

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
(LPCS)

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By: Hon. Martin Chemorion

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
(LPCS)

03 DEC 2024

NOTICE ISSUED

By: Hon. Martin Chemorion



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

THIRD ASSEMBLY-THIRD SESSION

TOURISM, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

ON

BUNGOMA COUNTY WATER POLICY 2024

NOVEMEBR, 2024.

Clerks Chambers
County Assembly Buildings
P.O BOX 1886 - 50200
BUNGOMA, KENYA

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker sir, it is my pleasure to present the report on the Bungoma County Government Water Policy which was tabled in the County Assembly of Bungoma on 24th September, 2024 at 2.30 pm and stood committed to the sectoral committee on Tourism, Water and Natural Resources.

1.1 The Mandate of the committee

Mr. Speaker Sir, The sectoral Committee on Tourism, Water and Natural Resources was constituted pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 217 of the County Assembly of Bungoma and executes its mandate in accordance with Standing order 217(5) which provides as follows:

- a) Investigate, inquire and report all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments.
- b) Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c) study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d) study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- f) to vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve , except those under Standing order 185(Committee on Appointments), and
- g) make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

1.2 Committee Membership

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee on Tourism, water and Natural Resources comprises of the following Members:-

1. Hon. Edwin Opwora	Chairperson
2. Hon. Martin Chemorion	Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Joseph Nyongesa	Member
4. Hon. Anthony Luseneka	Member
5. Hon. Vitalis Wangila	Member
6. Hon. Miliyah Masungu	Member
7. Hon Meshack Simiyu	Member
8. Hon Sudi Busolo	Member
9. Hon. James Mukhongo	Member
10. Hon Jack Kawa	Member
11. Hon Aggrey Mulongo	Member
12. Hon Benjamin Otsiula	Member
13. Hon. Benard Kikechi	Member
14. Hon. Orize Kundu	Member
15. Hon. George Tendet	Member

1.3 Terms of reference

Mr. Speaker sir, during the committee sitting, it was unanimously resolved that the committee embarks on the interrogation of the Bungoma County Water Policy. The following were the guiding principles in deliberation of the water policy.

1. To interrogate the Bungoma County Water policy, 2024
2. To analyze the memorandums submitted by members of the public on the policy
3. To make observations and recommendations on the water policy

1.4 Submission of memoranda

Mr. Speaker, the committee notified the members of the public through an advertisement in the *Standard* newspaper dated 5th November 2024, inviting them to submit memoranda on the proposed Bungoma County Water Policy to the Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly by 5:00 PM on 15th November 2024.

1.5 Background Information of Water policy

Mr. Speaker sir, Water is vital for life and development, and its management requires careful planning and community involvement. Kenya's National Water Policy (1999) and Water Act (2002) introduced reforms to enhance water management, attract investment and address challenges like climate change and urbanization.

Bungoma County has abundant water resources with 98% from surface water and 2% from groundwater. Current demand is 58,220 m³/day and is projected to reach 400,000 m³/day by 2050. Despite this potential, only 25.8% of residents have access to safe drinking water below national and global averages.

Urban water schemes managed by Nzoia Water and Sanitation Company produce 20,550 m³/day but 66% is lost as Non-Revenue Water. Rural schemes and boreholes contribute modestly to supply.

To improve access, the County has implemented projects such as building water schemes, drilling boreholes and reducing Non-Revenue Water by 54%. However, challenges like infrastructure gaps, limited water harvesting technologies and insufficient source protection remain.

1.6 Acknowledgment

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank the Members of Tourism, Environment, Water and natural resources Committee for their dedication, commitment, integrity and valuable contributions in carrying out the scrutiny of the Bungoma County policy. The Committee is grateful to the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk of County Assembly for the support received.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is therefore my privilege on behalf of this Committee to table the Report on Bungoma County Water Policy 2024 in respect to the department of Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resource.

Signed Date 2/12/2024

HON. EDWIN OPWORA – MCA LUUYA BWAKE WARD

CHAIRPERSON, TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL COMMITTEE

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 KEY HIGHLIGHTS ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY WATER POLICY

Mr. Speaker sir, the proposed Bungoma County Water Policy is divided into five chapters as follows:

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker sir, the chapter presents background information on the water sector from a global, national and county perspective.

Water is identified as an essential natural resource that supports life and is crucial for socio-economic activities including food production. Effective water management involves planning, designing, constructing, implementing and maintaining water resources and programs, utilizing participatory approaches to empower communities. The **National Water Policy of 1999** and the **Water Act 2002** brought significant reforms to Kenya's water sector, aimed at improving management, attracting investment and modernizing the sector to tackle challenges like climate change and urbanization.

2.1.1 Policy and Legal Framework

The formulation of the **Bungoma County Water Policy 2024** is guided by various national, regional and international frameworks including:

- **Constitution of Kenya 2010**: Establishes water as a fundamental human right (Article 43) and outlines the responsibilities of national and county governments in water management.
- **Kenya Vision 2030**: Highlights the critical role of water resources in economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.
- **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**: Emphasizes household and community water projects and climate-smart technologies.
- **Legal Frameworks**: Various acts including the **Water Act 2016**, **EMCA Amendment Act 2015** and **Climate Change Act 2016** establish the regulatory framework for water resource management.

2.1.2 Rationale for the Development of the Policy

The 2010 Constitution devolved water service responsibilities to counties

but challenges in coordination and implementation persist. There is a lack of a cohesive county-level policy framework which hampers efforts to provide clean and safe water.

The inadequacies in the current legal framework lead to challenges in governance, stakeholder coordination and resource allocation for water services. Existing national policies do not fully address local challenges in the Bungoma County water sector.

2.1.3 Policy Development Process

The development process for the **Bungoma County Water Policy 2024** was initiated by forming a technical working committee led by the **Directorate of Water and Natural Resources** with support from **USAID-Kenya**.

The formulation involved extensive stakeholder engagement including County Government Departments, national agencies and civil society organizations. A public participation phase incorporated feedback before presenting the draft policy to the cabinet for approval and subsequent submission to the County Assembly.

2.2 The Policy Framework

Mr. Speaker sir, the chapter outlines the **vision, mission, goals, objectives and guiding principles** that govern the water policy, aiming to establish a sustainable, well-managed water system.

2.2.1 Vision

The vision is to create "A County with a well-developed and managed water system for all."

2.2.2 Mission

The mission is to promote the development and utilization of sustainable water and sewerage infrastructure, protection, conservation of water resources and proper water governance.

2.2.3 The broad and specific objective of the policy

The broad objective of the policy: To provide a framework for sustainable development, management and utilization of water resources, while promoting water harvesting, governance and climate resilience.

The Specific Objectives of the policy are:

1. **Integrated Water Management:** Ensure measures for water quality, catchment protection, technology adoption, and information systems are in place.
2. **Water Harvesting and Storage:** Expand water harvesting and storage infrastructure for industrial, domestic, and irrigation use.
3. **Safe Water Supply:** Provide affordable and sustainable safe water supply, promoting sanitation and hygiene education.
4. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships with institutions for education, training, and research in the water sector.
5. **Investment Framework:** Establish a strong framework for countywide investment planning and resource mobilization.
6. **Governance and Regulations:** Develop and enforce regulations to ensure sustainable water sector governance.
7. **Disaster Management:** Implement models for effective pre- and post-water-related disaster management.
8. **Community Resilience:** Promote community resilience and adaptive capacity in water resource use and management.
9. **Inclusivity:** Mainstream gender, conflicts, HIV/AIDS, youth, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to ensure their right to clean and safe water is protected.

2.2.4 Guiding Principles

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Guiding Principles of this policy will include;

1. **Integrated Planning and Management:** Promote planning across sectors considering competing interests and environmental needs.
2. **Institutional Collaboration:** Foster consultative collaboration with stakeholders.
3. **Ring Fencing:** Ensure revenues from water-related fees are used solely for water activities.
4. **Sustainability:** Efficiently use water resources without compromising future generations.
5. **Efficiency and Value for Money:** Focus on maximizing value in development, governance and project implementation.
6. **Professionalization:** Promote professional management of community water service providers especially in underserved areas.
7. **Trans-boundary Water Sharing:** Partner with neighboring counties to manage shared water resources and ensure equitable benefit sharing.
8. **Consumer Protection:** Ensure water availability, affordability and quality particularly for vulnerable groups.

9. **Equity and Inclusivity:** Allocate water resources based on need and efficient use, considering marginalized groups.
10. **Polluter Pays Principle:** Entities that pollute water must bear the cost of restoration and management.
11. **Public Participation:** Engage stakeholders and the public in water-related decision-making processes.
12. **Consumer Pay Principle:** Ensure consumers are responsible for paying for water services.

2.3 POLICY ISSUES AND INTERVENTION AREAS

Mr. Speaker Sir, the chapter identifies priority areas in the water sector and outlines interventions aimed at achieving sustainable development, management and utilization of water in Bungoma County.

2.3.1 Policy issues and Strategic Interventions

The following are Policy issues and Strategic Interventions highlighted in this policy

1. Underutilized Water Resources:

Problem: Despite Bungoma's abundant water resources from rivers, hills and the Mt. Elgon water tower, there is inadequate utilization to meet water demand. Additionally, agricultural and construction activities near water sources are degrading catchment areas.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Conduct water resource mapping and implement strategies to protect and conserve riparian areas.
- Promote a multi-agency approach to managing and conserving water resources.
- Reclaim encroached land around water sources.

2. Inadequate Water Harvesting and Storage Infrastructure:

Problem: Bungoma's water storage infrastructure is insufficient, with small-scale harvesting unable to sustain the county during prolonged dry seasons. The potential for runoff water harvesting is underutilized.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Promote roof water harvesting at household, institutional and commercial levels.
- Invest in large-scale water infrastructure such as dams and water pans.
- Encourage the use of renewable energy in water conservation efforts to reduce reliance on grid electricity.

3. Inadequate Water Supply from Water Schemes:

Problem: Bungoma County's water schemes are inefficient, with urban schemes losing over 60% of their production due to Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Rural areas also face low coverage, resulting in significant gaps in water access.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Strengthen water governance by developing a comprehensive water management plan.
- Decluster Nzoia Water and Sewerage Company (NZOWASCO) to improve service efficiency.
- Invest in infrastructure to expand rural water schemes and improve water quality.

4. Lack of Knowledge, Skills and Innovation in the Water Sector:

Problem: There is a shortage of trained professionals and limited research and innovation in Bungoma's water sector, leading to inefficiencies in planning and management.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Strengthen capacity building for water management staff.
- Promote water-related education in technical and vocational training centers.
- Support local water service providers with proper training and tools to enhance service delivery.

5. Insufficient Financing for Water Sector Projects:

Problem: The water sector faces funding shortages due to high capital investment requirements, limiting infrastructure development and service delivery.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Develop public-private partnerships (PPP) to attract investment in the water sector.
- Advocate for increased budget allocations for water infrastructure.
- Provide financial incentives to encourage private sector involvement in water management.

6. Inadequate Legal and Institutional Framework:

Problem: There is no specific county legislation guiding water resource management, leading to gaps in governance and role conflicts between national and county agencies.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Enact and enforce a county-specific water law to streamline roles and responsibilities.
- Strengthen coordination between water institutions and establish clear legal mandates.
- Implement dispute resolution mechanisms for conflicts over water resource management.

7. Weak Preparedness for Water-Related Disasters:

Problem: Bungoma County is vulnerable to landslides, flooding and drought yet disaster preparedness and response systems are inadequate.

Intervention: The County Government shall;

- Develop and implement early warning systems and disaster preparedness plans.
- Establish frameworks for managing water-related disasters, focusing on risk mitigation and community preparedness.

8. Limited Mainstreaming of Cross-Cutting Issues:

Problem: Vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and those living with HIV/AIDS face barriers in accessing water services. Climate change is also exacerbating water shortages and degradation of natural resources.

Intervention: The county government shall;

- Mainstream gender, youth and disability issues in water sector policies.

- Support initiatives to include marginalized groups in water management decisions.
- Promote the implementation of Bungoma's Climate Change Action Plan to enhance resilience in water resource management.

2.3.2 Strategic Focus Areas

The following are strategic focus areas highlighted in the policy.

1. **Water Resource Conservation and Catchment Management:** Emphasis on protecting water catchment areas, particularly around Mt. Elgon, and promoting sustainable use of water resources through community involvement and legal frameworks.
2. **Water Supply and Infrastructure Development:** The policy aims to improve water access by building infrastructure for water harvesting, storage and distribution. This includes creating small and large-scale water storage systems and promoting renewable energy solutions to reduce the cost of water supply.
3. **Water Governance and Institutional Strengthening:** Addressing the need for a solid legal and institutional framework, the policy focuses on enacting local water laws and strengthening governance structures to ensure that the responsibilities between different water management agencies are well defined and coordinated.
4. **Climate Change and Disaster Management:** With the increasing threat of climate-related disasters, the policy emphasizes climate adaptation strategies, disaster risk reduction and the implementation of early warning systems to protect communities from water-related risks.

2.4 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Mr. Speaker Sir, the chapter outlines the approach to policy Implementation including key stakeholders and the institutional framework necessary for effective coordination.

2.4.1 Policy Implementation Framework

The Bungoma County Water Policy shall be implemented through various tools and instruments including; a subsequent Bungoma County Water Act, regulations, matrices, guidelines, standard operating procedures and dissemination, monitoring and evaluation tools.

The Policy shall be implemented through an integrated and concerted approach by all stakeholders in a consultative and participatory environment. The County Department in charge of water services and water resources shall spearhead the implementation process through coordinated stakeholder efforts.

2.4.2 Enactment of Implementing Laws and Regulations

The County Department of Water, in consultation with the Office of the County Attorney shall develop a subsequent Bungoma County Water Act to spearhead the implementation of this Policy.

Upon the enactment of the Bungoma County Water Act as indicated in (a) above, the County Department of Water shall map out and formulate all implementing regulations required for effective implementation of the County Water Act and the County Water Policy.

The County Department of Water shall map out and formulate all requisite operating tools, standard operating procedures emanating from this policy for its effective implementation

2.4.3 Policy Dissemination

On Policy Dissemination the county will endeavor the following

1. The County Department of Water shall spearhead consultative and participatory dissemination of the County Water Policy.
2. The dissemination process shall be undertaken in collaboration with county communications and public participation department, inter-departmental water sector working departments, the County Assembly and all water sector stakeholders shall and non-state actors working in the water sector
3. The national government agencies in the water and environment sector shall be adequately involved and consulted in the dissemination of the Water Policy
4. The Community water sector organizations and the general public and water users shall be involved in policy dissemination

2.4.4 Key County Actors

The key county actors will include the following

1. **County Department of Water:** Responsible for water infrastructure, service provision and resource conservation.
2. **County Department of Agriculture:** Promotes climate-smart agricultural practices for sustainable water use.
3. **County Environment Committee:** Oversees all county environmental matters.
4. **County Assembly of Bungoma:** Provides oversight for water activities, approves budgets, and enacts laws regarding water services.
5. **Water Services Providers:** Includes NZOWASCO (water and sewerage services) and rural service providers.
6. **County Climate Change Unit:** Coordinates climate finance and actions.

2.4.5 Cross-County Level Actors

The cross-county level actors includes the following:

1. **Lake Region Economic Bloc:** Promotes trade and shared resource management among member counties.
2. **Lake Basin Development Authority:** Aims to spur socio-economic development through sustainable resource utilization.
3. **Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency:** Focuses on water and sewerage infrastructure development.

2.4.6 Key National Level Actors

1. **National Environment Management Authority (NEMA):** Regulatory agency for environmental oversight.
2. **Water Resources Authority (WRA):** Allocates water resources and monitors water conditions.
3. **Water Services Regulatory Board:** Regulates water services in the country.
4. **Water Sector Trust Fund:** Assists in financing water service provision.
5. **Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI):** Conducts research on forestry and disseminates best practices.
6. **Kenya Forest Services (KFS):** Manages conservation efforts for forest cover.
7. **Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS):** Conserves wildlife in national parks and reserves.
8. **Ministry of Environment and Forestry:** Coordinates environmental policies and agencies.
9. **Ministry of Water and Irrigation:** Coordinates water sector agencies and policy formulation.
10. **Universities and Research Institutions:** Provide training and capacity development (e.g., KEWI).

2.4.7 Non-State Actors

Some of non-state actors are

1. **NGOs in the Water Sector:** Assist in resource mobilization and capacity development.
2. **Water User Associations (WUAs) and Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs):** Focus on protecting catchment areas and capacity building.

2.5 POLICY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Mr. Speaker sir, the chapter emphasizes the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms for achieving policy outcomes. It further stresses the need for strong institutional development, stakeholder inclusion, legal reforms and integration with county performance management systems.

2.5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

- Decisions in water resource management rely on timely and accurate data for assessing water quality and quantity.
- Establishes the necessity of national monitoring systems to collect data for planning and socio-economic decision-making.
- Proposes the development of a well-coordinated information management system for stakeholder data sharing.
- Ensures the efficient management of financial resources and adherence to public finance management procedures.

2.5.2 Reporting

- The responsible county department will establish a mechanism for recording and reporting all water services development activities, focusing on both public and private sector contributions.
- A framework of standards will be instituted for performance assessment against national and international benchmarks.

2.5.3 Policy Review

- The review will determine whether policy objectives have been met, with reports submitted to the county executive committee.
- A comprehensive evaluation will occur every five years to assess the realization of policy outcomes and impacts, following a structured review process involving stakeholder consultation and approvals.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 VIEWS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Speaker, after a notification to the members of the public through an advertisement in the *Standard* newspaper dated 5th November 2024, inviting them to submit memoranda on the proposed Bungoma County Water Policy.

The committee received a total of two memoranda from Emony Yefwe International and the Kenya Workers' Rights and Harmonization Program.

3.1 Memoranda from Emony Yefwe international

The memorandum highlights several issues regarding the Bungoma County Water Policy as follows;

1. Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources

Bungoma County is experiencing the adverse effects of climate change, including:

- **Rising Temperatures:** Leading to increased evaporation and reduced water availability.
- **Unpredictable Rainfall Patterns:** Resulting in irregular water supply and strain on agriculture.
- **Flooding and Prolonged Droughts:** These extreme events contribute to water scarcity and the degradation of ecosystems.
- **Spread of Invasive Species:** Plants like the dodder plant threaten local biodiversity.
- **Health Impacts:** Increased outbreaks of waterborne diseases like malaria and cholera are straining health resources.

The resulting Impacts of climate change has led to the following;

- **Food Insecurity:** Reduced agricultural production due to water scarcity and crop failures.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Damage to ecosystems disrupts natural balances and services.
- **Infrastructure Damage:** Flooding and extreme weather events harm infrastructure, increasing repair costs.
- **Economic Strain:** Declines in water availability impact livelihoods and

development objectives like Kenya's Vision 2030, SDGs, and the Big Four Agenda.

2. Threats to Water Ecosystems

Key Issues Identified includes the following:

- Pollution and overexploitation of water resources degrade water quality and availability.
- Climate variability intensifies these threats, including; Ocean acidification from increased CO₂ absorption.
 - Altered water temperature and precipitation patterns impacting aquatic habitats.
- The county faces a delicate balance between current water needs (for consumption, agriculture and industry) and ensuring sustainability for future generations.
- This necessitates reducing water scarcity, improving water quality and mitigating conflicts over resources.

3. Policy Gaps and Framework Deficiencies

The memorandum points out the need for:

- **Integrated Water Resources Management** : To address the interconnected impacts of water-related issues on agriculture, energy, health and ecosystems.
- **Focus on Water-Related Ecosystems**: Wetlands, rivers, lakes, and aquifers are critical for drinking water, energy production, agriculture and recreation but are currently under threat.

4. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The memorandum points that water is a critical pillar of sustainable development, contributing to multiple SDGs:
 - **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**: Water for agriculture ensures food security.
 - **SDG 3 (Good Health)**: Clean water reduces disease burdens.
 - **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**: Protecting and restoring water ecosystems is vital.
 - **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**: Addressing climate change impacts on water systems.

- **SDG 14 and 15** (Life Below Water and Life on Land): Conservation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

5. Proposed Interventions

The memorandum recommends applying the **Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR)** framework to analyze and improve water policy:

- **Drivers:** Identify human actions and decisions directly influencing natural systems, such as land use changes or water extraction.
- **Pressures:** Assess the immediate pressures on ecosystems, such as pollution or overuse of resources.
- **State:** Evaluate the current health and quality of water ecosystems, including freshwater habitats like wetlands and rivers.
- **Impact:** Examine the effects of changes in water systems on human well-being, including economic, health, and social outcomes.
- **Response:** Develop targeted actions to mitigate these impacts, restore ecosystems, and ensure sustainable resource use.ke

3.2 Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization program

Mr. Speaker sir, the memorandum raises the following issues regarding the Bungoma County Water Policy:

Key Issues and Recommendations

1. Sewerage System Challenges

The county's sewerage infrastructure is outdated and underdeveloped, causing environmental and public health concerns. Recommendations include infrastructure upgrades, public-private partnerships (PPP) and community involvement in maintaining sanitation systems.

2. Increased Water Tariffs

Recent tariff hikes by NZOWASCO have caused public discontent, especially among low-income households. Solutions proposed include transparent tariff-setting, subsidies for vulnerable groups, and reducing operational inefficiencies like Non-Revenue Water (NRW).

3. Vandalism and Infrastructure Damage

Damage from vandalism and uncoordinated public works disrupts water supply. Recommendations include better coordination between contractors and water providers, enhanced surveillance, and public awareness campaigns.

4. Low Water Access and Inadequate Infrastructure

With only 35% of residents having access to clean water, rural areas are the most affected. Proposed solutions include constructing new water treatment plants, expanding rainwater harvesting programs, and using smart water management technologies.

5. Weak Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Overlapping responsibilities between county and national agencies hinder efficiency. Recommendations include enacting a county-specific water law, building institutional capacity, and creating conflict resolution mechanisms.

6. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Climate variability, including droughts and floods, worsens water scarcity. Proposed actions include promoting climate-smart technologies, implementing disaster preparedness measures and conserving ecosystems through reforestation.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

A robust M&E framework is essential for tracking progress and ensuring accountability. Recommendations include developing an integrated county-wide M&E system, publishing annual progress reports and continuously reviewing policies based on emerging challenges.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Committee Observations

Mr. Speaker sir, the committee made the following observations

1. The policy proposes measures to reduce Non –Revenue Water by improving water infrastructure, enhancing maintenance practices and addressing water theft and leakages.
2. The policy outlines strategies to increase water supply coverage through the development of urban and rural water schemes, expansion of storage infrastructure and promotion of water harvesting technologies.
3. The policy supports mapping and conservation of water resources, reclamation of encroached riparian land, and multi-agency collaboration to protect catchment areas.
4. The policy emphasizes upgrading, modernizing and maintaining water infrastructure, as well as promoting renewable energy use in water services to reduce operational costs.
5. The policy advocates for the integration of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in water resource planning and management, including early warning systems for droughts and floods.
6. The Bungoma County Water policy proposes the enactment of a Bungoma County Water Act to establish a legal and regulatory framework tailored to local needs, alongside institutional capacity building and improved coordination mechanisms.
7. The policy introduces initiatives to expand irrigation systems, promote drought-tolerant crops and implement conservation agriculture practices to reduce reliance on rain for farming.
8. The policy encourages public-private partnerships (PPPs), increased budgetary allocation and alternative financing mechanisms to mobilize resources for water infrastructure and services.
9. The policy highlights participatory approaches, capacity building for local water committees and mainstreaming of gender, youth and marginalized groups in water management.
10. The Bungoma County Water policy outlines plans to mainstream cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and HIV/AIDS awareness into water sector planning and implementation.

4.2 Committee Recommendation

Mr. Speaker sir, the committee made the following recommendation

1. **THAT** the committee recommends for the approval of the Bungoma County Water policy, 2024

4.3 Conclusion

Honorable speaker, I beg this Honourable House to adopt this report on the Bungoma County Water policy by the Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural resources together with its recommendation in order to provide a legal framework to guide implementation of water projects in the County by the Executive together with partnerships with other donor such as USAID and KOICA .

Adoption schedule

Mr. Speaker sir,

We the undersigned members of the Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources Committee append our signatures adopting this report on the Bungoma County Water Policy 2024 with the contents therein.

No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1.	Hon. Edwin Opwora	Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Martin Chemorion	Vice chairperson	
3.	Hon. Joseph Nyongesa	Member	
4.	Hon. Anthony Luseneka	Member	
5.	Hon. Meshack Simiyu	Member	
6.	Hon. Miliyah Masungu	Member	
7.	Hon. Sudi Busolo	Member	
8.	Hon. Vitalis Wangila	Member	
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10.	Hon. Aggrey Mulongo	Member	
11.	Hon. Jack Kawa	Member	
12.	Hon. Orize Kundu	Member	
13.	Hon. Benard Kikechi	Member	
14.	Hon. George Tendet	Member	
15.	Hon. Benjamin Otsiula	Member	

LIST OF ANNEXURE

Annex 1. Draft -The Bungoma County Water Policy, 2024

Annex 2: Copy of newspaper advert

Annex 3: Memorandums from members of the public