COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

SPECIAL SITTING

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Monday, 30th June, 2025

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

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

PRAYER

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

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

CONVENING OF THE SPECIAL SITTING VIDE GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 8508 OF THURSDAY, 26TH JUNE, 2025 TO DELIBERATE ON THE KISUMU COUNTY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FY 2025/2026

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, today the Monday 30th June, 2025 we have holding a Special Sitting being sitting No. 1 of 2025 which is properly convened as per the Gazette Notice No. 8508 purposely to discuss the Proposed Kisumu County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the approval of the Kisumu County Appropriations Bill, 2025 for the same. So, this House properly convened for the two agenda and I want to urge Members to debate on the two agenda in the Order Paper as appropriate. Otherwise, all other sittings remain as per the schedule that was shared earlier. Thank you.

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

MOTION

REPORT BY THE SELCT COMMITTEE ON COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED KISUMU COUNTY ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026 AND THE MEDIUM TERM (MTEF)

BY

HON. JOACHIM OKETCH OMIENO, MCA, KONDELE

(CHAIRPERSON, COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable members, before I call upon the mover of the motion, Hon. Joachim Oketch, Chairperson, Select Committee on County Budget and Appropriations, I want to draw your attention to page 637 of our Standing Order on Papers on Notices and to be specific on Limitation of Debates. There are two notices there. The first one being Limitation of Debates on Reports and I read;

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 95 (1) one of the Standing Orders this Assembly Orders that each speech in a debate in a report of a House Committee, a Sessional Paper or any other report submitted to the Assembly be limited as follows;

A maximum of three hours with not more than twenty minutes for the mover in moving and ten minutes in replying and a maximum of five minutes for any other Member speaking except the Leader of the Majority party shall be limited to a maximum of fifteen minutes and that priority be accorded to the Leader of Majority party in that order. Number two is limitation of debate on bills sponsored by parties or committees.

Further, and I read;

THAT, pursuant to provision of Standing Order No. 95 (1) of the Standing Orders the Assembly Orders that each speech in a debate on Bills sponsored by a House Committee, the Leader of Majority party or the Leader of Minority party be limited as follows;

A maximum of thirty-five minutes for the mover in moving and fifteen minutes in replying. A maximum of thirty minutes for the Chairperson of the relevant House Committee if the Bill is not sponsored by the relevant House Committee and a maximum of five minutes for any other member speaking except the Leader of Majority Party shall be limited to a maximum of fifteen minutes.

If the bill is not sponsored by him/her and that priority in speaking be accorded to the Leader of Majority Party and the Chairperson of the relevant House Committee in that order. Those resolutions were approved in this House on Tuesday 25th February, 2025. So please take note of those resolutions as per the notices.

Honourable Oketch Joachim, Chairperson, County Budget and Appropriations Committee the Floor is yours.

Hon. Oketch (MCA, Kondele): Thank you very much I as the Chairperson of the Select Budget and Appropriations, I wish to read the report on the consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the Medium Term.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that this has not been one of the easiest budgets to work on based on the fiscal space of the County though, I really have to be very grateful to the Members of this House Committee and also the Members of this Assembly because, we really had a lot of intense deliberations there was movement back and forth but eventually I have to report that we have something to report back though it is not something that would be pleasing to all the Members but at least we did have a middle ground in most of the issues that were contentious.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the County Assembly plays a crucial role in the County's Budget making process, as mandated by the County Government Act, 2012, Section 131 of the Public Finance Management Act, Standing orders No. 189 (3) (b) & 222 (5) of the Kisumu County Assembly. As representative of the people, the County Assembly is responsible for scrutinizing the budget proposals, ensuring resource allocation aligns with National Priorities, Long and short-term development plans and approving tax measures. It also evaluates the County Fiscal Strategy Paper & County Debt Management Strategy Paper to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, in adherence to Section 129 (2) of the PFM Act, 2012, the CECM. Finance, Economic Planning and ICT submitted the estimates of revenue and expenditure for FY 2025/2026 for the County Executive to the County Assembly on Tuesday, 30th April, 2025 (See Annex I). Equally, the Clerk of the Assembly submitted the County Assembly Budget Estimates in line with section 129 (3) of the PFM Act, 2012.

By dint of Standing Orders No. 222 (3, 4 & 5) of the County Assembly, the estimates of revenue and expenditure were committed to the County Budget and Appropriations Committee for review and interrogation before making recommendations to the House. The Sectoral Committees also, pursuant to their mandates considered the proposed estimates of their respective Line Departments and made recommendation to this Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Committee therefore, acknowledges, the invaluable contribution of the Sectoral Committees, holding extensive consultative engagements with

various stakeholders to gather insights and formulate recommendations which have been analyzed and incorporated in this report.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, this has ensured that, the CBAC recommendations are reflecting sector specific priorities with significant fiscal considerations.

It is therefore, my pleasant duty, on behalf of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee, to table the report on estimates of revenues and expenditures for the FY 2025/2026 and the medium term for the County Executive and the County Assembly. This report reflects a thorough review and analysis aimed at ensuring effective resource distribution to support County development objectives and sector priorities.

PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF THE FY 2025/2026 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the budget-making process is highly consultative. In reviewing the 2025/2026 Estimates, the Committee conducted a total of 15 meetings including 12 meetings for presentation of Sectoral Committee reports by the respective Chairpersons flanked by the relevant County Executive Committee Members and in attendance of the County Treasury. A similar engagement was held with the County Public Service, the County Assembly Service Board and the City of Kisumu. These discussions allowed for an in-depth examination of fiscal priorities, sectoral allocations, and economic strategies, ensuring that the proposed budget aligns with County development objectives and financial sustainability. Additionally, the Departmental Committee observations and recommendations are presented in (Annex V) of this report.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Committee also engaged the CECM for Finance, Economic Planning, and ICT to address the general concerns raised by Sectoral Committees, Members of the Public, and insights from our technical analysis of the Budget Estimates. His inputs have been considered in our recommendations (Annex VI – Basis for determination of Cross Cutting Issues)

Article 201 (a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Section 131 (2) of the PFM Act, 2012 and Standing orders No. 222 (5) of the Kisumu County Assembly requires the County Budget and Appropriations Committee to seek public views on the budget and consider their recommendations when finalizing its report. The Committee therefore, published a memorandum in the daily newspapers and on the County Assembly Website, inviting the public to submit their views on the budget estimates and attend the public fora organized in each ward in the County. The town hall engagements were held on the 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th & 29th May, 2025 (See Annex II).

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, in this regard, the Committee received both oral submissions from these fora and written memoranda from the public on key expenditure priorities across the 35 wards of Kisumu County (See Annex III & IV).

The outcomes of these deliberations have provided both the informed financial and non-financial recommendations the Committee has capture in this report.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Resulting from these extensive consultations, the Committee made the following Financial and Non-Financial Recommendations:

NON-FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Emanating from our observations, the Committee made the following non-financial recommendations:

1. All Sectors/Departments to prepare and submit their pending bill repayment plans to the County Assembly by 31st July, 2025 and consequently submit the payment status on a quarterly basis. Further, accounting officers must ensure that all payments strictly adhere to the approved repayment plans.
2. The County Assembly to domesticate a County Valuation for Rating Act to enhance land rates collection and thereby increase the County's ordinary revenue.
3. The CECM for Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Marketing, in consultation with the City and Municipal Boards, to develop a Market Cleaning Regulatory Framework and submit the same to the Assembly for approval by October, 2025 to strengthen administration and coordination of market sanitation services.
4. The CECM. for the Department of Public Service, County Administration & Participatory Development, Office of the Governor and the Counterpart for Finance and Economic Planning to explore and adopt a more sustainable staff insurance model. The framework would ensure wider coverage and resilience against unpredictable county cash flow patterns by pooling resources instead of relying on the fixed budget provisions.
5. The County Human Resource Directorate to submit to the Assembly, legitimate records of the defunct local authority retired staff whose pension claims were paid from Kshs.16M provisioned in the FY 2024/2025 budget estimates, by 15th July, 2025.
6. All County Government Departments to submit their annual strategic work plans and quarterly implementation reports to the Assembly in accordance with the law and within prescribed timelines.
7. The County Attorney to initiate appeals in upper courts on all contestable or impartial rulings against the County to mitigate the burden of accrued court fines and decrees. A status report on the appeals be submitted to the Assembly before the end of the 1st Quarter, FY 2025/2026.

8. That the County Assembly, in consultation with the County Treasury, formulates a Facility Improvement Financing (FIF) Bill by the end of the first quarter of FY 2025/2026 to enhance the operational efficiency of Vocational Training Centers and ensure proper financial reporting and auditing of additional charges levied on trainees by the Centers.
9. The County Treasury to develop and adopt a cost-efficient implementation framework for construction of ECDE classrooms through a partnership with VTCs, to reduce project costs and improve execution efficiency.
10. The County Assembly in consultation with the County treasury should prepare and approve relevant legislations for renewal and expansion of the lifespan of the Carloan and Mortgage funds and Education funds whose tenure elapsed pursuant to the provisions of Section 197 (1) (i) of PFM Act, 2012 granting such funds a 10yrs lifespan.
11. The County Public Service Board to regulate contract and casual staff engagements in line with approved staff establishment to avoid persistent under-budgeting under P&E allocation. Further, the Directorate of Human Resource Management must fast-track the implementation of a unified personnel number system to eliminate off-payroll payments prone to abuse.
12. The CECM for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development to fast-track the development of the County Spatial Plan and submit it to the Assembly for approval by December 2025, in accordance with Sections 102–115 of the County Governments Act, 2012.
13. The CECM for Finance and Economic Planning to submit to the Assembly, by 31st July, 2025, a status report on the implementation of the resolutions adopted during the approval of the FY 2024/2025 Budget Estimates and the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for FY 2025/2026.
14. That, the CECM. Finance, Economic Planning and ICT in collaboration with the CECM. Education Technical Training, Innovation and Social Services to ensure that Bursary Funds are procured and disbursed within the first half of the Financial Year to cushion students from academic interruptions.
15. The County Treasury to submit the FY 2025/2026 County Procurement Plan to the Assembly by 30th September, 2025, in line with previous House resolutions. All procurement of goods and works must be concluded by December, and contractors must be on-site before end of January, to avoid project spillover into subsequent financial years.
16. The Directorate of Monitoring and Evaluation to submit a report on the implementation status of FY 2024/2025 projects by 31st July, 2025. Consequently, the Sectoral Committees and Implementation Committee to review, investigate, and validate the reports pursuant to their mandates and cause a report with recommendations to this House.

b). FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable members, based on the deliberations and putting into account the Fiscal Responsibility Principles, the Committee recommends that this House resolves;

i) Total Revenue

That, the Total County Revenue Projection be approved at Kshs. 15,527,041,260 in line with the revenue streams under the resource envelop presented as Second Schedule of this Report.

The Total Revenue comprises;

a) Opening Balance at Kshs. 873,653,733
b) Equitable Share of Revenue at Kshs. 8,902,026,938.
c) Conditional and Non-Conditional Grants at Kshs. 2,168,866,363.
d) Own Source Revenue at Kshs.3,582,494,226.

Expenditure

ii) Total Expenditure

That, the Total Budget Estimates for FY 2025/2026 be approved at Kshs. 15,527,041,260 and be appropriated to the various Sectors/Departments as presented in the first Schedule of this Report.

iii) Recurrent Expenditure

That, the total recurrent expenditure for FY 2025/2026 Budget Estimates be approved at Kshs. 9,631,733,306 as presented in first Schedule of this Report.

That, the recurrent expenditure comprises;

Expenditure for Personnel Emoluments at Kshs. 5,492,515,456.

Expenditure for Operations and Maintenance at Kshs. 4,139,217,850.

iv) Development Expenditure

That, the total capital/development expenditure for FY 2025/2026 Budget Estimates be approved at Kshs. 5,895,307,954 as justified in the first Schedule of this Report.

v) Allocation for the County Assembly.

a) Recurrent Expenditure
    a. That, the County Assembly recurrent expenditures for FY 2025/2026 be approved at Kshs. 862,083,652.00 in line with CARB, 2025.

b) Development Expenditure
    a. That, the County Assembly development expenditure for FY 2025/2026 be approved at Kshs. 100 Million in line with the House Resolution adopted during approval of the CFSP to permit completion and furnishing of the Ultramodern County Assembly.

vi. Allocation for Pending Bills

That, the Budgetary Allocation for the Development Pending Bills be approved at Kshs. 616,421234.

Recommendations to enhance Prudent Spending through Expenditure Rationalization

vii. Allocation for ward-based development project priorities

That, this House approves a total of not less Kshs. 700Million sourced from rationalization of non-essential/unjustified budget items and be reallocated towards implementation of ward-based development projects priorities identified by members of the public during validation Public Participation conducted by Assembly as presented under (Annex II) of this report.

Consequently, each ward be allocated a minimum of Kshs. 20 Million to promote equitable and fair resource distribution across all wards.

viii. Recruitment of 150 ECDE Teachers

That the budgetary allocation of Kshs. 1,314,750 earmarked for the recruitment of 50 support staff be expunged and reallocated to augment the existing provision for the recruitment of ECDE teachers, thereby increasing the number from 100 to 150, in order to address staffing gaps in ECDE centers across the County.

ix. That, the unexplained variance of Kshs. 10Million out of the Kshs.*41,283,598* allocation for Development Pending Bills for the Department of Trade, Tourism, Industry and Marketing be expunged and redirected to support ward development project priorities.

x. That, the Kshs. 5 million allocated under the Department of Trade for market cleaning services be expunged and equitably reallocated to the respective Municipalities, to enable them carry out market cleaning in accordance with their mandates and to ensure efficient utilization of resources.

xi. That, Kshs. 100 million out of the Kshs. 200 million allocation for the County Aggregation and Industrial Park be expunged and redirected to finance ward-based development priorities. Additionally, Kshs. 5 million from the remaining balance be set aside for the project's prefeasibility study.

xii. That, the allocation of Kshs. 1,576,642 earmarked for the completion of Nyamarimba Market be expunged and redirected to ward-based development priorities, as the market in question does not exist.

xiii. That, the unsupported amount of Kshs. 41,680,422 from the total allocation of Kshs. 146,348,494 for pending bills under the Department of Water, Natural Resources and Climate Change be expunged and redirected towards ward-based development priorities and other essential expenditures.

CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

xiv. SPORTS, CULTURE, GENDER AND YOURH AFFAIRS.

a) Approves the request for an additional allocation of Kshs. 10Million for KICOSCA games to augment its insufficient provision of Kshs, 5Million.
b) Approves the request of Kshs. 9M allocation for Piny Luo Event to be held in Migori County as part of efforts to promote cultural heritage and regional unity.

xv. AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND IRRIGATION

Approves various realignments on the departmental development projects as outlined in Annex (VII) of this report.

xvi. PUBLIC SERVICE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION, PARTCIPATORY DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Approves an additional request of Kshs. 4Million to supplement the provisioned Khs. 2Million for rent of vehicles. It is also advised that the vote item be renamed *rent for transport* for clarity and alignment with its purpose.

xvii. EDUCATION, TECHNICAL TRAINING, INNOVATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Approve the request to provide additional allocation to increase the number of ECDE teachers to be recruited from 100 to 150 in order to address staffing gaps in ECDE centers across the County. That, the funds be sourced by expunging and reallocating Kshs. 1,314,750 provisioned for recruitment of 50 support staff.

xviii. LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Approve the request for an allocation of Kshs. 30 Million for formulation of the County Valuation Roll/Valuation for Rating Act to enhance collection of Land rates.

xix. WATER, ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Approve that Kshs. 19,990,000 allocation for Purchase of a refuse Track clustered under the Departmental Pending Bills be expunged and re-budgeted since the Refuse Track has not been procured therefore cannot qualify as pending bill. Consequently, Kshs. 5Million of the amount be reallocated towards purchase of a backhoe while the remaining balance of Kshs. 14,990,000 be redirected to augment funding for ward-based development project priorities.

xx. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORKS

Approve various realignments within the Departmental Development Budget to save Kshs. 160 million. The sourced funds be reallocated to enhance funding for departmental ward-based development projects in order to promote equitable resource distribution to all wards.

PROJECT DETAILS	AMOUNT SOURCED	TOTAL SAVINGS
Kshs. 150,000,00 for the Proposed phase ii upgrading of Namba-Kapiyo-Bodi-Asat-Bao Beach Road to bitumen be reduced to Kshs. 70,000,000	80,000,000	160,000,000
Kshs. 15,000,000 for construction of a mechanical workshop be expunged ad redirected to ward based projects	15,000,000	
Kshs. 100,000,000 allocation for pending bills be reduced by Kshs. 30,000,000 and the amount be redirected to ward based projects	30,000,000	
Kshs. 35,000,000 allocation for Lighting Infrastructure in Partnership with REREC be expunged and funds redirected to ward development projects	35,000,000	

xxi.) APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS OUTLINE IN THE MATRIX BELOW;

APPROVED CHANGES ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FY 2025/2026

S/N	PROJECT AS PROPOSED IN THE BUDGET	WARD	ACTION	REVISED NAME	AMOUNT (KSHS.)
	INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORKS				
1.	Project No. 39; Construction of Kokuoyo ECDE captured in Ahero ward	Awasi/Onjiko	Location Corrected	Construction of Kokuoyo ECDE captured in	2,000,000

				Awasi/Onjiko ward	
2.	Project No. 47; Equipping of Dago ECDE Centre with furniture captured in Manyatta "B"	Nyalenda "A"	Location Corrected	Equipping of Dago ECDE Centre with furniture in Nyalenda "A"	600,000
3.	Project No. 27; Improvement of number Kadon – Kindu School access road at Kshs. 4.5Million	Kajulu	Replacement	Improving St. Monica – Komodhi – Obwolo access road	4,500,000

xxii) Report and Recommendations

Approve the Report and Recommendations of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on the proposed Budget Estimates for the County Executive and the County Assembly for the FY 2025/2026.

xxiii) Basis of the County Appropriations Bill

Approve that, the first schedule of this report forms the basis of the FY 2025/2026 Appropriations Bill.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Budget and Appropriations Committee is grateful to the Sectoral Committees for their oversight efforts over the Departments/Sectors which has enable the Assembly to effectively execute its budgetary oversight role.

The Committee is also grateful to the Members of the Public who took their time to attend the Public Hearings and present their views to the Committee for inclusion in this report. These submissions have enabled the Committee to realign the Budget in a more responsive manner.

Our gratitude is immensely expressed to the County Treasury for being part of us throughout this important process and giving insightful recommendations which eased our decisions making. We further express our appreciation to all the County Sectors/Departments for honoring all our invitations and readily apprised us on their respective budgets.

Lastly, the Committee is grateful to the Office of the Speaker of the County Assembly, the Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly, the Directorate of Legislative and Committee Services, the Committee Secretariat and Technical Staff for their invaluable support to us as we discharged our mandate of reviewing the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the medium term.

On behalf of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee, and pursuant to Standing Order 222 (5), it is my pleasant duty and honor, to table the Report on the Budget Estimates for FY 2025/2026 and recommend it to the House for adoption.

Preface - Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, Standing Order No. 189 of Kisumu County Assembly establishes the County Budget and Appropriations Committee with specific mandates, amongst which is to;

(a) Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters related to coordination, control and monitoring of the County budget;

(b) discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the County Assembly;

(c) examine the County Budget Policy Statement presented to the County Assembly;

(d) examine Bills related to the County Government budget, including Appropriations Bills; and

(e) evaluate tax estimates, economic and budgetary policies and programmes with direct budget outlays.

Composition of the Committee

The Budget and Appropriations Committee is composed as follows;

Committee Members

NO.	NAMES	WARD	POSITION	PARTY
1.	Hon. Joachim Oketch	Kondele	Chairperson	ODM
2.	Hon. Geoffrey Warindu	Miwani	Vice. Chairperson	ODM
3.	Hon. Lumumba Owade	South East Nyakach	Member	ODM
4.	Hon. Nereah Okombo	Manyatta "B"	Member	ODM
5.	Hon. Kennedy Ooko	Ahero	Member	ODM
6.	Hon. Seth Okumu	East Seme	Member	ODM
7.	Hon. Seth Kanga	Market/Milimani	Member	ODM
8.	Hon. Vincent Jagongo	North West Kisumu	Member	ODM
9.	Hon. Ratib Boitone	Nyalenda "A"	Member	ODM

10.	Hon. Carren Odhiambo	Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo	Member	ODM
11.	Hon. Moses Ochele	East Kano Wawidhi	Member	ODM
12.	Hon. Pamela Oyoo	Migosi	Member	ODM
13.	Hon. Jennipher Obonyo	South West Kisumu	Member	ODM
14.	Hon. George Abaja	West Seme	Member	ODM
15.	Hon. Rueben Rakwach	Kolwa East	Member	ODM

Secretariat

1. Mr. Felix Owuor - Committee Clerk
2. CPA. Kephers Onoka - Principal Fiscal Analyst
3. Mr. Omollo Isaac - Clerk Assistant
4. Mr. Zablon Otiende - Assistant Director, Hansard Services
5. Mr. Judith Akoth - Serjeant-At-Arms
6. Mr. Denis Ogola - Public Relations

REVIEW OF THE FY 2025-2026 BUDGET ESTIMATES- INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Budget Estimates for FY 2025/2026 have been prepared against a backdrop of various socioeconomic challenges, including mounting expenditure pressure for employment and income to meet the high cost of living, rehabilitation of the dilapidated County road network due the prolonged rains and floods, limited access to flexible credit facilities for Micro-Small and Medium enterprises, pending bills owed to contractors and suppliers of goods and services. This have been compounded by revenue shortfalls and limited fiscal space.

To ensure that, the County remains resilient, forward – looking and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities, a key policy shift has been adopted of a more disciplined operational framework with a reduction of 20% on the O%M and intensified efforts to boost OSR. Moreover, priority has been given to clearance of pending bills to enhance fiscal credibility and release and release resources for development as well as focus on completion of incomplete and stalled projects to achieve maximum value for money.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026 were laid before the House on Wednesday, 7th May, 2025, pursuant to Section 129 (2) of the PFM Act, 2012 and Standing Order No. 222 (2 & 3) of the County Assembly. In

line with Section 130 (1) of the PFM Act, 2012, the County Treasury submitted to the Assembly the Budget Estimates for FY 2025/2026 that include;

i. Program – Based Budget for FY 2025/2026 and the medium term;
ii. The estimates of recurrent expenditures for FY 2025/2026;
iii. The estimates of development expenditures for FY 2025/2026;
iv. List of Development Priorities for the Financial Year ending 30th June, 2026;
v. Budget Summery for FY 2025/2026 & the resource envelope for FY 2025/2026;

Further, in line with Section 129 (3) of the PFM Act, 2012, the County Assembly Service Board submitted to the County Assembly the estimates of recurrent and development expenditures for the County Assembly for the Year ending 30th June, 2025, and the medium term.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FY 2024/2025 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures for FY 2025/2026 are anchored on the Governors Clarion call of "Wasetimo Wadoktimo" which embodies the County Government's Commitment to consolidate the progress made in the last phase of the government activities and opening new frontiers for development in various sectors in line with the Governors Ten-Point Agenda in the Manifesto.

For FY 2025/2026, priority has been given to the clearance of pending bills to enhance fiscal credibility and release resources for development, revitalizing the Agriculture Sector for food security and agribusiness; Completion of incomplete/stalled Projects; routine maintenance of existing infrastructure to safeguard public investments and ensure functionality; and intensify efforts to boost Own Source Revenue (OSR) through better governance, technology-driven systems, and strengthened compliance.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the total Proposed Budget for FY 2025/2026 is Kshs. 15,527,041,260. This comprises Kshs. 5,492,515,456 in Personnel Emolument, Kshs. 4,139,217,850 in Operations and Maintenance and Kshs. 5,895,307,954 in Development Expenditure.

The submitted estimates will be financed from the total County Resource Envelope projected at Kshs. 15,527,041,260 which comprises;

a) Opening Balance at Kshs. 873,653,733
b) Equitable Share of Revenue at Kshs. 8,902,026,938.
c) Conditional and Non-Conditional Grants at Kshs. 2,168,866,363.
d) Own Source Revenue at Kshs.3,582,494,226.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, based on the submitted Budget Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for FY 2025/2026, the cake has been appropriated to the various County Executive Sectors and the Assembly as follows;

i. Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 1,124,609,030 which includes Kshs. 845M for KISPI II intended to improve infrastructure in various informal settlements in urban areas; Kshs. 20 M for preparation of Local Physical Development Plan for Maseno-Holo & ahero – Awasi Municipalities; Kshs. 30M for completion of the Valuation Roll/domestication of the Valuation for Rating Act; Kshs 40M for establishment of the much-needed County spatial plan; Kshs. 5M for Completion of Katito-Pap Onditi Municipal Head Quarters.

Further, a total of Kshs. 75M has been provisioned for municipalities with each municipality allocated Kshs. 15M to defray operational cost and initiate development projects.

iii. Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Development and Irrigation.

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 409,398,796 to improve food security and lower cost of living by investing in high value and crop value chains and introducing input subsidy programs.

This Budget is majorly funded by Grants which includes; Kshs. 151,515,152 - Conditional Grants for NAVCDP, Kshs. 18,798,559 – for Aquaculture Business Development Project, Kshs. 28,269,703 - Practical Action Agriculture (PrAEctiCe) & Kshs. 15,000,000 - Change Maker.

iii. Education, Technical Training, Innovation and Social Services.

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 606,357,000.

The larger share of this budget has been set aside for Completion and construction of ECDE Classrooms and VTCs to promote access to education; Capitation to VTCs and ECDEs at Kshs. 97.5M; Bursaries and Scholarships at Kshs. 305M to support bright and needy students and to enhance Social Protection programs with focus on purchasing assisting devices for PWDs.

iv. Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works

The Department has a total allocation of Kshs1,256,626,000 which includes; O&M at Kshs. 39M & Kshs. 1,217,626,000 for Development. On this budget, priority has been given to settling pending bills at Kshs. 100M, construction of durable roads and enhancing maintenance of already established roads. Continuation with PHASE II of upgrading of Namba Kapiyo Bodi Asat to bitumen standard at Kshs.70M. Construction of mechanical workshop at Kshs. 15M and implementation of identified Energy projects in the targeted ward at Kshs. 35M.

v. Trade, Tourism, Industry and Marketing

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 185,864,298 which includes Kshs. 100M for establishment of County Aggregation and Industrial Park, Kshs. 41,283,598 for market cleaning services, Kshs. 5M for Market Cleaning and completion of various markets in the County.

vi. Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 1,107,728,382, of which Kshs. 273,481,000 has been set aside for development. Further, Kshs. 834,247,382 has been allocated for recurrent expenditures mainly comprising transfers to Kisumu County Referral Hospital, Kisumu County Hospital, County and Sub-County Hospital Services, Health Centers and Dispensaries to promote Primary Healthcare for Universal Health Coverage and procurement and purchase of Pharmaceuticals and Non-Pharmaceuticals Supplies.

The Departmental budget is partly funded by DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency) Conditional Grant at Kshs. 23,123,790 and Community Health Promoters at Kshs. 165,339,627.

vii. Water Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

The Department has a total allocation of Kshs. 558,178,264. From this allocation, Kshs. 237,487,999.70 comprises Finance Locally Led Action Plan (FLLOCA) conditional grant earmarked to benefit all the 35 wards, Kshs. 56M is provisioned towards increasing coverage and improving access to Clean and Safe water from 58% to 66% in the County, while Kshs. 146,348,494 has been set aside to defray departmental pending bills.

viii. Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 102,434,818. The critical programs to be funded by this allocation includes, Kshs. 30M set for face-lifting of various sporting facilities in the County to promote talent development, Kshs. 30M provisioned for rehabilitation of Kisumu Museum for tourism promotion and culture preservation.

ix. City of Kisumu

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 1,501,972,057. This allocation majorly comprises Kshs. 377,029,159 KUSP (III) donor funding intended to finance urban institutional development and improve/upgrade critical infrastructure in informal settlements in the Urban areas, Kshs. 66,920,000 for Development of an industrial and innovation park at Nyamasaria and Kshs. 38M provisioned for Completion of Kaloleni Social Hall Phase 2 and Kshs, 196,920,000 for NMT Phase 3 Facilities.

x. Public Service, County Administration & Participatory Development, Office of the Governor

The Department is the largest beneficiary of this budget with an allocation of Kshs. 6,265,202,937. The biggest share of this amount consists of the consolidated P&E figure at Kshs. 5,492,515,456 for the County Executive. Moreover, the P&E contains funds for recruitment of 150 ECDE teachers & 25 instructors for the VTCs while Kshs. 30M has been set for Disaster Management. Under development; Kshs. 42M is allocated for Construction of new ward offices whereas the balance of Kshs. 352,500,000 accounts for KDSP grant support to strengthen devolution structures.

xi. Finance Economic Planning and ICT

The Department has been allocated Kshs. 1,195,098,132 which comprises Kshs. 448,821,780 provisioned for medical insurance, Kshs. 60M for revenue mobilization, Kshs. 21,276,352 for Budget Formulation and Co-ordination and Kshs. 150 Million for emergency relief and response.

xii. Kisumu County Public Service Board

The Department has a total allocation of Kshs. 24,159,674 to promote its operational efficiency and for development of systems and policies for effective HR management.

Xiii. County Assembly of Kisumu

Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members,

The County Assembly has a total recurrent budget of Kshs. 862,083,652.00 in line with the previous CARA, 2024 and Kshs. 100M allocated outside its ceiling for development. The Development Budget is meant to facilitate completion and furnishing of the ultra-modern County Assembly

Outlined below, is the breakdown of the proposed County Assembly Budget FY 2025/2026;

COMPONENT	ESTIMATED
PERSONNEL SALARIES	FY 2025/2026
	(KSHS.)
CLERK'S OFFICE	31,792,773.60
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES	24,779,380.40
HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATION	82,167,992.70
SUPPLIES CHAIN MANAGEMENT	6,971,999.80

ICT, HANSARD, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES	8,294,726.20
LEGISLATION AND OVERSIGHT	137,958,485.82
COMMITTEE SERVICES	40,130,664.00
POLICY/SPEAKER'S OFFICE	30,214,963.69
REPRESENTATION	55,277,902.26
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE	417,588,888.47
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	

	ESTIMATED
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	FY 2025/2026
	(KSHS.)
CLERK'S OFFICE	136,189,712.56
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES	33,469,810.97
HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATION	85,780,000.00
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	2,400,000.00
ICT, HANSARD, RESEARCH, AND INFORMATION SERVICES	3,000,000.00
LEGISLATION AND OVERSIGHT	22,000,000.00
COMMITTEE SERVICES	100,000,000.00
POLICY/SPEAKER'S OFFICE	16,160,000.00
REPRESENTATION	45,495,240.00
TOTAL PERSONELL EXPENDITURE	444,494,763.53
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	862,083,652.00
DEVELOPMENT	100,000,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	962,083,652.00

THE MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK UNDERPINNING THE FY 2025/2026 ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Budget Estimates for FY 2025/2026 is premised on sustained growth trajectory. The growth will primary be driven by improved agricultural output owing to the County's investment in high value and crop value chains and introducing input subsidy program which will reduce food cost.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Committee has noted that the projected growth is exposed to downside risks, including increased taxes, underperformance of Own Source Revenue, pending bills, expenditure rationalization, disruption of transport due to the seasonal floods, excess food imports to the County and lack of market for agricultural outputs. This may adversely affect the County's Gross Product.

THE COUNTY FISCAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE FY 2025/2026 BUDGET ESTIMATES
Own Source Revenue

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the County treasury is anticipating an increase in the actual OSR with an expected decline in the rate of accumulated pending bills. The treasury tabled an OSR projection figure at Kshs. 3,506,245, 835 which exceeds the CFSP projection by 16.8% but lower than the Previous target FY 2024/2025 by 32%. Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, although the OSR target has been revised downwards compared to the previous financial year in an effort to enhance budget credibility, the current projection still appears overly ambitious when assessed against historical performance trends.

ACTUAL OSR TREND FROM FY 2022/23 TO 2025/2026

FY	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Revenue Realized (Kshs)	Projected OSR	Unrealized
2025/2026						3,506,245,845	
2024/2025	264,581,975	405,795,252			2,183,898,412	3,804,073,100	1,620,174,688
2023/2024	233,742,220	192,544,112	613,640,325	469,194,369	1,509,121,026	2,282,844,694	773,723,668
2022/2023	186,694,958	233,381,806	590,245,117	143,142,424	1,153,464,305	1,762,226,587	608,762,282
	685,019,153	831,721,170	1,203,885,442	612,336,793	4,846,483,743	11,355,390,226	3,002,660,638

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the possibility of achieving this target was justified by the measures instituted and reforms on revenue administration, automation of key revenue streams, expansion of the tax base through proposed policies and legislations and strengthening of the debt collection unit.

EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK FOR THE FY 2025/2026 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, from the overall County budget, it is observed that 31.59% has been allocated for the development expenditure, 29.40% towards operations and maintenance and 39.01% towards human resource cost as outlined below;

CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION (KSHS.)	ALLOCATION %
Personnel Emoluments	5,492,515,456	39.01
Operations and Maintenance	4,139,217,850	29.40
Development	4,448,707,465	31.59
TOTAL	14,080,440,771	100

It is also observed that the proposed Budget at Kshs. 14,080,440,771 negatively deviates from the previous budget by 8.06% and positively deviates from the CFSP by 3.73%. The reduction in budgetary expenditures for the FY 2025/2026 is premised on reduced OSR projection and sheer commitments towards formulation of a credible budget.

ALIGNMENT OF THE ESTIMATES WITH THE NATIONAL AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, from our analysis of the alignment of the Estimates to National obligations and the Long- and Medium-term County policies and plans. We have noted as follows;

That, the proposed Budget Estimates is closely linked to Vision 2030, the Forth Medium-Term Plan, the Governor Manifesto, CIDP III FY 2023-2027, CADP FY 2025/2026 and CFSP FY 2025/2026.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the MTP and BPS are anchored on five pillars which include Agriculture, MSME, Economy, Housing and Settlements, Healthcare and digital and creative economy geared towards Economic Transformation. The above strategic targeted sectors are well embraced by the proposed Budget and strongly funded to create impact and complement the National pursuit and efforts towards sustainable economic recovery and growth.

COMPLIANCE TO THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK UNDERPINNING THE PREPARATION OF THE FY 2025/2026 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, we have reviewed the proposed FY 2025/2026 Budget Estimates to assess the extent of compliance to the various legal frameworks underpinning its preparation. The relevant legislations include; the provisions of Section 107, 129, 130,131 of the PFM Act, 2012, Regulation No. (25 to 37) of the PFM Regulations of 2015. Our findings pursuant to the above reveals that the treasury has fulfilled most of the requirements.

Nevertheless, the Committee has noted that a few provisions were flouted as outlined hereunder;

Fiscal Responsibility

i. The expenditure ceiling for P&E at 39.01% of the total County Budget contravenes the provisions of Regulation No. 25 (1) (b) of the PFM regulations of 2015.

ii. Budgetary Allocation to lapsed/expired County Established Funds

Regulation 197 (1) (i) of the Public Finance Regulation of 2015 limits the lifespan of public funds to 10 years unless extended by the Assembly. Notably, both the Kisumu County Bursary Fund and the County Assembly Car Loan and Mortgage Fund have exceeded this statutory limit without the requisite extension by the Assembly, yet they have been allocated funds.

CONTENTS OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES SUBMITTED TO THE ASSEMBLY
ii. The Budget does not include a memorandum from the treasury explaining how resolutions adopted by the Assembly while approving the previous Budget and the approved CFSP FY 2025/2026 have been taken into account defying the provisions of Section 130 (1) (a) (iii) and (d) of PFM Act, 2012.

OBLIGATIONS TO PLAN BY THE COUNTY
iv. The proposed Budget Estimates has been prepared without development guidelines and frameworks contained in the Spatial Plan and Sector Plans manifesting a weak link between planning and budgeting in contravention of the provisions of Section 104 (1) of the County Government Act, 2012.

v. Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Agenda (Malabo & Maputo declaration)

The Agriculture Sector has been allocated 3.42% of the total County Budget against the requirement of this regional obligation which Kenya has ratified setting a minimum allocation of 10% to the Sector.

SUBMISSION BY SECTORAL COMMITTEES
Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, Pursuant to the provisions of S.O No. 222 (4) of the County Assembly, the Sectoral Committees presented critical observations and recommendations that are contained in Annex V of this report. The Sectoral Committees held consultative engagements with their respective Line Departments on 19TH, 20TH & 30TH May, 2025 to review and interrogate the Sectors' programs and policy objectives pursuant to their mandates.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the Committee received requests from the Sectoral Committees to cut/struck out unjustified/non-essential expenditures from the Departmental Budgets and reallocated funds to impactful projects and to enhance the Budgetary provision on underfunded Departmental Programs.

Based our review and extensive consultations, some proposed cuts/removal & reallocation of such non-essential/unjustified budgetary provisions have been approved by the Committee.

Further, given the constrained fiscal space and the need to adhere to the fiscal consolidation principles, some request for additional budgetary provision to sectors though critical could not be accommodated within the available resource envelop.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the ones approved for adjustment have been outlined under our Financial Recommendations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the provisions of Article 196 and 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Section 87 of the County Government Act, 2012, Section 131 of the PFM Act, 2012 and Standing Order No. 222 (5) require the County Budget and Appropriations Committee to seek public views on the Budget and consider their recommendations while Finalizing this report. In this regard, the Committee therefore, published a memorandum in the daily newspapers and on the County Assembly Website, inviting the public to submit their views on the budget estimates and attend the public fora organized in each ward in the County held on the 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th & 29th May, 2025 (See Annex II).

Members of the Public honored and turned up for this exercise;

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, during the hearings, members of the public through oral presentations raised very pertinent issues and proposals. The Committee has equally received a total of three Memoranda from the following stakeholders and Community based groups; West Nyakach ward residents; Lake Region Budget Hub and Right Holders and Civil Society Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, Informed by these proposals, the Committee has considered submissions from members of the public in its recommendations to this House and attached both the compiled oral submissions from each ward as (Annex III) and the Memoranda as (Annex IV).

Conclusion

Hon. Speaker, it is therefore my pleasant undertaking on behalf of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee, to table this report in this House and recommend it for adoption.

Mr. Speaker, honourable members, I want to request the House to approve the report and recommendations of the County Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Proposed Kisumu County Budget Estimate for the County Executive and the County Assembly for the Financial Year 2025-2026. And lastly, the basis of the County Appropriation Bill approved that the first schedule of this report forms the basis of the Financial Year 2025-2026 Appropriation Bill.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, it is therefore my pleasant undertaking on behalf of the County Budget and Appropriation Committee to table this report in the House and recommend it for adoption. I want to call upon my Vice Chairperson, Honourable Geoffrey Warindu, to second.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Warindu, I will allow you to come and second from in front here.

Hon. Warindu (MCA, Miwani): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity that you have accorded me to second the motion. From the onset, Mr. Speaker, let me thank this House Committee and the Chairperson for showing leadership when it mattered most. And a lot of expectation was given to this House Committee.

Mr. Speaker, through the mediation that they had, they tried to settle on the best possible way of trying to understand the needs of the members of this Assembly and the entire County. Mr. Speaker, many a times when we are talking about the budget, many people usually take it to belong to a certain sector of group in Kisumu County. I wish that we all, we can all honor this report so that we can serve our people who elected us and represent their interests fully.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that, moving forward, when we are making such like documents, the major focus should be given to the voters, the impact that the voters will have in the document that we are dealing with today. Mr. Speaker, during such a period, we only need to be sober, be factual, and be real to the issues and the reality that we have in our County. I once had a member of the Senate saying that the budget estimates are just a mere paper that is given, and the actual money will be received to finance, to fund this project that we are all wishing to be, to be taken, to be funded.

Mr. Speaker, after we've gone through all the avenues of raising of funds that we want to do all the projects with, and how I wish that our main undoing has always been the Own-Source Revenue, and it has always been over-projected, year in, year out, leaving us with a deficit of close to Kshs. 1.5 to 2 billion every year. Mr. Speaker, if you look at it, what will be affected in the long run after all this has been put in place, is the development projects that are going to the wards. Mr. Speaker, how I wish that the County Executive can put a stringent measure on how we can raise the own-source revenue so that we meet and fulfill our budget as it has been planned.

They always say, Mr. Speaker, that don't fight, don't fight the House Committee before you come and speak with that House Committee. I want to believe that the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriation has really tried to put the Members on their toes on each and every step that has been taken, and I believe that we might all be having different opinions, but how I wish and request the members that in adopting, accepting to adopt or rejecting the report, please let us be factual, sober, and very real to the issues and the status where our County is.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to that report, let me acknowledge that in that the theme of this Budget Estimates for the next financial year was anchored on three things. The first one was on Pending Bills; and on paying the Pending Bills, and if you look at the report that has been given, we have allocated around Kshs 616,421,234 towards settling pending bills. Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Members, what's the importance of this?

Mr. Speaker, at least the importance of trying to settle pending bills that we have will be to restore the confidence of the contractors that are undertaking the projects that we have within our ward. We might be willing and wishing to have this amount reduced, and remember, if this is reduced, it will still affect those who are going to undertake the projects that we have in the wards. Number two; we have the new ward based projects of Kshs 700 million, which I believe that this House Committee tried so much to look for the funds so that we can have them considered.

Mr. Speaker, at least we are going to have Kshs 20 million each per ward for the new projects, and the Members were requested to forward their proposals, and the major focus again on this was on focusing on incomplete projects, at least to give value for the public resources that have been used in those projects. Mr. Speaker, I believe it will make sense if at least some coins of the public resources have been spent on a project, it's just worth it to have that project completed and functional so that the members of the county can see the value of the money that is used, and I believe that the departments have tried to include the incomplete projects, the stalled projects that were lying incomplete in the county, so that they can be completed and we have them running.

Again, we have some amount that have been allocated for the recruitment of ECD teachers, around 150 teachers, and that is Kshs 1,314,750. How I wish that this time around it's going to consider the facilities that are still lacking trainers and the ECD teachers, so that we can have all our ECD Centers with the teachers that are handling them. Then, Mr. Speaker, I just wish to remind the Members and the County at large that we only have one county and we need to focus on what can make us develop this county together. With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I second the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, now that the motion adoption of the report by the Select Committee on County Budget and Appropriations on the consideration of the Kisumu County Budget Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2025-2026 and the Medium Term has been moved by the Honourable Chairperson of the House Committee, seconded, as per our Standing Orders, I want to propose a question.

And I propose that the motion adoption of the report of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on its consideration of the Propose Kisumu County Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 2025-2026 and the Medium Term is open for debate.

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

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this report that has been read to us by one of our Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Joachim Oketch.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank this House Committee for giving us a report. Mr. Speaker, foremost, we have to contend with the fact that the report which has just been read is a negotiated document that all of us agree that we really tried to speak to it before it was prepared as a report to be brought to this House.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that not so many things could be included, but at least fair enough, we can say we already have what we have and I believe that we should be prepared to work with what we already have. Mr. Speaker, I belong, in fact, I'm the Vice Chairperson, Departmental Committee on for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development and I want to appreciate that this financial year, this department has been allocated about Kshs 1,124,609, 030 for various endevours to be done in this coming financial year.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that part of this money is going to somewhere I know and it is good to state that part of this money, Kshs 5 million is going to end up in the completion of Katito-Pap Onditi Municipality. So, I must count that as a positive step towards the right direction that has been taken. Mr. Speaker, further to that, in the same department, there are also allocated Kshs 75 million of which Kshs 15 million will end up in Katito Municipality to help run that municipality.

Mr. Speaker, what is important to note is that there is one person called Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso. He once said that “it is better to have a future where everyone drinks clean water than one where only a few drink champagne.”

Mr. Speaker, in all endeavors that we do here, we should ensure that it is the majority of this county that should be able to enjoy the proceeds of the finances that we have. Mr. Speaker, we are not badly off at this stage but how I pray that the financial year 2025-2026 will give us an indication of members of the public enjoying much of this budget.

Mr. Speaker, on the recruitment of ECD teachers, we have been given in this report that about 100 ECD teachers are going to be recruited and the provision has been made, Mr. Speaker, however what I would request is that let's endeavor to have maximum transparency in recruiting these teachers and, if possible, at the end of the exercise, the line House Committee should be able to provide to this House in terms of recruitment done per ward that is on how many ECD teachers have been recruited by each ward. Mr. Speaker, it is from that that reason that we will be able to give positive testimony on that recruitment that we are hoping to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, because I'm aware of the minutes I am supposed to take, the Procurement Process. As we go to pass this report, Mr. Speaker, the procurement process that is going to follow, I beg this House to candidly follow the procurement process that is going to take place because it is from there that we'll be able to even consume the little that we have been given to our wards that is Kshs 20 million each. It looks small, but it can be many or a bit sufficient if the procurement process will be done on time and that we have all our projects that have been listed to be done at the right time.

Mr. Speaker, we can even get that Kshs 20 million, but if the procurement is started next year like in the month of March or April, we will end up consuming Kshs 10 million or less than Kshs 10 million out of the Kshs 20 million we have been allocated.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore pray that moving forward, the procurement entity must be put on alert that we are going to immediately after the passing and all the processes as entailed in the procedures of budget, we are going to embark on the procurement issues and to ensure that procurement is done in earnest and at the earliest time possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Careen Odhiambo.

Hon. Careen (MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. Honourable Speaker, budget is a process and I will thank each and every one for their input towards the same process.

Honourable Speaker, this document was prepared by the County Executive and as our tradition, the departments appeared before various Departmental Committees and I believe each and everyone in this House belongs to a Departmental Committees. Honourable Speaker, by doing this, they were to come up with a departmental budget which is the best and also bearing in mind that we had a goal of getting Kshs 50 million plus per ward. This was done and the respective chairpersons during our meeting in Nairobi presented on behalf of the departments defending their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I want to inform this Honorable House that during that meeting, only two or three departments were able to deduct or to reduce the departmental budget towards our goal which was Kshs 50 million plus per ward. So, Honourable Speaker, if it was not possible during the committee meeting with the line department, then it could not be possible at the tail end that is during the budget and the Department of Finance and ICT and as the Chairpersons, we could not attain the Kshs 50 million plus. I want to ask this Honourable House to accept the Kshs 20 million per ward which this House Committee struggled to come up with because we got it after a very long struggle. We tried our best but we could not achieve our goal.

Number two, Honourable Speaker, I want to ask the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and ICT or Department of Finance to be clear while dealing with their Pending

Bills. There was a petition which was sent over to the Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, we requested for the list of companies, the amounts owed, the projects, in total we wanted them broken down in the Pending Bill so that even if we allocate some amount to clear the Pending Bill, we know at this point we are at this stage and then after some time this is the amount we pay to such a company and then this is the balance. As a House Committee we are yet to receive that list, Honourable Speaker. So, if we are not careful, we'll be giving this department a blank cheque every financial year and we will still remain with the Pending Bills menace.

Honourable Speaker, I want to urge this Honourable House that the document before us is a good one. Let us pass it and move us at a county. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honorable Sammy Onyango.

Hon. Onyango (MCA, Railways): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank this House Committee for the report they have given us. Mr. Speaker, I'm only concerned about the projects that were rolled-over. Mr. Speaker, this House has not been furnished with a list of Roll-over Projects. So it's like we are again allocating a blank cheque to the Department of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, if this department cannot even account for the pending bill, Mr. Speaker, so I would request the Committee Chairpersons and the Members that before we pass this budget, let this House be furnished with a list of roll-over projects. Unless, Mr. Speaker, if we don't have the list of rollover projects, I believe that, it will be a mess because going to convince the department that this one was a rollover project, and this is a new project without a list, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it will be a tall order. So, I request the Members that, we accept the Kshs 20 million allocated to Wards. So, nothing is new. But on the rollover projects, let us be furnished with the list. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Chief Whip.

The Chief Whip (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to commend my able Chairperson, Honourable Swagger, and the Vice-Chairperson, and the Honorable Members of this House Committee, for having worked so hard to present to this House a report today for consideration by the Honorable Members.

Mr. Speaker, my concern in this budget, or in the successive budget in the previous years, because now as a ranking member, I have experience in budget matters, going by what has been read to us in this House, in the successive years, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my concern is on our Own-Source Revenue. I was consulting my Chairperson and asking him what was our revenue projection in the last financial year.

The Chairperson informed me that it was around Kshs 3.5 billion. And currently, what we have collected as a county from our sources is Kshs 1.8 billion, which means we have a deficit of almost Kshs 2 billion, which will be rolled over to, as Honourable Sammy states, to the pending bills. I believe that, we will not cure this, we will not even attract more money as far as the Equitable Share is concerned, because equitable share, I believe, is dispersed according to what you realized as a county.

Mr. Speaker, we have failed on this, which means as a county, we will be having problems over and over. I want to encourage the Members because I have seen members complain that, oh, our own-source revenue is not very attractive. But you will find that in each and every ward in markets, people are not paying rates, market charges, and then you expect development in those areas. How will we develop if you don't collect money in those revenue streams? And some of the wards, you are very unfair to us, especially those wards in town.

Mr. Speaker, you will find that Market/Milimani Ward, which produces more, is getting Kshs 20 million against a ward which is producing nothing. But we have agreed so because we want this, so that the Kisumu County to develop equitably. We want Kisumu County to develop because Market Milimani Ward is developed, Kondele is developed. However, you will find that what Market Milimani Ward, or Kondele Ward, or Kaloleni-Shaurimoyo realizes in a single day is more than what a ward produces in a single financial year. In a single day, yet we are getting Kshs 20 million. But we are just quiet on it because we want Kisumu County to develop.

So, I want to ask the Honourable members, go down to the markets, go down to your areas, and ask the people to pay charges to the county so that we develop.

(Hon. Members rise on Point of Orders)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I noticed so many on Points of Orders. But I want to go with the seniority and I give the Honourable Nereah Okombo as the Deputy Speaker to raise her Point of Order first.

Hon. Okombo (MCA, Manyatta "A"): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am rising on a Statement of Facts that, Honourable Speaker, it's a fact that the Honourable members of this House have three primary roles. Number one, we are Representatives of the people, two, is to Legislate and three, we Oversight. I don't know at what point these members became revenue collectors. Mr. Speaker, the fact that I want to raise here is that the Honourable member, Honourable Seth Ochieng Kanga, is complaining of members lamenting. He's the first person to lament here.

Mr. Speaker, the member was also lamenting here. But as members, could we have something like a legislation to monitor instead of lamenting and accusing other members for not going down to collect revenue? If Honourable Seth Ochieng Kanga is collecting revenue in Milimani, then we need to know who gave him that authority to collect revenue and again inform this House how much the member has collected for this financial year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Seth Ochieng Kanga, the Floor is yours.

The Chief Whip (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that, the Honourable member interpreted my remarks out of context. Mr. Speaker, at no point did I mention that the Honourable member should go and collect revenue. Mr. Speaker, I am a ranking member in this House and when I contribute, I contribute within the confines of the law. Mr. Speaker, we are opinion leaders.

Everybody is an opinion leader here. Everybody is a leader. I informed this House that, even if we want to meet this projected target of Kshs 3.5 million, we should encourage our members, our residents to pay rates to the county government and I stick by that, Mr. Speaker. If we don't encourage our people, Honourable Okoyo, if you inform your people today to stop paying taxes to the county government, Mr. Okoyo, they will not pay. I am only urging you and the Honourable members to encourage the residents of Kisumu County to pay taxes to the County Government so that we do development in our irrespective wards.

Mr. Speaker, if we pay taxes, these wards will attract more than Kshs 20 million because I pity some Honourable members. If you transverse those wards, Mr. Speaker, you will find that those wards are in dire need of development. But we cannot develop, Mr. Speaker, if our residents don't pay taxes. And I insist on that. And I have no apologies to make on that. Even if you remove me from this position of the Whip, I will repeat this crusade over and over.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Kisumu County must pay taxes in order to meet this target of Kshs 3.5 million. And if we meet the target of Kshs 3.5 million, sorry for, thank you for the correction, Honourable Okoyo. And if we meet the target, Mr. Speaker, you know, in disbursement, what you realize, as a county you will be given more. They score what? Commission for Revenue Allocation (CRA) will consider us by allocating the county more funds because we have met our projected revenue targets. That is my reason, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, similarly, what I want to say is that, as a House Committee we tried and ensure that ward is allocated Kshs 20 million, which I believe is still minimal. Going by the interest of this ward. But for now, Mr. Speaker, I will urge the Members to pass this budget, because the deficit, even in our budget, Mr. Speaker, as far as pending bills are concerned, is too much. We are not able to meet our revenue targets.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that members are very bitter, because I see the face of Honourable James Omollo and Honourable Bill. Members are not happy, but I am just urging you, Honourable members, let us pass this budget, for posterity and protection of our country. Otherwise, thank you, and thank you very much.

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

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and thank you so much for this moment. Foremost, I want to thank the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee for bringing us this report. Of importance, Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy that the Bursary Fund has been allocated Kshs 305 million. I was a very worried man when I was informed that, after we passed the Supplementary Estimates in this fiscal year, this ending today, there was a mess-up, and we didn't have enough funds to give our students, and the President of this country has given authority to incur for our Bursary Fund.

Mr. Speaker, it is good that this House Committee saw it wise, to add an additional Kshs 100 million on the Bursary Fund, and the Kshs 205 million for this coming fiscal year effective tomorrow. Mr. Speaker, when we educate the electorates, our children, for future, then we stand to prosper as a county and that is a very big step. Mr. Speaker, also of importance is the recruitment of ECD teachers. We are going to employ 150 more after doing the 100 ECD teachers this ending fiscal year. That is a big progress for this county. Mr. Speaker, this is because some of our wards have so many centers. For example, my ward, I have 28 ECD centers. Up to now, we still have ECD centers which have non-county staff.

I have two, and I believe that some other wards also still don't have ECD teachers. So, getting an additional 150 ECD teachers for this county, this would mean that all our centers, the 600 and plus, would have ECD teachers who are paid by the county. And that's a big step in the right direction as a county.

Mr. Speaker, Devolution came to give ease to our people, so that our parents who are paying Kshs 50, Kshs 100 to the ECD teachers, which have been given work by the Boards of Managements, can now relax.

Mr. Speaker, of much concern is not even about the Kshs 20 million per ward. It's about the Procurement Process of this county. This ending fiscal year, what happens should not repeat itself, Mr. Speaker? We started procuring in February, and ending it in June 30th today. Some of the projects have not even started.

Mr. Speaker, this list of roll-over projects for all our Honorable members, Mr. Speaker, this should be made available so that we are sure which projects are rolled over. If we just pass the budget without knowing which projects in each ward, on the 35 wards, are rolled over, then we will go to the department and they will start tell us that, those project got lost somewhere, and there is no implementation, and we will start crying again over our Kshs 20 million in the previous year. So, that list must be available to the Honorable members so that we know for sure that, as we are passing this Budget Estimates, it contains the rolled-over projects for the this coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendation by the Chairperson, Budget Committee is, and this House Committee is good in terms of ensuring that we cure this. They have proposed that the

Procurement Process to commence immediately, as soon as possible, and end in December 2025. That would be the best. So, that by January, every contractor is on the ground. By February, March, April, everyone is being paid. By June next year, everything is done and everyone goes home very happy, and every citizen of this county has gotten the service they deserve as a people of this county. Mr. Speaker, as decision makers, we should be firm on that, so that we make sure that projects are rolled over, even for this year that we are talking about.

Mr. Speaker, on the Quarterly Reports, it is my belief that, each sector should get quarterly reports on the implementations of these projects, so that we are at par with the departments. You will find that department X will really relax without getting this quarterly report. We won't know when and where they are implementing those projects.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, on the Pending Bills, in the year 2022-23 fiscal year? We passed a budget in this House of Kshs1.6 billion, and the Governor, pleaded with us that in the Supplementary, then we should not touch that for the purpose of Pending Bills. Up to now, Mr. Speaker, we still accrue so much in terms of pending bills, and if we request each sector, each department to bring a clear picture of what pending bills they have accrued, it's not coming out clearly. So I believe that on that note, Mr. Speaker, we also request, as we clear the pending bills, let us have them. They are done in our wards. I know what was done, even if it was done in 2015, I am aware, as a legislator or a representative of the people, every one of us here who represent the ward is sure and knows which projects were done when and if.

Mr. Speaker, if it is in the list of pending bills as a valid payment, we validate and we pay them, so that we reduce pending bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support.

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

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Mr. Speaker, today before us we have a budget for Kisumu County to pass, so that……

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

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering now that in the membership of this House, there's a new member called Nyang', could Hon. Benny Pete Oiko help me identifying this Nyang', because I've never met him.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Oiko Pete, did you mention the name Nyang'?

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Honourable Speaker, you know there are traditions which become formalized and when they are quoted, they should not be taken as an offense. It is a common knowledge in Kenya, Mr. Speaker, that Seth Ochieng Kanga a.k.a Adui Nyang' is well known with that name. So, I don't know what is disturbing my friend. That is only what I referred to, to make my speech laughable, and you had the members laughing.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Benny Oiko, you've changed to Adui Nyang', I was informed that you said Nyang', I didn't hear it, but you know you have five minutes, so please work on it.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Mr. Speaker, today we are looking at the budget of Kisumu County, a very important document for us and the whole county, and we have being looked at what is it that we are passing, Mr. Speaker. In this document today, the total budget is about Kshs 15.5 billion, that is the budget we are going to pass today. There are also other matters addressed on this in other meetings, but of interest today, Mr. Speaker, is the Kshs 5.8 billion for development. When you go through this record, Mr. Speaker, there is nowhere indicated that the development projects are tabulated to Kshs 5.8, which is very crucial. We should understand the developments that are going to be done, they should be tabulated, so that we see.

Mr. Speaker, like the assumption in this record is the Kshs 20 million allocated per ward, which will amount to Kshs. 700 million. What the Grants are going to do, is not tabulated here. And let me give you an example. Mr. Speaker, let's go to page 18, under the Department of Finance. The department of Finance has a budget of Kshs 1,195,098,132. When you look at the narration given, Kshs 448,821,780 is for Insurance Cost, Kshs 60 million is for Revenue Mobilization, Kshs 21,276,352 is for Budget Formulation and Coordination, and there is Kshs 150 million for Emergency Relief and Response. When you total those figures, they come to Kshs 680,098,132, leaving a deficit of Kshs 515 million, which we don't know what they are going to do with. When a budget is brought hanging that way, and we simply pass, what message are we passing to our people of Kisumu County?

Mr. Speaker, above that, there is the Department of Public Service, County Administration, and Participatory Development, where Disaster has been allocated Kshs 30 million, and Emergency under the Department of Finance is allocated Kshs 150 million. Mr. Speaker, we know the problems of disaster in this county, but the big matter there is the deficit of Kshs 515 million, which is not explained, Mr. Speaker.

(The Chief Whip interjects with a Point of Order)

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

The Chief Whip (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House and equally inform the Honourable Oiko Pete, for purposes of record. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Oiko Pete was co-opted into the Budget Committee as an expert, and the Chairperson will attest to that. But, the Honourable Oiko Pete failed to attend the meeting in Mombasa, so that he could ask the relevant questions he is asking in this House, so that the Budget, the Departmental Committee, or the Finance Department could respond appropriately to

them. Now, when the report is read, and he failed to attend the meeting that was held in Mombasa, the member is presenting these questions to the Budget Committee.

While I believe these questions he is responding to, were responded appropriately in Mombasa. The Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson, it is my belief that Honourable Nereah was there, Honourable Alando, Honourable Adega, Honourable Sammy failed to attend. Thank you.

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

Hon. Okombo (MCA, Manyatta "A"): Mr. Speaker, please allow me. That Honourable Speaker, I said here on the Floor of the House that the Budget Committee forwarded a copy of the Proposed Budget Estimate. The estimates were shared long enough for Honorable members to make amendments and forward it to the Speaker at least 24 hours before this sitting for any necessary amendments.

Honourable members, I request that we be objective. If we have any amendments that we feel are very vital for this particular budget, then let us do it objectively so that they can be of help. But making comments without proper recommendations forwarded for discussion, then Mr. Speaker, I think we are just talking. So, Mr. Speaker, maybe the Honourable House can request, if the Speaker can give leave, under Standing Order No. 1, for Honourable Members to submit their amendments right now for discussion, then that will help instead of lamenting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Onyango rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Nereah, your point is home.

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

Hon. Onyango (MCA, Railways): Mr. Speaker, I just want to inform the House that I was in Nairobi and I was denied a chance to speak by the Deputy Speaker. That's why I left.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Members, you know the time of Honourable Oiko. The Floor is for Honourable Oiko.

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

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil Tamu): Mr. Speaker, I just want to inform the House and the Senior Member Whip, that he should know, or we should know that the Department of Finance, never appeared before the relevant House Committee to defend their budget. And they had a budget of Kshs 1 billion. And whatever Honourable Oiko has stated, it means that even the Member of Budget himself here, he was not in the meeting to inform us the truth what happened. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, let us not give replies on behalf of the Chairperson. The Chairperson is there. I'm sure he's taking notes. He will be able to reply appropriately. So, it is my belief that each member will get time to speak. Even if Honourable Oiko is saying something that you don't like. Just listen to him. And when your time comes, you can debunk whatever he has said.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Onditi, what is it?

Hon. Onditi (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just thinking aloud from the sentiment raised by the so-called Ranking Member, the Chief Whip. Does it mean that if you are co-opted, or if you are a member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, when the matter comes to the Floor of the House, you are gagged so you cannot raise any further matter? This is because, that is what the Whip trying to imply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I have given direction here that if a Member is on the Floor contributing, please give them time to conclude. Give the Member time to air their views, and then you can get time to respond. I mean to debunk whatever he or she is saying. If you have spoken, you can whisper to your neighbor who has not spoken. I believe that by doing that we can move. I don't want to gag Honourable Oiko. So, Honourable Oiko, you still have some two minutes.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Mr. Speaker, I thought that, I was accorded twenty minutes. So, Honourable House, we now need to address this, or overlook it. But it is the truth. The Kshs 700 million allocated for the wards, minus Kshs 5.8 billion, what billion is the balance? And what is it going to do? The work is, the honest is with the Members to discuss that.

Mr. Speaker, the another matter, is the issue of the Pending Bill. I've gone through this record, I've not seen where the pending bill is listed. Though, when you are going through the Budget, there was the picture that the total Pending Bill that was raised by the Departments was about Kshs 668 million. We have not been informed the total pending bill that was verified and given to the Departments. What the Departments recommended for payment and the outstanding balance and that includes pending bills that were not verified, that are still to be looked into.

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of these figures that is why, since this government came to power, the matter of pending bill has become thorny issue. Mr. Speaker, there are records in this county. When the current Minister for Finance assumed office, there was a list of pending bill that was given to him. From that time, the record of pending bill disappeared. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT has raised that matter here. And it is common knowledge that the Department is reluctant to give this Assembly such records. When the figures are not given, I wonder what we are discussing on pending bills. So, Mr. Speaker, it is upon the members to pass this Estimate because today is the last day. But when you also go through this record, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works has listed some

projects here. We want to hear from the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee why these roads are listed here. Are they also going to be done or they appeared by mistake?

Mr. Speaker, I hope the matter of recruitment of ECD will not come back to haunt us now that we are passing that 150 ECD teachers be recruited. And with the kind of picture I have given, Mr. Speaker, on my side, since Kshs 5.8 billion is not tabulated in this record, Mr. Speaker, it will be difficult to continue interrogating this record because those records are not submitted. The House is seeing the reaction. And so, Mr. Speaker, I so submit. The House is seeing the reaction.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Vincent Jagongo.

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, mine will be brief. First, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Chairperson and the team for a job well done. Mr. Speaker, I have a few concerns.

One, Mr. Speaker, is the implementation of projects, we can take our good time here and pass a good budget with a lot of projects within our wards. And if these projects are not implemented, it will be of no help to us as members of this Assembly. So mine is just to urge the County Executive to ensure that all the projects that are passed in this House are implemented. Two, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the Pending Bills. Mr. Speaker, our men and women are doing some good work getting jobs within the county government, doing these jobs, and then they and they end up not being paid. Mr. Speaker, this culture of not paying contractors should end. Let us find the best way to handle the issue of pending bills. Now that in this budget we have money meant for pending bills, at least each and every department has allocated some money meant for settling pending bills. Let these contractors be paid so that when they pick up on other jobs, they have money to implement those projects.

Three, Mr. Speaker, is on the issue of recruitment of ECD teachers. The last recruitment of ECD teachers that was done, they were not fairly distribution. There are wards that did not get the recruited ECD teachers. Let this time the 150 teachers be distributed equally within the wards within Kisumu County. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that as we speak, the national government has disbursed all the money for counties. Let this money be used to clear the pending bills. Otherwise, thank you. I stand to support the report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I had promised to give Honourable Bill, I know you are senior to Honourable Alandoh, however, I promised to give Honourable Alandoh.

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

Hon. Alandoh (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Foremost, I wish to sincerely thank the Budget and Appropriations Committee for their efforts in

preparing a balanced budget without a deficit. Since the beginning of this term, we have consistently passed balanced budgets in this House. However, by the end of each financial year, we are still faced with pending bills. The question then arises: Where is the loophole?

Mr. Speaker, could the issue be our ambitious Own-Source Revenue Projections? Are we overestimating figures that cannot realistically be achieved? As my colleague, Honourable Seth Kanga, rightly pointed out, many of our market centers are not generating revenue as they should. He went on to imply—albeit unintentionally—that Members are to blame for this under-collection.

Mr. Speaker, while the member later clarified that this was not his intention, the suggestion was clearly made. The reality is that this county has the potential to collect even more revenue than what is currently projected. This indicates a failure in the responsible department. I believe the leadership in the Department of Finance must take swift and decisive action and ensure mechanisms are put in place to achieve these projections.

Mr. Speaker, considering the size of our county's workforce and the substantial Wage Bill, one must wonder what some of these employees are actually doing if we are still struggling with revenue collection. The Department of Finance must take responsibility, and this House deserves a clear account of what each staff member is assigned to do. The wage bill is unnecessarily high, yet significant revenue remains untapped. We should not be shifting blame among ourselves or suggesting that Members from revenue-generating areas are at fault. It is not the role of MCAs to collect revenue. Our constitutional responsibilities are representation, legislation, and oversight.
Mr. Speaker, I therefore urge that the leadership in the Department of Finance be held accountable. If they are unable to perform their duties effectively, then corrective measures must be taken.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, as the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Blue Economy, I have repeatedly raised concern over the consistent underfunding of the Agricultural Sector. Today, however, I wish to appreciate this House Committee for allocating additional resources to the department. While we have not yet reached the desired 10% threshold as recommended, this increase is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the additional funding, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Blue Economy has initiated an e-Voucher Subsidy Programme, which will be rolled out across all 35 wards. Mr. Speaker, the community has long lamented the lack of visible impact from the agriculture sector. This time, agriculture programs will be implemented in every ward.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the department, as they roll out these activities, to work closely with the respective Ward Representatives. It is essential that the area MCA be consulted and fully briefed on the specific projects to be undertaken in their ward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker — and kindly protect me…

(The Chief Whip rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Chief Whip.

The Chief Whip (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Mr. Speaker, the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture , Livestock Development, Fisheries and Blue Economy Honourable Eunice Alandoh, is misleading the residents of Kisumu County by claiming that agricultural activities are being implemented across all 35 wards, including Market Milimani Ward.

Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Chairperson table any documentation or verifiable evidence to support the claim that agricultural programs are active in Market/Milimani Ward? The residents of Market Milimani are watching and listening, they deserve clarity.

Again, can the Chairperson point to even a single project or initiative currently underway in the ward as part of the said agriculture rollout?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Chief Whip, but I saw some cows next to my house.

The Chief Whip (Hon. Kanga, MCA, Market/Milimani): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If, indeed, there are cows being seen within the town, then as someone mandated to conduct oversight within the legal framework governing our city, I must say — such animals should be apprehended. The law clearly prohibits the rearing of livestock within urban areas.

Mr. Speaker, I am left wondering what the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Administration of Law, Justice and Constitutional Affairs is doing, because this matter falls squarely within their purview. We are the lawmakers in this county, and we must uphold the law we enact. If cows are roaming in town, then this House Committee, the County Government, and the enforcement department are failing in their duties. Mr. Speaker, I must also state on record that I have never seen a single cow in Market/Milimani Ward — there are no cows there. Thank you.

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

Hon. Alandoh (Nominated MCA): Mr. Speaker, I believe….

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order!! What is it Honourable Ochele.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to concur with the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. It would be misleading to completely dismiss the presence of agricultural activities within the city. Mr. Speaker, as one walks through various estates, it is evident that kitchen gardens are well established and actively maintained. I am not sure how the Honourable Member wishes to categorize them, but the truth is — kitchen and store gardens are present in many residences across the city.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, if you visit the lakeshores in the evening, you'll find people engaging in fishing activities. If you have the means, you can walk away with fresh tilapia. This too is part of agriculture. While the scale may not compare to what we see in areas like East Kano Wawidhi, it is still fair to say that agriculture is practiced within Market/Milimani Ward.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that it is not within the mandate of the Chairperson Departmental Committee on Administration of Law, Justice and Constitutional Affairs to physically arrest cows, as was suggested by the Honourable Chief Whip. Should there be credible information that cattle are roaming within the city, the proper procedure would be for that concerns to be brought before this House in the form of a formal Statement. The Chairperson would then be expected to act on that matter accordingly.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, to suggest that the Chairperson is not doing his work is unfair. I respectfully request that the Honourable Chief Whip consider withdrawing that statement and offer an apology. Thank you.

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

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order! Chief Whip. Please resume your seat.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, we have minimal time in terms of dealing with the Budget and the approval of the Kisumu County Appropriations Bill, 2025. I saw two Members on their feet, I do not know if they are on a Point of orders or not. No contribution, I want Honourable Alandoh to first conclude before I give another Member.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okoyo, are you on a Point of order or do you want to continue?

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, just a rejoinder on what...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I will not allow you to speak now, you will get your time, and put that rejoinder.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Maurice Ngeta, what is it?

Hon. Ngeta (MCA, Awasi/Onjiko): Mr. Speaker, a point of correction, Mr. Speaker, maybe...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta, if you want to contribute, and you have not yet spoken, I promise to give you time. Write it somewhere, you will combine it with your time.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Alandoh, please conclude.

Hon. Alandoh (Nominated Member): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform Honourable members, especially those representing urban areas, that agriculture is not limited to rural settings — we also have urban agriculture. If you have not yet introduced it to your constituents, it's important to be aware that urban agriculture is a growing practice.

Many residents within the town are engaged in activities such as poultry farming and small-scale horticulture. Therefore, Honourable members should familiarize themselves with these practices so that when the department visits your ward, you are able to propose practical and relevant initiatives for implementation. Mr. Speaker, if this is embraced, urban agriculture can contribute significantly to food security and improve our revenue base through the outputs generated from these farms. With that, Mr. Speaker, I fully support this budget. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Habil Nyasuna. Sorry, I am seeing the Deputy Leader Majority is on his feet. Let me give the Honourable Deputy Leader Majority, then Honourable Habil. You will be next.

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

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing leadership. Foremost, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Budget and Appropriations Committee, ably chaired by Honourable Joachim, for a commendable job. As he often reminds us, a budget is a negotiated document. While we may not have achieved 100%, I believe we have surpassed the pass mark — we are comfortably above 60%. The remaining 40% is an opportunity for learning and improvement, so that next time we can aim for 80%, 90%, or even 100%.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to raise a concern. I am currently in possession of two documents. One specifically outlines projects for South Eastern Nyakach, the ward I represent. The other bears the same title but lacks project details. This contradiction is confusing, and I trust my Chairperson will look into the matter and provide clarification.

Now, on the contentious issue of Ward Projects: Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that the ongoing friction surrounding Ward projects can be resolved if we begin planning early. The problem is that discussions often start too late in the budgeting process. My proposal is that the County Executive and the Assembly find a common ground early on in the budgeting cycle. For example, if the budget allocation for Ward development is Ksh. 100 million or even Ksh. 50 million, let the Assembly first propose how this amount should be distributed across wards. The County Executive can then review and possibly enhance the proposal. Once consensus is reached, we will all know which specific allocations are included per ward. This would eliminate the confusion and complaints members raise when they discover that what they requested was not captured.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that sometimes, even before we make our requests, the County Executive has already included some of the projects in the budget. That's why early engagement between both arms of government is essential. I encourage Honourable members to be more proactive so that we resolve this matter at the right time.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me also to address the issue of Roll-over Projects. Mr. Speaker, the rollover projects approach is still at a pilot stage, and while it has potential, we are beginning to observe inconsistencies — a kind of "cat and mouse" situation. Information on which specific Ward projects are being rolled over is not always made clear. We have often passed budgets only to be informed later that certain projects were not included due to rollovers. I support the members who have insisted that all rollover projects must be clearly indicated ward by ward before we pass the budget. In my own Ward, some projects appear to be rolled over, while others are not — and I do not know whether this budget has factored them in. Mr. Speaker, it is essential that Members be fully informed of all rollovers in their respective Wards.

Mr. Speaker, on the matter of Revenue Collection: Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation with someone who served as the last Municipal Executive Officer before devolution — the former Mayor. He informed me that by the time he left office, the municipality was collecting nearly the same amount of revenue we are collecting today — yet back then, the rates were much lower. Today, the rates have doubled or even tripled, yet we are not meeting or surpassing the collection levels of prior years' of 2012. Something is clearly not working within our current municipal system.

Mr. Speaker, since we are now dealing with the entire County, I propose that we explore a model of revenue decentralization. Let municipalities have autonomy over their Own Revenue Collection. Grant them incentives to encourage efficiency and allow a certain percentage of the collected revenue to remain within the municipality to motivate performance. This would also help us assess which municipalities are performing well and contributing meaningfully to County revenue — including the City of Kisumu. Mr. Speaker, if we do this, we will enhance transparency, boost collections, and ease the burden of supervising revenue collectors. Thank you.

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

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Deputy Leader of Majority of this House is a Member of both the Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT and the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations. Given his position, some of the remarks he is making are quite inappropriate. As a Member of those House Committee, he is expected to have first-hand information on matters of revenue collection and budget formulation. It is not just about making general statements — he holds a position of influence and has access to the relevant data. Therefore, instead of casting blame or making unfounded censures, I urge the member to focus on the budget at hand and share his informed perspective with the House.
The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Deputy Leader of Majority.

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member must appreciate that our role in this House is not only to identify challenges but also to offer solutions and chart a way forward where we have fallen short. I earlier stated that we have achieved about 60 to 70 percent of our goals. My focus is on the remaining 30 to 40 percent, which represents areas that still need improvement. That is the purpose of my remarks — to suggest corrective measures so we can move closer to achieving 100 percent.

Honourable Member, we came into this House to make a difference — to improve upon what our predecessors could not achieve. That is the spirit of my contribution, and I hope you take it as a constructive challenge. I believe you stand advised and corrected in good faith.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Chief Whip also raised valid concerns regarding Revenue Collection. It is our duty as elected leaders to go back to our people — particularly the traders — and educate them on how their revenue is used. We must make them aware that the projects being implemented, and which we oversee, are funded by the taxes and levies collected from them.

Once they understand that the money collected from them directly supports development — whether it's improving market infrastructure, building toilets, or other public amenities — they will feel a sense of ownership. This, Mr. Speaker, is what civic education is all about. When the public is involved, they become our allies — our watchman — in ensuring that revenue is properly collected. This would go a long way in improving our own-source revenue.

Mr. Speaker, we must also be firm on Enforcement. Revenue officers who are found to be misappropriating or mismanaging collections should face strict penalties to serve as a deterrent to others. This will help us close the gaps caused by pilferage and improve accountability.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me to also raise concern regarding the Delay in Payments to Contractors. If you visit Prosperity House today, you will see long queues of contractors who completed their work months ago — some as far back as February — but are yet to be paid. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Every contractor who completes a project and submits the necessary documentation should be paid promptly. Unfortunately, delays seem to be deliberate, resulting in unnecessary accumulation of pending bills. Money was budgeted as early as June or July, the work was done in December or February, and yet payments are withheld until the last minute. Then those who finish in May are pushed into the next financial year — further compounding the problem of Pending Bills.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable members, we must address this recurring issue with urgency. Timely payment will restore faith in the system and allow us to manage our finances more effectively.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, while we are here today to pass the budget, we must acknowledge that it contains several errors and inconsistencies. Only three departments — Health, the City, and Finance — have appeared before their respective House Committees for proper interrogation. Even our own County Assembly budget has not been thoroughly scrutinized. Despite this, we are proceeding to pass the budget. I urge Members to remain vigilant, honest, and committed to doing what is right. Let us ensure that the budgets we approve going forward are credible, transparent, and serve the true needs of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to contribute.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Habil Nyasuna.

Hon. Nyasuna (MCA, Masogo/Nyangoma): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have patiently waited for this opportunity. As you know, I am not a frequent contributor in this House, so when you see me rise to speak, it means I am genuinely motivated and eager to make a contribution. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I kindly request that you prioritize giving me the floor whenever I rise to speak. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): But, Honourable Habil I have given you the opportunity,

Hon. Nyasuna (MCA, Masogo/Nyangoma): Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. All Honourable Members here, when campaigning for office, make promises to their constituents centered on development projects. That is the foundation of our engagement with the people we represent.

Mr. Speaker, I have been reflecting on a decision we made in the previous Assembly — we agreed to reduce the number of projects in order to prioritize the payment of pending bills. I went back to my constituents and explained to them that we were scaling down on new projects so that the existing pending bills could be cleared, with the promise that in the following financial year, we would start afresh with a clean slate.

Mr. Speaker, that commitment was made on the Floor of this House. We were meant to begin the next financial year with a new budget and no carryover obligations. Yet today, we are being asked to approve another budget without being furnished with the list of pending bills. This raises an important question: when will we receive this list of pending bills? We need to verify these obligations, especially because many of the contractors involved are people we know — our brothers and sisters. With a proper list, we could confirm that a contractor completed a project in a particular ward and has yet to be paid. But when we approve the budget without such clarity, we are essentially giving a blank cheque, and the cycle of pending bills continues.

Mr. Speaker, I was allocated Ksh. 20 million to implement projects in my ward. However, I'm struggling to understand how to appropriate that amount meaningfully — particularly in a ward without even basic roads. Constructing one rural road costs over Ksh. 5 million and I have more than ten roads that need urgent attention. This allocation simply does not meet the reality on the ground.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that before we pass this budget, we be provided with the full list of pending bills. This will help us verify and ensure that the funds earmarked for pending payments are actually directed to the rightful contractors. Additionally, the issue of rollover projects remains unclear. In my ward, I have no information on which projects are being rolled over. How can we, in good conscience, pass a budget without knowing which projects are complete, which are paid for, and which are being carried forward?

Mr. Speaker, I have also heard that a number of projects implemented during the current financial year have not been paid for. If that is true, are they going to be rolled over again? Or are they simply going to become new pending bills? Mr. Speaker, these are genuine concerns, and I am appealing for your guidance on how we should proceed. Thank you.

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

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First, allow me to acknowledge my brother, Honourable Tom Onditi, whom I deeply respect. We are working tirelessly to ensure he earns a second term in this House. That is why, Mr. Speaker, we are taking this budget process very seriously.

Mr. Speaker, let me take Honourable Members back to when we were discussing the 2024/2025 Budget during our engagement with the County Executive at the Bondo Pride Hotel. During that session, members collectively acknowledged that our Own-Source Revenue had been significantly overestimated. Despite that, in good faith, we advised the County Executive to proceed and commit to all planned projects with the understanding that, in the next financial year, we would review the revenue performance and accommodate any unpaid projects accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, if you recall, at that time, our Own-Source Revenue was projected at Ksh. 3.8 billion. However, according to the latest financial reports — and I must express my disappointment that the Deputy Majority Leader, who is a Member of the Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT, is not present — it was reported that only about Ksh. 1.8 billion has been collected so far this financial year. That means we are facing a shortfall of Ksh. 2 billion in committed projects, which remain unpaid unless factored into the new budget.

Mr. Speaker, we must be fair to our contractors. It is unfortunate that we engaged them to undertake work despite knowing that the funds were not available at the time. We made a promise to pay them — a promise that must now be honored in this financial year. I understand and agree with the concern that an allocation of Ksh. 20 million per ward for new projects is insufficient. However, Mr. Speaker, we must strike a balance. It would be grossly unfair for us to benefit from the work of contractors in this financial year, and then turn around and deny them payment in the next. We must remain true to our word and ensure that these pending commitments are honored.

Mr. Speaker, for these contractors to be paid, we have to factor them in in this Financial Year. And that is how we come up with the rollover mechanism. Whether we like it or not, we know that in this current Financial Year, we have a budget deficit of Kshs. 2 billion on own-source revenue that we cannot and we will not collect. Honourable Members, coming this Financial Year…

(Hon. Oraro Kelvin rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Oraro, what is your Point of Order?

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Member is talking as if he is the County Executive Committee Member for Finance. Can the member even list for us even one project that he is very sure that has been taken to the rollover. When he contributes that, he contributes fairly.

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Honourable members, you know that is the disadvantage when you are not keen on documents that are being brought to the Assembly. And I am saying this with a lot of fairness. This is because, the Departments forwards to this Assembly Quarterly Financial Statement for us to peruse and get information. We have the budget for the last Financial Year. The Quarterly Financial Statement shows us the performance in terms of our revenue collection in this House and we need to make a decision on them. You do not need to be a County Executive Committee Member to get that information. Some of us who can access internet, just go to Controller of Budget Reports. You will get all this information that we are talking about. This is because; these are the information we need when we are passing the budget estimates.

Honourable Members, coming to this budget of the Financial Year, I want to acknowledge the Chairperson and the committee Members of the budget. It was hard, but we agreed that we needed new projects in this Financial Year.

However little it was, we needed new projects, if you compare those two years in terms of Own-Source Revenue Collection, given that we only collected Kshs.1.8 billion last year, so even this year, going beyond Kshs. 2 billion would be a lot of effort. So, if you add the Own-Source Revenue of this year, next year, we are estimating at around Kshs. 4 billion. And yet, in our projection of revenue for the two Financial Years, we are close to realize seven point something billion. So, the two years, if things were to work normally, we would be having a budget deficit of close to Kshs. 3 billion but that is what we are trying to do.

Honourable member, I want to thank you. We are looking into the interest of contractors. We cannot proceed having them do jobs that we are sure that they are not going to be paid. It would be unfair for us to put projects in this Financial Year that contractors will not get money for, because we cannot collect enough money. That takes me to what the Honourable Member for Market /Milimani with money talked about. Let us talk about it. I have seen campaigns at the national level by Kenya Revenue Authority. *"Kulipa ushuru, ni kujitegemea"*

Mr. Speaker, it is my considered opinion that, this is a campaign that we should also bring here. If people expect to have a floodlight working, a road maintained like we are going to do in this budget estimate, bridges, their children being taught in school by qualified teachers, drugs in our hospitals, then we also have a responsibility to play, and that is to pay the levies and the tax that the County Government is suggesting. Honourable Members, I want to thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to many conversations in this House, and we are accepting that we need the recruitment of ECDE teachers. I had explained at the committee level, I had explained at the budget level, and allow me to explain at the Assembly level, that when we were coming to the last Financial Year, there were several schools that did not have ECDE teachers, and that's why we proposed to have 200 teachers recruited, so that each and every center of the 653 centers in this County can have at least one ECDE teacher. I remember so well in Honourable James Omollo's Ward, we were having so many ECDE centers, and he agrees with me, that we need to have teachers employed by the County Government. Right now, we can report that the numbers have reduced, given the 100 recruitments that were done this year. Honourable Members, if you are talking about rollover, we had projected totaling to 200, we are also rolling over only 100, and we are requesting an additional 50. That is what is making them 150.

In this 150, we are trying to make sure that each and every class of pre-primary should have at least a teacher. We cannot have one teacher per center teaching 300 kids, 100 in PP1, and maybe 200 in PP2. It is not fair to our little children. That is one of the devolved functions that we were given as counties to do. Making those ECDE teachers at least one per class does not still meet the required ratio of teacher to pupil, which should be 1 to 25. You will find that one classroom is having 70 kids, another is having 100, but we are just requesting that at least those 100 kids should not be in school without a teacher as we are passing this budget.
Honourable members, I implore on you that we do this. I want to thank the Budget and Appropriations Committee that we have also rolled over the Bursaries that we could not put in place in the Supplementary Budget. And now the Bursaries allocation is Kshs 305 million, so that we can take acre of all the kids that we have in Scholarship and also pay for the Bursaries that we have been doing after the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement that was signed by the Education Ministry and the County Government.

Honourable Members, the budget is not for us, the budget is for Kisumu County. It is factoring in the interest of so many people, and we have to balance all those interests.

So, let us agree to pass this budget in time. If we do not pass it in time, we are going to get a further reduction in our revenues because KDSP II only gives you money based on your performance in passing the budget. We know very well that if we do not pass it today, 15% of the Ksh352 million will be gone. And that 15% of Kshs.352 million, Honourable members, if you compare what it can do, you can count for yourself.

Honourable members, I implore on you. We can always correct things, but we go slowly by slowly. Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. I support that we adopt this report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, let me give Honourable Kelvin Oraro. Then Honourable James Were, before I consider Honourable Rakwach and then Honourable Ratib.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): So, Honourable Kelvin Oraro.

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. Mr. Speaker, allow me to begin by appreciating the Budget and Appropriations Committee, as well as the Executive Committee Member for Finance and ICT, for their tireless efforts in ensuring that we have a comprehensive budget report before us today — enabling us to move forward with the budget approval process.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pick up from where the Chief Whip left off regarding the issue of Revenue Collection. As Members of this House, we have consistently advocated for the equitable distribution of resources. However, in reality, some wards genuinely deserve a larger share based on their unique needs and circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, kindly protect me. Honourable Rakwach is disrupting my thoughts and making it difficult for me to express myself clearly.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Rakwach, I had promised to give you time. Why do you want to contribute now?

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me begin by noting that the Honourable member is interrupting the Chairperson of the Budget Committee — and I must emphasize the importance of maintaining order during such critical discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I was reflecting on areas like Katito, Ahero, Muhoroni-Koru, Nyamasaria, the City, Otonglo, Holo, and Kombewa — key urban centers spread across many of our wards. Despite efforts to ensure equal budgetary allocations across all wards, it's clear that some areas require more attention due to their unique characteristics and pressing development needs.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully challenge the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee and, by extension, the Executive Member for Finance, to initiate the development of a clear policy framework. This policy should guide how resources are distributed, especially to areas that serve as economic hubs or municipalities. If we are serious about supporting towns like Ahero — which the Governor highlighted for potential growth — then we must be intentional in our budgeting. For example, Ahero could receive an additional Kshs. 10 million specifically for street lighting or similar impactful urban projects.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to speak from experience. In my ward alone, nearly 10 MCAs reside. Many staff members from the County Assembly and the wider County Government also live there. Yet, we face persistent challenges with infrastructure — even basic access roads. Requests for roads are constant, but our hands are tied due to limited funding.

Let's not forget, Kisumu City generates a significant portion of this County's revenue. Logic demands that we reinvest some of these resources into the city's infrastructure — it is only fair. I echo the Chief Whip's sentiments: areas that contribute significantly to our revenue base should, in turn, benefit more in terms of development to sustain and grow that contribution. Take Kibuye Market, for example. If we collect substantial revenue from there, then it's only right to invest in its improvement — better drainage, paved roads, and market stalls — to improve livelihoods and enhance productivity.

Mr. Speaker, on the matter of Pending Bills, I agree with the Budget and Appropriations Committee that this issue may never fully go away, as long as our revenue projections are not met. As Honourable Alando, Chairperson, Agriculture Committee rightly put it, passing a budget is a legal requirement. However, when we project to collect Kshs. 3.5 or 3.8 billion and fall short by, say, Kshs. 2 billion, it is inevitable that some budgeted items will go unfunded — hence the persistent pending bills. It's simple arithmetic.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we rarely get full transparency on how these pending bills are paid. I urge this House to push for access to such information, in line with Article 35 of the Constitution on the right to Access to Information. We, as an Assembly, and the public at large, deserve to know who is being paid, when, and for what. Denying this information creates mistrust and fuels suspicion about misuse of public funds.

I was also listening carefully to the Chairperson of the ECDE Committee speaking about teacher recruitment. While that is commendable, we must not ignore that in some wards, like mine — specifically in areas like Otera — there aren't even classrooms for those teachers to work in. Infrastructure must go hand-in-hand with staffing. Recruiting teachers without providing classrooms is only solving half the problem.

Mr. Speaker, during Governor Ranguma's first term, a significant number of ECDE teachers were hired — but even then, it wasn't enough. Even the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) cannot meet all staffing needs. We should avoid making it seem like this challenge can be solved in one year. Let's also invest in infrastructure alongside human resources.

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of this budget, especially with the inclusion of Ward-Based Projects. However, I urge the Budget and Appropriations Committee — whether it's this Assembly or the incoming one — to develop a policy that guides the equitable and needs-based distribution of resources.

We must be realistic. Wards like Kondele, Manyatta "B:, and Railways have seen infrastructure upgrades partly because of external donor funding. That's commendable. But let's also

acknowledge that being part of a city like Kisumu comes with expectations. We shouldn't still be budgeting for murram roads in city wards. We should be paving roads and improving public amenities to raise Kisumu's profile.

Imagine this, Mr. Speaker — we are approving a Kshs. 15 billion budget, yet each MCA goes back to their ward with just Kshs. 20 million for development. It doesn't add up. It becomes difficult to convince residents that government is working for them, especially in rural or expansive wards like Muhoroni-Koru. I've seen Honourable Omollo attempt to allocate Kshs. 1 million to several projects just to spread the little funds around. But let's be honest — some of these projects will not be implemented effectively with such small amounts. That's why we have called for at least Kshs. 50 million per ward. With that, you can deliver real, visible impact, and residents will feel the presence of the County Government in their lives.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we stop treating all wards as the same. Nyalenda and a ward like Masogo-Nyang'oma are not equal in size, terrain, or needs. A blanket allocation of Kshs. 20 million across the board doesn't reflect fairness. We need to factor in geography, population, economic potential, and infrastructure gaps.

So once again, Mr. Speaker, I am not raising this to offend anyone — that includes Honourable Ratib — but to speak honestly about what affects us on the ground. Our current approach is unintentionally disadvantaging some wards. Let us pass this budget with a firm commitment to developing a clear, well-thought-out resource distribution policy that ensures no ward is left behind. Thank you, I support the report.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I had promised to give Honourable James Were.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda "B"): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As a representative of Nyalenda "B", I also rise to give my voice on this report. Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said, Mr. Speaker, protect me from disruption

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Honourable members, please consult in low tones without disrupting Hon. Were.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda B): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the protection. Allow me to begin by commending the Budget and Appropriations Committee for burning the midnight oil to compile this important report. However, Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to pass this budget, we must ensure that certain key issues — particularly compliance and accountability — are fully addressed.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said regarding our failure to meet Revenue Targets. But, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget — the responsibility for revenue generation squarely lies with the County Executive. We cannot continue to over-project revenue year after year without tangible results. This Assembly granted the County Executive numerous requests to support revenue collection: we approved the establishment of the Kisumu County Revenue Board, and we approved additional staff — all in good faith, hoping to see improved performance.

Mr. Speaker, I recall vividly, during a session in Naivasha, the County Executive presented a pilot project demonstrating Digital Revenue Collection. We were impressed. We saw live mapping of revenue officers stationed in places like Corner Legio and Dunga Beach, with exact identification of collectors in each point. If we had the capability to track these points then, the question now is — what happened? Why is revenue not being collected as projected?

Mr. Speaker, the issue is not that our people are unwilling to pay taxes. They are paying. The problem lies in the leakages — in the "wrong pockets" where this money ends up. We must not continue giving the County Executive a blank cheque while projects stall in our wards. Let us not defend inefficiency under the guise that residents are non-compliant. In areas like Nyalenda “B” — now bustling like Diani Beach — there are numerous economic activities, including hotels and businesses. Revenue is being generated. But where does that money go? Our role, Mr. Speaker, is to protect the contributions by our citizens and ensure those funds are translated into tangible development. That is the accountability we owe to the people we represent.

Moving forward, Mr. Speaker, we must address the plight of contractors. Many have taken loans to implement County projects, yet even after completing their work, they remain unpaid — all under the umbrella of "Pending Bills." Before passing this budget, we should have received a ward-by-ward list of all pending bills — detailing the names of contractors, the projects executed, and the amounts owed. This would allow us, as representatives, to track and verify these claims on the ground.

Additionally, we must scrutinize the legal pending bills. Mr. Speaker, our County has lost nearly every legal case it has undertaken — approximately 99.9%. Yet, we are now being asked to approve large sums under pending Legal Claims. Are we paying for incompetence or is this a loophole to enrich a few individuals? These are the difficult questions we must ask.

Let me also raise concern about major projects such as (Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program) FLLoCA. A full financial year has passed, and yet we are still in the dark. There is no clear communication on implementation timelines for 2024/2025. We’ve consistently passed budgets on time — the delays lie with the County Executive. This trend of last-minute implementation is designed to create more pending bills. Someone somewhere is benefiting from these delays.

Mr. Speaker, take the CDP under the Department of Agriculture — it is turning into a massive scam. We've seen endless workshops and hotel meetings, but on the ground, there is nothing to show. Twelve Cooperative Societies were selected from different wards. People registered, participated, and one year later — not even a single project has taken off. Is this money meant to enrich officials, or was it meant to uplift communities?

Mr. Speaker, on the matter of Project Roll-overs — it's a good concept in principle. But it will only work if there's full transparency. Before any appropriations are done today, let us be given a complete list of rollover projects across all 35 wards. If we proceed blindly, we will again be dealing with more pending bills. After passing this budget, we will find ourselves chasing shadows — unsure of what was rolled over in Nyalenda "A" or "B", or elsewhere. That kind of uncertainty must not be allowed. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge this House: before we pass this budget, let us demand: A comprehensive list of all pending bills, broken down per ward, A clear, complete list of all project rollovers for the 2024/2025 financial year. Only then can we build public confidence and maintain transparency — not just for our people, but also for the contractors who risk their capital to support County development.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I support the report — but with strong recommendations for immediate corrective measures. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ngeta (MCA, Awasi Onjiko): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute. A lot has already been said, and I wish to align myself with the sentiments expressed by many Honourable members in support of this report. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice in support of the report. We are almost at the tail end of this process, and in a few hours, it will be a matter of the past.

Mr. Speaker, the root challenge we continue to face lies in the unrealized Own-Source Revenue. It is high time we undertook a thorough clustering and assessment of all revenue streams to identify exactly where the bottlenecks lie. We have witnessed consistent inconsistencies in revenue collection across the County, and that is a major concern.

Mr. Speaker, despite being several years into devolution, our ability to effectively collect and grow own-source revenue remains wanting. This situation demands that we now develop a deliberate and strategic mechanism to cluster and manage our various revenue streams in a structured and accountable manner. We cannot continue to rely solely on the Exchequer for development funding. We must take ownership of our Revenue Performance. With a capable Governor at the helm and committed Members in this Assembly, I believe we have the

leadership and goodwill required to come up with workable solutions that will help steer this County in the right direction.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support this report and commend all Members for their contributions toward making this a reality. Thank you once again for the opportunity.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Millicent Omuya.

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice in supporting what the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations has done. However, I want to say that I am not a happy woman or a happy Member of Assembly. My reasons are.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, please consult in low tone.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ngeta and Honourable Okoyo.

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Honourable Okoyo, Kindly, stop making noise when I am contributing.

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

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I express my dissatisfaction is very clear. Our Honourable Governor had graciously agreed that each Ward could work with an allocation of Kshs. 50 million. Following that, Mr. Speaker, you assigned responsibility to the chairperson of Departmental Committees to spearhead the budgeting making process. Members unanimously agreed that they would prepare their Departmental budgets and bring back the resources as agreed. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Honourable Samuel Dede, Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Water and Environment and the Honourable Rakwach, Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Infrastructure and Public Works for honoring that agreement and keeping their word.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that some of the other Departmental Committee Chairpersons chose a different path. Instead of implementing what we collectively agreed on as an Assembly, they went back and renegotiated for more funding for their own sectors. I say this with no fear or malice—it was a disservice to this House and to our constituents.

After the Governor confirmed the Kshs. 50 million allocation, I returned to my Ward, engaged my local leaders and confidants, and informed them that we had a good deal this time. I even sat down and drafted a development plan based on the Kshs. 50 million.

But upon returning, everything had changed. Mr. Speaker, in all honesty, we cannot blame the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee for this shift—we must hold ourselves accountable as Members of this Assembly. It is our own colleagues who failed to uphold the collective agreement. You are very useless and I'm not sorry to say that. You've done a lot of nothing and...

(The Deputy Leader of Majority interjects)

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

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach): Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether Honorable Member for Seme North is in order to call Honorable Members, including myself, useless. But I also am very useful. I don't know about other members, but I'm very useful. With a very beautiful woman that calls me useful. If you call me useless, then I compare with my wife, then I can conclude otherwise. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Millicent, I think that's not parliamentary. So, you need to withdraw, apologize and proceed. You cannot call your fellow members useless.

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Okay Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that. But I'm just wondering if at all Honorable Lumumba is a Chairperson of a Departmental Committee. I hope he is not one. And I want to tell you that I'm also a very beautiful woman, was married to a very handsome man, and gave birth to Honourable Seth. Yeah, so that one, we will go through that, and just allow me to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state that, if at all our Departmental Committee Chairpersons could have brought us money; we could not have been in this quagmire. It is difficult, you have really exposed us, and in fact, I personally do not know what I am going to tell my voters. It is very shameful.

Mr. Speaker, the biggest problem that we have in the county is the issue of our Own Source Revenue. As much as we the members of the Assembly we have our responsibility, I believe that it is also high time we helped the County Executive. They have been given the responsibility, and it is like they are not able to do it. I am just pleading with this House that after passing the Budget Estimates, let us take it upon ourselves, and even if it means that we are going to call the Department of Finance, we sit and know how we can salvage this county, or else the county, I will say that it has fallen. If at all we could not have this money that we are getting from the national government, it shows that we could not have been in a position to even pay our salaries.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Projects Rollover, I want to echo what our other members have said. Let us have that list, so that from my ward I know that these are the projects that have been rolled over. Or else it will be another chain of pending bills I support. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I promised, but you know, I also have to consider the minority. Honourable Bill is standing. I have also not had members of Nyando. I think Honourable Bill is the first. Oh, but anyway, in the case of minority, Honourable Bill can proceed. I promise to give you Honourable Rakwach. Yes, Honourable Bill.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Onditi, I have seen you. Honourable K'Omudho, I have equally noticed you.

Hon. Oliver (MCA, Kobura): Thank you Speaker for recognizing my seniority. I really thank you for that. Mr. Speaker, I have heard members debate on this Budget that we have. This was a very long journey. From the time we agreed as members that we have a team to meet the County Executive and discuss the way forward so that we at least have development in our wards. Mr. Speaker, from that level we even went to the House Committees to at least see if we can get money for development for the people of Kisumu. After that, the Budget went out. We really expected something serious. I am being informed that we even have members from this wonderful Assembly that were called co-opted as Committee of Experts. Some of them went and even did not stay for one hour and came back. We are informed that some of them did not go to Mombasa. So, it is a very demotivating and very sad that we have this document here right now. I am saying this because explaining to the people of Kisumu County that we have a Budget of around Ksh. 15.5 billion and then you go and realize that the development that is going to the wards is worth around Ksh.700 million. From 15 billion, what is going to the wards is around Ksh. 700 million. So, it is sad and this is a very vulnerable House that I really expect that when we have a document coming to this House, we at least know the details of everything.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, , we have a development budget of around Ksh. 5.8 billion and what we can account for or what we can at least discuss with people who elected us when we go back, is the Ksh.700 million from Ksh. 5.8 billion. We should have the document here telling us that yes, from the wards it is Ksh. 20 million per ward and what remains from the Ksh. 5.8 billion is going to do this and this and this so that at least as members I can confidently go back to the people of Kobura and inform them that apart from what the Governor gave us, this is equally going to do this and this and that in the wards. However, right now, judging from the mood of the House, we are going to pass this Budget but without knowledge of what we are passing and that is the truth that is here.

Mr. Speaker, we have Disaster allocated Ksh. 30 million, and we also have Emergency allocated Ksh. 150 million. At least from this, what we are going to pass, we should know that Disaster

Quarterly Reports, and Emergency Quarterly Reports pass through here so that we know what and what is going to be done, what and what has been spent. Because right now we are giving somebody a blank cheque as an Assembly of Ksh.150 million, to do what they want with it. That is what we are passing here. So, as Honourable members, our work is to at least give Kisumu County quality and I believe some of these loopholes that we are seeing here as we pass the budget, I want to ask us, Honourable members, to first start sealing the loopholes after passing the budget for Kisumu County.

Mr. Speaker, it does not make any sense that before the county government system came into being, we were collecting a lot of revenue as Kisumu County. But right now, we have Kisumu County and the aim of bringing counties, the aim of devolution was to bring development at the grassroots. However, right now, what are we really doing? It clearly shows that there is a lot of robbery in the revenue collection. People of Kisumu are being robbed and we are not seeing that. So honourable members, I heard the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT, the other House Committee because I am not a member of those two House Committees, to at least bring policies that will help the people of Kisumu County to collect the right revenue that they should collect. I had the senior member, Honourable Seth Okumu, say that we are not going to manage to collect and we are not going to collect. Honourable members, I want to correct you. I want to correct Honourable Member, Seth Kanga, that I believe Kisumu County, with the right structures, can collect more. It is my belief that we will.

Mr. Speaker, I heard a member talk about the NAVCDP. The last discussion we had as a Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, we were told they were doing a lot of trainings. And right now, they are going to spread development to all the 35 wards. But it should have come in this budget so that we see this and this is going to be done in this area and that. But without that, still believing that the 35 wards are going to balance all the wards, we cannot believe. So, my request to the Honourable Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations, we might have all the reasons to ensure that this budget is passed, but at least to give this House the honour that it deserves so that we can go and explain to people from our wards, especially Kobura and all the other wards, that we should always have other documents accompanying this Estimates so that we know where all the monies in Kisumu County go. Thank you, Chairperson.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Samuel Dede

Hon. Dede (MCA, Kisumu North): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing the seniority in the House. Foremost, today we are to pass a Budget of Ksh. 15 billion. As per the law, 30% should go to Development Expenditure. It is my worry that Ksh.700 million comes across to be 30% of the Ksh. 15 billion. Mr. Speaker, when we were in the meeting convened by the Budget and Appropriations Committee in Nairobi, a member raised concerns that there similar, three budget books in circulation. There was one for Ksh. 13.9 billion, another for Ksh.14 billion, and there

was another indicating a budget of Ksh.15. The CECM for Finance and ICT came out clearly and showed that the budget Estimate under interrogation was for Ksh. 14 billion.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are presented with a Budget of Ksh.15 billion. Let us go with Ksh.15 billion. Mr. Speaker, we have been in this Assembly for some time, most of the issues have been raised that since the fiscal year 2020 to 2022/2023, no implementations have took place, and we are informed that most of the funds in the Supplementary Estimates were going to be taken to settle Pending Bills. In the financial year 2024/2025, the development earmarked for the fiscal year were shelved and funds meant for those projects were reallocated to settle Pending Bills. Then, now fund meant for the development for FY 2024/2025, is going to rollover of projects.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that 2025/2026, shall carry itself. I know we will be talking of; we are going for campaigns. That, sums up to a total of Own Source Revenue, bringing the problem.

Mr. Speaker, as we are talking of the Ksh. 305 million for the Bursary, now that we are appropriating the money at the right time, and even the bursary money, it seems it is going to a rollover, being that each and every financial year we are having Ksh. 205 million. Currently, we are here talking of Ksh. 305 million. It means Ksh. 100 million also comes as a result of a rollover. If we are talking of that, we are now doing a disservice to our people within the community.

Mr. Speaker, today, if the Budget is passed, and we still do not have a list of Pending Bills, and we have been informed that there is a block figure of Ksh. 616 million for settling Pending Bills, yet we cannot justify the pending bills at the moment. Mr. Speaker, as we are also talking of the rollovers, we do not have a list of projects to be rolled-overs. We do not know what activities have been done, and those that have not been done. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that, the budget is going to be passed today; I do not know what we are going to inform our people back at home, Mr. Speaker. Currently, they are just observing us, seeing the services we are doing to them.

Mr. Speaker, going back with a budget of Ksh. 20 million allocated for wards, it is so hectic to distribute the projects of Ksh. 20 million within the ward. So, explaining to your members that there is a budget of Ksh. 20 million brings a lot of contention. Mr. Speaker, by providing our members with this, the 30% which will go for the development component, coming to Ksh. 20 million if not sold out, all those who are passing the budget today, know that the 20%, the service you are taking to your people, will be upon you. On my side, Mr. Speaker, with the Ksh. 20 million, and being that there is no list of pending bills or list of rollovers, I stand to oppose the report. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Rakwach

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you Honourable Speaker, for giving me a chance to talk about the report that is being discussed today. I have to state that, we have three roles, that is representation, oversight, and legislation. But now, protect me from Honourable Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okoyo, please move and sit next to Honourable James Omollo.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I stated that we have got three roles, that is representation, oversight, and legislation. But we are being added another responsibility which is convincing the electorates. This is because year in, year out, we are being informed to go and convince the electorates. When the money is not enough, we are being told, just go and convince the electorates that we are going to pay the Pending Bills, we are going to do this, now this is what is left. So, I think we should add it as our role, that it is representation, oversight, and legislation, and convincing the electorates.

Honourable Speaker, I want to talk about the Development Projects. I understand that there are Conditional Grants. These are grants which are given on conditions. We cannot change the location where they are being done. I do not want to talk about it, because it is not going to affect my ward. Honourable Speaker, Ksh. 700 million, that is what we can account for, because we even have the list of the projects, plus their appropriation, the money which is going to each and every ward-based project. And I am a very strong proponent of ward-based projects. Even in Mombasa, Honourable Speaker, you want to tell me that, because you realize the fury in my eyes, that I was opposing the Ksh. 20 million that was set aside for the wards, and you told me to write a dissenting report, which I have not done to date, because I knew I would do it on the Floor.

Honourable Speaker, if we have a total budget of 15.5 billion, and we can only account for 700 million going to the wards, that will represent only 4.5%, Honourable Speaker. Where are we? We lack words to even express ourselves at our wards. Honourable Speaker, if this Budget is going to pass, then we have Personnel Emoluments (P&E) at Ksh. 5.4 billion, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) at Ksh. 4.1 billion. So, an O&M of Ksh. 4.1 billion is going to facilitate development of Ksh. 700 million. Where are we, Honourable Speaker? Are we doing good service to our electorates? This is because the County of Kisumu has only perfected on utilization of P&E payment on salary. That one is up to date. Ksh. 4.5 billion has been set aside. O&M of Ksh. 4.1 billion has been set aside. And here, there is no roll-over. It will be utilized fully. No rollover. When it comes to development, even this Ksh. 700 million, you will realize that at the end of the year, some are being rolled over because they have not been implemented. Honourable Speaker, where are we?

Honourable Speaker, there are projects which appeared during public participation, being proposed by the electorates themselves at our wards, and they are equally captured in the CIDP and in ADP. Right now, they are being thrashed out because the list was given from the departments. Then, it came to our realisation that pending bills have to be paid, rollover has to be done, and now these projects that emanated from public participation are no more. The electorates know, if they propose something, with the County Executive being oversighted, the public participation being conducted by the Assembly, if the end result is that that project does not appear in the Budget, it is known that the MCA who has removed that project. There is no doubt about it. That is the understanding of our electorates, Honourable Speaker. We are going to have a hard time. I do not know what is going to happen. Like in my ward, my main reason for being here is to represent Kolwa East Ward, because I am their representative. My Budget only reflects 0.12% of the total sum of the budget, which is Ksh.15.5 billion.

Honourable Speaker, on the revenue, as from January, it is being reported at Ksh.1.8 billion, and it is Ksh.1.8 billion, which is not changing. I do not know whether our revenue collector stopped working, but it has just remained at Ksh.1.8 from January up to now, that we are passing this document, that we are discussing. On the 30th, the very last day of this financial year, it is still be Ksh1.8 billion.

Honourable Speaker, there are even staff that who were suspended because of this revenue collection. We are yet to see a report in the House here concerning that suspension and the findings. Honourable Speaker, something needs to be done, and we should do our oversight well, other than being encouraged to also go and encourage our electorates to pay tax. That is not our work, because we have got revenue structure. We have the Ward Revenue Officers, we have the Sub-County Revenue Officers, and we even have the Revenue Board. What are those people doing if they cannot collect this tax to their Own-Source Revenue Envelope?

Honourable Speaker, there is a member who talked of now Ksh. 20 million, which is being distributed equally across the 35 wards. That some wards within the town produce much more than they are being given, while the village wards or the rural wards are being given Ksh. 20 million and they do not give sufficient revenue. Honourable Speaker, I want to say that the capital investment in town is not comparative to the capital investment in Kolwa East, in East-Kano Wawidhi, and not even Ombeyi Wards. If you look at the tarmac road network in Kisumu, look at the market, the structures that we have in Kisumu town, the sewer line connection in Kisumu town, the water system in Kisumu town, you cannot compare it with what I have in Kolwa East, and you do not expect people of Kolwa East to match these revenues because we do not even have markets, and it is the markets where the revenue is being collected.

I need the attention of Honourable Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is this market, and there is this structure called Nyamasaria Bus Park. This is a project in Kolwa Central, and I as a resident

from Kolwa, Honourable Chairperson, this is a facility that can spur a lot of development around that area, and it can bring a lot of revenue, if it is operationalized. I do not know why it is standing there, and nothing is happening, and yet in the Budget of 2023-2024, there was an allocation on the improvement of Nyamasaria Bus Park. It was given some huge amount of money. Right now, there is upgrading of Nyamasaria Bus Park, also being allocated some money. How do we improve and upgrade a facility, which is not even functional, which is not operational? Honourable Speaker, let us make the County Executive make Nyamasaria Bus Park operational, so that it starts the collection of revenue. Thereafter, even if we talk of improvement, upgrading, then it is meaningful, Honourable Speaker. But as of now, talking of upgrading and improving, you improve a project which is there, but not for one which is not working, since its inception.

Honourable Speaker, on the issue of Pending Bills, we are lamenting, and sometimes back, there is a member, Honourable Ouko said, this is a House of lamentation. Now sometimes I can agree, because we are just lamenting, we need the list, that we are going to pass this based on the list provided, this document is with us, it is us to decide whether we are passing it, without the list of pending projects, or not to pass it, until we get the list of what? Pending Projects.

It is a decision that we have to make, on this Floor, as members of this County Assembly, so that we oversight, the County Executive, and we oversight it properly, because that is our commandment, Honourable Speaker, other than convincing the electorate, a role which has just been added to us, and it is not anchored in any Constitution in Kenya. Honourable Speaker, we are saying, that we are helping the contractors, by putting in the issue of pending bill in this budget, we are not helping these contractors, we just want to appear, to be helping the contractors, but we are not sorting out this issue of pending bills. If we want to, because we even have here, there was a petition which was brought to this Assembly, by the contractors, whose bills have been pending, since 2014, Honourable Speaker. Let us have the list of those bills, so that a contractor, whose bill is in the budget, knows that, by August or by July, he is getting his money. Honourable Speaker, I want to inform you that, come next year again, when we will be passing budget, you will realize, that bills have not been paid, and there will be a proposal, that we put aside some money, for payment of pending bills, and we will be told to just go, and convince our electorates, back in our wards, so that they allow us to pay pending bills. Let us have this list, I propose that we see the List of Pending Bills, then we pass the Budget, Honourable Speaker.

On the issue of rollover of projects, I think the same, will help, because, we know these projects were done in the wards, and they can really help our wards, if they are completed. Let us have the list, then we pass the wards, we pass the project, Honourable Speaker, the chair budget, talked, reported about Namba Kapiyo, this road which was being proposed, for Ksh.150 million, then community of roads, the super community of roads, decided, that we reduce it, to Ksh.70

million, there is no reason, as to why the County Executive can come and tell us that they had already signed an Agreement, with the contractor. How can you spend an item which does not, appear anywhere in the budget line. I think it is this House, which passes the budget, and how can somebody come, and tell us, that they have signed an Agreement, with the contractor, without the knowledge of the Assembly, and they want us to give them money? They want us to rubber stamp. They must bring that Budget here, we pass it, that is when, we can talk about this Namba Kapiyo, or else, as far as I am concerned, whatever they did with the contractor, that was their own arrangement.

Otherwise, we only know of the Ksh.70 million. Honourable Speaker, I want to infom you that we as the Honourable members, we are treading on very dangerous ground. I attended a funeral in Muhoroni Sub- County, and then, one elder (*nyumba-kumi*) rose up, and said that he wants to vie for an MCA seat because the MCA of that area, has failed to improve the road network within that ward. Honourable Speaker, now you can see, how serious it is, and he stated that he does not have resources, but he is sure of removing that MCA, because the MCA is doing a lot of nothing in the Assembly. Honourable Speaker that is the situation on the ground, every other person is sure of replacing a member who is currently serving, in this Honourable House. It will be very treacherous for us, Honourable Speaker, to pass this document, without the list of Rollover Projects, the list of Pending Bills, then we come to lament later, that we wish we knew. The time is now, and let us correct this today. Honourable Speaker, that is my contribution, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Onditi.

Hon. Onditi (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am glad you know that, I am coming from very far, and I am travelling on a very bad road. I should finish early and start the journey early.

Mr. Speaker, this House is standing at a cross-road. We have been told, that the consequences of not passing this Budget by today, is as grave as something I do not want to describe here. Consequently, if you look at this Budget, Mr. Speaker, what is taken back to the community, or the people, who are the taxpayers, is something a member cannot comprehend, how they are going to explain. Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known fact that the public does not know the County Executive Committee Member, the Chief Officer, even the Governor as much as they elected the Governor. They believe that the person who holds the stick in terms of delivering or making sure that the projects are done is the MCA. Mr. Speaker and that is why you see members talking here with a lot of pain. Mr. Speaker, most members here, I am telling you, nowadays hardly go to the funeral, including those that are very close to them. This is because everywhere it is noise due to lack of the projects being implemented. I do not want to talk about whether Ksh. 20 million is sufficient or not. Because I can tell you, in the Budget of FY 2023-2024, my ward had a budget

of Ksh.10 million. I am telling you, even a single road which I appropriated, Ksh. 2.8 million, was never implemented. So why have Ksh. 20 million? Why cry for Ksh.100 million which is not going to be implemented? It is as good as nothing.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with this, even when you want to discuss issues of Pending Bills, when you want to talk about issues of Own Source Revenue, we just become like a scarecrow that people are being scared with here, that if you do not go around with the tins, collect money from the market centres, so that you raise own source revenue to finance your budget, the projects are not going to be implemented. There is a very big disease here called Procurement. Even as late as middle of this year is when some contractors are being given Local Purchase orders (LPOs).

Mr. Speaker, a contractor knows that this project is going directly to the pending bills. It is not going to be paid sooner. Now the report is telling us that by almost September, when we are almost hitting the end of the first quarter of the year, why does the procurement department have to wait for a whole three months to bring a Procurement Plan to this House, as if this County government is being established today? Mr. Speaker, I believe that the way we are expecting other departments to present their report here by 31st of July, is the way the procurement department should also present their procurement plan here by 31st of July. The longer we prolong procurement, the late all these projects we are talking about are going to get into late implementation.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the first thing we should address in this House, even as we talk about what amount of money we should have been given, is the issue of procurement. Failure to which, even if we get one billion shillings for every award here, I am informing you that procurement is going to start almost in April next year. So, by the time we are almost coming to the next Budget, it is when people are running around the corridor to get documents to go to the field. I am informing you that those projects are still not going to be implemented. Therefore, this Assembly must stamp the authority and ensure that by 31st of July of next month, Procurement Plans are in this House, Mr. Speaker, for approval. So, that as early as September, October, at the end of the first quarter, the contractor should start rolling to the site.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of Bursaries. I do not understand why we have to pay bursaries in the first quarter of this year. The first quarter will be almost in October, when the education calendar is almost ending, or December. Mr. Speaker, the report says by half of the year, financial year. Mr. Speaker, I wish this money be paid in the first quarter, so that we align the payment of these school fees to the calendar, to the education calendar period. So that the children are not chased out of schools because we do not pay money in arrears when students did not benefit from those monies.

Mr. Speaker, again, it is important, yes, to recruit as many teachers as possible. How I wish the chairperson, Departmental Committee on Education, Technical Training and Innovation who is struggling so much, I am told he is struggling so much to help me come back to this House. How I wish the member uses the same energy to go around some of these schools and see a school in my ward called Keyo Primary School is being closed because there is no road going to that school. All teachers have run away. So, we want to pay teachers, there are no classrooms, students are learning under the tree. We are very busy employing teachers. Who again will run away the way those who are there are running away?

(Hon. Okumu rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Okumu, what is your Point of Order?

Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Honourable Speaker, on the Statement of Facts. The Honourable member is suggesting that the Department of Education to go and make roads going to schools, so that the school is not closed. Honourable Speaker, I just wanted a clarification of that, because as a House Committee, I only know that we deal with matters of education, and that is what we advocate for. Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Onditi.

Hon. Onditi (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry to say that Honourable Seth is always a devil's advocate, because if you remember majority of members in this House, if you ask them, they will not say, we would rather not employ teachers this year, and redirect those monies to the ward-based projects. The same vigorously campaign here. The reason why is only known to him. I rest it there.

Mr. Speaker, this issue of revenue, the so-called Own Source Revenue, this County has employed I believe more than enough staff, starting from the Ward Revenue Officer, we are almost going to the Village Revenue Officer, all the way to the County Revenue Board. I am a member of the Public Investments and Accounts Committee, and I have got an opportunity to meet members of the Kisumu County Revenue Board. For lack of a better word, allow me to say that the level of cluelessness that is being demonstrated in this team is a reason enough to answer the reason why we cannot raise revenue in this county. It is disappointing to hear from a whole senior ranking member, in the name of Chief Whip, advising members to go to the villages and start mobilizing the community to pay taxes so that we get the money to finance our project. The question we should ask ourselves is, why are people not paying money? Or why are monies being paid? Because I am telling you, I am very sure people are paying money, but those monies are not getting to where they are supposed to get to. They are just disappearing somewhere. That

is the problem we need to fix. Not informing members here to go and start collecting money in the shopping centre and markets.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to plead with the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee. I know the process of making this Budget has been tedious, cumbersome, and sometimes frustrating. But this County belongs to all of us. Whether you are in the leadership or you are an ordinary member like Honourable Tom Onditi. What we need to agree on is, how do we, even when we pass this Budget, because we are told failure to pass this budget by today has heavy bearing consequences. Some of which can even cost this County more than even passing it the way it is. Therefore, as I urge members to pass this Budget, I want to plead with the Chairperson of this House Committee that, all these members have said here, can we sometimes make some step backwards and say that how then do we correct some of these messes that we have identified in the Budget? So that we come up with a document that we may not get everything that we want, but at least we shall have made some steps ahead. Because then how then do we pass this Budget? I know even in his ward there are projects that are supposed to be rolled over. I think during *Kamkunji* here, some of the reasons that were used to convince members here is that some of these projects that are under the process, some of which have been given out, but have not been completed, are going to be rolled over. They are going to help you at least, even if you are going home, but at least you should go home a bit honourably because you have been an Honourable member rather than going home like a gatekeeper that has been chased away for coming late.

So, I plead with the Chairperson of this House Committee. I also want to thank them for doing a great job, despite the difficulties and the anger and the frustrations. I remember I had a telephone conversation with the Chairperson of this House Committee, which never ended up today. It has never ended, and I am sure it is not ending soon. However, despite all those, we have a document we can start with, and we can agree as the people of this County, that we can make some adjustments to accommodate some of these issues that are being raised during this conversation. Mr. Speaker, with those many remarks, I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity, however late it is. However, Mr. Speaker, let me start by appreciating or applauding the Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee for the struggle to come up with this document. Going by the calculation of the figures which we have been given here, that is Ksh.15.5 billion, which is the budget, against Ksh. 5.8 billion, which is going to development.

Mr. Speaker, you will realize that the development will take around 37% or 38% of the money, which sounds very, very good. I do not know if we are making it sound good because we have

the fourth estate here, or we want it to go to the area that the Kisumu County is going to spend 38 percent of its Budget on development. Which, to me, I think is not true. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if we are trying to justify what we read from the local dailies and other social media, that the Governor is ready this time around to spend Ksh. 959 million on making the roads, which, Mr. Speaker, at some point we have realised was hot air. We even asked the County Executive to see how they can expunge that information, or to revoke, or whatever means they can do, because that information is hitting us hard on the ground. So, if that is not practical, then we need to have the right information that we are only going to spend Ksh. 20 million per ward and Ksh.700 million in the whole county for development.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee, to clarify that, because it is in the public domain, that that information is still with the community or with the public that the Governor is going to spend Ksh. 959 million on doing the roads.

Mr. Speaker, I want to agree that we surely need ECD teachers. We needed them like yesterday. However, Mr. Speaker, what do we do so that if we give the Kisumu County Public Service Board the mandate to recruit the ECD teachers, what are they going to do for us, all the 35 wards, to get the ECD teachers from other wards which have not benefited from the recruitment? That is something which we need to come up with and see how we can at least ensure that distribution of the 150 ECD teachers which are going to be recruited, are fairly distributed in all the 35 wards.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to wonder aloud. Are we giving Pending Bills another name? Are we baptizing pending bills by another name, by the name of Project Rollover? Because, if up to today we cannot have the names of the projects which are going to be rolled over, and then we are assuming that whatever we are putting in the budget is enough for the rollover of projects. What if we will go to the same departments and then we are informed that whatever you gave us is over and the contractors who are doing the projects which were named rollover have not been paid? So, it is like we are baptizing the pending bill with another name called Project Rollover.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Chairperson , Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations to bring us all the projects which are going to be rolled over so that we can be sure that we are safe in this another term called rollover or if we can baptize it, baptize pending bill as rollover.

Mr. Speaker, let me say something on Own-Source Revenue. It is very disheartening, and I thought I would have this opportunity when the Chief Whip was still around. I remember a long time ago, and not long enough, before the 2010 created devolved function, we had the Councilors and the Municipality and the County Councils. I remember during that time, they could decide and storm one of the markets and I believe the one which witnessed this kind of action was Kibuye. Mr. Speaker, it was not that easy. Because when that exercise was done, the

collection of that day would rise. But, Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the member was trying to take us back to those days so that we be like Councilors. I believe we are the people who are supposed to see what incentives we should give the department or the agency which is supposed to collect revenue. Even in the national government, Mr. Speaker, I have not heard the National Assembly asking MPs to go to their relevant constituencies to ask their members to pay taxes. This is an exercise which was left to the authority, and in this case, it is Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), which comes with an incentive, goes around the county, makes announcement, and advertisement in our local dailies and TVs to give incentive to the citizens of Kenya to pay taxes. But I have not heard where you tell the Honourable members to go and ask the residents to pay taxes. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe this came from the Chief Whip, but I am sorry, he has walked out. So, Mr. Speaker, I was asking, we need to come up with what is required by the Law to see what is supposed to be done so that we can have more taxes to be collected. Mr. Speaker, thank you, and I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Let me have Honourable K'Omudho, Honourable Mildred, and then Honourable Peter Obaso.

Hon. K'Omudho (MCA, Muhoroni-Koru): Many, many thanks, Honourable Speaker. Finally, I have gotten a chance. I have stood here a million and one times. Asante sana. I will be very brief, because I heard some of my colleagues call upon the mover to reply.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fair that we get to listen to others' opinions in this Honourable House. A number of sentiments have been raised. I will not be repetitive. I am going to be very brief in the history, and I will specifically talk about specific areas. I want to support this report, and I also want to thank and congratulate the Budget Committee for the struggles that they had to go through to enable them come up with some meaningful report.

Mr. Speaker, I am putting this to both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee. I am a bit worried from the betrayal which has been shown in the floor of the House, whereby everybody's name is being named as being co-opted to attend the proceedings of this House Committee and as experts, majority of whom we know not to be having any technical background in terms of budget. Kindly, the chairperson and the deputy, please take care.

(Laughter)

I want to state here that, you are diluting this House Committee. You are going to make us lose the trust that we have in this House Committee. I will go straight away to my points, and my point number one is about municipalities. Honourable Speaker, I would like to address the Chairperson, Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations that, municipalities are known in paper. They are known in theory. There is nothing practical about municipality, and if there is

one, then it does not apply in Muhoroni-Koru Ward where I come from. This is because my area is actually Muhoroni-Chemelil Municipality. I have not felt anything. There is nothing to show, including the board members who keep on begging and borrowing so that they can repay their dues to date. Please take note. The Ksh. 15 million we are talking about here is meant for some good allowances. I do not know what they do with that money. We would want to know that from you, but there is no impact in that town. I will informing you that Muhoroni Town Centre has been pathetic. I have had to reach out to an organization out of Kisumu County to help me, and it is now in good shape. It was terrible. If municipality was there and they were doing some little work, that would have created some impact. Please do something on that, and let us get to know exactly what you mean by the word Municipalities.

The second point is about the recruitment of ECD Teachers. Yes, I have heard here it is said that 150 ECD teachers shall be on-boarded. I would like to mention that in my area, some with no teachers completely. Please just be fair and distribute the teachers evenly.

Thirdly, is on the Rollover of Projects. Honourable Speaker, together with the Honourable members, you will be surprised. Out of the Ksh. 20 million was allocated for the financial year 2024-2025, only Ksh. 7 million went through. Ksh. 13 million is still lying in the name of Project Rollover. I wonder if somebody is trying to think that they are clever, and they will do something about this rollover. We are here to see, and as a strong Catholic, I am going to pray against the person eating this money that should go actually to the people. I say I am a devout Catholic, and I mean that.

My second last point is the issue of the Pending Bills and I would request that, like my colleagues have said, let us have some data, let us have some records showing exactly what we are talking about. It is rumoured outside there that this is where people hide to eat money. I do not know, but it is rumoured outside there. Please let us have a clear data showing exactly what needs to be sorted out in these pending bills. It cannot be year in, year out at the same time.

My very last point is on Own Source Revenue. Like some senior member of the House was ranting all over here, saying how we should actually make our markets work. Now, I ask yourself what happens in Muhoroni-Koru ward. We have got Homalime Company Limited, Agro-chemicals Company Limited, Muhoroni Sugar Company, now turning to be West Valley. Those are three major industries, with very huge cess being recovered on a monthly basis. Then someone comes here and says that, you know, you need to go to the market to collect. How much are we collecting from Muhoroni-Koru ward in terms of Cess? And they are getting nothing out of it. There are no roads. There is nothing. I cannot even attend a birthday party in that town. Honestly speaking, I cannot, because it is lamentations everywhere. Can't we be fair, the Budget and Appropriations Chairperson? When we are allocating Ksh. 20 million to people sitting in town here, and they can talk all manner of nonsense here, ranting how they are senior,

whatever they are doing. What are you doing giving Ksh. 20 million, and only Ksh. 7 million will go through? You are not being fair, the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee. Many, many thanks, Honourable Speaker. I am done, and I support the report.

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

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, protect me from Honourable Seth Okumu and Honourable Moses Ochele.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Seth and Honourable Ochele allow Hon. Ajumbo to submit.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I spoke, I heard Honourable Ochele saying that the mover to reply, but I am not going to call the mover to reply. Let it go on record that I come from a ward, Central Seme Ward. They are watching live to see what the member of their County Assembly representing them is talking about today.
Mr. Speaker, I want to start by commending the Budget and Appropriations Committee for coming up with this ambitious budget of Ksh. 15 billion. When we look at this budget, Mr. Speaker, the Ksh. 15 billion, I have been going through it from every department, and I want to just start by reading a few words here. That devolution is frustrated by systematic underfunding of Ward-based Projects. Allocating limited resources to wards has serious political, social, and economic repercussions. Wards are the most localized level of service delivery, and underfunding them can undermine the very spirit of equitable development envisioned by the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I have gone through the budget, and I have seen Ksh. 20 million allocated to various wards, the 35 wards in this county. That comes to Ksh. 700 million. When you try to explain this to the person down at the grassroots that out of the Ksh.15 billion allocated to the entire budget only Ksh. 700 million will go to the wards. Mr. Speaker, I will be at pain to explain this to my ward. Some of them have already divided these Ksh.15 billion by 35 wards, and they came up with a figure of almost Ksh. 150 million located to each ward. You try to explain to them that there is quite a number of things in the budget, Mr. Speaker, they do not understand. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this Ksh. 20 million allocated to the wards is not able to do all the roads, is not able to do all the projects, is not able to finish the ECD classrooms, and under ECD,

Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment on the Education part, that 150 ECD teachers are proposed to be employed. I want to say that there are quite a number of wards that have not completed the ECD classrooms. Some children are learning under trees, and it will be very interesting, Mr. Speaker, to employ a teacher to go and teach children learning under the tree. If that what we call employing teachers is good, Mr. Speaker, protect me, somebody is talking loudly next to me.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Order!! Honorable members.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was talking about the education, where they have proposed to that employ 150 ECD teachers which in my opinion is good, but sometimes it would be funny when you do not have any single classroom in a particular area, you post a teacher to go and teach under a tree, that is fine.

Mr. Speaker, on Bursaries, Mr. Speaker, I would wish that it is to be prioritized, so that the bursary can come at the beginning of the quarter that is September. Sorry, the beginning of the year, that is January, so that when schools open, the children are able to go to school.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a comment on the Revenue Collection. Kisumu County, just like any other devolved governments, has struggled with low revenue collection due to weak systems, corruption and lack of public trust. Last week I heard a conversation with some women who sell in the market and they were informing me that the revenue they collect is Ksh. 50, which goes into the electric gadget. However, if you do not pay Ksh. 50, it is not captured because the machine does not accept less than Ksh. 50. So, alternatively, they pay Ksh. 30, that is not captured. That is where most of our revenue is lost.

Mr. Speaker, as we pass this Budget, let us not forget that the rollover projects are not attached in the appendix. I have been going through it. When it is not attached, remember this is FY 2024/2025, which are supposed to be done and completed.

Mr. Speaker, also, the other major problem we have is the Procurement Process. Today, we will pass the Budget on time and then the procurement process will be done in January of 2026. If there is anything this House can do, Mr. Speaker, so that the procurement process can be started as early as August, it would go a long way in ensuring that projects are completed on time—ideally by December.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that Kshs. 20 million allocated to wards may not seem like much, but if utilized promptly and effectively, it can have a visible impact at the grassroots level. However, delays in implementation diminish that impact. I've heard a Member mention that out of the Kshs. 20 million allocated to his ward in the last financial year, only Kshs. 7 million was utilized—leaving Kshs. 13 million worth of projects unimplemented. This is a major concern.

Therefore, as we consider and pass this budget, I urge Members to approach it with the seriousness it deserves. Timely action is critical. Mr. Speaker, I support the budget and call for its swift adoption. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Deputy Chief Whip.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Asante sana Mweshimiwa Spika. Nami pia ningependa kuunga mkono kamiti ya bajeti kulingana na repoti iliyosomwa hapa. Sina mengi ya kusema ilhali nikona kilio moja na ningependa kueka kwa sababu waheshimiwa wenzangu washasema ya kutosha na nikona uhakika ya kwambi vilio vyao vimesikika na ningependa kusema kutoka kwa bajeti kuna kitu kinaitwa '*O&M'* na ninasema hivyo ndiposa mwenyekiti wa bajeti anisikilize kwa makini. Ningependa kumsihi ya kwamba akisikia vilio vya waheshimiwa wenzake wakilalamikia '*O&M'* iliwaongeza bajeti ya wadi zetu ifike hata milioni thelathini ndiposa tueze kugawa fedha hizo vizuri kwenya maendeleo mbali mvali za wadi zetu. Tukiweza pata fedha hizo tunaweza kuajiri walimi wa ECD na kujengea watoto wetu madarasa. Barabara pia katika wadi zetu zimekuwa mbaya na haziwezi kupitika watoto wakienda shule. Asante sana.

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

Hon. Okombo (MCA, Manyatta B): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to contribute to the debate on the Budget and Appropriations Committee Report on the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025–2026. Mr. Speaker, I will not join my colleagues in writing what could be considered a third volume of The Book of Lamentations. Why? Because I understand that the budget process is a multi-stage cycle involving formulation, approval, implementation, and evaluation—including audits.

Mr. Speaker, when we fail at the planning stage, it directly affects how we formulate our budgets. Poor formulation leads to disorganization, and without order, we cannot track or improve our financial data as a county.

The main concern today, Mr. Speaker, is our Low Own-Source Revenue Collection. Unfortunately, our focus remains narrowly fixed on market levies and fees, which are among the smallest revenue streams. We've lost sight of a larger and more impactful source: land rates.

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, Kisumu County does not have a valid Valuation Roll—the one we previously used expired. As a result, we are unable to collect Property Rates. Every Honourable Member in this House, and many residents of our urban centres, own property within the county—yet they cannot pay Property Rates simply because there's no legal basis without an updated Valuation Roll. Mr. Speaker, you have previously advised—and rightly so—that we must establish a new Valuation Roll. If we do this, land rates alone could generate sufficient revenue not only to fully fund this budget but to create a reserve. The arrears in land rates owed to Kisumu County are greater than the Kshs. 15 billion estimated in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, our inability to raise adequate own-source revenue points to loopholes in the Kisumu County Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2022. If this law is not serving its

purpose, then it is time to review and amend it—so that we have a legal framework that enables proper revenue collection, equitable redistribution, and focused development.

Mr. Speaker, we must address disparities in development, particularly between urban and rural wards. Rural areas like Miwani and Muhoroni deserve more allocation to help bridge the development gap between them and the so-called "city wards." Mr. Speaker, some Members have raised concerns about equality in resource distribution, particularly the uniform Kshs. 20 million per ward. Let it be clear: this was a collective decision made by all Members, not solely by the Budget and Appropriations Committee. However, if revenue improves, I strongly believe we should shift focus from equality to equity, so that resource allocation responds to the actual needs of each ward.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this report. But I urge this House to treat budgeting as a serious, continuous process—one that begins with solid planning, including critical steps such as updating our Valuation Roll, closing legal loopholes, and ensuring fair distribution of resources across all wards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko Kennedy, MCA, Ahero): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the report before this House. Honourable Speaker, I wish to remind Members that it is far more meaningful to have a teacher actively teaching children under the age of three than to have children simply sitting in a classroom without one. We must prioritize the needs of our children. This report reflects that kind of thoughtful planning—it presents a well-balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that during discussions with the Governor, we were initially given the opportunity to work with Kshs. 50 million per ward. We even went as far as co-opting technical experts to support the planning process. Eventually, through a consultative and rational process, we settled on Kshs. 20 million per ward. Now, some Members are lamenting over that figure—but we must look at the bigger picture. The truth is, the budget allocations go beyond the 20 million you are focusing on. In fact, there is more than Kshs. 20 million worth of investments in each ward. When you factor in departmental projects, the total investment averages Kshs. 28 million per ward—that's an additional Kshs. 8 million on top of the standard allocation.

Let us not mislead ourselves or the public. This budget reflects both equity and structure. It's not just about individual ward allocations—it's about county-wide development through both direct and departmental interventions.

Therefore, I urge Honourable Members, especially Honourable Onditi, to view this budget in its entirety. Budgeting is a continuous process, and if there are gaps or concerns, we still have the opportunity to address them in the next financial year.

(Hon. Onditi rises on a Point of Order)

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

Hon. Onditi (MCA, Ombeyi): Mr. Speaker, is the majority trying to insinuate that all that we have been doing here is nothing other than lamentation, so that we would rather park up and go home?

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko Kennedy, MCA, Ahero): Honourable Speaker, I've listened to Members speak about the issue of rollover, and I must agree—it is a critical aspect of our budgeting process. Rollover ensures that incomplete projects from the current financial year are carried forward and completed, rather than being abandoned.

Additionally, it helps to protect our suppliers from falling into the trap of pending bills, which has been a recurring challenge. This report has been thoughtfully prepared, and it deserves our full support. Let us also remember that the budget is a continuous cycle. Projects that may not be captured this year can always be included in the next financial year. Beyond that, even as leadership transitions—whether in 2027 or beyond—work will continue.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I want to reiterate that we have a well-balanced and forward-looking budget this financial year. I urge all Members to support it in the spirit of continuity, responsibility, and service to our people. Thank you.

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

Hon. Obaso (Nominated MCA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to add my voice in support of the report currently under discussion. Mr. Speaker, we are about to pass a budget totalling to Kshs. 15 billion, with a Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs. 9.6 billion, Development Expenditure of Kshs. 5.9 billion, and Ward-based Projects amounting to Kshs. 700 million.

What particularly caught my attention is the allocation to the Office of the Governor and Administration, which stands at around Kshs. 5.8 billion. Notably, a significant portion of this—over Kshs. 4 billion—is allocated to Operations and Maintenance (O&M). Mr. Speaker, while we continue to express concern over the limited development allocations, we must also turn a critical eye toward overspending, especially in the recurrent budget.

As leaders in this county, it is our responsibility to advocate for cost-cutting measures, particularly in recurrent expenditure, and to reallocate resources toward development. Additionally, we must intensify our efforts to strengthen our Own-Source Revenue and effectively manage our Equitable Share from the National Government. Without these fiscal reforms, Mr. Speaker, we risk remaining in a cycle of lamentation without offering any meaningful solutions. With those remarks, I support the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil Tamu): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to add my voice to the discussion on this important document. Today, we are passing a budget amounting to Kshs. 15 billion, with a Development Allocation of Kshs. 5.89 billion. According to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, at least 30% of the total budget should go to development. Doing the math, 30% of Kshs. 15 billion gives us around Kshs. 4.5 billion. If you divide that amount equally among the 35 wards, each ward should ideally receive about Kshs. 50 million in development projects.

However, that is not the case. We are currently talking about Kshs. 20 million per ward, which is a significant shortfall. This needs urgent attention if we are to address development gaps equitably.

Mr. Speaker, I also heard the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee mention that Kshs. 105 million in Bursary Funds has been rolled over. That statement raises concerns. I had previously questioned what happened to Kshs. 100 million that was allocated for bursaries, which we approved in this very Assembly. Until now, clarity on how those funds were used remains elusive.

Further, I noticed discrepancies in the Department of Education's budget. The department is allocated Kshs. 600,357,000, yet the breakdown provided only lists Kshs. 97.5 million and Kshs. 305 million, totalling Kshs. 402.5 million. That leaves Kshs. 203,857,000 unexplained. The report does not indicate what this remaining amount is intended for.

Mr. Speaker, the same applies to the Department of Finance, where about Kshs. 515 million has been allocated, but with no clear explanation on its intended use. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we are being asked to pass this budget.

Mr. Speaker, I heard one Honourable Member urging us to read the document thoroughly—but let’s be honest: how are we expected to read and analyse such a complex budget when it was posted at 09:00 p.m. yesterday, and we are discussing it just 12 hours later? It is practically impossible, yet we've done our best under the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable members, if we're not careful, one day we may unknowingly pass a budget allocating public funds to a private company, simply due to lack of time and transparency in the budgeting process.

It is especially disheartening for Members from the sugar belt regions, like Nyando and Muhoroni. Despite significant revenue contributions from these areas, the development allocations remain stagnant at Kshs. 20 million per ward. Yet, in the report, I saw a claim that sales revenue collected was Kshs. 51 million. Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that Kibos Sugar Factory alone remits more than that amount monthly. I don't speak aimlessly—I speak with facts. For example, when I raised a statement in this House about Muhoroni's Sales Remittance, the Department of Finance responded by claiming that Muhoroni had never remitted sales. However, upon following up, I obtained proof that over Kshs. 22 million had been remitted from Muhoroni. Despite all this, what we receive in return is barely enough to construct five roads in a single ward. This is deeply frustrating.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I must ask: are we dealing with corrigible or incorrigible leadership in Kisumu County? Because the persistent lack of transparency and fairness in budget allocation cannot continue unchallenged. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Honourable Moses Ochele.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano/Wawidhi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have sufficiently debated the matter at hand. Therefore, with your permission, I kindly request that you call upon the mover to reply.

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

Hon. Joachim (MCA, Kondele): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I find it quite interesting that some of the same members who contributed extensively to this debate are now urging me to summarize quickly. This suggests, perhaps, a diminished interest in hearing the response—but I will do my best to be concise.

A member even whispered to me privately that, although he is a member of this House Committee, he couldn't speak openly because the cameras were on. That, in itself, highlights the dramatic irony in this House—but perhaps that's a story for another day.

Let me begin by addressing the concern raised by Honourable Odari, which echoed sentiments shared by Honourable Pete and others. Members, let me clarify: I am not reading the budget—I am presenting the report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee. Many of us still confuse

this with what happens at the national level, where the Cabinet Secretary for Finance reads the national budget before Parliament. Our process here is very different. My task is to highlight key shifts and provide clarity—not to present or read the budget in full.

Mr. Speaker, the budget document has been available since April 30th, and I must say with some regret that it is clear many members have not read it thoroughly. The issue of the Kshs. 1.1 billion allocation to the Department of Finance keeps coming up. I've waited patiently for any Member to walk us through how that amount is broken down, but even our experienced colleagues have not addressed the details.

Let me emphasize that in my presentation, I only highlighted select areas—for example, allocations to Insurance, Emergency Funds, and similar—but I did not go into granular breakdowns. That level of detail is within the main budget document, not the report. If requested, I can certainly walk Members through it—step by step—even though, as the Chairperson, it is not necessarily my role to defend the Executive's appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the issue of figures changing, Honourable Pete was correct to mention the shift from Kshs. 14 billion to Kshs. 15 billion. I explained this during the debate, citing the Opening Balance and Current Revenue Adjustments, all of which were also shared by the Speaker in our WhatsApp group. Yet again, very few Members took time to read those updates.

So I must clarify: the Committee Report is not the Budget itself. My role was to present changes, reductions, or reallocations—for instance, how we settled on the Kshs. 20 million per ward, what was reduced, and what was increased. The content of the budget itself remains largely unchanged, but unfortunately, the necessary attention to detail by Members has been lacking.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the Kshs. 100 million for Bursaries, let me clarify: I did not mention a rollover—I only proposed a solution. I, too, had questions. We approved Kshs. 205 million in this House and that was never amended in the Supplementary Budget. So I kept pressing the County Executive for answers. Eventually, we traced the problem to an error during publication by the Government Printer. My instruction was simple: if this was a printing error, then the funds must be returned and properly re-appropriated. Hence, the decision to allocate Kshs. 305 million now. The matter now falls under the relevant Departmental Committee to follow up—not the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the issue of Rollover of Projects, we as a House Committee have thoroughly discussed it. While it is a new and evolving concept, it is a useful one—especially in reducing the build-up of pending bills. I fully agree with members who have

requested a detailed list of rollover projects. That amendment is valid, and I give my personal commitment that the list will be ready and shared with the House by Friday this week.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, I must also address the issue of Pending Bills. I was surprised to hear some Sectoral Chairpersons asking me, as the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations, to provide Lists of Pending Bills. Each sector is expected to review and vet their own lists. The only Sectoral Committee that raised any concern during the process was the Departmental Committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change — and we acted on it. The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works and other departments, the pending bill submissions were accepted and integrated. Still, I have asked for the comprehensive pending bills list to be shared with the entire House for full transparency.

Now, regarding Own-Source Revenue and Projections—Mr. Speaker, we have what I call the "Kshs. 2 billion lie" in our budget. Let me explain: unlike the National Government, where any revenue shortfall leads to borrowing to cover deficits, our county simply inflates own-source revenue to balance the books. We've projected Kshs. 3.5 billion in local revenue, but realistically, Kshs. 2 billion of that is fictitious. It's an unfortunate reality we use to make the budget appear balanced.

That's why you often see procurement being restricted—not because of inefficiency, but because the County Executive knows we are unlikely to raise the funds. Limiting procurement becomes a management tool to avoid further pending bills. We allocate 20 spoons, but allow only 10 to be used—hoping the rest can be recovered in the next financial year. This is the reason behind the Kshs. 1.6 billion rollover that's eating into this year's development funds.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, to clarify on Conditional Grants, we have projects worth Kshs. 2.2 billion that fall outside the Ward-based Projects. These include FLLoCA and other development initiatives, which are often overlooked. Rollover and Pending Bills are also classified under development—so if not for the Kshs. 1.6 billion in rollover, we'd have had more than Kshs. 2.3 billion available for Ward-based Development.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, Honourable Jagongo also talked about slow implementation of projects. It is my belief that, this is an area now where we really need to push That applies also to what members were saying about Domesticating a Revenue-Sharing Formula for our awards. I do agree with that.

After this stage, we need to decide who takes up the next step. I'm not sure if it should be me, as the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations, or Honourable Vitalis, who, I must say, was very animated—slapping the table and making quite a statement. I even found myself asking, who

exactly is the Chairperson, Ward Development? With such energy, perhaps it's time he fully takes up that role and runs with it, as it is within his mandate.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the matter raised by Honourable Alando regarding the balanced budget—I completely agree. Indeed, it is a balanced budget, but let's not ignore that within that balance lies a gap of Kshs 2 billion. ("Budget Hole")

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, I also want to speak about the two departments that failed to defend their budgets. This deserves clarity. As a House Committee, we made a resolution. Starting with the Assembly: it was initially meant to defend its budget in Nairobi. However, due to time constraints and an overwhelming agenda, they didn't manage to do so. We then resolved they would defend it in Mombasa. But in Mombasa, we spent the entire session trying to resolve the issue of the Kshs 20 million allocations to wards, and by 6:00 p.m., we still had no agreement. So again, that defense didn't happen. We later asked the Speaker, in the presence of other members, to present the Assembly's budget defense in Bondo. And from what I remember—and unless someone insists otherwise—we indeed went to Bondo, and the Speaker defended that budget there. So if anyone says otherwise, I truly don't know where they were, because the record is clear.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the departments of City Management and Medical Services and Public Health and Sanitation, it is true the City Manager, Mr. Abala Wanga, was in China, and the County Executive Member for Medical Services and Public Health and Sanitation was also reportedly to be out of the country on official duty. As a House Committee, we adopted a resolution—this was not my individual decision. We adopted the consensus of the House Committee as resolved in Bondo. Unless someone claims things changed in Mombasa that remains the official position.

To Honourable Kelvin Oraro's point, I agree that some areas have consistently been marginalized in terms of resource allocation. If we work closely with Honourable Vitalis, we may find a sophisticated way to correct this imbalance. However, we must remain cautious not to reignite the urban versus rural debate. This tension existed even in the previous Assembly, and we should do our best to avoid reigniting that conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the role of the Chairperson, Ward Development, this position has historically been quite influential—even held by the former Leader of Majority. Honourable Vitalis, I urge you to strengthen that office once again so we can collaborate meaningfully.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on FLLoCA, unfortunately, there is no clear indication—at least from the released schedules—that any FLLoCA funds are coming in. This could be

misinformation, but from what we've seen, most of the Opening Balance is made up of KISIP funds. If no changes occur, the current year's FLLoCA projects may not be implemented. Still, we have made provisions for them in the new budget, and we remain hopeful.

Honourable Omuya passionately raised the issue of the Kshs 50 million, and rightly so—it benefits all of us. But as the member also rightly pointed out, it links back to our inability to increase our Own-Source Revenue. We must work harder to address this.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the Kshs 5.8 billion development budget raised by Honourable Billy—it does seem high, especially when only Kshs 700 million is reaching the wards. This creates friction. The Kshs 150 million Emergency Fund allocations is not a blank cheque. It is governed by an Act passed in this House. Unless amended, it is bound by law. During last year's Supplementary Budget, we questioned this further. Remember, Disaster Funds are for mitigation, while Emergency Funds are for response. This sector must clarify their mitigation plans in future.

Honourable Ochele, as the Chairperson for the line department, we cannot keep doing the same things and expect different outcomes. Your department must take more responsibility. I'm usually reluctant to reallocate Emergency Funds because it reopens the rural verses urban divide. But still, I urge the line House Committees to engage proactively to ensure effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, regarding the Conditional Grants—this House Committee resolved that no funds would be approved without a clear list of projects. And I can confirm we have those lists for NAVCDP, FLLoCA, and KISIP. Honourable Owade even questioned some specific items, if you recall. The only unclear area remains KDSP, which is pegged on several conditions: timely budget approval, publication, and pending bills. Thus, we currently lack a finalized project list for KDSP.

Mr. Speaker, Sector Chairpersons must understand—passing the budget is not the end; it's the beginning of your responsibility. You must now track implementation and ask questions where needed.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on the Kshs 15 billion budget ceiling—some members asked why not Kshs 14 billion. I've explained that the figures we used were from the Bill. Once passed by Parliament and signed into law, it becomes an Act, and changes can still happen. Any such adjustments are shared by the Speaker in our group—please read them. This is how we stay informed.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the matter of rollovers of projects was also raised. Yes, we must reduce them because they eat into our current development allocations. A list of rollover projects will be shared by Friday as earlier promised.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, on expenditure on Operations and Maintenance funds—there's a misconception. These were cut by 50% and now prioritized as a first charge. That means paying pending bills comes first. If we start budgeting for those bills ourselves, development will suffer even more.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the Nyamasaria Bus Park—yes, it's a Grant Project, but it has not been operational. I ask the Department of City Management and Honourable Ratib to review this and provide clarity. Some of the delay may relate to pending bills required to unlock further grants.

Honourable Onditi spoke well on the implementation of projects. I agree that whether you receive Kshs 1 billion or Kshs 100 million, without improving implementation, nothing changes. The Implementation Committee must step up and follow through on timelines and recommendations passed by this House.

Mr. Speaker, on aligning Bursary Disbursements with the school calendar is a brilliant suggestion. We should adopt that.

Mr. Speaker, On the alleged Kshs 900 million declaration, we interrogated the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and ICT —who said the announcement came from a sub-county administrator, on a public holiday. The source and basis remain unclear. It caused unnecessary confusion among our constituents. The Governor's Public Relations Team must do better. Their miscommunication is hurting us more than helping.

Honourable Okoyo, just as MPs ask us to pay taxes and register, I don't see why encouraging tax compliance should be seen differently when we do it.

As for the so-called "experts," Honourable Vitalis raised this, but I must say—I don't intend to re-co-opt them unless it is a formal resolution of this House. Their inconsistency was unhelpful. What they said inside differed from what they later claimed. We need experts who understand the process and report objectively.

Honourable Jennifer deserves recognition. She was vocal about the Kshs 50 million allocations. Even though her position was not adopted, she remained engaged and committed. I've personally received multiple calls from people she lobbied, including those in the County Executive and the Governor's office. She has not stopped pushing for what she believes in—on behalf of all of us. That's commendable. Mr. Speaker, I agree with her that engagement shouldn't stop with the

passage of this budget. We should continue lobbying during the supplementary stage to increase ward allocations. If we have savings, let them go toward Ward-based Development.

Also, now that we've introduced rollover projects, let's ensure it doesn't become the norm. It significantly cuts into our current development capacity. Let's reduce rollover as a policy.

Honourable Okombo made excellent recommendations on revenue collection, the Valuation Roll, and Domesticating the Revenue Formula—I agree fully.

And Honourable Obaso reminded us, rightly so, to check our own spending before complaining. I agree 100%.

Finally, on Personnel Emoluments (P&E), we've allocated a block figure. However, due to the Controller of Budget's directive, each department will now be required to present its own breakdown under the P&E line in the bill. The total figure remains unchanged, but the presentation will differ.

Mr. Speaker, I truly thank all Honourable Members for your support and understanding. It hasn't been an easy process. But compared to what's happening in other counties, I must say Kisumu is holding steady because of our unity and dialogue.

To my brother, Honourable Dede—this budget may not meet all our expectations, especially regarding ward allocations. But we're not doing this for ourselves. We're doing this for the greater good of Kisumu County. Some sacrifices today will ensure progress tomorrow. With that, I humbly beg to respond. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you so much, Honourable members. I think that was a very robust debate. Now that the motion, adoption on the report of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on the consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025-2026 and the Medium Term has been moved, seconded, and debated.

The mover has replied. As per our Standing Orders, I want to put a question. Members, please remember that you are putting a question on the report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee. What will follow after this is now the real appropriations. So I'll proceed to put the question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, **t**he motion on the adoption of the report of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on consideration of the Estimates of Revenue

and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025-2026 and the Medium Term have been adopted today, the 30th of June, 2025, at 14:15 hours. I direct that the contents of the report will proceed in making the Appropriations in the next course of our debate. Thank you.

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

MOTION

(First Reading of the Kisumu County Appropriations Bill, 2025 (Kisumu County Bill No. 2)

BILL

THE KISUMU COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2025 (KISUMU COUNTY BILL NO. 2)

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

Hon. Joachim (MCA, Kondele): Mr. Speaker, I do move that the Kisumu County Appropriations Bill, 2025 (Kisumu County Bill No. 2) be read for the first time.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Clerk!

The Kisumu County Appropriations Bill 2025

A bill for

AN ACT of the County Assembly of Kisumu to authorize the issue of certain sums of money out of the Kisumu County Revenue Fund and the application towards the services of the year ending on the 30th of June, 2026, and to appropriate those sums for certain public services and purposes is now read for the first time.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the Kisumu County Appropriations Bill, 2025 (Kisumu County Bill No. 2) is properly laid before the House and read for the first time and I hereby commit it to the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Leader Majority.

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko Kennedy, MCA, Ahero): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to move a motion for adjournment for convenience of transacting business. Honourable members, I am aware that the County Assembly has been in plenary sitting for four hours and noting the need to allow members a recess for a health break.

FURTHER, aware that under Standing Order 29(1) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, a member may seek leave to move a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly at any time for stated reasons, cognizant of the provision of Standing Order 28(3) (b), which permits the Assembly to resolve to meet at any other time on a sitting day for a convenience of transacting business. I beg, therefore, to move that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 28(3) (b), 29(1), this County Assembly to now adjourn for one hour, 30 minutes, and resume its sittings at 03.50 p.m. to continue with the business of the day. And I wish to call upon the Deputy Majority Leader to second. Thank you.

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

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the Motion. It is indeed in order for this House to adjourn for one hour, as proposed by the Leader of Majority. This is a very important sitting that requires our full attention and concentration.
Mr. Speaker, it is a known fact that the human brain can only function optimally for a certain period before fatigue sets in. I can confidently state here that, my colleague Honourable Obaso has already mentally checked out—and the member is not alone; several others are just about to.

Therefore, taking a short break, even for health and wellness purposes, is necessary and justified. Let us take the proposed one-hour adjournment and reconvene refreshed and ready to proceed with the seriousness this session deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, the Leader of the Majority has moved a motion that we adjourn for one and a half hours for a health break and as per our Standing Orders, when we have that debate, I will not put a question, but I will adjourn for the next sitting based on the hour that he has suggested. So I want to propose that that motion is open for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Joachim, the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Hon. Joachim (MCA, Kondele): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I hold a contrary view on the matter and respectfully appeal to Honourable Members to consider this: if you could just give us 30 more minutes, we will be done. There will be no need to reconvene afterward.

I urge Members to make this small sacrifice and persevere just a little longer. In doing so, we can conclude our business and head straight to our respective destinations without the need for a lunch break or coming back to the Chamber. I sincerely hope Members can support this proposal. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Okombo.

Hon. Okombo (MCA, Manyatta "B"): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion for an adjournment of one and a half hours to allow Members to take a health break. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that human beings function better when they are refreshed. Keeping members in the Chamber without even a chance to get some water or stretch a bit would not be ideal. Therefore, I kindly request that we be allowed to take this short break and reconvene after exactly one and a half hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Nyaoke.

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. I believe Honourable Members here will agree with me that we are relatively young and, thanks to the good service by the Serjeants-at-Arms, we've had access to water and are fairly comfortable.

Taking an extra 30 minutes, as requested by the Chair, would not be too much to ask. Let us just finish this matter once and for all before leaving. Mr. Speaker, the reality is that some Members may not return if we break now. So instead, let us push through and conclude—25 minutes is more than enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Onyango (MCA, Railways): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the proposals put forward by the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations that we proceed with the session, having only taken a brief 30-minute break. I therefore oppose the motion by the Leader of Majority to adjourn. Let us continue with the process and conclude the matter at hand. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Adega.

Hon. Adega (MCA, Kajulu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to support the proposal made by the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee that we proceed for just 30 more minutes. In fact, he has already informed me that lunch is ready and everything is well arranged. So let's conclude and then proceed to enjoy the rest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Onditi.

Hon. Onditi (MCA, Ombeyi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support the proposal presented by the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee that we proceed. In fact, we can even extend up to 45 minutes if needed. If the Deputy Speaker feeling fatigued, she is

free to step out briefly, stretch her legs, and returns — we will fully accommodate that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Please allow me to echo my sentiments as well. If we are indeed talking about a true 30 minutes, then I fully support that we proceed. However, if it is the Chair's version of 30 minutes — which might stretch into two hours — then I suggest we take a break. So, if it is genuinely 30 minutes, let's continue.

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

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Mr. Speaker, the committee stage is a critical part of the budget process and requires adequate time for meaningful deliberation. It is, therefore, reasonable for a senior member like the Leader of Majority to request an adjournment, especially considering that today was specifically set aside for the passage of this budget. Rushing through such an important process in just 30 minutes would not do justice to the expectations of the people of Kisumu County. In that regard, there is no need to force the 30-minute timeline. Let us handle the committee stage thoroughly and complete the entire process properly, Mr. Speaker. I therefore support the motion for adjournment. Interestingly, those opposing the motion haven't even proposed a single amendment—they're merely debating without taking action, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, given the many divergent views expressed, I am now compelled to put the question before the House.

Honourable members, the Leader of Majority has proposed that we adjourn for one hour and thirty minutes. Members, let us remember that the real Appropriations process begins during the Committee of the Whole House stage. It is at that point that we thoroughly examine the Appropriations Bill—either clause by clause or by guillotine—depending on the agreement between the Chair and Members.

We are a democratic House, and there is no harm in taking either path. I therefore leave it to you, Honourable Members, to decide. If the House agrees to adjourn, we shall take a health and lunch break and reconvene in one hour and thirty minutes to begin the Committee of the Whole. If not, we shall proceed immediately to the next item on the Order Paper.

So, I want to go ahead and put a question. That the Leader of the Majority has moved the motion of adjournment just for one hour and 30 minutes I therefore put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, when I see a number of members standing then it means it requires division-, however, they are only four Members on their feet. So, I rule that be back for the real work, which is the Appropriations Bill. So, we may be upstanding, the lunch is in the Public Service Club. So, let us rush there, in the next one hour, thirty minutes, the new Order Paper will be ready, so that we do what we are supposed to do to conclude the process.

(House rose at 02.27 p.m.)

Addendum

The Hansard Team

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