COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION

Tuesday 02nd September, 2025

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

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

PRAYERS

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

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

PAPER LAID

REPORT ON THE JOINT DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES ON MEDICAL SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE MATTER OF PAYMENT AND DEDUCTION ON STIPENDS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS.

BY

HON. VINCENT JAGONGO, MCA, NORTH WEST KISUMU

[CHAIRPERSON, JOINT COMMMITTEE]

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

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provision of Section 142 of the Public Finance and Management Act 2012. I wish to table today, Tuesday,

02nd September 2025, Report on the Joint Departmental Committees of Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation of Labor and Social Welfare Services on the Inquiry into the Matter of Payment and Deduction on Stipends for Community Health Providers.

(Hon. Jagongo lays the report before the House for consideration)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the Joint Departmental Committees on Labor and Social Welfare and Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation have properly laid the report on the inquiry of the matter of payment and deductions on the stipends of Community Health Promoters, CHPs, as presented by the Honorable Vincent Jagongo, the Joint Chairperson of the said House Committees. I direct that, this report be considered by the House Business Committee for purposes of scheduling for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to give Notice on Motion THAT, pursuant to the provision of Orders No. 45 (1) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order, THAT, this House adopts the report of the Joint Departmental Committees on Labor and Social Welfare and Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation on the inquiry into the matter of payment and deductions of the stipends on stipends of Community Health Promoters.

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

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT INFORMING THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF THE BUSINESS COMING BEFORE THE HOUSE W.E.F. WEDNESDAY 03RD SEPTEMBER 2025 TO TUESDAY 09TH SEPTEMBER 2025.

STATEMENT SOUGHT BY HON. BENSON ADEGA, MCA, KAJULU REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY FOR FACILITATING THEIR OPERATIONS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025.

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

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise pursuant to the provisions of Orders No. 41 (2) (c) to present and lay on the table of the County Assembly a statement informing the County Assembly of the business coming before the House in the following week.

Honourable Speaker, this is therefore to bring to the attention of members and the County Assembly that for the week commencing on Wednesday 03rd, September 2025 to Tuesday 09th, September 2025, the Select Committee on Assembly House Business at its last meeting approved the following tentative businesses to appear in the order papers follows.

Wednesday 03rd September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

PAPERS TO BE LAID;

1. The Leader of Majority will table the following papers;

a) The Proposed Kisumu County Annual Development Plan Financial Year 2026-2027;
b) Annual Financial Statements of JOOTRH for the period ended 30th June 2025;
c) Kisumu County Climate Change Financial Statements for the period ended 30th June 2025,;
d) City of Kisumu Urban Project Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2025;

2. The Chairperson of the Select Committee on Public Investments and Accounts Honourable Kennedy Ouko will table the following committee reports;

a) The examination of a report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of Kisumu County Executive Financial Year 2023-2024,
b) Receiver of Revenue for the year ended 30th June 2024.

3. The Chairperson, Select Committee on implementation, Honourable James Omollo will table the committee report on Implementation, Status of the House Resolutions on the report by Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation on the Status of Lumumba, Kombewa and Muhoroni County Hospitals.
4. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works Honourable Reuben Rakwach will table the committee report on the Matter of Dilapidated State of Nkrumah Road and the need for intervention by KURA.
5. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs, Honourable Nancy Matara will table the committee report on the FESTA expenditure.
6. the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Trade, Tourism Industry and Marketing, Honourable Alice Wajewa will table the committee report on the Operations of Kisumu County Trade Fund.
7. The Chairperson, Select Committee on Ward Development, Honourable Vitalis K'Omudho will table the committee report on the Benchmarking Exercise with Migori County Assembly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The Chairperson of the Select Committee on Public Accounts and Investment Committee, Honourable Kennedy Ouko will give Notices of Motion for the adoption of the following reports;

a) Examination of the report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of Kisumu County Executive Financial Year 2023-2024.
b) Receiver of Revenue for the year ended 30th June 2024.

2. the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Implementation, Honourable James Omollo will give Notice of Motion for the adoption of the committee report on the Implementation Status of the House Resolutions on the report by Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation on the status of Lumumba, Kombewa and Muhoroni County Hospitals.
3. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works on Reuben Rakwach will give Notice of Motion for the adoption of the committee report on the Matter of the Dilapidated state of Nkrumah Road and the need for intervention by KURA.
4. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs, Honourable Nancy Matara will give Notice of Motion for the adoption of the committee report on the FASTAC expenditure.
5. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Marketing, Honorable Alice Wajewa will give Notice of Motion for the adoption of the committee report on the Operations of the Kisumu County Trade Fund.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS,

1. The Leader of the Majority, Honourable, will move a motion for consideration of the request for Approval for the Short-term Borrowing by the County Executive.
2. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and ICT, Honourable Carren Odhiambo, will move a motion for the adoption of the committee report Seeking House Approval to discontinue further Scrutiny and Interrogation of Annual Financial Statements already reviewed by the Office of the Auditor General and audit opinions issued.

Wednesday, 03rd September, 2025, at 02.30 p.m.

STATEMENTS TO BE SOUGHT

1. The MCA for Chemelil Tamu Ward, Honourable Frederick Adonijah Odari will seek a statement pursuant to the provisions of Orders No. 41 (2) (b) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order on the Status of Bursary and Scholarship Funds for Financial Year 2024-2025.
2. The MCA for Railways Ward, Honourable Samuel Onyango will seek a Statement pursuant to the provisions of Orders No. 41 (2) (b) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order on the Management of Kanyakwar Cultural Centre in Railways

3. The MCA for East Kano Wawidhi, Honourable Moses Ochele will seek a pursuant to the provisions of Orders No. 41 (2) (b) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order on the matter of Privatization of Muhoroni, Chemelil and Miwani Sugar Companies.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS

The Chairperson, Joint Departmental Committees of Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation and Labour and Social Welfare Services, Honourable Vincent Jagongo, will move a motion for the adoption of the report on the Inquiry into the Matter of Payment and Deductions on Stipends on Community Health Promoters.

Thursday, 04th September, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS

1. The Chairperson, Select Committee on Public Investments and Accounts Honourable Kennedy Ouko, will move a motion for the adoption of the House Committee Report on the Examination of the report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Receiver of Revenue for the year ended 30th June 2024.
2. The Chairperson, Select Committee on Public Investments and Accounts Honourable Kennedy Ouko, will move a motion for the House Committee report on the Examination of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Kisumu County Executive for the year ended 30th June, 2024.

Tuesday, 09th September, 2025 at 02.30 p.m.

STATEMENTS

The Leader of the Majority will issue a statement corresponding to Order No. 41(2)(c) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders of Business coming before the County Assembly for the week commencing on Wednesday, 10th September, 2025.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS

The Chairperson, Select Committee on Delegated County Legislation, Honourable Miriam Abeid will move a motion for the adoption of the report on the Status of Statutory Instruments in Kisumu County. Thank you, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honorable Adega.

Hon. Adega (MCA, Kajulu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order No. 41(2)(b), I rise to seek a statement from the Chairperson, Departmental Committee of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development regarding the Transfer of Funds to

various Municipalities within the county for facilitating their operations in the financial year 2024-2025.

Mr. Speaker, sir, AWARE THAT, each municipality in the county was allocated Ksh. 10 million in the financial year 2024-2025 for purposes of operations and maintenance.

FURTHER AWARE THAT, the Kisumu County has established five municipalities in line with the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, No. 13 of 2011 and that the same have since been operationalized through the constitution of respective boards.

I therefore request the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development to seek response from the County Executive Committee Member, Land, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development on the matter and reports to this House on the following;

a) The status of disbursement and owed transfers of funds to the five municipalities during the financial year 2024-2025.
b) The utilization of the transferred funds by the municipalities.
c) The payment status of board allowances to members of the respective municipal boards from the beginning of the last financial year to date.
d) The specific function devolved to the municipalities, therefore, effectiveness in execution and key achievements realized since inception.
e) The strategies, if any, being put in place to strengthen financial management within the municipalities and to enhance their overall performance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Moses Ochele.

(*Hon. K'Omudho interjects*)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): What is it Honourable K'Omudho.

Hon. K'Omudho (MCA, Muhoroni/Koru): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a personal statement, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 42...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable member, before you proceed, is Honorable Ochele in the House?

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Then, Honourable K'Omudho, please proceed.

Hon. K'Omudho (MCA, Muhoroni/Koru): Honorable Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Order No. 42 of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order to make a personal statement.

Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf and on behalf of my family I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to you, Honorable members and to the entire staff of this Assembly for the exceptional solidarity, compassion and support extended to us during the recent bereavement occasioned by the passing of my brother.

Honorable Speaker, the message of condolences, words of comfort, prayers and the dignified presence of the colleagues at various moments of mourning provided immeasurable strength to my family and myself in particular. In our hour of grief, this Assembly stood with us, not merely as colleagues, but as a true family bound by a shared sense of humanity and fraternity. Such act of kindness has firmly affirmed the values of unity, empathy and fellowship that this House continues to uphold.

Honourable Speaker, it is therefore my solemn duty to place on record my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to this Honourable House. Your unwavering support shall forever remain inevitably etched in our hearts, and I pray that the Almighty God continues His blessings upon each one of you. I am indeed very grateful, Honorable Speaker, to you particularly, to entire colleagues. Our gratitude extends to the Deputy Governor, who also came in person and graced the occasion for more than three hours. May God bless you abundantly. Many thanks once more.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable K'Omudho was bereaved at a time when the Leader of Majority was undergoing the same grief of bereavement.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I saw Honourable Dede on his feet.

Hon. Dede (Mca, Kisumu North): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No. 41(2) ...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Dede, what statement are you presenting? Do you have it in the Order Paper?

Hon. Dede (MCA, Kisumu North): No, Mr. Speaker, but I have been given...

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Kindly, make reference to the Order Paper.

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

Hon. Okumu (Mca, East Seme): Thank you so much, Honorable Speaker. Under a personal statement, allow me to bring to the attention of the House that in the wards of East Seme and South-West Kisumu, we witnessed unprecedented hailstorm, which affected so many homes and livelihoods. So many people lost their roofs. However, allow me to thank the Kenya Red Cross and the Department of Special Programs of the County of Kisumu that has come to assist the victims of such disaster. Honorable Speaker, I know there are so many people, who are still left, and we are appealing that anybody who knows any relative in those areas and who is willing to assist can liaise with the Honorable Jennifer Obonyo or myself so that we see that people are restored in their normal livelihoods. Thank you so much, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Why is Honorable Ratib Boitone, making fun of Honorable Seth Okumu? Has the member never heard of hailstorms?

Hon. Boitone (Nyalenda "B"): Thank you Honorable Speaker. It is coming as a very big surprise for the first time in the history of Kenya that hailstorms have interfered and poked holes on roofs. However, what I come to understand is that Honorable Seth is not telling us the truth. Most of those houses had very old iron sheets. So, I do not know...

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

Hon. Okumu (East Seme): Honorable Speaker, allow me to clarify to him. Maybe he should visit the Assistant Chief's Office in Osiri where we did the distribution of the iron sheets, most recently constructed with, I think, box-profile iron sheets. That whole building is seriously affected. That is just to mention one of the public buildings that the member should visit, save for the other people who use these ordinary iron sheets. It is so bad. Honorable members I believe that the Departmental Committee on Justice and Administration of Law can visit those areas so that they can bring a comprehensive report. Thank you, Honorable Speaker.

(Hon. Jagongo rises on his feet)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!! Honorable Vincent Jagongo, what is it? Is it on the same thing?

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North-West Kisumu): Just to give an advice to Honorable Members.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Whom do you want to give advice to?

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North-West Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, Honorable Seth Okumu.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable member, What is the advice you want to give?

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North-West Kisumu): That, before even we look for external support, they need to organize for an inter-denominational prayer for the people of both wards. It could be something else because it is unusual.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Let us put that matter aside.

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

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Adega, what is it? I have said that the matter should be put to rest.

Hon. Adega (MCA, Kajulu): Yes, Mr. Speaker I just want to inform my colleague, Honourable Seth. That, the member has forgotten something, that even the crocodiles are doing some of the mysterious things in his ward and that of my other colleague, Honourable Jennifer Obonyo's ward. They lost a woman there who was grabbed by a crocodile.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, I want to say that, we are very sorry for that and I believe that it is a matter that needs to be looked into keenly, and as Hon. Jagongo stated, this matter requires spiritual intervention. Nevertheless, it is quite painful.

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

The Leader of Majority (Hon. Ooko, MCA, Ahero): Mr. Speaker, I just want to inform members that such calamities are normal when we are approaching elections

(Hon. Okoyo rises on a Point of Order)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Leader of Majority, a calamity is a calamity.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Okoyo, I want that matter to be put aside. What is it?

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, let me inform the House. As Kisumu West constituency we are finding this joke to be a bit serious because, the hailstorm was so serious and the damage which was caused by this we still do not know how we are going to go through it. Many have had even the animals affected and when I see people rising up to make jokes on this matter, then I believe that, we need to inform these members on how we are still trying to come to terms with this calamity.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that yes, we may need some intervention whether spiritual or otherwise but, we are yet to come to terms with this. So, Mr. Speaker I rise to inform the House that they need to condole with those affected because it was a calamity which has never been witnessed before, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, please permit me to move to the next Order. I want to put that matter to rest. If there is need to have a debate on that or some motion, then it should be tabled properly on the floor of the House. Therefore Honourable Jennifer, Seth Okumu, Moses Ochele, Chairperson, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, you can have formal discussion on the same and make some suggestion on the way forward.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next Order!

MOTION

REPORT BY THE DEPARTMETAL COMMITTEE ON LAND, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON THE OPERATIONAL STATUS OF MUNICIPALITIES

BY

HON. RATIB BOITONE, MCA, NYALENDA "A"

[CHIRPERSON, LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP'MT]

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes, Honourable Ratib Boitone, Chairperson, Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development.

Hon. Boitone (MCA, Nyalenda "A"): Thank you Honourable Speaker. I was consulting with one of the Panelist, Honourable Emily Oginga on the Statement which was just sought by Honourable Adega because it touched on the Departmental Committee on Land, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development. However, Honourable Speaker, I did not hear it being committed to any House Committee. Anyway Honourable Speaker, I rise to move a motion on the Operational Status of Municipalities in Kisumu County.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, on behalf of the Committee, I am honored to present this report on the status of operations of the municipalities within Kisumu County. On 13th October, 2023, the Governor gazetted five municipalities—Ahero-Awasi, Katito-Pap Onditi, Muhoroni-Chemelil, Maseno-Holo, and Kombewa-Bodi. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the functioning, challenges, and opportunities facing these municipalities, which play a critical role in shaping the development and growth of our County.

The establishment and operationalization of municipalities in Kisumu County represent significant milestones in our pursuit of efficient and decentralized urban management. These municipalities are designed to enable localized governance, ensuring that decisions related to urban planning, infrastructure development, and resource allocation are made closer to the people. This approach has the potential to foster more responsive, transparent, and accountable governance while improving service delivery and addressing the unique needs of our urban populations.

This report offers a detailed review of the current status of these municipalities, evaluating their ability to effectively execute their mandates. It covers key areas such as governance structures, resource management, urban planning, housing provision, and the implementation of physical development projects. The report also highlights areas requiring immediate attention, including capacity enhancement, improved coordination, and better stakeholder engagement.

While significant progress has been made, challenges persist, particularly in terms of financial constraints, staffing, infrastructure development, and meeting the growing demand for housing and urban services. These challenges present an opportunity for us to collectively reimagine how we can support these municipalities to function more effectively, contributing to the long-term sustainable development of Kisumu County.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the team that worked diligently on this report. Their dedication and expertise have been invaluable in providing an accurate assessment of the operational status of our municipalities. This report serves as a vital foundation for the future direction of municipalities in Kisumu County. I trust it will stimulate discussions and lead to actionable solutions, enabling us to unlock the full potential of our urban areas and improve the quality of life for all our citizens.

ESTABLISHMENT AND MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development is established under Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order No. 193 and is required to;

i. Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned departments;
ii. Study the Program and policy objectives of departments and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
iii. Study and review all the County legislation referred to it;
iv. Study, access and analyze the relative success of the departments as measures by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;

v. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
vi. To vet and report all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order No. 187 (Committee on Appointments).
vii. Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, the sectoral committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development is composed of the following members and Secretariat;

Committee Members

1. Hon. Ratib Boitone Chairperson
2. Hon Tom Nyaoke V/Chairperson
3. Hon. Joachim Oketch Member
4. Hon Seth Kanga Member
5. Hon. Nereah Okombo Member
6. Hon George Abaja Member
7. Hon. Moses Ochele Member
8. Hon. Zackaria Okoyo Member
9. Hon. James Were Member

Committee Secretariat

1. Mr. Austine Ochieng - Committee Clerk
2. Mr. Rodgers Wagude - Clerk assistant
3. Ms. Vallery Achieng - Hansard
4. Ms. Faith Judith - Sergeant-At-Arms

Acknowledgement.

On behalf of the Committee on Land, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development of the Kisumu County Assembly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Committee members for dedicating their time and effort to the site visits to the municipalities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly for their invaluable support in facilitating the meetings and site visits. The Committee also appreciates the board members and staff of the municipalities for their cooperation and active participation in these engagements.

Furthermore, we are deeply grateful to the staff and board members of the municipalities who provided valuable feedback on their experiences with municipal services. Their insights are essential in guiding the development of policies and interventions that directly impact the operations of the municipalities. We also wish to thank the community leaders and local stakeholders for their ongoing support and involvement throughout the entire process.

It is now my honor to present this report from the Committee on Land, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development regarding the status of the operationalization of the municipalities for consideration by the House.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, Municipalities are vital centers of local governance, playing a crucial role in delivering essential services. They operate under the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, which provides the framework for their establishment, governance, and development.

The role of municipalities in Kenya has evolved significantly, particularly with the implementation of devolution in 2010 through the Constitution of Kenya. This shift transferred the responsibility of managing urban areas and municipalities to the counties, empowering local governments to oversee service delivery, economic planning, and the overall well-being of urban populations.

On 13th October 2023, the County Government of Kisumu gazetted five municipalities: Ahero-Awasi, Katito -Pap Onditi, Muhoroni-Chemelil, Maseno-Holo, and Kombewa-Bodi, through Gazette Notice No. 13878. The functions of the municipalities were transferred effective 2nd October, 2023, as outlined in Part II of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution. In line with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, and the County Government Act, 2012, strengthening the municipalities and other urban areas is key to decentralizing service delivery within the county.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, this report focuses on the status of the municipalities in Kisumu County and provides an in-depth analysis of their governance, growth, challenges, and the future direction of urban development in the county. By examining the current state of the municipalities, we aim to assess the progress made and identify the necessary steps to enhance the quality of life for residents and promote sustainable urban growth.

In line with its oversight mandate, as outlined in Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order No. 193, the Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development Committee conducted site visits to the municipalities. The goal was to assess the status of their operationalization and provide a true and fair view of the municipalities' current state.

OVERVIEW OF THE MUNICIPALITIES STATUS.

MASENO – HOLO MUNICIPALITY.

Vision.

To be a leading Municipality in provision of quality services to its residents, employees and public.

Mission.

To provide quality services to the residents that are affordable, accessible, sustainable and equitably distributed to all.

Mandate.

i. To ensure provision of services to its members.

ii. Develop or adopt policies, plans, strategies and programmes and set targets for service delivery.

iii. Promoting a safe and healthy environment.

iv. Maintain a comprehensive database and information system of the administration.

v. Implementing applicable National and County legislation.

vi. Formulate and implement an integrated development plan.

vii. Promoting and undertaking infrastructural development and services within Maseno – Holo as delegated by the County Government of Kisumu.

viii. Facilitating and regulating public transport.

Programmes and their Objectives.

Programme	Objective
Waste Management	To provide a healthy, clean and safe environment through proper management of waste.
Public Transport Management	To manage public transport system within the Municipality
Disaster Management	To respond to disaster and prepare disaster management plan.

OPERATIONAL STATUS.

Staffing of the Municipality.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, at the time of the committee's site visit, it was noted that a total of 54 personnel had been seconded to the municipality. However, the relevant County departments were yet to release these officers to report to the municipality. Currently, only six officers from the County Revenue Board with diverse professional backgrounds have been transferred to the municipality. The committee was informed that it would be the responsibility of the Municipal Manager to assign appropriate roles to these officers, guided by their respective professions and in accordance with the approved municipal organogram.

Budget Allocation and Implementation Status.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, for the Financial Year 2024/2025, the municipality was allocated a total of Kenya Shillings 10 million. This allocation was intended to support the municipality in executing its mandate, including enhancing service delivery, implementing priority urban development projects, and addressing emerging challenges within the urban space.

While this budgetary allocation reflects the County Government's recognition of the municipality's growing operational needs, it is concerning to note that, as of the time of the committee's site visit, the funds had not yet been disbursed to the municipality's account despite the account having already been opened and made ready to receive the allocation.

This delay in disbursement presents a significant bottleneck to operational planning, timely project implementation, and overall service delivery. Without access to the allocated resources, the municipality is unable to execute its work plan, engage service providers, or procure essential tools and equipment as earlier prioritized.

Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, Maseno–Holo Municipality has made commendable strides in strengthening its governance framework, marking a significant step toward enhanced urban service delivery. A major milestone in this journey is the finalization of the Municipality Charter, which is now ready for formal handover to the Municipal Board following the swearing-in of its members. This Charter sets the foundation for structured urban management in accordance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (Amended 2019).

The operationalization of the Board is a critical requirement under the law, as it will be responsible for steering the municipality's service delivery agenda. While the Board has already been constituted, it is important to note that it remains incomplete as three additional members are yet to be appointed. The full functionality of the Board is contingent upon the swearing-in of

all members, after which it can effectively undertake its mandate.
On the aspect of planning, the Physical Land Use Plan for Maseno–Holo and Ahero–Awasi Municipalities had been completed. However, the committee noted two concerns:

1. The consultant who developed the plan had not been fully paid, which may affect the formal submission or implementation process.
2. The scope of the plan appeared to be limited to town boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, in addition, the committee was presented with a letter from H.E. the Governor, addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, Public Works and Urban Development requesting the initiation of the delineation of boundaries for the five municipalities within Kisumu County. This request aligns with Section 4 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, which provides for proper boundary definition as a prerequisite for sound urban governance. In the same letter, the Governor proposed three individuals to serve in the ad hoc committee that will oversee the boundary delineation process.
Hon. Speaker, the establishment of robust governance structures, finalization of planning instruments, and constitution of a fully operational Board are essential steps toward realizing the municipality's vision of improved service delivery. This Assembly and relevant stakeholders must therefore prioritize the remaining administrative actions particularly the swearing-in and appointment of Board members, as well as the payment of pending consultant dues—to unlock the full potential of municipal governance in Maseno–Holo and Ahero–Awasi.

Operational Readiness and Equipment Gaps in the Municipality.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, the ability of the municipality to discharge its mandate efficiently and deliver quality urban services as envisioned under the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (Amended 2019), is heavily dependent on the availability of adequate operational tools, equipment, and institutional infrastructure.
However, during the committee's site visit and as is the case to date, it was noted that the municipality continues to grapple with a serious shortfall in critical equipment and working tools. This gap has significantly impeded the municipality’s ability to perform its core functions, including but not limited to urban planning, solid waste management, infrastructure development, and general service delivery to residents.

The situation has forced the municipality to rely on support from county departments to execute basic services such as waste collection and disposal. This reliance undermines efficiency, delays service delivery, and erodes the principle of devolved urban management.
In an effort to mitigate these constraints, the department has taken preliminary measures by procuring a few essential tools to facilitate the commencement of operations. While these efforts are commendable, they fall short of the broader institutional needs. The municipality still lacks key resources such as operational vehicles, specialized technical equipment, ICT infrastructure,

and adequate office supplies.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, addressing these equipment and capacity gaps is not just a matter of logistical support, it is fundamental to realizing the objectives of urban governance, promoting local economic development, and improving the quality of life for residents. There is, therefore, an urgent need for targeted investment in operational infrastructure to build a fully functional, responsive, and autonomous municipal administration.

Committee Observations.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, following the site visit to the municipality, the committee made the following observations;

A. On Staffing of the Municipality;
    1. That a total of 54 personnel had been seconded to the municipality although they were yet to be released by the departments.
    2. That Currently, six officers from the County Revenue Board had reported to the municipality as of the time of the committee's site visit.
    3. That the Municipal Manager will be responsible for assigning roles to the transferred officers based on their professional backgrounds and the approved municipal organogram.

B. Budget Allocation and Implementation Status;
    1. The municipality was allocated Kshs. 10 million for the Financial Year 2024/2025.
    2. The funds were meant to support service delivery, implement urban development projects, and manage emerging urban challenges.
    3. Although the municipality's account had been opened, the allocated funds had not been disbursed as at the time of the committee visit.
    4. The delay in disbursement negatively affected operational planning, procurement, and the ability to roll out essential services.

C. Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness
    1. That the Municipality Charter had been finalized and was ready for handover to the Municipal Board after the swearing-in ceremony.
    2. That the Municipal Board has been constituted but remains incomplete, with three members yet to be appointed.
    3. That the Board is not fully operational as it is awaiting the swearing-in of all members to commence its statutory mandate.
    4. The Physical Land Use Plan for Maseno–Holo and Ahero–Awasi has been completed.
    5. The consultant responsible for preparing the plan has not been fully paid, posing a risk to its implementation and formal submission.

6. The scope of the land use plan was found to be limited to town boundaries, and there is a need to expand the scope to cover the full extent of the municipal areas.
7. A letter from H.E. the Governor was presented, requesting the Cabinet Secretary to initiate boundary delineation for all five municipalities in Kisumu County, in accordance with Section 4 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act.
8. The Governor also proposed three names to be considered for appointment to an ad hoc committee to oversee the delineation process.

D. Operational Readiness and Equipment Gaps

1. The municipality lacks adequate operational tools and equipment, which severely limits its capacity to deliver on its mandate.
2. Key functions such as solid waste management, infrastructure development, and planning have been affected by the equipment gap.
3. The municipality is currently relying on county departments for basic service delivery, undermining the principle of decentralized governance.
4. Some essential tools have been procured by the department, allowing limited operations to commence.
5. The equipment acquired so far is insufficient, with major gaps in: Operational vehicles, Technical and field tools, ICT infrastructure, Office furniture and supplies, Targeted investment is urgently required to fully operationalize the municipality and promote sustainable urban development

Committee Recommendations.

1. The County Public Service Board (CPSB) should expedite the release and deployment of the all the seconded staff to the municipality to ensure it is adequately staffed to commence full operations.
2. The Municipal Manager should immediately assign roles to the deployed officers and initiate a comprehensive orientation and capacity-building exercise to align them with their new responsibilities in accordance with the approved municipal organogram.
3. That going forward, the County Treasury must ensure that all budgeted municipal funds are released within the first quarter of the financial year
4. The Office of the Governor should fast-track the appointment of the remaining three Board members to ensure the Municipal Board is fully constituted.
5. The swearing-in ceremony for the full Board should be scheduled without further delay to enable the Board to officially commence its functions as per the Urban Areas and Cities Act.
6. The County Department of Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development should ensure that the consultant responsible for the physical land use plan is paid

in full to facilitate the formal handover and implementation of the plan.

7. The scope of the land use plan should be revised and expanded to cover the full extent of the Maseno–Holo boundaries.

AHERO–AWASI MUNICIPALITY.

Vision.

To be a clean, healthy, climate-resilient, convergent, and people-centered municipality of prosperity.

Mission

To provide quality humanitarian services geared towards building resilience and mitigating the negative effects of climate change.

Mandate

i. To provide a healthy, clean, and safe environment through proper management of waste and natural resources.
ii. To create an enabling environment for effective service provision and management of the municipality.
iii. To promote a conducive business environment by providing adequate infrastructure and maintaining law and order.
iv. To develop, maintain, and rehabilitate the road network and drainage systems to facilitate the movement of goods and ensure safety.

Programmes and Their Objectives.

Programme	Objective
Waste Management	To enhance hygiene and cleanliness through proper collection and disposal.
Infrastructure Development	To improve transport and public utility services across the municipality.
Climate Change & Disaster Risk	To build resilience against floods and promote sustainable urban development.
Urban Governance & Participation	To strengthen stakeholder engagement and municipal accountability.

OPERATIONAL STATUS

Staffing of the Municipality

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, the committee noted that a total of 51 staff members had been

proposed for deployment to Ahero–Awasi Municipality. However, as with other municipalities, the relevant county departments had not yet released these personnel. Only revenue officers had been officially deployed at the time of the visit.

Key staffing gaps remain in critical areas such as public health, inspectorates, legal affairs, and cleaning services, which has hindered the municipality's capacity to operate effectively.
Despite these challenges, operations were successfully launched, largely due to external funding support from the World Bank, which facilitated the initial deployment of staff and operational activities.

Budget Allocation and Implementation Status

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, in the Supplementary Budget for FY 2023/2024, the municipality was allocated Kshs 1.2 million. For the FY 2024/2025, a total of Kshs 10 million was allocated.
As of the time of the committee's site visit, these funds had not been transferred to the municipality's account. The financial shortfall has affected several operational areas, including unpaid board member allowances and the lack of essential office equipment such as furniture and computers.

Nonetheless, external funding from development partners—particularly the World Bank under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP)—has played a critical role in supporting early-stage operations.

Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, Ahero–Awasi Municipality has made progress in establishing its governance structures. The Municipality Charter is already in place, and the municipality shares the physical land use plan is complete. However, the consultant is yet to be paid fully
To support governance, the Board has formed ten subcommittees, including: Board Business Committee, Social Services, Gender & Welfare, Physical Planning & Infrastructure, Public Health & Disaster Risk, Audit, ICT & Procurement, Human Resources & Administration Enforcement & Legal Affairs and SMEs, Trade & Markets
However, the committee noted coordination challenges between the inspectorate, enforcement team, and the revenue board, leading to inefficiencies in enforcement functions.

Public-Private Partnerships and Engagement

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, the municipality has successfully initiated Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with agencies such as KERRA, KURA, and waste management providers, which have enhanced service delivery. It has also hosted urban forums to engage local residents and stakeholders in municipal planning and development.

Committee Observations

A. On Staffing of the Municipality.

1. 51 staff were identified for deployment, but most had not reported due to delays from county departments.
2. Only revenue officers had been deployed at the time of the visit.
3. Critical gaps remain in public health, inspectorate, legal, and cleaning roles.
4. Despite these challenges, donor funding has supported the operations of the municipality

B. Budget Allocation and Implementation Status.

1. The municipality received Kshs 1.2 million in the supplementary FY 2023/2024 and Kshs 10 million in the FY 2024/2025 budget.Neither of these amounts had been transferred to the municipality's account as at the time of the committee visit.
2. Financial delays have led to unpaid allowances and a lack of basic operational resources.

C. Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness

1. The Municipality Charter is in place.
2. The Land Use Plan is in development, expected by April 2025.
3. Governance structures are well-organized, with ten functional subcommittees.
4. There are ongoing coordination problems between enforcement and revenue teams.

D. Public-Private Partnerships and Engagement.

1. Partnerships with KERRA, KURA, and others have contributed to early success.
2. The municipality has engaged stakeholders through urban forums and public meetings.

Committee Recommendations.

1. That, the County Public Service Board (CPSB) should expedite the release and deployment of all proposed staff to Ahero–Awasi Municipality to ensure it is adequately resourced to carry out its mandate.
2. That, the Municipal Manager should immediately assign roles to the deployed officers and initiate a comprehensive orientation and capacity-building programme aligned to the approved municipal organogram.
3. That, the County Treasury should ensure that the allocated Kshs. 10 million for FY 2024/2025 is disbursed promptly to facilitate service delivery, procurement of essential equipment, and payment of outstanding allowances to board members.
4. The budgeted municipal funds be released within the first quarter of the financial year to avoid operational disruptions.
5. The municipality should formally operationalize its Municipality Charter and regularly

review the structure and effectiveness of the board subcommittees to improve oversight and delivery.

KOMBEWA–BODI MUNICIPALITY

Vision

A progressive and sustainable municipality with a diversified economy incorporating both traditional resource-based activities and innovation.

Mission

To promote inclusion, equity, diversity, and sustainability in service delivery.

Mandate

i. Promotion, regulation, and provision of refuse collection and solid waste management services.
ii. Promotion and provision of water and sanitation services and infrastructure.
iii. Construction and maintenance of urban roads, street lights, flood controls, and associated infrastructure.
iv. Construction and maintenance of recreational parks and green spaces
v. Regulation of outdoor advertising
vi. Construction, maintenance, and regulation of traffic controls, markets, and abattoirs
vii. Promotion and provision of fire and emergency response services
viii. Promotion of municipal sports and cultural activities
ix. Development and enforcement of municipal plans and development controls
x. Construction and maintenance of administrative offices
xi. Promoting and undertaking infrastructural development and services within the municipality

Programmes and Their Objectives

Programme	Objective
Solid Waste Management	To ensure a clean and healthy urban environment through organized waste disposal
Urban Roads and Drainage	To facilitate movement and reduce flooding through quality roads and drainage
Water and Sanitation	To provide access to clean water and improved sanitation infrastructure
Fire and Emergency	To enhance preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters

Programme	Objective
Services	
Development Planning	To promote orderly development and efficient land use through planning controls

OPERATIONAL STATUS

Staffing of the Municipality

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, as of the time of committee's site visit, the board had six members appointed, but three positions remain vacant. One appointed board member has never reported, and the board is yet to be formally sworn in. Though induction was conducted, the board's incomplete composition and swearing-in hinder full functionality.

A total of 27 staff members were transferred to the municipality by various departments. However, none had reported to duty as they had not been formally released. The Municipal Manager is currently serving in an acting capacity and is simultaneously overseeing Maseno–Holo Municipality. No additional staff were in place at the time of the visit.

Budget Allocation and Implementation Status.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, the municipality had been allocated Kshs 1.2 million for start-up operations, which was never received. An account had been opened for this purpose, but the funds were returned to the Treasury without explanation.
In the FY 2024/2025, the municipality was allocated Kshs 10 million, but as at the time of the committee's visit, no disbursement had been made, further constraining the municipality's ability to operate and deliver services.

Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, although Kombewa–Bodi Municipality has a Municipality Charter, it has not yet been officially handed over, and the town has not been officially launched.
The municipality lacks functional office space. While a section of Kombewa Huduma Centre had been allocated, the municipality has not received the keys. Plans for construction of a new office are in progress, but land allocated for the municipality has been taken over by other entities, including the Chief's camp, Sub-County Hospital, and the MP's office. Attempts to share the land have been unsuccessful.

Moreover, the boundary demarcation of the municipality remains unclear, affecting service delivery, governance, legal enforcement, and urban planning.
The municipality also lacks basic office equipment such as furniture, computers, or internet

connectivity.

Committee Observations.

A. . On Staffing of the Municipality

1. The Board consists of six members, with three positions vacant, and no member has been sworn in.
2. A total of 27 staff were transferred but had not reported due to delays in formal release.
3. The Municipal Manager is acting and overstretched, overseeing multiple municipalities without support.

B. . Budget Allocation and Implementation Status.

1. The Kshs 1.2 million allocated for startup operations was never received.
2. The Kshs 10 million for FY 2024/2025 had not been disbursed at the time of the committee's visit.
3. These delays have crippled operational planning and procurement.

C. Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness.

1. The Municipality Charter exists but has not been officially handed over.
2. Kombewa–Bodi has not been officially launched as a town.
3. The office space allocated at Kombewa Huduma Centre remains inaccessible.
4. Plans to construct a new office are delayed due to land disputes with other government entities.
5. Boundary demarcation remains unresolved, creating legal and governance uncertainties.
6. The municipality lacks furniture, equipment, and working tools, limiting service delivery capacity.

Committee Recommendations.

1. That the County Public Service Board should urgently complete the appointment of the three vacant board members and ensure the formal swearing-in of the entire board to enable effective governance.
2. The relevant County departments must immediately release the seconded staff to the municipality.
3. A permanent Municipal Manager should be appointed to replace the acting manager and provide stable leadership.
4. The Municipal Manager should prioritize orientation and role assignment for the incoming officers using the municipal organogram.
5. The County Treasury should release both the Kshs 1.2 million startup funds and the Kshs 10 million for FY 2024/2025 without further delay to allow the municipality to commence its work plan.

6. The County Executive should officially launch Kombewa–Bodi Municipality and hand over the Municipality Charter to the Board.
7. The County Government should resolve the land allocation conflict affecting construction of the municipal office and facilitate access to the Kombewa Huduma Centre office space.
8. The municipality should be supported to procure basic office equipment and furniture, including desks, chairs, computers, and communication tools, to allow for minimal operations while long-term infrastructure is addressed.

KATITO–PAP ONDITI MUNICIPALITY.

Vision

To create a sustainable and prosperous community for all residents.

Mission

To provide efficient and effective public services while fostering economic growth and social well-being.

Mandate

i. Provide for efficient and accountable management of municipal affairs
ii. Establish a governance mechanism that enables resident participation in determining social services and regulatory frameworks
iii. Promote public oversight on resource use and authority within the municipality
iv. Ensure effective service delivery and enhance the quality of life of residents
v. Facilitate the pursuit of developmental opportunities and civic amenities
vi. Promote social cohesion, civic responsibility, and inclusive decision-making
vii. Provide and manage laws, services, and infrastructure that benefit the municipality

Programmes and Their Objectives

Programme	Objective
Waste Management	To promote public health and environmental sustainability through regular waste collection and disposal
Infrastructure Development	To expand and maintain urban roads, storm drainage, lighting, and flood control systems
Market and Sanitation Services	To enhance market infrastructure and ensure clean, well-managed trading environments

Programme	Objective
Water Resource Management	To improve access to clean water and maintain sanitation infrastructure
Community Engagement	To build a sense of civic duty through voluntary service, stakeholder forums, and local partnerships

OPERATIONAL STATUS

Staffing of the Municipality

The Board of Katito–Pap Onditi Municipality is fully composed with seven members. However, one board member, despite receiving an appointment letter from the Governor, was not gazetted, affecting the board's legal completeness.

Staff were seconded to the municipality (Inspectorate and Revenue officers) were recalled after their appointment letters were withdrawn. The assigned Physical Planner also serve Nyakach Sub-County and is based in Pap-Onditi.

Budget Allocation and Implementation Status.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable member, for the FY 2024/2025, the municipality was allocated Kshs 10 million. However, as of the time of the site visit, no funds had been received, which significantly constrained operational and service delivery capacity.

Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness

The municipality currently lacks a formal service charter, and its Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP) is still in the drafting phase, meaning it is not yet operational.

Despite this, the municipality has taken several proactive initiatives, including monthly voluntary market cleanups organized by the Board and local community, supported by the area MCA and stakeholders.

In terms of partnerships, the municipality has collaborated with KENHA, which installed street lighting and tarmacked the Katito Market ring road. Additionally, World Vision donated 10 boreholes, of which only three are functional—the others were vandalized or mismanaged.

The municipality manages multiple markets, including Katito, Pap Onditi, Kibogo, Onyinge (Harambee), and has initiated revival efforts for Kusa, Omwonyo Lee, and Riat (Ondiek) markets. Kasorok Market has titled plots, indicating progress in land administration.

The municipality operates from an office and boardroom within the Nyakach Elders' Office, but the space is unfurnished and unequipped. Land has been identified for constructing a new municipal office.

Committee Observations.

A. On Staffing of the Municipality

1. The Board is fully constituted but has one member (Dr. Ojieno) not gazetted, affecting formal operations.
2. Appointment letters for other critical officers, such as Inspectorate and Revenue staff, were withdrawn before deployment.

B. Budget Allocation and Implementation Status

1. The municipality was allocated Kshs 10 million for FY 2024/2025, but no disbursement had been made as of the site visit.
2. Financial constraints have limited the municipality's ability to launch core operations and procure basic equipment.

C. Municipal Governance, Planning, and Service Delivery Readiness

1. The municipality lacks a formal service charter and is still drafting its IUDP.
2. Despite institutional gaps, the Board has mobilized the community for voluntary cleanups.
3. KENHA and World Vision partnerships have resulted in key infrastructure projects, though vandalism and theft (e.g., a stolen county-installed tank) have affected sustainability.
4. The municipality oversees several functioning and developing markets, showing local economic potential.
5. The current office space is unfurnished, and the identified land for a new office has not yet been developed.

Committee Recommendations

1. The County Government should immediately gazette all appointed board members, including ensuring the Board's legal validity.
2. The County departments should fast-track the release of all transferred personnel, especially in revenue collection, inspectorate, and planning.
3. The Municipal Manager should conduct immediate orientation and role allocation for deployed officers using the approved organogram.

4. The County Treasury must ensure timely disbursement of the Kshs. 10 million allocation for FY 2024/2025 to allow the municipality to initiate its planned projects and services.
5. The municipality should be assisted in setting up a basic financial tracking system to align disbursement with operational needs.
6. The Integrated Urban Development Plan should be finalized and adopted without further delay, and the Municipality Charter developed and enacted to guide operations.
7. The municipality should prioritize furnishing the current office with desks, chairs, computers, and communication tools for basic functionality
8. The County Government should allocate funds and technical support for the construction of a permanent municipal office on the identified land.
9. The municipality should engage community policing units and youth groups to address vandalism and theft affecting public assets like boreholes and water tanks

MUHORONI–CHEMELIL MUNICIPALITY.

Introduction

Muhoroni–Chemelil Municipality is located in the sugar belt region of Kisumu County and serves as a critical agro-industrial hub. The municipality has significant economic potential due to the presence of sugar factories, rail infrastructure, and a dense rural-urban population mix. It was established in accordance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011.

Municipal Operational Structure.

At the time of the committee's visit, the Municipality 54 staff had been seconded from various county departments. However, it was noted that most of the departments had not yet released the officers to report to the municipality officially.
The committee was informed that six officers from the County Revenue Board had already been deployed to the municipality, with diverse professional backgrounds. These officers had yet to be assigned specific roles, pending internal alignment with the approved municipal organogram.

Municipal Challenges

The following challenges were observed in Muhoroni–Chemelil Municipality:

1. Delayed staff reporting: Despite being seconded, most staff had not officially reported for duty at the municipality.
2. Lack of adequate facilities: The municipality lacked proper office space and necessary equipment for effective operations.
3. Limited funding: The municipality faced serious constraints in operational funding, impeding service delivery.
4. Weak enforcement structures: The municipality had insufficient enforcement personnel to deal with urban management issues such as unregulated vending and waste disposal.
5. Poor road infrastructure: The municipality had deteriorating road networks, especially in

Chemelil and Muhoroni townships, affecting transport and commerce.

6. Absence of a development plan: The municipality had no Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP) to guide its long-term growth.

Committee Observations.

1. The municipality's institutional framework remained weak, with incomplete staffing and low operational autonomy.
2. The presence of major industrial players in the municipality (e.g., Chemelil and Muhoroni Sugar Companies) was not being leveraged effectively for local development.
3. Urban services such as waste management and drainage were poorly coordinated, with some functions still handled by the parent departments.
4. The municipality lacked a clear capital investment strategy, limiting its capacity to attract and absorb development funding.
5. There was minimal citizen engagement, especially in the formulation of development priorities.

Committee Recommendations.

1. The County Government should immediately release all seconded officers and direct them to report to the municipality to facilitate full operationalization.
2. The Municipal Manager should assign roles to deployed officers and initiate a comprehensive orientation and capacity building program based on the organogram.
3. The County Treasury should prioritize adequate and predictable funding for the municipality to support key functions and development.
4. The municipality should recruit and train municipal enforcement officers to ensure compliance with by-laws and promote orderly urban development.
5. The Department of Roads and Infrastructure should work with the municipality to develop a road rehabilitation and maintenance plan.
6. The municipality should be supported to develop and adopt an Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP) to provide a roadmap for future growth.
7. There is need to enhance public participation and stakeholder engagement, especially in areas with high industrial and agricultural activities.

General Observations.

1. That across all municipalities, there is delayed or incomplete implementation of the approved municipal organograms. Most seconded staff have not reported or been fully integrated into the municipal operations.
2. That the Municipalities lack sufficient physical infrastructure, including office space, equipment, and basic operational tools needed to support service delivery.
3. Municipalities have not established clear asset registers, leading to weak oversight and management of public properties and facilities.

General Recommendations.

1. The County Government should ensure immediate deployment of seconded staff and facilitate role alignment and orientation based on approved municipal organograms.
2. Adequate office facilities, ICT infrastructure, and tools of trade should be provided to enable municipalities to operate effectively.
3. The County Treasury must ensure predictable, timely, and sufficient disbursement of operational funds to support municipal mandates.
4. Municipalities should automate revenue collection and integrate these systems with county platforms to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability.
5. All municipalities should fast-track the formulation and implementation of Integrated Urban Development Plans (IUDPs) to guide sustainable growth and development.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, I hereby urge the Honourable members to adopt this report with the recommendations contained herein. May I now call upon Hon. James Oyugi Were to second the motion. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda "B"): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was privileged to be part of the team that undertook site visits to all our five municipalities. We are all aware that municipalities are established under Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011, which was amended in 2019. We are also all aware that the well-functioning of these municipalities depends heavily on funding and proper staffing.

Mr. Speaker, in the five municipalities that we visited, we realized that there are a lot of problems such as; lack of funds, understaffing and they do not even receive their allocations for operations and maintenances. Mr. Speaker, for them to discharge on their mandate, it means that the county must have been ready for the coming or the forming of the municipalities, of which we as a House Committee, we realized it was the opposite.

Mr. Speaker, this needs to be remedied with immediate effect so that we can have operational municipalities with the staff whose activities and operations can be enhanced. Mr. Speaker, if we support our municipalities, we will find a lot of things will happen such like revenue generation being enhanced in all these five municipalities. One major item that we need to fix is this problem of ensuring that this budgetary allocation that has been appropriated and also each and every financial year, money must reach the municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, as has been recommended by this House Committee, let us do that because that is the reason why those monies were appropriated to those municipalities and must be put into use as was budgeted for. If we support our municipalities, it means that we can even generate more income from those municipalities and that will be a plus for the county.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of staffing, we also realize that the few staff that are there are just there to be seen. Some of them do not even know their roles. It is chaotic. This need to be addressed, Mr. Speaker. It is my considered opinion that, when we were accepting 12 municipalities, we must have engaged the public. We sought for their participation and I believe that we shall have ward-level collaboration to ensure that we guide and support them, so that we can have the best outcome from them.

Otherwise, if we do not emphasize on this, if we do not put more resources and give them the much needed human capital that they want, then we will be daydreaming. Otherwise I beg to second, Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, now that a Motion on adoption of the report of the Departmental Committee on Land, Housing, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development on the Operational Status of Municipalities have been moved by the Chairperson of the said House Committee, Honourable Ratib Boitone and seconded by Hon. Were.

Honourable members, as per the provisions of our Standing Orders, I want to propose a question. And I hereby propose that the motion on adoption of the report of the Departmental Committee on Land, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development on the Operational Status of Municipalities, is open for debate.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Jagongo, allow me be biased and give Honourable Pamela Oyoo to debate first, then you will be next.

Hon. Oyoo (MCA, Migosi): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to support the motion on the floor. Mr. Speaker, municipalities need to be supported because they are bringing services closer to the people. Once that one is done, there will be planning in the rural areas and services will be brought closer to the rural people.

Again, once they are supported by funding, infrastructure will be addressed. Various services that can be done in the local areas like; libraries, human rights, civic education etc. will be enhanced in the rural areas. Additionally, for us to generate revenue, we need to decentralize our services to municipalities by making them strong. For instance, by giving them mandates and even appraising them to see what they are doing so that they can be strong. If you allow them to do what is required of them, I am sure we will generate enough revenue because if our Own Source Revenue is decentralized up to the local level where the municipalities are, I believe that, it will be much better for us as a county. Once again, I want to support this motion that we; fund the municipalities, give them power, appraise them and give them strength to work so that we are able to decentralize our services and I think it will even make the county strong. I want to support the motion. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Jagongo.

Hon. Jagongo (MCA, North West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I equally want to echo my voice by supporting the motion that is before us on the municipality. Mr. Speaker, if you can remember well, we started with the township. The five municipalities were towns and I can remember we used to allocate money to these towns yet nothing happened. The money was being allocated every financial year and the money was not being utilized.

Mr. Speaker, these municipalities have been in existence now for the last three years. Again, just like the towns, we have been allocating money to these municipalities. The worst part of it is that during the last financial year where we allocated Kshs10 million for each municipality, the money was not even wired to the municipalities' accounts. The money also ended up not being used on other issues and nothing happened despite them opening the bank accounts to support their activities.

Mr. Speaker, again this financial year, we have allocated money to support the municipality. That is Kshs10 Million per municipality. As you speak, there are no staffs such as Accountants and Procurement Officers working in those municipalities and I wonder how they are going to get this money and use it to support what we have been advocating for.

Mr. Speaker, when this House approved the Kisumu County Budget Estimates for the FY 2025/2026, we resolved that part of the money that we were allocating for these municipalities was to be used in cleaning the markets. We have got several markets that are within the municipalities while others are adjacent to the municipalities. That was the agreement. The money was taken out from the Department of Trade to the municipalities. But as things goes, I am not very sure whether our markets will be cleaned because as you speak, still there's nothing going on. I want to urge this House Committee to make an effort of visiting these municipalities regularly so that we ensure that this money is used and the markets are cleaned and other services that the municipality is supposed to offer to the people is offered. I support the motion, but I am having a positive feeling that there's somebody that is thwarting the effort of these municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, there is somebody at the County Executive that do not want these municipalities to be invigorated. And that is why even when we allocate money to these municipalities, they are not being wired to the accounts of the municipalities. So, just talking, this Assembly may not be enough, but we need to maybe, this House Committee needs to summon even the line department, and exert pressure on them to ensure that this noble idea works. This is because, if it does not work this financial year, then it may not even work in future. So, this is the time to push for this, for the department to ensure that the money that was allocated is used well. Otherwise, I support the motion.

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

Hon. Omollo (MCA, West Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion. It is high time our municipalities are operationalized so that they can do their mandate. Mr. Speaker, as per the constitution, decentralization of the governing bodies was the main issue. Now, we have the county governments, and we are going further to the municipalities and the wards and the villages.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that as a county, we gazetted the five municipalities. However, as it is now, nothing so far is happening in those municipalities. Despite the fact that we did allocate funds to these municipalities and again, they had budgets even in the last financial year that just ended the other month. Nothing was going on.

Mr. Speaker, the sabotage seemingly is real on this issue. And as an Assembly who represent the people, we must come up strongly to defend these municipalities. Otherwise, they will just be on paper as they have been. I happened to visit quite a number of them when I was in the Departmental Committee on Lands and Physical Planning, and the desperation is real because the boards have a municipality in paper, but in terms of what actually happens on the ground, there is nothing to show of it. And it is frustration that we need to really cure. Mr. Speaker, as a line department, this assembly should be very firm on them.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, the irony is, recently, a few months ago, these municipalities appeared here before the Select Committee on implementation, and the question was given to them. They are also complaining that their hands are tied because they do everything and give to the Assembly. Once the assembly passes, even the budgets, even the staffs to be taken to the municipalities, nothing happens after that. So, it is essential as an oversight authority, we check whatever is happening. The saboteurs on this should be brought to book because the public really needs services. And soon, whatever is happening in the City of Kisumu right now, the 11 wards are mostly getting services from the city. There comes a time when the municipalities will be strong enough even to give services to the few wards, the two wards within those municipalities. And everything will be working as it is happening in the City of Kisumu right now for the wards within the city and the town and city of Kisumu. So, I support this motion, and we have to check who are these saboteurs on the other side, in the County Executive, so that things can work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honorable Ouko I have not heard anybody speak for Muhoroni, so let me give Honorable K'Omudho first then you.

Hon. K'Omudho (MCA, Muhoroni Koru): Many, many things, Honourable Speaker. Again, it is good to hold on the white hair. Thank you, thank you, my younger brother. Just keep cool. I rise to support the motion, the very good report presented in this House by the very capable

Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development, how I wish I still remained in that House Committee.

Unfortunately, I have to leave unceremoniously, but I am praying for those days that I will go back to this House Committee. And now, coming back to the real subject, Honourable Speaker with the fellow members, Honourable members, I am directly affected by the municipality developments, whether positive or negative. I come from Muhoroni - Chemelil in the municipality.

Honourable Speaker, indeed, like my colleagues have presented their facts here, if this thing was to work for us, it would be one of the best ideas. Nonetheless, I believe somebody somewhere is sitting on this thing, especially at the County Executive. Whoever it is, we do not know, because we are now on another time that we are still strutting about municipalities, and nothing more is working.

Honourable Speaker, you will not be surprised. In Muhoroni – Chemelil municipality, even the board members have not taken the oath of office as of today. The board members have not gone for any kind of orientation. Probably, I believe that, this was done last week, but nothing like the oath of office has been taken. These officers are yet to be sworn in as we speak. So, that means, technically, they are not even members as we speak.

Honourable Speaker, if anything was to work for me, that would mean that some of us would have some, a little bit easy time, even if it is not going to be easy, for the main urban areas or the townships managed by the municipalities. The other day, I had to go and beg the West Valley to come and assist me with Muhoroni Town Centre. Honourable Speaker, the situation has been pathetic, yet this is one of the municipalities. And on paper, it is said that they were allocated Kshs 10 million. These people listen to these things on the radio. They listen to them, and they read them in the newspapers that allocations have been done. Is it possible for the line department or the relevant House Committee to bring on board and prove, and could it be the last time that indeed we are discussing this matter? This is because, we are not moving at all, Honourable Speaker. We are not moving at all. The board members are desperate.

Mr. Speaker, I know some who have articulated to me that the municipality is a joke in this county and we need to get your municipality up. So, we do not have the faces to be shown in the village. Please, kindly, let us have effective municipalities in place. And whoever is sitting on this matter, it is high time that we get to know the real thing that is not working for us and what could actually work for us. Many, many thanks, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Ken Ouko.

Hon. Ouko Kennedy (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me commend the Chairperson and the Departmental Committee for bringing up these issues. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support the motion.

Mr. Speaker, Urban and Cities Act 2011 is explicit. And we went to an extent where the gazettement was done for the purpose of the decentralization of services back to the people for reasons. Mr. Speaker, these are laws formulated in Kenya. And there are purposes for making these laws, Mr. Speaker. One, is to maintain order in a society. Mr. Speaker, without this rules and orders to govern these municipalities, we will be having a lot of chaos.

Mr. Speaker, we can accept today that we have a lot of chaos in terms of management of these municipalities. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of gaps which have been identified by this House Committee. A case in point is where a staff working for the county government is seconded to an entity and failing to report that really is quite unfortunate. It means there must be something going on within the County Executive part of the county government. A staff that is given a letter to go and perform the same function to another entity, which is created by law, fails to do so. Mr. Speaker, we have to work on that. That is called insubordination to the seniors within that department.

Mr. Speaker, Kshs 10 million was allocated to these municipalities and that allocation was done by this House. When money is allocated to an entity and the entity fails to use that money, where does it go? We know where it goes, back.

Mr. Speaker, but why and what makes that? Is that a service to the society? Is that the purpose why the money was allocated? So, Mr. Speaker, at times, we also fail as members of this House to look at some these matters. We should not wait until we identify these problems. We should be doing a follow-up on the money allocated for projects within the counties.
Mr. Speaker, we have governance issues, planning with an incomplete board without any kind of employee, or maybe one or two. Do we expect any kind of governance? It is not possible for them to plan. There will be a hitch in quorum. There are a lot of issues which will fail to scrutinize as a House. So, it is high time, take for instance Maseno-Holo, the three board members who already their names have been submitted, but up to now we don't know what is happening. But we can say there is somebody, especially positioning himself somewhere to thwart the effort of the Governor by seeing that the Kisumu County citizen within these municipalities do not get the required services. We must look into this matter, probably through the House Committee concerned.

Mr. Speaker, there is what we call timely disbursement of allocation to these municipalities. We have realized that even to date, they may be having problem. Although we cannot say, because this report was done some time back, why do not they hasten the speed at which they disburse

the money to these municipalities so that they work? Otherwise, what is the need of putting the board there? What is the need of having the municipalities if they cannot be funded? This is because, money should always be there after planning.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, we should ask ourselves, how can money go there, these municipalities do not have plans? The boards are incomplete. The employees themselves have refused to report for those who have been seconded to these municipalities. So, it is our work now to exert more pressure.

Mr. Speaker, we really love these municipalities, because for one, we expect a lot in Holo, but they have never done anything. I am only happy that there is some work going on in Maseno, which we recognize, yes. However still, to be called Maseno - Holo Municipality, it means there should be some fairness in terms of distribution of resources.

Mr. Speaker, I support the motion, and I would suggest that the relevant House Committee follows up on the recommendations with the Implementation Committee so that we achieve the purpose of these municipalities. Thank you.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as the representative of Kombewa-Bodi Municipality to strongly support the recommendations of the House Committee. I can see the Chairperson, Lands and Physical Planning smiling, but I speak here as the MCA for Kombewa-Bodi Municipality and my duty is to voice the concerns of my people.

Mr. Speaker, I have carefully read the report of the Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development and I must commend them—it is indeed a very thorough report. I recall when this House Committee was reviewing the status of municipalities; I had the opportunity to engage with the Chairperson as well as some board members from Kombewa-Bodi. Unfortunately, some of them have since given up because, from inception to date, municipalities in this county have not been properly operationalized. They have not been sworn in, they have not undergone induction, and therefore, they exist only on paper.

Mr. Speaker, I dare say that our municipalities are cosmetic institutions—institutions that exist in name, but with little to show on the ground. When it comes to service delivery, Kisumu County has let down its citizens by failing to provide a clear legal and financial framework to make these municipalities functional. The biggest challenge, Mr. Speaker, is the disbursement of funds. For instance, in the 2024/2025 financial year, an allocation of Kshs 10 million was set aside for the municipalities. However, that money never reached their accounts. As we speak, that financial year has already lapsed, and we are now in the first quarter of the new 2025/2026 financial year—yet we are still discussing matters that should have been resolved long ago.

Mr. Speaker, this House must rise to the occasion and ensure that municipalities are not just names in documents but engines of service delivery. To do so, we must urgently establish a strong legal framework that guarantees proper disbursement of funds and accountability in their operations. Otherwise, Kisumu County will continue to have municipalities only on paper, while citizens see no real impact on the ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): A member can now call the mover to reply if there is no more contribution.

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

Hon. Wajewa (Nominated MCA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to call the mover to reply.

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

Hon. Ratib (MCA, Nyalenda "A"): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me to begin at the tail end by appreciating Honourable Wajewa. When you, Mr. Speaker, invited any member to call the mover to reply, there was some hesitation. But Honourable Wajewa took up the responsibility, and I thank her sincerely for that.

Mr. Speaker, we all understand and support the Governor's manifesto. One of its key pillars was to ensure that the five municipalities are up and running. The spirit behind having functional municipalities was, and still is, to bring services closer to the people. I believe this Assembly continues to support that agenda wholeheartedly.

Mr. Speaker, the advent of devolution at the municipal level has a direct link to our own source revenue. If these municipalities are made fully functional, revenue collection will improve significantly. Their composition and structure, if operationalized, can greatly enhance Kisumu County's resource base.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, the gazettement of these municipalities was done on October 13, 2023. Later, in December 2023, before we went for recess, this House Committee successfully moved a motion conferring the five municipalities, which this House approved. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that almost two years later—in September 2025—municipalities are still lagging behind.

As Honourable Jagongo and Honourable Ouko rightly observed, it appears someone somewhere, perhaps in Prosperity Building, is deliberately holding this noble idea back. Such individuals must be told clearly to let go, so that funds are devolved to the municipalities so that service delivery begins in earnest and reach our people.

Mr. Speaker, this House Committee is fully committed. We shall follow up to ensure that every shilling appropriated to municipalities in this financial year is actually disbursed into their accounts. As requested by Honourable Ouko, we are also ready to make continuous visits to these municipalities to confirm their functionality.

On a light note, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Vitalis has often lamented that he was removed from this House Committee. I believe his concerns will eventually be addressed, and perhaps the Chairperson, Selection Committee will find room for him again in the next realignment of House Committees. As reflected in this report, this House Committee has nine members—six very active, two not active, and one partially active. I am confident Honourable Vitalis would add value if given a chance to return.

Mr. Speaker, when we carried out our survey, especially in Kombewa-Bodi, we found municipal board members who had already given up. They had lost morale and interest, and it took our intervention to convince them to re-engage with us. That is how serious the situation has become.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, last week from the 26th to the 29th, we held an induction in Nakuru. A detailed report on the same will be tabled in this House to give the updated and accurate status of the municipalities. The report we debated earlier, from December 2024, will therefore be complemented with this new information.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said, but I want to conclude by assuring this House that this House Committee is fully committed to ensuring municipalities in Kisumu are not just on paper, but truly functional entities serving our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, now that the motion, adoption of the report of the Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, House and Urban Development on the Operational Status of the Municipalities has been moved, seconded, debated, and a reply made, as per our standing orders now, I want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members, the motion on the adoption of the report of the Departmental Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, House and Urban Development on the Operational Status of the Municipalities have been adopted today, Tuesday, 02nd OF September, 2025, at 15:56 hours. Consequently, I direct that the recommendations of the report be communicated to the right departments for action.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable members. Please be up standing. There being no other business to transact, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 03rd September, 2025, at 9.00 a.m.

(House rose at 3.57 p.m.)

Addendum

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