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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

3RD ASSEMBLY — 4TH SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 18th June 2025

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chambers at 9.30 am.

(The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chege Gathirimu, in the Chair)

PRAYER

Speaker: Hon. Members, welcome to today's sitting on Wednesday, the 18th day of June 2025, at 9.30 am.

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(There was no quorum, as confirmed by the Clerk-at-the-Table)

There being no quorum to commence the business of the day, I direct that, pursuant to Standing Order 36, the quorum bell be rung for an initial ten minutes or until such a time within the ten minutes that the quorum will have been achieved.

Further, Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Order 37 (3), I hereby direct the Serjeant-at-Arms to ensure the door remains unlocked but no Member leaves the Chamber except the Whips until the House becomes quorate.

(The bell was rung for five minutes, and quorum was achieved, as confirmed by the Clerk-at-the-Table)

Hon. Members, quorum having been confirmed, we shall proceed with the business of the day.

First order.

PAPER(S)

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NYANDARUA COUNTY REVENUE FUND HALF YEAR REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 2024

Hon. Zachary Mwangi Njeru, the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and ICT, proceed.

(Hon. Zachary Njeru was not in the Chamber)

Any Member on behalf of the Chairperson? Yes, I can see Hon. Cate Nyawira. Proceed.

Hon. Cate Nyawira: Hon. Speaker, I wish to table, on behalf of the Chair, the report of the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and ICT on the Nyandarua County Revenue Fund Half Year Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2024.

I table.

Speaker: The report is duly tabled and the same shall be processed as directed by the House Business Committee pursuant to Standing Order 157 (5) (d).

Next order.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NYANDARUA COUNTY REVENUE FUND HALF YEAR REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 2024

Hon. Cate Nyawira, on behalf of the Chair, proceed.

Hon. Cate Nyawira: Ahsante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Naona kama mtambo wangu una shida kwa sababu orodha ya shughuli za kikao cha leo haijawekwa.

Speaker: ICT Department, kindly assist the Member.

Hon. Cate Nyawira: Nitaendelea kwa karatasi nilizopewa. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and ICT on the Nyandarua County Revenue Fund Half Year Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2024, as a report of the House and the recommendations therein as the resolutions of the House.

Speaker: The notice of motion is duly given and the same shall be processed as directed by the House Business Committee pursuant to Standing Order 157 (5) (d).

Next order.

STATEMENTS

STATUS OF QUALITY AND SAFETY OF POTATOES IN NYANDARUA COUNTY

Hon. Cate Nyawira Mathenge, specially elected County Member from Kiriita Ward, proceed.

Hon. Cate Nyawira: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I hereby seek a statement from the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, addressing the following matters:

Aware that Nyandarua County is a leading producer of potatoes in Kenya and the county government has employed extension officers to support farmers in adopting best practices, including safe pesticide use and soil management;

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Further Aware that the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and quality of agricultural produce, including potatoes, through inspections, certification, and monitoring of pesticide use;

Appreciating the valuable research conducted by Egerton University titled "Influence of On-Farm Pesticide Practices and Processing Methods on Pesticide Residual Levels in Potato Tubers in Nyandarua County, Kenya," published in the Journal of Food Protection, which contributes to scientific knowledge and food safety improvements;

Noting that there is an ongoing county-wide soil testing initiative conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness, Livestock, and Fisheries, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, as evidenced by the training sessions held across all sub-counties from June 6th to June 13th 2025;

Acknowledging the importance of continuous research and collaboration between academic institutions and county agricultural departments to enhance food safety and farming standards;

Concerned that this critical soil testing activity only commenced after Senate involvement in addressing agricultural challenges in the county, raising questions about the timeliness of such interventions;

Further Concerned about the adequacy of record-keeping mechanisms for soil testing data, particularly whether the equipment used at the Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) includes film or digital systems to preserve test results for future reference and policy formulation;

Arising from the foregoing, I seek that the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, provide a comprehensive report on the following issues;

1. The number and distribution of agricultural extension officers across Nyandarua County, and the equipment they use for soil and pesticide monitoring, including the following:
 - a. The number of extension officers in each ward, including their names, phone numbers, terms of service, and duty station, specifying the ward/wards they work in and the number of farmers doing vegetables and potatoes they each serve in tabulated form

S/NO	Name of the Extension officer	The Ward/wards they serve	Number of farmers assigned	The Equipment assigned to them	Phone numbers	Terms of service

Hon. Members I have put a table there because normally when we ask for information, sometimes they tend to bring half-baked information. So the information that I am seeking is that the name of the extension officer in each ward or Sub county, how many wards they serve, the numbers of farmers assigned to them, the equipment that they use when they go to the ground or how they check after training, the phone numbers of these extension officers and their terms of service.

The reason I seek all this information is because recently when I was distributing super napier in Kiriita Ward, I engaged the extension officer from my area and realized that he serves two wards. He got me asking how he was able to serve the two wards that are very large. He told me that he would be retiring in a years' time. I believe that he has now retired or he is in the process. I do not know if the County has taken time to replace him because I have not seen an advertisement for the same yet he was already overwhelmed. When he retires who takes over from him?

Secondly is a detailed report on the involvement of County Agricultural Officers in the research study and how their insights contributed to the Egerton University research that was done in Nyandarua *"Influence of On-Farm Pesticide Practices and Processing Methods on Pesticide Residual Levels in Potato Tubers in Nyandarua County, Kenya"*

Members and Hon. Speaker, when the scholar who wrote this report was giving thanks, he particularly thanked the Sub County officers for their role in identifying these farmers and the work that they did with the test. Therefore it appears to me that the Sub County officers were aware of such a report coming yet it is their role to do such tests. They let the negative publicity come. If there was, what mitigation steps have they have taken since then. The reason that I ask for their names is because I would like to know what they have done. Accountability is very important.

Hon. Speaker, number three on my list is the specific services offered by Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to educate farmers on safe pesticide use and food safety practices across the County. KEPHIS is a national body funded by the government and its role is to ensure quality agricultural seeds, quality agricultural inputs and produce in order to safeguard the economy, the environment and us.

Although agriculture is devolved it does not mean that these other bodies do not do their work. They have a role to play. I believe that KEPHIS, though they are very active in looking at exports, if you are an exporter you would know that if you fail to meet the standards of the international community on pesticides residue, your produce will come back. When it comes to Kenya and the local produce I feel that they don't give that much attention. You will find farmers in the farms using chemicals by referrals rather than manufacturer's instructions on the bottle of the pesticides that they are using. So I believe that KEPHIS should take a very critical role and go to the farms and check what is happening. I would want to know how the County Government is working together with KEPHIS, what programs do they run and how they conduct their training here.

Hon. Speaker, number four is the equipment and technologies available for soil testing and analysis in the county, including whether the ATC's equipment has film or digital recording capabilities to maintain proper records of soil test results. Hon. Speaker, being a member of the Agriculture Committee, many times I have been involved in the Budget making process and resource allocation. The ATC soil testing film is either rarely used or rarely funded. It is important for the department to tell us whether that film has been paid for and is updated. Unless that film is updated it cannot be able to test soil samples from the farmers.

Secondly, Hon. Speaker, when this Government took power they began to charge 1000 shillings for soil testing. I believe in the wake of such a report...

(Hon. Isaac Mbae rose on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Hon. Mbae?

Hon. Isaac Mbae: Mr Speaker, I would like to be guided if the statement is supposed to be discussed. I thought that she is supposed to read the Statement and then we shall debate the report once it is brought back to the House.

Speaker: She is quite in order Hon. Mbae. I believe that she is enriching the Statement for the benefit of those who will give back the report. She is quite in order. Proceed Hon. Nyawira.

Hon. Cate Nyawira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Five is on the issue of the the comprehensive soil testing initiative which was only implemented after Senate involvement, and what measures are in place to ensure proactive agricultural interventions in the future. Hon. Speaker, I realized that this has never happened in the County before. It is only happening after the Senate's involvement. If you look at the Senate website, you will be able to see what the Governor and the Agriculture team was asked on issues of the report from Egerton University. There were things that they were required to do. Meaning that they have not been doing them. I am just concerned if that will be able to hoodwink Senate to thinking that it has been happening like that.

Next is the services offered by the Agricultural Training Centre in Nyandarua, including training programs for farmers on safe pesticide use and sustainable farming practices. Hon Speaker it has come to my realization that grants offered to this County are the only thing that initiate training in this County. I do not think that the agricultural officers or the department take the initiative to call the members and train them at the ATC. The ATC has land and storage equipment, dairy cows and a lot of other assets. It is well equipped and has the capacity to show the farmers the right way to do things. I am concerned whether the County does anything besides what is done by those grants given to us by those organizations.

Hon. Speaker, number 7 is about the current status of the Nyandarua Food Safety Policy and the drafting of the Nyandarua Food Safety Bill, including timelines for completion and implementation. In the previous regime I am aware that an organization called MASK from Denmark which was within many counties; Laikipia County, Nyandarua County, offered training to farmers. They even helped draft this food and safety policy bill. Somewhere in the shelf it was put aside. I am also aware that MASK brought equipment for testing aflatoxin, equipment for testing antibiotic residue in milk and water, but I'm not sure whether the county can use and mitigate what this report has highlighted. So, I would like to know where this equipment is and how it is being used.

Hon. Speaker number eight is how the County Government plans to incorporate the findings of the Egerton University research and the recent soil testing results to improve potato farming practices and ensure food safety. Nine are the measures the County Government is taking to educate farmers on safe pesticide use and other best practices, building on the research findings and soil testing results. Ten, the plans to establish a county-level testing facility for potato quality and safety assurance before produce reaches the market, including how it will integrate with existing soil testing infrastructure.

Hon. Speaker, when the government came into power, they took a very deliberate role in doing the A.I. And I'm just relating it to this question, to do the A.I program. Since I am a member of the committee on agriculture, I was directly involved in allocating resources for the inseminators, for the liquid nitrogen, for the boda riders, for the staff, for the agreements, and with the cooperatives and KAGRIC. And I can stand here authoritatively and tell you that this is the

structure with the A.I, and it is a very successful program, Hon. Speaker. I cannot say that about crops being grown in Nyandarua.

11. The current status of drafting the Nyandarua Food Safety Policy and Food Safety Bill, including timelines for completion and submission to the County Assembly for approval

12. The Mechanisms for future engagement with researchers to ensure studies align with county agricultural goals, including the research that was funded by the World Bank International Development Association (IDA) on “*Combating antimicrobial residues in Kenya’s dairy value chain*” done by Teresia Ndung’u, a doctoral student at Kenya’s Egerton University.

The reason I want to talk about or ask about this is that Teresia Ndung’u is one of our own. She's a director in livestock. Teresia Ndung’u, when doing her doctorate, I am sure she did her test in Nyandarua and what she discovered about the milk was that there was anti-microbial residue in the milk, meaning that farmers who deworm their cattle today do not give it the recommended manufacturer's days of three days before they take the milk to the cooperatives that collect the milk. And such a test under normal circumstances would cost Kshs 500. But she developed a simple and inexpensive test to help farmers know what is happening because of antibiotic resistance; the more we take our milk, the more we find that we need stronger antibiotics. KEPHIS also did research on the same, and this was motivated by the rise of cancer in Central Kenya. So, I'm calling upon the government and the county executive to let us know how they are working with these people. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Very well Hon. Nyawira Mathenge. Anybody wishing to enrich the statement further? Hon. Kaiyani, Member for Githabai.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Hon. Speaker, I want to start from where she left the statement, by informing this Hon. House why academic research is done. Academic research is done not to seek conformity or to look at how the research will conform. But...

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau answered a phone call in the chamber)

Hon. Speaker, somebody is using his phone in the Assembly. And I'm seriously distracted.

Speaker: Order! Hon. Members. Do not use the phone in a manner that disrupts the Hon Members. Proceed.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. My thought process was seriously interrupted. And I think the member should give an apology for interrupting my thought process.

Speaker: Order, Hon. Kaiyani, proceed.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Hon. Kamau Gathungu rose and apologized to Hon. Rimui Kaiyani.)

Speaker: Apology accepted.

(Laughter)

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you. I do not know how that is supposed to help me recover my thought process. I have no idea how.

Speaker: You have got a minute to recollect yourself. Hon. Member.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you. I'm very well reminded that I was predicating my argument, my discourse, on the fact that academic research is done to come up with a finding. The system is there, the situation is there, the research is done to seek, to reveal, the situation as it is. Therefore, Hon. Cate, the statement you have sought would only be geared towards finding or establishing fact as researched or discrediting fact as researched.

You know, when you deal with academic research, it has to be factual and be scientific. One of the characteristics of academic research—I'm saying that because I'm involved in one as a master's student at the tail end of my course—it is the ability to be generalized. You move away from the geographical area of consideration and look at how that research can be replicated elsewhere. The question that this Egerton research brings into my mind, in terms of being generalized, is whether the finding about Nyandarua can still be applied to other ecological zones that are producing potatoes. That is one question.

The other thing that has pricked my thinking regarding this research, as part of a statement sought by Hon. Cate, is whether the county government is responsible for ensuring that there is a policy regarding the usage, supply, and distribution of chemicals for agricultural activities. Is it the county government that is supposed to be doing that, or is it the national government that is supposed to provide a policy? The omissions and commissions of such cannot and should not and must not be blamed on our farmers, but it must be blamed on the right people. Hon. Speaker, I use herbicide for export farming.

Speaker: Order, Hon. Kaiyani. I want to establish the members of the agricultural committee in the House. Any member? so that we can have the extra information, duly collected. Proceed Hon. Kaiyani

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I know we are on Hansard. So, whoever is not here can refer to the Hansard for exposition and to be able to get the points I'm making. But I want to say this without discussing the report.

As the committee goes ahead to get this information, I want them to establish as a matter of fact, the role of the national government in establishing a policy regarding the usage of herbicides and chemicals in agricultural production. I know there's a body called KEPHIS and whenever I use herbicides for my exports, and when they are taken to the airport, KEPHIS is very active. Looking at the chemical residues, to be able to ensure...

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu entered the chamber)

I'm glad the Chairman has walked in for agriculture, and he is the farmer number one actually in the county. So, it is good to have him here. I wanted to say that KEPHIS is very active in establishing whether there are chemical residues. And I have kept asking myself one question. Is KEPHIS a body established to protect foreigners and not Kenyans? Where should the protection start? Shouldn't it start within the country, the farmers, the citizens of the country? KEPHIS is funded by taxes collected from the people. So why are they keen on protecting the foreigners as opposed to the local citizens? I guess that KEPHIS must come with a policy that guides, number one, the distribution. It should legalize the distribution of chemicals in the country.

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Chemicals which are proscribed, restricted for usage in agriculture should be prohibited, regardless of whether they are for the foreigners — the *wazungus*. Whatever is bad for the *wazungus* is equally bad for the Africans. You cannot tell me as KEPHIS that you are protecting the *wazungus* but you are not protecting Africans.

You cannot blame the farmers in Nyandarua County for using chemicals that have been allowed to be used in the Country. I guess, and I think, that the researcher gave us an opportunity to delve deeper on this matter and to call upon the assemblies, this Assembly particularly and the National Assembly, to wake up and do the work of legislation.

Hon. Speaker, allow me to take a moment to mourn this County Assembly. Just a few minutes ago, the right-hand side of this Assembly had only one Member. When I counted the seats, they are seventeen. Now you can see there are thirteen, I mean, there are three, against 17 of the sitting capacity. Hon. Speaker, this Assembly cannot, should not, and must not continue in the manner and the behaviour in which it is operating and acting of late. It cannot be correct, will never be correct, that whenever Assembly times comes, the bell has to be rung for 10 minutes to seek quorum. It cannot be correct!

When I look inside this Assembly, Hon. Speaker, I cannot see any Member of the leadership of this honourable House, except yourself, and thank you for being there. You have always been there. Hon. Speaker, allow me to say this because the people of Nyandarua County must hear this loud and clear. They elected and chose us, among others, to come to this honourable House to represent them. We cannot have the Assembly operating with empty seats ...

(Hon. Isaac Kung'u rose on a point of order)

What is it, Hon. Isaac Kung'u?

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: I wanted to know whether whatever Hon. Rimui Kaiyani is saying is part of enriching the Statement that has been requested by Madam Cate, because we might stand here and beat around the bush, indicating that we do not have quorum, yet there is research, and I want to inform you, that has been done of this House by the Research Department, which indicates who comes to the Assembly and who does not. So, he might be probably in today, but he was not in yesterday, and he will not be in next week. In view of this, we cannot allow him, because he is in today, to come here and start saying that this Assembly does not have quorum, just because he is in today. I think that is not the direction we should take, Hon. Speaker.

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori rose on a point of information)

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Wambugu King'ori.

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Referring to what Hon. Isaac Kung'u is trying to insinuate in this honourable House, probably he is trying to engage Hon. Rimui Kaiyani on the fact that he has not been present. However, I have understood that Hon. Rimui Kaiyani's statement is about the leadership. We may not have the quorum in this honourable House, or we might have few members in this honourable House, but the leadership of the House should always be present. In relation to this, Hon. Speaker, in the absence of the substantive Speaker, the Deputy Speaker must be around, and that is why you are in the Chair.

Hon. Speaker, if the Majority Leader is not present in the House ...

Speaker: Order, order, order, order, Hon. Wambugu King'ori.

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori interjected)

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: I am giving information to the House.

Speaker: Order, order, order, Hon. Wambugu King'ori! Have your seat.

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori interjected)

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Hon. Speaker, I am giving information to the House. Allow me to proceed.

Speaker: Order! Very important information but at the wrong time. Order!

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori interjected)

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: No, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Order!

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori interjected)

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Hon. Speaker, allow me to navigate this matter. I am pleading to you to allow me to navigate the matter.

Speaker: Order, order! I am trying to provide procedure. Order!

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori interjected)

Hon. Wambugu King'ori: Precisely. Allow me to navigate this matter. I am giving information to the House. In the absence of the Majority Leader, the deputy Majority Leader ...
(spoke inaudibly)

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori's voice was drowned out by loud conversations)

(Hon. Isaac Mbae interjected)

Hon. Isaac Mbae: Mr Speaker, let us agree that there is no quorum.

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau rose on a point of information)

Speaker: Order, order, order, order, order, order, Hon. Members!

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori's continued to speak inaudibly amid loud conversations)

Order, Hon. Wambugu King'ori!

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau rose on a point of information)

(Loud conversations ensued)

Order, order, order, order, Hon. Members. Hon. Members, order! Order, order, order! I want to give directions. Hon. Isaac Kung'u, order!

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau interjected)

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker, I am rising on a point of information, which might help.

Speaker: Order! Hon. Patience Manga, order! Order. Order, Hon. Thuo Gachino!

(Hon. Gathungu Kamau rose on a point of information)

Hon. Gathungu Kamau, order! Hon. Members, considering the matter that has been raised by Hon. Rimui Kaiyani and appreciating the information that has been provided by Hon. Isaac Kung'u and the fact that we have a Statement that is scheduled on the Order Paper, I direct that we restrict ourselves to the Statement of the day. Should any matter, accordingly, be raised later by any interested Member, it shall be properly scheduled by the House Business Committee. In this regard, Hon. Rimui Kaiyani, restrict yourself to the confines of the Statement.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I dutifully and respectfully respond to you.

(Hon. Isaac Mbae rose and raised a clarification call)

Speaker: Clarification?

Hon. Isaac Mbae: Yes. I need to be guided by you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Okay, okay.

Hon. Isaac Mbae: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. You have given direction, and I do not want to reiterate your directive. However, the issue that was raised by Hon. Rimui Kaiyani was very pertinent and very serious.

Speaker: Order, order! That is the matter on which I have given directions. The matter is rested, and it can be raised in a different forum for which it will be properly scheduled.

(Hon. Isaac Mbae interjected)

Hon. Isaac Mbae: Hon. Speaker, a different forum ...

Speaker: However important it is, it will be raised properly. You can raise it properly so that it can be procedurally placed on the Order Paper. Proceed, Hon. Rimui Kaiyani.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Dutifully and respectfully, I want to continue with my discourse, but I want to inform Hon. Isaac Kung'u that I was in the Assembly yesterday. So, for him to say that I may have not been here, I want to confirm to him that I was here.

Hon. Speaker, I want to say that the Statement that was rightfully and correctly requested by Hon. Cathryn Nyawira is in the House properly, and this Statement can only be discussed by Members, not empty seats. That is why I was worried, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Order, Hon. Rimui Kaiyani! Unless you want to state ...

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani interjected)

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: I am responding.

Speaker: There is quorum, and the Members will contribute as they wish. Proceed, Hon. Member.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: I agree there is quorum, Hon. Speaker, but kindly, with a lot of respect, it is important to note that when we are many of us here, you know, we are able to enrich the discussions — the debates — and that is why we were all sent here, you and me included. So, by saying ...

Speaker: Order, Hon. Rimui Kaiyani! Order! Conclude and restrict yourself to the Statement raised by Hon. Cathryn Nyawira Mathenge. Proceed.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Hon. Speaker, I will take my seat, but as I take my seat, I wish to say that facts are stubborn. They will remain stubborn. Nyandarua County must wake up and see the kind of county assembly we are having, one that has empty seats, and act ...

(Spoke inaudibly)

(Hon. Wambugu King'ori's voice was drowned out by loud conversations)

Speaker: Hon. Rimui Kaiyani, Member for Githabai, order! I don't- Hon. Speaker.

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu rose on a point of order and interjected without the Speaker's permission)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think Hon. Kaiyani is out of order for saying that we have empty seats whereas I, myself, am here. It is unfortunate.

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani spoke off-mic)

(Conversations ensued)

Speaker: Order, order, order!

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Hon. Speaker, protect me.

(Hon. Patience Manga rose on a point of order)

(The point of order was unheeded)

I think, Hon. Speaker, this Hon. Member is not good because ...

(Hon. Patience Manga rose on a point of order)

Hon. Speaker, protect me.

Speaker: Hon. Kiruka Mburu is on a point of order, therefore he should proceed.

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani spoke off-mic)

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu addressed Hon. Rimui Kaiyani directly)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: I think, Engineer, you are ...

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani continued to speak off-mic)

Engineer, I think you are ...

Speaker: Order, Hon. Rimui Kaiyani.

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu interjected)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Kaiyani, you could think ...

(A disembodied voice pronounced a point of order)

Speaker: Who is out of order? Proceed, Hon. Kiruka Mburu.

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu addressed Hon. Rimui Kaiyani directly)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Hon. Kaiyani, you must respect the people of Charagita.

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani spoke off-mic)

(Conversations)

Speaker: Order!

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu interjected and addressed Hon. Rimui Kaiyani directly)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: When I am speaking, keep quiet, or you go out. Nonsense! Stupid.

(Hon. Patience Manga rose on a point of order)

(The point of order was unheeded)

(Loud conversations ensued)

Speaker: Order, order, order. Hon. ...

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu interjected and addressed Hon. Rimui Kaiyani directly)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: You are stupid. Why are you talking while I am talking? I don't like nonsense, Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Kiruka Mburu, order! Have your seat.

(Several Members rose on a points of order)

Have your seat, Hon. Kiruka Mburu.

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu interjected and addressed Hon. Rimui Kaiyani directly)

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: I am here because of the interests of the people of Charagita, and the people of Charagita must be respected.

Speaker: Hon. Kiruka, the Chair is on his feet.

(Consultations)

Order! Hon. Kiruka, you are out of order and keep your peace. Yes, Hon. Kung'u.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Hon. Speaker, I don't want to engage in the debate of whether the people are in or not, because there is a requirement by the Standing Orders in this House that states that whenever we have quorum, which is 13 Members...

(Consultations)

Speaker: Continue, Hon. Kung'u.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: I cannot continue while Members are consulting in high tones.

Speaker: Hon. Members, consult in low tones.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: I am saying, Hon. Speaker, that there is a requirement by the Standing Orders that the House, whenever it has quorum, which is 13 Members, should commence and proceed with the business. There is nowhere that the Standing Orders say that the Leader of the Majority Party has to be in the House even if he has no business. It requires 13 Members, and they should commence the business of the day in the Order Paper. I think, therefore, if we are quorate, it is in order for us to continue.

(Hon. Isaac Kung'u paused)

Speaker: Proceed, Hon. Kung'u.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: I want to say that this is one of the most serious statements that I have encountered in this House. That is, the statement that has already been sought by Hon. Cathryn (Cate) Nyawira. It is one of the serious statements, and I think, when the County Executive receives it, they will respond in equal weight, Hon. Speaker.

There has been an uproar in this country about the quality of our potatoes. As much as politics can find their way outside there and there is a need to protect our farmers, we also want to know the truth and the reality of what is happening. The issue of food safety is very serious, not only in this country but internationally. We know and we are aware that our farmers are not responsible for whatever outcome of the research or study that will be done. There are bodies and government institutions that are responsible for ensuring that there is food safety in this country. So, I want to support the statement, and I wish that after this, we will be able to come up with a motion to push the government to formulate the right policy required to put these things in order.

Hon. Speaker, I don't know where our mandate stops. I think the Legal Services Department can guide us on this, Hon. Speaker, because I don't expect a situation where the Department of Agriculture responds to this matter alone. I wish we could be able to engage KEPHIS, the department responsible for the quality of food in this country. I wish the committee could be able to engage KEPHIS so that we know exactly what is happening in this country. Although I am not sure, even if KEPHIS is under the National Government, it is within our mandate, so that they can give their input on this matter. That way, we can conclusively deal with it.

I think I was very agitated when I saw the matter being canvassed at the Senate level. I think it ought to have started here. That is why we have this legislative body (the County Assembly) here. It is a matter that touches on Nyandarua County. Our county produces 30% of the potatoes in this country. So, I think we are equal to the task and have the capacity to engage KEPHIS so that we can know where the gaps are and come up with policies that are going to assist our County Government to bring into order if there are any gaps that are leading to whatever findings of the research that was done.

So, Hon. Speaker, I support this statement and will be keen to ensure that the response will be something that will bring significant change in our agricultural sector.

Speaker: Thank you. The statement is duly sought. Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, how much time do you need to respond? Or, any person on behalf of the Chairperson? Any Member of the Committee on Agriculture? Hon. Cathryn (Cate), How much time?

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani rose on a point of information)

(Hon. Kiruka Mburu walked into the Chamber)

Yes, Hon. Kaiyani.

Hon. (Eng.) Rimui Kaiyani: It is good that the Chair has come back. I was about to wonder how a seeker of a statement can also give herself timelines. I am glad the Chair just walked in.

Speaker: Order. That is quite in order. The House must also have a timeframe within which it can receive a response to the statement sought.

Hon. Kiruka Mburu, the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, and Member for Charagita. How many days do you require?

Hon. Kiruka Mburu: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I think this is a very crucial report, and I think 60 days will be enough for my Committee to bring a comprehensive response concerning the issue of potatoes.

Thank you.

Speaker: Very well. 60 days it is. Let it be recorded in the business tracker.
Next order.

STATUS OF ECDE TEACHERS IN WANJOHI WARD

Hon. Isaac Kung'u Wanjiru, Member for Wanjohi Ward and the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget and Appropriations, proceed

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Mr Speaker, Sir, I hereby seek a statement from the Chairperson, Committee on Education, Children, Gender Affairs, Culture and Social Services, addressing the following concerns:

Aware that pre-primary education is a devolved function under part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution;

Noting that pre-primary education is the foundation of any education system and therefore very critical in shaping the education progression of learners, and that Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers ensure that there is proper functioning of the pre-primary education sector;

Appreciating that the County Government has made efforts to invest in pre-primary education, including infrastructure development, teacher training programs, and provision of instructional material, all of which are vital for the future of our children;

Concerned that employment and proper remuneration of ECDE teachers would potentially affect their morale and performance;

Taking cognizance that ECDE parents additionally make payments to the centres and schools, and that a utilization breakdown of the said funds is not clear.

Hon. Speaker, my statement is based on that, and I have noted the issue with a lot of concern that we have been employing ECDE teachers on a permanent and pensionable basis, but the parents continue to pay additional payments which are not subsidized. So, we employ the teachers, but the parents continue paying for the same.

So, Hon. Speaker, I would like to know:

- a. The number of ECDE teachers currently posted within Wanjohi ward and their duty stations;
- b. The scheme, terms of service, and mode of employment of the ECDE teachers, including their remuneration;
- c. Total payments/charges remitted by ECDE parents and the respective schools to which payment is made;

I am keen on that one.

- d. A detailed tabulation of usage of the payments and charges remitted by parents; and

What do they do with the money that parents pay?

- e. Any challenges being experienced in the current payment formulae that is in use.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I won't discuss further, but this is a statement that I seek to get the information to bring a policy proposal on how we are managing ECDE institutions.

Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Very well. The statement is duly sought. The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Children, Gender Affairs, Culture, and Social Services, how much time do you require?

(Hon. Rimui Kaiyani interjected)

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Can I react?

Speaker: Yes. Proceed, Hon. Kaiyani, and react to the statement.

Hon. Rimui Kaiyani: Thank you, my temper has cooled, and I want to contribute a sentence or two regarding the statement that has been sought by Hon. Kung'u, because it is something I have observed regarding how we manage our ECDEs. Early Childhood Education is a fully devolved function entirely to the County government. One of the things I ask myself and the colleagues whom we were with when we were looking at the itemized Budget in our last meeting. Is if this function is totally devolved, are we acting as a County as were supposed to or are we acting as if it is a shared responsibility between the National Government and the County Government. Why am I asking that question Hon. Speaker, this is the reason I am asking this question; if you look at the way we do our infrastructure development, we build an ECDE classroom within a primary school or a comprehensive school as it is called today. That comprehensive school is under the management of the board of that particular school, led by the head teacher or the principal for that matter and it is fully under the National Government. The question that has been lingering in my mind is, as a County Government are we really implementing the ECDE program as per the devolved responsibilities and functions given to us by the constitution? Are we dealing with it in a manner that appears as if we are sharing responsibility?

Hon. Speaker, as Hon. Kung'u seeks this information, I would want it responded in a manner that also addresses this; to what extent we can claim to be implementing the ECDE within the confines of it being a devolved function. I would want to know whether ECDEs are purely under the County government or shared with the National Government? If they are shared, can we really say that we are responsible of ECDE for that matter? What do we need to do to ensure that ECDE are within the control and funding of the County Government? I know there is whom we call the director of Education (ECDE) within the Sub counties, I would like to know what they do and how they do whatever they do? In the schools where we have the ECDEs do we control the principals of those schools? Do we challenge them on what they ask? Do we recruit the teachers or they are recruited by the school? Is it not the responsibility of the recruiter to pay the person that they have recruited? In this case it is the extra ECDE teachers. How else do we go around this? We should ensure that we fully implement the ECDE as a devolved function?

I would want a situation where I see ECDE centres are away from the compounds of the schools. We should be able to deal with ECDE in a manner that we are fully responsible rather than leaving some of the functions to be implemented by the comprehensive schools as it were. Failure to do that, we pack up and tell the national government to continue implementing that program we are unable to implement. I thank you.

Speaker: The statement is duly sought. Chairperson, Committee on Education, Children, Gender Affairs, Culture and Social Services, how many days do you need to respond back to the House? Yes, Hon. Joyce Munyua.

Hon. Joyce Munyua: Mr Speaker, I request for 90 days based on the other businesses that we have.

Speaker: 90 days will be recorded at the business tracker.

(Hon. Isaac Kung'u rose on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Hon. Isaac Kung'u?

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: I think that 90 days is too much. I am not seeking a lot of information. That is why I did not go to the whole County. I was using a sample of Wanjohi so that I can be able to use Wanjohi to raise my argument for the policy that I want to propose. I think that this is something that can be done within at most 45 days. I think we had agreed with the Chairman that it should not go beyond 45 days. It is not a lot of information.

Speaker: Hon. Joyce Munyua, are you in a position to reconsider

Hon. Joyce Munyua: Based on the new information that they had talked with the Chairperson who had not indicated the same, we can go for the 45 days.

Speaker: Hon. Kung'u, you are comfortable with the 45 days?

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: I know they have some other businesses. I think 45 days is ok.

Speaker: Proceed and indicate 45 days in the business tracker.

Next order.

MOTIONS

AMENDMENT OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE STANDING ORDERS

Speaker: Hon. Ebrahim Maina on behalf of the Vice Chair, proceed.

Hon. Ebrahim Maina: Thank you, Hon Speaker. Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following Motion;

That this House does adopt the Report of the House Business Committee on the amendment of the First Schedule of the Standing Orders as a report of the House and the recommendations therein as the resolutions of the House.

Mr Speaker, the County Assembly was on 21st March 2025 seized with **Gazette Notice No. 3233 of 2025** issued by H.E. the Governor regarding the reorganization of departments and directorates, which affected the names and functions of several County Executive Departments.

These changes directly impacted the organization and operational framework of the Assembly's Sectoral Committees, especially in their oversight role. Consequently, the Honourable Speaker referred the matter to the House Business Committee to scrutinize the notice and report back to the House.

Upon examination, the Committee observed that the reorganization, particularly the renaming and restructuring of departments, would significantly jeopardize the Assembly's ability to exercise effective oversight through its Sectoral Committees. In light of this, the Committee resolved to initiate amendments to the First Schedule of the Standing Orders to realign the names and mandates of Sectoral Committees accordingly.

Legal Frame-Work for Amendment of standing orders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Section 14 of the County Governments Act No.17 of 2012 provides that

-

(I) A county assembly—

(a) may make standing orders consistent with the Constitution and this Act regulating the procedure of the county assembly including, in particular, orders for the proper conduct of proceedings; and

(b) subject to standing orders made under paragraph (a), may establish committees in such manner and for such general or special purposes as it considers fit, and regulate the procedure of any committee so established.

Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 241 provides that: The House Business Committee may at any time propose amendments to these Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker, the Committee findings, to ascertain the full implications of the departmental reorganization, the Committee, through a letter dated 25th April 2025, Ref. No. NCA/CLRK/CS/132/25 wrote to the County Secretary seeking clarification on the names, functions, and mandates of the restructured departments

In a letter dated 6th May 2025, Ref. No. NYA/CS-HOPS/ADM/19/1, the County Secretary clarified the accurate names of the departments as follows:

1. Department of Trade, Industrialization, Cooperative Development, and Partnerships
 2. Department of Education, Vocational Training, Culture, Gender, and Social Protection.
- The County Secretary further undertook to publish a corrigendum in the Kenya Gazette to rectify the naming errors. However, at the time of tabling this report, the said corrigendum had not been published.

Moreover, no formal response had been received regarding the specific functions and mandates of the reorganized departments by the time this report was compiled.

Mr. Speaker, Notably, pursuant to Section 46 of the County Governments Act, 2012, the mandate to establish, continue, vary, or abolish any department, as well as to define their objects and purposes, lies exclusively with the County Executive Committee. Furthermore, the County Executive Committee is responsible for determining the number and nature of departments at decentralized units, abolishing departments where necessary, and designating or amending the names of such departments.

Mr. Speaker, given the urgency of the matter, the Committee resorted to reviewing the Annual Budget Estimates and the Programme-Based Budget for FY 2025/2026. From these documents, the Committee was able to identify departmental functions and align them accordingly in the proposed amendments.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee resolved that the failure by the Executive to furnish the requisite information should not impede the operations of the County Assembly and its Committees. In this regard, the Assembly is empowered under Section 14 of the County. Nonetheless, in order to mitigate potential overlaps or conflicts in the execution of committee functions, the House Business Committee further resolved that the County Executive Committee should submit to the Assembly the information envisaged under Section 46 of the County Governments Act.

Mr. Speaker, these are the recommendations, upon extensive consultations with the stakeholders and in fidelity to the stipulated law and principles, the House Business Committee hereby proposes: -

1. THAT, under Section 46 of the County Governments Act, 2012, the County Executive Committee, through the County Secretary, does, within thirty (30) days, furnish the

County Assembly with information on the objects and functions of the Departments with the correct names of the Departments and Directorates.

2. THAT, pursuant to the provisions of standing order 241, this House does amend the standing orders by deleting the First Schedule in its entirety and substituting therefor with the following new schedule;

Mr. Speaker, the first schedule is the Sectoral Committees and the Subject Area.

- i. Legal, Affairs, Labour, and Intergovernmental Relations and Coordination.
- ii. Subject area, Consultation and co-operation between the national and county governments and amongst county governments; establishing mechanisms for the resolution of intergovernmental disputes pursuant to Articles 6 and 189 of the Constitution; liaison between the two levels of government, and between the County Executive and the County Assembly; special programmes; public participation and civic education; trade union relations and labour; and all matters relating to justice and legal affairs.
- iii. Agriculture, Agribusiness, Livestock, and Fisheries. The subject area is, all matters related to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, veterinary services (excluding regulation of the profession), livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control and fisheries, animal control and welfare, including licensing of dogs and facilities for the accommodation, care of animals.
- iv. Health Services, the subject area is all matters related to county health services, including medical services and in particular, county health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services, promotion of primary health care, funeral parlours, licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public.
- v. Road Transport Energy and Public Works. The subject area is all matters related to county transport, including county roads, street lighting, traffic and parking, public road transport, county public works and services, including storm water management, systems in built-up areas, electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation; and emergency response and preparedness.
- vi. Land, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development. The subject area is all matters related to county physical planning services, land use planning, including statistics, land surveying and mapping, boundaries and fencing, housing development and management, and urban areas administration and development.
- vii. Education, Vocational Trainings, Culture, Gender and Social Protection, is all matters related to early childhood education, pre-primary education, village polytechnics, and home craft centres; all matters relating to gender affairs, culture, social protection; heritage, public entertainment, public amenities, control of betting, casinos and lotteries centres; alcoholic drinks control and civic education; and libraries.
- viii. Trade, Industrialization, Co-operatives Development, and Partnership are all matters relating to markets; fair trading practices; trade development and regulation; weights and measures; industrial development; cooperative development, including co-operative audit; Partnerships, diaspora, and resource mobilization.
- ix. Water, Sanitation; Environment, Tourism, Natural Resources and Climate Change;
All matters relating to water resource management; Natural resources and environmental conservation and management including soil and water conservation,

- forestry, storm water management in built-up areas and implementation of specific national government policies on environment; sanitation services; solid waste management including refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal, cemeteries, and crematoria and burial of animals; Climate change resilience; Irrigation and drainage; local tourism development and marketing including recreation facilities
- x. Youth affairs, Sports and Innovation; all matters relating to promotion of Youth affairs and empowerment; county sports and sporting facilities; and Innovation.
 - xi. Finance, Economic Planning, ICT and Revenue; all matters relating to County plans and investments policies; County Public Debt; County revenue raising measures including the annual County Finance Act, consider finance and economic development, trade licenses (excluding regulation of professions), outdoor advertising and recommend to the county government possible and lawful sources of county revenue; deal with seizure, impoundment and auction policies; financial reporting; county internal audit; county supply chain management; and county assets management; and County Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and e-government services.
 - xii. Public Service, Administration and Devolution; all matter relating to public service; human resource planning, performance and management; enforcement and compliance of County Legislations; impoundment of animals, seizure of items and maintenance of pounds and yards; sub-county and ward administration including community policing and sub-county and ward human resource supervision; all matters compensation to employees including medical insurance, gratuity and pension; and county records management.

3. That the amendments of the schedule do take effect upon approval of this report.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is the House Business Committee Report on Amendment of the First Schedule of the Standing Orders, and for that, I call upon Hon. Beth Wahito to second.

Speaker: Hon. Beth Wahito, proceed.

Hon. Beth Wahito: Mr Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)
(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Next order.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND ARTS BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FY
2023/2024

Hon. Joseph Kuria Thuo, Chairperson of the Committee on Sports, Youth Empowerment and Arts, and the Member for Gathanji, proceed.

Hon. Kuria Thuo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Mr Speaker, here is the report on the budget implementation status for the Department of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Arts for the Financial Year 2023/24.

Disclaimer: This is a draft Hansard Report and it is for information purposes only. A certified copy of the Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor.

Mr Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Committee to tender my appreciation to your Office and that of the Clerk for the support accorded for the successful execution of the Committee's mandate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to recognize the commitment and the selflessness of the Members of the Committee and the Secretariat during the entire period of preparation and compilation of this report.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Members of the Committee, it is my distinguished duty and pleasure to present to the House the Committee's report on the budget implementation for Financial Year 2023/2024.

Preface

The Committee on Youth Empowerment, Sports, and Arts, as mandated by the Standing Orders, is responsible for investigating and inquiring into all matters relating to the Department of Youth Empowerment, Sports, and Arts. This includes issues they may independently identify as necessary or those formally referred to them by the Assembly.

In this regard, the Committee has been actively engaged in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the departmental budget for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2024. This follow-up aims to ensure accountability, transparency, and effective utilization of allocated resources in line with the Department's objectives and the broader goals of youth empowerment, sports development, and arts promotion.

Committee's Composition

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Committee on Youth, Empowerment, Sports and Arts comprises the following Hon. Members and Secretariat:

Honourable Members

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Kuria Joseph Thuo | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Kithinji Lucy Kageni | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Maina Peter Mwangi | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Manga Patience Nyambura | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. Mburu Simon Mbogo | - | Member |
| 6. Hon. Babu Juliana Mugure | - | Member |
| 7. Hon. Mwangi Milka Nyambura | - | Member |
| 8. Hon. Wainaina Samuel Mathu | - | Member |
| 9. Hon. Rimui Kaiyani Samuel | - | Member |

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Patricia Nduta Chege | - | Committee Clerk |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|

Implementation of the Youth Empowerment, Sports and Arts Budget in Financial Year 2023/2024

Mr. Speaker Sir, after scrutiny of the budget implementation report, the Committee made the following findings and observations.

Budget allocation in Financial Year 2023/2024.

In the approved first supplementary budget of 2023/2024 FY, the Department was allocated a total of Kshs.80,758,547. Of this amount, Kshs.2,500,000 was earmarked for development expenditure, while Kshs.4,012,500 was set aside for the settlement of pending recurrent bills, and Kshs.998,020 for pending development bills. Additionally, Kshs.55,703,027 was allocated for the use of goods and services, and Kshs.17,545,000 was designated for the acquisition of non-financial assets. The Department recorded an overall absorption of 85.77%.

In the Financial Year 2023/2024, the budget was utilized to support youth empowerment programs, Sports development, and the arts sector as expounded below. Mr Speaker, we can see the tabulation there, including all the wards that had the issuance of sports equipment per ward. I hope the Members will have time to look at it.

Athletics Kenya Events

In the last financial year, the Department held the following athletics events.

County and regional cross-country events

The event attracted athletes from across the County for selection to regional, national, and world championships. A total of 30 athletes were chosen to represent the County at regional and national competitions. The support provided to the athletes included cash awards, transport, accommodation, meals, and out-of-pocket allowances.

County cross country

A total of Kshs.405,000 was utilized for the rollout of the County Cross-County event. Of this amount, Kshs.300,000 was allocated for logistical arrangements, while Kshs.105,000 was used for awards as tabulated therein.

Regional cross-country

At the regional level, the Committee noted that the total of Kshs.300,000 was spent at the regional level, and we have the tabulation there.

National cross-country series

The National Cross Country is a key build-up event organized by Athletics Kenya in collaboration with selected counties, serving as the official opener for the athletics season. Nyandarua County was honoured to be among the five counties chosen to participate, providing a valuable platform for local athletes to showcase their talent on a national stage.

The event attracted athletes from across the country, promoting talent development and fostering healthy competition. Each participating county was responsible for covering its logistical expenses to ensure the event's success.

For Nyandarua County, a total of Kshs.300,000 was allocated for the event as tabulated. We have that tabulation as indicated there, Mr Speaker.

Track and field events.

This event attracted athletes from the county for selection to regional, national, and world championships. 72 athletes were selected to represent Nyandarua in the regional championship. The support accorded to athletes ranged from cash awards, transport, accommodation, meals, and out-of-pocket allowances, with a sum of Kshs.3,000,000 as tabulated there.

Under-20 track and field

The department facilitated a team of 50 athletes in the county to the regional track events with a total of Kshs. 800,000. The funds were utilized as tabulated.

Sports for PWDs

The Department, in collaboration with the National Deaf Volleyball Federation, facilitated the participation of 24 deaf volleyball players in the National Deaf Championship held in Nairobi. This event served as a build-up to the World Deaf Championship in Japan, where seven participants from Nyandarua were selected to represent Team Kenya.

A budgetary allocation of Kshs.1,500,000 was utilized to cover transport, participation fees, accommodation, meals, and out-of-pocket allowances for both participants and officials as tabulated there.

We also have Talanta Hela and the Governor's Tournament, and below that, we have the tabulation of ward-level budget and how we utilized finances at the ward level.

Other programmes implemented under sports

Support was extended to the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) with Kshs.300,000 for football teams participating in federation sports events. Additionally, the County backed 24 Taekwondo athletes, enabling them to participate in the East African Championship, thereby enabling the growth of martial arts in the region.

Mr Speaker, we had a lot with sports empowerment and arts. Under the arts development, we had the County Talent Search events. We also have a county production studio where a total of Kshs.2,000,000 was spent on purchasing equipment for the County Production Studio. Upon inquiry, the CECM provided a list, which we have there.

Committee Observations

Mr Speaker, Mr. Speaker Sir, after scrutiny of the submitted report, the Committee observed that:

Under Sports Development,

1. Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association (KYISA) games competition, an annual nationwide event, was not undertaken in the financial year under review. The funds approved in the budget estimates were scrapped out in the supplementary budget.
2. The Governor's Tournament had an approved allocation of Kshs. 11,000,000 in the 1st supplementary budget. The funds were utilized for the rollout of the ward and sub-county levels, while the county-level tournament was implemented in the current financial year (2024/2025).

Under the Youth Empowerment,

1. The County Youth Policy had an allocation of Kshs. 400,000. However, it has yet to be submitted to the Assembly for committee consideration, reporting, and approval by the House.

2. Despite the approved allocation for monitoring and evaluating youth empowerment equipment, the Department failed to provide the Committee with a report on the project's challenges and achievements, despite multiple official requests.

Under the Arts Development,

1. The Department is in the process of reequipping the County Production Studio following its vandalism and the theft of all equipment on 20th February 2023.

Recommendations

1. That the CECM Youth Empowerment, Sport and Arts Department shall, within 21 days, furnish the Committee with a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation report delineating the achievements and challenges realized within the ambit of the youth equipment initiative.
2. That the CECM for Youth Empowerment, Sports, and Arts shall, within fourteen (14) days, submit a report on the progress made on formulation of the County Youth Policy during the financial under review
3. That the CECM for Youth Empowerment, Sport and Arts shall within 21 days submit a clear framework/plan for reequipping the County Production Studio, including timelines, budgetary allocations, and expected outcomes.
4. That the CECM for Youth Empowerment, Sports, and Arts shall, within seven (7) days, submit a detailed report on the security measures being implemented at the County Production Studio to prevent future robberies.
5. That the Budget and Appropriation Committee shall during future budgetary considerations, re-evaluate any allocation set toward the equipping of the production studio until a thorough investigation is conducted and stringent security measures are instituted to prevent future incidents of robbery.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, Sir, monitoring budget implementation is crucial as it serves as an early warning system for potential financial challenges or budgetary deficits. It is for this reason that the Committee is committed to doing quarterly follow-ups to identify inefficiencies, underutilized resources, or areas of overspending. By addressing these issues in a timely manner, resources can be reallocated to where they are most needed, maximizing their impact and ensuring the efficient use of taxpayers' money.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I wish to call upon Hon. Lucy Kithinji, who is my Vice Chair, to second.

Speaker: Hon. Lucy Kithinji, proceed.

Hon. Lucy Kithinji: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir, I second the said motion. There have been a lot of challenges in the matters of youth, but now that we have a new CECM, we are looking forward to much being done. I second the motion, Mr Speaker.

Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Joyce Munyua

Hon. Joyce Munyua: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to thank the Committee for the detailed report which clearly stipulates the many activities that the department was able to undertake. I also note for the purposes of inclusion they have also indicated a program that was undertaken for persons with disability. In subsequent reports, I think it is important to understand how the public participation that is undertaken when the department is deciding. Considering that I am the representative of persons with disability in the County, I can see that they supported the deaf volleyball team to an activity that happened in Nairobi. Some members are indicated to have gone to Japan to represent the Country. For purposes of representation it is important to have a guideline on how they identify the activities that they do for what I would call the vulnerable groups. We need proper public participation to ensure that what is supported is basically going across the County for purposes of inclusion.

I am aware that for several years they have just been supporting this volley team. I am not saying that they should not be supported but there are other very many initiatives that the County can undertake as far regards sports for persons with disability and generally the youth activities. We also have some youths with disability.

When I think about sports, I know we had the marathon which I know is under tourism. I am also aware that we have sitting volleyball –an activity which most persons with ability can be participate. I am aware that there is even the participation in the Standard Chartered Marathon. I am asking the department to broaden their thoughts as they undertake these activities. They should ensure that we are able to include as many persons with disability as possible across the county. That is a special request that should be considered. They should do their own public participation to ensure that we have the greatest impact and that most persons with disability are involved in these activities. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Stephen Mureithi Matimu

Hon. Stephen Mureithi: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is an issue that I am passionate about. The youth are the future of this country and the buck stops with them. If we do not empower them Mr Speaker, we shall not have a legacy. We shall not have a responsible people to leave this nation to.

This is a group that I really honour and hold in high esteem. Without our youth, we cannot go anywhere. My concerns, Hon. Speaker, are about few things that I have picked from this report moved by the very able Committee of Sports and Youth. First, I want to thank the committee for the recommendations that they have done towards the end.

Hon. Speaker, if you look at the Governors tournament, publicity was given Kshs. 1 million but awards for the 25 wards was given Kshs. 1.8 million. Mr Speaker, I think that it is the high time as this Hon. House rise to the occasion and do our oversight with a tooth pick. Mr Speaker, if you look at what they are talking about is publicity, it was said to be on TV, radio and social media. I do not remember seeing any advert on TV because I belong to this County. I also cannot remember listening to any advert on radio because I belong to this County. The only thing I am used to seeing are some E-cards showing the Hon. Governor with the member of that particular ward. Going forward, we should look for ways and means to empower our youths.

Secondly Mr Speaker, there is something that I have really fought for and especially for our youths. There is nothing as bad as looking for a talent and do nothing after finding it. There is no other empowerment that we do to our very able youths. Going forward, let us look for means and ways to ensure that after we have found these talents, we use what we have tapped from these young people. We empower them. I have just seen from the report of this able committee, we had people who participated in athletics and went up to the regional level. You would have expected that the athletes who won in these games were taken further by the County and they participate in some of the marathons that we have in the world and the country. Mr Speaker, these young people from our county can benefit and shine. We have had our own athletes in this County Mr Speaker but what have we done as a County to ensure that we have empowered them?

The other one Mr Speaker is about the production studio. I think that we have spent quite an amount on the same. The most unfortunate thing is that after spending about Kshs.2 million, buying equipment for that particular facility.... Hon Ebrahim is a good singer, Hon. Joyce is a good singer, and Hon. Esther is a good singer. After knowing that Mr Speaker, what do we do? With our good studio there, Hon. Joyce can go sit there and compose a song and maybe we have another upcoming musician from our County. The most unfortunate is that these things were vandalized. We have never had someone held accountable of what happened in this facility.

Mr Speaker, going forward and from the recommendation that we have, let us have people taken liable. I believe Mr Speaker, we pay the security firm that takes care of that facility. We pay salaries to specific persons assigned to take care of that compound Mr Speaker. We have never had anyone answerable about that particular facility. I am really grateful to the Chair of this very able committee they have come up with very strong recommendations which have timelines. Again, I humbly request that the Committee on Implementation to ensure that these things have been done within the timelines.

I want to concur with the Vice Chair, Hon. Lucy Githinji, on what she has just mentioned, that they have a new CEC for this particular department. We believe that he is well able and he is going to undertake these issues seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I think going forward, even us as a House, we need to ensure that whenever we are passing a budget like the one that is going to be tabled in this honourable House in a few days, that in addition to looking and focusing on talents, we empower those talents. Mr Speaker we have become people who only take people to a certain point but when they come to the level where they're supposed to benefit we are doing nothing. I wish we would spend more money on giving these people a fishing rod. What I've seen is that we give them allowances to play, and after that and when the tournament is over everything comes to an end. If we can get some more funds to push these talents to higher level, Mr. Speaker, we shall have given our youth with a fishing rod, and they can put a meal on their table. With that, I support this report, and I'm looking forward to this committee continuing its support to our youth and ensuring that even in the budget ahead of us, we do what is needful and support our youth.

With that, I support.

Speaker: You may call the mover to respond.

Hon. Stephen Mureithi: With that, Mr. Speaker, I call the mover.

Speaker: Hon. Thuo, proceed and respond.

Hon. Thuo Kuria: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to appreciate Hon. Members, starting with Hon. Joyce Munyua, for acknowledging that in our sporting activities, we involved

the people living with disabilities. Although we squared into the volleyball teams, that is where we engaged in our championship we also engaged the deaf, and Kshs 1.5 million was spent on the same, that is, supporting people with disabilities in the sporting course. We had a team that went to Japan, including those living with disabilities.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to appreciate Hon. Stephen Matimu. Indeed, he has been very much involved; he has been a good in checking in our sporting activities. Going by the contribution made by Hon. Stephen Matimu, I want to assure Members that we have kept our House in order and now that we have a new CECM, I'm hoping everything will go on as planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Proceed and move.

Hon. Thuo Kuria: And I move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, there being no other business to transact during this sitting, I now adjourn the House to Wednesday, 18th day of June 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

(The House rose at 11:22 a.m.)

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