

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2026

Morning Sitting

3rd County Assembly

5th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2026

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

(Mr. Deputy Speaker [Hon. Stephen Wamalwa] in the Chair)

PRAYER

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable members, you are welcome. This is our 3rd County Assembly sitting number 345 5th session, morning sitting number 99 and we start our way, the Order Paper being Wednesday, the first day of April, 2026, 9.30 a.m. We proceed.

PAPERS

Report by Committee on Implementation, on training of members of the committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Chetekeyi Chikati.

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Honourable Speaker, I rise to give a notice of motion that this House adopts a report of the committee on Implementation on training for members for the committee on implementation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Chikati, maybe you correct a little; you are tabling. Correct your approach.

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to table a report of the Committee on Implementation on training for members of the committee on Implementation held at the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training in Nairobi. I table.

(Papers laid by Hon. Timothy Chikati)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, the Hon. Chetekeyi Chikati Timothy, member for Ndalutabani and chair Implementation.

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Honourable members, a report by the Implementation committee for training for members of Implementation having been tabled now becomes the property of the House. Next item.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of motion by the report on the Committee on implementation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Chetekeyi, you can issue the notice.

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

I rise to issue a notice that this House adopts the report of the Committee on Implementation on training for members of the Committee on Implementation held at the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training in Nairobi. Thank you.

(Notice issued by Hon. Timothy Chikati)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, members. The same report of the Committee on Implementation on training of members for the Committee on Implementation held at the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training,

The notice having been issued, I now direct that the same report be circulated to Honourable members so that they can get themselves to understand and it will form part of business that will be considered by this House after ratification by the House Business Committee. Thank you so much. Next item.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Statement number 6 of 2026

A response from the chairperson to a statement sought by Honourable member of Tongaren Ward, Hon. Johnstone Ipara.

Deputy Speaker: The owner of the statement is not around. He's around? Where is he? The owner of the statement has just walked in. I hope he will catch up. So therefore, we proceed and allow the Honourable member who is chair, Public Administration and ICT team member for Lwandanyi, Hon. Tony Barasa, to proceed.

Hon. Tony Khaoya: Thank you, Honourable Chair.

THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ICT PROGRESS REPORT TO THE STATEMENT SOUGHT BY MEMBER OF TONGAREN WARD REGARDING MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES

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Honourable Speaker, I want to believe the Honourable member has a copy, which I believe he has. It is good to confirm.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ipara.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Honourable Speaker, I have a copy of the progress report.

Deputy Speaker: Very well. Hon. Khaoya, you can proceed now.

Hon. Tony Khaoya: Thank you. It is good to confirm, Honourable Speaker.

The County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Order No. 54 provides that the Chairperson of a Committee shall submit a progress report to the House on Questions—

- (a) Referred to the Committee;
- (b) Replied to;
- (c) Which the Committee has directed a County Executive Committee Member to provide additional information or further reply; and
- (c) Pending before the Committee

On Thursday, 26th February 2026 at 2:30 p.m., the Hon. Member for Tongaren Ward, through a statement to the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Administration and ICT, sought a response regarding the medical insurance cover for County Executive Staff for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

In the statement, the Chairperson was required to inquire into and report on the following:

1. Budget and Coverage

- a) The total budget allocation for County staff medical insurance for FY 2025/2026
- b) The total number of staff members covered under the scheme, categorized by permanent and contract status.
- c) The premium per staff member and the total contract value.

2. Financial Status and Compliance

- a) Whether there are outstanding arrears or pending bills owed to current or previous insurers.
- b) Whether premiums are being remitted on time to prevent service interruptions.
- c) Whether the procurement method used was compliant with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act and its attendant regulations. In addition, the Department was required to provide the tender advertisement, evaluation report, Head of Supply Chain Management's professional opinion, and the contract agreement.

3. Contract and Performance Management

- a) The performance measures put in place to ensure the insurer delivers services effectively.

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- b) The specific actions taken by the County Executive in cases where staff are denied treatment or medical cards are rejected.

4. Benefits and Service Delivery

- a) The benefit limits for inpatient, outpatient, maternity, dental, and optical services for staff and their dependents.
- b) Whether the cover caters for chronic illnesses, cancer treatment, dialysis, and specialized care.
- c) Whether staffs are required to make co-payments or top-ups when accessing treatment.
- d) The list of hospitals, both within and outside Bungoma County, currently accredited under the scheme.

5. Monitoring and Accountability

- a) The number of complaints registered regarding denial of treatment or delays in approvals.
- b) The average approval time for inpatient and outpatient services.
- c) The number of staff who exhausted their medical limits before the end of the previous Financial Year.
- d) The mechanisms in place to ensure value for money and strict oversight of the scheme.

The Committee deliberated on the statement and resolved to seek a response from the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Public Service Management and ICT. Subsequently, a response referenced **CG/BGM/PSMA&ICT/CECM/CA/VOL. 4(26)** was submitted to the Committee for review.

The Chief Officer appeared before the Committee on 16th March, 2026 and provided responses to the issues raised in the presence of the owner of the statement. However, the owner expressed dissatisfaction, noting that most of the responses lacked adequate supporting evidence, and recommended that additional relevant parties be invited to provide further clarification on the matter.

Conclusion

The Committee, together with the owner of the statement, resolved to invite the responsible parties to provide comprehensive information on the issues raised. The Committee will thereafter prepare and submit a detailed report to this Honorable House upon conclusion of the matter.

The Committee therefore requests a period of three (3) weeks to finalize its inquiry and report back to this House. **I submit**

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Deputy Speaker: Well the owner of the statement is here. Does he have something to say before I make a ruling on the same? Hon. Ipara.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Honourable Speaker, I want to confirm what the chair for Public Administration has presented and it's the true position of what took place on 16th of March 2026 and I'm totally in agreement.

Deputy Speaker: Well now Honourable members that being the position of the committee and having had in their presence the owner of the statement and having sought for three weeks we shall give a date but remember that we have the Legislative Summit which is coming in between. Therefore, this should be on 22nd of April, this month that is, 22nd, which will be a Wednesday. So we can have the same on Wednesday morning, Wednesday 9.30 a.m., 22nd of April, 9.00 a.m. session.

So be advised accordingly. We proceed.

Statement No.17 of 2026 by a Member for Tuuti Marakuru Ward to seek a statement from the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning regarding revenue collection performance and legal compliance by the Department of Finance for the financial year 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.

Deputy Speaker: Well, I think the Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala. Proceed, Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala, on behalf of the Member for Tuuti Marakuru.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you Honourable Speaker. On behalf of the member of Tuuti-Marakuru Ward Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, MCA to seek a statement from the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning regarding revenue collection performance and legal compliance by the Department of Finance for the financial year 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.

In this regard, the County Executive Committee Member on Finance and Economic Planning should address the following;

1. What was the total projected on-source revenue for financial year 2025-2026 and how much revenue has been allocated to debt, including the percentage performance against the target?
2. Provide a detailed breakdown on revenue collection per stream and identify underperforming streams along with reasons for shortfalls.
3. Why has the Department of Finance not formulated and implemented a tariff and pricing policy as mandated by Section 120?
4. What measures are in place to ensure that the tariffs and pricing enhance revenue mobilization while maintaining equity and fairness?

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5. Why did the County Government fail to formulate, table and enact a finance bill for financial year 2024-2025 and 2025-2026? Under what legal framework has revenue been collected in their absence?
- 6.
6. What systems are currently in place for revenue collection and what steps have been taken to seal the loopholes and prevent revenue leakage?
7. What mechanism exists to ensure compliance among the revenue payers and what enforcement action has been taken against defaulters?
8. What is the total amount of outstanding revenue arrears and what strategies are in place for recovery?
9. What challenges is the Department facing in revenue collection?
10. What collective measures and timelines has the Department established to ensure;
 1. Formulation of tariff and pricing policy
 2. The timely preparation and enactment of finance bill in future financial year.

It is notified that pursuant to article 47 subsection 2(c) the member of Tuuti Marakaru ward, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa Juma, will seek...

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Caleb, you can pause.

We have that's one of the statements which the member for Tuuti/Marakaru, who happens to be our Leader of Majority, has directed to the CECM Finance is not the chairman neither is it the committee but it's the CEC.

Therefore, this is a requirement that the CEC will appear and be before this House. That being the case we shall direct that this matter is handled on the afternoon of Tuesday the 21st day of this month, Tuesday 21st April which is 2.30 p.m.

We expect that the table clerks you convey this communication that the CEC should be appearing before this House on 21st April 2026, 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair Finance you are here, do you have something to say?

Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi: Thank you Honorable Speaker Sir. I was of a different opinion, before we bring in the CEC to the House, you will have given us the mandate as the committee to go through what the Honorable Member for Tuuti/Marakaru had requested and had been presented by Hon. Caleb so that we can see if we can get an alternative way of getting proper information to furnish the House first before the CEC appears.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, I think Chair you can have your seat then, you have made your point.

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Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi: And I will also be requesting for three weeks so that we be able to handle this issue effectively.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chairman, you have learnt so much very fast as the Chair of that department. That is so fast of you. You need some commendation.

Well members, the Chair of the department of the sectorial committee over sighting the department has made a request which we consider that before the CEC comes the committee over sighting the same department should get seized of the report and go about finding out and report to this House and also he has requested for time, three weeks, one week will not be sufficient for that. It will be 21st still so the same day remains 21st. You are expected to bring a report on 21st of this month which is actually three weeks as you requested.

Are you comfortable with that Chair! Very well, you don't have a card?

Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi: Hon. Speaker Sir, I am obedient to that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 21st it is! The committee on Finance is expected to bring here information concerning that question and statement.

Statement No.18 of 2026

A MEMBER FOR TUUTI MARAKARU WARD TO SEEK A STATEMENT FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026 WHICH WAS DULY PASSED BY THIS HONORABLE HOUSE IN JUNE 2025

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala, Member for Bukembe East.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you Hon. Speaker. On behalf of the Honorable member for Tuuti Marakaru in the notification pursuant to subsection 47(c)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is Standing Order

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Standing Order 47(2) (c), the member of Tuuti/Marakaru ward Hon. Joseph Nyongesa MCA seeks a statement from the County Executive Committee Member of Finance and Economic Planning regarding the implementation status of the approved budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 which was duly passed by this Honorable House in June 2025. Specifically, the Executive Committee Member of Finance and Economic Planning should address the following;

- 1 The total amount of funds released so far to the County Government from the National Exchequer since the approval of the Budget.
2. A breakdown of equitable shares, conditional grants and any additional allocations

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3. The total development Budget as a approved by the Assembly
4. The amount of development funds that have been
 - i) Committed i.e. contracted legally and obligated
 - ii) Not committed
 - iii) Reasons for any law absorption of delays in committing development funds
 - iv) Create concrete steps the County executive is undertaking to ensure that all uncommitted development funds are committed within the remaining period of Financial Year.
- 5) Timeline and procurement strategies in place to fast track implementation
- 6) A detailed status report of ward based projects indicating
 - i) Projects fully executed
 - ix) Projects committed
 - x) Projects not yet committed
8. Measures being taken to ensure equitable distribution and timeline completion of projects across all wards
9. What assurance the County executive can provide that the remaining funds will be committed and utilized before the close of the Financial Year.
10. Mechanism in place to prevent lapsing of funds and ensure maximum absorption
11. Confirmation on whether the approved recurrent budget particularly for personal emolument is sufficient to sustain the salary payment up to the end of the Financial Year.
12. If there is any project shortfall, the measures being taken to address it without disrupting the service delivery.

That is it Honorable Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala, member for Bukembe East standing in for the member of Tuuti/Marakaru Hon. Joseph Nyongesa Juma. Now, before I say anything, Chair Finance you are here, you have heard that, step forward, use the dispatch!

Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi: Thank you so much Honorable Speaker. I don't know if I will ask for three weeks because we are having so many issues to handle at the moment and putting in mind one week we shall be out of station. I need your guidance on that.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can get your seat! Thank you. Very well, that is Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi Kimeta Member for Nalondo West and Chair Finance. Chair Finance and the team you can handle this thing concurrently because it is the same officer so they can carry all those documents and present before the committee so that you can handle them. By that time of 21st in three weeks if there will be any need then the committee will handle the issue and bring it here. That will be the status but I want to believe that with your agility and the robust stamina, it will be handled well. 21st it is, 2.30 pm

MOTION

Debate on the address by the Governor - First allotted day

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honorable member who stepped in for the Honorable Leader of Majority, Hon. Peter Caleb, you can read that. Proceed!

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you Hon. Speaker. First allow the Leader of Majority that the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the Public Policy contained in the address of the Governor delivered on Tuesday 26th March, 2026.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is all. Thank you members. That is a motion, a debate on the address by the Governor, this is the first allotted day for the same. Honorable members, I now propose for debate that the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the Public Policy contained in the address of the Governor delivered on Thursday 26th day March 2026, I propose.

Honorable members, the Governor was here.

(Loud Consultation)

Fine Honorable members, that being the mood we proceed to the next...

(Applause)

REPORT OF THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS ON THE CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2025

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, Honorable Violet Namaemba Makhanu, Member for Mihuu, Chair Youth Affairs and Sports. You confirm the quorum! Youth committee members, be upstanding. I will call the names. Hon Makhanu is upstanding, Sundukwa, Anyango, Masungo, Nyongesa Allan, Catherine, Ndasaba, Metrine, Mukoyandali, Obama, Chetekei, Rugut, Owongo, Kharakha and Bosire

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(Loud Consultation)

During the report, Hon. Eric was not a member.

(Loud Consultation)

Order members! I have called the members who adopted the report. Maybe I can repeat so that they be upstanding. Be upstanding members! Hon. Makhanu, Sundukwa, Anyango, Masungo, Nyongesa, Allan, Kituyi Catherine, Ndasaba, Wilson, Mukoyandali, Obama, Chetekei, Rugut, Owongo, Kharakha and Bosire

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Makhanu Violet Namaemba, now you know very well how the committee should be and it's the business of the committee to whip their members.

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Violet Makhanu: Mr. Speaker, we are 6.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am not getting you Hon. Chetekei, you are just shouting. Very well, now you can sit. Hon. Namaemba proceed!

Hon. Violet Makhanu: Thank you Honorable Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order members! Whip, Hon. Chetekei, Hon. Whip let us be orderly.

Hon. Violet Makhanu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am on my feet to move a report on Quarterly Reports on Financial Statements for the period ended 30th June, 2025.

Preamble

Mr. Speaker,

It is my duty to present the report by the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on the Quarterly and Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2024/25 for period ended 30th June 2025. The Financial Statements Report was tabled in the County Assembly of Bungoma on 9th September, 2025 and stood committed to all Sectorial Committees for their interrogation, input and recommendations through a report to this Honorable House.

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Can I skip the mandate of the committee?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can skip the mandate of the committee as per the Standing Orders.

Committee Membership

Mr. Speaker,

As at the time of compiling this report, the Committee was constituted of the following members;

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hon. Violet Makhanu | -Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Grace Sundukwa | -V. Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Everlyne Anyango | -Member |
| 4. Hon. Miliyah Masungu | -Member |
| 5. Hon. Allan Nyongesa | -Member |
| 6. Hon. Kituyi Catherine | -Member |
| 7. Hon. Ndasaba Dorcas | -Member |
| 8. Hon. Mitrine Wilson | -Member |
| 9. Hon. Job Mukoyandali | - Member |
| 10. Hon. Abraham Obama | -Member |
| 11. Hon. Timothy Chikati | -Member |
| 12. Hon. Angeline Rugut | -Member |
| 13. Hon. Idd Owongo | -Member |
| 14. Hon. Linda Kharakha | -Member |
| 15. Hon. Aggrey Bosire | -Member |

Can I give the guiding principles?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can skip that.

Acknowledgment

Mr. Speaker,

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I take this opportunity to thank all Honourable Members of the Committee for dedicating their time to interrogate the Youth and Sports department Quarterly and Financial Statements for the period ended 30th June, 2025. The Committee would also like to appreciate the Secretariat who worked with us for their commitment to ensure that the report was produced on time. Lastly, the Committee is grateful to the offices of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly of Bungoma for logistical support received as it discharged its mandate.

It is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports, to table this report for consideration by the House.

The report is signed by Hon. Violet Makhanu, chairperson.

CHAPTER TWO

KEY HIGHLIGHTS ON THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Speaker,

REVENUE

Mr. Speaker,

The department had an initial budgetary allocation of Kshs.71, 824,586, which was later enhanced to Kshs. 206,905,780 in the 1st supplementary budget. It was broken down as Kshs. 31,391,942 recurrent and Kshs.175, 513,838 development. During the period, only Kshs. 116, 625,440 was received.

EXPENDITURE

Mr. Speaker,

During the period under review the department received Kshs. 116, 625,440 and absorbed the whole amount which represented 56% absorption rate. The breakdown on the expenditure is as provided;

General Administration, Planning and support services:

Kshs.21, 033,788 was received against an allocation of Kshs.31, 391,942 which is 67% absorption.

Major expenses were on the following:

- i. Compensation to employees Kshs.10, 261,991 against a budget of Kshs.11, 145,587 which is 92 % absorption. Kshs.2.2m was removed from this vote in 1st supplementary, but there was an excess salary, an indication that budgeting was an overbudget of the vote by Kshs. 3M
- ii. Foreign travel was allocated Kshs. 13M and received Kshs.5, 077,935 which was used for facilitation of EALASCA in Uganda. This translated to 39% absorption.

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- iii. Domestic travel received Kshs. 2M and was fully utilized
- iv. Hospitality utilized Kshs.1,298,991 against an allocation of Kshs. 2M
- v. Other operating expenses (temporary committees) was allocated Kshs.1, 450,000 utilized Kshs.1, 307,600.

Sports and Talent Development

Sports and Talent Development was allocated Kshs. 175,513,838 received Kshs. 95,512,152 during the period.

- i. Supplier credit allocated Kshs.21,696,770 in the 1st supplementary budget utilized Kshs.11,558,043 which represented 53 % absorption and was utilized to pay pending bills on Chemoge High Altitude Phase I.
- ii. High altitude was allocated Kshs.25, 430,681 in the approved budget to cater for pending bills, this was enhanced by Kshs.33m in the 1st supplementary budget to Kshs.58, 430,681. This was budgeted to cater for Phase II of the hostel block. The total expenditure on this vote was Kshs.20, 855,840 leaving a balance of Kshs.37, 574,841. The submissions the department indicate that the construction of Phase II is at 90% was made at the end of the period under review.
- iii. Masinde Muliro Stadium was allocated Kshs.23, 386,387 in the approved budget, this was enhanced by Kshs.72m to clear outstanding balance of Kshs.95, 386,387. Actual expenditure on the stadium was Kshs.63, 098,270 leaving a balance of Kshs.32, 288,117.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Hon. Speaker,

The department had a balance of Kshs. 51,402,016. However, submissions by the department give a balance of Kshs. 78, 788,054, 016, Kshs. 5,876,914 recurrent and Kshs.72, 911,140 development.

The contract for drilling, equipping and commissioning of a borehole at Kshs.6,364,819, proposed completion of Hostel Block at High Altitude at Kshs.25,912,920 and rent for Ajiry Centre Kshs.2,900,552 did not appear on the list of payables supporting the Financial Statements. Additionally drilling, equipping and commissioning of the borehole had no budgetary allocation.

Kshs.95, 386,387 was allocated towards pending bills for Masinde Muliro and Kshs.58, 430,681 towards High altitude Centre. Masinde Muliro utilized Kshs.63, 098,270 leaving a balance of Kshs.32, 288,117. Certificate No 11 worth Kshs. 20,438,806 raised on February 28th 2024 which necessitated the Treasury to borrow from Retention account to settle the same, hence actual balance owing to the contractor is Kshs.13, 255,557.

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The Chemoge High Altitude Training Centre utilized Kshs.20.8 M on pending bills against an allocation of Kshs.25, 430,681. Construction of 6 door pit latrines and landscaping at Maraka stadium at a cost of Kshs.4, 978,550 since 2023 is 60% complete at the close of the financial year. The status has been declared as ongoing yet the contractor is not on site, with the contract expiring in August 2025 and no payments made despite a certificate for Kshs.3, 800,800 being raised.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES

Mr. Speaker,

The department of Youth and Sports had no unsurrendered imprest at the close of the financial year.

CHAPTER THREE

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee General Observations

Mr. Speaker,

The committee made the following observations.

1. There was over budgeting of the vote on compensation to employees which had an allocation of Kshs.10, 261,991 against a budget of Kshs.11, 145,587 which represented 92 % absorption. However, Kshs.2.2 M was removed from the vote in 1st supplementary budget, but still realized an excess in the vote. This indication of weak initial planning and forecasting mechanisms that undermine fiscal discipline and predictability
2. According to the department, Phase I of the Chemoge High Altitude training Centre was 99% complete. Additionally, drilling, equipping and commissioning at the facility did not have any allocation yet it was done, and is currently under accounts Payable.
3. There was Low Absorption of the development vote despite substantial budgetary allocations toward development programs such as sports infrastructure. the overall absorption rate remained low at 56%, indicating delays in project implementation and possible inefficiencies in fund utilization.
4. There were notable discrepancies between the payables presented in the departmental submissions and those in the financial statements, with unaccounted items such as the borehole at High Altitude Training Center and Ajiry Centre rent not reflected in the official payables list.

Committee Recommendations

Mr. Speaker,

The following recommendations were made by the Committee:

1. **THAT**, the Department should prioritize completion of all stalled projects. It should allocate adequate resources and expedite completion of all stalled sports and youth

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infrastructure projects before initiating new ones to ensure value for money and continuity of service delivery.

2. **THAT**, the Department should strengthen its monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure projects are completed on schedule, contractors remain accountable, and progress reports are regularly tabled before the Committee.
3. **THAT**, the officers involved in budget preparation should undergo training on realistic budgeting and forecasting to reduce the need for recurrent supplementary adjustments and enhance financial prudence.
4. **THAT**, The County Treasury and Department of Youth and Sports should jointly reconcile all pending bills and payables to eliminate inconsistencies and maintain accurate, transparent financial reporting.

Mr. Speaker under the adoption schedule, the report was signed by all the 15 members, no annexures attached and I now want to call upon Hon. Wandabusi to second the report

Deputy Speaker: Is Hon. Wandabusi a member of your committee?

(Laughter)

Honourable Chair, you don't know members of your committee...

Hon. Violet Makhanu (Chairperson, Committee on Youth and Sports): Hon. Job to second the report.

Mr. Speaker: You are done Hon. Violet, you can go and sit, Hon. Mukoyandali Job.

Hon. Job Mukoyandali: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to second that report. The report gives a clear picture of how pending bills are normally created. Sometimes, these departments fail to provide allocations when they bring the budget to this House, and what happens is that they go out telling the public how we removed money meant to make payments. However, when you look at what the report is saying, it is clear that they never provided the money, and that is why, in our conclusion, we are instructing them to ensure they budget for the same. This will help operationalize the Chemoge Altitude facility, which has cost a lot for this county, but when you go there right now, there is nothing happening.

From the Governor's speech the other day, you heard him mention that he is going to hold a marathon there, which has always been postponed. In the first instance, they said February, then it was pushed to March, and now they have come with a different story. Let him just provide the money and ensure that the place, which has consumed a lot of funds from our coffers, is operationalized. I second, Honourable Speaker.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mukoyandali Job, Member for West Bukusu. Now, Members, a report having been moved and duly seconded, allow me to propose the same for debate.

(Motion proposed)

Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Allow me first to laud the Chair who moved the report and the seconder of the report.

Honourable Speaker, I want to say this and urge this House that, looking at the report, when we are done with the High Altitude facility and Kanduyi Stadium, what else are we expecting from the department concerning youth affairs? I want to urge Honourable Members that, in the coming financial year, let us also allocate money to the said department, which will assist in enhancing its activities. Initially, Honourable Speaker, I can remember very well that we had a proposal on Nalondo Stadium and Mbakalo Stadium, but it died a natural death because of the Executive not implementing what we passed here, Honourable Speaker.

So I want to urge Honourable Members that if we will not stand up as leaders of this County, I want to assure you, Hon. Mulongo... I want to assure you the Executive is sleeping on the job. That, Hon. Speaker, the Executive we are having now; as much as I am in the government; I can say this one without fear of contradiction: we have the worst Executive government this time around, and I will not apologize for that. If His Excellency, the Governor wants to exit, let him just exit without leaving behind the young ones crying while he is looking for greener pastures.

Members, as leaders of this county, in the coming financial year, I want to urge you that let us also, under CEF, allocate monies for the said department so that it can function well. Thank you, I support the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jack Zakayo Kawa, Member for Bokoli, for your remarks. Online we have... because of the leadership of the House, kindly Hon. Peter Caleb will wait. Let's have Hon. Isaiah Busolo Sudi, Deputy Majority Whip and Member for South Bukusu.

Hon. Sudi Busolo: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity also to add my voice on a report that has been well presented by the Honourable Member for Miu. If you look at that report, the Chemoge High Altitude Centre was started in the first term of His Excellency, Governor Kenneth Makelo. Can you imagine, up to now we are still talking about the high altitude centre even when he is now serving his final term.

I expected that by virtue of him being able to come back, that high altitude centre would have been his priority; that he completes it so that the people of Bungoma get value for money, because what has been invested there is so much, and yet we cannot use it because it is not complete.

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Look at the recommendation from the committee; they have recommended that we try to complete it before we initiate any other new project, and that is among the very few projects in the sector. So, Hon. Speaker, I think we get it wrong in our budgeting. As the Executive, we allocate money towards sectors. I think we get it wrong because how can a project run for over... that one and Misikhu/Brigadier?

Every time we talk of Misikhu/Brigadier, High Altitude Centre... the projects that were initiated in under two years are now almost complete. Why is it that these ones cannot also be completed so that our people get value for money? It's a very good idea. We just put money there and leave it. The way Hon. Jack has said, because the National Government is also building stadiums, like the Nalondo one was taken over by the National Government.

We could start another one in the department outside Nalondo, even in my own South Bukusu or elsewhere, because that is our devolved function, but we put a lot of money into functions that are not devolved. So I want to urge this House, moving forward as we do the budget; because the budgeting process is ongoing; let us consider the functions that were devolved. Because actually, having a stadium like Mbakalo, if we complete it, it will also give the people of Tongaren an opportunity to have events and activities.

I support the report, and I urge this House that now we still have two budgets to do. Let us now put the Executive on its toes so that as they budget, all sectors are considered. Let us balance, because you see a department like Cooperative; Honourable Members; it has a ceiling of 14 million. How do you expect that department to flourish? How can it support? And you know how cooperative movements are very key, yet it has a budget of 14 million. That is both recurrent and development.

It is the same case for the Department of Youth and Sports and even Gender. Moving forward, as we do the budget, let us consider such departments which are negatively affected, which are not considered at all, and balance the allocation of funds so that this... because sports are key to all of us.

Every ward, every location needs sports, yet not a single cent is put there. We just have sports in writing, on paper, but in action it is not considered anywhere. If you go to other counties, you will see they have a Governor's Cup which runs across all wards. Hon. Speaker, you know very well in your ward; if we have a Governor's Cup; it will run across all the 45 wards, and it will lessen pressure on us organizing games, because that will benefit all wards. At ward level, teams will play, and those that qualify will move forward.

Hon. Speaker, this department; let us consider it in the future and allocate funds for those cups, even games within our wards, because it is possible that South Bukusu Ward can have games funded squarely from the Exchequer rather than members struggling to look for their own money and sponsor sports, which can be done in a structured way so that our youths and even ourselves can enjoy. I submit.

(Applause)

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Isaiah Busolo Sudi, Member for South Bukusu and our Deputy Majority Whip. We now have online Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala, then Hon. Eric Wekesa, then Hon. Ipara Johnston Okasida.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also take this opportunity to laud the Chair of Youth and Sports for moving the debate, but Hon. Speaker, just like my colleagues have said, you wonder whether indeed this project was meant to help this county or whether it was just created for a few individuals to benefit. A lot has been said about this Chemoge High Altitude Centre, and one of the questions; even as I support this report; is that even if they request funds for completion, let me believe that this time around a variation will not arise, because one of the reasons why this project is not complete is unwarranted variations.

In every project, especially these mega projects in this county, they have taken long to complete because of variations.

Number two, it is about the timeframe. I don't know what our legal departments or the County Attorney do; when we sign a contract, what is the timeframe? That needs to be clearly put in the contract so that we can curb this issue of a contractor staying on site for 10 or even 13 years while the project remains incomplete.

You know, as a county, people out there are laughing at us. Even when you go on social media, you hear the comments that people are giving, like Morara and others. I think this time around we want to see Chemoge High Altitude operational, because the young people of this county have a right; a right to enjoy and to nurture their talents.

We cannot employ all the youth in this county, but if we create spaces where they can nurture their talents, there are many young people who have succeeded through talent. A good example is Omanyala and many others. But if we are not creating facilities where our young people can nurture their talents and exercise freely, then we are on misplaced priorities.

So the youth department needs to do more, and besides that, we want to see all the projects completed. Even Masinde Muliro; we need to know when it will be operational. Like my colleague said, we have Maraka, Mayuba in Sirisia, Amutala Stadium and others. They are just names, but nothing is happening.

No wonder the young people of this county are very bitter. No wonder the young people in this country are very bitter, and this has to change.

So as we support this, we also want to ensure that we are giving our young people priority in our budget and in everything that we do. The issue of variation is something we must caution the Executive about. They cannot just create a project and keep introducing variations so that a few people can benefit.

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If you take an example of Kanduyi Bus Park, also called Kamukuywa; the money was budgeted for completion, but up to now, variation has held back its operation. So I support the report, but more needs to be done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala, Member for Bukembe East. Now we have online Hon. Eric Wekesa, Member for Kabuchai/Chwele Ward.

Hon. Eric Wekesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. I want to thank the mover of the report. I belong to that committee. Unfortunately, at that time I wasn't there, but they did their work in the best way they could.

Hon. Speaker, I am concerned about the financial prudence of the department, where they confidently presented payables that are very different from their financial statements. You know, they did not omit a small item that we could just call an error.

Ignoring or omitting a whole borehole and an Ajiri Centre from the statements, yet they appear in the payables, raises serious questions. Another issue I have with the Department of Sports is that they complain about being underfunded, yet they are unable to absorb the funds allocated to them.

It is very worrying to have a 56% absorption rate for development funds. We have incompetence in the ministry and I recommend that next time we appoint a CEC for youth affairs, we consider appointing a youth.

I am not a youth; I am slightly outside the youth bracket. I want to say today is my birthday; I am turning a year older today.

(Loud consultations)

Thank you so much. I am turning 38 years, Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Members, order! Hon. Millia.

Hon. Eric Wekesa: I want money, I don't want songs. Now, the only thing I can say is let us have a youth leading the youth ministry so that we can have someone with passion and a real understanding of what youths go through.

The reason we have a lot of inefficiency in the ministry is because we have people representing youths who only relate to youths as their grandchildren. There is a mismatch and detachment from the real situation on the ground.

I am not saying I want power, as I am hearing here, but we can take this county forward if we take youth affairs more seriously than we have. I support the report. I submit.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Eric Wekesa, Member for Kabuchai/Chwele Ward. Now we have Hon. Ipara Johnson-Okasida, Member for Tongaren/Kiminini.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me commend the mover of the report, who happens to be the Chair of this committee. At the outset, Hon. Speaker, I want to draw your attention to observation number one. The first four words state “there was over-budgeting.”

But later they say it had an allocation of Ksh 10 million. Is it Ksh 11 million that was over-budgeting, or Ksh 10 million which was expenditure? I think this requires amendment so that Ksh 11 million is indicated as the over-budgeting, and Ksh 10 million as the expenditure representing 92%. Even the 92%, Hon. Speaker, needs to be verified.

The second issue is observation number two. According to the department, phase one of the Chemoge High Altitude Training Centre was at 99%, but I want to draw your attention to the third sentence, which states that drilling, equipping, and commissioning at the facility did not have an allocation; yet it was done.

Hon. Speaker, I think this is an irregularity and a contravention of the Public Finance Management Act, and it attracts an audit query. Should we just keep quiet because it has been stated so? I think it needs to be looked into very carefully. Both of these issues require amendments.

Chemoge has become a chorus. Year in, year out, we sing about Chemoge, and even the good intentions we initially had. Everybody wishes to use this particular field. Today, I want to believe that we have diminished into thin air. So we need to close this chapter and come up with recommendations that are tangible and can also give us the final outcome of this program, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, I remember when I had a discussion with you one time, you said that Chemoge had been started before you were elected. You have now been elected and are in your second term, and you are soon exiting, yet this particular project has not been completed, Honourable Speaker. It is a shame to all of us because we have not brought it to life. The reason is either weak oversight or that we are tired.

Honourable Speaker, the second issue I want to talk about is youth talent development in this county. Nobody considers it a necessity or a priority, Honourable Speaker. If you walk from Lwakhakha to Soysambu, you will find many youth idling along the streets.

The reason is they have nothing to do because our parents have nothing to support them, and the youth themselves also have nowhere to go and play. If you look at our budget, particularly what is allocated to this department, it is equivalent to a smaller sub-department within finance, which is allocated about 70 million. Honourable Speaker, who is getting the priorities wrong? Is it this Assembly, or is it the Governor who has no interest in the youth of Bungoma County? Honourable Speaker, if wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

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And I am saying this: why can't we just make a decision as this Honourable House, in the coming budget or in any supplementary opportunity that arises, to approve 1.5 million for every ward so that during the December long holidays, we have something for the youth, for the elderly, and for those who play other indoor games, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members. This is a noble thing for every one of us to consider. When an opportunity comes our way, I think we should allocate 1.5 million to cater for the long holidays and also make ourselves relevant on the ground, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, we are tired of the song called variation. Most of our contracts are term contracts; they are either multi-year or one-year contracts. But I am even wondering, which type of contract was Chemoge attached to? Since 2022, I have been hearing "Chemoge, Chemoge," and we are about to exit still singing "Chemoge," Honourable Speaker.

Number one, this particular committee should go back and obtain those contract documents and determine the duration of this contract. If it was a multi-year contract, say two years, has it expired? And these variations that it has attracted, are we implementing them within the contract or outside the contract? I want to assume that this particular contract has expired, Honourable Speaker.

I think next time, when the committee is presenting its report or any other report, this should be a subject of discussion. Even in their meetings, they should address it and find out the term period of this particular contract.

Honourable Speaker, yesterday and the day before yesterday, I had an opportunity to accompany the Honourable Member from Kaptama and the Honourable Member from Chepyuk. We visited the Department of Health to find out the status of tenders that were advertised and those that did not attract any bidders.

Honourable Speaker, the response we received was that the tenders that were to be re-advertised were tied up because they were reviewing the work plan to make amendments before re-advertisement. This shows a lack of consideration and knowledge about procurement regulations, Honourable Speaker.

A procurement plan is approved once in a financial year, and it directs the operations of a department until the closure of that financial year. So Honourable Members, you can see the ignorance. I want to call upon all of us: let us stand up for our rights before they are taken away by people who are ignorant. I submit. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Johnston Ipara. Hon. Violet Makhanu.

Hon. Violet Makhanu: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First, I want to appreciate all the members who have contributed to this motion, and I appreciate that they understand what is happening in this department. Honourable Speaker, to begin with, this is one department that is; I don't know whether to call it desperate or what term to use; but it is a very desperate department. Sometimes when you meet them, you even sympathize with them because they are never able to

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respond to the questions raised, and they are always saying that the department has no capacity to do anything.

When it comes to matters of allocation, it is one of the departments that is normally underfunded. That is why we cannot do anything meaningful for youth, women, or any other groups in this county, Honourable Speaker.

As elected members of this Honourable House, I know that during December, especially for myself, I am often criticized because I chair youth affairs, yet I cannot run any youth activities even in my own ward. The reason is that it has never been budgeted for, and it is just left like that, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of Masinde Muliro has taken quite a lot of time and is attracting unnecessary payments. The amount is rising day by day. There is a part that should be done by the National Government and another by the County Government, but the county's portion has still not been completed. There are variations that are supposed to be paid by the County, which have not been paid.

Regarding the high-altitude project, we have Phase 1 that was completed. This institution began during the 2013–2017 regime. Phase 2 began without any budget. When we asked the Executive why they started Phase 2 without a budget, including the borehole, they said it was the governor's initiative and that the money would be paid later. This has created a large pending bill in the department that cannot be paid even now, Honourable Speaker.

That is why I say it is a confused department. Members of this committee can attest to what I am saying; that it is not a department one would admire working with. Hon. Eric Wekesa suggested that this department should be led by youth, as they understand youth needs. However, I don't know whether in Governor Lusaka's cabinet we have any youth, because the first CEC was an elderly lady, followed by an elderly man named Emachara.

When you ask him anything about youth, he just laughs and says there is no budget. As a committee, we sometimes get frustrated raising these questions, but we continue doing so to open their eyes.

You will realize that in Bungoma County, youth are not considered in any meaningful way, despite the Governor's campaign promises to support youth and women; promises that were forgotten once he assumed office. Many youths have even demonstrated, demanding their rights.

As leaders, we have frustrated our youth. We are parents to these young people, and they are crying for their rights, yet nothing is being done. They now direct their frustration at MCAs because we represent them here, and they feel we are not supporting them.

Honourable Speaker, I urge this House to allocate reasonable funds to this department so it can clear pending bills and support youth activities, especially during December. Otherwise, the

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situation will worsen. Personally, I fear that what is happening may lead to most of us losing our seats.

The youth and women; the majority; have been neglected. Where will we stand during campaigns to convince them again? It will be very difficult. I pray that God has mercy on us. If the Governor were seeking a second term, I would be the first to campaign against him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Violet Makhanu, kindly concentrate on the content of your reply.

Hon. Violet Makhanu: Speaker, I am concentrating, though I am a bit bitter. I would be the first to campaign against him. In the previous regime, despite disagreements, projects were being implemented. We could engage youth and women because they were being supported.

But now, you cannot even attend a funeral in your ward without being questioned by constituents. This department; Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports; touches on women, youth, and persons with disabilities, yet nothing is happening.

It is high time the Assembly speaks with one voice. We must unite and act so that we can demonstrate to the public that we are not responsible for these failures. Honourable Speaker, I submit. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Violet Makhanu, for your contribution. Honorable Members, before I put the question, allow me to say this: this is a House, and we have powers. We should not appear desperate. This Assembly is a superior arm of government, and we should not appear weak or helpless.

Secondly, it is not only about allocating funds for sports. Youth need empowerment through opportunities such as tenders and economic activities. That is true empowerment. Sports only complements their development.

Honourable Members, let us be strong and united. The Leader of Majority and Leader of Minority are here; can we speak one language as a House? Members should not feel disenfranchised. I now put the question;

(Question put and agreed to)

The report, with its recommendations, is adopted. The Table Clerks should ensure it is submitted to the relevant offices for action. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, that was the last item on the Order Paper. We adjourn and resume this afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

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The House rose at 11.00 a.m

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