

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Thursday 28th August, 2025

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

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

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I'm informed that we have a quorum hitch.

Honourable members, I refer you to the dictates of Standing Order No. 32 (2) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders where, when we do not have quorum at the beginning of the session, the Speaker will direct that the quorum bell be rung. I so direct that the quorum bell be rung for the first five minutes. When that is being done, I'm not able to spot the Whip, but the Leader of the Majority can designate, or you can assign, one Member to whip those who are outside. When that is happening, no member will leave the chamber except the person who will be whipping the Members.

(Quorum bell rung for the first minutes)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Dede, kindly confirm if we have a quorum.

Hon. Dede (MCA, North Kisumu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have quorum in the House. Thank you.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

SPECIAL AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE PAYROLL OF THE KISUMU
EXECUTIVE

AND

SHORT-TERM BORROWING BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BY

HON. KENNEDY OOKO, MCA, AHERO

(LEADER OF MAJORITY)

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

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 32 of the Public Finance and Management Act 2012 I wish to be tabled today, Thursday, 28th August 2025, a Special Audit Report of the Auditor General on the Payroll of the Kisumu Executive.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Section 142 of the Public Finance and Management Act 2012, I wish to be tabled today, Thursday, 28th of August 2025, a Request for County Assembly's Approval for Short-term Borrowing by the County Executive. Thank you.

(Leader of Majority lays before the House the two reports for consideration)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the Leader of Majority has properly tabled number one, a Special Audit Report of Auditor General on Payroll Management for the Kisumu County Executive. I direct that the Select Committee on Public Investments and Accounts (PIC/PAC) to consider this report within the time frame provided in our Standing Orders. Further, I suggest that you give this report priority. If you have any other activity, I think you better give this special audit report priority.

Additionally, The County's Request for County Assembly's Approval for Short-term Borrowing by the County Executive be committed to the Select Committee on House Business to consider scheduling this motion for debate.

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

STATEMENTS

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

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members. I start to give a personal statement and I want to start by saying that on behalf of my family and I, I would like to thank each one of you for the love, support and the comfort that you've showed us during the difficult moment that I lost my mother. Your prayers, words of comfort, material support and your presence during that time made it lighter for us from the heavy burden of bereavement. I sincerely appreciate you and we are very grateful as a family. I say thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Thank you, the Leader of Majority. We now welcome you to the club of total orphans. Maybe we should assign Honourable Kizito. Is she really a total orphan? Honourable Kizito is a total orphan. But if you assign Honourable Kizito, the member may just spoil him. Maybe we assign Honourable Oiko Pete that mandate to console the Leader of Majority and assist him join the club

Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Honourable Speaker, I think I am safe in the hands of Honourable Habil Nyasuna.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Then, I want to redirect that Honourable Habil Nyasuna, you will induct the Leader of Majority in this, our club of total orphans.

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

Hon. Nyasuna (MCA, Masogo Nyang'oma): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll assume the duty with due diligence. Thank you.

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

MOTION

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF REVENUE
EMBEZZLEMENT BY EMPLOYEES OF THE KISUMU COUNTY REVENUE BOARD

BY

HONOURABLE MOSES OCHELE, MCA, EAST KANO/WAWIDHI

[CHAIRPERSON, ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, JUSTICE, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND
SECURITY]

(Report presented by Hon. Kelvin Oraro, Vice-chairperson, Joint Departmental Committee)

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

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I know you are worried. I'm not Honourable Ochele, but I stand in for him as a Vice-Chair of this Joint House Committee and by virtue that the Chairperson out on official duties, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to proceed.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Kelvin Oraro, I allow you. We agree that it's always good to inform the Chairperson. I'll allow you to proceed.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you Mr. Speaker and fellow Honourable members. Pursuant to Article 185 (3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 read together with Sections 8 and 9 of the County Government Act 2012, the Public Finance Management Act 2012 and Standing Order No. 185 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders These honourable laws mandated a joint committee comprising the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on Administration of Law, Justice, Good Governance and Security to inquire into allegations of revenue embezzlement by the Kisumu County Revenue Board.

The inquiry was initiated to inquire into and report on a statement raised on the floor by Honourable Samuel Onyango Member for Railways Ward concerning allegations of gross misconduct and embezzlement of public revenue by officers of the Revenue Board some of whom had been suspended. The House required clarification on the identities of the employees implicated the nature and extent of the allegations the legal propriety of the suspensions the impact on revenue collection and the institutional measures taken for a stall recurrence of the same.

Mr. Speaker in the discharge of this mandate the Committee issued formal invitations and summons to the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT, the Chairperson of the Kisumu County Revenue Board and the Board Secretary the County Secretary While the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Board submitted employee files and detailed report identifying 24 adversely mentioned officers the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT persistently failed to appear or produce documentation Conduct amounting to contempt of Article 195 of the Constitution and Sections 18 and 19 of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act 2017.

The Committee's findings revealed systemic weaknesses in revenue management human resource accountability and internal controls. The majority of the implicated officers were directly responsible for cash handling while others from unrelated departments were also adversely mentioned suggesting possible collision and abuse of institutional loopholes.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable members, it is against this background that the Joint Departmental Committee tabled its progress report making the following firm recommendation for the adoption of these hours that this Honorable Hours grants the Joint Committee an extension of 30 calendar days from the date of adoption of this report to allow for conclusion of the

inquiry including verification of personnel records personnel records completion of pending summons and scrutiny of internal control mechanisms.

2. THAT, the County Executive Committee member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT Services be summoned to appear before the Committee within fourteen days of adoption of this report, failure to which sanctions be invoked under Sections 18 and 19 of the County Assembly's Powers and Privileges Act 2017 including but not limited to the issuance of a warrant of arrest.

3. THAT, the Kisumu County Revenue Board and the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT submits payroll printouts and itemized revenue collection summaries covering the period from 1st July 2024 to date within seven days of adoption of this report to facilitate comparative analysis of workforce cost, collection and possible anomalies.

4. THAT, the Board, in collaboration with the County Human Resource Department develops and submits to this Committee a legally sound transparent and time-bound framework for resolution of the employment status of the 24 suspended officers including criteria for reinstatement reassignment or termination ensuring compliance with the Employment Act and Public Service Regulations

5. THAT, a comprehensive system and personnel audit of the Kisumu County Revenue Board be conducted and submitted within 30 days The audit to evaluate the qualification deployment procedures and job roles of all revenue staff, identify skills mismatches or irregular placement, and propose structural reforms to strengthen accountability and integrity

6. THAT, the Board issues fortnightly public updates through official government websites and local media on the status of investigation disciplinary proceedings and institutional reforms in order to restore public confidence

7. THAT, the County Public Service Board urgently reviews the recruitment, vetting and induction policies for revenue staff, including continuous ethics training for revenue handling officers

8. THAT, this Honorable House considers allocating resources for digital revenue management infrastructure and real-time oversight tools, including anomaly detection systems, user access audits and fraud detection algorithms as a long-term preventive measure.

Mr. Speaker this inquiry underscores the constitutional imperative of transparency accountability and fiscal discipline in county revenue management the recommendations are not merely procedural; they are designed to restore public confidence seal systematic loopholes and safeguard the integrity of county governance. Accordingly, on behalf of the Joint Committee, I

now humbly move that this Honorable House adopts the progress report on the Inquiry into Allegations of Revenue Embezzlement by Employees of the Kisumu County Revenue Board. I call upon Honorable Oiko Pete who also is the Vice-Chairperson to the Committee of Labour and Social welfare to second.

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

Hon. Oiko (Kabonyo - Kanyagwal): *(Bowed in seconding the motion)*

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable members, before I propose the question, can the mover approach the chair.

(Hon. Oraro, the mover of the motion consults with the Speaker).

Honorable Members, the motion on adoption of the Progress Report by the Joint Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Welfare and that of Administration of Law, Justice, good governance and Security on the Inquiry into Allegations of Revenue Embezzlement by Employees of the Kisumu County Revenue Board has been moved, seconded and as per our Standing orders, I want to propose a question. I propose that the motion is open for debate.

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

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo/Kanyagwal): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This report is a very important report to the people of Kisumu County because it touches on matters of own source revenue in this country which has been a thorn in the flesh because the County Government of Kisumu, since this government came to power has not been able to meet its target and a matter has come up that the employees in the Department of Finance have themselves decided to collect and pocket money meant for public use into their own pockets.

Mr. Speaker this gives a very bad picture of our government and our employees and since this matter was brought to this Assembly, it has taken more than six months. The disciplinary action that was to be taken against these people ought to have been taken within six months. We are beyond that time as per Human Resource Principles that disciplinary matters should be handled within six months.

Mr. Speaker the Minister who raised alarm on this matter is the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT who has again declined to appear before these two House Committees more than six months down the line. One now questions;

- a) What did the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT raise?
- b) Was it necessary for him to raise this matter?
- c) What action has the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT taken?
- d) What investigation resource do they have? Mr. Speaker

Mr. Speaker the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic planning and ICT is within this town and he comes to his office daily but when this House Committee invites him, the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT takes the invitation for granted and the assembly will become a laughing stock in the eyes of the public. If we do not show the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT that the Assembly should be respected and members this is not a matter that should just be meant for the Joint Departmental Committee, it is a matter that touches on the whole House. We must echo the concern and the action to be taken because Mr. Speaker it is also in the public domain that the Kisumu County Revenue Board had also been sent packing. They are not there when the Chairperson was invited and the Chairperson referred this House Committee to the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT.

Mr. Speaker, why did the Chairperson do that? This is because, the letter that this House Committee receive at first on this matter was from the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT and the Kisumu County Revenue Board has a Chairperson has a Chief Executive Officer and it is the Minister who wrote the letter. His failure to appear before this Joint House Committee was he trying to play about with the people of Kisumu County that there is fraud and in the Department of Finance or what message was he trying to pass?

Mr. Speaker there are some matters which we should not just take lying down and when they come to the plenary, let members stand up and be counted. Every year we are crying we do not meet our own-source revenue and matters have started coming up why we do not meet the projected target and here today we have the report is presented. What is our tangible contribution as members of Kisumu County that we shall be seen that we took the matter seriously and we want proper action taken? Mr. Speaker, this Joint House Committee is still asking for thirty more days to do their investigation. One may challenge if more than 6 months the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT declined to appear before this House Committee, what will happen in the mere thirty days? Let us discuss these things soberly.

Mr. Speaker when you look at the employment you go through this record and you compare with the adverts that was done, there was a mischief and this mischief came from the Department of Finance or the Kisumu County Public Service Board. This is because they even wanted to

employ from the word go, people with the general courses. When you want to employ people who are going to work in the Department of Finance, these are people will be in a position to prepare financial records. Therefore, when you employ people who have trained as teachers, people who have trained as nursery school teachers, people who have trained on general courses; what message is the Finance, Economic Planning and ICT Department and the Public Service Board was sending to the people of Kisumu County? The collection of finances in this county is not taken seriously. When they are not serious with the personnel they want to employ, what about the quality of the work they expect from this personnel? That is where we are.

So, Honourable members, the ball has been thrown to this House. If you treat it casually; it goes that way and if you treat it with the seriousness it deserves, the County Executive will see the seriousness of this House or the respective House Committees will just be sitting to interrogate the matters presented to it for the sake of it. Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that I even wish -the two Chairpersons are on a *safari*-. Mr. Speaker, we are struggling here to give the legal basis and what not but, the big picture given is that the department is not serious with its work.

Additionally, we are also people of this county, Mr. Speaker. We also get different stories from here and there; where are these people who are employed? The first letter that was written by the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT had two adjectives. These employees were on compulsory leave. These employees were on suspension. Two adjectives. Which adjective was more important in this case? Let us see how we are being played with. An employee cannot be given compulsory leave and at the same time is on suspension. So, the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT started playing around with the Assembly from the word go. So, now when he does not appear, his first action speaks volume. This is because, the English word he uses to communicate should also be addressed.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, there is also some rumours on the ground which can be true. The board had gone home. Circumstances under which the board went home are also in the domain of the people of Kisumu County. These 24 workers; it is also being claimed that they are back in the offices and are working yet this House Committee is struggling with investigation. If it is true, Mr. Speaker that these young boys are back in the office working, hidden in different departments, then this Assembly must take action. If people do not want to contribute on this, that is well and good because the public is going to make their judgment. Mr. Speaker, I so contribute.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Sammy Onyango.

Hon. Onyango (MCA, Railways): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the one who raised the Statement, six months ago so to believe. I can also say that I am happy with the progress, so far so good.

However, I am only worried about one thing, Mr. Speaker; this Joint House Committee which I am also a member of is asking, for another 30 more days, so that they can complete the investigation and they bring the full report in the floor of the House. My worry is, if they could not manage to do a thorough investigation for the last six months, what miracle are they going to use so that they can do it within a month? Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed as a Honourable member of County Assembly representing Railways Ward with the work that we were given by the people of Kisumu County, so that they can trust us with their vote, we can now not do oversight on their behalf, Mr. Speaker. We are not doing. Why am I saying so? If a person by the name of Chief Officer, Finance, Economic Planning and ICT can decline the invite of a House Committee of this Assembly, who else can he obey if he cannot obey that of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker?

It therefore means that, we are at his mercy meaning he can do whatever he wants. Mr. Speaker, it is high time we members decide whether we want Kisumu County to fall or grow. Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that, before this motion, I saw the Leader of Majority presenting another paper that they are requesting the money for another loan to pay salary, Mr. Speaker. So, they are requesting for money, yet we are losing money through our own source revenue through embezzlement of revenue collected. I believe when the minister was invited first, I tend to believe that he wrote a letter confirming that yes, the money got lost, but until today, you do not know how much we lost as a County,

Secondly, there is a report that was brought here which they said that some employees were suspended and some on compulsory leave. As we speak, those employees are working and earning salaries. So, whether we should give this House Committee another 30 days, I do not even know the miracle they will use because we are a very untruthful House. I know we fear a seizure of finances because some of us are doing business with the County Executives, so they cannot summon the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT. I know that as a fact because they will not be paid or be given tender.

Mr. Speaker and I want to inform the Honourable members to be careful. That is because it is not a matter of going home but what we will be remembered for, that we did when we were MCAs. What is our legacy? Can we, like we are here now, protecting a few of us, we know, that is why you cannot even see leadership here because they are informing me to leave those people alone. There is nowhere you can go. Let them present the report, they will talk, and nothing goes wrong.

Mr. Speaker and fellow Honourable members, let us take this report seriously. For us to kill this issue of our own source revenue, let us take this matter seriously. But if every now and then or every financial year, we lament ooh we want Kshs 50 million for Ward Based Project, yet we cannot take action.

Mr. Speaker, I can recall when the Speaker was talking to us here, that it is up to you people to decide how you can raise revenue. Now, this is the opportunity and no one is willing to talk

because if you do so they ask, ‘who talked with so and so? People like me, cannot even know how to fill even BQ. For that matter therefore, I am talking by saying; if the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT cannot honour the summon of this Assembly, let him be impeached and let him go home. So, before we go home, let him start. Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I support the motion. Thank you.

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

Hon. Omuya (MCA, North Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also rising to add my voice onto the report, to support what is inside. First, I just want to ask my colleagues; are you really ready to work on the issue of own source revenue? Just the way Mheshimiwa Oiko has said. When you go through the report, it indicates that or maybe they were given compulsory leave. Basically, if you follow, it is like there were not served with letters. It was verbal. Then if you follow keenly, in fact one of them is my neighbour. They are all back into the offices and are working. For me, I just believe that we need to be serious. But, if we are not, we should even forget talking about it. If we cannot just whip it right away, the best thing is to do away with it.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue concerning the request of 30 days’ extension; I think that one is too much. This is because, the whole issue started in the year 2024. Now we are in 2025 which is almost ending. Yet, they are still asking for 30 days. It should be shorter than that. I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Bill Oliver, member representing Kobura Ward.

Hon. Odhiambo (MCA, Kobura): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Honourable Sammy for bringing this to the House so that the responsible House Committee can bring a detailed report on what really happened to our revenue collection and was money really embezzled.

Mr. Speaker, I was reading the report and I want to support what has been tabled as Joint House Committee recommendations. One; I want to support the extension of time so that they finish their investigations on what really happened. You know, as an Honourable House, discussing things that have been well concluded and well investigated is really good for this House. So I support the extension. If they did not get enough time, let them have that time so that they continue with their investigation. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that while devolution was meant to bring services closer to the people, what we continue to witness in Kisumu County is mismanagement of funds and a lack of accountability. Revenue that should be used to uplift our wards and improve service delivery is being lost, yet those responsible are rarely held to account.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has debated many reports, particularly in sectors like Health, with clear recommendations some calling for officers to be disciplined, others to be referred to the EACC, and in certain cases, even dismissal. Yet, to date, I have not seen a single instance where this County Executive has acted on such recommendations. It is as if this Honourable House is not taken seriously.

We cannot allow this culture to continue. Our people are qualified, capable, and ready to serve Kisumu County with integrity. But instead of giving them a chance, we keep recycling the same individuals who have failed us and brought shame to this county. This must stop.

Mr. Speaker, another worrying trend is the arrogance displayed by some members of the County Executive. They treat summons from House Committees casually—sometimes sending representatives, sometimes failing to appear altogether, as though they are untouchable. This undermines our oversight role and disrespects this Honourable House. I urge that where House Committees face such defiance, the matter be escalated to the full House so that we may decide their fate collectively.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to highlight a positive recommendation in this report—the need for digitization. When we attended the devolution conference in Homa Bay, we saw how some counties have embraced technology. Nearly all their systems are digitized, which has enhanced revenue collection, accountability, and service delivery. Why is Kisumu lagging behind?

If we digitize our revenue systems across all departments, we will be able to track collections, seal loopholes, and trace where funds are being lost. Such systems will also make it easier to prosecute those who misuse public money. This is the path we must take if we are serious about transforming Kisumu County.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to urge this Honourable House to treat this report with the seriousness it deserves. Let us not just adopt recommendations but also follow up to ensure implementation. Our people are watching, and they need to know that their leaders are committed to protecting public resources and delivering meaningful development.

Let this be the beginning of a new culture, one where accountability is not optional, where corruption has consequences, and where Kisumu County truly delivers on the promise of devolution. I support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Warindu (MCA, Miwani): Thank you Mr. Speaker⁵. Let me also add my insights on the debate before us. Mr. Speaker, looking at the progress report that has been given, and with all the lamentations, that the key characters that were needed to appear before the Joint House Committee, did not make an attempt to come and respond to the questions that were raised. I really wonder, if the two Joint House Committee are going to manage this well then, the 30 days that they are requiring, if for the last six months, we can only get the report that the CECs that were invited did not turn up, and all the information that they required was not given.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at what the originator of this statement was seeking, the first one was to give the identities and designations of the employees and the investigations, which they have tried, and they have given their names and their fates. Some were given a Compulsory Leave of 30 days, that is, start counting from 2024, some were given a Compulsory Leave of 60 days, and others were not even seen. And right now I want to believe that all these 24 people are back and are working with us and they are on the payroll system.

Mr. Speaker, the second issue that the author of this statement sought to know was the nature, scope and financial implications of all the allegations. If you look at all the points that the author wanted to know, I really doubt if these 30 days will be enough to get all the details that this statement was seeking, and if we will really get a conclusive report on this. Mr. Speaker, from where I'm sitting, I'm just looking at it as if the Joint House Committee wanted to get out this report from their waiting tray. I really am looking forward to the efforts that they are going to employ to make sure that the people they were inviting to come for questioning will come if they fail to do that previously.

Mr. Speaker, how I wish this House can take this report seriously. The same way we want the projects to be done in our wards, the same way we were requesting and demanding for the 50 million to go to our wards, where are we going to get this? If we cannot find the root cause of what is ailing the revenue collection in our county, and we can take this to the bank, if we don't work on this, if we don't improve on our revenue collection, then all the projects that we relied for implementation, I really doubt if they will be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that we put those in offices, those in authorities, those who have been given the opportunity to serve the people of Kisumu County, to take their work seriously. Right now there is a debate that is going on, why the counties, why the Senators are calling the executive from counties to answer to their queries. And they're saying that the MCAs lack the capacity to engage their County Executives.

Mr. Speaker, how will we do this if we can request, we invite the CECs for interrogations, and they fail to honour this invitation? If we cannot have CECs that were vetted in this House, coming and responding to our concerns, how will we be taken as a serious House in this county? We need to ask ourselves the role that the County Assemblies are playing in the development of our country. If the people that we are supposed to make accountable of the resources that are given to the counties, if they cannot come and account and defend how they are utilizing the little resources that we are having, Mr. Speaker, how will we be able to get the development that we are craving for? I doubt from where I'm sitting whether these 30 days extension will be adequate for the two Joint House Committee to come with a conclusive report so that we can at least convince and make the public understand that we are trying to put the County Executive in place and doing our work. I will be tempted to join the queue by supporting this report, but I will be

keeping an eye and I will be counting from today if these 30 days extension will be adequate for the Joint House Committee to give us a report on this. Mr. Speaker, I do submit.

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

Hon. Oginga (Nominated Member): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to add my voice to the report under discussion. Mr. Speaker, when this statement was first brought to this House, I thought it would be one of those matters that would unite us and be concluded with speed, given its importance. As we all know, any meaningful development in our county depends heavily on our own-source revenue. Yet, from the statement and now from the report before us, it is clear that this issue is being mishandled, and that is indeed a very sad situation.

I do acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that there have been changes and transitions within the Kisumu County Revenue Board, which might explain some of the delays. However, I believe that within the next one month, as the Joint House Committee have requested, they should be able to bring back a more concrete and conclusive report to this House.

Mr. Speaker, what concerns me greatly is the continued refusal of the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT to appear before these Joint House Committee when summoned. Why does he resist accountability? What interests is he protecting in all this? He must come before this Assembly and give us a clear picture of the true state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker, if this trend continues unchecked, it will set a dangerous precedent. Other CECs may also begin to disregard summons, weakening the oversight role of this House. Our people are watching, and they expect this Assembly to act firmly against impunity, especially in the critical matter of revenue collection.

If we fail to demand accountability and make strong recommendations, then how can we credibly ask for increased funding for counties, as leaders like the former Prime Minister have been advocating? If we cannot prudently manage the little we already receive, what will happen when more resources are allocated? Are we not then undermining devolution itself?

Mr. Speaker, the responsibility lies squarely with this Assembly. If we allow such impunity to thrive, then we risk killing devolution and failing the people we represent. I therefore urge the Joint House Committee to return within the one month they have sought, with a comprehensive report that this House can deliberate on and adopt with strong recommendations. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I support this report.

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

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil Tamu): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me call the mover to reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Oraro.

Hon. Oraro Kelvin (MCA, Kolwa Central): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to sincerely thank all Honourable members who have contributed to this motion and to the progress report that has been tabled by the Joint House Committee. I was very keenly following their contributions.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Warindu and Honourable Millicent expressed concern that 30 days extension was too much to conclude this matter. I understand their worry, especially given the delay that has already been experienced before this report reached the House. However, I want to assure them that these Joint House Committee shares those same concerns, and we are determined to move with speed and deliver.

Several Members, including Honourable Emily, Honourable Bill, Honourable Onyango—the owner of the statement—and Honourable Pete, all emphasized the same issue: the question of own source revenue and how it is being handled. Mr. Speaker that is exactly why this Joint House Committee brought this progress report before the House. One of the most critical witnesses, and indeed a central figure in this inquiry, is the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT. His appearance before this Joint Committee is absolutely essential. Without his testimony, it is impossible to conclude the matter.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker that we felt it was necessary to bring the matter to the attention of this House. With the adoption of this report, we expect that a strongly worded communication will be sent, compelling the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT to appear before this Joint Committee within 14 days. We have even requested the Payroll for suspended officers to establish whether they are still drawing salaries, because this is not just about routine committee work—it is about protecting county revenue and ensuring accountability.

Mr. Speaker, revenue is the lifeline of our county. When it is mismanaged or embezzled, every ward represented in this House suffers directly. That is why this matter cannot be treated casually, like any other report. It is grave, it is urgent, and it demands that this Assembly acts firmly.

I also wish to acknowledge the Secretariat for their dedication and thorough work—drafting letters, researching relevant legislation, and keeping our records updated. We are now at the final

stretch, and with the support of this House, this Joint Committee is ready to move swiftly, conclude the statement, and bring a comprehensive report for full debate and adoption. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to reply.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the motion on adoption of a Progress Report of the Joint Departmental Committee on Labour, Social Welfare and the Committee of Law, Justice, Good Governance and Security on the Inquiry into Allegations of Revenue Embezzlement by Employees of the Kisumu County Revenue Board have been moved, debated. I want to now put a question. And I want to state to you that when I put a question, if you agree with it, then it means the recommendations of the progress report will be put into action. Again, if you do not agree with the question, it means the progress report is not adopted and then it means that this Joint House Committee will have to go back and redo it. I put the question that the said report is adopted with the recommendations therein.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the motion adoption of the Progress Report by the Joint Committee on Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee of Law, Justice, Good Governance and Security on the Inquiry into Allegations of Revenue Embezzlement by the Employees of the Kisumu County Revenue Board has been adopted today, Thursday, 28th August, 2025 at 15:41 hours. I direct that the recommendations of the said report be put into action.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, please be upstanding. There being no other business to transact, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 02nd September, 2025 at 02.30 p.m.

(House rose at 03.42 p.m.)

Addendum

The Hansard Team

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