

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2025

Morning Sitting

3rd County Assembly

4th Session

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

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WEDNESDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2025

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

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

PRAYER

MOTION

EXPOSITION OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

I will ask that we make brief remarks then we proceed.

Yes Leader of majority you start!

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to appreciate you for giving me this time to at least say one or two words concerning the speech from His Excellency, the Governor who was here and showed us the direction.

As our routine, it was a while because as per our timetable, he was supposed to be here even last year but we thank God that he came and addressed the Assembly. The only challenge that we are having is that we have been waiting for so long for our Senator to also come and address so that we can see his projection and focus to this County as our Senator.

First, I want to appreciate His Excellency, the Governor for honouring this House and showing us his focus especially in terms of development.

In terms of this House having respect, I want to thank him because he was very categorical and he said that all leaders, elected and nominated members should be respected as per the law and personally I do appreciate.

Looking at what he told us in terms of every department because we heard it and it was also sent to our gadgets, I would like to be very brief that actually he means well for us and for the people of Bungoma. The only challenge is that he lacks the team to implement what he said as the CEO of this County, because if I can cite one thing especially in projection to our revenue, he said that he is targeting 1 billion from our own source of revenue. That is indeed great but the question is who will assist this County to collect one billion. That is why I am saying that as much as he means well to us, but he lacks a team to implement what he says because some years back, I used to know that any presidential directive is law but nowadays we normally pronounce what makes people happy but the implementation is too low.

We are having a big challenge especially in the Health sector and I know the Chair of Health is here and he can also agree with me that as much as His Excellency was saying he is projected to ensure that our health facilities are well equipped but currently when you go there, you may be shocked especially the maternity wing. It's really terrible but we do urge the Executive to ensure that what the CEO says is being done and followed.

In terms of Roads also, I do appreciate for the work that has been done but we are only lacking one thing, the proper supervision for the engineers who normally take charge in various wards. They are too low and normally they are collecting bill one. So we urge that as much as he gives us the directive, let him also ensure that what he has said is being done but I want to urge this House to ensure that we also make a follow-up to ensure that we are keeping them on toes so that at least our people can realize the issue of what we normally receive in terms of exchequers.

I want to stop there and we are having the Liaison Officer here that the key thing that we are lacking is that the Governor has no team to make a follow-up on what he normally says.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Majority Leader. Hon. Kawa,

Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to thank you for giving me this chance so that I can contribute on His Excellency, the Governor's address.

One, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Governor for taking his time and coming to address this House.

Secondly, I want to echo what Hon. Leader has said that the Governor lacks the implementers; the team that makes sure things are moving and being implemented as per the Constitution. As an MCA who has been here for long and by good luck the Liaison who is seated here was once an MCA of this House, we want him to take this information to His Excellency, the Governor that one, on the side of development, we represent wards and when for example I come from Bokoli where you also come from by good luck, when I go to Miendo, I talk issues affecting that place and when in Milani, I talk issues affecting that place. So when the Governor talks about some issues, we represent people, I want him to give us CEF money and in that case, when you go to wards, development is coming right away from the CEF money.

When you talk about the flagship projects, let the Governor also know that we have wards because for Kanduyi, we have the market, the stadium, the dual carriage, what about Bokoli? The road from Matisi-Bokoli to Teremi where the Governor also talked about it long time ago.

We are preparing our Annual Budget for 2025/26 and we want such issues to be captured in His Excellency's legacy regime projects.

Secondly, by good luck my able Chair for Health is here. I did not hear the Hon. Governor mentioning completion of Bokoli Sub County Theatre, something that has taken long. It's now almost 8 years. If as an MCA of that area I sat here and I didn't hear the Governor mentioning the completion of my project in my ward, I would think I am side-lined. So, kindly, I want to request that the Bokoli Sub County hospital theatre be completed because you were there when His Excellency, the former Governor Wycliffe Wafula Wangamati started that project and if we will not finish in this regime, then it will be a blow to some of us.

We want to see the completion of projects. I heard the Governor mentioning constructing some bridges but when you see connectivity on some areas, we are disadvantaged. For example we were with you, the bridge between Moyokwe to Bunang'eng'e connecting the two wards, that is, Bokoli and Misikhu, is nowhere to be heard. The bridge from Mukhebo to Sikulu, that is, Lukhuna in Kabuchai, we connect Hon. Meshack Museveni, is nowhere to be heard. The bridge connecting Bokoli and Bukembe East, we are missing that connectivity because when Hon. Caleb is constructing a road, I construct a road then there is no connectivity, where does that road end? So we want that connectivity.

If this financial year you have given me something then next give it to Hon. Mulongo in the coming Financial Year. That is balancing development. I have seen in this County we are lacking some balancing when it comes to development. Some wards are gaining more than other wards and we are watching and I want to be very candid enough that we are watching.

At the end of the five years, we want to see who got what because we will not just sit and look as other wards are gaining, while others are disadvantaged.

That connectivity and when I mention these bridges where you seat as my Speaker and voter, you know it, that Kawa is speaking the truth and the wearer of the shoe knows where it pinches.

Otherwise, I want to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency but look into our Wards and let him complete the stalled projects.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Kawa. I will have Hon. Makari.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, so much Mr. Speaker for the opportunity. I want to appreciate the first contributors and exactly what the Majority Leader said about not having a team.

First, of all, I want to congratulate the Governor for having gotten time to be in this House and even address the House and outline the agenda and the way forward for the County but besides outlining the agenda and the vision and performance going forward, I want to speak on the issue of Health as the Majority Leader has said.

If there is any time that our health facilities are pathetic, this is the time. If you know the definition of pathetic, just walk in our amenities. You will not even need the definition; you will see pathetic itself in its form. If our County referral hospital can look the way it is, women are delivering on the floor, they are sharing a bed and some other beds are reserved for special people who are ready to bribe. If you do not have something to give the nurse, you will not get that bed. That is the lowest we have sunk.

If I were the Governor, I would leave those other projects and concentrate on Health. I would not entirely live but my biggest concentration would be on Health.

If all of us are sick, maybe you will remain alone here, no one will be here and you will be presiding on an empty plenary. Its better first of all we look at the health matters then other things will follow because sick people will do nothing, and our economy will suffer.

Secondly, the issue of Roads. You will realize that sometimes I do not come for such speeches and witness because I was not there, because I know we are coming to be cheated here. They say 943kms of roads were constructed? Where are they? Can the Governor give a breakdown? 10km in Musikoma, 9km in Hon. Waiti's ward, 20 km in Kibingei, 5km in Tuuti Marakaru then a cumulative total of 943. Where were they constructed? We are talking about things in the air. These are not practicalities because 943 kilometres can be seen. Whatever is there does not even amount to 943 km. For the purpose of other members to contribute, that is what I picked out and I think the County needs improvement and I can see the Liaison officer looking at me keenly. Let him take back the report, that we need an improvement. \

This remaining short period of two years, we must change the way we are going to work. Otherwise members, let me tell you for free and you will thank me later, that the next Assembly three of us, the rest of us, if you are not careful, will be swept away and hopefully I will be among the three and the rest of you will be on their own.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Makari. Hon. Jack Wambulwa, Chair, Budget!

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Governor's address. I want to appreciate the Speakers who came ahead of me. Indeed we appreciate the Governor for coming to address us but what always shocks me is that whenever the Governor comes, I do not know whether he has a team that reminds him what he promised on the ground like the Majority Leader said.

You see, once a Governor pronounces, that should be law. He has been across our wards tell us the projects that he is going to do in each ward. Unfortunately, when he comes before us, he is telling us what is not on the ground like Hon. Makari has put it, the issue of Roads in kilometres. Does he really get the fact or somebody is just writing for him a speech and does not guide him which areas benefitted what.

Indeed, it does not have to be per ward but it can be per constituency. How many kilometres, which are these roads? We want to request our Governor to be hands on.

I think he has wrong people around him and things are in a mess like healthcare in Bungoma we live on the mercy of God. Across the County actually that department has failed, it has never been to this level. The other day I was in Bungoma Referral Hospital, was there to visit somebody who is having a wound in Ward two, it was shocking. Three people sharing a bed and these people have wounds. It's paining! You just find they are falling on each other, others are on the floor. We are not addressing that, yet we have a 300 bed Maternity Hospital lying there. We are not giving priority to equip it.

We have Sirisia and Bumula which are complete awaiting equipping. We should not just rely on county funds, the Governor should reach out to partners to come and partner with us so that we can improve healthcare. What does he tell the President whenever he meets him? The same President was around, he promised us that he was going to equip the 300 Bed Maternity and make sure that it's functional. To date we are hearing nothing.

There are several roads that the President promised to make sure that they are implemented but it's just stories. Every year we are told this road from Mateka-Bumula, Kimaeti, Malakisi is going to be done, but to date, we have no contractor on site. We want the Governor to walk his talk.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Chair Budget, are you trying to confirm what Hon. Makari said?

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Yes, the Governor is not walking his talk. I can confirm, I am a Government member. We need to tell our leader when he is naked. We say the truth. We cannot just be there clapping and cheering when we are not benefitting. You look at how he has distributed development in this Financial Year; he is only looking at the upper side. How about the lower side and yet he wants to leave a legacy? What legacy will he leave if he is behaving like Nabwana? That is why we had Hon. Nabwana and Sudi.

The Sudi people are suffering under Governor Lusaka's regime. Unless he works out and makes sure that he represents the larger Bungoma County, it's very unfortunate. This one let it reach out to the Governor through his representative who is here that people in the lower Bungoma South and Webuye are suffering because we have not benefitted anything during Lusaka's time.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Caleb.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also take this opportunity to make my contribution towards the Governor's address. From the previous speakers who have just spoken, I think three words are running in my mind; one is priority, two is equal distribution of resources.

Matters health is a matter that concerns us directly and the people that we are leading and I do not know what the priority is? What has our Governor prioritized when it comes to Health because you realize that the good doctors...most of us here go into private hospitals and surprisingly, the doctors who are serving in those private hospitals are doctors employed by this County Government! Had we prioritized our referral hospital here, we would be getting a lot of money that can help us on the side of own source revenue.

Another area that the Governor should have put a lot of effort is Agriculture; you know our County has the potential not only to feed this County but we are a County that can have even surplus which can help us also make money but surprisingly, Agriculture has not been given a priority and when I talk about priority, there are projects which can quickly change the lives of people. The best example, we have a dairy plant in Webuye, a lot of money went there and it's just lying.

We expected that the Governor in his speech to have touched on the issue of Webuye Dairy plant. I think if we can prioritize Agriculture and Health care then this County could be very far. It is surprising that as a County, we consume a lot of things that are not produced by the people of Bungoma including even the Sukuma wiki, eggs and tomatoes. Most of what we are eating in this County comes from the neighbouring country and this is the only way if we prioritize Agriculture and empower our people, this could change the lives of people, so that these members would be at peace because when people are poor, everywhere we go they would just be running after the Hon. Members for money.

We expect a lot from the Governor's speech in terms of equal distribution of resources. I think there is an imbalance when it comes to mega projects. You realize that major projects going on one side and just like my colleague the Chair, Budget has concluded, our Governor has a good rapport with our President and we expect that the good rapport could bear a lot of fruits in our County. The President promised good things to the people of Bungoma. The best example is my own ward Bukembe East. The president has stood there not once, twice, thrice but almost four times himself promising that he will build a market and a car park and nothing has happened.

So we expect that the Governor should have also touched on the issue of how to raise our own source revenue.

Otherwise, we expect more from our Governor and just like my colleagues said, speaking is one thing but doing is another thing. A lot has been spoken, but we want to see a lot of things being done. Otherwise, I submit my points.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Caleb. Hon. Isaiah Sudi, proceed.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Hon. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity also to comment on the Governor's address. Two years ago, the Governor was in Siritanyi and he promised my

people during Hon. Sifuna's funeral that the road connecting my ward, Musikoma and township that is Munyali, Mulaha, Seret junction road will be tarmacked. I have even delayed because the residents have blocked the road. They are demanding to know why is it that there is no action on that road and if you look at his speech, those are the areas I expected him to have highlighted because it was to be funded by the World Bank.

The Chair Lands is here, the people from the lower side see no benefit from the Governor's speech. There is no flesh because when we talk of flagship projects, none of it is in Bumula and even this place we keep on talking about Paskari Nabwana and my uncle Henry Kere was the first MP of this area, he also contributed. I do not see why we keep on seeing or side as...As leaders, the cake of this County has to be shared equitably to benefit all regions because the Governor has two years to do development. How is he going to balance? He is supposed to complete the Naitiri- Brigadier- Kamukuywa Market. He has promised the people of Kimilili that they are going to do a sewage within the Kimilili Municipality and as a headquarter even Bungoma sewage line is too small and nobody is thinking about it and this is the one that when we talk of local revenue, Bungoma generates almost 50% of all our local revenue and we cannot see what we are doing as a leadership to enhance this revenue.

Today, I have listened on radio, the traders in Mbakalo have threatened they are not going to pay revenue because there is no toilet on that market. The auction ring is in bad shape. Equally at Mateka Market, the auction is not there and we put a lot of money in the department of Finance which took over the function of auction rings which is supposed to be either in Lands or Agriculture. They have not constructed even a single toilet on our markets. If you go to Dorofu and Kapkateny, it's the same story.

Last week, the people of Kapkateny were on radio that they are not going to pay revenue because they do not have just a toilet. When children keep on complaining about a toilet, can you really call yourself a father if you cannot make a toilet in the home? As we react on this speech, we must be very factual, because even in Health; the former regime, for those who were here, myself and you Speaker, we really did a lot on issues of Health, but now, it is upside down again.

When the Governor says that he has employed five hundred plus health workers, how many of them are health professionals? If you go through that list, tell me how many health professionals are there. You have just handpicked the sweepers and cleaners then you say that you have employed health workers. We should not come here and say what is not there. You have employed 200 cleaners, 200 casuals then you come here and say you have employed 500 plus health professionals.

In our Dispensaries and Health centers, they don't have lab technicians and my brother here in Naitiri/Kabuyefwe is a victim. His Ward has around five or six health facilities, but it doesn't have even a single lab technologist in all the facilities but here we say we have employed five hundred plus health professionals.

(Loud consultations)

We must employ...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Otsiula you are out of order. Let the Majority Deputy Whip say what is in his heart.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Protect me, protect me Hon. Speaker. I know the truth will always be the truth. It is not bad to employ mortuary attendants but if you compare a mortuary attendant and a nurse, who should be employed first? Because a nurse will prevent death so that we only have natural deaths then that one will make us again employ a mortuary attendant. You cannot start with a mortuary attendant and you leave nurses, lab technologists, doctors at home then you say that I have employed 500 plus health professionals. You must be factual because the only doctors that were employed are not more than 20 out of five hundred plus, nurses, maybe 90.

In simple terms, as a County, we must have priorities right because even if you go to technical departments like Public Works, we don't have enough engineers to work on our BQs so that even projects can be done faster because those who merit are very few there. If you go to Roads, the supervision is not there because the engineers are very few. I'm a member of the Lands Committee and there was a dispute in this County. We don't have a resident engineer to run the project of the office block. We had consultations and sought the National Government to assist us on the way forward and yet we have been employing.

On the same note, I remember in 2017, this County lost CT Scan because of a dispute on the ownership of the hospital land with the National government, Ministry of Housing. As we are speaking here, the blood bank has been stopped by a resident that where it is being constructed is not a hospital land and we have a CEO in the County who is supposed to follow up on that, so that we know exactly who the owner of that hospital land is. The hospital is there, but you cannot put there anything new. If you go through as you go to the mortuary, you will see that we are trying to have a blood bank which has stalled now; it has been stopped because the land does not belong to the hospital. We want such issues to be addressed and resolved by the CEO of this County because blood is now fully devolved; you will not go to Eldoret to seek for blood.

In terms of equity and being hands-on, we want to request His Excellency, the Governor that he gets out of the comfort zone and address even issues of pending bills that are coming up. Some of the contractors have no capacity and they keep on getting jobs, project after the other. He is not able to complete this project and he is given another one, so we end up having accumulated pending bills which he can easily address as the CEO.

Finally, when the President moves around, he says we balanced the scale for his election but we are not seeing the benefit. Nyanza is getting more than what we are supposed to get and yet our CEO is very close to the Government, he doesn't finish 2 or 3 weeks without seeing

His Excellency the President. You have heard what Hon. Majimbo said on the radio about Nzoia. We must tell the President that this is what we want, so that we come back again Mr. Speaker, plus yourself then we serve our final term and go home.

Mr. Speaker: You should be quoting the years of Hon. Kikechi, that only 30 years.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: No, I'm not. Mr. Speaker, we must do service for our people. Our work is service delivery. Let us improve because we are also leaders and if the CEO is not performing well, we are the most affected because we are with the people every day. Can you imagine if it were not for our leadership, Leader of Majority and yourself, how can you prepare a budget without putting even KShs.10 for accounts payables? You know, we changed the language; for accounts payable, those who have been reading, they know what I'm saying. You bring Supplementary Budget and you don't mention anything on accounts payable which is supposed to be the first charge. You only deal with the mega projects. I rest my case.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have been looking at my friend Hon. Sudi elaborating on some issues which touch my Ward and I want to thank him for that. I was here when the Governor was reading his speech and he highlighted a lot of things that affect the County and he did promise that out of his efforts, he would want to leave a mark as part of his legacy as he proceeds to the next level where he will be directed by God.

When we talk on matters of health in this County, it leaves a lot to be desired and when we keenly go through the speech of our Governor here, it straight away gives a lot of information to be followed by the opposition in this House, which in other words, calls itself a minority side. Since they may not be aware of what they should be doing in this House, you will allow us take that mantle and correct these things. We can at times oversight ourselves as we proceed because the team we rely on might not know what they should be doing.

On Health, in this County where the Governor did mention some facilities at Sub-County level which are being constructed and equipped like Bumula Sub-County hospital and many other Sub-County hospitals. How I wish that now that the system in this country has changed from NHIF to SHA, the Governor should now be very strict to the Department of Health in remittance or submitting of statutory deductions from the employees of the County so that as they earn their salary, the deductions are straight away remitted so that when patients are treated and are to settle their bills by SHA, there must be some money to clear the bills.

For instance, I have six health facilities in my Ward as mentioned by Hon. Sudi. I have a facility called Sango/Naitiri dispensary now upgraded to a health center, and the in-charge had made a request for Kshs. 400,000 shillings to be paid by SHA only to get KShs.15, 000. When he went ahead, and I have evidence to table if need be, when the in-charge went ahead to inquire, the answer was very simple, that this thing is more of political than professional. So you wonder, now how that can apply, that you need Kshs.400, 000 but you are given Kshs.15, 000. So the CEO of this County should be on lookout.

Today, as we deliberate on this speech of the Governor, I want to thank the Liaison team who are here as compared with the recent past where all of them had gone on leave and so we were just discussing. But looking at their bench, there was nobody. Today I'm very happy that whatever members are deliberating here will be submitted in time.

As I said, in recent past, in this County, a lot of dispensaries were upgraded into health centers but when you upgrade a dispensary into a health center it then means that you are upgrading also the services and that is the time now you will see some patients being advised upon being assessed to be in-patients. In my Ward, for example, out of the six dispensaries, two dispensaries were upgraded into health Centres and that is the Sango/Naitiri and Lungai health Centre and up to now no Clinical Officer has been posted there.

How I wish that this can be fast tracked so that we reduce the congestion from these other Sub-County hospitals. There are some diseases that can be managed at those health centers so that we can decongest our big hospitals in our County and also, that will now assist these health centres on revenue collection.

In the Governor's speech, he really elaborated on food production and he mentioned something to do with the employment of field extension officers to ease the production of food in this County. As much as we are waiting for more extension officers to be employed, we want to challenge the Governor and now the Department, those few that are already in the field, how are they performing? Because we can attest that some Members keep on complaining about Agriculture extension officers that are already in the field on how they are underperforming, they are not advising farmers well on the matter of soil testing and many other issues. In agriculture, we must be having Ward Agriculture officers, Ward veterinary officers and many other things. Otherwise, we implore the Governor to strictly check the Department to make sure that already employed officers who are on the site work adequately.

There is this element in the Governor's speech which has already been mentioned by my colleagues here; the Misikhu-Brigadier Road. It is almost 10 years now since this County started talking about one project every other time, Misikhu-Brigadier Road. We are made to understand that it is split into two categories, category one is handled from Naitiri to Brigadier passing Tongaren Ward and Soysambu whereby it is being done by the County Government. As I stand here, I want to appreciate the County on its part because that stretch that is passing in my Ward that is Naitiri Ward to me is complete. I am proud to stand here and say that there is a tarmac in my Ward on the stretch of Naitiri-Brigadier Road. It is also going through Tongaren in Hon. Okasida's Ward where I can also attest to it that it has moved some kilometers. The remaining part is Soysambu Hon. Stephen's Ward. The road does not touch on Ndalungu Ward and that is why probably Hon. Chikati may remain quiet.

There are two bridges that are complete now that is the Kiminini Bridge which was done by the County and the Mabusi Bridge in Tongaren Ward but the main challenge is now the stretch from Naitiri to Misikhu and now this touches Milima Ward, Mbakalo Ward and Ndivisi Ward. It has been a song being sung all through for all these 10 years. We want the Governor to come up very clearly and we avoid this song every now and then. As we talk of

Naitiri-Misikhu Road, has it been budgeted for? Has the Governor made an effort to check the budgetary element in the National Government? Has the money been put in the budget? Because from his speech, he did mention that that contractor who is doing the stretch from Naitiri- Brigadier is the one who will be given the same stretch from Naitiri - Misikhu but has it been put in the Budget for National Government so that we get done with it once and for all?

Finally, I want to challenge the Governor that let him make a thorough follow-up through our MPs in Bungoma County and particularly the Vice-Chair of the Budget who is Hon. Didimus Barasa, the Vice-Chair of the Roads Committee nationally to make sure that the issue of Misikhu-Brigadier has been put in the budget so that the road can be done for the welfare of our people in Bungoma County.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Waiti. I will have Hon. Aggrey but let me make these communication members. This debate is supposed to take at least four days, so when I pick the four who are going to talk now we will come back at 2:00 p.m. again for some more 5 or 6 people and even if you want next week again it is yours but if you get done in the evening today, we will stop there. Hon. Aggrey kindly proceed.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this chance to contribute towards the Governor's speech. If I pass on today, I will die as a very happy man. For today I am happy because the members of the Government side or the Majority side have started so well. If it was opposition or rather the minority who had started all these to blame and to debate on a serious note towards this Governor's speech, it wouldn't have been like this. Hon. Speaker, protect me because I have never...

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Let me give him a chance, Hon. Sudi under which Standing Order:

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: *(On a Point of Information)* 96(1) Hon. Speaker, as the majority team, we are only reacting. We are making comments; are not complaining. So I want to inform the member who is on stage that we are not complaining; we are only making comments

Mr. Speaker: Hon Sudi, what you are ventilating may be positive or negative. If it is negative then you are complaining.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: That is not complaining.

Mr. Speaker: What is it?

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Complaining and making remarks are 2 different things; get the dictionary and see. We are only making remarks be it positive or negative but we are not complaining

Mr. Speaker: That is okay, Hon. Jack.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: *(On a Point of Information)* Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to remind my colleague Hon. Mulongo that when we speak our voices

as majority side, we are only trying to correct our government and we are not complaining. We are saying that the Governor should get the right people to advise him and keep his words as per his promises. That's what we said, so for him to come and allege that we are complaining that is wrong. Nobody is complaining. All we are trying is to remind him.

Mr. Speaker: I hope Hon. Waliaula, you are properly guided with your age.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. You know you are the lawyer and you are our Speaker; you have really guided as a lawyer. We are now debating and if we are debating then you need either to put in a complaint or say yes. You have done it well.

To me, I am happy with the Governor's speech. I was very happy because he came and gave us his priorities

As a County Government, what is our priority? Even if you come from where, what is the priority of this County? When I heard the Governor's taking over speech, he talked of putting revenue teams in our Wards and as we are talking now, nothing has ever happened at the Ward level. Revenue collection is key to all of us here and yet there is nothing that has ever been done in this County. I am in the Finance committee and we came up with a report indicating how money is being spent on the ground. I think there is a very big problem with the revenue collection.

When we talk about projects, salaries or when we are talking about anything, it is revenue and we must put it as a first priority. According to me, His Excellency's speech did not touch on revenue and yet it is the heartbeat of our county. If we are not going to collect revenue, then the projects will not be done because our share will not be enough.

When it comes to departments of Agriculture, Lands and Health, the Chief Officers have no authority. They are usually in the office instead of going out and our CEO himself if he is not going to rubber-stamp authority within our County we are still going to mess up this County. To the first comers in this County Assembly, we need to be very careful. The Leader of Majority has outlined how and where and what we are supposed to do.

All of us need to do the oversight; it's not the minority side alone. If the messes are there, we need to oversight all of us. If we oversight all of us then we are heading somewhere; that's why I said I'm now happy.

Mr. Speaker we have liars and if we are not going to be careful, this legacy regime will not help us. The Governor is not going to defend his seat. He is going home and if you are here and you are trying to defend him then you need to be very careful. Hon. Makari said maybe three people are the only ones who might come back and I will also be among them because on the ground I'm performing.

(Laughter)

When it comes to flagship projects, Kamukuywa is there, Kanduyi is there, Chwele is there, Soko Kubwa is there and Industrial Park is there at Sang'alo Those flagship projects belong to

the Executive because they are the implementers. We need to have our CEF money being protected. Our CEF money will give us a good name. It will give us a mileage but with the flagship projects, it is not going to take us anywhere. It is only CEF money that is going to save us. If you want to be re-elected, let nobody touch on CEF money.

I stop there and thank you so much for protecting me from Hon. Sudi.

Hon. Chikati: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will be brief; I only have 3 comments to make. I want to agree with all the speakers that have spoken before me that what Governor read here on Thursday is information given by the Executive. How I wish that moving forward before the Governor comes to read his speech, he has consultation with elected MCAs to see if what he is coming to read is a true picture or information that has been cooked by the Executive.

Secondly, nowadays it is a norm that we talk about things and they are not implemented. I remember very well that last year around December, we were in Eldoret with the Governor and we talked about the stalled projects. Going through the address, there is nowhere he has touched about the stalled projects in our Wards and that is going to eat us in 2027.

Finally, we received a report of the Taskforce 2019 about the County Government land that has been grabbed and encroached. Going through the Governor's speech, there is nowhere the Governor has put mechanisms of how this land is going to be given back to the government. I rest my case.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Chikati, I thought that report we are supposed to read the recommendations before he can act on them. The report is before this House, tabled before the Committee on Lands. We ought to process the same, get feedback on action to be taken.

Hon. Chikati: When will be that Hon. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: But it is with the Committee on Lands. You want me to micromanage the committee?

Hon. Chikati: Okay Chairperson lands has to speed it up.

Mr. Speaker: You are sitting with the Vice chairperson next to you. Hon. Ipara.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me inform Hon. Chikati that you don't pre-empt matters before a committee. Let the committee make recommendations to the House for a decision.

Let me laud the Governor for appearing before this House. The reason why I am lauding him is he complied with the requirements of the law that he must appear and address the County. He did that and I want to commend him for that. You remember very well when he appeared here he quoted one book by Mark Derby; he said the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.

Hon. Speaker if you looked into the leadership of the Governor, it does not define what he himself quoted and what we need is, serious leaders who themselves walk the talk and talk the walk and for himself he is not. One anonymous author said, a queen without a strong court is just a woman with a crown. What this means, having a title or a position of power is not enough; true success and influence come from having a strong reliable team. A leader, no matter how skilled, cannot achieve much alone.

So the Honourable Governor is a lone ranger because all those who surround him as CECM, as Chief Officers we may say are the flower girls. The purpose is that they are just to carry flowers and to be seen as Chief Officers.

Mr. Speaker: Now that we have some of them who are men, are they all flower girls.

(Laughter)

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker, allow me to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Laughter)

And this why it brings a lot of doubt, to whether he is committed or not committed but I want to say they are not committed and why I say they're not committed, in the whole speech, he omitted very critical two issues.

One, Pending bills that have taken lives to graves. Reason? We have never paid them. He never mentions on how the services that we are enjoying in the county we are going to compensate in terms of payment. Never saying this is a shame.

The second thing that he convinces me to say is not committed is he said that he is going to enhance and increase on revenue to a million shillings. He never said the mechanism that is laid on the way to assist in the realization of that and that's why I want to agree with the earlier speakers that actually this was a speech that was just written for him and handed over in the morning before he appeared before this House.

The Hon. Governor said the financial space continues to shrink but he never said why it continues to shrink. Our budget that is allocated to us from the national government has never decreased. Every other time it keeps on increasing. The problem is we don't have the right managers to take care of what is allocated to us and what also injures the shrinking is wastage and misappropriation in the name of corruption.

You get a whole department who has failed in collecting revenue. They just work without shame. They add themselves 645 million Kenya shillings. Reason why? Because they are a department that is in charge of policy and they can relocate anything from left to centre forward. Hon. Speaker, are we fair? If this money 645 was allocated to pending bills, the Governor could have said something about it because he knew that there is nothing. That's why he said it is keeping shrinking and that's worse of him.

Let's talk about Health. He said health remains my key concern. Just a few meters away from where we are, we have a building that was built using payers money but this particular building has remained dormant for the last two and a half years that we have been here. Just looking for money from a contingency fund, purchase beds, equip the hospital and commission it. I want to believe that as earlier said by the Honourable Members, it is now seen that the opposition we have here do not know their work.

(Applause)

They are not serious of what they are supposed to do and lastly, they have gone to bed with the Executive.

(Applause)

We should not be ashamed to say what it is. To confirm this; the leadership of the opposition is not there and yet they are shouting? And if they are not here and we are discussing a serious matter, the Governor's speech, where are they? They only have their foot soldiers.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker, I can take a little information.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, you are protected proceed

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Thank you for that protection and today in the evening I will pray for you. The Governor said trade markets is going to ensure every sub-county has a market and today we are almost half of our period to serve but we have not even done a quarter of markets in the sub-counties.

So can we be convinced that in the remaining two and a half years we shall be able to put markets in seven sub-counties? The answer is no. So as the people bestowed responsibility oversight and represent the electorate in this House, we must stand up and be counted.

The Governor said his concern is enhancing accessibility of every part of the county and I also heard from the chairperson, Budget saying that the Governor is spending all of his time

on the upper side of the County. I was even wondering which upper side of the County he was referring to.

Is it Tongaren? If you walk to Tongaren as it was said by Hon. Waiti that road has been there for the last ten years and to be specific, for the last nine years. It was started by Honourable, His Excellency Lusaka. He was interrupted by His Excellency Wangamati. And he has come back himself who started the project.

Hon. Speaker, every time it is just a chorus. Misikhu/Brigadier road, when he turns right Brigadier road, when he turns left Brigadier road. They came last month to re-launch that project; the contractor only remained on site for five days, and after that he disappeared and I am not ashamed that it was a public relation exercise to confirm the money he had been paid and after that, he walked away.

And if this is what we are going to do, will this County really achieve the dream of our people? The answer is no. Let's talk about accessibility. Is every part of this County accessible? We want to say no, the reason is we have never gotten our priorities right.

If we allocate chunks of money to the Department of Finance and today they are planning to allocate themselves 1.9 billion. If we just remove the 9 billion every person who is about to be taken to grave, they will not go to the graves but their lives will be saved.

Lastly, I am here to ensure a journey towards a prosperous Bungoma. I doubt this because with a CEC in Lands who reallocates money without the authorization of this Assembly, will he really assist the Governor towards a prosperous Bungoma? The answer is no.

With a CEC who allocates himself 645 million just because he said that he was walking around and collected what was left behind by other departments, will this one assist Bungoma become prosperous? The answer is no. A CEC who every time finds time just to accompany the Governor everywhere, he wants to be seen just next to the Governor. Will this CEC assist the Governor? No.

The call is to the Honourable Members in this House that we must wake up. I am also included when I am saying we must wake up. So I am not referring to you. I am referring to all of us, because we cease to exercise our roles as the elected members who are supposed to perform three roles and the major among them is oversight, which nowadays we don't oversight but we just look when things happen. Whether wrong or right and we celebrate about them. I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Okasida. I will have Hon. Kimeta,

Hon. Polycarp Kimeta: Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir for giving me this opportunity to at least also talk about the Governor's speech. Personally, I want to deviate from other members who have made subjective corrections and start by saying that I will appreciate the Governor also for doing some projects that he promised during the campaigns.

The road network across the County is in good shape especially CEF roads which lies directly under the Governor's hand. We say that the roads have been done in a very right position and he noted that about 900 plus kilometres have so far been done.

On Health care, there is an issue of employment of about 500 plus employees. Hon. Sudi said some were mortuary attendants and classified as health care officers. When you now refer to Employment Act of 2007, it states clearly that someone employed in a department that is categorized assumes the title. So employing a mortuary attendant, a clerk in a health department there is no problem when he is classified as a health care person as long as he is employed and is doing the right thing to support the department.

When you look at the population that was employed, the Governor needs to be hands-on so that we ensure equitable employment of persons across the County. The issue might be employing persons from one sub-county and another sub-county has no employees.

When you look at the mega-projects that were started in the previous regime, we see that also these projects have affected the budget so much. Projects like this Dual Carriage that really is going to eat about one point something billion. I think in the next regime or coming, we need to have some guidelines so that when a Governor comes up with a flagship project, it must have an amount that is sustainable. Not heaping one point something billion in one sub-county, then another sub-county is not having the allocation.

When you look at most of these flagship projects are having serious pending bills; the High Altitude, Dual Carriage Road, Misikhu -Brigadier Road and for us from other sub counties like Kabuchai and Bumula, we have not benefited. We must ensure that we finish these projects so that other mega projects are started in other sub counties.

If we now ask the genuine amount of our total pending bills as a County, I don't know if the Governor is aware or the Minister of Finance is aware or if this Honourable House is also aware of how much money Bungoma County owes to suppliers and service providers. So we need to get the actual sums and also look at a way of helping the Governor deliver his legacy programs.

There is a member who said issues concerning this opposition. You know being in opposition is very difficult and I am aware that in this House, there is no one in opposition because we are having a broad-based government and once you have a broad-based government, you must be very subjective in making corrections.

(Applause)

As members of this County Assembly, we need to look for a way to support the Governor because he was elected and he is the one who is there up to 2027. We should not get worried, if we shall not be elected or not, that is not an issue at the moment but we should look for a way that will help the Governor deliver on the Key projects.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kimeta. Hon. Otsiula,

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will be very brief because it appeared Hon. Okasida read my mind very well. First of all, if you look at that the Governor's speech, it appears as if there is no coordination or the Governor does not have a clear picture of what is happening in those departments and what is on the ground. If the Governor says that right now we have internet connected in all VTCs across the county, and it goes on HANSARD, it becomes laughable.

It is very embarrassing because I expect those CECs and Chief Officers to furnish the Governor with correct information. Where I come from and even as a chair of the said department, just recently two weeks ago and the Majority Leader in this House is aware, we were invited to a meeting to address the VTC Principals and the concerns there were numerous. So when the Governor says that internet is now connected at least in every VTC and from what we were hearing on the other side, it means that the Governor is not being furnished with the correct information and therefore I agree with my senior and my uncle Hon. Sudi who said that we must step up as far as we are on the government side to put this government on toes.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo says that if he dies today, he will go a happy man because we members were perceived to be in the government. We are also putting the government on toes. That is very wrong. If you look carefully in this House, the Majority Leader is here, the Deputy Majority Leader is here, they are leading their troops very well.

(Applause)

They ensure that we are here to ensure that whatever is deliberated in this House, we come up with cogent results to ensure that the government is put in check. Look at the other side. The leader of the minority is not here.

Mr. Speaker: That is not your sitting area and I think we ought to punch you for that purpose. Why are you not taking up your role?

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: The leadership of Minority leader is not there. If I am in the government, I also expect that when we make mistakes, the person who is checking on me should be the first person to raise an alarm but if that person is in a comfort zone and he now

comes here saying that he will die a very happy person, because he has seen me today also voicing the concerns, it means he has now relinquished his position.

(Loud Consultations)

I am challenging members of the opposition because Hon. Mulongo is a proud member of the opposition to wake up and step up and I was asking that since I was elected, I have never seen members of the opposition hold even a single press conference...

(Applause)

...to challenge what they think is not correct in this government and if you are very keen on details like our Honourable Speaker, when members try to raise some issues even concerning this supplementary budget, you will see somebody saying don't touch our work. Which work? If I am a Chair of Education, I represent that committee with the views of those members. I must remind my brother here that please this increment of 30 million meant for salaries is not there because my CEC is not supporting this thing. It is nowhere to be supported but when a leader...

(Applause)

That I expect to step up and say, this document is not correct. He is the first person to say please wait for that thing to come and pass it the way it is. So that is where the problem lies. We want this opposition to wake up; challenge these policies so that it can put the government on toes.

Looking at this speech, I am very particular on the issues of ECDEs. I know Hon. Mulongo is becoming agitated but that is the truth of the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Having heard that even if he dies now...have you seen anybody dying now?

(Laughter)

Proceed,

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Issues of ECDE, if you look at that speech; we are moving away from these other issues of bursaries and scholarships and we have a matter in the courts concerning the COB and the County government. I expected the Governor to give a clear direction on how his government feels going forward what are the projections in that particular department as far as this matter of ECDE is concerned. But unfortunately there was no single mention on that. So sometimes we are left to wonder, what is the correct position of

the government? Sometimes even us on this other side; we face a lot of stick from the majority leader. Sometimes he thinks that we are the ones assisting the government to sleep on the job, but if you look at that speech, there is no single mention on ECDEs and that is our co-mandate. Now that we have said in this supplementary budget that we spare 90 million maybe to support activities in that department, I also expected the Governor to come out explicitly on these kinds of issues.

As I sum up on the issue of flagship projects, my two senior colleagues, Hon. Jack Wambulwa and Hon. Sudi have been very clear. We the people of Bumula after these five years; what will be our flagship project? Because as the Governor keeps on saying, I will consider all the nine sub-counties. We are seeing very big markets being put up. We are seeing projects coming up but not in Bumula. We are now doing the third year and we have not seen anything. So I wish that the Liaison team here will take that information to the Governor, so that when people will be celebrating the legacy of the Governor, we also want the people of Bumula to be in that line. We also want to celebrate after these five years at least with a serious project being implemented in Bumula sub-county.

Otherwise as members have put it, it is a collective concern. Let us as a House do the needful. Come together, bearing in mind that 2027 is just two years away and when I talk about that, Hon. Jeremiah is making a lot of noise. He needs to be very keen. Ward-based projects, I expected that in this particular speech the Governor will address this issue to ensure that we finish these projects because they determine our coming back here.

Somebody says in the Lands Committee there is some disarray there. They are not settling bills. Money goes to pay a project of a hundred million. When you go to the ground, you cannot see anything but the contractor has already received a hundred million in the name of putting up a residence. So I think the Governor must go and follow up these particular departments and ask them to provide him with information. Otherwise, they are going to embarrass him and he might realize that when it is very late that contractors are being paid money and they have not even moved on site and for our sake now, money put on CEF projects, leave alone these other flagship or whatever executive projects. We must ensure that as a House, these departments give priority to ensure that the bills are settled.

Somebody wanted to buy land for an ECDE last year; it was valued at 1.5 million. After one year the owner of the land has not been paid. The owner has changed his mind and wants to be paid two million. Now, we are putting this member under unnecessary pressure and back there they are saying the money that was allocated for purchase of this land, our competitors are busy now saying the MCA has eaten this money. So, some of these things going forward, I think we should just speak in one voice and ensure that we safeguard our people and also our interests.

Otherwise, there are also other parts of the speech which are commendable and what is good we say let the Governor carry on with that but our concerns must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Otsiula. Honourable members, for the time being we will pause the debate on Governor's speech and we will be receiving the same under Standing Order No 35 in the afternoon session.

So we will move to the next item in our order paper.

REPORT BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON MEDIUM-TERM DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026

Mr. Speaker: Yes, who is the mover? Yes, Hon. Kirong you proceed.

Hon. Joan Kirong (Member, Budget): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to move this motion on the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Paper for the period 2025-2026 to 2027-2028.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to skip up to Chapter 3. Scrutiny

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kirong, who are the members of this committee. Why are you avoiding mentioning the members here? You must give us 1.2 and you must appreciate the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk. Proceed.

If you are having issues, it will be out shortly.

Hon. Joan Kirong: Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Waiti, what is the issue?

Hon. Waiti Wafula: Hon. Speaker

Mr. Speaker: Kirong, take your chair for the time being.

Hon. Waiti Wafula: I am rising on a point of order following the deliberations in our Liaison Committee; where it was concluded that before a motion is moved, the committee concerned should raise a quorum.

(Loud consultations)

So you have seen the mover of the motion struggling not to even mention the members in the report

(Applause)

I propose that if they don't attain the quorum then the motion be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kirong, I think being a membership of 11, you must have five plus one, the mover plus five members. Can you confirm your membership?

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Members, we are confirming members who are here. If somebody is out we don't have to... Can you confirm the membership here?

(Applause)

(Loud consultation)

Can I confirm something? I haven't given anybody permission to be away from this sitting.

(Applause)

Yes Hon. Wambulwa.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Hon. Speaker,

Mr. Speaker: Order members! Low consultations.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Hon. Speaker, the quorum of Budget Committee is supposed to be five members. Hon. Polycarp who is a member has just gone to the toilet, he is coming back and the quorum will be there.

Mr. Speaker: Members, let me clarify; for committees which have 11 members it was agreed five plus one; the committees with 15 Members, we said seven plus one, and so it is across all committees. So can you confirm your membership once again. Whoever is on a call, either a short or long call, have him here.

If there is none, we will adjourn but it will be the first item at 2:30 p.m.

For record purposes, I allowed this committee to be out of the House in Kisumu last week to do this report. So they were all happy and they must all be in this House now.

(Applause)

(Loud consultation)

Hon. Members, Kirong can you confirm your membership.

(Loud consultation)

Members, when we are trying to count members present not whoever sneaked in and went out at the time of moving the report. So if they will not raise membership, we will adjourn and they will be heard at 2:30 p.m.

What is the issue Hon. Chikati?

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Budget Committee is not a special committee; all the committees are the same so treat it as you treated the other committees.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: So members, I think to that extend of using the Liaison Committee's own medicine, we will adjourn and they will be heard at 2:30 p.m.

(Applause)

The House rose at 11:15 a.m.