

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

Morning Sitting

3rd County Assembly

3rd Session

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
THE DAILY HANSARD
WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

The House met at the County assembly Chamber at 9:30 a.m.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker [Hon. Stephen Wamalwa] in the Chair)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

REARRANGING THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Members, owing to on-going consultations concerning the rating bill, I therefore strike off Order 9 and subsequently Order 10 from the Order Paper of the day to allow further consultations on the Bungoma County Valuation and Rating Bill, 2024. It is returned back to the House Business Committee for re-allocation of time at an appropriate time.

PAPERS

**THE LOCAL PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR NANGÉNI INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT IN WEBUYE TOWN 2023-2027**

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me table the following paper; the Local Physical Development Plans for Nangéni Informal Settlement in Webuye Town 2023-2027.

(Hon. Joseph Nyongesa tabled the paper)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the document has properly been laid and it becomes the property of this House. It is committed to the Committee on Lands which will work on it and report back to the House.

MOTION

**REPORT BY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON LANDS, URBAN, PHYSICAL
PLANNING AND HOUSING ON HALF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023 WITH RESPECT TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, URBAN, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING AND
MUNICIPALITIES**

Hon. Francis Chemion (Chairperson, Lands): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am here to present a report by the Committee on Lands on half year financial statements for the period ended 31st December 2023.

Background Information

The County Assembly upon receiving the 1st & 2nd Quarter Financial Statements for the FY 2023/2024, scheduled interrogations for Sector Committees on 2nd April, 2024 at the County Assembly precincts and invited the County CECM for Lands together with (Accounting Officer for the case of County Executive Departments) and other relevant officers for the interrogation.

Further, the department was requested to submit the following and any other supporting documents to the Office of the clerk of the County Assembly;

- i. Revenue realized by the department (Exchequer, Local revenue and grants) in the period under review.
- ii. Departmental budget implementation report as per approved PBB for the period ending December 2023
- iii. Detailed departmental personnel expenditure
- iv. Status of on-going projects/ flagship projects
- v. Approved procurement plan FY 2023/24
- vi. Detailed status report on the pending bills settled in the period under review and those outstanding.
- vii. A status report on the outstanding imprests.
- viii. Status report on stalled/incomplete project and way forward

This report therefore, is an amalgamation of the financial statements for the period ended December 31st 2023 in respect to the ministry of Lands, Urban and Physical Planning, Housing and Municipalities.

It analyses expenditure of exchequer releases during the stipulated periods as well as the budget absorption rate in relation to the annual budget.

The report also gives the legal background and objectives that informed the committee to analyse the financial statements as submitted and further through interrogation process. The committee has further made its observations and recommendations for adopted by this House.

Committee Membership

The current composition of the Committee on Lands, Urban, physical Planning, Housing and Municipalities is as follows:

| | | | |
|----|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Francis | Chemion | Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon. Linda | Kharakha | Vice/Chairperson |
| 3. | Hon. Ali | Machani | Member |
| 4. | Hon. James | Barasa | Member |
| 5. | Hon. Metrine | Nangalama | Member |
| 6. | Hon. Sudi | Busolo | Member |
| 7. | Hon. Henry | Nyongesa | Member |
| 8. | Hon. Eunice | Kirui | Member |
| 9. | Hon. Edwin | Opwora | Member |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------|--------|
| 10. | Hon. Wafula | Waiti | Member |
| 11. | Hon. Mildred | Barasa | Member |
| 12. | Hon. George | Makari | Member |
| 13. | Hon. Cornelius | Makhanu | Member |
| 14. | Hon. Jeremiah | Kuloba | Member |
| 15. | Hon. Polycarp | Kimeta | Member |

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Hon. Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly of Bungoma for the support the committee received as it discharged its mandate. I further extend my appreciation to committee members for dedicating their time to examine the County Government's 1st and 2nd quarter financial statements for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Municipalities.

Lastly, I would also like to appreciate the members of the secretariat who supported the committee in developing this report.

It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Hon. Members of the committee on Lands, Physical Planning and Municipalities to move this report and recommend it to the Assembly for consideration and adoption with or without amendments...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Masai, a moment please. What is your point of concern Hon. Allan?

Hon. Allan Nyongesa: Hon. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 37 (1) at the commencement of the House, what Hon. Masai is moving is an important report but looking at the composition of the House. As much as we have a few Members on the Lands Committee but the quorum is not sufficient as per our Standing Order. I ask for your guidance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let us confirm quorum.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to remind my colleague that, we have colleagues who have walked out for consultations and they are coming back. Now that the chairperson was moving and was almost done with the report, so let us allow him finish because of the pending work before us.

Hon. Tony Barasa: The concern as raised by Hon. Allan is genuine and we cannot assume that there is quorum in the House. I seek that quorum bell is rung.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The orderlies of the House let the bell ring for 10 minutes.

(Quorum bell for 10 minutes)

(Loud Consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order members, order members, can the orderlies confirm if we have the quorum now? Fine Hon. Members, we do have a quorum and therefore I call upon the mover of the report to proceed.

(Applause)

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Honourable members for that break. Hon. Speaker, you know today I was prepared to hammer the whole morning session and I was being cut from even one item. I am now happy that we can proceed. I was on the acknowledgement which I had already read but maybe for the purposes of flow I can repeat acknowledgement.

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Hon. Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly of Bungoma for the support the committee received as it discharged its mandate. I further extend my appreciation to committee members for dedicating their time to examine the County Government's 1st and 2nd quarter financial statements for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Municipalities. Lastly, I would also like to appreciate the members of the secretariat who supported the committee in developing this report.

It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Hon. Members of the committee on Lands, Physical Planning and Municipalities to move this report and recommend it to the Assembly for consideration and adoption with or without amendments.

Report signed by Hon. Francis Chemion Masai Chairperson Lands, Urban Physical Planning and Housing committee

Half Year Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31st December, 2023

Lands and Urban Planning

The County's approved 1st supplementary budget for the FY 2023/24 was Kshs.15,470,095,611 comprising Kshs.5,643,037,428 (36%) and Kshs.9,827,0528,184 (64%) allocation for development and recurrent programmes, respectively.

The largest part of the budget is expected from exchequer issues contributing 73.6% of the requirement, local revenue 13% and other receipts including grants 13.3%.

The department of Lands, Urban & Physical Planning had an approved budget of Ksh. 96,056,672 comprising of Kshs 47,096,564 recurrent and Kshs. 48,960,108 for Development programmes.

Revenue Analysis

The department received a total of Kshs. 22,020,167 from exchequer to finance its programs and activity representing a 23% absorption rate.

The department reported that it has written severally to the treasury to pay for the already done activities but the requests are pending awaiting payment. More so the monthly exchequer requests are never released to user departments by the county treasury to prioritize per their work-plans before payments are done by the treasury.

Committee observation

The committee noted that the Exchequer work plans do not emanate from the user department yet the department is in position to tell the total amounts they are entitled to per month. This is why financial statements from the treasury didn't clearly indicate local revenues generated by each department.

Expenditure Analysis

General administration planning and support

The expenditure on personnel emolument was 38% of the allocated budget of Kshs. 26,637,264, where they absorbed Kshs. 10,183,107.

Administration and support services had an allocation of Kshs. 11,548,650 where they reported absorption of Kshs. 4,957,060. The absorption rate was 43%.

The department reported that the expenditure for personnel emoluments of 38% was in order. The department last received salaries for the month of December, 2023 in January, 2024(attached is department payroll from July to December). There have been delays in expenditure on personnel emoluments in the department occasioning the low absorption.

Committee observations

The department ought to be allowed to access at least 25% of the provision for expenditure on personnel per quarter to enable it attain the required 50% expenditure at half year.

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

The Ward based projects absorbed Kshs. 6,880,000 of the approved Kshs. 24,151,400 translating to 28% absorption.

The department provided the list of implementation status of Ward based projects. There were 13 Ward Based Projects in the department and spread across the county as at 31st December, 2023. Most of the projects were at survey stage with only four of them yet to commence as listed below;

| No. | Ward | Project Name | Estimate Cost | Status |
|------------|---------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Bokoli | purchase of I Acre land for Auction ring | 1,000,000 | Yet to start, no documentation submitted |
| 1. | Bumula | purchase of I Acre land for Khalela E.C.D.E | 1,000,000 | Yet to start, no documentation submitted |
| 2. | East Sang'alo | purchase of I Acre land for Soweto Auction ring | 800,000 | Yet to start, no documentation submitted |
| 3. | Ndivisi | purchase of I Acre land for Misemwa Coffee Factory | 1,000,000 | Yet to start, no documentation submitted |

It was also reported that 3 parcels of land were purchased as indicated below:

WARD BASED LAND PURCHASED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

| S/N | LAND VENDOR | DECRPTION/ LOCATION | WARD | FY | BUDGETE D AMOUNT | AMOUNT (KSH) | BALANCE |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------|-------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | M/s Bung'ung'wo Enterprises | Purchase of 1 acre for Masaek Dispensary | KAPK ATEN Y | 22/23 | 800,000 | 880,000 | 0 |
| 2 | Lukelesia general supplies | Purchase of 1 acre for Lunao Dispensary | BUMU LA | 22/23 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 0 |
| 3 | Minaj Entreprises | Purchase of 4.5 acres for Maraka Stadium | MARA KA | 22/23 | 6,750,000 | 5,000,000 | 1,750,000 |
| | TOTAL | | | | 8,550,000 | 6,880,000 | 1,750,000 |

The committee notes the balance of Ksh. 1,750,000 money allocated for ward based projects in the department which the department should expedite its absorption.

Accounts Payables (Pending bills)

With Pending Bills declared in the quarter of Kshs. 3,347,029 with Kshs. 3,194,822 being recurrent and Kshs. 152,207 development, no pending bills had been paid.

The department reported that the submitted that vouchers had been processed but were yet to be paid for.

Accounts Receivables (Outstanding imprests)

The outstanding imprests for the department stood at Kshs. 7,825,828 with one being outstanding from the month of June 2023. The imprests captured include those for Housing and Municipalities which need to be reported separately. Further, the activities funded were not specified in the consolidated report.

The department submitted that these reports are consolidated at the treasury that is why the imprests are lumped together. It was also submitted that there is a delay in payment of imprests by the county treasury which contributes to the outstanding imprests at the department. On the specific activities funded, a status report of imprest surrendered is as below;

| S/N | DEPARTMENT | IMPREST HOLDER | ACTIVITY | AMOUNT | CURRENT STATUS |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Lands and Physical Planning | William Mukhwana | ICPAK Conference | 85,400 | Surrendered |
| 2 | Lands and Physical Planning | Joan Barasa | Office standing imprest | 300,000 | Surrendered |
| 3 | Lands and Physical Planning | Carolyne Chesekut | Office standing imprest | 100,000 | Surrendered |
| 4 | Lands and Physical Planning | William Mukhwana | Processing of title deeds | 1,929,120 | Not surrendered. Activity on-going. |
| 5 | Housing | Dorcas Mulunda | Public participation for Deputy | 564,200 | Surrendered |

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|----------------------|------------------|--|
| | | | Governor's residence | | |
| | TOTAL | | | 2,978,720 | |

HOUSING

The Directorate of Housing had an annual approved budget of Kshs. 236,311,274 comprising Kshs 29,811,174 for recurrent and Kshs. 206,500,100 for Development expenditure.

Revenue Analysis

The department received a total of Kshs. 7, 649,142 from exchequer to facilitate its programs and activities all being recurrent. This translates to 3% absorption.

The department decried delays in payment by the County treasury, that the last payment was made in January for December, 2023 salary.

Expenditure Analysis

General administration planning and support

The expenditure on personnel emolument was 46% of the allocated budget of Kshs. 9,586,560 where they absorbed Kshs. 4,411,882

Administration and support services had an allocation of Kshs. 17,766,989 where they reported an expenditure of Kshs. 3,237,260, the absorption rate being 18%.

The departmental responded on low expenditure attributing it to treasury not honoring departmental payment vouchers despite them having been processed and forwarded as is required.

Development Expenditure

There was no development expenditures reported in the directorate of Housing in the financial year under review.

Accounts Payables (Pending bills)

The pending Bills declared by the county treasury amounts to Kshs. 3,829,837 where Recurrent totals to Kshs. 1,498,574 while the total for development is Kshs.2,331,263.

Departmental response

The directorate reported that there were no pending bills in the directorate for the financial year under review.

Accounts Receivables (Outstanding imprests)

The outstanding imprests for the directorate had been captured under the broader Ministry of Lands, Housing and Municipalities.

Departmental response

There are no pending imprests for the directorate of Housing

Bungoma Municipality

The Municipality had an annual approved budget of Kshs. 285,775,162 comprising Kshs 43,099,914 recurrent and Kshs. 233,675,248 for Development expenditure.

Revenue Analysis

The Municipality received a total of Kshs. 8,975,549 from exchequer to facilitate its programs and activities translating to 3% absorption.

Expenditure Analysis

General administration planning and support

The expenditure on personnel emolument was 34% of the allocated budget of Kshs. 14,203,848 where they absorbed Kshs. 4,798,749

Administration and support services had an allocation of Kshs. 19,215,766 where they reported an expenditure of Kshs. 4,176,800. The absorption rate is 22%.

The municipality management explained that the low absorption rate was due to delays in exchequer releases by the county treasury.

Development Expenditure

There was no development expenditures reported in the municipality in financial year under review.

Accounts Payables (Pending bills)

Pending Bills declared amount to Kshs. 2,117,740 all being recurrent and declared as one under the broader Ministry of Lands, Housing & Municipalities. No pending bills were paid for.

The department explained that documents for the same were submitted fully but payment were not made in the financial year 2022/2023 and are still awaiting payment at the county treasury.

Accounts Receivables (Outstanding imprests)

The outstanding imprests for the municipality were captured under the broader Ministry of Lands, Housing & Municipalities.

Kimilili Municipality

The Municipality had an annual approved budget of Kshs. 236,702,484 comprising of Kshs 44,855,505 recurrent and Kshs. 191,846,979 for Development expenditure.

Revenue Analysis

The Municipality received a total of Kshs. 29,929,791 from exchequer to facilitate its programs and activities (13% of the vote).

Expenditure Analysis

General administration planning and support

The expenditure on personnel emolument was 41% of the allocated budget of Kshs. 13,551,168 where they absorbed Kshs. 5,595,565

Administration and support services had an allocation of Kshs. 31,304,337 where an expenditure of Kshs. 3,579,486 was reported, translating to an absorption rate of 11%.

Development Expenditures

Development incurred an expenditure of Kshs. 20,754,740 translating to 11% absorption.

Departmental response

The department attributed the low rate of absorption to delays to release funds by the county treasury.

Accounts Payables (Pending bills)

Pending Bills declared amount to Kshs. 2,117,740 with all being recurrent and declared as one under the broader Ministry of Lands, Housing & Municipalities. No pending bills were paid for.

The department explained that documents for the same were submitted fully but payment were not made in the financial year 2022/2023, and are still awaiting payment.

Accounts Receivables (Outstanding imprests)

The outstanding imprests had been captured under the broader Ministry of Lands, Housing & Municipalities.

The municipality reported to have had outstanding imprests of Kshs. 2,395,848 which had since been surrendered.

The municipality list of outstanding imprests and a copy of a confirmation register was provided to the committee and is herein attached.

Committee Observations

The Committee makes the following Observation;

- 1) There is a delay in processing and release of funds from County Treasury to the department hampering its operations.
- 2) There was very low uptake of development vote with Lands and Kimilili Municipality department votes witnessing a 28% and 11% absorption rates respectively. Bungoma Municipality and Housing directorate had NIL expenditure on development.

- 3) There is a challenge with Imprest management system in the department and the County at large where the department lists some imprests as surrendered yet the same appear as un-surrendered from the treasury reports.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee wishes to make the following recommendation;

1. **THAT** the treasury should be releasing funds to departments in time to ensure a smooth running of the operations in those departments.
2. **THAT** the department should come up with elaborate procurement plans and further prioritize activities which will ensure each activity is undertaken. This will boost the absorption rate for development vote.
3. **THAT**, there should be in place an effective and easily verifiable imprest management system. Additionally, all imprest issued during a given quarter should be declared whether they have been surrendered or not. This will help the County Assembly to effectively oversight the activities/programs being implemented by a given department in each quarter.

The report was adopted by most of the members and then we have the annexures. I now take this opportunity to welcome Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba to second this report

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having gone through the report, very many observations have been made and I rise to second the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, a motion having been moved and seconded, I now propose the same for debate

(Question proposed)

Hon. Martin Cheseto,

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. May I laud the mover of the motion, Hon. Chemion for moving the motion. Mine is just maybe just a concern on implementation of Municipality Charter by the County Government of Bungoma. According to the report you can realise that in Bungoma Municipality there is nil expenditure, I think this is just compounded by non-implementation of the charter for municipalities in the county of Bungoma, because we've had an interaction as members of Delegated Legislation the municipality board has issues with the executive on non-compliance maybe with the charter that governs the functions of the municipality. So I want to call upon the committee of Land to fast-track and ensure that all the functions and the support and the necessary responses are given to these municipalities so that they discharge their mandate. I think that is my observation as a committee member in charge of delegation and we as Delegated committee we have to actually to assist that all the institutional or the legal frame works within the county are affected to the latter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Martin Cheseto. Now let's have the Hon. Waliaula Aggrey Mulongo member for Kibingei.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir for giving me this chance to contribute towards this motion. I have heard our able chair of Lands going through a very good report but there is a problem with municipalities, the two municipalities in Bungoma and Kimilili they are really suffering. When we come to development issues, last time and that was 2023/2024 projects, in Kimilili they were not implemented, we gave in the projects money was allocated and because of interests, as we are speaking now in my ward I have five projects that are still pending. There was a pronouncement from this House that all functions as stipulated in the charter are supposed to be taken to the municipalities, but up to now they only took a few and there is no budget for all those functions. We need to make sure that as the committee of Lands please follow up because the municipalities don't have a budget for all those functions up to now as we are talking especially like now in Kimilili there is a lot of messes there are no board members the members who are there their time expired it came to an end, so there is an up and down but they did an advert for the new members, so whatever is happening at the moment in the municipalities...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waliaula, you hold on, there is information from the Leader of Majority

Hon. Joseph Juma: *(On a Point of Information)* thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform the member on the stage that Kimilili Municipality has no budget, KShs.2.4 Kimilili Municipality, Kimilili had an annual approved budget of Kshs. 206, 702, 000 comprising of Kshs 44, 000, 000 for current Kshs 191, 000, 000 for development so which budget are you referring to Hon. Mulongo.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waliaula, can you clarify

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: That's a good one, I will, that was World Bank money, we need to have money from the exchequer of our own as far as the charter is concerned. The money that is donated it needs to get the money from our own county, we need to have that money on the account and that's how it is up to now ii is we are depending on World Bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waliaula, I respect you so much you know you are an elder can you quote the relevant scenarios or tangible substantive evidence to prove that actually the money from World Bank should get as you say money from the county; you know you should be having some tangible evidence

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Exactly, Mr. Speaker the World Bank cannot donate anything like for us now in Kimilili we donated Kshs 24, 000, 000 per Ward that was the time now we got this kshs.191, 000,000 of the World Bank, that CEF money we were referred to take it to Kimilili so that at least the World Bank can see that there is money so that they can also add us so with that money it enabled us to get Kshs 191,000,000.

At the moment if we are not going to get any on that account, we are not going to get anything and I have *Mheshimiwa* Christine there her Kshs 24 million, mine Kshs 24 million and Hon. Idd same amount. We said now our CEF money should go to the municipalities and that's one evidence.

The second evidence is if you go to NARIGP and then now we have NAVCDP, if you contribute one million, they will give you one million, so it is give and take. So with us in Kimilili now there is a lot of messes in the municipality why am I saying so, recently, they came up with election that was done as we are speaking now we have no quorum in that municipality. I'm urging the Lands Committee to go and intervene in Kimilili because all those messes might contribute to us not even getting the World Bank money, let them hurry up as a committee to intervene so that at least they put things right.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Aggrey Mulongo. Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Otsiula,

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank You, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the motion before the House today. First of all, I also wish to laud the mover of the motion for his eloquence despite the fact that the seconder was very economical with information.

The report is talking about low absorption rate as far as development and completion of projects is concerned. We are having a very big challenge in the department of lands. How I wish that this committee in their oversight role, they prioritise and ensure that the department of lands as far as the CEF projects are concerned. Members are setting aside funds to acquire land, more specifically for dispensaries and ECDs but what has been happening is that even for the valuer to move to the ground and undertake the valuation of a particular parcel of land, it takes months. You have to visit the lands office several times.

The last time you were there with the Honourable member for Kimilili and we were providing information, the files were still being reconstructed and mine even at that time the financial year was closing, So, if they are talking about low absorption rate, money is set aside for projects and the department cannot move ahead and put in place measures to ensure that these valuations are undertaken in time, we shall be wasting our time and in fact, I set aside funds in 2022/2023, 2023/2024 Financial Years but none of the projects has been done up to now, I doubt if any Hon. Member here has a project under that department where he has purchased land and the project is now complete. So I want to urge the chair of this particular committee to move and put the department on toes.

I'm informed that valuers have now been employed, I don't know whether they have received letters, we don't want to hear excuses again. We want these processes to be completed on time so that the money that has been set aside to acquire parcels of land in our institutions completes the projects.

On recommendation Number two; that the departments will come up with elaborate procurement plans, I believe that one is geared towards curing such like deficiencies in the department. Otherwise, I wish to support the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Otsiula Benjamin. I call now upon the mover to give a reply to the same.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will begin by first of all thanking this Honourable Member for coming to our House. The Committee has been asking all along that we provide finances for the recruitment of a land valuer for the County Government of Bungoma and in the last Financial Year this House approved a budget for the recruitment. Although it took time again for confirmation of the availability of funds for the County Public Service Board to start recruitment, but eventually, as we speak, we now have our own county valuer and a GIS expert. The two are recruited. They will commence their work on 1st of next month.

Members will agree with me that we were trying to use the National Government valuer and we all went there, and you saw how the guy was. We suffered because of that National Government valuer who looked as if he was unwell, he must have been sick. He was disinterested with working for this county. That is why we pushed now for us to have our own valuer and I think now going forward, issues with valuation and purchase parcels of land will be a thing of the past.

On the boards for Kimilili Municipality, Honourable Member, we still have a quorum. Not the way the Honourable Member for Kimilili is saying. The quorum is there. There are five. So the quorum is there. They can transact business for that municipality.

The only issue maybe which you had alerted me, Honourable Member, was the issue of election of the board chair which you said maybe members who attended the elections did not make the quorum but the quorum to transact businesses of Kimilili Municipality is there.

Secondly, the department has taken proactive measures by advertising the filling of the remaining slots. So, the process is on-going and very soon we will have more members to that board. The same applies to Bungoma Municipality. Already an advert has been put in place and I think the qualified personnel are being sourced. On implementation, I agree with the Honourable Mulongo that there was a lot of interest from all quarters. So, I don't want to expound when I say all quarters. There was a lot of interest and also there was a push and pull between the executive at the headquarters and the manager and his team at the municipal level and members, you've seen and we have PAC reports in this house and one of the queries if you listened was municipalities are not performing 100% of their functions.

It's already an audit query and you remember the committee has been pushing the executive wing to hand over most of the powers, if not all, to the municipalities to run their businesses and I hope this time most of the functions will be transferred to the municipalities so that they can also do other functions like revenue collection, garbage collection, orderliness in the town, and et cetera. I'm very sure this one will happen this time.

On budget, our budget is very low. Yes, it is true that the main budget for these municipalities is coming from donors but you know, that is part of our budget also. When we talk of 15 billion, we are including everything. We include the donor, 13.3%, our own source revenue, 13% then the 70-something per cent of the exchequer but still we agree that we need to put more money from the exchequer to our municipalities because these are the faces of our county. So, I don't want to belabour much.

I want to request that we adopt this report for onward transmission to the executive to implement whatever we have said.

Finally, we passed most of the reports here and I want to ask the Chair of Implementation also to push the implementation of most of these recommendations that are being passed in this house.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Masai Francis Chemion.

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members that has been our last item on the Order Paper this morning. We shall adjourn the sitting and resume at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 10:45 a.m.