us that this House Committee is working on a bill and we should operate within some specific timelines.

Mr. Speaker, at least this will give us hope, as a county, that there's something we are going to do. But clearly, from this report, I can tell all that what we have here are stories, well written, without mistakes. And I really want to urge all this House Committees to look into this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, the other day we had a report that members didn't see fit to pass, same to this. I really don't see serious work being done here. So, I want to urge us, Members, in the spirit of making this House honourable as it is, let us not pass this document until we have the timelines in which we are going to get the bill and let us work within some specific rules that at least we can follow. That, as Honourable Members, that within a particular period we are going to have the bill so that this can work.

This is because if we want to blame the County Executive for a Bill that we have not enacted, because you can't expect them to do some other things here, because now we should be talking of recurrent expenditure that we have maybe four or five employees of the County Government that are working to do the repairs and they are being paid this specific amount of money, we should be talking about what they have not done. But telling us all this, I believe it's not right. And this House Committee, I implore you to discharge your mandate that will make this House look really honourable. Thank you Honourable Speaker. I reject the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Deputy Leader of Majority, Honourable Lumumba Owade.

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this report. Mr. Speaker, this House should be honest. We have what is called Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) that has partnership with the so-called Kisumu County. As a County, we were supposed to allocate a counter funding of Kshs. 35 million, then we benefit from Kshs. 35 million. In 2023, that budget was appropriated, 2024, it was never there. Why? Because the first allocation of Kshs 35 million was not remitted as was agreed upon. The members did not ask. They did not ask.

Mr. Speaker, just the other day, we met the Department. And they allocated Kshs 35 million, so that we managed to take it into consideration that Honourable James Opiyo Wandayi is now the Cabinet Secretary of Energy. And there should never be anything that went wrong in that budget to negotiate and benefit from the same fund. However Members again, refused and said that the counter funding of Kshs. 35 million should not be budgeted for. We are talking about lack of funding. It is you Members...

(Hon. Okumu rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Honourable Seth Okumu.

Hon. Okumu (East Seme): Mr. Speaker, on Statement of Facts. The Honourable Deputy Majority Leader is alluding that Members did not allow for payment of some money to Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Cooperation (REREC).

Mr. Speaker, being a Member of this Assembly, I have never rejected payment of any amount of money to anyone. Therefore, can the member come out clear and inform us which members refused? If he does not know the Members, I wish that he apologizes to me because I have never rejected the payment of money anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When we met the Department of Roads as members of this House Committee, in that committee meeting, the Members refused to approve funds to be allocated for REREC. Therefore, I stand to confirm here that this time this mistake will not happen. As it is, in the Budget for 2025/2026, some of the Members of that House Committee refused to approve Kshs.35 million for REREC. Therefore, there will be no REREC. When you are talking of less funding, yet you do not want to approve funding, then it is you to blame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Ouko.

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report from the relevant House Committee. Mr. Speaker, to this extent, we have known where the rain started beating us. It is just through this report that we are now aware of where we were, and where we are going to. In 2023, we had a similar report, and we had the same recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that when the report is brought to the Assembly, we do not take note of the recommendations. This prevents repetitions of this kind of scenario, whereby we are repeating the same recommendations without action being taken. This is a House of lamentation, yet we have all the powers to oversight the County Executive, and in no way have we ever experienced any kind of interference from the County Executive to stop the oversight role.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know who should be lodging their complaints to, because we must stand tall and be counted as the House. We keep on lamenting, and we fail to act. I do not know whether we...

(Hon. Ajumbo rises on a Point of Order)

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

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme): Mr. Speaker, is it right for Honourable Kennedy Ouko to state that, this House is a House of lamentation?

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, truly, this report once appeared here in 2023, and we did nothing about it. It is now again brought back to this House. We are still lamenting on how to move forward. This is lamentation. What then do we call it?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ouko, the question from Honourable Mildred Ajumbo is, is it the House or the report that we are lamenting about?

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, the House is composed of Members. And let me remind you, it is the Members, not you, who hold the authority here. You have never ruled anything; it is always the Assembly that holds the power. As we engage in this debate, you can hear that the Chamber is filled with lamentations. If we truly want to make progress, the most constructive step would be to introduce an amendment to the report, so we can move forward, rather than pursuing irrelevant matters.

Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of the County Executive to develop policies. From there, we proceed to formulation of an Act, then, to the Regulations. But have we followed that process? Have we done what is required? We have never truly committed to taking the decisive action on the issue of energy. But now, who are we to blame?

Mr. Speaker, as lawmakers, this is the House responsible for formulating legislation. We should take the lead, so that when we raise concerns with the County Executive, we do so with substance and a clear legislative foundation. At the moment, however, without passing the necessary bills or taking concrete steps, our complaints appear baseless. It seems like we are speaking without purpose. Honourable Members of the Assembly, let us rise to the occasion and be counted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, let me state a fact, understated as it may be. There is no doubt that we are debating a matter that has been brought before this House. Personally, I have also contributed. I have not complained. Let it not go on record as Honourable Ouko has stated that we are lamenting. Mr. Speaker, we are not lamenting. We are just debating the Motion which has come before this House. It was only procedural that the member debates according to what he understands from this report. In fact, the member is the person who is lamenting because he is not referring to the report yet he wants to insinuate that we are lamenting. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ouko, this is a House of debate, not of lamentation. Therefore, I have checked my records, not all Members have spoken, so you need to withdraw that word and use the appropriate word.

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker, people like polishing issues. They want to appear as if they have solutions to problems, but at the same time, they do not have the sought out solutions. Mr. Speaker, if it is good, let us come up with solutions to these problems, not lamenting, as the member is still lamenting.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ouko, I have directed that you withdraw the word lamentation.

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, through your directive, I withdraw.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Emily. I have equally noticed you Honourable Kelvin.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Kelvin, but, I noticed her first. So there is no bias there. I will give you, I promise. As I said, I have noticed you.

Hon Oginga (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for respecting the minority gender. Mr. Speaker, I would like to disagree with this report much as it is very good with very good recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I disagree with this report, is because, just as Honourable Ouko has mentioned, that in April 2023, we had a similar report tabled and debated in this House. I remember we had time to discuss this report very well. We also made very good recommendations to the department. The same Chairperson again sits down and again calls the department to ask them the same questions, which were asked in the previous report. I believe that, it would have been prudent for the Chairperson to call the department and find out what they did with the previous recommendations of a similar case.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, we need to be more proactive in our House Committees. I do not believe that it is wise for us to keep on discussing the same issues over and over again. As much as we make good recommendations, and find that we have a problem of implementation of these recommendations, it could have been just one of the best ways to find out the progress of the recommendations made in 2023 in line with what was brought to the House recently. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I do not support this report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I had promised to give Honourable Kelvin, but I have seen you, Honourable Pamela Oyoo. So, Honourable Kelvin, please proceed.

Hon Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for granting this opportunity so that I can also speak on the report. I am a Member of the House Committee presenting the report and I understand the report very well. I can explain the details as we discussed as a House Committee. Mr. Speaker, I believe that I will borrow from what Honourable Ouko stated, that as an Assembly, we should be seen to be giving direction, but not always complaining, if I avoid using the word lamenting. We tend to complain a lot.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Billy was like even throwing the towel to the House Committee so that we formulate the Energy Bill. As a House Committee, we suggested that we need an Energy Bill, whereby from the Bill, most of these issues can be addressed; because some of these repairs that we are talking about are not expensive. For example, there is a floodlight in Ofunyu which requires about Kshs. 120,000. Can you procure Kshs. 120,000? Can you budget for Kshs 120,000? What should be done? Or what can we do so that we have a situation whereby we have a fund that can assist in doing some of the maintenance and it is controlled from the Board so that without limited funds, they can always be conducting routine checkups and maintenances to these floodlights, and the streetlights that we have in our various Wards.

Mr. Speaker, remember that the headquarter of Kisumu County is in Kisumu and most of the Wards are very far away from Kisumu. The office where the department sits cannot know what happened in Orongo, in Kolwa East, today. They cannot even tell what happened in Central Seme today. Therefore, in a scenario where we will be having a proper channel and how those maintenances can be done, then we will not be crying. You will realize that most of these problems are simple. One of the areas we were complaining about was the issue of the budget constraint, then the issue of procurement, and the way things are being done. We are seeing a situation whereby if this department and I want my colleague, Honourable Bill, to understand, it is up to the department to come up with policies and Bills.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes members can have a private Member's Bill, like the case of Honourable Regina, but the donkey work is given to the department so that they can see sense, and come up with a policy and a bill that can help the County in managing the floodlights and the streetlights. That is why we recommended that one of the areas the department should look into is the Energy Bill that can create a fund that will enable the County run or manage the streetlights, repairs, and maintenance, and other things like settling of electricity bills and other things that required payments to be made directly without the bureaucratic red-tapes. However, the way things run, when we depend majorly on the allocation from the Treasury, and we try to follow up with small things, then I am sure we will still come back to debate this report when Members will be complaining.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of insecurity is too much. One of the things that many women and many people from the village will recommend for those who are doing business is to have floodlights in their various places. In fact, during public participation, you will realize that floodlight is one of the key projects that is being proposed. We also must look at ways of trying to make them sustainable, to be effective without forcing MCAs like Honourable Nyaoke to do repairs from his pocket, to repair floodlights in his ward.

Mr. Speaker, I also did Kunya floodlight, which to me, if we make a proper channel—I will not be discussing this report. Finally, all is not lost. Members have different perceptions on how they

see things. If there is a report that should be adopted in this House and given to the Implementation Committee, as recommended by Honourable Nyaoke, it is this report. One of the things that has failed this Assembly is that we have a very weak House Committee that is not living to its expectations, that is, the Select Committee on Implementation.

Mr. Speaker, if all these recommendations are passed through the Assembly and the Implementation committee sits and gives us some of the recommendations from all these House Committees— so that we see what is achievable and they follow up well—we will not be blaming any person in this County. Mr. Speaker, since the Select Committee of Implementation is operating like any other Sectoral Committee, we find ourselves in a problem. Since we made Honourable James Omollo, a man with grey hair, the Chairperson of this House Committee, I am yet to see if he is delivering. The first report was rejected last week and I believe if this one is taken to that House Committee and he does his work well, we will be celebrating as a County. I am requesting the Chairperson, Implementation Committee, if this report passes, kindly pick up the issue of the Energy Bill. Let us push so that as a County, we can have the Bill and a fund created to maintain the floodlight and the streetlight within the County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

The Speaker (Hon Oraro): Yes, Honourable Oyoo, MCA, Migosi Ward

Hon. Oyoo (MCA, Migosi): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report. The report is appearing for the second time in this House, an indication that it is an important report. This implies that, we have to do something to ensure our people are helped. There is a lot of insecurity in these Wards, especially in my Ward where people are maimed nearly every week due to insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, streetlights and floodlights are important in combating insecurity because they provide the needed visibility at night. I want to recommend or propose an amendment to this report that we come up with an action point after this report has been adopted. We need to come up with an amendment on an action line that this thing should be done as soon as yesterday because our people are going down the drain because of insecurity. I do not believe that Kisumu County cannot afford to maintain their streetlights and floodlights. Most of these floodlights are outdated. They cannot be repaired. Let us come up with an timeline and ensure whatever we have ruled is implemented to the letter.

Mr. Speaker, in my Ward, I have personally hired technicians and paid from my own pocket to ensure that the street lights are functioning. Unfortunately, some of them are beyond repair and need to be replaced. Therefore, I ask: what is this House doing to help us in maintain these street lights? We cannot assume it is business as usual and if we fail to act now, this same report will be brought to the Floor of this House. We should not just talk and no timelines is taken. How are we enforcing our laws to ensure we receive the necessary support? I must emphasize that this

report is important. It is being presented for the second time; let us not allow it to come back for a third time. Let us come up with action points and ensure that whatever we have ruled is implemented to the letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Oiko

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Thank you Mr. Speaker, this is a report that should be embraced by the whole House and we call for an action line as the Honourable Commissioner has said. That is when we represent the interest of our people. The *Mama mboga* woman in the market needs us to take action on this report. We should not brush off this report. If it is coming up for the second time, that shows how important it is and what direction are we giving?

Mr. Speaker, when you look at this report, it is the department lamenting that they are unable to serve the people of Kisumu County. How can the Assembly help them with this report? The action line is, we must ask the Departmental Committee of Infrastructure and Energy that before the Budget is concluded, the department must give us the allocation they want for the repair and maintenance of the street and floodlights. That is when we are serious; because we assume that allocation has been made in the budget every year. When you look at this report, it is from 2021/2022, which means the problem could have started before that, say 2022/2023, or 2023/2024, yet are brushing off this report. We must ask for action, and the action is, we want money allocated for these items so that in the fiscal year 2025/2026, we monitor what the department has done on this.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that Kabonyo Kanyagwal is not appearing in this report as having the same problem but the problem exists in my Ward. Therefore, let us not play about with this report. It has not come up again for nothing; it needs our action, what is prominent now is the financial allocation for this and we monitor the implementation and then we represent the interest of our people. Mr. Speaker, because that has not been included here Mr. Speaker, I am asking Honourable James Omollo to second that the matter of allocation be included in this report so that we monitor the implementation.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Oiko Pete, I believe that you are aware that the provision of our Standing Order is very clear on debate. If there is a need to amend the report, I believe now you know how you should bring it. If you wanted to bring it now, you can seek for leave of the House or of the Speaker. However, it must be clear what you want to amend; because you are talking of two things; One, you are talking of creating an action plan and also Kabonyo/Kanyagwal to be included in the report. I do not know what you want to be amended. Please let us adhere to the dictates of our Standing Orders on how to propose an amendment.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Honourable Speaker, you are correct. I received this report only about 20 minutes ago and have quickly reviewed it, which is why I am making this recommendation now. Ideally, I should have submitted it in writing an hour earlier and presented it to your table for approval. Unfortunately, I did not receive the report in time. The action plan I am proposing pertains solely to the financial allocation required to carry out this work.

(Hon. Oliver rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is your point of order, Honourable Bill?

Hon. Bill (Kobura): Mr. Speaker, what Honourable Oiko wants to be amended is already one of the recommendations. It is the first recommendation which addresses adequate budget allocation. Therefore, I do not see the need for an amendment.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Oiko Pete.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): That is good, Mr. Speaker. While the financial allocation is mentioned, it does not specifically refer to what I am addressing. I am referring to the financial allocation for the 2025/2026. This clarification is important to ensure we are taking this matter seriously.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Alright, you may rephrase what you would like to have amended. What is it Hon Seth?

(Hon. Okumu spoke off the record)

Honourable Oiko, I understand your point. If you want the recommendation to be amended, please read how you want it to appear in the report, and get a seconder. This is just by the leave of the House and the Speaker.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Mr. Speaker, I ask that enough financial allocation be given to this department for this work in the FY 2025/2026 so that we appear as serious legislators who are keen on action being taken. Mr. Speaker, I am saying this, because, the Implementation Committee was being referred to. However, I have said several times that at times, we step on the toes of the Implementation Committee. When there was no allocation, what would the Implementation Committee interrogate? Therefore, Mr. Speaker, if that is done and we monitor it at the budgeting level, we shall have done good service to our people. This is because from this record, the department has also expressed the challenges they are facing. We need to take action without so many stories. I hope that will be done, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Oyoo (MCA, Migosi): thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to second what Honourable Oiko is saying, and I also have another amendment to bring with what he...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Pamela, please resume your seat. I mean, by leave of the House, we had given Honourable Oiko the opportunity to propose an amendment, which he proposed that the recommendation number one, should read; ‘Adequate budget allocation for the maintenance and repair of streetlight in the Financial Year 2025/2026. Am I right, Honourable Benny Oiko?’

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Which I believe has been seconded by Honourable Pamela. I mean, Honourable Pamela, there is no way you can second an amendment and proceed to propose a counter-amendment.

Therefore, the provisions of Standing Order, No. 52, provides for the process of amendment of a Report or a Motion. ‘When a motion has been seconded, we will stop and propose a question, stop debate on the main report, and debate on the amendment. After which, I will put a question on the proposed amendment. If you agree then, it will form part of the Report and you go back to debate. Therefore, Honourable Benny Oiko has proposed an amendment to the Report, and to be specific, recommendation number one; ‘That the recommendation on adequate budget allocation for street light maintenance and repair be amended to read; ‘Adequate budgetary allocation for the maintenance and repair of streetlights and floodlight in the Financial Year 2025/2026. This has been seconded, and I want to propose a question. Therefore, I propose that that amendment is open for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable James Omollo.

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I stand to approve of that amendment because we can debate here the whole year on the same issue, but if we do not recommend for the allocation and on the timeline, then we will be doing nothing. So, I highly appreciate that Honourable Oiko has brought up this amendment, so that we are very specific on which financial year we are talking about on this appropriation. So that all of our streetlights and floodlights, and I think they have the data, because it is like all our wards are affected, save for a few of the wards that are not affected, but almost all of them. We should get the data, then get a specific amount required and we appropriate, because we are the budget makers of this County, so that this financial year, starting 1st of July this year, they can start doing the repairs and

maintenance of all our streetlights and floodlights in the County. I support that amendment. Thank you.

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

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Thank you Honourable Speaker. I stand to reject the amendment, because the report will finally go down. Mr. Speaker, adequate budget makes a lot of sense in the English language, but what is adequate budget? Is it Ksh. 1 million, Ksh. 2 million, Ksh. 5 million or Ksh. 10 million? How much is adequate? We do not know. Those are some of the reasons that make me feel that this report needs to be taken back to this House Committee for further input. Even if we just write adequate, it is not like this department has never got a budget. They have got and also have procured. They have given people tenders. And then these people refused. The only reason somebody gets a tender is because there was a budget and it has been confirmed that it can be paid. Then he takes the job and refuses to do it. So, when we just write in our report adequate budget, what exactly do we mean?

Mr. Speaker, as the Chairperson has said, in this county, we only have 381 Floodlights, and a few Streetlights, and we gave this House Committee the opportunity to go and investigate each and every light, know why and come up with figures that can be close to exact on how much is needed for these repairs to be done. Then, when we go to the estimates, we know what we are allocating in the budget towards this budgetline. But when we are just passing English of adequate, we do not know. It is just linguistic. It is the same thing, the same problem that we are putting ourselves in. It is my belief that, the best thing to do is to allow this House Committee to go back and get us figures so that we can now inform the department that as a House, we are allocating you this amount of money and we want all the lights to work. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda "A"): Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I want to oppose this amendment. Just the way it has been put by Honourable Seth.

Mr. Speaker, as a House, we should be talking about money. The issue of adequate or inadequate is what makes sense? If amendment is to be done, the amendment should be very clear that the last financial year, this budgetline was allocated Ksh. 2 million for maintenance, and the amount of Ksh. 2 million allocated was not enough. We need another Ksh. 2 million to make a total of Ksh. 4 million. It must be informed. But a blanket and uninformed kind of allocation that is being recommended here, Honourable Speaker is not viable.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, you heard a number of Members saying that this report is coming for the second time. If this amendment is to be put in place, we need to know that from 2023, how much was this budgetline allocated in the subsequent years and how much have they used and what is the deficit that requires an additional allocation. So Honourable Speaker, for this amendment, I reject. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, it is my considered opinion that we still get two more members who wish to contribute on the amendments and I put a question. So, let me start with Honourable Kelvin Oraro.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central): Mr. Speaker, I really respect opinion and amendment. But for this amendment, I wanted the mover of the amendment to understand that it forced us to accept using the word adequate because we knew that not all floodlights or the streetlights were brought to our attention then. We realised that when we try to be specific and say that we need to allocate Kshs. 3 million towards this budgetline, then, at the end of the day, things do not work well, it will cost us. To protect that, we even proposed, and that is why we had proposed the formulation of an Energy Bill, so that you can have now the department going directly, even using those who are learning, those on attachment, so that they can work without having to procure everything and things become cheaper. With an allocation of Ksh. 2 million, we can repair many streetlights and floodlights. However, because an allocation of Ksh. 2 million might be there and the money is procured and you know the process of procurement and how value of small things are being added, we had to be so smart with our wording Honourable Oiko. For that reason, I do not see why I would recommend this amendment of yours because actually we do not have the budget now. The only thing we can push for, and I believe the Chairperson of this Departmental House Committee should engage maybe members after or during this period of budget, is that we will have adequate money to do the maintenance.

So, how much or how adequate is required, I believe that, this will be another issue for professionals to decide. Therefore, trying to bring an amendment that will now destroy the original form of our report, I believe will be dangerous for us to accept the amendment and allow the report to just proceed the way it was. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Nyaoke.

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just a quick one. I really do not see any harm in supporting this amendment which has been brought in by my senior, Honourable Oiko. Mr. Speaker, we are not yet at the point to know whether this motion will be rejected or not. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, it is just appropriate to accept this because fundamentally, if we support this motion at the end of it all, then we will have something that we can be able to pinpoint that we are talking about the financial year 2025/2026. So, for me, I

support it because as I see we are going to support Mr. Speaker, this one is looking obvious, but then we need to have that amendment so that it will give us a framework on how we shall be able to argue this as we proceed with the financial year 2025/2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Bill, I said two people, but now that you are already up, can I give you one minute then.

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I equally rise to reject the amendment. I am saying this because, I still believe that this House Committee needs to do a lot of work because after this amendment, you realized that again, in the fourth recommendation, people will be talking about what are the timelines for the Bill. So, I believe that, if we give this House Committee time to do enough work, we will have a clear report that is well detailed with enough figures that we can debate in this House. Thank you, Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Benny Oiko, I am giving you one minute to reply.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo-Kanyagwal): Thank you Honourable Speaker, I have heard the sentiment of Members, however, when I say we give amendment and adequate allocation, I am not the one doing that. That goes to the department to do. They are imagining it is Kabonyo-Kanyagwal going to work out the figures. No! The matter is thrown back to this House Committee. This House Committee will engage the department to come up with the appropriate figures. That is what is needed.

(Hon. Oraro rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Kelvin, are you aware that the mover is replying. What is the point of order?

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central): Mr. Speaker, I want him to understand that after this House Committee, which House Committee is the member making reference to? The Select Committee on Implementation or which House Committee? Because after passing this...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Benny, please clarify.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo-Kanyagwal): Honourable Speaker, it is the Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works...

(Hon. Okumu rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Benny Oiko.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Mr. Speaker, it is the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works that is going to do this.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okumu, I gave Honourable Oiko one minute to reply. What is your point of order?

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Honourable Speaker, you know Honourable Oiko is a senior member and a ranking member in the House. The member knows the stage where we are with the Budget cycle, and I am wondering when he is saying that we still have time to go back to the House Committee so that this House Committee goes back to the department so that we can put a budgetline in the Estimates for the fiscal year 2025/2026. Mr. Speaker, that is what I wanted the member to clarify. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Oiko.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Honourable Speaker, what we know, it is possible if we desire so. And when some members do not desire, they will argue the way they argue. However, we need to protect our people on the ground. The adequate allocation I am referring to is going to be worked out by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works. The House Committee taking up this matter is the same House Committee of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works, not Kabonyo/Kanyagwal ward. This will be for the benefit of our people. That is what I reply and I beg our members to support this.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the Honourable Member Benny Pete Oiko has moved an amendment to the report. To be specific on recommendation number one, that the words, in the financial year 2025-2026 be added to the first recommendation to read, 'Adequate budgetary allocation for the maintenance and repair of streetlights in the financial year 2025-2026, which has been seconded and debated. I want to put a question.

(Question on amendment put and negatived)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, we proceed with the debate, for those who have not contributed, please be seated.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was waiting for this opportunity because I am rising up to oppose this report because it is not going to solve the

problems we have. The insecurity has become a very big menace in this County. Mr. Speaker, in my ward, I have been working closely with the area Member of Parliament to see how to manage this insecurity. As we all know, we are only allowed to do what we can do and that is to erect the floodlights and the streetlights. The other side of fighting insecurity is left to the MPs.

However Mr. Speaker, I want to inform you that, we sometimes, or myself sometimes wonder why we put budget on the erection of the floodlights. But immediately after they have been erected, hardly six months, the lights are off. Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of the time when immediately we came to this Assembly, I made my personal effort and I walked with the department and we realised that most of these floodlights, sometimes we just find a very minor technical problem, which if can be repaired immediately, then we could be having all the floodlights working. So, Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and other things, which is where energy is domiciled, must be having a problem. I want to direct the Chairperson of this House Committee.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the Chairperson who has just brought this report here, that he has not done enough to ensure that this department works for the people of Kisumu County. This is the department where we have been having problems with the machine-based programme, and the roads and everything. Sometimes I wonder why this department has few staff or maybe the expertise to work for the Kisumu County residents.

So, Mr. Speaker, I implore members of this House to return this report to the department so that they can bring us or give us a tangible reason why these floodlights cannot work. I believe they are very, very minor problems, if I want to inform you, very, very minor technical issues. Sometimes it is just a repair of like Kshs. 3000 or Kshs. 2000, which I did myself. I put money in it and then the floodlights could work. But you find it becomes a problem to this department that they do not even want to meet you because they know what you are bringing to them is the floodlights of such and such a place is not working. All three or four are not working. They are very incapable. They are very incompetent, that is the word. They should be made to work for Kisumu County residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I oppose the report.

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

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, allow me to join my brother, the Honourable Zachary Okoyo in appealing to members to send the report back to the House Committee. The reason why we want to do this is because we believe in members of that House Committee, and I am reading this report but I do not believe this report is coming from the Chairperson who is an engineer. Engineers are very action-orientated. I think he

allowed the Hon. Oraro, Kelvin, the MCA of Kolwa Central, to write the report on his behalf. You know, lawyers with a lot of English and saying very little, I am not sure about that.

(Hon. Oraro interjects)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is your point of order, Honourable Kelvin?

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central): Mr. Speaker, I believe that Honourable Seth should come out clearly with his words. Trying to demean the Chairperson, my able Chairperson, Engineer Reuben Rakwach, the MCA for Kolwa East. That this report that he has just read was not his own report. I think that is like trying to say that the Chairperson was sleeping. For him to say that, I would like him, as the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education, Technical Training, Innovation and Social Services to kindly apologize to Honourable Reuben Rakwach and use better words to reject the report rather than saying that the Chairperson does not know anything about it, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable member, I want to give Honourable Okumu, but I believe the Chairperson is taking notes and will be able to reply appropriately.

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Mr. Speaker, I told you, and I said I do not believe that this report came from my very good able Chairperson who is an Engineer and very action orientated. I believe now you get my point very clearly. The Honourable Speaker, the report was requesting several things. Amongst them were the specific reasons behind the failure of streetlights and floodlights in Ahero and the entire County. I believe I would have read the few floodlights that they mentioned in Seme and they would have informed this House why they have failed.

Mr. Speaker, again, in point number three, the report, the statement was requesting specific timelines for restoration of each floodlight, each individual lighting installation ensuring transparency and accountability.

Honourable Speaker, I believe in the report they would have told us out of the 381 floodlights that they were talking about if 50 were not working they would have given us a timeline on when they were going to work. That is what the statement asked. If they did not know they would have informed this House that we do not know the timeline of when it will work. Honourable Speaker, I want to agree with the Honourable Oiko that we need these floodlights working. Telling us that for these floodlights to work we must have an Energy Bill, and yet these floodlights were installed and were working without the Energy Bill is neither here nor there. Honourable Oraro, I want to make it very clear that these floodlights can work with or without the Energy Bill if we mean well for this County.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, this department has been left to sleep because as a House we allocate them money, they award a tender, they do not follow up, they even give us that tender and then we just sit back and tell them we need to give you more money. More money is how much money? How much money do we need to repair all these floodlights? Nobody knows. And we gave you a lot of time.

Mr. Speaker, it is sad that this report is coming for the second time and even now we cannot mention even a single floodlight and how much we need to repair it. It means that, as a House Committee we are sleeping and the department is equally sleeping. Honourable members, that is why I am requesting these members of this House Committee to go back and get us this information so that we know what we are going to do and we can make recommendations that are very functional. My brother here alluded to the fact that this House Committee on infrastructure and Public Works refused to approve Ksh. 35 million for REREC. I do not know how true that is. We are yet to see that when we are going for the other meetings to discuss the budget. But if that is true, then how sure are we that this House Committee will work on these floodlights if they do not want the REREC thing?

Chairperson, that claim is a little bit serious. So Honourable member, I want to implore all of you that we give this House Committee time. Maybe they were in a hurry. They can visit all the floodlights that are not working. They give us a report on each, and inform us what is wrong with each floodlight. They should again inform this House how much money is needed, and then we can plan on how much money is to be allocated for these floodlights to work. What our people need back at home is for these floodlights to work so that they can have the issues of insecurity addressed in our markets, in our streets, in our schools and wherever we are putting these floodlights as a way of addressing issues of insecurity. Honourable members and that is my contribution. I reject. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K'omudho.

Hon. K'omudho (MCA, Muhoroni-Koru): Many, many thanks Honourable Speaker together with my colleagues, a good afternoon. I am privileged to stand up and oppose this report. I have said, a good afternoon. That means also the same time, a good afternoon. So please, you check with your vocabularies or check with your proper English. A good morning is as good as good morning.

(Hon. Bill rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is your point of order?

Hon. Bill (MCA, Kobura): The Honourable Member is not addressing the Chairperson; he is addressing fellow Members.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Vitalis, be guided as appropriate.

Hon. K'Omudho (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): Thank you, thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will be brief, as this debate has already taken more time than necessary. Honourable Speaker, I speak today as a victim—specifically, a victim of the so-called floodlights. In my area, they have failed repeatedly. I fear that the continued reinvention of ideas without tangible results will not help us any longer.

The Honourable Chairperson of the department with the long name must understand that what we need are practical solutions—things that work on the ground—not endless reports presented to this House. These reports, as we've seen, are not helping us.

Honourable Speaker, I believe it is time we critically assess where the real problem lies. Perhaps the department's scope is simply too broad. With responsibilities spanning infrastructure, energy, and roads, it may be stretched too thin. Shouldn't we consider whether it's time to separate these functions? Let those in charge of roads focus on roads. When they turn to energy, they seem to forget about it soon after. We are inundated with reports, but they yield no real change.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we moved beyond paperwork and focused on solutions that actually benefit our people—like ensuring our streetlights work. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable James Omollo, You had spoken?

Hon. Omollo (MC, West Nyakach): No, no, you spoke on the amendment. Honourable Omuya, I have noticed you, but because of seniority, let me give Honourable James Omollo.

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the report. Mr. Speaker, we need to act with urgency to ensure our floodlights are functional. According to the report, I have five floodlights designated in my area, and I can confirm here that all five have been non-functional since 2021. That is how serious the situation is. If this House Committee has made recommendations, we must support them so that work can begin and at least some of these floodlights can be restored.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like some clarity on the connection between REREC funds and floodlight funding. To my understanding, REREC is meant for last-mile connectivity, whereas

floodlights are meant for specific locations—villages, markets, and streets—and are entirely separate.

I therefore strongly urge Honourable Members to support this House Committee’s recommendations so that we can finally see progress. These lights have been off for far too long. Some Members may have only a few affected, but for those of us from rural areas, most of our floodlights—installed during the First or Second term—are completely non-functional.

Mr. Speaker, this also raises a critical question. If the issue is with Kenya Power and Lighting Company and these floodlights are tied to the KPLC grid, perhaps it's time that we think outside the box. We should consider shifting to solar-powered floodlights. That way, they can operate independently and continuously, bringing a lasting solution to lighting in our villages and markets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Omuya.

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the committee’s report and its recommendations. The situation on the ground is deeply embarrassing. You pass through a market and find it in total darkness. Residents—especially women—will stop you and say, “Mama, look at how we are suffering.” And it’s not just one or two floodlights—none of them are working. I recall a time when the Chief Officer appeared before us and admitted that contractors are unwilling to bid for floodlight repairs. The reason? The County is not paying them.

Mr. Speaker, as an elected leader, I am concerned. Even if we allocate sufficient funds in the budget, will contractors actually bid for the work? And if they don’t, what then? Especially considering that this may be the last budget of this term.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: if we find ourselves in such a situation, are we allowed to create a smaller, targeted budget specifically for floodlight repairs? That is my humble request. Thank you.

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

Hon. Onditi (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize—my voice is not at its best today. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the report. While Honourable Seth Okumu has already highlighted many important points, I want to emphasize that rejecting this report will not solve the issue of non-functional floodlights. In fact, doing so may only worsen or prolong the situation.

Mr. Speaker, yes, the report may lack specifics—such as clear timelines for when the lights will be operational—but discarding it will not bring us closer to a solution. What we need is for the lights to start working again. That is the core issue.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge this House to approve the report so that the relevant departments can proceed with addressing the specific concerns raised in this debate. These are operational issues that can be dealt with once the broader framework is in place.

Mr. Speaker, rather than directing all criticism toward the Committee on Infrastructure—which I acknowledge has a rather long title—we should also look at the role of other House Committees. For instance, the Committee on Ward Development should be more proactive. These floodlights are located within our wards, not in the ocean. This House Committee should be conducting site visits to assess which lights are working and which are not, and sharing that data with this House. Similarly, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Implementation has a clear mandate: once a report is adopted by this House, it is their responsibility to ensure its resolutions are implemented. This is not a criticism of the current members, but rather a reminder of the role the committee should play. With that, Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my support for the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Caren Ajwang’.

Hon. Carren (MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I wish to call the mover to reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Rakwach.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Members for engaging in this important debate on the report by the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works regarding streetlights and floodlights. I also wish to specifically thank Honourable Ratib for his support.

He raised a crucial question: How does the non-payment of service providers impact the maintenance of streetlights? The answer is straightforward—when service providers are not paid on time, they become reluctant to take on or continue maintenance work. If a contractor refuses to respond because of outstanding payments, then clearly, the lights will not be maintained. That is the core of the problem we are trying to solve.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, even where we have qualified professionals within the department, as observed, their role is mostly administrative and supervisory. What we truly need on the ground are technicians—electricians, the *‘fundis’*—who can carry out practical repairs such as replacing fuses or fixing broken cables. Honourable Speaker, that’s why the proposal to

establish a dedicated maintenance fund account is important, while we are aware of concerns around the wage bill, this fund would allow the department to directly purchase materials and carry out repairs without involving external service providers.

This approach also has a financial advantage: by avoiding third-party contractors, the department won't be subject to Value Added Tax or other taxes that would normally apply when using service providers. This makes the process more efficient and cost-effective.

Honourable Speaker, kindly protect me—there is too much noise in the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable member, please proceed, you are protected.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you Honourable Speaker. At the same time, the element of profit-making will also be a thing of the past, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Moses Ochele and Honourable Mildred. I see Honourable Ochele pointing at Honourable Omuya. Please give time to Honourable Rakwach to reply.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I wish to express my gratitude to the Members for engaging in the deliberation of this important report by the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works on Streetlights and Floodlights. I also thank Honourable Ratib for his support and for raising a valid concern—how does the non-payment of service providers affect streetlight maintenance?

The answer is simple: when service providers aren't paid, they hesitate to offer services due to fear of delayed compensation. If a contractor refuses to respond, then obviously, no maintenance will be done. That is the core problem we are attempting to address.

Regarding the employment of technicians and electricians: the cost of hiring them can be absorbed through the proposed maintenance fund, which would eliminate the profit margins and taxes usually paid to contractors. This makes maintenance more affordable and sustainable.

Honourable Ajumbo questioned the need for a Bill. Let me clarify: you cannot establish a fund account without legislation. While installations can be done through contracts, on-going maintenance requires a dedicated account—and that account must be created through a Bill.

Honourable Members, we were elected to solve problems—not just to lament. As Honourable Ouko rightly said, people have gone for years without working streetlights. In my report, I outlined the real challenge: during one tendering process, only two bidders came forward—well

below the required minimum of seven. More recently, bidders showed up, signed contracts, then abandoned the work. That's a different issue altogether. If a service provider walks away, what do you do? Termination only leaves us with no one to do the job, which is why we're advocating for a dedicated maintenance fund. That's the objective of this Bill.

Honourable Bill accused this House Committee of lacking seriousness and called for the report to be rejected until the Bill is tabled. However, if we reject the report now, it will take at least six months before it can return—delaying the solution even further. Honourable Bill was initially a member of the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works but rarely attended meetings, which is why he was removed. That raises questions about where the lack of seriousness truly lies.

I thank Honourable Owade and Honourable Ouko for their support. As for those claiming the report has a good recommendation but lacks action—remember, we are here to debate and pass the report. Follow-up and implementation come afterward. We cannot expect action before the report is approved.

My role as the Chairperson is to bring the report; it is not my duty to carry out the work on the ground. So if the recommendations are good, pass the report and help ensure they are implemented.

Honourable Omollo, I thank you for your well-reasoned support and consistent participation in committee work. Honourable Pamela pointed out that this is the second time the report is appearing—yes, and that speaks to the urgency and seriousness of the matter. We must act together. Oversight, representation, and legislation are our collective responsibility.

Honourable Pete, thank you for your support. As you mentioned, maintenance falls under the purview of Operations and Maintenance (O&M), which currently has an allocation of only Ksh 39 million—insufficient for the scale of work required. That allocation is now with the Budget and Appropriations Committee to review.

Honourable Okoyo, you argued that passing this report won't solve your problems. But will rejecting it solve the problems? If you believe so, then by all means oppose it and let's see if that leads to working floodlights tomorrow. Similarly, you are a member of this House Committee and yet you can't recall its full name. That speaks volumes about your own commitment.

I thank Honourable Omuya, Honourable Onditi and Honourable Omollo for supporting this report. I particularly commend Honourable Omollo for suggesting a shift toward solar lighting. In fact, we have already begun installing solar-powered lights, which shows how seriously this House Committee and the department are taking this issue.

Finally, to Honourable Vitalis, as the Chairperson, Ward Development Committee, it was improper to address Members in the manner you did. Your committee has yet to present a single report or even a brief statement this financial year. A review of attendance records would show a House Committee that is inactive—yet you come here and attempt to discredit the efforts of others.

Let us stay focused. This is not about personal attacks. It is about delivering services to our people. I urge all Members to support this report so that we can take the necessary steps—together—to restore lighting in our wards.

(Hon. K'Omudho interjects with a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K'omudho, but the Member is replying. What is the point of order?

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Honourable Speaker that is precisely why I emphasized the need for proper induction for the Honourable Member. I urge you to consider organizing a comprehensive induction session—perhaps even a 10-day workshop in Mombasa—so that Members can fully understand their roles and responsibilities.

Honourable Speaker, much of this work is done at the ward level. Members should be well-acquainted with the streetlights and floodlights in their respective wards. Ideally, at their fingertips, they should have a list of which ones are functional and which ones are not. But when asked today which ones in their areas of jurisdictions are not operational, some Members cannot even identify the non-functional lights in their wards. That is deeply concerning, Honourable Speaker.

I believe urgent action is needed regarding the Ward Development Committee. It must be more active and accountable in addressing such matters.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I want to thank all Honourable Members for the robust and passionate debate on this report. Your contributions demonstrate that you read the report with seriousness and genuine interest. That is commendable.

Additionally, I would like to urge Members not to place all their focus solely on roads. While road infrastructure is important, streetlights and floodlights are equally vital—particularly for the safety and security of our residents during the night. This is not just a technical matter; it's a public safety concern.

Therefore, I appeal to you all to support and pass this report. Once passed, we can collectively follow up on its implementation.

Lastly, I wish to address the recurring tendency to shift blame to the Select Committee on Implementation. We must remember: once this House passes a resolution, it becomes the collective responsibility of all Members to oversee its implementation. Let us work together—support the Implementation Committee and carry out our oversight roles diligently.

As I conclude, it is the people of Kisumu County—the ones who entrusted us with these positions—who will benefit from our commitment and collaboration. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hereby reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, a motion on the adoption of the report of the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works on the matter of the non-functional streetlights and floodlights in Ahero Ward and the County as a whole has been moved, seconded, debated and as per our standing order I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the motion on the adoption of the report of the Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works on the matter of the non-functional streetlights and floodlights in Ahero Ward and the County as a whole have been adopted today, Wednesday, the 04th of June, 2025 at 16:31 hours. I direct that the recommendations of the report be communicated to the relevant sections and departments for purposes of appropriate implementation.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, you can be upstanding. Honourable Members, there being no any other business to transact, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, the 05th of June, 2025 at 02.30 p.m.

(House rose at 4.32 p.m.)

Addendum

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