

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2024

Afternoon Sitting

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2024

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

(Mr. Speaker [Hon. Emmanuel Situma] in the Chair)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Members, I got some communication from the Minority Whip and at the same time, I had approved a memo for Selection Committee. Sort out those changes in Selection Committee and at least make sure you comply with the relevant laws as per the Standing Orders, County Assembly Services Act and the Constitution.

Let's proceed.

PAPERS

REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY PROGRAMMES FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2021/ 2022 AND FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

Mr. Speaker: Chair – Education.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiulah: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I lay on the table of this House a report from the Education and Vocational Training Committee on the Status of scholarship and bursary programmes for financial years 2021/ 2022 and financial year 2022/2023.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the report by the Sectoral Committee on Education and Vocational Training on the status of Scholarship and Bursary programmes financial year 2021/2022 and financial year 2020/2023 is hereby tabled and it becomes the property the House accordingly.

Next,

**REPORT ON THE COUNTY REVENUE FUND QUARTERLY REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023**

Mr. Speaker: Chair for the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning number two on the papers. Do I say because of age or what Hon. Barasa James? Proceed.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Don't worry Mr. Speaker, because I have two documents that is why I am verifying before I lay it on the floor.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, item number two under papers. Proceed.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay on the table of this House a report on the County Revenue Fund quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st December, 2023.

(Hon. James Mukhongo laid the paper on the table)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the report by the Sector Committee on Finance Economic Planning on the County Revenue Fund quarterly reports and financial statements for the period ending 31st of December, 2023 is hereby tabled and formally it becomes the property of the House accordingly.

Next,

**REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY
ASSEMBLY HONOURABLE MEMBERS CAR LOAN AND MORTGAGE SCHEME
FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2021**

Mr. Speaker: Chair PAC proceed.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise to table reports of the Auditor General on;

1. The Bungoma County Assembly Hon. Members Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021.
2. The Bungoma County Assembly Staff Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2022
3. Financial statements of Bungoma County Assembly for the year ended 30th June, 2022.

(Hon. Everton Nganga laid the papers on the table)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the report by the Public Accounts and Investment Committee on the report from the Auditor General on Bungoma County Assembly Members Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021.

The Bungoma County Assembly Staff Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2022 and the financial statements of Bungoma County Assembly for the year ended 30th June, 2022. Having been tabled it now becomes the property of the House accordingly.

REPORT ON THE RECEIVERS OF REVENUE QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Barasa, you will now proceed. I think you only now have one document you don't need to verify.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Once again I rise to lay on the table of this House report on the receivers of revenue quarterly report and financial statement for the period ended 31st December, 2023.

(Hon. James Mukhongo laid the paper on the table)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, report by Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning of the receiver revenue quarter reports in financial statement for the period ending 31st of December, 2023 is hereby tabled and formally it becomes the property of the House accordingly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT BY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON THE STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY PROGRAMME FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/ 2022 AND THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/ 2023

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, Chair - Education.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiulah: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to issue a notice of motion that this House adopts the report by Sectoral Committee on Education and Vocational Training on the status of scholarship and bursary programme for financial year 2021/2022 and the financial year 2022/2023.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, a Notice of Motion having been duly issued by the Chair, the Committee on Education and Vocational Training on the status of the scholarship in the bursary programmes for the year 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 . I urge the clerks at the table to share this report to the members. The same will be coming up as a motion accordingly on our Order Paper in the course of next week or once the same is scheduled by the HBC accordingly

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING ON THE COUNTY REVENUE FUND QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Barasa Mukhongo, proceed.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to give a Notice of Motion that this House adopts a report by the Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the County Revenue Fund Quarterly Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st December, 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members a Notice of Motion having been duly issued by the chair of the Committee on Finance and Planning on County Revenue Funds Quarterly Reports and Financial Statement for the period ending 31st of December 2023, I do urge the clerks at the table to share this report with the Honourable MCAs. The same will be forming business on our Order Paper once the same is scheduled by the HBC accordingly.

REPORTS BY THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, Chair – PAC.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to issue a Notice of Motion that this House adopts report by the Public Accounts and Investments Committee on reports of the Auditor General on the Bungoma County Assembly Honourable Members Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June 2021, the Bungoma County assembly staff car loan and mortgage scheme fund for the year ended 30th June 2022 and the financial statements of Bungoma County assembly for the year ended 30th June 2022 thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the Chair of Public Accounts and Investment Committee having duly issued a notice on the:

1. Auditor General's report on the Bungoma County Assembly Members Car loan and the Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ending June, 2021.
2. The Bungoma County Assembly Staff Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ending 30th of June, 22.
3. The financial statement for the Bungoma County Assembly for the year ending 30th of June, 2022.

I urge the clerks at the table to share this report with members. The same will come up on our Order Paper in the course of next week as a motion.

**REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
PLANNING ON RECEIVER OF REVENUE QUARTERLY REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. James Mukhongo, you proceed.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to issue a Notice of Motion that this House adopts report by the Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on receiver of revenue quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31ST December, 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, equally the sector Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the receiver of the revenue quarterly reports and financial statements for the period ending 31ST of December, 2023. I urge the clerks at the table to share this report to the MCAs; the same will be coming up on our Order Paper next week as a motion once the same is scheduled by the HBC accordingly.
Next,

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, you do have the honour of sharing the tentative weekly Business of the House. Kindly proceed,

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me take the Hon. Members through the weekly programme of the business of the County Assembly for the week commencing Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th April, 2024.

TUESDAY 9TH APRIL, 2024 2:30 P.M.

Papers

Report by the Committee on delegated county legislation on the consideration of the public finance management (Bungoma County Executive Employees Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund Regulations 2023)

Notices of Motion

That the House adopts the report by the Committee on Delegated County Legislation on the consideration of the Public Finance Management Employees Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund Regulations 2023

Motion

Report by the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Bungoma County the Medium Term Depth Management Strategic Paper for the period of the financial year 2024/2025, 2026/2027.

WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.

Paper

Report by the Sectoral Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare on the Bungoma County Governments Participation on the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games edition.

Notice of Motion

That this House adopts the report by the Sectoral Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare on Bungoma County Governments Participation in the 9th and 10th KICOSCA games editions.

Motion

Report by the House Business Committee on the second session plenary review February to December, 2023.

WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2024 2:30 P.M.

Motion

1. Report by the Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the Bungoma County Receivers of Revenue Financial Statements for the period ended 30th June, 2023.

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL, 2024 AT 2:30 P.M.

Questions/Statements

Statement No. 9/2024 a member of the House Business Committee pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 47 2 A will take the members on that weekly programme.

Motion

Report by the Joint Committees of Public Accounts and Investments of Bungoma and Trans Nzoia County Assemblies Auditor General's report on Nzoia Water Services Company financial statements for the period ended 30th June, 2022.

That is a tentative programme for next week. I submit it.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, that is our tentative weekly programme of our Order Paper starting Tuesday 9th to 11th April, 2024 as per planned and scheduled by the HBC accordingly.

Next item,

MOTION

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS ON THE STATUS OF AJIRI CENTRE

Mr. Speaker: I think we should be having a report being moved by the committee of Youth and Sports.

(Applause)

Hope you are not waiting for my comment, comment reserved

(Laughter)

Hon. Grace Sundukwa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A report by the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on the status of Ajiry Centre; we have a table of content. Mandate of the committee I will not go through. The membership of the committee I will not go through because we have it's on our emails, acknowledgement. I will move to Chapter One.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ajiry is a program of Tribus TSG a subsidiary of Centum Investments PLC and many other partners including MasterCard foundation and County Governments. The program was founded in 2017 and has its headquarters in Two Rivers Mall, Nairobi. It has spread and has its offices in Ten Counties countrywide; Nairobi, Laikipia, Makueni, Mombasa, Kisii, Nakuru, Machakos, Bungoma, Kiambu, and Kilifi Counties

Ajiry focuses on connecting employers to their desired workforce. This cuts across both the blue collar and white-collar sector. The program also supports art through its already established incubation hubs across different counties in Kenya. With over 50,000 users (youth), Ajiry is on the phase of implementing its third phase which is sustainable growth which involves supporting youth driven business start-ups. This support cuts across financial training and financing mentorship. It also focuses on looking for an investor to complement what it has been able to achieve through the support of the Mastercard Foundation of \$1.4M grant.

THE COMPANY MISSION AND VISION

MISSION:

To promote opportunities that effectively engage young people in work that challenge them to develop skills, gain critical awareness, and participate in training, mentorship and employment opportunities to create a better future.

VISION:

Making life easy for youths by leveraging on all the opportunities around them and tap into hidden talent slogan.

UNIQUE SELLING POINT (USP)

AJIRY program is designed to offer workforce sourcing solutions for full time, contractual, short-term, casual, or Gig Economy to employers and users. They also maximize in areas that empowers the youth job placement, training, mentorship and nurturing talents.

AJIRY CENTER- BUNGOMA

The AJIRY Center- Bungoma is located in Bungoma Town, off Moi Avenue on Nomad House. The facility was officially launched on 17th July, 2023 in a colourful ceremony which saw some of its graduands attend their ceremony before the Governor among other dignitaries. Unwavering support was assured from the County Government of Bungoma.

The facility offers a variety of programmes including: Studio recording, music and equipment training, cybercafé services, proposed podcast studio, animation and other trainings not limited to mental health awareness.

AJIRY AREAS OF IMPACT

JOB PLACEMENT

Ajiry is derived from the Swahili word *ajiri* which means employ. It has a web-based application or website which provides a platform for employers and job seekers to connect and network effortlessly.

With this App, employers can easily connect with workers for short-term, contractual, or one-off employment opportunities free from third-party agents. The one differentia between AJIRY and other social networking platforms is; Ajiry has a rating system, referral, and testimonial functionality section whereby workers are rated by employers after a job has been completed. These features are aimed to motivate workers to deliver quality and create a reputation of excellence and trust on the platform.

The website has a feature “MYHUSTLE” which allows users to showcase their talents and also sell their products.

Employers can find talent by searching for suitable talents they need using the find talent feature. They can also advertise with the AJIRY platform for free and interact with job seekers directly or advertise and leave the shortlisting for the program to examine and give the best talent at a fee.

So far this program has more than 50,000 users on the platform and advertised more than 5,000 jobs. The number that has gotten jobs through this platform is impressive and promising.

Ajiry also advertises and shortlist for employers and organisations and also make follow-ups to ensure that the job linkages are successful. Anyone who wants to visit and use the website features whether a job seeker or employer can just click <https://ajiry.com/> to sign up an account with Ajiry.

TRAINING

Ajiry Center - Bungoma, offers completely free training courtesy of the MasterCard Foundation. Prior to its official launch, it should be noted that training had been going on in this Centre and this was seen through a graduation ceremony of fresh graduands of this program on 17th July, 2023. These trainings take place in the centre’s premises and some take place within the residential areas of the learners, for instance in their respective sub counties, wards or sub- locations for easy reach to many youths. Below is the brief structured plan for some of the trainings undertaken by program for a period of six months before review and other changes to occur.

No.	Topic	Modules
1	Job readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resume and cover letter writing• Improving interviewing skills• Improving professional Communications

2	Personal Branding & marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to master the art of personal branding and marketing. • Fundamentals of Digital marketing
3.	Financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial accounting and planning • Capital budgeting and planning • Working capital decision management • Financial risk management
4	Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health studies: Suicide, Violent behaviour and substance abuse • First aid for Mental health • Anger & stress management and conflict resolution
5	Youth Talent Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent acquisition and management practices • Human talent management • Introduction to music, piano, Guitar and DJ

In addition to the modules aforementioned, this facility also provides the following trainings

No.	Unique Topics per Centre	Modules
1	Online job opportunities & platforms	Article writing Academic writing Fundamentals of Digital marketing Virtual assistance and admin support

		Database management Online Tutoring Transcription Social media strategy and management
2.	Introduction to Basic computer skills and packages	Introduction to basic computer skills and packages; word, Excel and PowerPoint
3.	Filming, Video editing and Animations	Filming and Video editing Animation Tutorial
4.	Financial proposal writing	Writing winning funds proposals
5.	Entrepreneurial investment opportunities	Introduction to entrepreneurship and starting a business
6	Forex and Stock Trading through principles of demand and supply	Forex trading through principle of Demand and supply and Fundamental analysis Stock trading and investment
7	Cyber Security	Cyber security

CYBER CAFE/ICT HUB

Ajiry has a provision of eight desktop computers that are dedicated for the cybercafé to enable our youths access the internet and explore opportunities in the online arena. The cybercafe would be an area where users can do google research, apply for jobs, tailor their CVs, work on online jobs, apply for scholarships within borders and abroad, learn and practice computer skills, and many other opportunities that revolve around ICT. The vision of AJIRY Center-Bungoma since it has enough and ample space is to have more computers connected to the internet to facilitate the youths explore unsaturated opportunities in the online arena. The facility shall also serve as an ICT hub for the benefit of the locals.

LIBRARY SERVICES

At the Ajiry Bungoma Centre there is a provision for the library though the room is empty awaiting equipping. Library and society are both interlinked and interdependent. A Library in the ancient and modern day exists for the need of the society. A library can be referred to as a well acknowledged “social agency”. It plays a vital role in shaping the society. It transmits and disseminates the accumulated knowledge through books and other materials.

Other than having physical books as a traditional Library would have, this center being an ICT hub can have a digital library or an E-Library. A digital library, also known as an e-library, is a collection of documents in an organized digital form, available on the internet or on disks. The purpose of an e-library is to store, access, and manage magazine articles, books, audio files, images, and video files. In the case of e-libraries, various data can be merged easily, which helps keep information up-to-date. Additionally, E-libraries offer free copies of books and journals. There are various reasons for creating and using digital libraries. They offer a plethora of resources at one’s disposal and they also enable greater access to the content and can be managed from various locations. This shall reduce the hustle of using, storing, lending and monitoring of physical books.

MUSIC RECORDING STUDIO

Ajiry Bungoma Centre among other Ajiry centers in the country has an already equipped music recording studio. This area is a noble idea for our local artists and talented youths to nurture their talents by recording music in the studio. The facility has a local producer who is volunteering to help the center record and produce music for the local artistes. The artistes are currently recording music completely free of charge but it could in the future attract a subsidized fee to enhance the case of sustainability of the program.

Additionally, the center offers opportunities for training in Deejaying, playing musical equipment; guitars, keyboard among others. The facility however does not have this equipment and relies on hiring and well-wishers.

PODCAST STUDIO/ONLINE RADIO

Ajiry Center Bungoma has a provision for podcast studio. However, the space is unutilized since there is no podcast equipment. The podcast studio provides an online platform where one can have live conversations, discussions, interviews from different people, dignitaries,

celebrities, staff and many other special groups. The podcast studio could be an area for Facebook, Instagram and YouTube live streaming. It can also be converted into an online community radio and employ our youths. Since it is an online radio, the Center can also market and advertise for its services, activities or even plans the County Government is planning to undertake for the youths.

ANIMATION STUDIO & GREEN SCREEN TECHNOLOGY

Ajiry office has a space and 3 computers specifically have been assigned for animation. Animation studio plays a vital role in two areas: marketing and Tutorials. A number of Youth in Bungoma have the knowledge and interest in animation. However, they have limited access to facilities and resources to explore this talent. AJIRY center offers this opportunity to them. Several youths have been showing interest and learning animation production.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations

1. The building under which the center sits is a rented space which goes at Ksh 250,000 per month and the Center is in arrears of more than a year.
2. The facility has only one employee- the manager, who is a contracted employee of MasterCard and runs the entire facility with volunteers coming in to offer trainings.
3. The library and the podcast rooms are not equipped.
4. The Centre sometimes have to hire seats for settling youth who occasionally visit to benefit from the services provided.
5. There is no equipment to facilitate trainings and learning of skills. These include, projectors, Podcast equipment, cameras, public address system, and additional music equipment.
6. There is little input from the County Government; payment of rent.

7. There are no formally and academically certified personnel appointed to train the youth on ICT, music, and animation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following recommendations

1. **THAT**, the County Government should endeavor to clearing the rent arrears accrued by the facility and if possible, seek an alternative space that is considerably cheaper.
2. **THAT**, the County Government should seek for more partners to support the Program.
3. **THAT**, the department should equip the facility with sufficient musical equipment; guitars, keyboard, a drum set, saxophone and trumpets.
4. **THAT**, the County Government, in the subsequent budget should consider allocating more funds towards this Center for employing more staff to facilitate training and run the facility.
5. **THAT**, The County Government of Bungoma should employ qualified personnel to offer training to the youth.
6. **THAT** The County Government of Bungoma should consider opening at least one center in every Sub-County to reach more youth.

The report is adopted by all committee members and is signed by the chairperson. I therefore call upon Hon. Allan to second the report.

(Applause)

Hon. Allan Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, allow me thank the Vice Chairperson of the Committee Hon. Grace for moving this important report to this House. The Ajiri program is a good idea that can be of benefit to the youth of Bungoma County is well utilized. However, where the department or the County Government of Bungoma got it wrong is that we have had this Ajiri Center in Bungoma for a number of years but proper sensitization has not been undertaken for the youth to know about this center. Therefore, there is need first to decentralize the information and the offices near to the villages so that the youth of Bungoma County can have access to this important facility in Bungoma County.

Secondly, we observed that the rent for the facility is on the higher end paying Kshs. 250,000 as rent is on the higher side. We got this wrong because this facility is being run by MasterCard in collaboration with the County Government of Bungoma. We only have one

employee at that office who is an employee of the MasterCard and the County Government we only pay rent which is exorbitant. Therefore, we have recommended for proper sensitization to the youth of Bungoma County and also we decentralize the office so that the youth of Bungoma County can get access to in order to benefit. Hon. Speaker, I second the report.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Allan.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Metrine Wilson: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support this report. First I would like to applaud my Vice Chairperson for reading this report and the entire committee for coming up with this report. I would like to say that Ajiri Centre offers much to the youth in Bungoma County that includes trainings on job readiness, financial management, talent growth, mental health, music production, on line working including forex trading and cyber security. As a member of the committee I would say that these trainings are line with digital literacy and competitiveness in the current ever growing digital world. I would plead with the County Government to strive to support and promote the youth through this project to change the livelihoods of the youth. The issue of forex trading if our youth are trained and even adults like Hon. Mulongo here they can also do business and earn a living on such platforms...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Metrine sometimes be serious. How can a *Kumbaru* teacher be conversant with ICT?

Hon. Metrine Wilson: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Mulongo can do such business as long as he is willing to be trained. Therefore, I would urge this House to support this program to make sure that the ICT Hub is in place and the center is equipped so that our youth can be supported and with such programs, they can earn a living from the same to reduce unemployment in our county and country at large. I support the report.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me an opportunity also to add my voice on the Ajiri report. First of all, I comment the Vice Chairperson for presenting the report. Mr. Speaker, just like my colleagues have said, the Ajiri Center is a noble vision that can transform the lives of many young people in this county. At Bukembe, where I represent, I have benefited because I took there my youth who were sharpened. In fact some of them are volunteering supporting the Ajiri Center. However, the way Hon. Allan said, you realize we are spending Kshs 250,000 every month. If the county can provide space where Ajiri can be hosted instead of paying rent, the Kshs. 250,000 can be used to equip the library. We have centers like Mayoni Youth Center, we have Webuye which was formerly municipal hall and currently being occupied by the Member of Parliament from Webuye East. If that facility can be given to Ajiri Center, this could be a life changer for the youth in this county.

We are living in a digital world and we have scarcity of jobs. Ajiri is an open door that can make our youth to be self-reliant and not depending on hand-outs. I remember our President has been talking about digital jobs, digital centers in our Ward Offices. If Ajiri can blend with this vision, a lot will happen. As much as we support, I would wish to see that our County Government takes this program seriously to make sure that all the wards are benefiting and not just a few. I support.

Hon. Bernard Kikechi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute. First of all, I want to be clear that I support this report as well presented by Hon. Grace. As per the report, this Ajiri Center is a good facility which offers a variety of programs like studio recording, music and equipment training, cyber cafe services, animation and other trainings which are favorites for the youth. When you look at the committee observations, they paint a bad picture on this important facility. If the library is not equipped to facilitate trainings and learning of skills like projectors, podcast equipment, cameras, public address system which are all lacking. This paints an institution that is in dire need of financial uplift. That is why I support the committee recommendations which I urge the Committee on Implementation to follow up so that they are implemented especially the recommendation on allocating funds to support this centre. I think this will help assist many of our youth who are jobless. I support the report.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I applaud Hon. Grace the mover of the motion because for the first time in 6 years, I have seen her read a report on the floor of the House.

(Applause)

It is a good report which I support. On the observations; that this program is domiciled in a rented premise where Kshs. 250, 000 is paid monthly and they are in areas of more than a year. The idea behind the program was well thought out but the implementation of the program is wrong. We have many Houses hanging here and some of them are being occupied by police officers yet they are County Government Houses. Why can't they pick one house and remodel it to house this program instead of using Kshs. 250. 000 to pay rent every month causing areas of over a year. As I support the report, let us also look at the cost which we can save to be used on other things.

(Applause)

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I also rise to support the motion. First of all I was wondering what Makari was doing when he was monitoring Hon. Grace for the last 6 years. What was the intention?

Mr. Speaker: You are out of order. You were not in the last Assembly, therefore, you cannot know. Proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you Hon. Speaker for the guidance. After listening to the mover of the motion, it makes me understand that the Ajiri Center was supposed to be a one-stop-shop but until now, you heard from the voice of the mover, she was a person who was asking silently that kindly intervene and this is the right time that we should intervene.

According to Ajiri Center, if we walked to Machakos where we have a model Ajiri Center that other counties can benchmark. You find also the sister county next is another role model that deserves to be visited and we see how these two neighbouring counties succeeded in this Ajiri Centers. These centers are not only supposed to support the political but also support economic base of our people. One, it creates employment both on line and physical. It also creates a center where our youth are trained on ICT and other trainings that they cannot go and attain outside this country.

Hon. Speaker, we have been talking about rare talent that our county has; if we talk about music, we have talented young men and women who are capable but they have nowhere to record their music. Even when they have it, it's so costly. But we can't achieve this if really we have only one employee who is the manager, the customer care, sales person and also an accountant.

Equally, I realize that we are paying a lot of money in terms of rent. Why should we pay all these money and yet we are not achieving the intended purpose of this. This calls upon us to ask the County Government to review and carry out some evaluation and see since the inception, if we have achieved anything which I believe we have not.

As earlier said, it prepares the youth for the market demand of jobs. If we can't do this aware of the poverty levels of our county and neighbouring counties, this is an empowerment center for those who are not able to attain their dreams elsewhere. Therefore, our recommendations as put by the committee, we must make sure that the government follows it to the latter. I support the report Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Grace, you can now reply to the motion.

Hon. Grace Sundukwa: (Mover to reply) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank all the Members who have supported the motion. On the issue of rent, I will not fear to say that the County Government has failed the youth agenda because the rent arrears are now almost one and half years. The County Government has paid rent for only one month since the program was initiated in Bungoma County.

When we look at the department of Youth and Sports, we don't have an allocation towards this program, therefore, I would request all honourable Members who have benefited from this program to know that needs money for them to continue with this program. You are making good proposals but without funds, we will be failing as a County Government more

so, the Assembly that appropriates funds. Therefore, the youth programs should be given priority.

The rent is high but as we explore for other areas without funds, we shall not be able to move and equally if we need to move, we must first of all clear the rent arrears. Therefore, I request that in the next budget, we allocate funds to the department of Youth and Sports because the future is the hands of the youth.

I therefore request the House to adopt this motion.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Grace for the response to the motion that you moved.

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it.

(Applause)

The report, its observations and recommendations is hereby adopted by the House.

REPORT BY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON ESTABLISHING THE VIABILITY OF TOURIST ATTRACTION PLANS IN BUNGOMA COUNTY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Hon. Edwin Opwora (Chairperson, Tourism): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to move a motion on the report of the Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on Establishing the Viability of Tourist Attraction Plans in Bungoma County in respect to the department of Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources and Climate Change.

Chapter One

It is my pleasure to present the report on the establishment of the viability of tourist attraction plans in Bungoma County by the department of Tourism. Mr. Speaker, I beg to jump the mandates number 1.1 and move to 1.2, the committee membership. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee of Tourism, Water, Natural Resources comprises of the following members;

1. Hon. Edwin Opwora.....Chairperson
2. Hon. Martin Chemorion.....V. Chairperson
3. Hon. Joseph Nyongesa.....Member
4. Hon. Anthony Luseneka.....Member
5. Hon. Meshack Simiyu.....Member
6. Hon. Miliar Masungu.....Member
7. Hon. Sudi Busolo.....Member

8. Hon. Vitalis Wangila.....Member
9. Hon. James Mukhongo.....Member
10. Hon. Aggrey Mulongo.....Member
11. Hon. Benjamin Otsiula.....Member
12. Hon. Benard Kikechi.....Member
13. Hon. George Kwemoi.....Member
14. Hon. Orize Kundu.....Member
15. Hon. Dorcus Ndasaba.....Member

The terms of reference

During the committee sitting, it was unanimously resolved that the committee extensively look into the department's tourism attraction strategies that have been developed for committee consideration and recommend for improvement. The following were the guiding principles in deliberation of the tourism strategies stroke plans.

1. To establish the real position of tourism sites within Bungoma County, including ownership status.
2. To interrogate the Bungoma County tourism strategies in comparison to the county government in the region.

Background information

The devolved system of governance bestowed local tourism development to the counties, making counties the new frontiers in tourism development. Tourism members to the county, as per the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, are low-leading to low-bid occupancy in the hospitality industry. Hence, low revenue and incomes.

This state of affairs would be attributed to the inadequate development, marketing, and investment in tourism experiences and events. Traditional tourist attractions, such as Beach and Safari, have become routine, yet tourists are increasingly looking out for vibrant, innovative, and inclusive experiences. This provides an opportunity for tourism growth in traditional tourism destinations, such as Bungoma County.

Tapping into this opportunity will improve the quality of Kenya tourism offerings, and above all, market Bungoma County as a new tourism destination. The county government, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, must undertake sustainable tourism development in order to facilitate realization of these development goals.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Members of the Tourism, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources Committee, together with the Secretariat, for their dedication, commitment, integrity, and valuable contribution in carrying out the report writing exercise.

The committee is grateful to the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk of County Assembly of Bungoma, for the support received in ensuring that the committees carry out its mandate smoothly.

Signed by the Hon. Edwin Opwora Chairperson committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources

Chapter 2

Tourism attractions in the county are either natural or man-made features, such as resorts, monuments, museums, towns and cities, landmarks, culture, artefacts, shrines, historical sites, drama, songs, and dance.

The main tourist attractions and activities

The county has abundant natural and man-made assets, with welcoming, peace-loving people, plentiful wildlife, extensive natural and cultural attractions, and adventure opportunities. Considerable opportunities for expansion exist in safari, conference business, and diaspora tourism.

Furthermore, the county has great potential to expand products that are more recently in greater demand, such as nature and adventure tourism, cultural heritage tourism, and travel for wellness, health, and retirement purposes.

Opportunities for investment in tourism do exist in the following tourism products and services. Tourism circuits, nature and wildlife, avitourism that is birding, cable car, gliding services, monkey tracking, snake parks, wildlife safaris, mountain hiking, hospitality, and accommodation services. Honeymoon service packages, car hire service, air ticketing, day excursions, fishing safari, travel guiding, culture, heritage, and community safaris, stroke adventures, agro-tourism and eco-tourism, water sports, health and wellness, conference tourism, golf resorts, business and event tourism, international tourism camp, protection of tourism and regulation, and marketing the county for local and international tourism.

2.1.1, the main wildlife

The main wildlife found within the county includes elephant, buffalo, monkeys, hyenas, gazelles, as well as plant species. Others include the various bird species, insects, and reptile species.

In the planned period, sustainable management of human wildlife conflict will be enhanced to safeguard the wildlife.

The wildlife conservation areas

Mt. Elgon Forest Reserve measures 618.2 kilometres squared and is the largest conservation area in the county.

It has a wide range of flora and fauna. Small private and community conservancies also exist in the county.

The innovative tourist attractions

2.3 Activities in place and the economic and social value to the county.

Bungoma County is endowed with various attraction sites that can be tapped into by the county government to increase its revenue collection. Some of the tourist attraction sites in the county include the following;

1. Sikele sia mulia
2. Elijah Wanameme Mausoleum
3. Pacal Nabwana Mausoleum
4. Sudi Namachanja Mausoleum
5. Mt. Elgon caves
6. Chetambe hills
7. Sangálo Hills
8. Kabuchai Hills
9. Nabuyole Water falls in Webuye
10. Terem Water falls in Mt. Elgon
11. Sangálo culture center
12. Dini ya Musambwa headquarters at Maeni in Kimilili
13. Mufunje bridge in Webuye
14. Mt. Elgon National Park and Chepkitale National Reserve that has unique flora and fauna including elephants and over 300 species of birds.

So far there is no economic value as a result of revenue collected from the two tourist sites by the County Government of Bungoma. This is as a result of lack of clear policy guidelines on the management of tourist sites.

We have photos showing the various tourist attractions that I beg members to refer to the copies they have on pages 10, 11-16.

2.5 The value of the County Government investing in tourism

Bungoma County recognizes tourism as priority economic activities given its contribution to the county economy and the multiplier effect across various sectors. The following interventions need to be emphasized to achieve the set objectives;

1. The County tourism product development and diversification

Bungoma County as a devolved arm of government has a role of product development and collaboration with other stakeholders to achieve the following;

- a) Develop relevant tourism legislative framework and tourism strategy to guide county tourism product development and diversification
- b) Undertake mapping and inventory of all County tourism products, attractions and facilities
- c) Undertake development of the County tourism products that enhance economic growth, environmental sustainability and preserve the counties cultural heritage
- d) Undertake county tourism product diversifications through agro tourism, sports tourism, cultural tourism and ecotourism
- e) Encourage county tourism product diversification through community based tourism enterprises such as the home stays
- f) Ensure high quality standards of tourism products and services
- g) Provide incentive for investment in county tourism products and services

Community participation

The County Government of Bungoma should endeavour encourage stakeholders and community participation as far as tourism is concerned. This can be done through the following;

- a) Undertake community tourism awareness campaigns to sensitize the community on the role of tourism on overall economic development
- b) Encourage and support communities in the community based tourism enterprises and ensure modalities are in place for communities to receive significant share of the benefits from the tourism venture

Infrastructure, transport and communication

The destination attractiveness is enhanced through good and well-functioning infrastructure and transport such as road transport, telecommunication and electricity as well as water sanitation. The county government in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders should endeavour to;

- a) Work towards providing better and efficient infrastructure such as good county road network including access roads to tourism products and amenities with clear signage
- b) Work with relevant stakeholders to enhance air transportation services that entail having a fully functional airstrip within the county
- c) Ensure efficient, quality and well-functioning telecommunication system including broadband and energy electricity supply, sufficient clean water supply and sewerage connection across the county.

Environment natural resource base and sustainable development

Tourism development for a competitive destination depends on the entire resource base including labour and natural resources. Therefore, development within the industry must be regulated to prevent or mitigate undue harm to the environment. The County Government in collaboration with relevant stakeholders needs to undertake the following;

- a) Work with relevant stakeholders including the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to fully ensure all new and existing developments with the county tourism industry adhere to the provision of the Environment Management and Coordination Act amended in 2015.
- b) Closely monitor and control tourism land use activities contributing to pollution including vehicle pollution which is a major health hazard
Eutrophication and reservoirs
- c) Support initiatives to introduce and echo rating system in all accommodation facilities to be eventually included in classification and accreditation schemes thus underpinning the entire counties accommodation product with responsible and sustainable tourism principles
- d) Enhance community participation in tourism activities shall in general also promote protection of tourism resources
- e) Resolve conflicts resulting from land use and human wildlife tourism conflict through a participatory approach to ensure fair distribution of tourism infrastructure services and benefits. These includes roads, information centers, communication, incomes, investments, security etc. to previously neglected regions and localities
- f) Encourage recycling of water and appropriate disposal of waste
- g) Promote installation and use of renewable energy such as solar, wind, biogas and micro hydropower as sources of energy by tourism enterprises
- h) Provide incentives for investment in alternative sources of energy

Conflict resolution and land use planning

Conflict resolution and land use planning within the tourism sector needs to be guided by the relevant legislation. However, the county government shall work in collaboration with all the stakeholders to ensure all disputes relating to wildlife conservation and management, protection of endangered species, wildlife cropping, wildlife hunting, land ownership, land use etc. are resolved amicably on order to minimize areas of conflict and contention.

Compensation for injury or death or damage of property caused by wildlife to any person including tourists has paid to enter a protected area shall be paid according to established laws.

Recognizing the issue of land use and human wild life tourism conflicts can be resolved more realistically through a participatory approach where it will help ensure sustainable use of resources. Fair distribution of tourism infrastructure, services and benefits, roads, information centers, communication, income, investment, security etc. The County Government in collaboration with all stakeholders will establish tourist information centers across the county to serve as county tourism outlets in addition designing a new tourist circuit that encompasses the whole county.

3.1 Comparison of how tourism functions have played in western region

Kakamega County

From the current CIDP 2023-2027 the tourism sector has targeted to develop 12 tourist sites within the period. The county has designated 6 heritage sites Nabongo Shrines, Ikhongo Murwie, Mawe tatu, Misango hills, Mugayi stones and Kambiri hills that need to be fully developed.

To improve the hospitality industry a total of 240 hoteliers were trained in partnership with Utali College. Bull fighting is also one of the cultural practices by the residents and it has become a tourist attraction event. Some of the best places to visit include the following; Kakamega Forest National Reserve, The Crying Stone (Ikhongo Murue), Isiukhu Falls, Nabongo Cultural Center, Malava Forest, Masinde Muliro Gardens, Rondo Retreat Center, Masinde Muliro Gardens, Bukhungu Stadium, Ilesi Pottery Centre, Savona Isle Resort and Rosterman Mines.

Kisumu County

Kisumu County has unique features such as the shoreline of Lake Victoria, Kit Mikayi, Ndere, Island National Park, and Impala Park among others which collectively make Kisumu a major tourist destination. Abundant hospitality industry with excellent conference facilities ranging from the Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, situated in a serene environment of Riat hills providing a clear aerial view of the City, Acacia Hotel within the Central Business District, Impala & Jambo Safari Eco-lodge, Kiboko Bay on the shores of L. Victoria for hippo watching, Sunset Hotel to Lwang'ni Beach chain of hotels where the Luo cuisine is enjoyed.

Kisumu County is endowed with a number of Heritage sites, which are spread across the entire County. Some of these heritage sites are; Kajulu Caves, Abindu Shrine, God Mesa view point, Kit Mikayi, Fort ternan, Okore Kogonda site, Anguom Yuak, Sango Ka Kere as well as Oneno Nam.

Some of the best tourist attractions sites to visit in Kisumu include, Dunga Hill Camp, Kiboko Bay, Kisumu Museum, Kisumu Impala Sanctuary, Hippo Point and Kiti Mikayi.

Busia County

Busia County is endowed with beautiful natural features that include the awesome Lake Victoria, Africa's biggest and the world's second largest fresh water lake and large Nzoia and Yala swam. Strategic location with direct access to the great lakes that make the county attractive for investment targeting regional markets such as Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan. In modern times, tourist attractions go beyond the conventional features (i.e. natural and physical features) to include man-made features such as resorts, monuments, museums, town/city landmarks, culture, artifacts, shrines, historical sites, drama, songs, dance, cage farming, fish processing, rice milling and other activities.

The main tourist attraction sites in the county include:

Kakapel National Monument - Kakapel is a rock site located on a huge rock shelter in the Chelelemuk Hills in Teso North Sub-county. The rock art at Kakapel is believed to have been done by the Twa (Abatwa) hunter gatherer group. It has printings that illustrate wild animals, rain making and initiation symbols;

The Samia Hills - The Samia Hills in Samia sub-county represents the basement complex and consist of acid and sub-acid lavas, tiffs and agglomerates, quartzite and iron stones; and

The Kavirondo Series Rocks -They are developed around Busia, Nambale and Butula while the granite dominates the northern parts of the county. The northern part of the central region features granite out crops, which is essentially part of the peneplain and is characterized by the presence of large granitic hills such as Amukura and Chelelemuk.

The Southern part is covered by a range of hills which run from the North East to the South West culminating at Port Victoria, forming a very conspicuous topographical feature.

Department written submission and engagement with the committee Bungoma County Tourist Attraction Sites and Status

We have the Bungoma County Tourist attraction sites. I beg to refer members to check on the report we have shared on page 23 that details all the sites, a brief description of each identified attraction and their status, the specific location, the ownership whether its national, County or private community and the challenges of all the sites of Bungoma. That is on page 23 up to page 32.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Observations

1. Most of the tourist attraction sites currently exist on a private land and if at one time in the future the sites are disposed-off and excavated, the county may loose on the tourism attraction center as a result of growing demand for land.
2. Other counties specifically Kisumu County has enormously invested on maintenance and rehabilitation of the local community tourist sites that has made the county a more tourist attraction county within the lake basin economic block.
3. It has been established that the department of tourism does not have County Tourism Policy.
4. From the department written response on status of tourism sites, there was a lot of copy pasting on challenges faced by each tourist site.
5. In comparison with our secretariat site visit report to tourist sites excluding Hospitality industry, Agriculture and Cultural activities, more sites were reported by the secretariat compared to the reported sites by the department.
6. Local Tourism is a devolved function as per fourth Schedule of the Constitution hence the County Government has to strongly support the sub sector which has great potential in the County
7. Most of the tourists sites in the County has not been Profiled and Documented to enhance Revenue collection and development of the sites.

Recommendations

1. **That** based on the findings, the Department of tourism should allocate sufficient funds in the subsequent budget with the aim of acquiring parcels of lands where tourist attraction sites are on public land.
2. **That** the department should allocate sufficient funds in the subsequent budget for the promotion of both local and international tourism to benefit from revenues associated with tourist attraction sites in Bungoma County
3. The department of Tourism should develop Bungoma county Tourism policy that will provide the appropriate legislative and administrative framework for the protection of sites and monuments across the county.
4. That the department should put in more effort by establishing each tourist site unique challenge and document, the committee directs that the department should furnish to the committee in 90 days after adoption of this report actual status report for each tourist site.
5. That the department of Tourism should ensure that all tourism sites in the County are captured in there reports. The Committee directs that in 90 days after adoption of this report, the Chief Officer is directed to furnish with the committee an updated list of all tourist attraction sites in Bungoma County.
6. That tourism being a devolved function, the CECM should lobby at cabinet level to have it considered in budgetary allocation and share the efforts by the department with the committee on areas that require support from the County Assembly in the 2025/2026 budget.
7. That, the Department should be able to Identify, Profile and Document All the Attraction sites in the County so as to enhance and develop the sites which would create a good revenue collection and appreciation by the local community.

We have the adoption schedule which is signed by all members of the committee. I beg to be seconded by Hon. Otsiula!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Otsiula, you have the honour of seconding the report by the Chair. Proceed!

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First of all, I also wish to pass special regards to my Chair for moving the motion eloquently. He has been very audible enough to enable us follow him keenly as he puts across the issues contained in the motion.

I also wish to thank my Chair for giving me an opportunity to second the motion because this is a committee of eminent persons.

First and foremost, I wish to put it to the attention of the Honourable members that local tourism is one of the devolved functions as per Schedule Four of the Constitution. However, looking at the findings in our report, you will realise that as a County, we have lagged behind. To echo the sentiments of the mover, he has led us to a comparative study of Kisumu, Kakamega and Busia counties. If you look at Kakamega County, that is chapter three of that

report, they have sites which they have given priority in promoting local tourism. Looking at sites such as the crying stone and others mentioned in the report, it gives our County a challenge to put up measures to ensure that we are giving local tourism a priority as far as the recommendations in this particular report are concerned.

In Kisumu for example, if you look at the sites there; the beach at Lwan'gani where they serve you with a very huge fish. I went there one day and when that fish was placed in front of me, I almost ran away but I was comforted by some of the ladies around that region. That shows that local tourism around the Lwan'gni beach...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Otsiula, are you waiting for my comment? It's reserved, proceed!

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. In essence, looking at even the hotel facilities around Kisumu city, it shows that that County has given a lot of attention to the matters of local Tourism.

The drafters of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 had in mind sites such as these ones mentioned here in respect of our County. Sikele sya Mulya, Elijah Wanameme mausoleum, Pascal Nabwana mausoleum, Chetambe hills. The drafters of this Constitution were very particular and that is why they devolved this function to the County Government to ensure that such sites can easily be improved in those respective areas that they are situated in.

One of the Key observations made in this report is that the County Government has underfunded the department of Tourism. We are talking about community participation, the County Government conducting Public participation to ensure that these sites are discovered, protected and the people of Bungoma know the importance of these sites. Without an adequate budget as per the views of these committees, that will be a mirage. Therefore the committee's observation is that the department of Tourism must be adequately funded to enable it carry out these functions to promote local tourism within the County of Bungoma.

Two, there is no legislative policy framework put in place to govern and regulate matters of local tourism within Bungoma County. Without a policy being put in place then it becomes difficult because it appears the County Government is still reliant on the National Legislation which is passed by the National Assembly.

This therefore calls for an urgent need to ensure that the policy is put in place to regulate the operations of the County Government as far as matters of local tourism are concerned.

Some of the sites mentioned in this report are not all the local tourism sites that are found in Bungoma County. It therefore calls for an urgent measure that the department of tourism is tasked to ensure that they conduct a thorough exercise to ensure that all the sites in Bungoma which are providing these services for our local and international tourists visiting this sites to provide revenue for our County are located, documented and presented so that we instil at the time of the Budget making process what is required and what the department requires to make this sector better.

Another issue that comes up is recommendation 6 that tourism being a devolved function, the CECM should lobby at cabinet level to have it considered in the budgetary allocation.

What we have realised in the past is that we do the interrogations and when the Fiscal Strategy paper comes up you realise when members are posing questions the CECM will start saying I raised this issue at the cabinet level but it was not considered. The committee in its opinion directs the CECM for this relevant sector to ensure that he conducts prior engagements with his cabinet colleagues and at that level to ensure that his projections are covered to ensure that at the time of the budget making process, funds are located for this particular purpose.

Otherwise, this and other issues captured in the reports mirror the correct position of where we are placed as a County as far as local Tourism is concerned and as a measure to ensure that we enhance our revenue collection, then the County Government must also prioritise this being one of its core functions as per the constitution to prioritise, allocate funds so that these particular sites can assist in generating more revenue for our County.

Otherwise, for all those many remarks, I wish to second the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Otsiula for seconding the report. Members, allow me now proceed and propose a motion for debate. Hon. Members, a motion has been moved and seconded that this House adopts the report by the sector committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on establishing and viability of Tourist attraction plan in Bungoma County by the department of Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources laid on the table of the House on 29th February, 2024. I propose.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Simotwo,

Hon. Frankline Simotwo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, allow me to appreciate the mover of the motion my colleague Hon. Opwora for reading this report eloquently.

This is important information for the executive to consume. As we table this report, it is important to note that this sector of Tourism is a very important sector that has employed most of the people in this republic. Bungoma is one of the counties that is rich in tourism only that it has never been exploited well. As I was going through this report, most of the items captured as spoken by our colleagues is exactly a mirage but you find that some issues have been forgotten like the hot springs in Mt. Elgon. We still have people travelling to Lake Bogoria to see the hot springs but in Mt Elgon at the peak, we have the hot springs which can attract more tourists. I think this is very important that the Chair can be able as spoken by Hon. Otsiula that we need to capture more so that we can be able to have a very good inventory on attraction areas.

Also in Mt Elgon, we have the maternity wing for elephants. I have not seen it captured here. There is a special area where the elephants go to the Far East or the west during the time of delivery. There is a special area called Chesamo where you will find elephants are now

giving birth there. It is a special area that can be secured and be a very good attraction centre for elephants. It is important that if this area could be accessible, it will attract more tourists.

I have also seen on page 23 where they have said the National parks, forest reserves and Chepkitale National reserve, currently we do not have the Chepkitale National Reserve because this issue of reserve was contested by the Ogiek and the ruling was on 25th. Now, it went back to community land. I think it's better to be on record so that in future it cannot be the way it is. I think it is community land and we have also areas of attraction, the Ogiek cultural centres in those areas. I think this is land that is in the custody of County Government of Bungoma where we can have to create conservancies that can bring a lot of revenue and employment to this County.

As I rest my case, if the executive can be able to implement what we debate here in the House, it can be of great importance to this County.

Otherwise, I want to comment that the report of tourism is good, that if implemented, it can be able to take us far. Otherwise, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Simotwo. Hon. Everlyne Anyango, proceed!

Hon. Everlyne Anyango: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. First of all, I want to commend the committee and the Chair of the committee for his eloquent reading of the report. I rise on my feet to support the report and put in my observation or contribution. That tourism is one of the backbones of revenue production. As we have heard from the report, the committee observing that Kisumu County is having attraction sites that are helping the County in production of tax, the same done to Bungoma County and improvement to these sites like the Nabuyole water falls, Sikele sya Mulya in Mt. Sang'alo. These are tourist attractions that can bring to this County a lot of income and that one will supplement on the tax that we get from the markets and other revenue sources. These tourist attraction centres if improved on by the County Government, will see this County Government move forward in the collection of revenue unlike right now we depend on very few sources; the markets, vehicles but leaving our major sources of revenue like tourist attraction sites.

It is my humble request to the County Government to come up with a way through the Ministry of Tourism to improve on all these tourist attraction sites so that we can improve on our revenue collection. I support the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Everlyne, Hon. Stephen! Equally as I do so, Hon. Opwora you prepare the reply of the motion accordingly!

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to first of all applaud the mover of the report Hon. Opwora for the eloquence and the entire committee for this wonderful report. I do not have much to contribute but to plead. Unfortunately the Chair of Implementation Committee is not around. If the Government actually implemented the recommendations of this committee, it will go a long way in helping realise the vision that actually this committee has tried to make us see.

Observation one and recommendation one... observation one says, most of the tourist attraction sites currently exist on a private land and if at one time in the future the sites are disposed off and excavated, the County may lose on the tourism attraction centre as a result of growing demand for land. This is a very important observation because one of the issues maybe not captured here but which Bungoma prides itself in is actually the traditional circumcision ceremonies otherwise referred to in different dialects. We have the *Sikhebo*, *Embalu* and before a son or a boy is circumcised, traditionally in Bungoma and partially the Tiriki, Nandi and Sabaot people do the same. A child who is a boy not a girl is taken to the river somewhere specifically given a very sacred name, that place is called in Bukusu *Silongo*, *Sitosi*.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, but as you do so, ask Hon. Otsiula, I am a custodian of the culture and he knows I am good in that, proceed!

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Honourable Speaker, as we speak Honourable members, most of those sacred places have been either fenced off, some of them have been dismantled by way of excavation and ploughing because of the need for agricultural land and growing population that require settlement. We are losing most of them, some of them because of private ownership have planted trees like Eucalyptus which ensure that we have no water because they have a lot of affinity towards supping the wetlands so that they dry up and therefore we are losing out on those areas that are so sacred in our community, and missing out. If Bungoma realised the great potential that we have especially this year in August when our boys move around with those bells, he could use the same to harness a lot of resources.

This County would actually get a lot of revenue out of the same and it goes on for a whole month. That is the time that Bungoma could actually attract tourists to come to Bungoma and feel how our boys go through the rite of passage. That is one area that we have failed and this observation and recommendation number one of the County Government working round the clock to ensure that we have funds so that we can acquire those areas to me that is one thing that is very important and that is why I want to request that the implementation committee should actually be pro-active on such issues because this is one gold that Bungoma is sitting on without knowing. Otherwise, I also join my other colleagues in requesting that we pass this report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I am seeing Hon. Dorcas; you will have a chance to speak.

Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this chance and I want to appreciate my Chair for the eloquence. I stand to support the motion with interest on page 9 of the report where out of the 14 tourist sites, only 11 are owned by the county and others are on private land hence we need the County department to come up with a policy and guidelines on how to support the sites to be owned by the County Government that is policy guidelines on site ownership. This will help enhance our own ownership and revenue collection. Thank you, I support.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba. Hon. Edwin Opwora, proceed and give a reply!

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank all the Hon. Members who have contributed to this motion more particularly Hon. Otsiula who did wonderful secondment of the motion and detailed the need to adopt this report. I just want to touch on what Hon. Simotwo said about some of the attractions that were not included in this report and I believe in our recommendations, we have mandated the Chief Officer to come up with all the tourist attraction sites within 90 days after the adoption of this report so this committee is aware that we have more attraction sites that have not been included and the department of Tourism should work around the clock to ensure that all these features are included in the report and advertised well.

I also want to thank Hon. Anyango for her voice to ensure that we improve on the local attraction sites. Recently, we had a visit by the CS Alfred Mutua of Tourism and it shows there is a good will from the National Government to actually support our Tourism attraction areas. So it's upon us as a County Government to reciprocate by showing that we are ready to receive the support from the National Government and this can only be done if we ensure the policies are put in place and ensuring that all the privately owned attraction sites are either bought off by local Government or we ensure that we include the owners into the Tourism attraction board because there is a lot of revenue that can be generated and this County has a lot of potential that is untapped.

The Deputy Speaker has mentioned some of our cultures, the *Embalu* and just across in Uganda the Bagisu people practice *Embalu* and it attracts many people because it's an event that symbolises a passage; passing boys to men and in fact due to that, we have people in the diaspora who are willing to support such activities. The only thing missing is the link between the local people and the people in diaspora because we have a rich traditional culture that even the whites wish to embrace.

So, I wish that this House adopts this report and through the implementation committee, we ensure that all the recommendations are adhered to so that the department implements them.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Opwora for the reply to the motion before the House. Members, now allow me proceed and be able to put a question to the motion before the House so that you are able to make a decision over the same.

Honourable Members, a motion was moved and seconded and debate having ensued that this House adopts the report by the sector Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on establishing the viability of Tourist Attraction Plan in Bungoma County by the department of Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources laid on the table of the House on 29th February, 2024.

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it.

(Applause)

Honourable Members, the report by the sector Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources is hereby adopted accordingly for forwarding to the relevant departments for implementation of the recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, I am informed that that was the last item on our Order Paper, we now adjourn our sitting at this juncture and resume on 9th of April 2024 in our normal sitting of 2:30 p.m. We adjourn accordingly.

(The House rose at 4:38 p.m.)