

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JULY, 2025

Morning Sitting

3rd County Assembly

4th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JULY, 2025

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

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

PRAYER

PAPERS

REPORT OF THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON STATUS OF ECDE CENTERS IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Honorable Speaker Sir, I rise to table a report of the Sectoral Committee on Education and Vocational Training on Status of ECDE Centers in Bungoma County.

(Paper laid by Hon. Johnston Ipara)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, a report of the Sector Committee on Education and Vocational Training On status of ECDE Centers in Bungoma County, is hereby tabled and the same becomes the property of the House accordingly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT OF THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON STATUS OF ECDE CENTERS IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

Mr. Speaker: Proceed and issue your notice accordingly.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker sir, I raise to issue a notice of motion that this House adopts the report of the Sectoral Committee on Education and Vocational Training on Status of ECDE Centers in Bungoma County.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Okasida. Honourable Members, a notice having been duly issued by the Sector Committee on Education and Vocational Training on the status of the ECDE Centers

in Bungoma County, the same will be shared to the Honourable Members. The same will be coming up as a motion in our Order Paper once scheduled by the HBC.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

HON. BRIGID KATASI SEEKS A RESPONSE FROM CECM, DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Speaker: The owner of the Statement Hon. Katasi is not in. the question is taken back to the HBC.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ICT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND 2023

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Ipara, you proceed in the first report.

Hon. Ipara Johnston: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. With your permission, I proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Can verify your quorum, because that is our standard.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Kindly, Honourable Members be upstanding.

Mr. Speaker: Can I have the members. I will read the members out because we need to confirm the quorum. The practice has been that I read out the names. Let me have; Hon. Caleb Wanjala, Tony Barasa, Juma, Jack Wambulwa, Sudi, Grace, Chemion, Kaiser, Ipara, Mukoyandali, Dorcas, Chikati, Cornelius, Bridgit, Florence.

Members were screaming to run away from the plenary.

(Laughter)

I think its seven plus one. Quorum is attained, we proceed. Proceed, that's why people ought to go to church to pray and the mosque, lets proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. In a light note, if you look on the list of members, there are members who have tendency not attending any meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Hon Ipara, leave that one for me, when you have a new broom, how to test its effectiveness is to start sweeping, so that part of people being absent, leave it to me you will see what's going to happen.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank for that guidance, I proceed. As earlier said this is report on the status of implementation of House resolutions for the calendar years 2022|2023 sectoral Committee on Public Administration and ICT, a. On page two is a table of contents, I proceed to page three.

Since the advent of the third Assembly, the County Assembly has enacted several pieces of legislation, given policy guidelines and directions through Sector Committee reports for effective functioning of the County Government. It is worth noting that after the adoption and communication of the House resolutions to the relevant County Executive Departments, implementation reports have not been forthcoming despite various attempts by the relevant Committees to request for them from the Executive.

Mr. Speaker: Honorable members, can we have some order to allow Ipara proceed. Proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I proceed to paragraph two.

Pursuant to Standing Order No. 205(2) of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders, the relevant County Executive Committee Member under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls, is mandated to provide a report, within sixty days of a resolution of the House or adoption of a report of a Select Committee, to the relevant Committee of the County Assembly in accordance with Article 183 (3) of the Constitution.

It is upon this premise that the County Assembly...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kawa, you know you have come in late,

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Kawa, you have come in late, can we have some order. Allow the mover to proceed. I don't protect because when moving a motion here if you have something to discuss with Hon...your neighbor, out there we have enough space. You can join Hon. Waiti and sit with Waiti because he is part of the government side, proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. It is upon this premise that the County Assembly through the Liaison committee requested for implementation status of House resolutions for sector committees for 2022 and 2023 calendar years from the respective Departments. The

reports were to clearly outline actions taken, progress achieved, challenges encountered and timelines for full implementation of both the resolutions and recommendations....

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kawa, either you have some order or I will send you out.

(Loud consultations)

If you have issues you go and solve them out. He is gone out

(Loud Consultations)

If you have issues you can follow him out and discuss it out there. Let's have some order here and I will say again, I am in the mood of sending people away, not for three says even for six months. Hon. Ipara, proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I'm used to such situations as a former police officer.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, proceed.

(Laughter)

Hon. Johnston Ipara: The reports were to clearly outline actions taken, progress achieved, challenges encountered and timelines for full implementation of both the resolutions and recommendations contained in the adopted reports, as well as the provisions of the enacted County legislations relevant to the Department. Written submissions were brought through the Office of the Clerk to facilitate interrogation and reporting by the respective Committees on 13th and 16th May, 2025.

Further, this decision sought to enhance the oversight role of Assembly Committees through the Implementation Committee by pushing for implementation of the House resolutions as provided for in the County Assembly Standing Order no. 212.

Finally, the Committee has comprehensively considered the implementation of one report and three Acts and hereby presents this report for consideration by the House.

PREAMBLE

I am pleased to present this report on the status of implementation of House resolutions for 2022 and 2023 calendar years. The information and insights contained in this report have been gathered through oral submissions and analysis of documents submitted by the County Executive Department of Public Service Management and Administration.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following are the current Members of the Committee on Public Administration and ICT:

1. Hon. Tony Barasa	Chairperson
2. Hon. Caleb Wanjala	Vice chairperson
3. Hon. Joseph Nyongesa	Member
4. Hon. Jackson Wambulwa	Member
5. Hon. Busolo Sudi	Member
6. Hon. Francis Chemion	Member
7. Hon. Johnston Ipara	Member
8. Hon. Grace Sundukwa	Member
9. Hon. Cornelius Makhanu	Member
10. Hon. Timothy Chikati	Member
11. Hon. Stephen Kaiser	Member
12. Hon. Job Mukoyandali	Member
13. Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba	Member
14. Hon. Brigid Katasi	Member
15. Hon. Florence Juma	Member

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I take this opportunity to thank your Office and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma for the support received as the Committee discharged its mandate. I also appreciate Committee members for dedicating their time to examine and analyze the House Resolutions for 2022 and 2023 calendar year. Further, I would also like to appreciate the secretariat who worked with us for their commitment.

It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Hon. Members of the Sectoral Committee on Public Administration and ICT, to table this report and recommend it to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Report Signed by Hon. Tony Barasa Chairperson Sectoral Committee on Public Administration and ICT

GUIDING CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PRINCIPLES

In line with the oversight mandate granted to the County Assembly under Article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Section 8(1) (b) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and the County Assembly Standing Orders, the County Assembly requested for implementation status reports of the House resolutions for Sector Committees for Calendar years 2022 and 2023.

The Committee carried out interrogations of the Department focusing on the provisions of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Order no. 205(1) and (2) on County Assembly resolutions thus;

(1) The Clerk shall, within seven days of a resolution of the House or adoption of a report of a Select Committee, convey the resolution and where applicable, a copy of the report, to the relevant County Executive Committee Member, independent Commission or holder of a Statutory Body under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls.

(2) Within sixty days of a resolution of the House or adoption of a report of a Select Committee, the relevant County Executive Committee Member under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls, shall provide a report to the relevant Committee of the County Assembly in accordance with Article 183 (3) of the Constitution.

Standing Order 212(4); Committee on Implementation states that;

(4) The Committee shall scrutinize the resolutions of the House (including adopted Committee reports), Petitions and the undertakings given by the County Executive Committee and examine-

- a) Whether or not such decisions and undertakings have been implemented and where implemented, the extent to which they have been implemented; whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary; and
- b) Whether or not legislation passed by the House has been operationalized and where operationalized, the extent to which such operationalization has taken place within the minimum time necessary.

(5) The Committee may propose to the House, sanctions against any Member of the County Executive Committee who fails to report to the relevant Select Committee on implementation status without justifiable reasons.

ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2022 AND 2023

During the Liaison Committee meeting, it was resolved that House resolutions for the Calendar years 2022 and 2023 be considered in terms of how far the relevant Departments had adhered to

the implementation of the recommendations of Assembly Committees contained in the adopted reports by the House. During the period under review, the following reports and legislations by the Sectoral Committee on Public Administration and ICT were adopted by the House and conveyed to the CECM Public Service Management and Administration;

- i. Report on the Nine months financial statements for the period ended 31st March, 2023
- ii. The Bungoma County State of the County Address Act, 2023
- iii. The Bungoma County Flag, Emblems and Names Protection Act, 2015
- iv. The Bungoma County Decentralized (Administrative) Units Act, 2015

Subsequently, the County Executive Committee Member was invited for the interrogations via a letter referenced CAB/ADM/6VOL.V (93). The Committee conducted its interrogation on 16th May 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Assembly Precincts.

INTERROGATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

On the requirement to provide an implementation report to the relevant Committee of the County Assembly within sixty days after adoption of a report by the House and in accordance with Article 183 (3) of the Constitution read together with Standing order 205(2) of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders, the CECM Public Service Management and ICT submitted to the Committee that some of the resolutions had been implemented while some had not due to budgetary constraints and other factors. However, no evidence of implementation had been submitted to the assembly as per the above requirement.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the reports handled by the Committee, Departmental responses, Committee observations and recommendations on their implementation status of the Committee recommendations:

1. REPORT ON THE 9TH MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023

OFFICE OF H.E THE GOVERNOR

The report was adopted by this House on 11th October, 2023 with recommendations therein. It was forwarded to the Department of Public Service Management and Administration for action as per the provisions of Standing Order No. 205.

Resolution No. 1

THAT, the County treasury must ensure correctness of the financial statements by the consulting user Departments before submission to the County Assembly for consideration.

Response from the Department

The Department submitted that it has continuously consulted with the County treasury to ensure the correctness of the financial statements.

Committee observation

The Office of the Governor has had discrepancies in financial reporting. The Committee notes that the office does not follow up on the reports submitted to treasury to ensure they are correctly captured.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 2

THAT, pending bills should be paid by 2nd quarter of each financial year to avoid litigations and also in line with the County treasury circular that put pending bills as first charge.

Response from the Department

The Department submitted that during the period under review, pending bills had an allocation of Ksh.11, 595, 249. Out of this, Kshs. 8,488,970 was paid. The companies paid were Administration police welfare Ksh.1, 500, 000; African Touch Safaries Kshs. 4,092,070 and the Standard group PLC Kshs. 2,896,900 leaving a balance of Kshs. 3,106,279.

Committee observation

As at the time of compiling this report, all pending bills that had been budgeted for during the reporting period had been settled. However, there were delays in payment occasioned by the slow release of funds from the exchequer.

Status of Implementation

Implemented

Resolution No. 3

THAT, the Accounting Officers must comply with the provisions of Regulation 93(5), (6), (7) and (8) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 in respect to management of imprests.

Response from the Department

The Department has ensured that there are no multiple imprests issued to an individual and the seven day limit is adhered to. The Department also submitted that standing imprests are regulated by a circular issued by the CECM, Finance and Economic Planning in the year 2022. As a result of the, all the imprests had been surrendered.

Committee observation

The office of the Governor had a total of Kshs. 35,111,650 outstanding imprest for the reporting period. No evidence of surrender of the imprests was submitted to the Committee for verification.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 4

that, the department must declare an accurate and detailed report on all pending bills to the County Assembly for proper budgeting and scrutiny by the Committee two weeks after adoption of this report.

Response from the Department

In the response, the Department submitted that it has since declared the pending bills and submitted to the County treasury for consideration.

Committee Observation

Pending Bills as provided for in the budget for the period under review were paid. Current status of the pending bills was submitted to the Committee.

Status of Implementation

Implemented

Resolution No. 5

THAT, the Ministries and Departments should desist from attending LREB activities until the LREB Bill is passed

Response from the Department

The Department submitted a signed agreement that has given it the mandate to participate in the Lake Region Economic Bloc activities.

Committee Observation

The Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) Bill was rejected by the Second County Assembly in 2018. Despite this, the Department has continued to allocate funds to facilitate the participation by H.E. the Governor in LREB meetings, in which he serves as the Vice Chairperson. The Committee observes that this expenditure lacks a legal framework and therefore constitutes an irregularity.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented

Resolution No.6

THAT, budgets must be implemented as approved pursuant to PFMA 149(1)

Response from the Department

The Department has adhered to the approved budget.

Committee Observation

The Committee noted that there was no budgetary allocation to cater for Assumption of Office by H.E the Governor.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SECRETARY AND HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Resolution No. 1

THAT, the County treasury **MUST** ensure correctness of the financial statements by consulting the user Departments before submission to the County Assembly for consideration.

Response from the Department

The Department submitted that it has continuously consulted with the County treasury to ensure the correctness of the financial statements.

Committee observation

The Department has not undertaken adequate consultations or follow-up with the County Treasury to ensure that the information submitted is accurately captured.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented

Resolution No. 2

THAT, pending bills should be paid by 2nd quarter of each financial year to avoid litigations and also in line with the County treasury circular that put pending bills as first charge.

Response from the Department

The office has done ring fencing of pending bills funds for ease of processing their payments.

Committee observation

Most of the pending bills as budgeted for in the period under review were paid. However, no supporting documents were submitted to the Committee.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 3

THAT, the Accounting Officers **MUST** comply with the provisions of Regulation 93(5), (6), (7) and (8) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 in respect to management of imprests.

Response from the Department

The Department has ensured that there are no multiple imprests issued to an individual and that the seven day limit is adhered to. The Department also submitted that standing imprests are regulated by a circular issued by the CECM, Finance and Economic Planning in the year 2022. Attachment of un-surrendered imprests to individual salaries has been done and appointment of an accountant made specifically in charge of imprests with the view of ensuring that no individual holds more than two imprests.

Committee observation

No evidence of attachment of un-surrendered imprests to individual salaries was submitted to the Committee as well as supporting documents i.e. the IFMIS print out.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented

Resolution No. 4

THAT, the Department **MUST** declare an accurate and detailed report on all pending bills to the County Assembly for proper budgeting and scrutiny by the Committee two weeks after adoption of this report.

Response from the Department

The Department is ensuring timely update of pending bills list, accuracy and completeness.

Committee Observation

The Department has consistently submitted figures on pending bills that differ from those reported by the County treasury

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION & ICT

Resolution No. 1

THAT, the County treasury must ensure correctness of the financial statements by consulting the user Departments before submission to the County Assembly for consideration.

Response from the Department

Periodic Meetings on the preparations and submissions of financial statements to the County Assembly have been centralized in the County treasury under the leadership of the Director, Accounting Services to ensure their correctness. This has reduced variance between the County financial reports and those from the Department.

Committee observation

The Department does not follow up on the information submitted to the treasury to ensure it is correctly captured. Minutes of the periodic meetings with the County treasury were not provided.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 2

THAT, pending bills should be paid by 2nd quarter of each financial year to avoid litigations and also in line with the County treasury circular that put pending bills as first charge.

Response from the Department

The department ensures timely processing of pending bills for payment in accordance with the available budget allocations and exchequer releases. As a result, 16% of the current (FY 2024/2025) pending bills amounting to Kshs.12.8 Million out of 82.1 Million have been paid in the 2nd quarter of the financial year.

Committee observation

Out of the Ksh.18 million allocated for the settlement of pending bills, only Ksh.12 million was utilized, leaving an unspent balance of Ksh.6 million. The underutilization was attributed to delays in the release of funds by the National Treasury.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 3

THAT, The Accounting Officers **MUST** comply with the provisions of Regulation 93(5), (6), (7) and (8) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 in respect to management of imprests.

Response from the Department

The Department has since ensured that there are no multiple imprests issued to an individual and the seven (7) day limit is adhered to. The Department also submitted that standing imprests are regulated by a circular issued by the CECM, Finance and Economic Planning in the year 2022.

Committee observation

The Committee notes with concern that some imprests date back to 2019 and some of the officers have since left the service. The Accounting officer has failed to invoke the provisions of the PFM Regulations 93(5) in respect to the management of imprests.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 4

THAT, the Department must declare an accurate and detailed report on all pending bills to the County Assembly for proper budgeting and scrutiny by the Committee two weeks after adoption of this report.

Response from the Department

Accurate and detailed report on pending bills list was submitted to the County Assembly. The Department continues to update pending bills list to ensure accuracy and completeness at any given time.

Committee Observation

The updated list of pending bills was submitted. However this was not submitted on time.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Resolution No. 1

THAT the County treasury must ensure correctness of the financial statements by consulting the user Departments before submission to the County Assembly for consideration

Response from the Department

The County Treasury has centralized and taken the leadership in the preparation of financial statements to ensure their correctness.

Committee observation

The Department does not follow up on the reports submitted to ensure they are captured correctly. No evidence of the correspondence between the Department and the office was submitted.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 2

THAT, pending bills should be paid by 2nd quarter of each financial year to avoid litigations and also in line with the County treasury circular that put pending bills as first charge.

Response from the Department

Out of the Kshs.61 million budget proposal, Kshs.28 million has been budgeted for payment of pending bills. Budget allocations are insufficient to clear the pending bills and the uploading of

half year budgets hamper quick processing of pending bills whose payments are further delayed by exchequer releases.

Committee observation

The Committee notes with concern that the Department failed to pay the pending bills despite having a budgetary provision to cater for the same.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 3

THAT, the Accounting Officers **MUST** comply with the provisions of Regulation 93(5), (6), (7) and (8) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 in respect to management of Imprests.

Response from the Department

The Office of the County Attorney does not process staff salaries'. Therefore, follow up on salary recoveries for un-surrendered imprests are quite a challenging process.

Committee observation

The Accounting officer has failed to invoke the provisions of the PFM Regulations with regard to management of imprests.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

Resolution No. 4

THAT, the Department **MUST** declare an accurate and detailed report on all pending bills to the County Assembly for proper budgeting and scrutiny by the Committee two weeks after adoption of this report.

Response from the Department

Delayed submission and sometimes submission of incomplete documentation of the payment requests by the suppliers of goods and services often cause delays in payments. To address this, the office ensures monthly updating of pending bills list is in place to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Committee Observation

The Department does not have an accurate and updated list of pending bills. The office does not follow up on the information submitted to the Treasury to ensure it is accurately captured.

Status of Implementation

Not implemented.

2. STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS ACT 2023

This Act was passed by the County Assembly, assented to by H.E the Governor and published on 12th April 2023. Below is the response from the Department on the status of implementation;

Response from the Department

Section 4 requires the Governor to deliver the annual State of the County Address at the County Assembly providing a framework for implementation.

Status of Implementation

The County Government has implemented and operationalized all the provisions of this Section.

Section 7 (1) of the Act provides for the accompaniment of the Governor to the Chamber.

The Governor has been accompanied by the County Executive members during the state of the County Address.

The Act does not give leeway for the enactment of the regulations to operationalize it.

Committee Observations

The Committee observed as follows on the State of County Address Act 2023.

1. The Committee notes that the details of the measures and progress under Section 4 (a) have never been published in the Gazette. Further, section 5(1) has not been complied with.

2. A report on citizen participation in the affairs of the County Government has never been submitted to the County Assembly for scrutiny as per the provisions section 4(d) of the Act.
3. Section 4 requires the Governor to deliver the annual State of the County Address at the County Assembly providing a framework for implementation. However, this requirement has not been fully complied with.
4. The County Executive Committee does not recognize the Department of Public Service Management as the lead custodian Department which facilitates the coordination and the preparation of the County state Address by the H.E the Governor; this has seen other Departments do the same as observed during the State of the County Address 2025.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends as follows on the State of the County Address Act 2023.

1. **THAT**, pursuant to Section 5(1) of the State of the County Address Act, 2023, the County Executive Committee Member for Public Service Management ensures that all measures and progress reports under Section 4(a) are published in the Kenya Gazette within the timelines provided for by law.
2. **THAT**, the County Executive Committee Member for Public Service Management submits to the County Assembly a detailed report on citizen participation in the affairs of the County Government, as required under Section 4(d) of the Act, to facilitate legislative scrutiny and public accountability 30 days after adoption of this report..
3. **THAT**, H.E Governor fully complies with the provisions of Section 4 of the Act by delivering the State of the County Address annually in the County Assembly and ensuring that the Address provides a clear framework for implementation, as envisioned by the Act.
4. **THAT**, the County Executive initiates appropriate administrative measures to formally designate the Department of Public Service Management as the lead Department responsible for coordinating the preparation and delivery of the State of the County Address, to streamline the process and avoid duplication of roles by other Departments, as was witnessed during the 2025 Address.

3. THE BUNGOMA COUNTY FLAG, EMBLEMS AND NAMES PROTECTION ACT, 2015.

The Committee considered the status of implementation of this Act as one of its activities and prepared a comprehensive report which will be considered by this House.

4. THE BUNGOMA COUNTY DECENTRALIZED (ADMINISTRATIVE) UNITS ACT, 2015.

The Committee considered the status of implementation of this Act and the report was tabled and adopted by this Honorable House.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General Observations

The Committee made the following observations;

1. Evidence/supporting documents were not submitted to enable committee make a conclusion on the resolutions for instance on surrendered imprests.
2. Imprests remain un-surrendered from 2019, yet some officers have since left service. The Accounting Officer contravened the provisions of Regulation 93 (5), (6), (7) and (8) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 in respect to management of Imprests.
3. The Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) Bill was not passed by the Second County Assembly. Despite this, the Department has continued to allocate funds to facilitate the participation of H.E. the Governor in LREB meetings, in which he serves as the Vice Chairperson. The Committee observes that this expenditure lacks a legal framework and therefore constitutes an irregularity.
4. There was no budget to facilitate the Assumption office for his H.E the Governor. Funds were drawn from other Departments like Gender and Culture to facilitate this which has affected implementation of other programmes.
5. The report on the status of implementation of the Bungoma County Decentralized (Administrative) Units Act, 2015 was considered and adopted by the House.
6. The Committee considered the status of implementation of the Bungoma County Flags, emblems and names protection act and has forwarded the report for consideration by the House.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee Recommends as follows:

1. **THAT**, evidence of surrendered imprests be submitted to the County Assembly within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this report, to ensure accountability and facilitate appropriate follow-up action.
2. **THAT**, the Department of Public Service Management should ensure allocation of funds for the Assumption of Office of H.E the Governor in the FY 2027/2028 budget, to facilitate smooth and effective execution of related functions.
3. The Committee recommends that the CECM, Public Service Management to expeditiously develop and submit to the County Assembly appropriate legislation on the Lake Region Economic Bloc within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this report. This will provide the necessary legal framework to enable the County Assembly to allocate funds for facilitation of related activities
4. **THAT**, The Accounting Officers **MUST** comply with the provisions of Regulation 93(5), (6), (7) and (8) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 in respect to management of Imprests. Further, the Committee recommends that the Accounting Officer institutes proceedings to surcharge the responsible officers. Failure to do so shall render the Accounting Officer liable for appropriate action. The outcome of these actions should be reported to the Sector Committee within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this report.

With your permission Honourable Speaker, let me request a Member of this Committee, Hon. Francis Chemion to second the report.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Francis Chemion

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First, I want to thank the mover of the motion Hon. Johnston Ipara for doing it very well.

The County Assembly Committees especially the Sectoral Committees, through your leadership Honourable Speaker, decided to comb the resolutions of the Sectoral Committees or of these Committees from 2022 to date to check whether those resolutions that the committees made had been implemented. From the report that we have had, there are very many resolutions that have not been implemented.

We should be putting the Executive on toes each and every time by going back to the resolutions that we make. We have always said the Lake Region Economic Block, we participate in it but we do it illegally. In the second Assembly, the Lake Region Economic Block Bill did not attract a seconder. It didn't attract a second meaning the House rejected in total that bill.

But we are still spending monies by attending its meetings and even remitting funds minus the legal framework. I'm very sure this is a very big issue that needs to be addressed. There are two avenues. If the executive wanted to be part of it, it is their prerogative to bring back the Bill for the House to decide whether to be part of it or not, and thereafter they must abide by House decision.

This matter of imprest and un-surrendered imprests is a thorn in the flesh, because you realize that reports that have been debated in this House, none has missed this issue. We have staff who have been given three imprests consecutively without surrendering the earlier ones. The Law is very clear that you cannot have more than one imprest and you are not even supposed to stay with it for eternity, because some of the imprest that has not been surrendered dates back to 2019.

We deal with the accounting officers themselves; let them pay on behalf of those ones who have not surrendered. The law is clear that if the accounting officer is not ensuring that an imprest given to staff is surrendered, then he is the one who is culpable.

We still have some pending bills even where the County Assembly has appropriated money, like there was an appropriation of 11 million for payment of pending bills, the Executive just paid 8 million, which is going to accumulate more interests. They should have cleared because the monies were appropriated for the same.

Where have both the Committee on Implementation and the Sector Committees, we all need to put the Executive on toes to ensure full implementation of the house resolutions. But if we dispense this report and the Committee on Implementation can still pick up.

So as a house let us approach using all means to ensure that there is proper implementation of all the House resolutions that this House passes, so that service delivery to our people is enhanced.

Therefore, I want to second this report by saying that the budget that will be coming for 2027/2028, we must remember as a House to budget for monies for assumption of Office of the Governor. Because the Assumption of Office is in Law but we didn't budget it in the previous term, and it interfered with the programs that had been budgeted for.

Because we know the elections will be done, and there will be a new Governor or whoever will come, he will assume office. And we have those procedures which are in Law. So we put it on our record that we provide for such monies. I second the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Francis Chemion, for seconding the report that was moved ably by Hon. Johnston Ipara Okasida. Honourable Members, allow me to be able to proceed and be able to propose a motion for debate.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on a report well read by Honourable Member for Tongaren Ward

There is this issue of pending bills that as a House we must pronounce on it, because a Contractor does a road which is completed and handed over to the community for use and now the Contractor is left hanging, just like Hon. Francis Chemion mentioned, for instance there is 11 million for pending bills, only 8 Million is paid and the contractor will hang at the Treasury looking for this 3 million, and yet the project is being utilized by our people.

We as a House must come up maybe with a framework of cushioning these contractors. If you look at the cost of living and then you do a project in a financial year 2022/23, then you are paid in 2026/27, then there is no value in your work as an entrepreneur or as an investor in our County. If you look at the Executive, most of the resolutions that have been read have not been implemented.

The Executives prefer to go to the Senate than what we do here, because when they come from the Senate, the same resolutions that we have given them to implement, they come and implement very quickly. That the Senate has invited us, you see them busy in offices preparing responses to the Senate, but they don't take this House seriously. In your own wisdom, I don't know what we shall do so that they also listen to us.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi Busolo, these Standing Orders and the County Government Act gives you powers to punish, I'm waiting for you to punish them so that I uphold your punishment. What are you waiting for? You have chairs in the committees, punish them severely. I will assist you to initiate the punishment if need be.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Because you look at all the resolutions that are passed by this House, none of them has been implemented or it is implemented half-way. But when they go to the Senate, they prepare very well, maybe there is a cane in between Bungoma and Naivasha that makes them to prepare well for the urge my colleagues that let us tighten our rules to make them work. Last week I saw a contractor Senate and implement their recommendations.

I want to, who supplied goods worth Kshs. 200,000 to the County Government of Bungoma in 2022, and he has been at the County Treasury many times and every time he is being told his payment is at IB. The County Treasury is too selective in making payments.

There's a play, where we have characters like Mulili and others, you see, this is a very selective government, the treasury is also selective, that if you are not...

Mr. Speaker: I keep on telling you, when you quote such books, some people in this House were not born. So try to do the simpler ones. They are laughing because the book was only read by older people like me. Proceed.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: I know there are those who did it, like Hon. Chemion can attest to it.

Mr. Speaker: Don't talk about Hon. Job and Hon. Aggrey; you know what I'm mean.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: If you read that book and equate with what is happening in Bungoma, it becomes real. Because they ask who are you to be paid? Why do you award a contract to this person then? I don't know if it is brotherhood or what? That you must go to the Governor first and we put our Governor in an awkward situation. Contractors must go to the Governor then the Governor must go to the treasury saying pay these ones.

This is the Bungoma County and you will see that when you go through the pending bills, there are some which have been paid more than once because they know why they have done that, but the genuine ones, you will go there forever even these Honorable Members must go there for the projects that were done in their wards, because contractors are always at your door when you wake up in the morning and surely we must not do that.

Let us have a system that works on its own, so that equity is realized in this County. Otherwise, the less privileged are so much disadvantaged by the County Treasury of Bungoma. I have a maternity wing that was done in my ward in 2020/2021, it is in use but the contractor is still running up and down to be paid. Money was put in the supplementary to pay pending bills. Are you aware that most of that money has not been touched? It was not expended. If you recall the First Supplementary Budget that we did you will see that we are really in a problem because the pending bills were not paid. The money was not expended. Somebody put a leg on it and said, no.

Recently development payments were done selectively. The contractors are still crying as much as we say there will be no salary; the problem with salary is already there because the money for development is now being channeled to payment of salary.

On the imprest; some people have retired and they still owe the County Government money in form of un-surrendered imprest. How will you recover when the imprest holder retired? So Chief Officers and other authorizing officers need to be serious about management of imprest.

Devolution is being diminished by people who opposed devolution and we have put them in the government and they opposed it and they don't want devolution to succeed. People are suffering and you tell them that I am an MCA, he doesn't see why you should be there because there is no development.

We are now becoming like counselors. I imagine a situation where a contractor has opted to do a road as a corporate responsibility because he got a contract in my ward. Then he goes on and it takes like three, four years for him to be paid. Will that person help you again, if you invite him to sort may be a small problem in your Ward, he will not. the executive has taken us for a ride. When they are here, they just pretend but as soon as they leave these premises, they go back to where they were. So as a House we must see how to deal with them the way the Senate does. The Senate really harasses them, so we must also come up with a culture that will ensure that they respect this Assembly. I rest my case. I support the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Martin Chemorion!

Hon. Martin Cheseto: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. Foremost, I want to appreciate the mover of the motion, the seconder and my Chief Whip here who has quoted some lines in the book written by Francis Imbuga.

Mr. Speaker: Today I'm appreciating that the verses of the bible have reduced.

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I just want to talk about the Governor's address. The committee has actually observed that it is actually a requirement as passed by this House on the importance of the Governor giving an address to this House but unfortunately, maybe sometimes he has skipped once or twice, denying us the update of what is transpiring in the County. As we actually recommend that the Governor has to address sometimes ought also to be serious on the kind of the content. Sometimes whatever is contained in the Governor's address is just wishful thinking. Sometimes they are actually policy statements sometimes which are not truthful, and which are not even meant to be adhered to and sometimes he don't mean it and it is not prioritized.

So I want to challenge the committee to go further to audit the kind of the policy statement or the address that he gives or what issues is he going to address and which issues has not been addressed.

On the LREB; there is a laid agreement that is written between maybe the County Government of Bungoma and maybe the LREP and yet this House as a seconder, I was actually hearing that there was no seconder in approving that bill. So this House was categorical and it pronounced itself that activity ought not to continue and that's why they shot down the bill and yet the Governor has even gone further to engage in an agreement. To us it is a null and void, so any money that is expended is actually an illegible expenditure and an illegible expenditure means it borders around maybe fraud or theft of the County monies and yet you are only recommending that the CEC in charge of public administration should move with speed to come up with a legislation so that it's approved but what happens now to the money that was irregularly utilized? I think the mover of the motion

ought to give us an explanation, how we are going to recover this money which was used irregularly?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cheseto. Hon. Ipara, kindly reply to the motion.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me laud Hon. Francis Chemion for seconding and Hon. Sudi, Martin for contributing. When Hon. Chemion was seconding, he did came up with very three critical issues. The first one is let us abide by the law. I think as the Honourable Members we must ensure that the County Executive complies and operates within the law and we should run away so fast from being crying babies. We should not accept to cry, but other than crying, let us give solutions to the problems that persist in the County.

I want to commend the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk for standing firm and coming up with a Verification Committee and we believe that soon that report is coming out and will cure the disease called pending bills.

We should also stand firm in every committee that we are in and as sound a warning to the Executive that business is not as usual. We are here for three purposely functions and they are supposed to give services to the people of Bungoma.

They are trying to divide the House so that they can achieve their selfish hidden agendas, they don't intend good for the people of this County. So let's stand and be counted and when the darkness falls don't accept to go for those meetings that are held in the darkness and if the meeting is not sanctioned by the Speaker of this House, don't attend. Why do you attend those meetings, if not to address your selfish demands or interest?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, to my understanding a reply to a motion is to respond to the issues raised by your colleagues during submission. Anything else...

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, anything else there's enough space out there for you to raise issues. Stick to the issues that have been raised today by Hon. Sudi and Martin Chemorion.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker, I was raising the issue raised by Hon. Sudi when he was crying that the Executive preferred to go to the Senate and us...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi, during the reply, you can't be given audience. Either way, you are too senior to be corrected. Let's proceed

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. What the executive lacks is the list of priority. When it comes to services to provide they don't know which ones to come first. Also when it

comes to payment, they don't know which one to pay. But I discovered they prefer paying works that have not been done. And I want to call upon all of us to put this to an end so that at least the suffering suppliers and contractors of Bungoma County get money for works they have performed.

On the Governor's address; we have exhaustively addressed on recommendation three, where we are saying in future issues contained in the Governor address must have clear details that are implementable in law.

This committee has made serious recommendations that will implicate some of those officers who are not willing to comply with the law and implement the resolutions of this House. I plead that let's approve these resolutions so that we can hold them accountable to their failures in the County. I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ipara.

(Applause)

Honourable members, allow me to proceed and put a question to the motion beforehand.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Ayes have it. The report is adopted accordingly.

Next,

REPORT OF THE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROMOTION POLICY 2024

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi, you proceed and you do the necessary. Call your House to order. Can your members be upstanding for verification?

(Loud consultations)

Let me call them out quickly so that we are able to move together. Hon. Wafula Waiti, Hon. Idd Chamawi. Hon. Sudi Busolo, Mutiambu, Meshack, Luseneka, Opwora, Alfred, Caleb Wanjala, Simotwo, Kikechi, Chemorion, Jerusa ALeu, Nganga, George Tendet. How many are you? These people are seven plus one. The quorum is there. We proceed.

(Applause)

If you had a plan of running away, I'm very sorry for you

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Yeah, yeah. Hon. Speaker, I will start with.

3. Hon. Busolo Sudi	Member
4. Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu	Member
5. Hon. Meshack Simiyu	Member
6. Hon. Anthony Luseneke	Member
7. Hon. Simotwo Franklin	Member
8. Hon. Jerusa Aleu	Member
9. Hon. Alfred Mukhanya	Member
10. Hon. Caleb Wanjala	Member
11. Hon. Edwin Opwora	Member
12. Hon. George Tendet	Member
13. Hon. Bernard Kikechi	Member
14. Hon. Martin Chemorion	Member
15. Hon. Nganga Sifuna	Member

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In the legislative context, a policy is a formal document that articulates the strategic intentions and objectives a government seeks to realize for the benefit of society at large.

Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 clearly affirms that the legislative authority of a County is vested in its County Assembly and mandates the Assembly to make laws that are necessary for the effective performance of the functions and exercise of the powers of the County Government.

The provisions of Article 185 states that;

1. The Legislative Authority of a county Assembly is vested in, and exercised by, its County Assembly.
2. A County Assembly may make any Laws that are necessary for or incidental to, the effective performance of the functions and exercise of the powers of the County Government under the fourth schedule.
3. A County Assembly, while respecting the principles of separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive Organs.
4. A County Assembly may receive and approve plans and policies for:
 - a. The management and exploitation of the counties resources; and
 - b. The development and management of its infrastructure and institutions.

Bungoma County lacks a published policy framework specifically dedicated to the promotion and development of Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET).

The absence of such a policy hinders the systematic growth and coordination of ATVET programs within the County which are critical for enhancing skills development, promoting youth employment and driving agricultural innovation.

The ATVET policy will facilitate resource mobilization and enable effective implementation of ATVET initiatives across the County in accordance with national development priorities and standards.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Constitution obligates the County Assembly to ensure adequate public participation on all public policies, legislation or any decision that is likely to impact on the residents of Bungoma County. The requirement of the Committee to conduct public participation on the policy is provided for in Article 196(1) (b) of the constitution of Kenya 2010 which states that the County Assembly shall;

b) Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the Assembly and its committees.

In compliance with the above laws, the committee sought for views from the public through a notice on the Daily Nation newspaper on Thursday 3rd April, 2025 (Annexed) where members of the public were invited to submit memoranda on the Policy on or before Thursday 10th April, 2025. By close of business Thursday 10th April, 2025 the Committee had not received any memoranda from the public and stakeholders on the Policy.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL AND TRAINING (ATVET) PROMOTION POLICY

BACKGROUND

Agricultural training in Bungoma County is provided by County strategic institutions; Mabanga Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) offering unaccredited courses in Greenhouse management, Poultry production, Dairy production, Tree nursery management, Bee keeping, Horticultural Crops production, Pig production and Dairy Cow Production. ATVET concept strengthens agricultural training by adopting accredited curriculum and courses that are relevant to the needs of the agriculture sector.

In the previous training model, ATVET institutions adopted an unaccredited curriculum which was not geared towards employment creation and developing competence required to enhance the productivity of agri-enterprises. Through adoption of ATVET concept, the institutions shall offer

TVETA, CDACC accredited courses such as Aquaculture level 3, Dairy farm management level 3 and 4, Horticultural processing level 3, Horticultural production level 3 and 4, *Kienyeji* chicken production level 3, Bee product and processing level 3 and 4, agripreneurship level 3 and 4, soil management level 3 and 4 poultry hatchery operator level 4.

Bungoma County has 23 Vocational Training Centers (Annexed) offering agricultural courses in addition to Mabanga ATC and Chwele Fish Farm. The 23 Vocational Training Centers offer Agri-prenuership which is examined by KNEC and a non-accredited course in soil conservation. The TVET Centers offering agricultural courses have inadequate technical staff in various disciplines as well as critical support staff, such as matrons, accounts clerks, security personnel and ground men.

Provision of quality training in Vocational Training Centers that offer agricultural courses have been hampered due to inadequate financial resources. The situation is compounded by low financial support from the private sector and partners. Infrastructure development in ATVETs is vital for enhancing the quality and relevance of agricultural training.

The lack of proper infrastructure affects the quality of education and training provided by ATVET institutions, poor implementation of CBET curricula, reduces student enrollment capacity, and limits the institutions' ability to meet industry standards and demands.

Policy Objectives

The general objective of this policy is to promote ATVET in Bungoma County that is capable of producing quality skilled human resources, with the right attitude and values.

Specific objectives

1. To enhance knowledge and attitude towards ATVET.
2. To develop human resource capacity for ATVET institutions.
3. To enhance development of relevant infrastructure for ATVET institutions.
4. To promote and support integration of ICT in ATVET institutions.
5. To promote sustainable funding models for ATVET institutions.
6. To strengthen governance and accountability structures for ATVET institution

POLICY ISSUES AND INTERVENTIONS

Policy Issue 1: Inadequate knowledge and negative attitude towards ATVET

The enrollment rates for CBET courses are still low for instance, in 2023, Mabanga ATC had an enrollment of 132 trainees while enrollment for agricultural CBET courses in VTCs was 104 compared to 6000 for other courses. ATVET enrolment has noticeably been lower than other TVET courses largely arising from negative attitude towards agriculture and lack of awareness of available agricultural courses.

The county has 88 VTCs, with only 23 offering agricultural courses. Out of the 88 VTCs, 8VTCs in addition to Mabanga ATC and Chwele Fish Farm have been piloted to offer Agriculture TVET courses, however they are poorly distributed within the county.

Partners such as KCIC, MESPT, GIZ, Mabanga ATDC and Kenya Industrial Estates have mentored and incubated individual youth and groups on specific value chains with limited scope due to funding. The county has not had an elaborate mentorship and incubation program in agriculture due to inadequate mentors and information on existing incubation institutions.

Underdevelopment of key agricultural value chains in the county has contributed to negative perception resulting in poor uptake and enrolment of some courses. Most institutions have not embraced modern agricultural technologies making them not attractive to youth.

Policy intervention

In order to enhance knowledge and attitude towards ATVET, the County Government of Bungoma and stakeholders shall:

- I. Promote mentorship programs on agricultural value chains.
- II. Develop a framework for county mentorship.
- III. Support capacity building and development of key agricultural value chains.
- IV. Promote equitable distribution of agriculture training institutions.

Policy Issue 2: Inadequate Human Resource

The 23 TVET institutions offering agricultural courses have inadequate technical staff in various disciplines as well as critical support staff.

Development partners have previously made efforts in supporting ATVETs in capacity building of staff. MESPT supported four trainers in Mabanga ATC who have successfully completed pedagogical training and are certified trainers. GIZ on the other hand supported 10 trainers in TTIs online pedagogical training. In the 23 Vocational Training Centers, only 7 are certified trainers while 10 have enrolled for the pedagogical training. Majority of the remaining trainers lack

professional and pedagogical training and subsequently they are not certified by Regulatory bodies.

The county has no human resource policy for ATVET institutions which presents a big challenge for career progression and succession management in ATVET leading to demoralized staff.

Policy Interventions

In ensuring that the Human Resource concerns are addressed, the county Government of Bungoma and stakeholders shall:

- I. Enhance capacity building and certification of personnel in ATVET Centers.
- II. Promote Public Private Partnerships in training of human personnel in ATVET Centers.
- III. Develop legal framework for Human Resource in ATVET Centers.
- IV. Develop and implement a succession management plan for the ATVET Centers.

Policy Issue 3: Inadequate infrastructure

The ATVET institutions have inadequate land which is not fully committed to ATVET utilization. Most VTCs offering agricultural courses own less than 3 Acres of land while Mabanga ATC, Machwele VTC, Naitiri VTC and Khasoko VTC own more than 7 Acres of land.

The lack of model enterprises for practical and experiential training in the existing centers have led to current trainees to seek practical and experiential training from private model enterprises which are restrictive in nature.

These institutions lack proper training facilities, such as instructional rooms, workshops, laboratories, modest accommodation (hostels) among others. Most of the TVET institutions have inadequate modern tools and equipment for practical and industry related training. In addition, the trainers and trainees with special needs are not catered for in terms of appropriate training resources, equipment, tools and access to instructional facilities.

Development partners have offered infrastructural support to some institutions for instance Mabanga ATC was supported by MESPT in renovation of the administration block, equipping of computer laboratory and internet connectivity. GIZ on the other hand supported 8 VTC; Mufule, Kabula, Sawa, Kiptirok, Machwele, Chwele, Cheptais and Mukuyuni in implementing pro-soil project; to develop demonstration sites, acquire learning, training guides and conservation agriculture tools, however the support is inadequate to cover critical skill areas.

Policy Interventions

To enhance infrastructural development in ATVET Centers, the County Government of Bungoma and stakeholders shall:

- I. Facilitate acquisition of land for ATVET Centers.
- II. Promote establishment and enhancement of model enterprises for practical training in ATVET Centers.
- III. Promote development of buildings and acquisition of relevant tools, equipment and machinery in ATVET Centers.
- IV. Promote development of appropriate infrastructure for trainees and staff with special needs.
- V. Promote Public Private Partnerships for infrastructural development in ATVET Centers.

Policy Issue 4: Low integration of Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Most of the county Centers lack an operational academic learning management system, mobile learning platform and developed E- learning content. Additionally, most trainers have inadequate capacity to develop digital content to operationalize learning management systems and utilize the integrated infrastructure.

Development partners have previously supported Mabanga ATC and the other 23 VTC centers with various ICT equipment including; desktop computers, laptop computers, projectors, television and video conferencing equipment to be used in digital literacy however the ICT infrastructure is still inadequate to facilitate adoption of digital training in the county centers.

The lack of ICT integration hinders the adoption of modern teaching methods, limits access to online resources and e-learning platforms, reduces opportunities for interactive and practical learning experiences, and diminishes the overall quality and competitiveness of ATVET programs.

Policy Interventions

In order to support integration of Information & Communication Technology in ATVET centers, the County Government and stakeholders shall;

- i. Promote capacity building of ATVET personnel on the use of ICT in management and instruction.
- ii. Promote Public Private Partnership in investment in ICT infrastructure.
- iii. Enhance integration of ICT infrastructure in ATVET Centers.

- iv. Enhance digital Content Development.
- v. Promote establishment of E-Learning Platforms.

Policy Issue 5: Inadequate Funding

Provision of quality training has been hampered due to inadequate financial resources. In 2021, the poverty headcount rate in Bungoma was 43.9% implying many households are unable to meet costs related to education and training.

Although Funds and Bursary Schemes exist that offer scholarships and bursaries to assist needy potential trainees enroll for ATVET courses, priority has been given to students in secondary and other tertiary institutions due to lack of a favorable framework and low level of awareness.

The County Government has been allocating resources towards procurement of land and construction of workshops and classrooms for VTCs. There has been no uniformity in resource allocation to the VTCs due to lack of a funding framework. Institutions are also supported through trainee fees, bursaries and partners to run training programs based on enrollment rates which negatively affects institutions with low enrollment. Low funding for these institutions discourages them from engaging in income generating activities.

Mabanga ATC receives a county budgetary allocation annually largely procuring farm inputs, hospitality inputs, payment of staff salaries and utilities. The institution has had minimal funding from the County Government towards the ATVET component. The ATC operations are significantly inefficient due to lengthy decision making and control structures arising from inadequate institutional framework.

The County ATVET underfunding situation is further compounded by low financial support from the private sector and partners. This is due to lack of proper guidelines to enable the private sector to fully participate.

Policy Interventions

To ensure sustainable funding models for the ATVET institutions, the County Government in collaboration with stakeholders shall;

- i. Promote establishment of a Funding Framework for ATVET in the County.
- ii. Promote innovative income generating activities in ATVET institutions.
- iii. Promote Public Private Partnerships in funding ATVET institutions.
- iv. Support alternative funding models for ATVET institutions.

v. Support the development and domestication of ATVET institutional frameworks.

Policy Issue 6: Weak Governance

The Bungoma Youth Polytechnic Act 2015 provides for establishment and management of youth polytechnics but does not adequately address current management issues in VTCs. All the 88 VTCs have Boards of Management but lack other complimentary operational structures such as personnel for financial management. The County has no elaborate capacity building programmes for management structures of County ATVET institutions. The County still relies on TVET Act 2013 though it has Bungoma County Youth Polytechnic Act 2015 whose frameworks are not elaborate.

Policy Intervention

To strengthen governance and accountability structures in ATVET institutions, the County Government of Bungoma and the stakeholders shall:

- i. Promote development of institutional governance and accountability framework.
- ii. Support capacity building of Boards of Management.
- iii. Enhance monitoring and evaluation in institutions.
- iv. Develop a holistic framework to guide ATVET institutions.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented through a multi-sectoral approach that will establish a collaborative framework with the various stakeholders. The policy provisions made will be operationalized through subsequent legal instruments, Strategic Plans, Programs, Projects and other initiatives.

The County Government

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperatives

The Department shall be responsible for coordination during the implementation of this policy. It will be the entity in which other government departments, actors and agencies will collaborate in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ATVET activities.

Department of Education and Vocational Training

The Department shall be responsible for quality assurance and standards assessment in the implementation of this policy; oversight the implementation of technical and vocational training programmes, and management of ATVETs.

Department of Finance and Economic Planning

The Department shall be responsible for coordination of development of budget and planning documents such as the County Integrated Development Plan, Annual Development Plan, and Annual Budgetary documents among others.

Department of Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The Department shall promote and support ICT integration in ATVET.

County Assembly of Bungoma

The County Assembly shall approve the policy and budgetary documents, appropriate funds and offer oversight on policy implementation.

National Government

Ministry of Education

The State department for Vocational and Technical Training shall develop and coordinate the implementation of national skills training policy and strategy; facilitate tertiary technical education and training (TVET); formulate policy for technical and vocational skills instruction, curricula development and assessment; oversight the implementation of technical and vocational training programmes, and management of middle-level tertiary institutions; offer advisory services to the county department of TVET on quality assurance and standards assessment in the implementation of this policy.

ATVET Institutions

The role of the ATVET institutions shall include;

- i. Ensuring that the policy is communicated to stakeholders including staff, students, BOGs and community.
- ii. Establish training needs by carrying out training needs assessments.
- iii. Provide competent staff (accredited assessors & verifiers).
- iv. Provide the necessary tools, equipment and materials.

- v. Assist in the development and acquisition of training materials.
- vi. Management of trainee's records.
- vii. Ensuring CDACC assessment guidelines are applied and maintained in the assessment Centre.
- viii. Assessment and certification of ATVET trainees.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Policy Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning framework provides specific, measurable, time bound performance indicators and citizen participation. The M&E process will be undertaken by the department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development. The nature and scope of reporting will include: Progress made against Plan, Deviations and the causes of deviations from the plan if any, challenges and proposes solutions.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed as need arises taking into consideration the emerging issues, sustainable development and to remain relevant to the sectorial needs.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

After scrutiny of the policy the committee made the following observations;

1. Enrolment in Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) programs remains significantly lower compared to other Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses largely arising from negative attitude towards agriculture and lack of awareness of available agricultural courses.
2. It was noted that there is a shortage of certified trainers in the 23 Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) currently offering Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) courses across the County. Majority of the trainers lack professional and pedagogical training and subsequently not certified by Regulatory bodies. The deficiency in trainer certification significantly affects the quality, credibility and effectiveness of ATVET programs.
3. Most Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) offering agricultural courses possess limited land resources, with the majority owning less than three (3) acres. This constraint significantly hampers the ability of the institutions to establish adequate demonstration fields which are essential for practical. Furthermore, the limited land sizes also restrict the

development of critical infrastructure, including classrooms, workshops and storage facilities, thereby undermining the overall quality and effectiveness of the training programs.

4. Mabanga Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) is endowed with substantial infrastructure and land resources, including demonstration fields, classrooms and accommodation facilities. However, it was observed that these facilities are underutilized, representing a missed opportunity to enhance agricultural training and extension services in the County.
5. The Committee observed that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) remains a critical pillar in the effective implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum within Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Centers across the County.

It was further noted that the integration of ICT in education and training is increasingly becoming a national trend, with institutions of higher learning progressively adopting virtual and remote learning platforms to enhance access and flexibility.

6. Inadequate budgetary allocation remains one of the most significant challenges affecting the effective implementation and sustainability of Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) programs across the County.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following recommendations;

1. **THAT**, the ATVET Promotion Policy should incorporate clear and structured mechanisms for public sensitization and awareness creation through barazas and radio talks by agricultural Officers with the primary objective of encouraging youth and farmers enrolment in Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Centers within the County.
2. **THAT**, the Policy should explicitly address the employment of qualified, competent and duly certified trainers to facilitate effective teaching and skills development within the Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Centers across the County.
3. **THAT**, upon adoption of the Policy, the department should develop and implement robust mechanisms for resource mobilization, aimed at supporting the infrastructure development and expansion of Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) institutions across the County.
4. **THAT**, the department should Prioritize the upgrading and equipping of the 23 existing ATVET Centers and develop a phased implementation plan for the establishment of at least one fully functional ATVET Centre in each ward, to promote equitable access to agricultural training opportunities the County.

5. **THAT**, the department should also fully revitalize Mabanga ATC which has enormous land and other resources that can be utilized to assist Bungoma County farmers and generate more revenue for the County.
6. **THAT**, upon adoption of the policy, the department should mobilize resources including development partners to fund establishment of ICT infrastructure in all existing ATVETs across the County. The County should invest in ICT infrastructure and capacity building within ATVET institutions to enhance the delivery of competency-based training in agriculture.

CONCLUSION

The Committee notes that the proposed ATVET Promotion Policy is both timely and strategic as it aligns with the County Government's objective of enhancing agricultural productivity through targeted skills development.

The Committee further notes that Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) serves as a critical tool in strengthening agricultural training contributing to the professionalization and increased productivity of the agricultural sector. In particular, ATVET addresses the persistent challenge of inadequately trained and under-skilled smallholder farmers, by equipping them with practical, market-relevant competencies necessary for modern and sustainable agriculture.

In light of the above and having considered the policy's relevance, potential impact, and alignment with County development priorities, the Committee recommends that this House considers and approves the Bungoma County Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Promotion Policy.

The report is adopted by all the 15 members. With all humility I call upon Hon. Wafula Waiti, the Honorable member without a Christian name to second the report.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Waiti, you have been called upon to second the committee report. You will proceed! We will not tire to ask the other issue raised by Hon Sudi, but we will find out later.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for allowing me this time to second a very wonderful report. First, let me laud Hon. Sudi a longtime serving member in this Assembly and at his age to have stood all that long to present the report to this Honorable House.

The report is self-explanatory and more especially looking at the last statement of the committee that the report is timely and most of our functions cut across the County.

Hon. Speaker, in one of your communication sometimes in this plenary today, you gave a difference between some Honorable members in terms of age; some elderly members of this House like myself in our days in late 70's while we were in primary schools during our time, we used to visit Mabanga to learn on Agriculture issues. During those days Mabanga was doing very well, and so we are wondering what happened to Mabanga. It is not the same Mabanga we used to be. We were going there to look at some crops, dairy cows and many other agricultural crops and animals. We came to learn that that as much as the institution was doing good, it had no policy and now we want to thank the department for having come up with this policy so that it may assist to improve that particular area.

When you look across the lines of the report, every policy issue indicated has been provided with the policy intervention all along which explains on the issues raised in the report and when you move further you will realize that this policy cuts across the department. It runs along from Agriculture department to Education and Vocational Training department, Finance and Planning and it also cuts across the ICT.

When you look at all those departments, it ends up in the Ministry of Education in National Government with all those departments and adding the National Government will ensure the compliance and hence strengthening the policy on implementation because every department will ensure its part on implementation.

The only thing when you read across the lines its mentioned that some institutions has less land and it is the desire of the committee that since Agriculture is a devolved function, I will now use this opportunity to urge my colleagues who are elected that during the allocation of the CEF projects, we buy land for this institutions in our jurisdictions to expand the space to allow the TVET centers to provide all courses that are required.

Otherwise, I have been following my very good friend who is a very serious member of the committee as he reads through the report. He has been very slow, explicit and eloquent for every member to understand.

Mr. Speaker: That ought to come from members. If you are the one drumming up, your seconding is not proper. Wind up please!

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Honorable Speaker, I want to urge Honorable members that as the mover of the report requested that we support the report, so that we can enable the department to fast-track the functions as required.

Mr. Speaker: Honorable members, a report has been moved and seconded that this House adopts the report of the sector committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Co-Operatives Development on the Bungoma County Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Promotion Policy laid on the table of the House on Tuesday 22nd of July 2025.

(Question proposed)

Honorable members, I appreciate your contribution in silence and that being the position, Hon. Sudi, has no right of reply. You can't reply if there are no contributions.

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it.

The policy is adopted accordingly as per the committee recommendations.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Honorable members that was the last motion in our Order Paper so for now we will adjourn the sitting for today's morning session and resume in our afternoon session at 2:30 p.m. accordingly.

The House rose at 11:40 a.m.