

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 23rd APRIL, 2025

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

4th Session



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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 23rd APRIL, 2025

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

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

PRAYER

PAPERS

1. Report by Selection Committee on the reconstitution of Public Accounts and Investments Committee and Budget and Appropriations Committee

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Leader of Majority, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa?

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to table the report by the selection committee on the reconstitution of the Public Account and Investments Committee and Budget and Appropriations Committee

(Hon. Joseph Nyongesa laid the Paper)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you the Leader of Majority Joseph Nyongesa Juma, Member for Tuuti/Marakaru and Chairperson Selection Committee. Honourable Members this report having been tabled now becomes the property of the House.

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. Report by Selection Committee on the reconstitution of Public Accounts and Investments Committee and Budget and Appropriations Committee

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Juma

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise again to give a notice that these House adopts report by the selection committee on the reconstitution of the Public Account and Investments Committee and Budget and Appropriations Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Leader of Majority. Honourable Members the notice of motion having been issued I now direct that the same be immediately circulated to

Honourable Members for them to understand the content which will form part of business of this House.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF THE NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE AND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before the Hon. Leader of Majority moves this report, may be to guide the House according to Standing Order no. 177 and I read;

- 1. The committee on selection shall within 7days upon the nomination to serve in any committee of the County assembly present the list to House for approval*
- 2. Whenever a motion for approval of a list under paragraph (1) is moved in the County Assembly no objection against the proposed Membership of a member in a select committee shall be permitted and objections if any shall be formulated against the proposed membership as a whole.*

Meaning we don't talk about an individual member but about the committee. So you have to be careful about that as you contribute because we don't want to hear name calling or pointing out individuals. We are talking about a committee so be guided. We proceed.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you Speaker and also thank you for your guidance and I think every Member is very much alert. Mr. Speaker allow me move these procedural motion. I hope members have received the document on their gadgets and I have seen they are going through.

Mr. Speaker, this report is prepared in pursuant to the mandate of the Committee on Selection in accordance with Standing Order No. 174(2), to facilitate the reconstitution of the Public Accounts and Investment Committee and the Budget and Appropriations Committee. This follows the expiry of the term of the said Committees as provided for under Standing Order no. 209(2) and 210(5) respectively. The reconstitution is essential to ensure continuity, oversight of public finance management and the budget implementation process within the county.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Selection as currently constituted comprises of the following members;

1. Hon. Joseph Juma.....Chairperson
2. Hon. Andrew Lusenaka....Vice-Chairperson
3. Hon. Meshack Wekesa..... Member
4. Milliah Masungo..... Member

5. Hon. Busolo Sudi.....Member
6. Hon. Tony Barasa.....Member
7. Hon. James Muhongo.....Member
8. Hon. Franklin Simwoto.....Member
9. Hon. Jerusa Aleu..... Member
10. Hon. Everton Nganga..... Member
11. Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka..... Member and lastly, a co-opted Member
12. Hon. GodfreyMukhwana.

1.2. Committee Mandate

Mr. Speaker, passing on to Standing Orders No. 174(2) and 175(1), the Committee on Selection is mandated to;

1. Nominate members to serve in the committees, save for the membership of the House Business Committee and Committee on Appointment and members of the Speaker's Panel.
2. Consult with the county assembly parties while nominating members to serve in those committees.

1.3. Acknowledgement

The Committee on Selection expresses its gratitude to all members of the County Assembly, the Office of the Speaker, and the Clerk at the table for their cooperation and technical assistance throughout this process. Special appreciation is extended to the Office of the Speaker for guiding the House on the procedural requirements, timelines related to the expiry and reconstitution of the committees, which was signed by the Chairperson, Hon. Joseph Yuma.

1.4. In line with the Standing Orders No. 175 and 176,

The Committee on Selection engaged county assembly parties to identify eligible members for reconstitution.

Key considerations included;

1. Proportion of representation based on the party strength
2. Gender balance not more than two-thirds of any gender per committee
3. Inclusion of marginalized groups, youth, women, minority, and persons living with disability

(Laughter)

1.5. Approval of nomination

Pursuant to Standing Order no. 177(3), no member shall be considered part of any committee unless duly approved by the County Assembly.

The Committee on Selection now states that the House approves the nomination of the following members to serve in the committees of Public Accounts and Investment Committee and Budget and Appropriation Committee to enable continuity in the performance of the legislative oversight functions.

The Committee on Public Accounts and Investment Committee, that is PAIC

1. Hon. Everton Nganaga
2. Hon. Timothy Chikati
3. Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
4. Hon. Joseph Juma
5. Hon. Anthony Lusenaka
6. Hon. Alfred Mukhanya
7. Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu
8. Hon. Godfrey Mukwana
9. Hon. Jerusa Aleu
10. Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba
11. Hon. Stephen Kaiser

Budget and Appropriation Committee

1. Hon. Jackson Wambulwa
2. Hon. Charles Nangulu
3. Hon. Ali Machani
4. Hon. Anthony Lusenaka
5. Hon. Grace Sundukwa
6. Hon. Milliah Masungo
7. Hon. Meshack Museveni
8. Hon. Joan Kirong.
9. Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi
10. Hon. Isaiah Busolo
11. Hon. Caleb Wanjala

Hon. Speaker, the under-signed members are the members of the Committee on Selection. They have adopted this report. Allow me to call upon the Leader of the Minority, Hon. Anthony Namunyu to second this motion. Thank you, Speaker.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you the Hon. Joseph Nyongesa Juma. Hon. Anthony Lusenaka Namunyu, Member for Bukembe West, Minority Leader of the Assembly.

Hon. Anthony Lusenaka (Leader of Minority): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this chance to second the report. The motion as moved by the Leader of the Majority. Hon. Speaker, is as a result of a communication that was done by your office last week. The coalition's felt that it is important for them to meet and do as required by the Standing Orders. That is what exactly they did, though they didn't have enough time to go through all the committees. The main focus was on the PAIC and the Budget Committee, and we felt that

we should retain the same members. But for any changes that may arise, we handle as a Selection Committee during its retreat I think next month. We felt that affecting may be one or two members may affect the whole formation of the committees, and we didn't have enough time to go through. As per these committees, I think PAIC has almost 20 reports they are supposed to work on.

Budget Committee, the main budget for 2025/2026 will soon be tabled in this House. So we felt that if they are not in place, the business of this House and the county may be affected. That is why they took the shortest time possible to reconstitute the two committees for approval by this House.

Mine is just to request members that they consider the recommendations of the committee to approve those names. Further, balancing wholesomely of committee will be done in two or three weeks' time. Since we have 23 committee we did not have enough time to do so at the moment but we will address any concerns by the Members during our retreat. We know this report can't be perfect. There are always challenges in handling some of these issues and I think as a Selection Committee we promise that once we bring the full report, every Member will be accommodated so that we can work as a team going forward.

I second the Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Anthony Luseneka for seconding. Honourable members allow me now to propose this to the House;

(Question proposed that the under listed Members server on PAIC)

Hon. Everton Nganga
Hon. Timothy Chikati
Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
Hon. Anthony Luseneka
Hon. Alfred Mukhanya
Hon. Evelyn Mutiembu
Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana
Hon. Jerusa Aleu
Hon Jeremiah Kuloba
Hon. Stephen Kaiser

(Question put and not agreed to)

The nays have it!

(Applause)

(Question proposed that the under listed Members serve on Budget and Appropriations Committee)

Hon. Jackson Wambulwa
Hon. Charles Nangulu
Hon. Ali Machani
Hon. Anthony Luseneka
Hon. Grace Sundukwa
Hon. Miliah Masungo
Hon. Meshack Museveni
Hon. Joan Kirong
Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi
Hon. Isaiah Busolo
Hon. Caleb Wanjala

(Question put and not agreed to)

The nays have it!

(Applause)

Honourable Members, I met one Honourable Member and I said that I am doing what Poncho Pilato did. I want to read to you the consequence of the decisions you have made.

(Laughter)

Under Standing Order 216 as read together with Standing Order Number 1. Standing Order 216, 2 (a) and (f); Standing Order 2 (a) reads; *the Liaison Committee shall, guide and coordinate the operations, policies and mandates of all committees as per the Constitution of Kenya, other relevant statutes and these Standing Orders.* (f) give such advice relating to the work and mandate of select committees as it may consider necessary.

Therefore, in the meantime, since the House is unable to agree on the two committees, as we await the Selection Committee again to retreat as soon as possible to bring us names of Members to serve on the two committees, the Liaison Committee shall hold brief on behalf of the two committees.

I want to urge the Selection Committee to move with speed and ensure that you have the committees in place so that no operation of this Assembly can be curtailed. I therefore direct.

You know I have made a ruling. If you want to talk about something else you will be allowed, but not on the ruling as per the standing orders. Honourable Members we shall adhere to the same. Hon. George Makari?

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, Speaker. Maybe just for direction, the Selection Committee report has been rejected. What if the Selection Committee again retreats and brings the same report with similar names and everything? What if in the wisdom of the committee it retreats, sits and again delivers the same report to the House? Or Liaison Committee will continue holding brief? I sit in Liaison, I will enjoy being in Budget Committee anyway, and there is no problem. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, honourable members. We have the guiding principles, which you adopted in House. I will read Standing Order number 60. I want to be categorical on the membership; *that no motion may be moved which is the same in substance as any question which has been resolved either in the affirmative or in the negative during the preceding six months in the same session.*

The Selection Committee is informed accordingly that it cannot table a report with same names according to the provisions of the Standing Orders.

Hon. George Makari: Well guided, Speaker.

MOTION

REPORT BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON GENDER, CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE ON THE WOMEN AND DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FUND'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2024.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama, Special Elected Member.

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama (Mover): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have the quorum. I can see most of our Members in the Gender Committee. Maybe you can just stand up so that we are sure.

(Loud consultations)

They are a quorum.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. John Kennedy proceed. Order Members.

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a report by the Gender, Culture and Social Welfare Committee. This is on Women and Disability Empowerment Fund's financial statements and reports for the period ended 30th June, 2024.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, consult in low tones, Hon. Makhanu and Minority Whip. Order Members.

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will straight away go to page 3 where we have the preface.

PREFACE

The Bungoma County Women and Disability Empowerment Funds were established to issue funds for women and People Living with Disabilities and are managed under the County's department of Gender and Culture. The fund was designed as a revolving fund so as to provide continuous support to women and People living With Disabilities by reusing the funds as they are repaid.

The Funds principal activity is empower marginalized groups of the society by providing access to affordable loans and capacity building.

The women empowerment Fund was designed to support women by providing financial assistance, skills development and access to micro-finance initiatives. The fund helps women to start or grow small businesses supporting economic self-sufficiency and improving their family livelihoods .Programs under this fund often prioritize those from low income backgrounds aiming to reduce poverty and support gender equality.

The Disability Empowerment Fund on the other hand was designed to support individuals with disabilities providing resources for training, business development and other services to help them lead more independent lives and to participate fully in the society.

The report delves into the Funds' performance in terms of disbursement and repayment in the period under review. Taking into account the challenges the funds have had and possible recommendations that would make the fund achieve its intended purpose and be sustainable.

Committee membership

The Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare as currently constituted comprises the following Members:

1. Hon. Jack	Kawa	Chairperson
2. Hon. Abraham	Obama	Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Joseph	Juma	Member
4. Hon. James	Mukhongo	Member
5. Hon. Godfrey	Mukhwana	Member
6. Hon. George	Kwemoi	Member
7. Hon. Jeremiah	Kuloba	Member
8. Hon. Alfred	Mukhanya	Member

9. Hon. Alice	Kibaba	Member
10. Hon. Violet	Makhanu	Member
11. Hon. Florence	Juma	Member
12. Hon. John	Wanyama	Member
13. Hon. Grace	Sundukwa	Member
14. Hon. Orize	Kundu	Member
15. Hon. Christine	Mukhongo	Member

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma for the support accorded to it in discharging its mandate. Further, I wish to thank members of the Committee for the commitment in examining the Women and Disability Funds quarterly reports and Financial Statements for the period ended 30th June, 2024 that ensured the success of the compilation of this report.

On behalf of the Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, I now have the honour to present this report on Consideration of Women and Disability Funds quarterly reports and Financial Statements for the period ended 30th June, 2024 before this House for deliberation and adoption.

Sign.....Date.....

HON. JACK KAWA; MCA BOKOLI WARD

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON GENDER, CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

CHAPTER TWO

Women Empowerment Fund

Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund was established by the County Government of Bungoma and derives its authority and accountability from the Bungoma County Youth and Women Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2015. The fund is fully owned by the County Government of Bungoma.

The principal activity/mission/mandate of the Fund are to enhance economic activities and social welfare of the marginalized persons in the society through access to loans.

The Fund is managed by a Fund Administration committee composed of 8 members and a management team of 4 members

The Fund's objective is to;

- i. To provide funds to be used for granting low interest loans to youths with a view to scaling up their lending activities, value addition amongst other activities as may be prescribed.
- ii. To attract and facilitate investment in economic sectors that have linkages to micro, small and medium enterprises that benefit the youth and women
- iii. To provide funds to support, revive and initiate micro-enterprises owned by women and the youth in sectors that can have an immediate impact to household economy.
- iv. Facilitating access to business development services by micro and small enterprises; Facilitating formalization and upgrading of informal micro and small enterprises and promoting an entrepreneurial culture.

Board of Trustees/Fund Administration Committee.

1. Chairperson-David Malinga Chemayiek.
2. Fund Administrator/Secretary-Mr. Moses Chebonya.
3. Member/PWDs representative -Mr. Adrian Sakwa.
4. Member/Women representative- Mrs. Ummi Maloba.
5. Member/CBO representative-Rev. Johnston Wanyonyi.
6. Member/Youth representative-Miss. Metrine Tenga.
7. Member/Finance Representative-Joseph Musungu.
8. Member/Legal representative-Cynthia Nanyokia.

Management Team.

1. Carolyne Makali Khalayi-CECM-Gender, Youth, Culture and sports.
2. David Malinga Chemayiek-Chairperson.
3. Fund Administrator-Moses Chebonya.
4. Fund Accountant-Ambrose Makokha.

Fiduciary oversight arrangements.

1. Directorate internal Audit- CPA Brian Makokha. [Director]
2. External auditors [A.O.G] - CPA Nancy Kathungu CBS.
3. Youth and sports sector committee-Committee members.
4. Gender and culture sector committee-Committee members.



5. Officer of controller of budget-Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o.

Fund Compliance with Statutory requirements

Regulations of the Fund: the Public Finance Management Act. No 18 of 2012. The Executive Committee Member of Finance has made and gazettes the regulations to operationalize the Fund. "The Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2015"

Appointment of the Fund administrator: under PFM Act 2012, the CECM finance and Economic Planning has designated the fund administrator to oversee the running of the fund on a day to day basis.

Preparation of Financial Statements: Section 167 of the Public Finance management Act, 2012, requires that, at the end of each financial year, the Administrator of a County Public Fund established by the Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2015 shall prepare financial statements for the Fund in accordance with the standards and formats prescribed by the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board.

AUDITORS

The Auditor General is responsible for the statutory audit of the Fund in accordance with Article 229 of the Constitution of Kenya and the Public Audit 2015. The Auditor General carried out the audit of the Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund for the **year ended June 30, 2024** in accordance to section 23 of the Public Audit Act, 2015 which empowers the Auditor General to appoint an auditor to audit on his behalf.

Fund allocation against releases since inception

The total release in the financial year 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 was Kshs. 75,414,500. However the fund has not received any money since 2016 despite allocations in the budget as illustrated in the table below.

Financial year	Allocations	Releases
2013/2014	130,000,000	25,000,000
2014/2015	63,000,000	50,414,500
2015/2016	55,000,000	0
2016/2017	50,000,000	0
2017/2018	35,000,000	0
2018/2019	40,000,000	0
2019/2020	0	0
2020/2021	0	0
2021/2022	0	0
2022/2023	9,000,000	0
2022/2023	50,000,000	0
2023/2024	21,500,000	0
Total	453,500,000	75,414,500

Recoverability of loans advanced to beneficiaries dating way back from 2014 to date

The initial Kshs. 25M was disbursed to the 45 wards with each ward getting Kshs. 550,000 and 50,000 per group.

The department submitted that Advertisement for the loans was done and the process was localized at the wards.

Ward Committees chaired by the ward administrators vetted the applicants and awarded successful applicants. It was submitted that some wards failed to raise the maximum 11 groups.

The total Loans awarded was Kshs. 23, 550,000, amount repaid Kshs. 15,571,257 and the loan balance Kshs. 7,978,743 as shown in the table below.

Women Empowerment Fund Repayment Status

NO.	WARD	LOAN AWARDED	AMOUNT REPAYED	LOAN BALANCE	NO. OF GROUPS
1	Township	550,000	506,230	43,770	11
2	Khalaba	550,000	260,300	289,700	11
3	Bukembe West	550,000	409,295	140,705	10
4	Bukembe East	550,000	295,900	254,100	11
5	East Sang'alo	550,000	364,820	185,180	6
6	West Sang'alo	550,000	460,117	89,883	10
7	Musikoma	550,000	419,900	130,100	9
8	Marakaru/Tuuti	500,000	278,570	221,430	10
9	Bumula	500,000	327,750	172,250	10
10	South Bukusu	550,000	428,840	121,160	11
11	Kabula	550,000	410,800	139,200	11
12	Khasoko	550,000	296,080	253,920	9
13	Kimaeti	550,000	330,911	219,089	9
14	Siboti	550,000	354,885	195,115	11
15	West Bukusu	200,000	58,562	141,438	4
16	Naitiri/Kabuyef we	550,000	368,620	181,380	11
17	Soysambu/Mitua	550,000	224,550	325,450	11
18	Ndalu/Tabani	550,000	393,427	156,573	10
19	Tongaren/Kimini ni	550,000	373,120	176,880	9

20	Milima	550,000	325,250	224,750	11
21	Mbakalo	550,000	473,270	76,730	11
22	Namwela	550,000	455,440	94,560	11
23	Lwandanyi	550,000	255,910	294,090	10
24	Malakisi/kulisiru	550,000	519,500	30,500	11
25	Elgon	550,000	486,220	63,780	11
26	Chepyuk	550,000	94,400	453,600	11
27	Cheskaki	450,000	200,610	249,390	8
28	Kaptama	550,000	259,130	290,870	8
29	Cheptais	500,000	353,050	146,950	10
30	Mihuu	350,000	290,100	59,900	7
31	Kapkateny	550,000	249,380	300,620	11
32	West Nalondo	550,000	530,750	19,250	11
33	Luuya/Bwake	550,000	433,640	116,360	11
34	Chwele/Kabucha i	500,000	307,100	192,900	10
35	Mukuyuni	550,000	453,010	96,990	11
36	Kamukuywa	550,000	359,290	190,710	11
37	Maeni	550,000	274,660	275,340	11
38	Kimilili	200,000	203,190	(3,190)	4
39	Kibingei	550,000	412,350	137,650	11
40	Matulo	550,000	349,100	200,900	11
41	Sitokho	550,000	265,250	284,750	11
42	Bokoli	550,000	426,650	123,350	11
43	Misikhu	550,000	196,140	353,860	10
44	Ndivisi	550,000	359,160	190,840	10
45	Maraka	550,000	474,030	75,970	11
Total		23,550,000	15,571,257	7,978,743	

(Annexure 1: Detailed report on the groups that benefitted)

Mr. Speaker,

The loan products for the Fund are; Group Loans, Local Purchase Order (LPO) financing and Asset Financing. The total disbursement to 471 groups as loans was Kshs. 23,550,000, the Local Purchase Orders and Local Supply Orders(LPO/LSO) financing being Kshs. 5,750,000. The department submitted that collections were at Kshs. 15,300,000 plus interest retained and earned of Kshs. 99,367 and the total being Kshs. 15,399,367. **(Annexure 2)**

LOCAL PURCHASE ORDERs (LPO) FINANCING STATUS

Mr. Speaker,

A total of Kshs. 5,750,000 was received on the LPO/LSO financing with funds received in the FY 2016/2017 Kshs. 3,239,300, FY 2017/2018 Kshs. 1,500,000, FY 2018/2019 Kshs. 560,700 and in the FY 2020/2021 Kshs. 450,000.

The department submitted that the loans awarded was Kshs. 4,565,000 , the amount to be repaid was Kshs. 4,444,200 however only Kshs. 1,816,000 has been repaid leaving a balance of Kshs. 3,111,700.(**Annexure 3**)

2.4.1 Employee Welfare

Mr. Speaker,

The Fund on its own does not carry out social responsibility but does that through the mother ministry. All Fund employees are paid by the County Government. All staff are on secondment to the Fund.

However the committee on its inquiry on the status of the amount recovered of Kshs.15,571,257 established that the amount was paid as salaries and stipends to the fund ambassadors, manager and the fund secretariat at the rate of Kshs. 8,000 per month for the ambassadors and secretariat. Kshs. 108,000 for the manager all for 28 months eating into the seed capital. Grand Total Expenditure of **Kshs. 12,422,270**(**Annexure 4**)

2.4.2 Why the fund is operating two bank accounts

The Fund maintains two accounts for internal control as directed by the Finance department and outlined in a county circular. One account is designated for recovery of loan while the other account is for operational expenses. All funds collected in the collections account must be transferred to the operations account before any spending occurs.

Bank	Branch	Account Name	Account No	Purpose	Balance as at 17/1/2025
Coop Bank	Bungoma	Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund	Co-op-01141536727201	Operation	Kshs.152,018
Coop Bank	Bungoma	Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund	Co-op-01141536727200	Collection	Kshs.3,231.65

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker,

The committee made the following observations;

1. The fund did not achieve its objectives and purpose of providing funds to be used for

granting low interest loans to Women to support, revive and initiate micro-enterprises owned by women in sectors that can have an immediate impact to household economy.

2. There are inconsistencies in the amounts allocated to wards with no clear criteria used in disbursing loans to groups. Some wards with more groups received lesser amounts than wards with few groups. For instance a ward with 6 groups received Kshs. 550,000 while another with 8 groups received Kshs.450, 000.
3. Beneficiaries and Contact persons of the groups that benefitted are not in contact or available anymore making it hard to collect the loans due.
4. The funds have not received any allocation since 2016 despite money being budgeted for.
5. There is need to review the Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2015.
6. There is a huge uncollected amount of money loaned to groups amounting to Kshs. **7,978,743** outstanding as loans and the huge default rate has negatively impacted the working capital of the program.
7. There is no clear evidence of recoverability of loans re-issued and the beneficiaries of the loans. Furthermore there is no detailed expenditure of the amount recovered of Kshs. 15,571,257 in which the department submitted that Kshs. 12,422,270 was spent to pay for salaries and stipends to the fund ambassadors, Manager and Fund secretariat for 28 months instead of re-issuing loans to Women groups (**Annexure 4**)
8. The certainty and sustainability of the Fund is in doubt because of the huge amount of loans due and some beneficiaries are not repaying the loans alluding that its government money and one should not be forced to repay.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker,

The committee made the following recommendations;

1. **THAT**, the department should conduct an evaluation of the Fund's operations to assess its effectiveness as per the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (Section 106), which mandates regular reviews of public programs to ensure the Fund is achieving its intended purpose and submit the evaluation report 60 days from the adoption of this report.
2. **THAT**, the department should establish a clear and transparent criteria for the disbursement of loans across wards, ensuring that resources are allocated based on the number of groups and the needs of each ward.

3. **THAT**, the department should update the beneficiary records and create a comprehensive database that includes full details of beneficiaries. Moreover, efforts should be made to trace the beneficiaries.
4. **THAT, the Bungoma County Women Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2015**, should be reviewed **within 60 days** from the adoption of this report in consultation with stakeholders, beneficiaries, and legal experts. The review should focus on improving the fund's accessibility, criteria for allocation, clear loan recovery mechanisms and sustainability.
5. **THAT**, a review should be carried out to assess the recoverability of loans due and traceable beneficiaries. A clear loan recovery strategy and tracking system should be put in place, including legal measures where necessary. The report on the status of loans due, efforts made to collect the amount and the amount recovered must be submitted to the County Assembly **60 days** from the adoption of this report.
6. **THAT**, a Financial audit should be conducted on the amount recovered (Kshs. 15,571,257) and ensure there is a detailed breakdown of how the recovered funds were spent, especially the Kshs. 12,422,270 used for salaries and stipends.
7. **THAT**, the Department should stop allocating Funds towards the program until when the Women Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2015 are reviewed and efforts made to recover the Loans due.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FUND

Mr. Speaker,

Bungoma County Persons with Disability Empowerment Fund is established by and derives its authority and accountability from the Bungoma County persons with disabilities empowerment Fund Regulations, 2017. The fund is wholly owned by the County Government of Bungoma and it's domiciled in Kenya.

The principal activity/mission/mandate of the fund is to enhance economic activities and social welfare of the marginalized persons in the society through access to loans.

3.2 FUND'S COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

Mr. Speaker,

Regulations of the Fund; the Public Finance Management Act No 18 of 2012. The Executive Committee Member of Finance has made and gazetted the regulations to operationalize the fund “THE BUNGOMA COUNTY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT FUND REGULATIONS, 2017”

Appointment of the Fund Administrator; under PFM Act 2012, the CECM finance and planning has designated the fund administrator to oversee the running of the fund on a day-to-day basis.

Preparation of the financial statements; Section 167 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 requires that, at the end of each financial year, the administrator of a County Public Fund established by THE BUNGOMA COUNTY DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FUND REGULATIONS, 2017 shall prepare financial statements for the fund in accordance with the standards and formats prescribed by the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board. The Fund administrator has been preparing financial statements and has been submitting the financial statements prepared under this section to the Auditor General.

AUDITORS

The Auditor General is responsible for the statutory audit of the Fund in accordance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012, which empowers the Auditor General to nominate other auditors to carry out the audit on his behalf.

Guiding principles of operating the Fund

In the exercise of the powers or the performance of functions under the Fund's regulations, the Executive Committee Member, the committee and the fund administrator shall be guided by the following principles;

- a) Public participation and financial inclusiveness.
- b) Protection of the interests of the marginalized, persons with disability, women and youth.
- c) Local ownership and sustainability.

The Fund's principal activity is;

- a) To provide funds to be used for granting low interest loans to People Living with Disability with a view to scaling up their lending activities, value addition amongst other activities as may be prescribed.
- b) To provide funds to support, revive and initiate micro-enterprises owned by PLWDs in sectors that can have an immediate impact to household economy.
- c) To attract and facilitate investment in economic sectors that have linkages to micro, small and medium enterprises that benefit the PLWDs.
- d) Facilitating access to business development services by micro and small enterprises.
- e) Facilitating formalization and upgrading of informal micro and small enterprises and promoting an entrepreneurial culture.

Board of Trustees/Fund Administration Committee.

1. David Malinga Chemayiek -Chairperson.
2. Gladys Situma-Fund Administrator/Secretary.
3. Adrian Sakwa-Member/PWDs representative.
4. Ummi Maloba-Member/Women representative.
5. Rev Johnstone Wanyonyi-Member/CBO representative.
6. Metrine Tenga-Member/Youth representative.

7. Joseph Musungu-Member/Finance representative.
8. Cynthia Nanyokia-Member/Legal representative.

Management Team.

1. Carolyne Khalayi Makali-CECM-Gender, Culture, Sports and Youth.
2. David Malinga Chemayiek-Chairperson.
3. Gladys Situma- Fund Administrator.
4. Ambrose Makokha-Fund Accountant.

Fiduciary Oversight Arrangements.

1. Directorate Internal Audit- CPA Brian Makokha.
2. Sector Committees-County Assembly.
3. External Audits-Kenya Auditor General Office.
4. Controller of Budget-Office of controller of budget.

Fund allocation verses releases since inception

The budget performance of the fund for the period ended March 31st 2024 was as follows; allocation versus releases.

Year.	Allocations.	Releases.
FY 2015/16	15,000,000	7,535,256
FY 2016/17	18,000,000	0
FY 2017/18	23,000,000	0
FY 2018/19	20,000,000	0
FY 2019/20	0	0
FY 2020/21	0	0
FY 2021/22	0	0
FY 2022/23	3,000,000	0
FY 2023/24	12,437,614.95	0
TOTAL.	91,437,614.95	7,535,256.

The fund had an opening balance of Kshs. 35,575 brought forward on July 1st 2023 spread out in 2 bank accounts as tabulated below.

It had receivables of Kshs.4, 811,657 dating back to year 2022/2023 which means no collection was made during the period under review.

Bank balances	Bank	Bank Account
26,510.70	KCB bank	1175217964
9,064.50	KCB bank	1212000048

Budget against actual amounts for the FY 2023/2024

The fund did not receive any exchequer release in the period in the period under review

Description	Final budget	Actual 2023/24	Variance	% utilization
Revenue	Kshs	Kshs	Kshs	Kshs
Transfer from county Govt	12,437,614.95	0	12,437,614.95	0
Interest income	0	0	0	0
Total income	12,437,614.95	0	12,437,614.95	0
Expenses				
Fund administration expenses	373,128.45	0	373,128.45	
General Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total expenditure	373,128.45	0	0	0
Surplus for the period	12,064,486.50	0	12,437,614.95	0

Recoverability of loans advanced to beneficiaries dating way back from 2014 to date

- The total amount loaned out was ksh.6, 100,000, the total amount repaid was Kshs. 765,065 and the total loan balance is ksh.5, 224,835.

Disability Empowerment Fund Repayment Status

No.	WARD	LOAN AWARDED	AMOUNT REPAYED	LOAN BALANCE	GROUP NAME
1	Township	150,000	0	150,000	a) Common Goal PWD Group

					b) Disability Empowerment Network c) Chililia Disabled Group
2	Khalaba	150,000	9,250	140,750	a) Sweet Dream PWD b) Wisdom PWD Group c) Bakhonya Challeged SHG
3	Bukembe West	150,000	12,000	138,000	a) Kitale Needy Children PWD b) Bukembe West PWD SHG c) Chenwali PWD SHG
4	Bukembe East	150,000	16,500	133,500	a) Tembelela PWD b) Kongoli Sub-Location PWD c) Mulenia PWD SHG
5	East Sang'alo	150,000	22,600	127,400	a) Sikalame Disabled Group b) Dorofu Walemavu SHG a) Mechimeru Disabled Group
6	West Sang'alo	150,000	67,500	82,500	a) Mittle Star PWD b) Sangalo Blind SHG c) Ronaka PWD Group
7	Musikoma	150,000	0	150,000	a) Shalom Young Achievers SHG b) Vision Disabled Welfare PWD c) Samonga Disabled Group
8	Marakaru/Tuuti	150,000	5,000	145,000	a)Kibabii Location Disabled b)Arise PWD SHG c)Marakaru D SHG
9	Bumula	150,000	20,750	129,250	a) Kimati Sub-location PWD b) Joint Disabled SHG c) Lunao Disability SHG
10	South Bukusu	100,000	25,300	74,700	a) Kimatuni Disabled Women Group b) Lumboka PWD Women Group
11	Kabula	150,000	17,150	132,850	a)Bright Star b)Watoya PWD SHG

					c)Samichi Bidii Disability
12	Khasoko	150,000	10,700	139,300	a)Nabukhambi PWD Group b)Mungore Sub-Location SHG c)Khasoko Sub-Location PWD Group
13	Kimaeti	150,000	12,000	138,000	a) Wavumilivu PWD b) Jenga Mawazo PWD c) Napara PWD
14	Siboti	100,000	10,000	900,000	a) Webanania Disabled Group b) Miluki Bidii Disabled Group
15	West Bukusu	50,000	11,270	38,730	a) Kibuke Ward PWD
16	Naitiri/Kabuyefwe	150,000	0	150,000	a) Kabuyefwe Disabled SHG b) Sirakaru Disabled Group c) NNaitiri PWD
17	Soysambu/Mitua	100,000	0	100,000	a) Misanaga Disabled SHG b) Soytua Disabled
18	Ndalu/Tabani	150,000	0	150,000	a) Amuka Disabled And Widows b) Tabani Kiminini SHG c) Tabani OVC Care And Support
19	Tongaren/Kimini ni	150,000	0	150,000	a) St Johns Disabled SHG b) St Johns Disabled CBO c) Friends Disabled SHG
20	Milima	150,000	0	150,000	a) Peace Academy Mbakalo b) Njete Disabled SHG c) Mumboka Disabled SHG
21	Mbakalo	150,000	39,900	110,00	a) Njete Disable SHG b) Mumboka Disabled SHG c) Peace Academy Mbakalo
22	Namwela	100,000	41,100	58,900	a) Toloso Disabled SHG b) Mutonyi Disabled SHG
23	Lwandanyi	100,000	0	100,000	a) Mayekwa Disabled SHG b) Sitabicha Vulnerable
24	Malakisi/kulisiru	150,000	22,200	127,800	a) Malakisi Mwangaza

					Disabled Group b) Nehema Disabled Sirisia c) Sirisia Division SHG
25	Elgon	150,000	14,300	135,700	a) Koshok Disabled Group b) Mt Elgon Group c) Sambocho Kipsongoch Disabled
26	Chepyuk	150,000	20,000	130,000	a) Korngotony Kipkakenge SHG b) Mwangasa Disabled SHG c) Toloosheet Disabled SHG
27	Cheskaki	150,000	22,700	127,300	a. Kapkurongo exposed b. Mt. Elgon Chesikaki c. Toroso Disabled group
28	Kaptama	150,000	12,900	137,100	a) Chesito Disabled Group b) Touneet Disabled SHG c) Vumilia Group Of Disabled SHG
29	Cheptais	150,000	7,470	142,530	a) Physically Challenged SHG b) Cheptais Disabled Group c) Ngachi PWD SHG
30	Mihuu	100,000	4,800	95,200	a) Lukiusi Disabled Group b) Mitukuyu PWD Group
31	Kapkateny	150,000	27,200	122,800	a. Kaayeenet vulnerable group b. Kopsiro Tumaini Disabled c. Chepter vulnerable IRR SCH
32	West Nalondo	150,000	5,200	144,800	a) Mwenda Pole SHG b) Yetana Disabled Group
33	Luuya/Bwake	100,000	26,600	73,400	a) Khachonge Disabled SHG b) Lumikhawwa Disabled Group
34	Chwele/Kabucha i	150,000	25,415	124,585	a) Kiwiche Alala Disabled SHG b) Faith Disabled SHG c) Smile Up(Munamuna)

					Group
35	Mukuyuni	150,000	31,370	118,630	a) Sikulu PWD SHG b) Mwangaza Chwele Support Group c) Sichei PWD SHG
36	Kamukuywa	100,000	0	100,000	a) Kamukuywa PWD b) Elishester SHG
37	Maeni	150,000	10,220	139,780	a) Kibisi Disabled Group b) Kub Kimilili SHG c) Kamasielo Physically Challenged
38	Kimilili	100,000	0	100,000	a) Meso Disability SHG b) Chelekei Disable Support SHG
39	Kibingei	150,000	17,200	132,800	a) Kimilili Divisional Group b) Kitayi Disabled SHG c) Njete NendiomulamuSHG
40	Matulo	150,000	69,400	80,600	a) Malaha Self Dependant PWD b) Evergreen PWD c) Matulo PWD
41	Sitikho	150,000	34,500	115,500	a) Milo South PWG SHG b) Milo West PWD SHG c) Milo Sub-Location PWD SHG
42	Bokoli	150,000	43,200	106,800	a) Matisi Sub Location PWD b) Bokoli Disabled SHG c) Ngamie PWD SHG
43	Misikhu	100,000	0	100,000	a) Lugulu Disabled SHG b) Kisawati Sconce Disabled SHG
44	Ndivisi	150,000	42,670	107,330	a) Lutacho Disabled SHG b) Ndivisi PWD SHG c) Makuselwa PWD SHG
45	Maraka	100,000	6,700	93,300	a) Maraka PWD SHG b) Webuye Township PWD
	Total	6,100,000	765,065	5,224,835	

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker,

The Committee made the following Observations;

1. The department was not clear on how the amount recovered of Kshs. **765,065** was spent.
2. There is an uncollected amount of money of Kshs. **5,224,835** outstanding as loans and the department was not clear on how outstanding amount will be recovered.
3. Beneficiaries and Contact persons of the groups that benefitted are not in contact or available anymore making it hard to collect the loans due and efforts to locate beneficiaries have not been successful since most groups were dismantled.
4. The Fund did not achieve its objectives of providing low interest loans to People Living with Disability since it's a revolving Fund and there are no Funds for people to borrow as loans and the fund has not received any allocation since 2016 despite being budgeted for.
5. There is need to review the Bungoma County Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2017.
6. The certainty of the fund is in doubt unless something is done to track the beneficiaries and recover the outstanding loan balances.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker,

The Committee made the following Recommendations;

1. **THAT**, the department should provide a detailed breakdown of how the amount of Kshs. 765,065 was spent, including records of expenditure and supporting documents **30 days** from the adoption of this report.
2. **THAT**, the department should develop a recovery strategy for the outstanding loans by tracking the beneficiaries of the Fund, setting deadlines for loan collection and forward a report to this Assembly **60 days** from the adoption of this report to avoid losing public funds.
3. **THAT**, the department should work to create a centralized and updated database of all beneficiaries, including contact details and records of loan status. Efforts to track beneficiaries should include collaborating with community leaders, local administrators or other relevant stakeholders to locate missing beneficiaries and submit a report within **60 days** from the adoption of this report.
4. **THAT**, the department should review the Bungoma County Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Fund Regulations, 2017 to promote accountability and prevent misuse of public funds.
5. **THAT**, the department must prioritize the creation of a monitoring and evaluation system to track loan disbursements, repayments and Fund utilization regularly.
7. **THAT**, the department should stop allocating Funds towards the program until when the department reviews the Bungoma County Persons with Disabilities Empowerment

Fund Regulations, 2017 and make efforts to recover the Loans due.

Mr. Speaker next is the adoption schedule. We the undersigned members of the Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, append our signatures. The membership is listed Mr. Speaker, and there are signatures against each one of them. At this juncture, Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Florence Juma to second. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, the Hon. Ken Wanyama John, specially elected member for moving the report with a lot of figures effectively. You are a man of figures. Hon. Florence Juma, specially elected, you have the pleasure to second.

Hon. Florence Juma: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First, may I take this opportunity to laud the Member Hon. Ken who has just moved the report eloquently. Us Members of the Committee on Gender and Culture, we were able to interrogate the report. We had meetings and we were able to sit with the executive. A number of the recommendations that have been able to be put before this House, you have heard them and you'll be able to put them into consideration. I second the report. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, the Hon. Florence Teresa Juma for seconding the motion; allow me now to propose the question;

(Question proposed)

The Hon. Isaiah Busolo Sudi, Member for South Bukusu and the Deputy Majority Whip.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give my input. Before I do so, I want to congratulate Hon. Kennedy for taking his time to read the report well.

Hon. Speaker, if you go through the report, you will see that the purpose of the fund was good. But what I heard from the report, since its inception, it was only given money once. From 2016, no other money has been allocated to the fund. You know Speaker, disability is not inability. It is possible for a normal person to become disabled. It is a journey that all of us must be very careful. Now that we are approaching the budget cycle, we consider people living with disability. They are our brothers, mothers, sisters and fathers.

If you give a ward like South Bukusu or Mitua/Soysambu Kshs 200, 000 to be shared among the groups, it is not enough which they are supposed to pay back. Even though it's a revolving fund, yes, but you see, we need to support them, Hon. Speaker. I beseech this House that as

we budget next time, this coming season, we consider disability fund and give it money so that they also feel part of us. That is all that I can say Hon. Speaker, otherwise, I support the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Isaiah Busolo Sudi, Member for South Bukusu. May I call upon the mover to reply, the Hon. Kennedy.

Hon. Kennedy Wanyama (Mover to reply): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, I want to thank Hon. Sudi Busolo who has contributed to this motion and also the seconder of the motion. Mr. Speaker, like the seconder of the motion and Hon. Busolo have put it, the intention of these funds was very noble, but unfortunately, be it as it may, people took it the wrong way and instead of repaying back the monies that were given to them, because this is a revolving fund, Mr. Speaker, and the nature of a revolving fund is that you have to repay what you borrowed so that another person can also benefit from the same fund. Unfortunately, this has not happened and so I just want to urge the department of Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, like we have clearly recommended, they need to get to the bottom of this and do serious data validation so that we can know where these funds went to so that more people can benefit, Mr. Speaker. So I just want to take this opportunity to urge the Honorable Members to adopt this report because we have very good recommendations and we believe with these recommendations we are going to see better operations of future funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, the Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama, specially elected member of this county. Honorable Members, allow me then to put the question that this House adopts the report by the Sectoral Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare on the Women and Disability Empowerment Funds financial statements and reports for the period ended 30th June 2024 laid on the table of the House on Wednesday, the 16th day April 2025.

(Question put and accepted on)

The ayes have it!

The report, together with its observations and recommendations adopted and the clerks at the Table will ensure that the same is forwarded to the relevant offices for action herein recommended.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, that being our last item on the Order Paper of the day, this House shall stand adjourned and resume tomorrow Thursday 24th April, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4:10 p.m.

