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## Inside this Edition

County Assembly Of Bungoma Retains Overall Best County Assembly Title At 2025 CASA Games Hosted In Meru Page...1&2

County Assembly Of Bungoma Swears In Newly Elected MCA For Kabuchai/chwele Ward Page...2

Controller Of Budget Team Visits County Assembly Of Bungoma On Monitoring And Evaluation Exercise Page...2 & 3

Senate Committee On Health Pays Courtesy Call To County Assembly Of Bungoma Page...3 & 4

County Assembly Of Bungoma Mcas And Staff Sensitized By EACC On The Conflict Of Interest Act 2025. Page...4 & 5

County Assembly Men Hold First-ever “Men’s Conference”... And Nobody Ran Away This Time Page...5 & 6

# County Assembly Of Bungoma Retains Overall Best County Assembly Title At 2025 CASA Games Hosted In Meru

***By Rosemary Wachiye***

The County Assembly of Bungoma was crowned the Overall Best County Assembly at the County Assemblies Sports Association (CASA) Games 2025. The Assembly took home an impressive 11 trophies and certificates following exceptional performances in Meru County as a proof of dominance in cultural and sporting events.

This marks the second consecutive year that Bungoma has clinched the coveted overall title, cementing its position as a powerhouse in the CASA Games. In 2024, when Bungoma hosted the games, the Assembly won six trophies plus the overall trophy, bringing their total to seven. This year's triumph saw the teams win 10 trophies across various disciplines, with the overall trophy bringing the total haul to 11—a remarkable improvement that underscores the Assembly's commitment to excellence.

The Bungoma teams excelled across multiple categories, demonstrating remarkable versatility and depth of talent. Leading the charge were championship victories in Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Netball, Cultural Dance – Kamabeka (Own Composition), and Gisu Dance (Borrowed), which showcased the Assembly's dominance in both sporting and cultural arenas.

The success continued with strong performances in other disciplines, including second-place finishes in Gisu Folk Song (Borrowed), Choir Set Piece, and 100M Athletics Overall. The teams also secured third position in Choir Own Composition, rounding out an impressive medal haul.

*Hon. Jack Kawa, National Vice Organizing Secretary for CASA and Chairperson of the Committee on Gender and Culture, together with Mr. Oscar Sifuma, CASA Coordinator for Bungoma, receiving the overall trophy on behalf of the County Assembly of Bungoma.*

Particularly noteworthy was the Men's Shot Put competition, where Bungoma dominated with a one-two finish. Philip Sinoya threw 12.06 metres to claim first place, while Nicolas Maghas followed closely with 11.88 metres to secure second position, underscoring the depth of talent within the Assembly's ranks.

The games also produced individual standouts, with Hon. Okasida Ipara earning recognition as the Best Overall MCA, while Phillip Sinoya secured 8th position overall in the staff category for Scrabble, adding to his shot put triumph.

The Bungoma brigade was led by Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula, and the Overall Team Leader, Deputy Clerk in charge of Legislative Services Dr. Leonard Momos. Their leadership proved instrumental in guiding the teams to victory.

The County Assembly teams competed in 19 disciplines spanning sports and cultural activities, including football, men's and women's volleyball, netball, basketball, men's and women's tug of war, pool, darts, draughts, ajua, badminton, table tennis, scrabble, chess, and track and field events. The Assembly also showcased its talents in cultural categories with performances in choir (set piece, sacred, and own composition), cultural dance (own and borrowed), and handball.

This year's games were held under the theme "Strengthening Legislative Bonds Through Sports and Culture," emphasizing unity and collaboration among County Assemblies through competitive and cultural exchange.

In a thrilling opening fixture, the Bungoma County Assembly football team, defending champions from last year, battled to a hard-fought draw against the host County Assembly of Meru. The closely contested match set an exciting tone for the competition, with both sides demonstrating skill and determination before enthusiastic crowds at the stadium.

The victory attracted goodwill messages from across the country. The County Assemblies Forum conveyed a special congratulatory message, noting that retaining the overall title was "a remarkable display of consistent talent and dedication."

Bungoma County Governor H.E. Kenneth Lusaka also lauded the teams for their outstanding achievement, describing the 11-trophy haul as truly exceptional and a source of pride for the entire county.

Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Speaker of the County Assembly and Chairperson of the County Assembly Service Board (CASB), expressed delight at the victory. "I take this opportunity, on behalf of the County Assembly Service Board, the House Leadership, all Honourable Members, and the entire County Assembly fraternity, to say thank you to all our teams. You have made us proud. Glory be to God," Hon. Situma said.

Mr. Charles Wafula, Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma, expressed profound gratitude to the teams for their talent, discipline, teamwork, and dedication. "This victory is not just about medals and a trophy; this is proof that when Bungoma unites, we dominate. To every player, coach, official, and supporter: ASANTENI SANA! You have written a golden chapter in Bungoma's sporting history for the second time," Mr. Wafula declared.

# County Assembly Of Bungoma Swears In Newly Elected MCA For Kabuchai/chwele Ward

***By Erick Ngobilo***

On Wednesday December 3, 2025, the County Assembly of Bungoma swore in Hon. Erick Wekesa as the new Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Kabuchai/Chwele Ward, following his victory in the recent by-election held on November 27, 2025.

Hon. Wekesa was declared winner by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and formally gazetted in Gazette Notice No. 17611 of December 1, 2025, paving the way for his assumption of office.

Presiding over the ceremony, Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma welcomed the new member, terming his entry into the House “a significant milestone both in his personal journey and in the service of the Ward and the County at large.”

The Speaker noted that Hon. Wekesa takes over a seat previously held by the late Hon. James Mukhongo, who served the people of Chwele/Kabuchai with distinction until his demise. He expressed confidence that the new MCA would build on the foundation laid by his predecessor.

*Mr. Charles Wafula, Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma (Right), administering the oath of office to Hon. Erick Wekesa, Member of County Assembly for Kabuchai/Chwele Ward (Centre), at the County Assembly plenary.*

“As he joins this honoured Assembly, we assure him of our full support to ensure he settles into his responsibilities with ease and confidence,” the Speaker said.

The Clerk of the Assembly Mr.Charles Wafula was urged tofacilitate Hon. Wekesa’s orientation, including induction on Assembly procedures, familiarization with House services, and access to office space both at the Assembly and at the Ward level.

Following the swearing-in, Hon. Wekesa took his seat in the Chamber for the first time, marking the beginning of his legislative, representative, and oversight duties in the County Assembly of Bungoma.

# Controller Of Budget Team Visits County Assembly Of Bungoma On Monitoring And Evaluation Exercise

***By Erick Ngobilo***

A team from the Office of the Controller of Budget (OCoB) on a budget oversight mission in Bungoma County on Tuesday December 2, 2025 visited the County Assembly as part of its weeklong monitoring program. The delegation, led by Mr. Cyrus Ondari from the OCoB Headquarters, is tracking the implementation of programs and projects funded by the Exchequer to ensure they adhere to budgetary and legal requirements.

During the visit, the team hailed the County Assembly of Bungoma for the significant strides in ensuring prudent utilization of public resources. They particularly praised the Assembly for the effective implementation of the two development projects it is undertaking—the construction of the Speaker’s residence and the new Debating chambers describing them as evidence of responsible and transparent spending.

The OCoB team emphasized that monitoring and evaluation visits are vital in generating factual and credible reports that guide the utilization of public funds. Such visits, they said, promote accountability and help ensure that counties remain compliant with financial management regulations.

Additionally, the delegation is following up on the operations of various funds established within the County to verify whether they operate within the law. These include the Car Loan and Mortgage Fund for Hon. Members and staff, Trade Loans, the Youth Fund, and the Women Fund,

among others. The team called for the renewal of lapsed laws that either created or regulate these funds, stressing the need for updated legal frameworks to guide their management.

Other members of the visiting delegation included County Budget Coordinator Mr. Turanta Ole Koriata, Dr. Erick Mang'unyi, Mr. Augustine Mburu, Mr. Ben Simiyu, Ms. Priscilla Gichuru, and Ms. Cynthia Muchoki.

In its engagements with the Assembly leadership, the team urged the institution to be more robust in its oversight role. They pointed out that Bungoma County is yet to approve the Facility Improvement Financing Act, which is intended to regulate how health facilities operate within the County. They also challenged County Assemblies across the country to actively debate Controller of Budget reports on the utilization of funds to enhance transparency and corrective action.

The delegation further sought clarification on why the Municipalities of Bungoma and Kimilili are not functional. In response, Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula explained that the County Executive is holding onto functions and resources that legally belong to the municipalities, hindering their operationalization.

The team also inquired about the action taken against former MCAs who lost elections and have defaulted on repayment of car and mortgage loans advanced to them. Clerk Wafula confirmed that the Assembly is in the process of forwarding the names of defaulters, along with their securities, to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to facilitate loan recovery.

Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma applauded the Controller of Budget team for its commitment to following up on expenditure after approving funds. He urged the office to devise ways of ensuring that money released is tied to specific projects and commended the OCoB for discontinuing group imprests in favor of personal imprests, noting that this has improved accountability and ensured funds reach intended recipients.

Clerk Wafula also decried the poor implementation of House resolutions by the County Executive, noting that some laws passed more than ten years ago still lack the necessary regulations, making implementation difficult. He called for the establishment of a liaison desk at the OCoB headquarters to act as a direct link between counties and the office. Strengthening collaboration with the County Assemblies Forum and the Society of Clerks at the Table, he said, would also help streamline communication and oversight.

*A team from the Office of the Controller of Budget (OCoB) paying a courtesy call on the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, and the County Assembly Clerk, Mr. Charles Wafula.*

# Senate Committee On Health Pays Courtesy Call To County Assembly Of Bungoma

***By Rosemary Wachiye***

The Senate Standing Committee on Health, which included Bungoma Senator Hon. David Wakoli, paid a courtesy call to the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, and the Committee on Health and Sanitation on Friday, November 14, 2025.

The Senate Committee, accompanied by the County Assembly's Health Committee, was on a mission to conduct an oversight visit to Bungoma County Referral Hospital. The visit forms part of the Committee's mandate to assess the status of healthcare service delivery, infrastructure, and resource utilization in public health facilities across the country.

During the visit, the Senate Committee on Health highlighted several critical challenges facing health facilities in the county, including severe staff shortages, strained infrastructure, and

inadequate resources.

Leading the delegation, Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago emphasized that the poor state of health facilities was a pressing issue that needed urgent attention to ensure access to quality healthcare, adequate infrastructure, and essential amenities for the people.

To address these challenges, the Committee recommended the digitization of health records across all facilities and investment in efficient systems to enhance service delivery and improve patient care.

The Committee also raised concerns about the rising cases of teenage pregnancies across the region. They called upon all stakeholders to unite in addressing this issue to prevent students from dropping out of school as a result of early pregnancies, emphasizing the need for comprehensive intervention strategies.

*Bungoma Senator Hon. David Wakoli (top left) and Uasin Gishu Senator Hon. Jackson Mandago (top right) leading the Senate Standing Committee on Health during a courtesy call on the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, and members of the County Assembly Committee on Health and Sanitation.*

# County Assembly Of Bungoma Mcas And Staff Sensitized By EACC On The Conflict Of Interest Act 2025.

***By Erick Ngobilo***

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) on Thursday conducted a sensitization for Hon. Members and staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma on the newly enacted Conflict of Interest Act, 2025.

The session, held at the Paskari Nabwana Hall, was facilitated by Mr. Patrick Owil, the Deputy Director for Compliance at EACC, accompanied by Compliance Officer Mr. Awino Aluoch. The engagement sought to deepen understanding of the far-reaching provisions of the Act, which came into force in August 2025.

During the session, Mr. Owil outlined the major reforms introduced by the Act, terming it a significant milestone in strengthening ethics, integrity and accountability across public service.

He explained that the law provides a clear framework for identifying, preventing and managing conflicts between public duties and personal interests. Public officers are now required to proactively avoid circumstances where private interests may compromise objective decision-making, and to make timely declarations whenever actual, potential or perceived conflicts arise.

One of the central achievements of the Act is the complete prohibition of public officers from trading with or benefiting from contracts involving their own institutions. Under Section 19, officers are barred from supplying goods, works or services to their reporting entities, from participating in procurement processes where they hold private interests, and from benefiting directly or indirectly from such contracts. This, Mr. Owil noted, seals loopholes that have historically enabled insider trading, favouritism and misuse of office for private gain.

The new law also introduces tough criminal sanctions for violations. A wide range of offences including misuse of official information, preferential treatment, collusion to conceal conflict of interest, accepting prohibited gifts and providing false declarations now attract heavy penalties.

*County Assembly of Bungoma leadership and staff attend an Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) sensitization session at Paskari Nabwana Hall. Pictured: Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma (top left), Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula (centre) and Deputy Director for Compliance at EACC Mr. Patrick Awil (top right)*

Individuals may face fines of up to four million shillings or imprisonment for up to ten years, while corporations risk fines of up to ten million shillings. In addition, offenders face mandatory penalties equal to twice the benefit accrued or loss caused. These stringent measures, EACC explained, are intended to deter unethical conduct and reinforce public confidence in government institutions.

Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, hailed the new law and commended EACC for the timely sensitization. He urged Members and staff to take the requirements seriously, stating that the County Assembly Service Board will take firm action against anyone found violating the Act. The Speaker noted that the legislation significantly raises the standards of ethical conduct expected of public officers and provides a solid legal foundation for transparent governance.

Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, reiterated that he convened the session to ensure Members and staff are fully informed and compliant. He encouraged participants to ask questions and seek clarity on any areas of concern, stressing that ignorance cannot be used as a defense. The sensitization forum brought together MCAs and staff.

# County Assembly Men Hold First-ever "Men's Conference"… And Nobody Ran Away This Time

***By Erick Ngobilo***

In a historical event, the County Assembly of Bungoma on Wednesday November 19, 2025 held its inaugural Men's Conference to mark International Men's Day — and for the first time in recent memory, not a single man bolted from the plenary hall upon hearing that "there will be a presentation."

The meeting, attended by the Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma and the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula, brought together male members of staff and Hon. Members in what was described as a "historic gathering of courage, brotherhood, and strategic sitting positions near the exits."

The session began at 8:30 a.m. sharp — a record time. Early arrivals claim the punctuality was inspired by rumours that the conference would reveal "what men really need," a list that, according to the day's presentation, includes respect, appreciation, leadership skills, and — quite controversially — the ability to confess weaknesses without being reminded five years later.

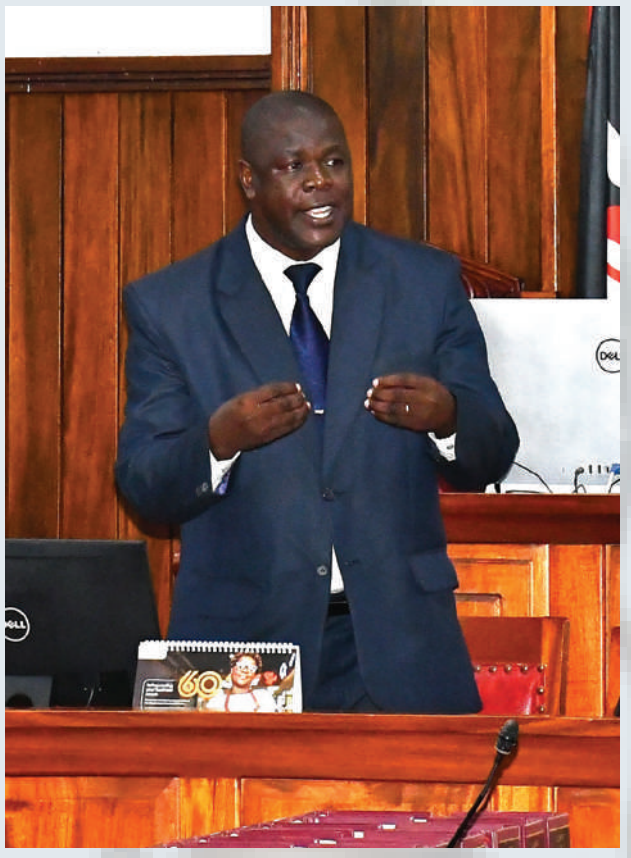
A key highlight came from a presentation on the dangers of fatherlessness, featuring a slide with 16 infamous historical figures. Participants were shocked to learn that these men all shared one thing: they were fatherless.

Despite the heavy topic, the plenary kept its humour. When statistics revealed that fatherless men are significantly more likely to "run away from their homes."

The Speaker praised the occasion as "a milestone in understanding men and their issues beyond football, politics, and pretending not to hear problems. He pointed out that the dialogue around men issues will continue with a challenge to make it bigger and vibrant" The Clerk, meanwhile, assured participants that this will become a regular event when men meet to share the challenges and inspire one another.

The men left the plenary hall visibly uplifted, vowing to be better fathers, better husbands, and better men — though one participant was heard murmuring, "First things first… where is tea?"

As the County Assembly continues working to transform governance and improve family well-being, today's meeting will be remembered as the moment Bungoma County Assembly men officially agreed: talking about feelings isn't fatal, after all.



*Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma and Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula lead male members of staff and MCAs of the County Assembly of Bungoma during the first Men's Conference held at the plenary.*

# A PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

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