

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 2024

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

3rd Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 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

Hon. Members, I have the following communications to make to the House; the first communication is from the Office of the Governor to the Clerk County Assembly of Bungoma P.O. BOX 1886-50200 Bungoma.

NOMINATION OF RECRUITMENT PANEL FOR THE SELECTION OF NOMINEES TO COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MEMBERS

In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 31 (d) as read together with Section 58 (1) (a) of the County Government Act no. 17 of 2012 I Kenneth Makelo Lusaka Governor Bungoma County nominate the following persons to the members of recruitment panel for the selection of nominees for appointment of Bungoma County Public Service Board Members;

1. Moses Narwenyi Chairperson 070388287
2. CS Elizabeth Wanyonyi representing the private sector 070640188
3. Advocate Saul Wasilwa representing LSK 0710878553
4. CPA Rita Nabalayo Manyonge representing ICPAK no. 19373 0721369170
5. Chemonges Stephen representing workers association 0724689401

The said panel is the one to sit and shortlist persons for nomination and forwarding for vetting to replace members of the Public Service Board whose membership has expired.

INVITATION TO MENTORSHIP AND CONFIRMATION OF SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARY'S ACADEMIC YEAR 2025

A communication from the department of Education and Vocational Training

The Clerk County Assembly of Bungoma P.O.BOX 1886-50200 Bungoma

Invitation to mentorship and confirmation of scholarship beneficiary's academic year 2025 dated 4th December and received today in the morning in the Office of the Clerk.

The department of Education and Vocational Training has organized a mentorship programme for scholarship beneficiaries across the 45 Wards from Thursday 5th to Friday 6th December 2024 as per the attached schedule.

The objective of the meeting is to confirm and update the beneficiary's records, capture their annual performance, evaluate the value for money and mentor our students to improve in performance.

The purpose of this letter is to request you to inform Hon. Members to attend this function in their respective wards as per the attached schedule.

Invitation if from Agnes Wachie CECM Education and Vocational Training and it is copied to the Office of the Speaker. The schedule will be shared with Members.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY ATTORNEY APPOINTEE

The last communication is from the Office of the Governor Bungoma County addressed to the Clerk County Assembly of Bungoma on the withdrawal of the Bungoma County Attorney appointee name. I hereby write to withdraw the name of M/s Esther Masanyangila Wafula of ID NO. 29252737 as Bungoma County Attorney appointee, I will submit a new candidate for consideration in due course.

The request is signed by H.E. Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka Governor Bungoma County Government.

To that extend it implies that the Committee on Appointment had 21 days from day of vetting to process and report back to the House. Therefore, you will not retreat to come up with a report but the chairperson will arrange and compensate your planned retreat for that purpose.

APPRECIATION OF MEMBERS AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY THIRD SESSION

Finally, as you are all aware today is our last day of this sitting and I wish to make the following communication so that as we start our long recess we are at par. Hon. Members, as we conclude this legislative session and prepare to break for a long recess I want to take this moment to reflect on our collective achievements and the significant work we have accomplished together.

The Third Session of the Third County Assembly has achieved tremendous milestones. We have diligently processed critical legislations, passed essential policies and conducted rigorous oversight of our county government structures. Each of you has contributed meaningfully to the advancing the welfare of our constituents.

During the year the County Assembly has passed 5 bills; Bungoma County Second Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, Bungoma County Public Participation and Civic Education Bill, 20254, Bungoma County Access to Information Bill, 2024, Bungoma County Valuation and Rating Bill, 2024, Bungoma County Government Annual Appropriation Bill, 2024.

Additionally, one regulation was passed; that is Public Finance Management Bungoma County Executive Car Loan Mortgage Scheme Fund Regulations, 2023.

During the year the County Assembly processed 4 petitions which were presented and noted. 164 papers were laid before the Assembly, 112 motion processed by committees, 6 messages presented to the County Assembly, 37 statements made on request by Members and 51 communications delivered before the assembly.

A total of 21 policies were approved during the third session the most recent one being the Bungoma County Youth Policy, Bungoma County Sports Policy and Bungoma County Water Policy 2023.

Our achievements are not merely in numbers but in the tangible impact we have made. From enhancing public participation to implementing strategic development policies, we have laid crucial foundation for sustainable growth and improved service delivery. I wish to comment each one of you for the remarkable commitment you have demonstrated to serving the people of Bungoma County. However, our work is far from complete when we return from recess we must continue to address the emerging needs of our county with the same passion, integrity, dedication that has characterized this session. Honourable Members take your seats please.

Hon. Members, I urge each Member to use this recess as an opportunity to reconnect with our constituents, understand their challenges and return with renewed energy and innovative solutions. Our Primary responsibility remains serving the people who elected us to represent their interests.

As I conclude, I wish to borrow from the words of Abraham Lincoln "*in the end it is not the years in your life that count, it is the life in your years of public service that count.*" As we depart I urge you all to carry the spirit of collaboration, mutual respect and unwavering commitment to development of our county. May this recess bring you rest, inspiration and renewed vigor. Thank you and God bless Bungoma County Assembly.

Next,

PAPERS

1. Bungoma County Revenue Fund statement for FY 2024/2025 for the period ended September 30th 2024
2. The Bungoma County Executive financial statements FY 2024/2025 for the period ended September 30th 2024 and
3. The Bungoma Assembly 1st Quarter financial statements for FY 2024/2025 for the period ended 30th September 2024

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Majority Leader): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me lay the following papers on the floor of the House;

1. Bungoma County Revenue Fund statement for FY 2024/2025 for the period ended September 30th 2024
2. The Bungoma County Executive financial statements FY 2024/2025 for the period ended September 30th 2024 and lastly,
3. The Bungoma Assembly 1st Quarter financial statements for FY 2024/2025 for the period ended 30th September 2024

(Hon. Joseph Nyongesa laid the papers)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the documents laid on the floor of the House are committed to the committees as follows; first the Bungoma County Revenue Fund statement for FY 2024/2025 for the period ended September 30th 2024 is committed to the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning for processing and reporting back to the House once we resume from recess.

Document two; on Bungoma County Executive financial statements FY 2024/2025 for the period ended September 30th 2024 is committed to all sector committees. You are urged to extract your respective sector department financial statements, process the same and report back to the House when we resume back from long recess.

Lastly, Bungoma Assembly 1st Quarter financial statements for FY 2024/2025 for the period ended 30th September 2024 is hereby committed to the Committee on Labour and Relations for processing and reporting back to the House.

Next item,

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Hon. Members, we agreed in our last sitting that we will take motion under item 8 before we come back to 7 so that Members can have enough time to ask questions as per the statement sought.

Let us have item 8 before we proceed.

MOTION

REPORT BY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON BUNGOMA COUNTY WATER POLICY, 2024.

Hon. Martin Chemorion (Vice Chair Tourism): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move a motion by the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on Bungoma County Water Policy, 2024.

Preamble

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.

Mandate of the Committee is provided under the provisions of Standing Order No. 217 of the County Assembly of Bungoma and executes its mandate in accordance with Standing order 217(5).

Committee Membership

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. Miliah Masungo	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. Bernard Kikechi	Member
14. Hon. Orize Kundu	Member
15. Hon. George Tendet	Member

Terms of reference

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

Submission of memoranda

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 p.m. on 15th November 2024.

Background Information of Water policy

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.

Acknowledgment

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.

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.

Report is signed by Hon. Edwin Opwora Chairperson Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY WATER POLICY

The proposed Bungoma County Water Policy is divided into five chapters as follows:

Introduction

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Policy Framework

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.

Vision

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

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.

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.

Guiding Principles

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.

POLICY ISSUES AND INTERVENTION AREAS

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.

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.
- De-cluster 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.

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.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The chapter outlines the approach to policy Implementation including key stakeholders and the institutional framework necessary for effective coordination.

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.

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

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

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.

Cross-County Level Actors

The cross-county level actors include 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.

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).

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.

POLICY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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.

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.

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.

VIEWS FROM THE PUBLIC

After notification 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 Emonyo Yefwe International and the Kenya Workers' Rights and Harmonization Program.

Memoranda from Emonyo 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 have 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.

Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization program

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.

7. 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.

Committee Observation and Recommendations, recommendations and conclusions

Committee observation

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 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 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 mechanism.
7. The policy introduces initiatives to expand irrigation system, promote drought-tolerant crops, and implement conservation agriculture practices to reduce reliance on rain for farming.
8. The policy encourages public-private partnership (PPPs), increased budgetary allocation, and alternative financing mechanism 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, and HIV-AIDS awareness into water sector planning and implementations.

Committee Recommendation

The committee made the following recommendation;

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

Conclusion

Hon. Speaker, I beg this honorable house to adopt this report on the Bungoma County Water Policy by the Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources together with this recommendation in order to provide a legal framework to guide implementation of water projects in the county by the executive together with the partnerships with other donors such as USAID and KOIKA.

The adoption schedule is as shown in the table below. There's a list of annexures; draft of the Bungoma County Water Policy 2024, copy of newspaper advert, memorandum from members of the public.

May I invite Hon. Kikechi, to second the motion

Hon. Bernard Kikechi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance to second this motion. First of all, I want to appreciate the vice chairperson of the committee Hon. Chemorion for having eloquently presented this report.

This is a very important document which needs to be approved by this House. Basically the purpose of this policy is to create sustainability, develop and use water resources and the key objectives of a water policy in a nutshell is to improve access to water and sanitation and also improve health and wellbeing of the citizens of this County of Bungoma.

This policy will promote water saving technologies and efficient water pricing and public awareness campaigns. Having keenly gone through this policy, it will also ensure that all water consumption is monitored to reduce waste and provide justified water bills.

In our county, we have under-utilized water resources. Despite Bungoma having abundant water resource from rivers, hills and Mt. Elgon water tower, there is inadequate utilization to meet the increased water demand and this policy clearly has addressed those short comings.

There is also clearly lack of knowledge, skills and innovation. There is a shortage of trained professionals and limited researches in water sector in Bungoma leading to inefficiencies in planning and management. When you go through this water policy, it has clearly captured these short comings and given good recommendations towards solving these problems.

Another issue this policy has tackled very well is the issue of non-revenue water; you see here in Bungoma especially the urban setting, the issue of non-revenue water is a big problem whereby a majority of the water being produced is lost through theft and issues of leaks and bursts. You find that out of the 100 per cent water produced only 40 per cent is being consumed the rest is being lost through this issue of non-revenue water and the policy has given very good guidelines and recommendations towards solving such.

Finally, this policy has outlined plans to mainstream cross cutting issues such as gender equality, the needs of persons living with disability and HIV/AIDs awareness in the water sector planning and its implementation.

I second this report and I urge the other Honourable members to support it. Thank you

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Martin Chemorion and Hon. Kikechi for moving and seconding the report respectively.

(Motion proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

The report is hereby approved by the House accordingly.

Next item,

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

RECENT PAINTING AND MARKING OF LANES ON THE MUSIKOMA-KANDUYI DUAL CARRIAGE WAY ROAD,

Mr. Speaker: Searjent, let's have the CECM and Chief Officer here so that when we will be able to invite Hon. Jack to go through the statement so that we will be able to have answers bit by bit.

(CECM and Chief Officer for Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works enter the House)

Hon. Members, before us we do have our CECM for Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Bonventure Chengek Chemaget accompanied by Chief Officer for the department Mr. Makhandia. To that extent, let me allow the owner of the statement Hon. Jack Wambulwa to read the entire statement so that we are able to allow the CECM to respond accordingly

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 49, the CECM and the Chief Officer Department of Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works will reply to the following questions:

1. In relation to the recent painting and marking of lanes on the Musikoma Kanduyi dual carriage road, let the chairperson deliberate on the following:
 - i. Has the contractor concluded the entire structural works on the said road
 - ii. What are the entire outstanding or pending works on the said road?
 - iii. Should there be any outstanding structural works let the chairperson find out on the following:
 - a. Whether there are any further layers of tarmac to be laid on the said road

- b. If yes, what informed the painting and marking of the lanes on the said road prior to the laying of further layers of tarmac?
2. The cost estimates of painting and marking of lanes alone
3. Whether the set off painting and marking of lanes prior to completion of structural works is likely to lead to violation and further cost for repainting once the structural works are completed
4. Let the Chairperson inquire on the following:
 - I. What was the entire structural amount for the said works
 - II. What amount has so far been paid to the contractor?
 - III. What is the outstanding balance due to the contractor

Those are the questions Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Now CECM we will allow you to respond and if you require assistance of your Chief Officer, you will be allowed to speak to him; if you require a technical officer we will be able to allow him. Proceed one by one from the dispatch

CECM Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, The House leadership and Hon. Members. My name is Chengek Bonventure, the CECM for Roads and Public Works. I am accompanied by the Chief Officer Makhandia and Engineer Moses Wamalwa who was the Resident Engineer for the Dual Carriage Way.

We received a letter which required us to respond to some of the issues as raised by the owner of the statement and I will go straight to the responses and then we can deliberate.

Question: Whether the contractor concluded the entire structural works for the dual carriage

Response: The contractor has executed all the instructions issued to him by the client which is the County Government and the client has not issued instructions for the second layer because of the huge outstanding bills for the certified works, we have a huge pending bill that we need to settle, budgetary constraints as we currently do not have budgetary allocations for the second layer to be done and lastly because the contract has lapsed

Mr. Speaker: Now you will stop there, resume your sit we will have to seek clarifications then you will come and proceed, yes Hon. Jack

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to appreciate the CECM for the response, when they say the contractor has executed all the instructions issued to him, in the fast place, I requested him to provide the BQs as per the agreement between us and the contractor so that this House can be able to tell what happened.

On the huge outstanding bills; as you may recall from the time this contract was awarded, we have been allocating more than enough funds to be paid to the contractor, what could have happened that they have not been able to pay and now they are telling us budgetary constraints? On the lapse of the contract, how did it lapse, when was it to lapse and now that it has lapsed who is supposed to pay for the damages, is it us or the contractor?

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow additions first let him speak then we can allow more...just hold on CECM Chengek, Hon. Tony, proceed

Hon. Tony Barasa: I heard *waziri* saying lack of budgetary allocation and clearly he was allocated KShs.400Million, can he explain how he used the KShs.400Million and yet he is saying due to budgetary allocation constraints

CECM Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works: Thank you, the follow up question was on BQs, yes, we shall share the BQs accordingly, and we didn't carry with us here today.

On budget, yes there have been budgetary allocation in the successive years, the two years now that I have been CECM but basically those budgets were to pay pending bills not for the second layer because we have huge pending bills for the work already done, so we can't pay for work not done, because the second layer has not been done. We are paying for certified works not for the second layer that is why we are saying the budget that was there was to pay for the pending bills not for the second layer.

Who is to do the additional works: there are two ways, one; we are having conversations with KeNHA from last year during Madaraka day, they are willing to take back the road so that they are able to finalize on the pending works. We have a snag list especially on the second layer and part of the drainage and Foot Bridge, they may be able to do that work, if not as a county, we may again engage another contractor to do those works if the budgetary allocation allows.

On the issue around KShs.400Million, since I came to the department, I have not received any amount like KShs.400Million in our allocation. In the initial year, it was KShs.250Million but after supplementary it came down to KShs.150billion, the second year we got KShs.300million but during Supplementary it was reduced to KShs.150 and eventually we ended up paying KShs.62 Million, that is what we were able to execute.

Mr. Speaker: Now you will just resume we have questions from Hon. Kikechi

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: I asked him if the contract has lapsed who will now meet the cost of damages because as you are aware, contractual agreements have penalties and if at all the contractor did not do the work on time do we then owe him anything because it will not be our fault.

As he puts it, he has just confirmed that we have been giving them enough money and then during the supplementary they reduce and even still when we give them enough they pay less, was it intentional that they wanted the contractor not to complete the work or not.

Finally, on what Hon. Tony had raised, it is not about even the allocation, my concern is this road was supposed to be marked as a Dual Carriage Way; can it be a dual carriage way if it only has one layer? Because the second and third layer is not done then how can that be a dual carriage way?

Hon. Bernard Kikechi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Maybe just a clarification, the CECM said that there are huge pending bills, maybe we can just be made aware how much do we owe in terms of pending bills over this project

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. The matter before us is of county importance and there are so many...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, if you go that way I will stop you from proceeding, if it is county importance bring it in proper order of Standing Order 32, we allow you and we will discuss it, nothing else

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: My question is about the lapsing of the contract, I don't think lapsing of the contract can cause the road not to be completed the way it was designed, because we have several contracts around here which are still alive, the contracts ended but because the works have not ended, it does not mean the work stops there. This road...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Cornelius, there are two things here, you either ask a question or you wait for the answers, what you are doing is you are answering, so if you want to assist the CECM, we will give you a chair you join him there

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Now maybe let the CECM just tell us when he entered the office how much were we owing the contractor, so that we cumulatively know how much we owe the contractor

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Nganga then I will have Leader of Majority

Hon. Vitalis Sifuna: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, my question is straight; I would like the CECM to give us the answer if there is any agreement between the County and the contractor that shows the end of the contract and nobody will make any claim to avoid future litigations.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Majority Leader, proceed.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to appreciate the CEC for coming. I am trying to analyse the way the department has answered this question is sort of... even if *Waziri* is my friend but it is sort of arrogance because for the sake of the public because we represent the public and when we have some issues we need justification so that at least we can also be in a good position to explain to the public to know how we are using our funds.

But you know just saying budgetary constraints... how I wish the CEC could say since the inception of the office this is the amount we have got, this is how we have paid and the balance is this, so that at least I can also stand and say because of the budget constraints we allocated 400 million and the pending bill was more than this, and that is why we are here but just telling us budget constraints full stop, lapse of the contract.

So in a layman's language how will I know that maybe the contract was awarded in this year? It was to run up to this year. So we need some tangible evidence for this House to be convinced but the way it has answered shows some arrogance.

Mr. Speaker: Now having heard from the Majority, because the questions raised by Hon. Wambulwa are very specific that the BQ that was for the road, the initial design if there was some variation, what would amount? And importantly, if you say there is constraint the way he is putting it, when you take the office, how much was outstanding pending bill for payment?

Now there was a mark which was done, what was accrued? If there are penalties, how much is it? When did it lapse? When was it signed? So the way they are asking these questions, Waziri is very tricky that even if we finish this meeting, we may not be able to go anywhere. If members can allow that this thing be heard in a whole sitting but only in this plenary, so that we have those documents because like now we are heading nowhere because we need to look at those documents.

Members are we in agreement? Because at the end of the day when you say the contract has lapsed, when was it signed? What was the contract period? Now if it was lapsed, what have we done so that we are able to move on? Whoever did the markings, was it a new contractor or who was he/she? You have said they have paid him some money from where?

So members if you can allow me to step him down and he goes to prepare and one of these fine days before we go for Christmas. You know what you have done? It's what we call skeleton answers. Did you come? Yes. With an explanation?

(Laughter)

Now when I say did you come, members are thinking of other things. Let me allow Hon. Meshack to say something. I am seeing Hon. Job is online.

Hon. Meshack Museveni: Asante Spika kwa kunipa nafasi niulize waziri. Nataka uje kikamilifu kwamba yale unasema, hata sisi kama kamati ya barabara hatujaipitia. Pia nimeona vile Waziri amekuja akiniambia hiyo mambo ya barabra imeishia hapo. Unajua Waziri sisi tuko hapa na umeona vile mambo yako kula nje, *it is not good*. Nataka niombe kwamba tufanye kazi vile inatakikkana .

Ya pili, ningeonelea vizuri Waziri hio barabra kama tungewachilia ata mseme nini haingeendelea kwa sababu bado kuna kasoro. hata ni heri tungefanya *budget* kwa *second year* ingekua vizuri mheshimiwa Spika bure hii mambo ya kwenda hivi hivi haitawezekana.

Mr. Speaker: Let me hear Hon. Job

Hon. Job Mukoyandali: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I just want to ask the CEC that actually this is a very serious House that when you appear, you should come with some proper documentation, so that when we speak about something we can see at the end of the day and

let us have flow of information and that is why I want to agree with the guidance from Hon. speaker that he plans himself well so that when he appears sometime like you have guided.

He should appear with proper documentation so that we have the history of the Dual Carriage Way since it began up to where it is now, that will answer us so many question so that in future I do not appear on this flow again with another question over the same road.

Secondly, the chair Budget Hon. Jack Wambulwa, Kimaeti Ward was very specific on what he wanted, how I wish the CEC organized himself very well with evidence on the things that Hon. Jack Wambulwa wanted which is also a concern for most us.

Otherwise, what the CEC was presenting here to me it is more of a short story than what we require to hear in this House. So I want to agree with you 100 per cent that if the seeker of the statement give him more timeso that we get whole history of that road to avoid more issues and more questions about the same road in future.

Mr. Speaker: Members, I think I have heard your views and CEC if you are not aware some of the Members in this House, including myself we were present during the launch of that road it was a Sunday. We walked from Sangalo Junction to Kanduyi and we were telling people at the end of the construction, we will be having a motorbike lane, the footpath for pedestrians and streetlights. Now when you say the only layer remaining, they will be asking me Speaker you remember that day we walked, we were promised a footpath, motorbike riders. Now of course there were foot bridges especially around Catholic Church, Kanduyi DEB and Mukhaweli primary at other far end.

Our CEC, we want to be very kind that the answers given to us, even from a layman's point of view can't be able to satisfy us. As we are sitting here in the Senate they are approving the cover for the Counties and from what we saw yesterday, we have a drastic reduction of the entire allocation. So unless your department gives an exact pending bill how will they allocate funds to your department? So members allow me to be able to allow the CEC be given more time and this thing must be determined before you go to the supplementary.

Also we must have a session around even if it is before Christmas. We will be able to come around over this issue, so that this thing is dealt with once and for all, members are we together? So CEC come with some attachments to convince us that there were some drainage of this nature

(Applause)

If those drainages didn't have culverts, interchange then show them, so that we know that there was a mistake that lead to variation of works. We are human beings even *tunajenga nyumba* if the door is small, you make it bigger so that people like me can enter. So we understand these things. So members yes, Leader of the Minority...

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Thank you, Speaker and thank you for opening it up. In addition I just want to inform the CEC that in addition of what you said, we also have some I think three or four roads from the Dual Carriage Way towards the Khalaba River. I think we have

one at West Kenya, access roads then we have another one...they are around four. I think Hon. Makhanu

Mr. Speaker: The challenge you may have is that this is a statement raised by Hon. Jack.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Yes, I just wanted to inform him that when it comes to respond he can also touch on that, because it's part of the contract.

Mr. Speaker: It's not. It's not. The contract was Dual Carriage Way from Sangalo to Kanduyi is 6.5 kilometres. The contractor was one.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Speaker, I am just talking about the drainage.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, when they explain the drainage, they will be doing so as part of...

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Because it has never been done, so I don't know if it was in the BQs or not...

Mr. Speaker: They will explain if there are any variations.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Okay.

Mr. Speaker: When we have the BQ, the original drawings, we will be seeing if there are some variations that they will be explaining so that we are giving them time. So CEC... Yes, Hon. Cornelius

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Hon. Speaker, the scope of work that Hon. Wambulwa was asking for, it is not just the final layer but there are nine outlet sections.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Cornelius, the challenge I am having is this.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Just a moment.

Mr. Speaker: Let me finish first. We have given him time to bring the BQ and you are saying nine layers. So he brings from where?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: That is what I am saying. As we speak now what the minority has said there are nine sections that drainage has to be done.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Cornelius, when you are asking the BQ to be brought here, the BQ will be indicating if there were drainages or not.

(Applause)

(Loud Consultations)

Now when you say there was nine layers, where did you get them?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. So let's agree, give the CEC two weeks.

(Applause)

And the CEC, let your technical people assist you bring a good response. We don't want to quarrel because we are people of the same county and we are trying to assist our people to have access to the roads.

Thank you. You are discharged, two weeks; we will give you a notice of appearing. You are discharged.

Hon. Meshack Order!

(Laughter)

Hon. Members, I think to be able to handle this issue, we will have to have a meeting specifically with the department of roads because I remember we have been having allocation, what was being used for what purpose? Let's have a day for that day and once we issue a notice I will ask members to come. We will sit here. I will sit here as one of the members here, with the clerks so that we are able to have this meeting done.

Yes Hon. Meshack...

Hon. Meshack Museveni: Asante Spika, i yale umesema ni mzuri but *sincerely* ukiangalia mambo yanayosemwa huko nje kuhusu sisi nakuomba Spika hata wakikuja tuombe kama MCAs sisi pesa haikosekani atafadhali waongeze *layer* moja itatusaidia sisi kama MCAs but hivi vile tunaendelea hi vitu itatuletea shida

Mr. Speaker: We have said two weeks. Members will be able to give a notice.

Next item,

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Leader of the Majority.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to move the motion on adjournment. That Pursuant to Standing Order No. 31 3, The County Assembly does adjourn until Tuesday, 11 February 2025 at 2.30 p.m. As you are aware as an Assembly since the inception of this session, members have done all their best and they have been so committed to ensure that the work that was pending at least has been settled. Though we may have some few pending issues but as per now if it means rating we could be above 90 per cent.

So I want also to take this opportunity to appreciate the members for their commitment to work for the main issues that concern to our people.

Again as we adjourn this House, I know we also have some pending issues in our committees which I think this House through their chairs will also find time to ensure that they work on it.

We are adjourning for a long recess and actually it involves a lot of activities and a lot of celebrations. There is Christmas, *Jamhuri* and New Year and other activities as we speak these members also have to find time to have enough and proper time for their families because indeed, as much as we work tirelessly for the county, we also need time also to sit and also have fun with our families and the season sometimes it has a lot of involvement, so I also request members to begin as we celebrate ahead of us so that mostly we be prayerful, so at least as we meet in February we are somehow okay.

As we also celebrate we are also parents, there are school fees that at least our children also need to be taken care of but the key issue is that it also has to give us enough time to mingle with our voters to see the challenges they are passing through, share with them what we have so that at least we create proper atmosphere for our leadership.

So I do also request that through your office, you know the key issue for us also to stay happy is the key issue of welfare so that at least as we mingle with our people, we should have what could enable us also to mingle and support them because nowadays we have a lot of our local radios, they will always champion that you know it's time for Christmas and the leaders are there, so Mr. Speaker, through your office let us also plan well so that our members won't get rough time when mingling and sharing with our voters.

Otherwise, allow me call upon Hon. Leader of Minority to second this motion as we prepare for the Christmas moods.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Majority. Hon. Luseneka you second the motion.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to second the motion of adjournment for this long recess and I also want to take this opportunity to appreciate the members who have tirelessly worked for this county. We have passed so many motions, regulations and papers here. I just want to appreciate them.

Secondly, as Majority has put it, this December and we have a lot of activities and our current situation economically is not good as we speak. I just want to request that matters welfare be looked at so that we make sure that these members once they break for the recess, they have something in their pockets.

Otherwise, life will be difficult out there especially for this December and next month is January. Students will be going back to school. I managed to attend though you got the communication late from the Department of Education. I managed to attend the scholarship mentorship program at Bungoma High and I heard the CEC talking that by January the money for scholarships and bursaries will be around.

So I just want to request those members who have not submitted their lists to hurry, so that we don't delay others because we want by January when schools are opening at least this money is around so that we give the cheques to the students to go back to school.

On matters welfare please as leadership, let us work on it so that these members can also be comfortable and also this is a good time for us to interact with our electorates and for those

elected members, we are hoping that by Christmas time the contractors will be on site because I think Water Department they are doing their contracts. I think they are done with the tendering process and awards have been done.

Roads CEC was here, he said within two weeks I think the contractors will be on site. So it will be also a good opportunity for us to supervise the works in our wards. It is a good time for us to at least do the oversight as we are on recess.

So members I want to take this earliest opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and as you prepare for the Happy New Year and then now we meet, I think on 14th \, which is Valentine's Day but I don't think we will wear red when we come back on Valentine's Day next year.

Mr. Speaker: I reserve my comment. Proceed.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Otherwise, I just want to wish you a happy holiday. I think God will take care of us so that we meet safely in New Year.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Luseneka. Hon. Members. I will not be proposing a motion or putting a question because as you are all aware these sittings are gazetted, even if you decline to go home, you must just have to go home

(Laughter)

Because the gazetted calendar ends today, so I am not putting a question for you to vote over the same because even if you refuse, you just have to go home. We will adjourn our sitting today for a long recess and resume our sittings on Tuesday, 11th of February, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 4:12 p.m.