

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES
THE DAILY HANSARD
THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2026
Special Sitting

3rd County Assembly

5th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2026

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

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

CONVOCAION OF THE SPECIAL SITTING OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR THE
STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

Honourable Members,

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Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 26 (1) and (2) of the Bungoma County Assembly Standing Orders, I have the honour to draw your attention to Gazette Notice No. 3961, which was duly published to convene this Special Sitting of the County Assembly.

This Sitting is convened following a formal request by His Excellency the Governor, Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH, to deliver the State of the County Address. This is in strict accordance with the provisions of Section 30 (2)(k) of the County Governments Act (2012), read together with Sections 4 and 5 of the Bungoma County State of the County Address Act (2023).

Honourable Members, in line with our Standing Orders, the business to be transacted today shall be limited to the Address by His Excellency the Governor. Accordingly, this Special Sitting is properly convened.

Your Excellency, it is the esteemed tradition of this Assembly to recognize the distinguished guests who have joined us in the galleries. I therefore wish to accord special recognition to the following guests seated in the Speaker's Row and the public galleries. Upon hearing your name and position, I kindly request that you be upstanding for recognition.

- The County Commissioner represented by Kanduyi Deputy County Commissioner and the County Commandants of the Administration Police Service (APS) and Kenya Police Service (KPS) represented by Kanduyi Sub-County commandants of Administration Police Service and Kenya Police Service.

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- Members of the County Executive Committee, County Secretary and Head of Public Service
- The Vice Chancellor of Kibabii University;
- The Branch Manager KCB - Bungoma
- The Chairperson, Secretary and Members of the County Public Service Board;
- The County Director of the Teachers Service Commission, alongside leaders of the teaching fraternity from KUPPET and KNUT;
- Our Spiritual Leaders, including Fr. Jeremiah Manuni, the Chairman of NCCCK, and the Muslim Sheikh
- The County Chief Officers, Principals of Kamusinga, Kibabii, Namachanja and Baptist Schools, and the Chiefs of Township and Khalaba locations.

Honourable Members, today's Sitting is historic as it provides an opportunity for the Governor to account to the people of Bungoma on the state of our County, the progress made, and the challenges that lie ahead. Notably, this year being a year preceding the General Elections next year, 2027, it is a pivotal moment for this Administration to consolidate its achievements and outline the final roadmap for our county's prosperity.

It is now my singular honour and privilege to invite His Excellency the Governor to address this Special Sitting of the County Assembly.

Welcome, Your Excellency. I thank you.

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H.E. THE GOVERNOR: The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situmah, The Assembly Leadership and Honourable Members present; Her Excellency, The Deputy Governor, County Executive Committee Members and County Staff Present, The people of Bungoma County, Members of the Fourth Estate; Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Mr. Speaker Sir,

We gather here not merely as leaders - but as custodians of a promise. A promise to serve. A promise to uplift. A promise to transform Bungoma into a County where opportunity is not a privilege but a right. I stand here today proud of the cordial, respectful, and productive relationship between the Executive and this August House. You have walked this journey with us; not as critics from the sidelines, but as partners in progress.

Together, we have demonstrated that when leadership rises above politics, when dialogue replaces division, and when unity becomes our language, then development is not delayed, it is delivered. Let us guard this relationship jealously because it is the foundation upon which our success rests.

Honourable Members,

It is my great honor to present the State of Bungoma County Address for the year 2026, as mandated under Section 30(2) (k) of the County Governments Act 2012, which requires that the Governor shall deliver an Annual State of the County Address containing such matters as may be specified in County Legislation. Similarly, Section 30(2) (j) of the same Act provides that the

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Governor shall submit to the County Assembly an annual report on the implementation status of the County Policies and plans. Section 47(3) of the Act asks that I give to the assembly a report on the performance of the County Executive Committee and Public Service.

This report not only provides accountability to this honorable house as required by law but also serves as a platform for reflection, guidance to strategic planning, and evidence of public participation in our governance processes.

There is a timeless adage which states that “*Good governance is not the art of making promises; it is the art of delivering results.*” This saying captures very well the essence of our journey over the past four years. Since assuming office in 2022, my administration has pursued a vision of a modern, inclusive, and prosperous County, guided by the principles of equity, sustainability, and service delivery excellence. In the financial year 2024/2025 and the first half of 2025/2026 we have endeavored to prioritize programs and projects that impact the lives of our people across all wards, from urban centers to the most remote villages.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I would like to express my great appreciation that over the past financial year my administration received in very many ways good support from the leadership and the honorable Members of this County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

We are all here because of the struggle that brought about the 2010

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constitution which introduced devolution in our national governance structure. The undisputed champion of devolution in this country was none other than the late former Prime Minister, RT Honorable Raila Amollo Odinga. He was a crusader of accountability and transparency and above all for all of to be patriotic and embrace the national values. As we pray for his soul to rest in peace, I call upon us to continue embracing the principles that he championed among them; patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, upholding the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people in

governance; human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

We also remember a departed member of this house who represented Chwele - Kabuchai Ward, the late **Hon. Barasa Mukhongo** who at the time of his demise was the chair of the Finance Committee. For the great work he did in this house and to the people of Chwele/Kabuchai, may his soul rest well in peace.

Life has a way of renewing itself & hence Chwele/Kabuchai ward was not orphaned for long. In the subsequent by election, the residents chose Hon Eric Wekesa as their representative to this honorable house and may I take this opportunity to congratulate him again and wish him well in service to the people of Chwele/Kabuchai ward and Bungoma County at Large.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

From the very first day when we came into office, I have been deliberate and

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consistent in my efforts to maintain a very positive working relationship between my administration, the County Assembly, the Bungoma County elected and appointed representatives at the National level and above all foster closer ties with not just the national government agencies but also mainly the head of state H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto.

Our close working relationship with the president has enabled our County to benefit from the national government through several programs which are being spearheaded by the National government such as affordable housing, construction of modern market infrastructure, upgrading of institutions, construction of hostels and the latest being the Kanduyi Smart city at the old Kiwanja Ndege grounds.

Last week, we were privileged to host H.E. the President on a three-day development tour during which he Laid the foundation stone for the Cheptais strategic market, commissioned rural electrification project in Cheptais, Commissioned the Toroso Primary School buildings done by the M-pesa Foundation, Inspected the Chwele - Kibabii last mile connectivity water project that is ongoing, Inspected the ongoing construction of the Chwele modern market, Commissioned the Huduma Centre in Kimilili and laid the foundation stone of the Kanduyi smart city at the old Airstrip grounds. I thank all the leaders from this great County lead by the Speaker of the national assembly Hon. Dr. Moses Masika Wetang'ula, you honorable MCAs, the Members of parliament and our staff for the great organization that made the trip a success. I thank all the residents for the great turn out and enthusiasm and warm welcome of the President.

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Mr. Speaker Sir,

On a sombre note, I would like to state that the County is still in a somber mood following the horrific successive accidents at Malaha Junction on the Webuye - Lugulu highway that claimed many lives and injured many. My condolences to the families that lost their loved ones and quick recovery to the injured victims who continue to receive medical care in various medical facilities within the County. We continue to pray for the families. At the same time the County is working on mechanisms in collaboration with other stakeholders to improve on the emergency response to be able to handle such calamities. I really applaud our healthcare workers at Webuye County Hospital led by Dr. Wanikina and his team who were tremendous in attending to the all the accidents victims and providing support to the affected families. My administration is in talks with the National government through KENHA to explore long lasting solutions to the structure and design of that road in order to avert future calamities.

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Fellow leaders,

In shaping our development agenda, we remained guided by one fundamental truth: The lowest unit of administration in a devolved system is the ward. And because we understood this & because we respected this, we ring-fenced resources for Ward - based projects. We took development to the people. We decentralized opportunity. We ensured that no ward, no village, no citizen was left behind. And today, the results speak for themselves: The wards have flourished. Equity has been strengthened. And the face of Bungoma is changing, from the grassroots up. To my Executive team; Hongera sana. Your commitment, your discipline, and your tireless service have turned policy into progress, and vision into reality.

Honourable Members,

Across this County, transformation is visible: At Kamukuywa, a modern market stands as a symbol of economic empowerment. In Kanduyi, the modern bus park is redefining order, efficiency, and urban dignity.

The Masinde Muliro Stadium is nearing completion; a home for talent, a hub for youth, and a source of pride for our people. And the Naitiri – Brigadier road, now being upgraded to bitumen standards, is unlocking opportunity, connecting farmers to markets, and communities to growth. These are not just projects. They are promises fulfilled.

May I now enumerate below the achievements department by department for the period under review.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Education remains the bedrock of development. Our key mandate as per Schedule 4 of the constitution is in enhancing ECDE and Vocational training education. In the period under review, my administration undertook progress measures as follows:

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On matters Infrastructure improvement, the following has been accomplished:

Various ECDE learning centres in 12 wards were supplied with ECDE plastic chairs amounting to a total of KShs. 29 million.

The beneficiary wards were, Sitikho, Ndalul, Kamukuywa, Ndivisi, Naitiri/Kabuyefwe, Misikhu, Bukembe East, Kimaeti, Khasoko, Chesikaki, Matulo and West Nalondo.

Strengthened vocational training by equipping ECDE centers with tools worth Ksh. 21 million and completed new workshops in five Vocational Training workshops namely; Tailoring workshop at Mvule VTC in East Sang'alo Ward, St. Joseph's Manani VTC in Misikhu, twin workshops in Sirakaru VTC in Naitiri Kabuyefwe, Workshop / (Craft Centre) at Ng'oli VTC in west Bukusu and finally a Workshop and 12 door-pit latrine at St. Joseph Sudi VTC in South Bukusu Ward.

Under educational materials support and digital learning. The following achievements were realized:

We procured learning materials worth KShs. 15 million for 823 ECDE schools, ensuring each learner receives books, pencils, and essential supplies. The distribution was done equitably in all the wards in the nine sub counties.

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The department successfully on-boarded 45 ECDE schools to digital literacy programs, complemented by teacher training and ICT infrastructure for monitoring and learning. This is in addition to the 540 that were on boarded in prior periods and this exercise is benefiting over 50,000 children across the country.

We provided Capitation of KShs. 25 million to VTC centers across the County using the criteria of the number of students in the schools. The funds have been used to support the institutions critical cash flow needs including; buying of additional teaching and learning materials.

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Mr. Speaker Sir, the ECDE school feeding program is a very vital tenet of the overall objective to make early childhood learning attractive and sustainable particularly to early learners from vulnerable homes. It has been documented that our sustained Uji program has created a positive spike in the enrolment in most of the learning centers across the County, and we intend to sustain and improve on it. You recall that the program has in the past been supported by parents and teachers but the County Government stepped in to supply 3 days a week and they support the two. The initial roll out had some challenges with one or two sub counties experiencing delays in supply but that has since been rectified. The delays in the roll out were caused by the challenges related to the new Electronic Government procurement system. An advertisement for procurement and supply of uji flour has been done for the second batch and this will ensure that our ECDE learners continue enjoying UJI as they come to school.

Mr. Speaker Sir, for a long time the department has had serious shortage of high level administrative and quality assurance supervisory manpower. Our institutions are spread all over the County hence need continuous administrative and monitoring and evaluation follow up to ensure that our learners are receiving standard quality training and mentor ship. In order to solve this longstanding human resource shortages, and improve on the teacher to pupil/student ration, we have through the County Public Service Board, made advertisement for a

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Director , Assistant Directors , 225 ECDE Teachers and 135 VTC Trainers that is running up to April 2nd 2026 asfollows:

Director Education & VTC (1 post), Deputy Director - (2 posts),

Assistant Directors - VTC (2 posts),

Vocational & Technical Trainer Assistant III (87 Posts)

Assistant Vocational Trainer III (48 posts)

ECDE Assistant Teacher III (135 posts)

Assistant ECDE Teacher V, (90 Posts)

I would like to thank the assembly for providing the necessary budgetary allocation to support the recruitment. As the County Public Service Board process the applications, we are highly encouraging graduands of our VTC institutions to take advantage and apply, so that they can in turn get the chance to impact the very communities that helped nature them.

I firmly believe that these interventions will lead to all round expanded access to quality education, and enhanced digital literacy among learners and educators.

HOUSING AND URBAN AREAS

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Mr. Speaker Sir,

In the financial years 2024/2025- 2025/2026, my administration's initiatives focused on slum upgrading, and infrastructure improvements:

Under KISIP II, a contract sum of KShs 378,999,500.00 commenced on 6th August 2024 for the upgrade of two towns namely (Mjini slums) and Chwele Town (Land Matope slums).

The Bungoma Mjini slums project scope in covering Construction of 1,588m of Roads to bituminous standards, Construction of storm water drainage, installation of street lights, and rehabilitation of the high mast flood light in addition to other minor works. The Chwele Land Matope slums upgrade scope is for the Construction of 2,123m of roads to bituminous standards, Construction of storm water drainage, and Installation of several street lights.

The overall project implementation status for the KISPII is at 75% and it is anticipated that upon completion, the beneficiary areas will have improved security, sanitation, and business activities in these towns.

The Construction of the County Executive Office Block is at 25% completion, while the Governor's Residence is at 65% completion, and the Deputy Governor's Residence at 50%, with works progressing well.

We developed the Bungoma County Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy 2024–2034, with additional slums mapped out for upgrading

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namely; Mjini Musikoma ward, Bondeni in Khalaba Ward, Sango in Maraka Ward, Soweto in Kimilili Ward, Mandizini in Cheptais Ward and Myanga Matopeni in Kimaeti Ward, Bumula Sub County.

The much-awaited Kanduyi Market Stalls and Bus Park, is at 90% completion. This advanced urban infrastructure project contains 234 market stalls, kitchen, stores, toilet block, and paved bus parking spaces. The Department has written to **KENHA** to prescribe the standards required for an entry into the park off the **Webuye kanduyi-Malaba** highway, which upon receipt will enable us to fast track the completion and commissioning.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with regard to Chwele and Webuye Municipalities, I am glad to report that in February 2026, we filed a motion in the High Court at Bungoma to seek clarification and relief following the Judgment of the same Court delivered on 21st July 2020, specifically concerning the distinction between the processes for Chwele and Webuye municipalities. The Application was premised on solid supporting evidence that clearly indicated the public participation process for Webuye Municipality was entirely distinct from Chwele/Namwela and it was procedurally sound.

The court in the ruling issued on 3rd day of March, 2026, agreed with our assertion and declared that the conservatory orders issued on 21st

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July 2020 do not apply to the process of conferment of municipality status for Webuye, as all requisite legal and procedural steps for Webuye have been undertaken. Therefore, my administration is at liberty to proceed with the formal gazettelement and establishment of Webuye Municipality.

The officers responsible have started working on the requisite steps and this house will be notified in due course. We shall at the same time continue to pursue for an amicable solution for the Chwele Municipality. On the process of enabling Municipalities be autonomous, the department of Finance has transferred funds to urban areas and municipalities accounts in accordance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, and the opening of Municipality development accounts are underway to enhance urban governance.

AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND COOPERATIVES.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Agriculture remains the backbone of Bungoma County's economy: Through the Farm Input Support Programme (FISP), my administration has continuously supplied free fertilizer, maize seeds to 22,500 farmers annually. Additionally, we also provided avocado, and coffee seedlings.

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In the coming financial year we shall look into how we can increase the number of beneficiaries per ward from 500 to 800 utilizing the Government –to - Government procurement option depending on the availability of funds.

Livestock interventions included dairy animals, poultry, goats, and fish farm support, alongside renovation of slaughterhouses and construction of livestock auction rings.

Cooperatives were strengthened through office construction, coffee processing equipment purchase and installation, milk cooling houses renovation, and capacity building of Kilimo SACCOs and FPOs.

Under NAVCDP, 326,068 farmers have been profiled and supported with training & Capacity building, e-vouchers support, and market access initiatives.

KeLCoP interventions included training market-oriented farmer groups, supplying improved livestock breeds, and honey production equipment.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The health and well-being of our people remains a top priority for my administration. Guided by the Bungoma County Health Services Act, 2019, we have made remarkable progress in strengthening our health

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systems, expanding access, and improving service delivery outcomes across the County.

The County through the department of health and sanitation delivers services through a five-tier system comprising Level I (358 Community Health Units), Level II (115 dispensaries), Level III (55 health centers), Level IV (10 sub-County hospitals), and Level V (one County referral hospital). These facilities collectively form the backbone of health service delivery in Bungoma County.

In this period, we made the following achievements:

Significant improvements in service delivery were recorded. Skilled deliveries increased, outpatient utilization averaged 96% Countywide, with Kimilili, Webuye West, and Kanduyi sub-counties surpassing 130% utilization rates. Immunization coverage improved, and over 106,000 Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLITNs) were distributed to children under one year and pregnant women. More than 665,000 school-aged children were dewormed across the County.

Infrastructure development and equipment supply to enable improved service delivery are the main focus and the following has been accomplished:

The 300 BED MOTHER AND CHILD EQUIPPING was equipped with medical equipment worth Ksh 50 Million and as I speak now, it is operational.

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Construction of sewer-line at Webuye County Hospital at a cost of KShs 31,221,600 was completed Construction of outpatient department at Webuye County Hospital at a cost of kshs 81,917,720 is at 35% completion, we have had challenges of funding but we are committed to ensuring its completion.

Erection and completion of radiology department at BCRH at a cost of KShs 24,798,532 is at 95% completion stage. We upgraded 44 high-volume dispensaries to health centers, opened new dispensaries to improve geographical access, and ensured all 35 Community Health Units are operational, enhancing community–facility linkages and antenatal clinic attendance.

Rehabilitative services were commissioned in six sub-County hospitals, maternity wings and dispensaries were completed in over 20 facilities, and power installations and sanitation projects were finalized in selected areas.

I am also happy to report to this house that my administration received a CT-Scan Machine at the Bungoma Teaching & Referral Hospital yesterday, it's being installed and I will officially launch it next week to serve our people and bid goodbye to the tiresome journeys our people have had to endure in search of such services in Eldoret and other places. We are also in the process of acquiring an MRI machine and in due course we will have it at our BCRH facility. The acquisition of a CT-

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Scan machine for Webuye County Hospital has been finalized and it will also be arriving at the facility soon to decongest the BCRH one.

My administration has supplied dental equipment to various medical facilities across the County among them, Bumula Sub - County Hospital. Our human resources for health have been strengthened. The County now has 1,840 permanent & pensionable officers, 782 County-contracted staff whom my administration is keen to confirm to permanent & pensionable terms, 240 partner-supported staff, and 243 Universal Health Coverage staff, alongside 3,510 Community Health Promoters whose stipends are co-funded by the national government.

Health information systems have improved significantly, with reporting rates above 98% on the Kenya Health Information System. All health facilities are registered in the Kenya Master Health Facility Register, and efforts to digitalize health services are ongoing, including establishing functional Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) in all Sub-County hospitals and the County referral hospital.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

We intend to upgrade two Sub - County hospitals through construction and equipping at a budget of KShs 50 Million each. These are Bokoli Sub-County Hospital and Chwele Sub- County Hospital.

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In the coming financial year we also propose to upgrade **Kimaeti Health Centre and Kopsiro Health to Level 4 facilities.**

Additionally, we anticipate an AMREF grant of Kshs. 350 million which requires Counter-part funding of Kshs. 135,000,000 from our part. To actualize this, the County Treasury is going to prioritize an additional allocation for co- funding in the event the County gets an additional allocation.

These achievements in the health sector demonstrate our continuous commitment to equitable, efficient, and sustainable health care delivery across Bungoma County. We remain steadfast in our vision to ensure that every resident has access to quality and affordable health services.

ROAD, TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The County prioritized development, expansion, modernization, and maintenance of sustainable transport infrastructure to facilitate efficient movement of people and goods across the County.

I am pleased to report that the Department achieved a cumulative implementation index of 92.48% completion of annual projects. The

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remaining 7.52% is expected to be realized by the end of FY 2025/2026, as this largely comprises pending works under FY 2024/2025 framework projects and multi-year projects.

Notable achievements include:

Urban Roads: 11.5 KMs upgraded to bitumen standards (Including 2.5 km Salmond – River Khalaba Road, currently at 85% completion), installation of 130 light masts along key urban roads.

Rural Roads: 20.85 KMs upgraded, with ongoing works on Misikhu– Brigadier Road at 80% completion.

Maintenance: 953 KMs of rural roads maintained through County, Ward, and framework programs.

Bridges and Box Culverts: 4 bridges and 38 box culverts constructed across the County.

Transport safety: Fire stations renovated at Kanduyi and Webuye; and road lighting installed at various black spots, enhancing public safety. The Procurement process is ongoing for fuel levy & CEF road projects for this financial year and in due course, successful contractors will be reporting on site.

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On the Framework projects for the FY 2025/2026, my administration is doing everything possible to unlock the stalemate that has put on hold the implementation of the projects and I have confidence that in due course, we will be able to overcome the stalemate to allow our people enjoy the good road network that the Framework contracts have effected in this financial year.

TRADE, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Our economic interventions through the department of Trade Energy and Industrialization have focused on creating a conducive business environment for our people. I am happy to report the following;

Under Market modernization, the Kamukuywa Market is at 80% completion, alongside upgrades to major markets across the County.

The County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) at Sang’alo is 60% complete, targeting coffee, avocado, sunflower, honey, and cassava value chains, enhancing job creation and industrial investment.

The Market lighting projects extended trading hours and improved security.

The national government through its modern market infrastructure improvement has invested heavily in our County courtesy of our close collaboration and working relationship. Initially, they were doing 15

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markets spread across the County but with the recent presidential visit, the president pledged to add 5 more modern markets bringing the total number of markets to be constructed across the County to 20.

This national government program has projects spread all over the County with some nearing completion stages, namely Soko Kubwa Market in Bungoma Town which is at 78%, Chwele Modern Market at 55%, Webuye ESP Market at 92%, Naitiri Market at 92%, Mateka Market at 67%, Malakisi Market at 55%. Others are at Sirisia, Misikhu, Bokoli, Cheptais and Bukembe.

**WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT,
TOURISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Since we came to the office, access to clean and safe water has improved significantly courtesy of the programs we have had in place including KOICA 1 and II. In the period under review, we achieved the following: 48 water projects were implemented under the Community Empowerment Fund, including boreholes, spring protection, and pipeline extensions in various wards across the County.

Mr. Speaker, I request this house to consider additional allocation for co-funding to the KOICA III water project. This will go a long way in

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ensuring compliance with the terms of agreement that we signed with KOICA.

Bungoma Water and Sewerage PLC, is the entity that is mandated to provide water services within most urban areas of this County.

During the FY 2025/2026, the County supported the entity with a budgetary allocation of 30 million.

The funds have been utilized to settle electricity bills, ensuring continuity in water production and supply operations, purchase of water treatment chemicals, Purchase of two (2) water pumps for Matisi Water Supply Scheme to improve water production and distribution efficiency. Additionally, there is an exercise geared toward the supply and installation of 2,000 additional consumer meters, aimed at increasing household access to piped water services.

The County Government is working in collaboration with the National Government to implement major last-mile water connectivity projects under, KOICA I Water Supply Project, KOICA II Water Supply Project and Kapkateny Water Supply Project.

In order to enhance corporate governance, accountability, and operational efficiency within the company, the County is undertaking a recruitment process for a qualified Managing Director to join the management structure.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Department of Public Service Management and Administration has been pivotal in ensuring that Bungoma County has a professional and efficient workforce capable of delivering quality services to our citizens. A comprehensive human resource audit was carried across all County departments. This exercise allowed us to map the staffing structure, identify gaps, and ensure alignment with the County's strategic priorities. In addition, a skills assessment of all County staff was conducted to determine the competencies available within the workforce and identify areas requiring capacity building and professional development.

These initiatives have provided critical data that will inform our human resource planning, training, and succession strategies. They will also ensure that staff are deployed effectively in roles where they can have the greatest impact, thus enhancing overall service delivery across the County.

GENDER, CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORTS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Under this department I will highlight three projects that have been key. The Chemoge High Altitude Centre, the Masinde Muliro Stadium and Sang'alo Multi -Purpose Hall.

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The Chemoge High altitude center in Kaptama Ward has had a fair share of challenges since the inception of this project in 2013.

I am glad to report that in the period under review, there has been a remarkable progress in terms of development and equipping of the facility. The progress registered includes; fully Equipped Multi-purpose hall, fully equipped gym, fully equipped Kitchen, Electrical works with a backup Generator, a functioning Sauna, drilled borehole, an installed solar system, complete and equipped ground floor hostel block. My administration has organized a Marathon on 9th May in Mt. Elgon to launch the High-altitude centre. May I take this opportunity honorable members to invite all of you to this momentous occasion.

Currently, the department is fast tracking completion and equipping of 1st floor hostel block which is at 80% complete and expected to be complete by 19th June, 2026.

The Masinde Muliro Stadium is at 90% completion for the work under the County government budget. The pending works include; complete tiling of the 2nd floor, Completion of Ground floor, pending electrical works, fixing of the sprinkler system at the field among others. The contract elapsed on 16th Dec, 2025 and the department has wound up the contract and is working on way forward modalities regarding pending works.

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Sang'alo cultural center is being set up with the aim of promoting cultural activities of all the six sub-tribes within Bungoma County. The Multipurpose Hall, Sanitation Block and Renovation of Administration Block are 100% complete. In the FY 2025/2026 the department intends to build six cultural homes and drill a borehole.

COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The County Public Service Board is a cornerstone institution for ensuring that Bungoma County has a competent, motivated, and professional workforce capable of delivering services efficiently.

I am pleased to report that the office is now fully operational awaiting finalization of the recruitment of the Secretary/CEO of which the interviews were completed. The newly recruited members of the CPSB, are highly qualified and independent professionals committed to upholding integrity, merit, and transparency in public service management.

I thank this house for vetting and approving the members of the board and look forward to us finishing the remaining part as soon as possible so the board can full and strengthen their resolve in clearing the human resource related backlog including confirmation of contracted staff to Permanent & Pensionable, Promotion of staff that are due among other duties of the board.

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The County Assembly of Bungoma hosted a five-day Jitume Digital Training Program from 4th to 8th August, 2025 held at the County Assembly Digital Library. The program aimed at equipping participants with essential digital skills marking a major step in promoting digital literacy and youth empowerment within the County. The training was conducted by facilitators from Emobillis partnering with Ajira Kenya and Konza City Technopolis Development Authority On the legislation front, the house considered and passed the following five Bills:

The Bungoma County 1st Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;

The Bungoma County Government Annual Appropriation Bill, 2025;

And The Bungoma County 1st Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025

The Bungoma County Valuation and Rating Bill, 2024; and the Bungoma County Livestock Sale Yard Bill, 2025.

Quality Management Standards

The County Assembly has successfully rolled out the implementation of its Quality Management System (QMS), a significant step towards enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. Already at Stage One (pre-certification) Quality Management System (QMS) audit

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by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has been undertaken. The audit was conducted on 8th January 2026, as part of the structured certification process and was intended to assess the Assembly's preparedness to implement internationally recognized quality standards in the execution of its constitutional mandate of Legislation, Representation and Oversight.

6th Edition of CASA games

The County Assembly of Bungoma was crowned the Overall Best County Assembly at the County Assemblies Sports Association (CASA) Games 2025, after taking home 11 trophies and certificates following an exceptional performance in Meru County. This marked the second consecutive year that Bungoma has clinched the coveted overall title.

The exemplary performance follows a similar one in 2024 when Bungoma hosted the games; the Assembly won six trophies plus the overall trophy, bringing the total to seven. I applaud the teams for making Bungoma proud. Like the saying goes, "work without play makes jack a dull boy", I pledge to continue giving the teams support so that we remain at the helm because games are an important part of maintaining a healthy Work-life balance.

Development - The New County Assembly building structure

The new Assembly debating chamber construction is ongoing well and allow me commend the leadership of this house for the good work they are doing and great progress they have made so far. It is humbling to note

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that the chambers are now at 69% completion stage and I am confident that at this rate, the chambers will be ready by September this year and you will be the first occupants. Also to note honorable members, the president recently ascended into law, the autonomy of the County assemblies in the country and I totally support that autonomy and as your governor, I will ensure timely disbursement of your allocation to enable facilitate your activities without unnecessary delays.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ECONOMIC PLANNING

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members, prudent financial management remains central to our development agenda. During the period under review, our County Treasury has recorded remarkable progress in fiscal discipline and resource mobilization:

The Revenue Performance for FY 2024/2025, as provided in our reports and to the reports provided to the County Assembly, the Controller of Budget, and the Auditor General in the form of the Annual Performance Report, 4th Quarter Budget implementation report, and Financial Statements for FY 2024/2025 confirm that the County's Approved Supplementary I Budget for FY 2024/25 was Kshs.16.70 billion, comprised of Kshs.6.63 billion (40 per cent) and Kshs.10.08 billion (60 per cent) for development and recurrent programs respectively.

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The County received Kshs.11.17 billion from the exchequer in the period under review to fund its development and recurrent activities. Other revenue streams included national government and development partners, amounting to Kshs.879.64 million, and our Own-Source Revenue (OSR) collection of Kshs.485.53 million. Overall Own source revenue was Kshs.1.28 billion made up of Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF) collection of Kshs.793.17 million, and Kshs.485.53 million from other OSR sources. This amount reflected a significant improvement from the previous financial year.

The Revenue Performance for FY 2025/2026 (Half Year), as recently reported in the CFSP, revenue received by the County in the first half of FY 2025/26, revenue received is Kshs.6.07 billion, representing 0.65% decrease from Kshs. 6.11 billion in the same period of 2024/25.

The bulk of the revenue (Kshs. 5.60 billion or 44.7%) came from the equitable share of nationally raised revenue.

The County's fiscal performance for the first half of FY 2025/26 reflects a stable revenue position following the First Supplementary Budget, with total revenue revised upward to Kshs. 17.43 billion from the approved Kshs. 15.93 billion. National

Government transfers remain the primary source of funding, amounting to Kshs. 12.52 billion (71.8%) of total revenue.

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The Exchequer Operations: The turnaround time for the release of funds from the exchequer has been reduced to less than one week, ensuring timely disbursement to departments.

Pending Bills: Our commitment to clearing past obligations is continuously bearing fruits. During the period County Treasury carried out a very a comprehensive verification of all pending bills submitted by the departments. The criteria was to identify eligible pending bills for the purpose of proper reporting in the Financial Statements and for proper cash flow planning. The bills that lacked proper documentation and required further verification were not included in the final figure.

Other submissions that lacked merit or appeared to have been incurred improperly were classified as ineligible and do not form part of the County liabilities.

The final verified pending bills stood at KShs 2.9 billion which reports a significant drop from amount of KShs. 4.9 billion as reported in 2022. The breakdown of KShs 2.9 billion is Kshs. 602 Million recurrent and Kshs. 2.3 billion for development related respectively.

Diving further into the development pending bills, out of KShs 2.3B, the department of roads carried the highest share of KShs 1.585 Billion, the biggest chunk being amounts due to the dual carriage.

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The Executive made a proposal in the draft County Fiscal Strategy Paper for an amount of KShs. 421. Million to settle pending bills for the next financial year, however we are now adopting the revised amount of ksh 611 million as per the approved County fiscal strategy paper, and request for collaboration on the finer details of the spread.

Budget Implementation: With prudent management, funds have been optimally utilized, resulting in the possibility of a roll-over of unspent funds, which will be redirected to ongoing and priority projects.

Borrowing: The County has no borrowings and there are no salary arrears for the employees. The KCB loan for salaries that was persistent in the earlier financial years was cleared, thus enabling the County to stop paying high interest on overdrafts.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On multiple occasions, the Executive appeared before oversight Committees specifically the County Public Accounts Committees both at the County Assembly and the Senate to respond to matters raised regarding information contained in our financial reports which included for past periods going back to FY 2019/2020 all the way to the latest report of FY 2024/2025. The Controller of Budget too in the Annual County Government Budget implementation review report for FY 2024/2025 made observations and

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recommendations for our action. And finally, the office of the Auditor General in the cause of the audit of FY 2024/2025 also indicated items that need Executive attention.

We have taken the following steps:

Pending Bills: This has been exhaustively discussed in the preceding address.

Gratuity payments and other statutory remittances: Gratuity payment for staff from the previous administration who have been duly cleared in the system is being processed for payment.

We are internally strengthening the internal audit function and the audit committee in order to get better oversight over the financial reporting process, integrity of our financial statements and improved compliance with all statutory requirements.

The high wage bill continues to be a great challenge. The County's wage bill currently stands at Kshs. 7,571,529,330, representing approximately 43.4% of total revenue, against the statutory ceiling of 35% prescribed under the Public Finance Management fiscal responsibility principles.

This wage burden has direct structural implications on the revenue framework: Approximately 60% of equitable share transfers are absorbed by personnel costs. Own-source revenue (11.9% of total revenue) is insufficient to significantly offset recurrent wage pressure.

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The SRC advisories provide for structured salary adjustments, harmonization of allowances, and rationalization of benefits across public officers, also serious direct implications on the County's personnel expenditure framework.

It's my hope that we shall have a collaborative approach to find a solution to the high wage bill for the County of Bungoma. To the doubting Thomases, you have no room in the destiny of a people determined to succeed. To the malicious and the merchants of hate-take a walk. Because Bungoma will not be built on bitterness. It will be built on unity, hard work, and shared purpose.

My fellow leaders,

The journey is not over. There is more to build. More to deliver. More lives to change. And history will ask of us one simple question: Did we rise to the occasion? Let our answer be clear. Let us remain united. Let us remain focused. Let us remain unwavering. For failure is not our portion. We shall finish this journey with our heads held high, Proud of what we have done, Confident in what lies ahead, and united in our purpose.

Conclusion

As I come to the close of this address, I invite each one of us; leaders, citizens, partners, and friends of Bungoma to reflect on the journey we have taken and the future that lies before us. The story of our County is

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not written by one office or one individual; it is shaped by the collective will, resilience, and dreams of our people.

The year ahead calls us to rise higher, to work harder, and to believe more deeply in what we can achieve together. Let us choose unity over division, service over self-interest, and progress over complacency. Let us be guided by integrity in leadership, diligence in our work, and compassion in how we serve one another.

Bungoma's potential is immensely rooted in the strength of our farmers, the innovation of our youth, the wisdom of our elders, and the determination of our entrepreneurs. If we harness this strength with purpose and discipline, there is no limit to how far we can go.

I reaffirm my unwavering commitment to serve you with transparency, accountability, and dedication. Together, let us build a County where opportunity is not a privilege for a few, but a promise for all; where development reaches every village and hope lives in every home. The future is calling us and I am confident that together, we will answer it boldly. May God bless you all, and may God bless Bungoma County. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you your Excellence. Honourable Members allow me to receive the Governor's Speech that will be tabled in the House in the course of next week in our normal sitting.

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(Governor's speech received by the Speaker)

Honourable Members, that brings to an end of the County Address to the County Assembly of Bungoma by H.E. Governor. I now informally invite the Governor, our visitors in the Public Galleries and Honourable Members for a cup of tea in the County Assembly Cafeteria. I'm specific; a cup of tea and soft drinks; there are no hard drinks to be served.

ADJOURNMENT

We therefore adjourn and resume on 31st of March, 2026 in our normal sitting at 2.20 p.m.

The House rose at 3.30 p.m.

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