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# The County Assembly Of Bungoma Resumes Sitzings For The Fifth Session

By Erick Ngobilo

**T**he County Assembly of Bungoma has officially resumed its sittings after the December long recess, marking the commencement of the Fifth Session of the Third County Assembly. The Assembly reconvened on Tuesday, 10th February 2026 at 2.30pm for the year.

A key highlight of the first sitting was the reconstitution of the House Business Committee (HBC), pursuant to Standing Order 173 (g).

The procedural motion, moved by the Leader of the Majority Party, sought the approval of Members to serve in the Committee for the Fifth Session. The House approved the nomination of Hon. Violet Makhanu, Hon. Jack Wambulwa, Hon. Hentry Nyongesa, Hon. Johnston Ipara, Hon. Jacob Psero, Hon. Mildred Barasa, Hon. Charles Nangulu, Hon. Mitrine Nangalama and Hon. Cornelius Makhanu.

The House Business Committee, chaired by the Speaker and comprising the Deputy Speaker, Majority and Minority Leaders and their deputies alongside the approved Members, play a critical



**File photo:** Bungoma County Assembly members in session during a full plenary sitting.

role in programming the business of the Assembly, including preparation of the weekly Order Paper.

Additionally, the Assembly approved a procedural motion under Standing Order 31 (1) adopting the Legislative Calendar for the Fifth Session (February–December 2026). The Calendar outlines the regular sittings and recess periods for the year, providing a structured framework to guide legislative, representation and oversight functions.

The Weekly Programme of Business indicates that the Assembly has lined up a series of reports and motions in the coming days. On Wednesday, 11th February 2026, the House is scheduled to table and consider several committee reports, including the Report of the House Business Committee on the Affairs of the County Assembly during the Fourth Session (11th February 2025 – 9th February 2026).

Sectoral committees are also expected to present reports on

the consideration of various financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2025. These include reports from the Committees on Finance and Economic Planning, Trade, Energy and Industrialization, Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, Public Administration and ICT, as well as Health Services. The Assembly will deliberate on these reports as part of its oversight mandate over County departments.

Members will also receive responses to statements sought from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works regarding the construction status of bridges projects in Mbakalo Ward, including Kibisi Catholic Church, Bilongo to Marachi bridge and Mama Joanes to Karima ACK Church bridge. The statements seek clarity on procurement processes, budget allocations, payments made, and the current status of works.

## County Assembly Committee Reviews Progress of Debating Chamber Construction

By Erick Ngobilo

**T**he County Assembly Committee on Labour Relations, Members Services and Facilities has held a consultative meeting with the Contractor implementing the construction of the

County Assembly Debating Chambers to assess the status of the project.

The meeting was attended by the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, alongside

engineers, a quantity surveyor and an architect from the Department of Public Works, who are overseeing the project.

Chaired by Bumula MCA Hon. Hentry Nyongesa, the committee

sought clarification from the contractor on whether a seven-month delay experienced during implementation could affect the project's completion timeline. The debating chambers

are scheduled for completion in March as per the contract period.

The Contractor Shamim Construction Limited assured the committee that the delay would not stand in the way of timely completion, noting that works are progressing and will be finalized within the agreed timelines. The contractor further indicated that even if an extension were to be sought, the project would still be completed within the current financial year.

On his part, the Clerk of the County Assembly assured the contractor of the Assembly's commitment to facilitating the project by ensuring that payments for duly raised certificates are processed promptly.

Other committee members include Hon. Catherine Kituyi (Vice Chairperson), Hon. Anthony Luseneke, Hon. Francis Chemion, Hon. Caleb Wanjala, Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana, Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba, Hon. Alice Kibaba, and Hon. Linda Kharakha.



*The County Assembly Committee on Labour Relations, Members Services holds a consultative meeting with the Contractor Shamim Construction Limited and the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma Mr. Charles Wafula to review progress of the debating chambers*

# Bungoma County Assembly Approves New Committee Memberships

*By Marsh Misiko*

**T**he County Assembly of Bungoma on Wednesday afternoon approved a report by the Committee on Selection reviewing and reconstituting membership to seven key committees, in accordance with Section 14 (1) (b) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

The sitting, presided over by Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, endorsed the changes aimed at strengthening committee operations and ensuring

compliance with legal and procedural requirements.

The report was moved by Minority Leader Hon. Vitalis Wangila, and seconded by Sang'alo West MCA Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana.

Among the notable approvals was the allocation of Hon. Eric Wekesa, the newly elected MCA for Chwele/Kabuchai Ward, to four committees: the Gender, Culture and Social Welfare Committee; the Public Administration and ICT Committee; the Youth

Affairs and Sports Committee; and the Implementation Committee. Hon. Wekesa was elected and sworn in last year to replace the late Hon. James Mukhongo.

Hon. Wekesa had previously expressed concern over delays in his committee placement. However, the delay was occasioned by the Assembly's recess and the fact that the Committee on Selection had not yet convened to undertake the reconstitution process.

Hon. Wekesa's new assignments place him at the center of both sectoral policy deliberations and oversight responsibilities within the Assembly. Through the Gender, Culture and Social Welfare Committee, he is expected to contribute to advancing inclusive development and safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable groups. In the Public Administration and ICT Committee, his role will focus on strengthening governance systems and promoting innovation in service delivery. As a member of the Youth Affairs

and Sports Committee, he will champion youth empowerment initiatives and talent development across the ward and the county. Additionally, through the Implementation Committee, he will play a critical role in monitoring and ensuring that resolutions and projects approved by the Assembly are effectively executed.

The Bungoma County Assembly Standing Orders provide for the establishment of 24 committees with clearly defined mandates. Standing Order No. 174 (2) mandates the Committee on Selection to nominate members to serve in committees, except for the House Business Committee, the Committee on Appointments, and the Speaker's Panel.

The Committee on Selection is chaired by Hon. Joseph Juma Nyongesa, MCA for Tuuti/Marakaru Ward who doubles as the

Majority Party Leader, with Hon. Vitalis Wangila (Minority Party Leader) serving as Vice-Chairperson. Other members are Hon. Meshack Simiyu, Hon. Jackson Wambulwa, Hon. Aggrey Mulongo, Hon. Isaiah Sudi, Hon. Tony Barasa, Hon. Franklin Simotwo, Hon. Jerusa Aleu, Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, Hon. Metrine Nangalama, and Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana.

The committees affected by the changes include the Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee; the Gender, Culture and Social Welfare Committee; the Trade, Energy and Industrialization Committee; the Public Administration and ICT Committee; the Labour Relations, Members Services and Facilities Committee; the Youth Affairs and Sports Committee; and the Implementation Committee, which is a Standing Committee.



*Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, presides over a plenary sitting. (Bottom photo): Sang'alo West MCA Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana takes the floor to second a report proposed by Leader of Minority, Hon. Vitalis Nyongesa.*

## Bungoma County Assembly QMS Internal Auditors Undergo KEBS Internal Quality Auditing Training

By Rosemary Wachiye



*Ms. Isabella Lunani of the National Quality Institute (NQI), the training arm of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), conducts a Quality Management System (QMS) Internal Auditors training session for County Assembly of Bungoma staff.*

**Q**uality Management System (QMS) Internal auditors from the County Assembly of

Bungoma participated in a comprehensive internal quality auditing training conducted by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) from February 5 to February 7, 2026.

The three-day training, facilitated by experts from the National Quality Institute (NQI), the training arm of KEBS, aimed to enhance auditors' competencies in applying audit principles, interpreting ISO 9001:2015 requirements, implementing risk-based auditing approaches,

and preparing comprehensive audit reports.

The program featured interactive tutorial sessions, practical exercises based on real audit scenarios, continuous assessments, and a written examination. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive certificates recognizing their achievement.

Lead facilitator Ms. Isabella Lunani guided participants through fundamental auditing principles, including integrity, fair professional care, confidentiality, independence, and evidence-based and risk-based approaches.

Ms. Lunani highlighted key benefits of effective auditing: initiating corrective action cycles, identifying improvement opportunities, reducing system failure risks, measuring management system effectiveness, and

enhancing organizational awareness and understanding.

She emphasized essential auditor attributes, noting that effective auditors must be ethical, tenacious, versatile, perceptive, open-minded, diplomatic, and observant, able to adapt to different situations while remaining actively aware of their surroundings.

Participants received instruction on critical auditing guidance documents, including ISO 19011:2018, which provides management system auditing guidelines, and ISO 9001:2015, which outlines Quality Management System requirements. These standards were examined within an audit context to ensure participants gained an in-depth understanding of how to apply each requirement within the County Assembly setting.

The training covered three audit party types: first-party audits conducted by organizations themselves, second-party audits performed by stakeholders such as customers or their representatives, and third-party audits carried out by external, independent auditing firms or government agencies that provide certification or accreditation.

A significant portion of the training focused on risk-based auditing approaches, ensuring auditors can identify foreseeable risks and opportunities at every audit stage, take appropriate action to address these risks, and integrate corrective measures into the audit process.

Co-facilitator Mr. Humphrey Okaka addressed root cause analysis techniques for identifying non-conformity sources and extent analysis methods to

broaden non-conformity scope, preventing recurrence elsewhere in the organization.

Mr. Okaka provided step-by-step guidance on audit report preparation, raising and evaluating corrective actions, completing audits, and conducting effective follow-ups.

The training concluded with group exercises and a final examination testing participants' knowledge acquisition and their ability to conduct objective audits that achieve intended outcomes.

## County Assembly interrogates the Bungoma Disaster and Emergency Management Fund report for FY 2024/2025

By Marsh Misiko



*The County Assembly Finance and Economic Planning Committee interrogates County Executive officials over the Bungoma Disaster and Emergency Fund Report for FY 2024/2025.*

**T**he County Assembly Committee on Finance and Economic Planning convened on Thursday, February 12, 2026, to scrutinize the Bungoma Disaster and Emergency Management Fund report for the period ending June 30, 2025.

The session, chaired by Hon. Polycarp Kimeta, MCA for West Nalondo Ward, and Vice Chairperson Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana, focused on seeking clarifications regarding financial expenditures and fund allocations. The meeting formed part of the Committee's oversight mandate to ensure transparency, accountability, and

prudent utilization of public resources allocated to disaster preparedness and emergency response within the county.

Key officials representing the County Executive appeared before the Committee, led by Chief Officer for Finance Mr. Robert Simiyu, Director of

Accounting Services Mr. Ambrose Makokha, and Director of Special Programmes Ms. Caren Wanyonyi, among others.

During the session, Committee members sought clarifications on various financial expenditures, fund allocations, and the overall

## Pending Bills Discussion Dominates County Assembly Scrutiny Of County Fiscal Strategy Paper For FY 2026/2027

By Rosemary Wachiye, Erick Ngobilo and Marsh Misiko

management of the Disaster and Emergency Management Fund within the period under review. While County Executive officials responded to several queries raised by the Committee, they failed to provide the requested supporting financial documents necessary for comprehensive scrutiny.

The Committee emphasized its constitutional mandate under Article 195 of the Constitution of Kenya to summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing information, including the authority to require the production of documents relevant to matters under consideration.

Members said that accurate and complete documentation is critical to support effective oversight and protect public funds meant to support emergency response and disaster mitigation efforts in Bungoma County.

The Committee resolved to grant the Executive additional time to submit the relevant financial documents to enable a thorough review of the report. It further agreed that appropriate action will be determined upon receipt and examination of the requested information.

**S**ector Committees of the County Assembly of Bungoma on Monday, March 2, 2026, commenced a two-day interrogation of accounting officers and County Executive officials on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) for the Financial Year 2026/2027.



Chief Officer Reuben Wambwa leads a departmental delegation from the Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization as they appeared before the County Assembly Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization, chaired by Hon. Bernard Kikechi

A central concern raised across multiple committees was the County Executive's allocation of a block figure of Kshs. 421,540,619 for development projects across the departments, without providing an itemized breakdown of the obligations to be cleared.

The Committee on Public Administration, chaired by Hon. Tony Barasa, put the County Executive team led by CECM Dr. David Wamamili and Chief Officer Ms. Everlyne Wekesa to task over the department's priorities as reflected in the CFSP. The Committee underscored that the CFSP was as critical a document as the budget itself and must therefore be treated with the seriousness it deserves.

Members expressed concern that the County Executive had frustrated local contractors through selective payments and by failing to settle obligations dating as far back as 2014. A particularly glaring example was the Office of the County Attorney, which had allocated zero funds towards trade payables despite carrying a pending bill of Ksh 163 million.

The Committee on Finance and Economic Planning, chaired by Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi, scrutinized the CFSP and noted a decline in the county's revenue performance, from Ksh 6.11 billion in FY 2024/2025 to Ksh 6.07 billion in the comparable period of FY 2025/2026. The Committee further observed that local revenue collected in the first half of the year stood at only Ksh 163,772,613 against a budget target of Ksh 671,057,448 thus representing 24% collection rate, even as the annual target had been revised downward.

County Executive for Finance and Economic Planning Ms. Caroline Makali, appearing before the Committee alongside departmental officials, was tasked with explaining the department's strategy for addressing the pending bills

crisis. The Committee also noted that, despite a comprehensive verification exercise having been conducted on pending bills reported by county departments, the resulting report had neither been adopted by the County Executive Cabinet nor by the County Assembly.

This created significant challenges in validating the figures cited, particularly given that the verification findings indicated that while some obligations were legitimate, others lacked proper documentation and required further scrutiny, while several were found to be irregular and classified as ineligible.

CECM Mr. Chrispinus Barasa and Chief Officer Dr. Magrina Mayama appeared before the Committee on Health Services, chaired by Hon. George Makari. The Committee interrogated the department's budget proposals and observed that the Department Headquarters had absorbed only 11% of its recurrent budget and a mere 3.5% of its development budget. County Executive officials cited low reimbursement of Social Health Authority (SHA) claims as a key challenge affecting Appropriation-in-Aid revenues across county medical facilities.

The Committee noted that the document failed to capture donor funded programs within the health departments despite the department getting support from various donors. The department was tasked to provide a breakdown of grants from development partners, the Danida grant was being dropped while AMREF grant of Kshs. 350 Million had been introduced. The Fiscal strategy paper failed to capture allocations for key health care sub-programs such as quality food and water hygiene, diseases surveillance, Neglected Tropical Diseases, market sanitation, HIV/AIDS, TB control, malaria control, blood transfusion services,

Universal Healthcare and referral services.

The Committee on Labour Relations, Members' Services and Facilities, chaired by Hon. Henry Nyongesa, conducted an extensive interrogation of the County Public Service Board, represented by its Chairman, Fredrick Wanyonyi, alongside board members and officials. The session examined the Board's proposed budget of Ksh 180,700,368 for FY 2026/2027, which is intended to support operational activities including the procurement of web-based systems, payment of utility services, travel and subsistence facilitation, and the procurement of goods and services essential to the Board's functioning. Committee members pressed for detailed justification of each expenditure item, emphasizing the need for cost-effectiveness and measurable outcomes, particularly with regard to digital infrastructure investments.

Discussions further centred on the significant variance between the County Executive's proposed ceiling for the County Assembly — Ksh 1,116,961,439, comprising Ksh 966,961,439 for recurrent expenditure and Ksh 150,000,000 for development — and the County Assembly Service Board's own budget request of Ksh 1,460,417,904, which included Ksh 1,260,917,904 for recurrent expenditure, Ksh 199,500,000 for development expenditure, and an additional Ksh 65 million to address deficiencies in the debating chambers. The Committee sought comprehensive justification for the higher allocation, raising concerns about the sustainability of the increased recurrent expenditure and the necessity of the funds designated for chamber improvements.

The Committee on Trade, Energy

and Industrialization, chaired by Hon. Bernard Kikechi, interrogated the department on its proposed allocation of Ksh 224,572,017 comprising Ksh 68,411,894 for recurrent expenditure and Ksh 156,160,123 for development expenditure. Chief Officer Reuben Wambwa led the departmental delegation. The Committee raised concerns over reductions in budget ceilings for major projects, delays in the implementation of ward-based projects, and a reduction in trade loan allocations.

Members sought clarity on the status of pending bills and directed the department to prioritize critical interventions, including infrastructure repairs, street lighting installations, and the extension of the County Integrated Annual Programme (CIAP) by the end of April.

The Committees directed departments to provide a clear breakdown distinguishing allocations earmarked for clearing pending bills from the actual outstanding obligations. In response, County Executive officials attributed the shortfall to budgetary ceilings that constrained their ability to make adequate allocations.

Collectively, the interrogation sessions reaffirmed the County Assembly's oversight mandate in scrutinizing budget proposals, with a clear emphasis on ensuring prudent resource utilization, fiscal accountability, and improved service delivery to the residents of Bungoma County.

The second day of the Sectoral Committee Interrogations on the Bungoma County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2026 kicked off with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development appearing before its mother committee for scrutiny. The Department, led by County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Hebert Kibunguchi, accompanied by Chief Officers, Directors, Project Managers and Accountants, was put to task over the failure to factor pending bills

into the sector's budget ceilings.

Members of the Committee, chaired by Naitiri/Kabuyefwe Ward MCA Hon. Wafula Waiti, questioned how the department intends to settle pending bills amounting to KSh126 million if the same have not been prioritized in the proposed ceilings as a first charge.

"It is regrettable that many contractors who undertook works years ago and handed over the projects upon completion remain unpaid. Some have had their property auctioned. We shall not allow contractors to suffer yet they did work for this County," Hon. Waiti said. The Committee directed the Department to revisit its allocations and ensure that pending bills are adequately budgeted for and settled as a matter of priority.

Members also called for an increase in funding for fertilizer and maize seed distribution programmes. Currently, 500 farmers per ward are vetted and selected to benefit from the programme. However, the Committee proposed that the number be doubled to 1,000 farmers per ward to expand access and boost food production.

The MCAs argued that expanding the programme would enable more deserving farmers to benefit, thereby accelerating the County's quest for food security.

Additionally, the Committee instructed the Department to include all planned projects in its budget projections to justify an upward review of the sector ceiling in line with national government priorities.

"The National Government, under the Ministry of Agriculture, is increasing its budgetary ceiling. How then does the County lower its own ceiling? We must operate in tandem with national government plans," said Hon. Caleb Wanjala.

The Committee further demanded the immediate operationalization of completed projects, expressing concern that several cattle dips constructed under Ward based projects remain unused. Members noted that some of the completed dips are already being vandalized due to lack of chemicals necessary for their operation.

In his closing remarks, Hon. Waiti directed the Executive to return, reconcile its priorities and resubmit proposals that clearly place pending bills as a first charge in the sector budget.

At the same time, the Committee on Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, chaired by Hon. Franklin Simotwo, interrogated the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The Executive was represented by County Executive Committee (CEC) Member Mr. Bonventure Chengek and Chief Officer Mr. Edward Makhandia. Officials were tasked to account for the failure to allocate funds to the dual carriageway road and the Misikhu-Brigadier road projects, both of which carry outstanding pending bills.

The Committee established that the department had submitted a budget request of Ksh. 900 Million; however, only Ksh. 40,415,439 had been allocated — a figure the Committee found grossly inadequate in relation to the total value of outstanding obligations.

CEC Member Mr. Chengek confirmed that both road projects had been completed but that payments to contractors remained outstanding. The department indicated that it is currently in the process of reviewing relevant policies and regulations to strengthen project implementation and payment frameworks. The Committee directed the departmental officials to furnish it with a comprehensive and updated schedule of all pending bills.

The Committee on Youth and Sports, chaired by Hon. Timothy Chikati, interrogated the County Fiscal Strategy Paper with County Executive officials led by CEC Member Mr. Benedict Emachar and Chief Officer Ms. Beatrice Wafula.

The Committee called upon the Youth Department to demonstrate greater dynamism in its operations and urged the development of evidence-based policies that would anchor and guide the implementation of programmes with measurable benefits for the youth of Bungoma County.

The Committee observed a significant discrepancy in the pending bills figures submitted by the department — Ksh. 5,876,914 (recurrent) and Ksh. 28,315,432 (development) — which did not reconcile with the Treasury-verified figure of Ksh. 46,220,709. Officials were put on notice to provide a credible explanation and reconciliation of the figures.

The Committee also raised concerns regarding the Masinde Muliro Stadium in Kanduyi, specifically in relation to the installation of a sprinkler and photofinisher system. The department clarified that Phase 1 of the project was financed by the County Government, while Phase 2 was funded by the National Government.

However, the Committee expressed serious concern over unexplained variations in contractor payments for the project, which had escalated from an initial figure of Ksh. 679 Million to Ksh. 794,209,243. Officials were directed to provide full documentation and justification for the variation.



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 Bungoma County Assembly

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