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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
3RD ASSEMBLY — 4TH SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 11th June 2025

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 pm.

(Hon. Chege Gathirimu, in the Chair)

PRAYER

Speaker: Hon. Member, welcome to this afternoon sitting convened at 2.30 pm, the day being Wednesday, 11th June 2025.

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 Sitting, I direct that, pursuant to Standing Order No. 36, the bell be rung for an initial 10 minutes or until such a time within the 10 minutes that quorum will have been achieved.

Further, Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Order No. 37 (3) I hereby direct the Sergeant at Arms to ensure that 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 for the Sitting.

First order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

KALOU SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT TO THE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Members, I wish to notify you that today, the 11th day of June, 2025, we have the honour to welcome teachers and students from Kalou Secondary School in Kaimbaga Ward, Ol Kalou Sub County of our County Nyandarua.

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There is a total of seventy-two students and two teachers who are leading the delegation, namely;

1. Ms. Faith Mutuku - Head of Delegation
2. Mr. John Nyandegge - Teacher of History

In the delegation, we also have the leadership of the students led by;

1. Mr. Warui Waititu - Head boy
2. Ms. Ruth Omoga - Dormitory Captain
3. Ms. Sharon Lydia - Dormitory Captain
4. Ms. Linah Njeri - Dormitory Prefect

As an Assembly, we have a standing tradition of warmly welcoming our visitors, more so students or pupils, as we deliberate on important matters touching on the County. I therefore ask you, Hon. Members, to join me in applauding the teachers and students of Kalou Secondary School as aforesaid.

(Applause)

Finally, I wish to thank the area Member of County Assembly (Kaimbaga), namely Hon. Elijah Mwangi Nyaga, also the leader of the Majority party, for ensuring the school is accommodated appropriately at the Assembly during our plenary today. Thank you.

Next order.

PAPER(S)

1. NYANDARUA COUNTY BURSARY FUND QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31ST, 2025

Speaker: Very well, Hon. Peter Gathungu Kamau, Chairperson Committee on Education, Children, Gender Affairs, Culture and Social Services, and Member for Leshau-Pondo. Proceed.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have just got into the House and I'm waiting for my tablet to open. But in the meantime, I take this opportunity to welcome the students of Kalou Secondary School to this House and tell them they can also be here as Hon. Members. It is just a matter of time. They should be challenged to join this Assembly or even the National Assembly. The good thing is that we have the county Assemblies, and they have an opportunity to learn what happens even at the National level.

On the paper that you requested that I lay on the table, we wish to seek more time because we have urgent issues at hand; a petition that was brought here by the Integrated Displaced Persons. In addition, we are required to work on Alcoholic Drinks Bill which requires some amendment; inclusions that need to be done. Having all those activities on our table, we seek two more months, that is sixty days, so that we can be able to bring the statement to the House. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker. The preliminary report is duly tabled. The leave sought is well explained and deserving. So, I grant it as sought. So, chairperson, ensure the report is ready within the time requested.

Next order.

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2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2024

Speaker: Very well. Hon. Commissioner, Gachomba, Member for Njabini- Kiburu, on behalf of the Chairperson, Committee on Public Service Administration and Devotion. Proceed.

Hon. James Gachomba: Thank you. Before I table the report, I want to appreciate Kalou School for coming to understand what we are doing in this Assembly. Mainly, what we do as an Assembly is very simple: it is to oversee the Governor, legislate, and also represent our people at the grassroots. Thank you.

Mr Speaker, I want to table a report by the Committee on Public Service, Administration, and Devolution on the annual report of the County Public Service Board for the year 2024. I do wish to table the report with the clerk.

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

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SPENDING FROM THE EMERGENCY FUND IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

Speaker: Very well. Hon. Milka Nyambura, specially elected member from North Kinangop. Proceed.

Hon. Milka Nyambura: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the report on the approval of the Emergency Fund for the quarter ended 31st December 2024.

During its consideration of the report for the Approval of the Emergency Fund expenditure of the financial period ending 31st Dec 2024, the committee observed a number of issues pertaining to the utilization of funds under the repair and maintenance of county infrastructures.

Arising from these observations, the Committee resolved to invite the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning, and ICT to appear before it for further engagement on the matter, with a view to obtain additional information to inform its findings.

In this regard, and to allow the Committee adequate time to conclude its inquiry and compile a comprehensive report with well-considered recommendations, the Committee humbly seeks an extension of twenty-one (21) days to table its report before the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The preliminary report is duly tabled. The leave sought is well-explained and deserving, and so I grant it as sought. The chairperson, please ensure the report is ready within the time requested.

Next order.

STATEMENT(S)

(Hon. Mwangi Nyaga rose on a point of information.)

MEMBERS' WELCOME REMARKS FOR THE VISITING STUDENTS

Speaker: Yes, Hon Majority Leader, was it, Hon. Majority Leader?

Hon. Mwangi Nyaga: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel it is prudent that we don't proceed before I welcome the visitors from the Kalou Secondary School fraternity.

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Speaker: Order, Hon. Majority Leader, it is quite in order. The Chair is very much aware, and I was just about to give you the opportunity and I wish to introduce you properly.

Under statements, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome the Leader of Majority Party and the Member for Kaimbaga Ward, Hon. Elijah Mwangi Nyaga to welcome the students of Kalou Secondary School in Kaimbaga Ward, Ol'Kalou Sub-County, Nyandarua County, the area he has been ably representing. Welcome, Majority Leader.

Hon. Mwangi Nyaga: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to welcome members of the Kalou Secondary fraternity, led by Madam Faith Mutuko, who is the Head of Delegation; the History teacher, Mr. John Nyandege; and also, the student leadership: Mr Warui Waititu, the Head Boy; Ms. Ruth Omega, the Dormitory Captain; Ms. Sharon Lydia, the Dormitory Captain; and Linah Njeri, Dormitory Prefect.

Hon. Speaker, I'm so glad because I was informed by the leadership of Kalou Secondary School that it was their wish to visit this Assembly, as there is a lot they need to learn about how we conduct ourselves as an Assembly. Let me inform the fraternity that where they are is a replica of the National Assembly. The roles within the County Assembly and the National Assembly align because our role in this Assembly is legislative, representation, and oversight. These are the same kinds of roles that are played by the National Assembly.

So, there is not much difference between the County Assembly and the National Assembly. The main difference is the magnitude of what we do, especially in matters of budget, because the National Assembly's budget is a little bigger than what we get here.

Hon. Speaker, it is also quite imperative and important that I mention that where they are seated is a House of rules and procedures. We don't just operate arbitrarily. This is where rules and procedures must be followed to the letter. We are guided here by Standing Orders. This is like what we call the Quran or the Bible—we are guided by the Standing Orders. It is a House where you cannot afford to break the Standing Orders or the rules.

Hon. Speaker, I also wish to inform the students that we play a very critical role on matters of the budget. Before we have a ratified budget, the right procedures and processes must be followed. So, without the County Assembly, there is no way we can have a substantive budget for the County. It is also quite important to say that we don't work in isolation. We don't work independently on matters of the budget—we must involve the public. We go and consult the public on what ought to be done and when the public ratifies the budget, that is...

(Hon. Thuo Gachino rose on a point of order.)

Speaker: What is it, Hon. Gachino?

Hon. Thuo Gachino: Hon. Speaker, I'm happy that we have special students with us today. But what the Mheshimiwa is saying is not really for our kids. He should be talking about our development.

Speaker: Order! Order! Order! The Majority Leader is quite in order. Obviously, Hon. the majority leader is very much in order to brief the students as he wishes. Again, Hon. Member, it is important to note that the majority leader has 15 minutes of address because of the leadership position. Proceed, Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Mwangi Nyaga: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for your protection.

Hon. Speaker, the purpose of these students coming here—one of the main agendas—is to learn how this House operates. The other apparent reason for being here is to know the roles we play in the county.

I am a student of History. I got an A in my KCSE from Njabini Boys, and I know the kind of questions that are there when they are being examined. Whatever is coming out of my mouth is of great importance. It is like I'm responding to questions that will be coming during their exams. Therefore, I'm being very informative—and not only informative, Hon. Speaker, but I'm also giving them wisdom and great knowledge as the Majority Leader on what really transpires within this House.

I thank you so much for your protection, and I'm hoping that by the time they get back to their school, they'll have learnt something from the debate taking place on the floor of the House. So, *Karibuni Sana*, the Kalou Secondary School fraternity, and I wish you all the best. And for those students who will be sitting their exams at the end this year, I wish you success—both in the exams and in life. Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

Speaker: Very well, Hon. Stephen Mureithi Matimu, proceed.

Hon. Stephen Mureithi: Mr. Speaker, sir, I wanted first of all to rise on a point of order, but unfortunately, the Majority Leader had already sat down. He has just mentioned that we are a House of Procedures, and I've just heard him mixing up languages. He used Swahili while addressing the House in English, but since the moment has passed, let me take this opportunity to welcome the students of Ol'Kalou Secondary, which is a school within our municipality.

I have served as a board member of the school for two consecutive terms. It's a school that I'm proud of. In our sub-county, it is a school that performs very well. Currently, I am the Chairperson of the Board at Kiganjo Secondary School, and this school has never been defeated. I encourage the students to keep up the good work—work smart—and just as the Leader of Majority has said, one day you may find yourselves seated here or working in other senior positions.

Mr. Speaker, when I see young people like the ones we have today, I feel encouraged. We do not know who they will become tomorrow. We probably have a doctor here today who might treat me or my children in the future. You have great potential, and I would like to remind you that your future is in your hands. What you want to become will be molded by you.

Mr. Speaker, sir, I was once chased away from a History class when I was in high school because I brought up a controversial argument on the topic of evolution. When the teacher told me that I evolved from a monkey—and I was a preacher then—a heated debate arose in class. I told him that I believed I was created by God, but he insisted that I evolved from a monkey. This did not augur well with the teacher, and as a result, I was chased out of the class.

As was hinted here by Hon. Gathungu, the Member for Leshau Pondo, if people evolved from monkeys, he would have been one of the samples.

(Laughter)

Speaker: Order!

(Hon. Ebrahim Maina rose on a point of order)

What is it Hon. Ebrahim?

Hon. Ebrahim Maina: Hon. Speaker, the Member is confusing this House.

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Speaker: Order Hon. Matimu. Withdraw that statement.

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

What is it Hon. Gathungu?

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Hon. Speaker it is fine. You know that there is history and also religion. In this instance Hon. Stephen insinuates that he evolved as per history—from homo pithecus to homo erectus and the others. Hon. Speaker it a little disrespectful but you also know that Hon. Stephen is the advocate of ‘Tutams¹’ and I am an advocate of ‘Wantam²’ and he had to bring that into the House, Mr Speaker. I still say ‘Wantam.’

Speaker: Order Hon. Gathungu. You are out of order just as Hon. Stephen. Hon. Stephen Matimu, conclude.

Hon. Stephen Mureithi: Mr Speaker I want to conclude but the picture of the evolving man I used to see, one characteristic is that he was bending and if you look at Hon. Gathungu...

Speaker: Order! Order Hon. Stephen.

Hon. Stephen Mureithi: I withdraw. I thank the students for being in this Assembly today. For you to go far you must respect your teachers because they have the key you require to move forward in this life. With that I commend you. I am not sure which class it is but whatever class, continue working hard and you shall prosper in life.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Speaker: I believe we have had two statements but we are a gender sensitive house. As such the two chances remaining I will give one to Hon. Naomi—we have a Gen-Z in the house and specially elected member from Ndaragwa Central and the last one to Hon. Juliana Mugure a specially elected member from Murungaru.

Hon. Naomi Ngatia: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to welcome the students of Kalou Secondary. It is a great honour to have young people here with us today, for them to learn more about the County Assembly. I would like to inform them that I am their representative in this county—I represent the Gen-Zs of this County. I am their big sister and I would like to encourage them that they can be anything they want to become in the world—whatever your dream, you can become. Everyone you see seated here was once where you are; in secondary school and sat for the examinations you sit for. We faced the challenges you are facing...

(Hon. Ebrahim Maina rose on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Hon. Ebrahim.

Hon. Ebrahim Maina: Hon. Speaker, I have heard Hon. Naomi saying that she represents the youth in this county but we have seen an old person in the national government representing the youth. We would like to know the age of the member representing the youth in this County.

Speaker: Order! Hon. Naomi is in order in her statement because she has talked on her own behalf. There are no comparatives here. Hon. Naomi proceed.

¹ Two terms

² One term

Hon. Naomi Ngatia: I think I need to get a copy of the constitution for the member so that he can look at the age bracket considered as youth.

(Hon. Juliana Mugure rose on a point of information)

Speaker: What is it Hon. Juliana?

Hon. Juliana Mugure: I think it is prudent to inform the House what the minority whip is talking about. The students are wondering who is Hon. Oburu Odinga and how old he is. They might not be aware. He is the member nominated to represent the youth at the Senate and he is roughly 96 years old.

Speaker: Order! Hon. Juliana. If you cannot substantiate this might amount to defamation. Hon. Naomi proceed.

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

What is it Hon. Gathungu?

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Hon. Speaker we are in a digital world. I have searched and Hon. Oburu Odinga was born in 1943 so he is the youth representative in the broad-based government.

Speaker: Order Hon. Gathungu! Is that information official.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: I have found it from google. You can search, Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Naomi, proceed.

Hon. Naomi Ngatia: We can say that he is youthful at heart.

As I conclude my welcome remarks to the students, I would like to give them one word of encouragement: that every expert was once a beginner. Every person you see who has accomplished what they set out to achieve—be it a doctor, a lawyer, or the Honourable Members seated here—they all started from somewhere and put in the hard work. Listen to your teachers, put in the hard work, be disciplined, and you will become whatever you want to be in life.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a lot going on in our country and our county. I want to briefly give my message of condolence to the families that were affected by the disaster that occurred in Kinangop, where families lost their loved ones in a very sad incident involving a dam. I convey my condolences to the families, and may the souls of their loved ones rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, we also had another incident that occurred around Lake Olbolosat, where we lost six tourists while 27 were injured. The tourists were coming to tour our county, specifically Lake Olbolosat. Mr. Speaker, we have a marathon coming up at Lake Olbolosat. This is a very critical incident, and we need to take the necessary measures. I would like to request the relevant Committee to take up the matter with the seriousness it deserves. Life is very precious, and we need to take care of those who come to tour our county. We should ensure they receive the best, as we preserve life and ensure their safety.

I would also like to pass my condolence message to the family of Albert, a young person who, very unfortunately, lost his life while in police custody. I request that those responsible for investigating the matter take it up with the seriousness it deserves. We need to preserve life in our country. It is our duty to ensure that even those who are at fault are charged appropriately and that their lives are protected.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, we have seen many messages circulating on social media about potatoes in our county. I believe this is something we should take seriously. We should follow up on the matter regarding claims that potatoes coming from Nyandarua County are harmful.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not continue further, but I trust that the Hon. Members and the relevant Committee will take it up. Thank you!

(Hon. Thuo Gachino rose on a point of order)

Speaker: Hon. Thuo Gachino, who is out of order?

Hon. Thuo Gachino: Hon. Naomi, about the potatoes in Nyandarua.

Speaker: Order! Hon. Gachino.

(Hon. Juliana Mugure rose on a point of information)

What is it Hon. Juliana?

Hon. Juliana Mugure: It was my time to make my remarks.

Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Juliana. Are you through, Hon. Naomi?

Hon. Naomi Ngatia: I withdraw Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Juliana Babu proceed.

(Hon. Stephen Mureithi rose on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Hon. Stephen Mureithi?

Hon. Mureithi Matimu: I have just heard Hon. Naomi say that she has withdrawn. What has she withdrawn? Is she withdrawing from the House of the seat that she had sat on?

Speaker: Order! Order! I think she meant that she has withdrawn from continuing with her statement and contribution. Proceed Hon. Juliana.

Hon. Juliana Mugure: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To the students of Ol'Kalou Secondary, my name is Juliana Babu. I am a nominee of the Jubilee Party—the party of the former President of the Republic of Kenya and the party of the incoming President of the Republic of Kenya. Jubilee Party is the party of the future. We also have the DCP, which is also part of the future.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Nyandarua County Assembly. I do not want to take much of your time, as I have just been given a few minutes to share a few words of encouragement.

Your motto talks about discipline and hard work. Discipline is basically doing what is expected of you. Doing what is expected of you means listening to your teachers and reading your books. I will quote the words of Albert Einstein: reading books is not just about understanding facts, but essentially training the mind to think. You are being trained to think critically.

Whether you get an opportunity to score an A, or God gives you an opportunity to score a D, it really does not matter. What matters is whether you have acquired the necessary thinking capacity to live your life and put your talents to work—basically, to be a responsible citizen, a responsible father or mother. We do not all have to be doctors.

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We have Members here who are farmers and have never been to school, yet they are richer than some Members who went to school.

(Hon. Lucy Kithinji rose on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Hon Lucy Kithinji?

Hon. Lucy Kithinji: Is Hon. Juliana in order when she insinuates that there are Members that have not gone to school?

Speaker: Hon. Juliana Babu, clarify what you meant.

Hon. Juliana Mugure: You want to put me into trouble, Hon. Lucy Kithinji? What I said is that we have Members who went to school, Mr. Speaker, but they use their training differently. I will still quote the words of Albert Einstein:

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”

Whether you have gone to school or not, what matters is the ability to use your mind to think. You can go to school and not think. You can be a farmer, think critically, and make more money than someone who has gone to school. It basically depends on how you interpret that. All said and done, I want to conclude my remarks by saying that you should all take care of yourselves. You have clearly seen that the Government does not care about you. You have seen that they have removed money for examinations and feeding programs. Nobody cares that you are an orphan or that you come from a difficult background. Just take care of yourself. If you are a girl, protect your dignity. If you are a boy, take care of yourself. This is your life to live. Nikiongea kwa lugha ya Kiswahili niseme...

Speaker: Order! Hon. Juliana; you know the standing orders.

Hon. Juliana Mugure: I am winding up, Mr Speaker. I am just saying that because, as you know, these are the times we are living in. Times are hard, and you can only tell people the truth. Work hard, be disciplined, and God will help you. We are living in tough times, and your family, parents, and siblings are looking up to you to do your best so that.. “Ukuwe kioo cha Jamii” Ahsante sana.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members, and thank you for the compliments and the encouragement. That time is now closed. Therefore, to the students and the teachers, this is a political House, and the opinions given are strictly those of the Members who expressed them.

For the purpose of the record, and to avoid any misrepresentation, it is important to note that Hon. Oburu Oginga, who was mentioned in this House, is currently serving as the Senator for Siaya County, elected during the August 2022 elections. Any other information must be considered unofficial.

Next order.

(Laughter)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Hon. Members, there being no other business to transact during this sitting, I now adjourn the House to Tuesday, the 17th day of June, 2025, at 9.30 am.

(The House rose at 3:20 pm)

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