

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – FIFTH SESSION

Thursday 12th March, 2026

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

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

PRAYER

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, as per the provisions of Standing Orders 32 (1) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, I direct the Sergeant-at-Arms rings the quorum bell for the first five minutes. Honourable Carren Ajwang' kindly whip the members to the Chamber.

(Quorum bell rung for the first five minutes)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable Careen, can you please confirm if we have quorum to transact?

Hon. Careen Ajwang' (MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): Thank you Madam Speaker, we have quorum.

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

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(Visiting students from St. Anne's Comprehensive School in Ahero Ward, Nyando Sub County)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, I want to take this opportunity to inform you that we have the privilege to host teachers, pupils from St. Anne's Comprehensive School in Ahero Ward, Nyando Sub County, who are undertaking an educational visit to the county assembly of Kisumu in order to familiarize themselves with the legislative processes and the operations of the County Assembly.

Such visits are important as they expose our young people to the workings of democratic institutions and nurture in them an appreciation of governance, leadership, and public service. It is always encouraging to see students taking keen interest in civic education and the functioning of our devolve system of government.

I therefore request that each of them, when called upon, may rise in their places in the public gallery so that they may be acknowledged in the usual manner of the Assembly. We have the following teachers in the public gallery Mr. Samson Ochieng, Wendy Adhiambo, Victor Nam, Walter Migot, Ms. Roda Mbai, Ms. Antonina Achieng, Mr. Elias Ofafa, Mr. Edmond Gichana, Mr. Nelson Adero, and finally Mr. Collins Okoth.

On behalf of the Honourable members and the entire fraternity of the County Assembly of Kisumu, I warmly welcome the teachers and students of St. Anne's Comprehensive School to this Assembly, and we hope that it will be both informative and inspiring as you observe the proceedings of the House. And as per tradition, I will allow a few members to say a word or two of encouragement to the pupils. Since the visiting team comes from Nyando Sub-County, I'd like to give priority to the first Honourable member from Nyando Sub-County to first address them before I accord other members. I will give this opportunity to a lady and a gentleman.

I can spot Honourable Henrietta Bodo, and I will give also Honourable Bill Oliver since Honourable Kennedy Ooko, who represents the Ward, is away on official duty. So, I will give you this opportunity to welcome the team. Honourable Henrietta Bodo.

Hon. Bodo (Nominated): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, I would like to give guidance. Honourable members, as per tradition, you know that all conversations within the House are made through the Chairperson of the House, so let us discourage interaction with the guests. So, please continue, Honourable Henrietta Bodo.

Hon. Bodo (Nominated member): Thank you, Madam Speaker and Honourable members. May I take this opportunity to welcome the teachers and students, pupils from Nyando constituency. It is quite an honour for me and it is a very good opportunity for you to pay a visit to this Assembly

and to see what we do as House. I would like to again invite you that next time if an opportunity arises, you may come back and visit us again.

As you can see, we have members from a variety of backgrounds. We have both male and female Honourable members. We also have nominated members of the County Assembly of Kisumu, as well as elected members who are women.

I would like to encourage you to work hard as you take note that this House is occupied by both genders. Opportunities are available, and through hard work in school and in your communities, you will be able to achieve your goals as students and even our teachers. We thank you very much and once again welcome you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): I would like to give Honourable Bill Oliver, MCA for Kobura Ward, an opportunity to address the House. Kindly make all your remarks through the Chair.

Hon. Bill (Kobura): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity to join my colleagues in welcoming the pupils from St. Anne's Comprehensive School in Nyando. We are very pleased to have you here, since this is where we carry out legislation, oversight and representation roles for this county. Feel most welcome to this Assembly.

My word of encouragement to the pupils is that you are the future of this country. You hear and see in the news the state of our nation. I urge you to aspire, at some point in your lives, to be part of leadership in the Assembly so that you can make decisions on behalf of your communities. I encourage you that at the school level, whatever your teachers tell you to do, give it your best effort. Nothing in this world is impossible to achieve as long as you commit yourself to education. Therefore, that is my encouragement for you. There is nothing that you cannot do, especially at this age. This is where you can mould yourself to be whom you want to be. Feel encouraged, and as you go back home, remember that this Assembly is one of the places where important decisions for this County are made. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, I will give an opportunity to one more gentleman and one more lady so that we remain fair.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): I can see Honourable Rakwach on his feet. Proceed.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a neighbour to Nyando Constituency, I also take this opportunity to welcome the learners from St. Anne's Comprehensive School. You are most welcome. This is the County Assembly of Kisumu, where we formulate policies, conduct legislation, and perform oversight. As you may know, the three core roles of Members of County Assembly are legislation, oversight, and representation.

Secondly, I wish to encourage the learners to take their time and choose their professions wisely. This House is composed of individuals from diverse professional backgrounds. If you do not choose your profession carefully, you may find that the profession chooses you instead. As such, you may end up in a profession that you did not anticipate. You have also been informed that we have both elected and specially elected members or nominated, both male and female. As such, you are encouraged to work hard so that you may find yourselves in this House.

At the same time, I also want to draw to the attention of learners that there are members aspiring for bigger offices at the National Assembly. I know some might not make it to the National Assembly but some may succeed. Therefore, you can also work hard by starting small at the county assembly then later proceed to the National Assembly, the Senate or serving as President of this Republic. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): I now invite Hon. Carren Odhiambo to give the last address.

Hon. Carren (MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I do not represent a ward in Nyando, but I am married to a gentleman from Nyando Constituency. My name is Carren Odhiambo, and I represent Kaloleni–Shaurimoyo Ward.

Without repeating what my colleagues have said, I would like to inform you that this House consists of 35 elected Members of County Assembly and 12 nominated. Together with the Speaker, who is elected by the MCAs, we are 48 Members. My advice to the pupils, is that, you have the opportunity, do your best. Take the advice you are given by your guardians, parents, or teachers, because opportunity comes once. And above all, put God first. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga Member): Honourable Okoyo, I think we've closed on the statement, but since you're up, let me just give you one minute.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am Honourable Zach Okoyo. I represent a Ward called Central Kisumu. If you go there, you will find Kisumu International Airport. That's where I represent.

Madam Speaker, I was told to speak in Kiswahili. For those of you who know Kiswahili, it has become a native language. And we can use it to discuss issues related to Kisumu Airport.

Madam Speaker, I was told to speak in Kiswahili, because we know that it is difficult for other people to speak Kiswahili. So, teachers, don't think that Kisumu doesn't have people who can speak Kiswahili. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the students who are leaving school, so that they can be happy and feel at home, and know what we are doing here at the Kisumu Assembly.

I know there are teachers who teach Kiswahili. So, I would like to ask the students to learn Kiswahili well, so that when they meet other students, they don't feel ashamed to speak in Kiswahili. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. That's all I would like to say. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Thank you, members, for your contribution. To our guests, feel most welcome.

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

MOTION

THE AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF AHERO
COUNTY LEVEL 4 HOSPITAL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025

BY

HON. KENNEDY OUKO, MCA, WEST KISUMU

[CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE]

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga): Yes, Honourable Kennedy Ouko, go ahead.

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Public Accounts and Investment Committee, (PIC/PAC), and pursuant to the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders 188, I wish to present to this House the Report of the Committee on the Audited Financial Statements of Ahero County Level 4 Hospital for the Financial Year 2024-2025.

The County Assembly exercises oversight over county government entities' investment, their expenditure, pursuant to Article 185 (3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 through a Public Accounts and Investment Committee, which in turn derives its mandates from the County Assembly Standing Orders. It is instructive that Article 29 (8) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 requires the County Assembly, within the three months after receiving an audit report, to debate, consider the report, and take appropriate action.

The Committee held two sittings, during which it received both written and oral evidence from the Accounting Officers for the Management of Ahero Sub-County Hospital on the audit queries raised by the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level 4 Hospital for the Financial Year 2024-2025.

Honourable Speaker, the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Hospital for the Financial Year 2024-2025 received a qualified opinion, which was an improvement from the adverse opinion issued in the previous financial year.

The Auditor General raised issues on financial reporting compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the effectiveness in the use of public resources, and the effectiveness of internal control systems. During the audit of the Financial Year of Ahero County Level 4 Hospital for the financial year 2020, the year ended 30 June 2025. These matters were subsequently examined by the Committee.

Honourable Speaker, the Auditor General's report highlighted inaccuracies in the financial statements, including inaccuracies in medical and clinical costs, repair and maintenance, general expenses, revenue from medical services, accounts payable, and the statement of cash flow.

During the Committee interrogation sessions, which brought together members of the Committee, hospital management, and representatives from the Office of the Auditor General, the management explained that the discrepancies arose from the actual accounting adjustments and misstatements made during the preparation of the financial statements. The management subsequently submitted to the Auditor General the relevant supporting journals and schedules to clarify their variances.

Upon review of the additional documents, the Office of the Auditor General confirmed that the issues had been adequately addressed and marked them as resolved, as at the time of Committee deliberations. On the lawfulness and effectiveness of the use of public resources, the Committee noted from the report instances of non-compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

First, the management did not deduct and remit the Capacity Building Levy of 0.03 per cent, contrary to Paragraph 3.1 of the Public Procurement Capacity Building Levy Order, 2023.

Further, the management failed to provide proof of submission of mandatory requirements reports on the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and did not adequately report on the implementation of the procurement plan. While most of these matters were subsequently addressed, the Committee had emphasized, by way of recommendations, the need to strengthen compliance with procurement laws and improve record-keeping systems.

Madam Speaker, in the report on the effectiveness of internal controls, the Auditor-General raised concerns regarding the effectiveness and internal control systems at Ahero County Level IV Hospital.

In particular, the audit noted weaknesses in the internal audit functions, which conducted only one audit during the entire financial period under review, despite internal auditing being a continuous oversight function.

In addition, the audit revealed the existence of long-outstanding payables from prior financial years, which were not treated as a first charge in the Financial Year 2024/2025. This indicates weaknesses in financial planning and cash flow management.

The Committee examined these matters and recommended that the County Internal Audit Unit strengthen oversight over health facilities through regular audits, while the hospital management should improve budgetary planning and prioritize the settlement of Pending Bills in accordance with the Public Finance Management framework.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my appreciation to fellow Members of the Committee, the Office of the Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly, the Committee Secretariat and the Office of the Auditor-General for their facilitation and technical support in the preparation of this report possible. I also thank the management of Ahero County Level IV Hospital for honoring Committee invitations and for the timely submission of responses, which contributed to improving financial management.

On behalf of the Public Accounts and Investments Committee, I now present the report on the consideration of the Auditor-General's Report on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level IV Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 2025, and urge Honourable Members to adopt it.

Honourable Speaker, I hereby request that this House adopts the Report of the Examination of the Auditor-General's Report on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level IV Hospital for the Financial Year 2024/2025. May I call upon Hon. James Omollo to second. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga Nominated): Yes, Honourable James Omollo.

Hon. Omollo (West Nyakach): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hereby second that this House adopts the Report on the Examination of the Auditor-General's Report on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level IV Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of our term in 2022, we have consistently received audit reports from this facility. Initially, the performance was poor; however, over time, there has been notable improvement in internal controls. In the current report, the facility has attained a Qualified Opinion, which indicates that the recommendations issued previously are being implemented progressively.

Madam Speaker, Level IV hospitals receive substantial funding from the Social Health Authority (SHA), which should be utilized to improve service delivery to our people. It is encouraging that Ahero and similar facilities are putting these resources into good use. However, we recommend that funds received from SHA, the County Government and other sources be prudently managed to enhance service delivery. This report contains various recommendations that, if implemented, will significantly improve service delivery to the people of Ahero. I beg to second. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, now that the Report by the Select Committee on Public Investments and Accounts (PIC/PAC) on the

Examination of the Auditor-General's Report on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level IV Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 2025 has been moved and seconded, Pursuant to the Standing Orders, I now propose the question. THAT, this report is now open for debate.

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

Hon. Nyaoke (MCA, North Nyakach): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to note that after certain recommendations that were given by this very House Committee and closely followed up by the Select Committee on Implementation, we have witnessed many tremendous changes in that particular institution.

Madam Speaker, it is not lost to members that after posting a Qualified Accountant to that institution, things have changed tremendously. We have now moved from a Disclaimer Opinion report to a Qualified Opinion Report. That is good progress, and we must commend the members working in that institution.

Madam Speaker, there is also a fundamental point that has been mentioned in this report. The report informs us that there are certain necessary and very vital pieces of equipment that are missing in that hospital. Although it has been designated as a Level Four hospital, there are indications that some very important equipment is still lacking in that institution.

However, Madam Speaker, we are encouraged to note that the line department has taken note of this matter and is doing everything possible to ensure that the machines listed in the report are availed to that particular institution.

Madam Speaker, the absence of such equipment in that institution goes against the fundamental rights of clients to access healthcare, including reproductive health services. Such a situation amounts to a violation of individual rights because if a person visits that hospital and finds that the necessary equipment is not available, there is likelihood that such a person may even institute legal proceedings for the infringement of their fundamental rights.

However, Madam Speaker, this report gives us hope. From the suggestions contained in it and the commitment made by the line department, it is clear that this matter is being looked into critically to ensure that all the necessary equipment and facilities are provided in that institution.

Madam Speaker, I still believe that the rest of the recommendations that have been given to make this initiative successful will be followed up by the Select Committee on Implementation, of which I am a member. We promise this House that better things are yet to come for that institution. With those few remarks, Madam Speaker, I beg to support the adoption of the report.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga): Yes, Honourable Ruben Rakwach.

Hon. Rakwach (MCA, Kolwa East): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also rise to support the report that has just been presented by my able Chairperson.

Madam Speaker, we must admit that there has been improvement. You will recall that in the prior report the report for the year preceding the year under review had given this Level Four Adverse Opinion.

I therefore take this opportunity to commend the members of the Public Investments and Public Accounts Committee (PICPAC) for guiding our health facilities. As a result, we are now witnessing improvement.

However, Madam Speaker, even though the facilities are improving, I must state that there is still room for improvement. If a little more effort is put in place, it is even possible to move from a Qualified Opinion to an Unqualified Opinion.

Madam Speaker, why do I say this? If you refer to Section 4.5 of the report, you will notice that the query raised there is largely procedural. The Annual Procurement Plan was signed only by the Accounting Officer, and the minutes indicating that the members approved the Annual Procurement Plan were also lacking.

This situation is risky because it could suggest a bottom-up approach whereby procurement is undertaken first and the procurement plan is prepared later. However, at the time of the Committee's deliberations, the minutes had been availed and the procurement plan had been signed by both the Accounting Officer and the Board Chairperson, as required by law.

Madam Speaker, moving forward, we shall be very keen on such matters so that facilities do not wait until the time of Committee deliberations to provide evidence of actions that ought to have been undertaken during the year under review.

Madam Speaker, if you also look at Section 4.7, it is clearly indicated that the facilities are not sufficiently utilizing the Internal Audit Unit. This worries me because the Internal Audit Unit is on the payroll, yet it only carried out an audit once in the entire year within a period of 12 months. This indicates that if the Audit Committee were to tighten its oversight, the audit opinion would have improved significantly.

Madam Speaker, if we proceed to Section 4.8, it addresses the issue of Pending Bills from previous years. We are aware that our hospitals nowadays receive substantial resources from the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), and what they need to do is prioritizing the prior year Pending Bills as their first charge, at their first charge, so that they deal with them before they incur new debt. So, if at all they would have adhered to that, then you'd realize that the Ahero Level 4 hospital would have had that Unqualified Opinion, which is the best opinion from the Office of the Auditor General. Honourable Speaker, with that, I support. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Yes, Honourable Bill Oliver.

Hon. Bill (MCA, Kobura): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to call the mover to reply.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga Nominated Member): Honourable Ouko.

Hon. Ouko Kennedy (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me begin by appreciating all the Honourable members who are present in the House and who have ensured that we have the necessary quorum to deliberate on the business before us.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, it is important to note that what we are presenting here are summarized briefs, while the detailed information is contained in the comprehensive report that has already been provided to members. I believe that members have had the opportunity to go through that report.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to respond to the concerns raised by Honourable Nyaoke. If we recall, in the Financial Year 2022/2023, the facility at Ahero received a Disclaimer Opinion from the Auditor-General. A Disclaimer Opinion essentially means that the entity lacked proper records and systems to the extent that it was difficult to trace or verify its financial position.

However, when the management of the facility appeared before the Assembly through the Public Investments and Accounts Committee (PIC/PAC), a number of issues were interrogated and several recommendations were made by the Committee. As a result of those interventions, when the subsequent report for the Financial Year 2023/2024 was presented, the opinion improved to an Adverse Opinion. While this still indicated significant shortcomings, it at least meant that some structures and systems had begun to take shape.

Today, Madam Speaker, we are presenting the report for the Financial Year 2024/2025, where the opinion has further improved to a Qualified Opinion. This progression clearly demonstrates that there has been considerable improvement in the management and operations of the hospital.

For this reason, we commend this House Committee for the work it has done. Nevertheless, as members have rightly pointed out, there is still room for improvement.

Madam Speaker, we also have the Select committee on Implementation in this Assembly. Addressing these issues will require a concerted effort from multiple House Committees, particularly the Departmental Committee on Medical Services and that of Implementation, working together to ensure that the recommendations made by this House are fully implemented. This collaboration will ultimately enhance service delivery in our hospitals.

Additionally, Madam Speaker, every public institution, including Ahero Hospital, must have a functional Internal Audit Mechanism. Such a system is essential for examining operations, monitoring financial activities, and evaluating the overall management of resources. A strong internal audit function helps prevent misuse of resources and promotes efficiency and accountability in service delivery.

We have therefore made recommendations on several improvements in this regard. If these recommendations are effectively implemented, we believe our hospitals will continue to improve in their performance.

Madam Speaker, it is also encouraging to note that currently we do not have any Level 4 hospital with a Disclaimer or Adverse Opinion. Most of them have now attained a Qualified Opinion, which shows that as members of this Assembly, working together with the respective departments, we are making progress. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I beg to reply.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, the report on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level 4 Hospital for the year ended 30th of June 2025 by the Select Committee on Public Investments and Account has been presented, seconded, and debated. I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, the report on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of Ahero County Level 4 Hospital for the year ended 30th of June 2025 by the Select committee on Public Investments and Accounts has been adopted today, Thursday, 12th March, 2026 at 15:26 hours.

Honourable members, I direct that this report together with the Hansard report, be submitted to the relevant department for implementation.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Oginga, Nominated Member): Honourable members, please be upstanding. There being no any other business to transact, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 17th March 2026, at 02.30 p.m.

(House rose at 03.27 p.m.)

Addendum

Hansard Team

Zablon Otiende – Assistant Director, Hansard Services

Patrick Okoyo – Senior Hansard Reporter

Fanuel Okode – Senior Hansard Reporter

Vallery Achieng’ – Senior Hansard Reporter

Jesca Otieno – Senior Hansard Reporter

Edward Odanga – Hansard Reporter

Jackline Otieno – Hansard reporter

Brian Omondi- Attache’