

CAB/HR/HSD/005

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2026

Morning Sitting

3rd County Assembly

5th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2026

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

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

QUESTION AND STATEMENT

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BUKUSU WARD, HON. ISAIAH SUDI BUSOLO, MCA TO SEEK A STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, SECTOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi is the owner of the statement. Yes Hon. Jack?

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Hon. Isaiah Sudi has just called me a few minutes ago to step in for him, Honourable Speaker

Mr. Speaker: So you proceed

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Speaker, Hon. Isaiah Sudi has a question as follows;

1. That it is notified that Pursuant Standing Order 47 2(c), the following member will seek a statement for reply before the House. The statement is, Member for South Bukusu Ward, Honourable Sudi to seek a statement from the Chairperson, Sector Committee on Health Services. The statement is in relation to the status of the regional blood bank, construction and provision of CT scan and MRI machines.
2. Let the Chairperson inquire into and report on the following; Provide a comprehensive breakdown of the specific budgetary provisions remarked in the financial year 2025/2026

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for the physical construction, operationalization of the regional blood bank, and the acquisition of CT scan and MRI machine. Table a detailed information regarding the procurement cycle for the blood bank building, including the status of any addendum tenders issued for the supply, delivery, and installation of specialized medical equipment for blood storage and management.

3. Provide the current status of personnel recruitment or secondment for the blood bank center, detailing the professional qualification, specialist training, and established placement levels required for commencement. Outline the county executive concrete roadmap, including specific procurement timelines and installation schedules for the CT scan and MRI machines to bridge existing diagnostic gaps in the County's health services.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker that is the Hon. Isaiah Saudi's statement.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Honourable George Makari, Chair of the Committee. Sorry.

Hon. George Makari (Chairperson Health): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was thinking in view of the fact that Members are going for legislative summit, Honourable Speaker, can we kindly ask for twenty one days instead of fourteen, I would have asked for fourteen, Honourable Speaker, but because of the timelines in the coming week.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. George Makari, your prayer is granted accordingly, you will be able to give us a feedback on 29th of April, 2029, Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. session.

Hon. George Makari: Obligated, thank you

MOTION

REPORT OF THE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON BWASCO OPERATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Chair

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a motion. The report on the operational status of BWASCO.

Mr. Speaker: That ought not to come from a Honourable member of the speaker's panel, that's being disorderly, as we proceed, one, the Committee on Finance is sitting, Hon. Aggrey Mulongo is there, Vitalis is there, Oriza is there, I'm having seven members here, so, they have the quorum. Proceed.

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Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 217

Mr. Speaker: Let me assist Hon. Wafula Waiti to understand, the Committee on Finance is sitting, and now courtesy of the speaker's permission, so, they are part of this sitting. They are working for the Assembly, so, if I'm aware, Vitalis is there, I've been with him, Orize Kundu and Aggrey, and they are here seven members. You want me to adjourn, don't worry Hon. Meshack, I know how I will handle Hon. Wafula Waiti, proceed

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Hon. Wafula Waiti is wishing to be in this committee, so understand him.

CHAPTER ONE

PREAMBLE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 217(5) of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders and in line with the Committee's oversight mandate on matters relating to Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The Committee undertook an inquiry into the operational status of the Bungoma Water and Sewerage Company Limited (BWASCO)

This report presents the findings, observations and recommendations of the Committee following the engagement with the BWASCO Board of directors, the department and extensive fact-finding exercise conducted across various BWASCO water treatment and sewerage plants within the County. The exercise was necessitated by growing concerns over the efficiency, sustainability and quality of water supply and sanitation services provided by BWASCO to county residents.

The Committee recognizes that access to safe and reliable water and proper sanitation are fundamental rights enshrined in Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and are central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Bungoma County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). In this regard, the Committee sought to assess the operational performance of BWASCO and identify infrastructural, administrative and technical challenges undermining service delivery.

Committee Membership

The Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and natural Resources currently comprises of the following Members:-

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- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Edwin Opwora | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Martin Chemorion | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Joseph Nyongesa | |
| 4. Hon. Vitalis Wangila | |
| 5. Hon. Meshack Simiyu | |
| 6. Hon Aggrey Mulongo | |
| 7. Hon. Isaiah Busolo | |
| 8. Hon. Anthony Lusenaka | |
| 9. Hon. Jerusa Aleu | |
| 10. Hon. Benjamin Otsiula | |
| 11. Hon. Grace Sundukwa | |
| 12. Hon. Orize Kundu | |
| 13. Hon. Bernard Kikechi | |
| 14. Hon. George Tendet | |
| 15. Hon. Mitrine Nangalama | |

Background Information

On Friday, 29th August 2025, the Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources in collaboration with officials from the Bungoma Water and Sewerage Company (BWASCO), conducted a fact-finding exercise to assess the operational status of the company's water treatment and sewerage plants across the County.

The primary objective of the exercise was to evaluate the operational and infrastructural challenges facing the company, with a view of developing actionable recommendations aimed at improving efficiency, sustainability and overall service delivery to the residents of Bungoma County.

The Committee visited the following water treatment and sewerage plants;

- Kimama (Chesikaki) Water Treatment Plant
- Kapkerwa (KOICA II) Water Treatment Plant
- Terem (KOICA I) Water Treatment Plant
- Kapkateny Water Treatment Plant
- Kimilili Water Treatment Plant
- Webuye Wastewater Treatment Plant

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- Matisi Water Treatment Plant
- Nabuyole Water Treatment Plant
- Chetambe Water Reservoirs
- Mabanga Water Reservoirs
- Bungoma Wastewater treatment plant

The visit included engagements with area MCAs, the BWASCO Board Chairman and some Directors, the Managing Director, Head of Technical Services, plant staff and local residents where one-on-one conversations were held to understand the local concerns regarding the operations of the water infrastructures. These engagements provided valuable insights into the operational realities of BWASCO's infrastructure, community perceptions of service delivery and the pressing challenges faced in water treatment, distribution and waste water management.

Acknowledgment

The Committee also extends its gratitude to the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly for their continuous institutional support and facilitation.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Members of the Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources for their dedication, commitment and invaluable input throughout engagements and the fact-finding exercise conducted across various BWASCO water treatment facilities.

I wish to further convey my appreciation to the County Executive Committee member Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources, the Board of management of the Bungoma Water and Sewerage Company (BWASCO) and the public for their cooperation, transparency and assistance during the Committee's fact finding and deliberations. The report is signed by Chairperson, Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources

CHAPTER TWO

OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS TREATMENT PLANTS

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Chesikaki Treatment plant

Chesikaki Water Treatment plant is a gravity system which draws water from River Malakisi, has 2 plants (phase I and Phase II). Phase I was constructed in the late 1970s with a capacity of 2000m³/day to serve over 43,010 people. Due to increased water demand exceeding the production capacity, Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency rehabilitated the existing facility and constructed Phase II to upgrade the plant to a total production capacity of 4000m³/day and a clear water tank of 500m³ capacity.

The project was designed to serve Mt. Elgon, Sirisia and Bumula Sub-counties with an estimated combined population of over 115,000 people. The plant currently operates at 43% of its combined design capacity, the targeted towns of Cheptais and Sirisia rarely receive regular water supply from the existing supply system due to the low level of water production. In addition, the supply system is prone to very high-water losses due to the frequent bursts of the dilapidated distribution networks. The Non-revenue Water (NRW) in the current supply is approximated to over 89%. The plant uses an average of 150kg of aluminium sulphate (Alum) and 2kg of chlorine per day for water treatment.

Key Observations

1. The intake structure is poorly maintained resulting to reduced water extraction especially during the rainy season; accumulation of mud, stones and leaves results in muddy water which in turn increases chemical used significantly (100 kg/day compared to 50 kg/day in dry season).
2. Some filters are worn out and no longer functional, requiring urgent replacement.
3. Frequent theft and Vandalism of infrastructure e.g. air valves and pipes by the local community.
4. Spare parts are not locally available; operators must source replacements from Chwele town, which is far from the plant.
5. High irrigation demand contributes to theft of treated water. Pipes are vandalized and water diverted to irrigation schemes, leaving some areas without water and creating conflict between the community and plant operators. Raw water is provided for irrigation but it is not used.
6. Road leading to the plant is in poor condition making the site inaccessible by vehicles. Operators transport chemicals using donkeys, increasing risks of container breakage and chemical spillage which poses health hazards.
7. Shortage of plant operators and staff accommodation which negatively affects the operations of the plant.

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8. Outdated machinery and poor infrastructure. The poorly designed storage tank does not function as expected.
9. Low production capacity relative to high demand. Plant capacity is 4,000 m³, but only 2,000 m³ is produced due to machine failures and outdated systems.
10. Shortage of consumer water meters for new connections has led to 89% Non-Revenue Water, causing severe financial losses. The plant has 3,200 registered consumers but only a few pay for services.
11. No proper backwash/wastewater system in place.
12. Lack of laboratory facilities and monitoring equipment.
13. No water kiosks available for the nearby community which has led to cases of vandalism and water contamination when fetching directly from the treatment plant.
14. The members of the community requested that the local youths who have been engaged as casual plumbers be considered for formal employment at the plant to promote local empowerment and reduce vandalism.

Challenges

1. Outdated machinery and poor infrastructure.
2. Community disharmony and local interference in operations.
3. Poorly maintained intake leading to reduced water extraction.
4. Frequent vandalism of pipes in the plant
5. Poor road condition leading to the plant
6. Shortage of consumer water meters for new connections.
7. Lack of lab facilities
8. Understaffing

Recommendations

1. Immediate replacement of filter media and rehabilitation of broken infrastructure.
2. Community engagement programs to resolve disharmony and educate on the benefits of water metering.
3. Upgrading the reticulation system to reduce water losses.
4. Enhancement of security measures to deter vandalism.
5. Improvement of road access to the plant through partnership with county-government.
6. Procurement of consumer meters and abstraction meters to monitor usage and improve billing accuracy.
7. Laboratory set-up for in-house water quality testing.

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8. There is need to employ or second new plant operators to the plant.

Kapkerwa Treatment Plant

Kapkerwa Treatment Plant is the newest plant operated by BWASCO. It is a gravity system with a design capacity of 4000m³/day and started operations in February 2024. Its raw water main is 3.8 km linear network to the water treatment plant. The distribution main is 46km long distributing water through water kiosks and consumer connections installed in Mt. Elgon- Kabuchai- Kibabii University-Kanduyi.

Currently the plant operates at an average output of 2000m³/day due to its low connectivity as it is still in the early stage of operation. The plant has approximately 800 active connections with a steadily increasing rate of new customers. However, the committee noted that the plant is facing challenges in serving residents between Kimukung'i and Kibabii primary areas due to hydraulic challenges between the two areas. This has resulted into the company reconnecting Kibabii University to the Matisi pumping system in order to sufficiently serve the university.

The plant currently serves Kibabii University, Kanduyi, state lodge, Mayanja Musese, Malikisi, Mukwa, Sikusi, Chwele market, Kimaeti. Due to its good raw water quality, the plant uses minimal chemicals for water treatment.

Key Observations

1. Strong community engagement in water management.
2. The plant is accessible.
3. Out-of-station kiosks established to allow community access to water.
4. Backwash/wastewater is well-drained back to the river through downstream drainage pipes.
5. Few cases of pipe vandalism, mostly during water shortages.
6. A few suspected cases of illegal connections
7. At the moment the plant is financially sustainable

Challenges

1. Understaffing challenges persist.
2. Single power source (electricity) causing operational downtimes during blackouts.
3. Under-equipped laboratory facilities.
4. Insufficient meters for the growing number of new connections.

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5. Hydraulic imbalance between Kimukungi and Kibabii Primary areas.

Recommendations

1. Introduce solar backup systems or hybrid energy solutions to reduce power-related downtime.
2. Equip the laboratory to facilitate internal water quality testing.
3. Expedite procurement and distribution of consumer meters.
4. Hydraulic modeling and redesign of the affected pipeline segments to resolve pressure issues.
5. There is need to employ/second new plant operators to the Plant.

Terem Treatment Plant

The plant has a designed capacity of 2,500m³ per day and has roughly 2600 connections along its networks. The target population was to serve over 8,000 families of over 50,000 people in the project area- Terem – Chwele –Nalondo.

The plant is strained to an extent of operating at 500m³ in excess of its design capacity. The plant receives highly turbid raw water therefore making it strain in water treatment thus consuming high level of chemicals. The average chemical usage ranges between 100 – 150 kg of alum depending on raw water quality. At the upstream of the intake, there is a dam operated by the hydropower company. During desilting of this installation, the plant is affected massively by highly turbid raw water thus making its down time regular.

The plant has a high cumulative Non-revenue Water due to many illegal connections on the main line traversing through Mt. Elgon. The company has carried several community engagement meetings to sensitize residents on metered water consumption.

Key Observations

1. Water is often muddy due to rain, erosion and hydropower operations leading to high turbidity.
2. Limited staff housing on the plant.
3. Non-metering of water connection and high incidence of illegal connections, particularly through Mt. Elgon has resulted in 70% Non-revenue Water.
4. Chemical use increases significantly during the rainy season and the desilting of the hydropower operations. (150 kg/day compared to 100 kg/day in dry season).
5. Poor drainage of washouts, reservoirs and appurtenances causing significant damage to people's farm and community disputes.

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6. Many cases of vandalism linked to delayed meter procurement and political interference.
7. Laboratory is not properly equipped; Outdated and inaccurate dosing systems

Challenges

1. Highly turbid raw water especially after dam desilting leading to excessive chemical use.
2. High level of vandalism and illegal connections
3. Poor drainage of waste water leading to significant damage
4. Blockages at the intake due to falling rocks and mudslides.
5. Inadequate housing for staff.
6. Shortage of consumer meters.
7. Need for proper laboratory facilities.
8. Worn-out filter media that requires replacement.
9. Understaffing

Recommendations

1. Regular upstream coordination between Teremi plant operators and hydropower dam operators to manage sediment discharges.
2. Community sensitization and accelerated crackdown on illegal connections
3. Upgrade of infrastructure by replacing the filter media, wastewater channels to match system demands and prevent overflow downstream.
4. Reinforce intake protection with barriers or to be properly redesigned.
5. Invest in housing to improve staff retention and performance.
6. Procure meters on time and upgrade filter media urgently.
7. Improve proper laboratory facilities.
8. There is need to employ/second new plant operators to the plant.

Kapkateny Treatment Plant

Kapkateny water treatment plant has a design capacity of 4600m³/day. The plant serves Nalondo, Chwele, Bokoli, Chebukaka, Teremi, Kapkateny and the surrounding areas. The plant is one of the oldest plants and thus has very old infrastructures. It has a total connection of 3200 water connections majorly serving institutions and domestic residents. The plant also operates at averagely 1600 m³/day due to its old infrastructures. The intake is no longer in place to abstract full capacity of water needed to operate the plant at full capacity. Illegal connections from the mains have also challenged the plants ability to serve the farthest consumers.

Key Observations

1. Absence of proper laboratory facilities.

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2. No proper piping of backwash and overflow which flows through roads and farms causing damage.
3. Inadequate water intake as three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the river water is diverted by the hydro power plant
4. The river course shift has also contributed to reduced water intake.
5. Outdated infrastructure that limits the plant production
6. Persistent issues of vandalism has led to reduced water reaching target areas.
7. The plant is understaffed.
8. Road leading to the plant is in poor condition and inaccessible by vehicles making operators to transport chemicals using donkeys, increasing risks of container breakage and chemical spillage, which poses health hazards.
9. The plant has no security personnel manning the plant

Challenges

1. Worn-out intake significantly limiting plant capacity.
2. Poor road access hinders delivery of treatment chemicals.
3. Waste water is not properly drained causing damages to the roads and farms nearby.
4. Lack of laboratory equipment.
5. Frequent vandalism and illegal connections causing disputes.
6. Lack of security personnel at the site
7. Understaffing affects plants efficiency and delivery

Recommendations

1. Reconstruct intake structures to restore full production capacity.
2. Upgrade access roads for smooth logistics.
3. Install piped wastewater lines properly designed to flow downstream to eliminate surface drainage issues.
4. Modernize lab facilities and urgent replacement of filter media.
5. Community sensitization and enhancement of security measures to deter vandalism
6. Explore automation system as an upgrade to improve efficiency with aging infrastructure
7. There is need to employ or second new technical staff to the plant.

Kimilili Treatment Plant

The first old water system was constructed in 1973 with a capacity of 2,782m³/day. Raw Water was abstracted from the nearby River Kibisi and gravitated to the Treatment Works three Kilometres away. Due to increased water demand, the plant was expanded to 5,000 m³/day;

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increasing distribution length to 23km within the municipality area and rehabilitation of supply lines to Bituyu, Misikhu and Lugulu. The plant serves Kimilili and its surroundings which has an estimated population of approximately 27,854 with a corresponding water demand of 3,482 m³/day.

The plant uses an average of 100-150 kg of aluminium sulphate (Alum) and 6-10 kg of chlorine daily for water treatment. The plant has a total of 8088 consumer connection within its area of operation. It serves major schools including Friends' School Kamusinga, Kamusinga Girls, Lugulu Girls etc. The plant has an operational capacity of 4800 m³/day operating at 98% of its design capacity.

Key Observations

1. Need for upgraded laboratory facilities.
2. Non-functional blowers that requires upgrades including installation of air blowers for filters.
3. Due to population growth and high water demand, expansion is necessary.
4. Chemical use rises during the rainy season (200 kg/day) compared to the dry season (50 kg/day), due to increased turbidity.
5. Backwash water flows from lagoons into farms and roads, causing damage. Proper downstream drainage is required.
6. Low levels of vandalism and NRW (Non. Revenue Water) making the plant financially sustainable.
7. Adequate housing for staff is available.

Challenges

1. Reduced water abstraction levels
2. Lack of metering at abstraction points
3. Open wastewater lagoon drainage
4. Non-functional blowers hindering the productivity of plant
5. Inadequately equipped water quality laboratory

Recommendations

1. Restore abstraction capacity to meet growing demand
2. Install abstraction meters to monitor water use
3. Upgrade wastewater treatment and proper disposal systems
4. Repair or replace blowers

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5. Equip the lab with modern testing tools to ensure water quality standards

Matisi Water Treatment Plant

The Matisi Water Treatment Plant has a total design capacity of 9,200 m³/day, comprising two treatment plants. The initial Phase I has a design capacity of 2,200 m³/day, which was later upgraded through the construction of Phase II in 2008, adding a design capacity of 7,000 m³/day. However, Phase II currently operates at 5,500 m³/day.

The rising main to the Mabanga reservoirs is 400mm in diameter. Raw water from the existing intake is pumped to the treatment works via a new 350mm diameter steel main, measuring 170 meters in length. Treated water is then pumped to a high-level reinforced concrete (RC) storage tank at Mabanga, from where it flows by gravity to Bungoma Town, the primary service area of the plant.

Strategic Importance and Operational Challenges

The Matisi Water Treatment plant is a strategically located and resourceful infrastructure, given its capacity and service coverage. However, despite its reliability in water supply, it remains the most expensive plant to operate. The facility utilizes a double pumping system—one for raw water abstraction and another for treated water distribution. The raw water, sourced from River Kuywa in Matisi, exhibits high turbidity levels, necessitating the use of large quantities of treatment chemicals to meet acceptable water quality standards.

On average, the plant consumes:

- 420 to 500 kg of Alum per day
- Approximately 9 kg of Chlorine per day

The operational costs of the plant are not recoverable due to several compounding factors:

Approximately 70% of treated water is lost, primarily due to:

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- Widespread illegal connections within the service area
- Accumulated unpaid consumer debts
- Aging consumer meters operating beyond their service life, resulting in inaccurate readings

To achieve a positive Return on Investment (ROI), the plant must operate with minimal losses and improved revenue collection mechanisms.

Challenges Facing Matisi Water Treatment Plants

1. High power consumption
2. Excessive chemical usage
3. Outdated and inaccurate dosing systems
4. Aging pumps with reduced efficiency, leading to increased power use
5. Land encroachment, limiting future plant expansion

Recommendations for Improvement

1. Rehabilitate and operationalize the original 2,200 m³/day treatment unit to increase water supply to Bungoma Town and surrounding areas
2. Incorporate hybrid energy sources to reduce electricity consumption
3. Secure and verify all land ownership documents to determine the exact size of the Matisi property
4. Replace outdated chemical dosing equipment
5. Rehabilitate, equip and modernize the water quality laboratory

Mabanga Water Reservoir Site

The Mabanga Water Reservoir site consists of two reinforced concrete (RC) water storage tanks:

- New Tank: Capacity of 1,000 m³

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- **Old Tank:** Capacity of 2,350 m³

This facility plays a vital role in water storage and distribution for the surrounding communities. Currently, it is staffed by two personnel working in alternating shifts to ensure 24-hour coverage and continuous operational oversight.

Operational Challenges

1. Despite its strategic importance, the site faces several operational and infrastructural challenges that hinder optimal performance and pose risks to both personnel and assets
2. There is no provision for potable or non-potable water on-site, affecting hygiene and daily operations.
3. **Absence of Staff Housing:** The lack of accommodation limits emergency response time and negatively impacts staff welfare, especially during night shift.
4. **Security Risk:** Lack of power and deteriorated fence poses a security risk to the plant hence increasing vulnerability to vandalism.
5. **Understaffing:** With only two staff members and no on-site amenities, there is considerable strain on human resources and limited redundancy in case of illness or absence.

Recommendations for Improvement

To enhance the sustainability, security and operational efficiency of the Mabanga Water Reservoir, the following actions are recommended:

1. **Install Water Supply for Staff Use:** Establish a reliable on-site water source, either through connection to a nearby line or by installing a small tank with scheduled refilling.
2. **Construct Basic Staff Housing:** Develop modest accommodation units to support shift workers, improve emergency response times and enhance staff welfare.
3. **Introduce a Solar Power System:** Install a solar energy system with battery backup to support security lighting, staff needs and future Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) or pump control systems.
4. **Rehabilitate the Perimeter Fence:** Upgrade and reinforce the fence to meet current security standards and prevent unauthorized access.
5. **Enhance Staffing Plan:** Consider deploying an additional staff member or implementing a rotational system to reduce workload stress and ensure uninterrupted coverage.

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6. Install Security Lighting and Surveillance: Upon installation of power, deploy motion-sensor lighting and CCTV cameras to deter intrusions and improve site security.

Nabuyole Water Treatment Plant

The Nabuyole Water Treatment plant operates as a single-stage pumping system, drawing water from River Nzoia. The plant has a design capacity of 7,500 m³/day, but currently operates at 4,500 m³/day.

Water is abstracted by gravity and pumped to the Chetambe reservoirs, from where it is distributed to Webuye Town. However, the plant faces significant challenges due to the poor quality of raw water, largely attributed to upstream farming activities and other human interventions that compromise water quality.

As a result, water treatment becomes costly, requiring substantial quantities of chemicals to meet acceptable standards. Additionally, the plant experiences high energy consumption, primarily due to the intensive power demands of the high-lift pumps used in the distribution process.

Challenges in Nabuyole Water Treatment Plants

1. High energy consumption due to inefficient pumping systems
2. Excessive chemical usage driven by poor raw water quality
3. Outdated and inaccurate dosing systems, leading to inconsistent treatment outcomes
4. Aging high-lift pumps with reduced efficiency, resulting in elevated energy costs
5. Poor access road to the plant, hindering maintenance and emergency response
6. Dilapidated intake structure at Nabuyole, which compromises operational efficiency and increases the risk of contamination
7. Insecurity concerns, including reported cases of vandalism and theft, which threaten both operational integrity and staff safety

Recommendations for Nabuyole Water Treatment Plant

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1. Incorporate hybrid energy sources (e.g., solar-diesel systems) to reduce reliance on grid electricity and lower operational costs
2. Replace chemical dosing equipment, as the current units are outdated or non-functional, thereby compromising water treatment quality
3. Rehabilitate, equip and modernize the laboratory to enhance water quality monitoring and ensure compliance with treatment standards

Chetambe Storage Tank

The Chetambe water reservoirs have a combined storage capacity of 2,800 m³ and serve Webuye Town and its surrounding areas. The site is staffed by two personnel working in shifts to ensure efficiency. However, the facility lacks electricity or solar power for lighting, posing risks to both water security and staff security.

Operational Challenges for Chetambe water reservoir

1. Poor Housing Conditions: Onsite staff accommodation is substandard, leading to low morale and reduced performance.
2. Insecurity: The absence of perimeter fencing and lighting has increased vulnerability to theft and physical threats.
3. Inadequate Lighting: Poor lighting compromises night-time security and operational visibility.
4. Lack of Water and Sanitation Facilities: The site lacks basic amenities, affecting hygiene and staff welfare.

Recommendations for Chetambe Water Reservoir

1. Renovate Staff Housing: Provide adequate accommodation to improve staff morale, retention and emergency responsiveness.
2. Install Perimeter Fence and Gate: Secure the facility to prevent unauthorized access and enhance safety.
3. Improve Lighting Infrastructure: Install solar or electric lighting systems to enhance visibility and security during night operations.
4. Construct Water and Sanitation Facilities: Establish essential amenities to support hygiene and staff well-being.

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5. Rehabilitate Existing Fence Structures: Upgrade fencing around reservoir areas to meet current security standards.

Webuye Sewer Treatment Plant

The Webuye Wastewater Treatment Plant has a design capacity of 940 m³/day and currently serves the population of Webuye Town. However, rapid population growth has surpassed the plant's capacity, rendering it increasingly inefficient. The facility is heavily silted and requires urgent desludging to restore its operational effectiveness and ensure proper containment and treatment of wastewater.

The sewer lines in Webuye are primarily constructed from asbestos cement (AC) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC), both of which have exceeded their intended design lifespan. As a result, the system experiences frequent blockages across the service area, further compromising sanitation and service delivery.

Challenges at Webuye Wastewater Treatment Plants

1. The plant is not accessible as a result of encroachment, sugarcane planted on a large portion of the land belonging to the facility land
2. Aging and dilapidated pipeline infrastructure
3. Fully silted and non-functional lagoons
4. There is security risks to staff working on the facility and even no toilet around.
5. Vandalism of metallic installations for scrap resale is rampant.

Recommendations for Improvement

1. Initiate urgent desludging of lagoons to restore treatment capacity
2. Conduct a comprehensive environmental audit in line with NEMA regulations
3. Obtain and review all land documentation to determine the facility's exact land size and boundaries.
4. Provide adequate sanitation facilities, including toilets and water points, for on-site staff.
5. Supply appropriate protective gear to all personnel working at the site
6. Install perimeter fencing and a secure gate to enhance site security
7. Construct cut-off drains to prevent storm water intrusion and minimize overflow risks.

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Bungoma wastewater Treatment Plant

The Bungoma Wastewater Treatment Plant, commonly referred to as the Wamunyiri Sewer Plant, is located in the lower part of Bungoma Town within Khalaba Ward. It has a design capacity of 4,500 m³/day. Originally constructed in 1958 and rehabilitated in 2002, the plant has since exceeded its intended operational capacity due to sustained population growth.

The facility is heavily silted, resulting from both overloading and uncontrolled surface runoff, which has significantly compromised its efficiency. Similar to the Webuye system, Bungoma's sewer network primarily consists of asbestos cement (AC) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes, ranging from DN 100 to DN 300. The network serves several critical installations, including Bungoma Prison, Bungoma County Referral Hospital, the Law Courts, Bungoma High School and Baptist High School.

The system is further burdened by substantial outstanding debts and widespread illegal connections, even among key institutional users, undermining its financial sustainability and operational integrity.

Operational Challenges at Bungoma Wastewater Treatment Plant

1. Land Encroachment: The treatment plant's land has been encroached upon, limiting future expansion and rehabilitation efforts. A portion of the treatment plant has been converted into a burial site and unauthorized developments have restricted access to key areas, creating operational constraints.
2. Dilapidated Infrastructure: Several sewer lines and associated structures are in disrepair, posing significant health and environmental hazards.
3. Poor Working Conditions: Sanitation workers lack essential protective gear and operate in unsafe environments.
4. Security Risks: Staff and property are exposed to insecurity, including theft and vandalism.

Recommendations for Improvement

1. Urgent Desludging: Initiate immediate desludging to restore treatment capacity and prevent further deterioration.
2. Environmental Audit: Conduct a comprehensive environmental audit in accordance with NEMA regulations to assess compliance and guide corrective actions.

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3. Land Documentation Review: Access and verify all land records to determine the exact size and legal boundaries of the facility.
4. Install fencing and a secure gate to safeguard the premises.
5. Staff Safety Equipment: Provide appropriate protective gear to all sanitation workers.
6. Police Post Establishment: Set up a permanent or mobile police post near the facility to enhance security and deter vandalism.
7. Cut-Off Drain Construction: Install cut-off drains to prevent storm water intrusion and reduce the risk of overflow.

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CHAPTER THREE

General overview of BWASCO internal operations and response from the Company on key issues raised by the Committee.

The Committee through the office Clerk vide a letter Ref: CAB/CC/6 Vol II (44) dated 15th July, 2025 established key issues to be addressed by the Company where they duly responded and appeared before the Committee on 28th July 2025.

Issues for clarification sought by the Committee:

Legal status of BWASCO

Bwasco Water and Sewerage PLC is a corporate body duly registered under the Companies Act No. 17 of 2015 on 22nd October 2024,

There is a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and Certificate of Incorporation number PLC-KMSP2P dated 22nd October 2024.

Detailed Inventory of all Assets and Liabilities taken over from NZOWASCO;

The assets and liabilities of Nzoia Water Services Company Ltd were shared between Bwasco Water and Sewerage PLC (Bungoma County) and Trans Nzoia Water and Sanitation Company Ltd (Trans Nzoia County) on a 51% and 49% basis respectively.

Current staffing establishment and structure

The BWASCO Water and Sewerage PLC organizational structure currently, the company has 172 members of staff.

Monthly Revenue collections from Bungoma, Webuye, Kimilili, and Chwele from the BWASCO assumed operations from NZOWASCO up to 30th June 2025.

Nzoia Water and Sewerage Company (NZOWASCO) separated into two separate entities on 30th June 2024 as follows:

(a) TRANSWASCO (Trans Nzoia County)

(b) NZOWASCO (Bungoma County)

The Bungoma County side had not yet completed the registration process for a new company hence they retained the name NZOWASCO.

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BWASCO was subsequently registered on 22nd October 2024.

Despite the above scenario, the revenues were compiled for the last twelve (12) Months (July 2024 – June 2025). The company collected Kshs. 223,467,985 as shown below:

Revenue Collections from July 2024 to June 2025

Month/ Year	Bungoma	Webuye	Kimilili	Chwele	Total (Kshs.)
July 2024	7,586,102	3,553,187	3,696,878	2,102,726	16,938,893
August 2024	7,840,742	3,980,854	4,071,080	1,655,519	17,548,195
September 2024	7,579,376	3,719,324	5,377,799	3,233,998	19,910,497
October 2024	6,628,532	3,755,976	4,498,011	1,503,429	16,385,948
November 2024	8,358,170	4,029,211	3,594,053	1,939,373	17,920,807
December 2024	6,474,969	4,136,790	4,311,130	754,519	15,677,408
January 2025	7,867,862	5,385,359	5,428,431	2,022,563	20,704,215
February 2025	9,139,589	4,701,602	5,265,768	2,512,324	21,619,283
March 2025	7,611,608	4,346,606	5,290,652	3,889,739	21,138,605
April 2025	6,344,016	4,007,424	3,464,557	1,547,828	15,363,825
May 2025	8,994,474	5,234,143	5,317,615	1,923,022	21,469,254
June 2025	8,458,981	4,171,435	4,610,668	1,549,971	18,791,055

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Total	92,884,421	51,021,911	54,926,642	24,635,011	223,467,985
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A comprehensive list of all Water Treatment facilities within the county detailing their operational status and prevailing challenges.

The company has seven (7) water treatment plants within its area of operation as shown below:

I will request the members to go through the table. We have Matisi, Nabuyole, Kapkerwa, Kamtion’g, Chesikaki, Terem, Kapkateny

Challenges by the water treatment plants are similar and are listed below:

- Worn out filter media
- Inadequate reagents for routine quality tests
- Inadequate lab equipment
- Faulty alum and chlorine dosers
- Faulty lighting systems
- Faulty/aged pumps
- Lack of PPEs
- Insecurity, theft and vandalism of infrastructure
- Understaffing

The Status of Sewerage services across operation areas including coverage and operations

The company has two (2) waste water treatment plants in Bungoma and Webuye towns. Currently the sewer coverage is only 5%.

S/No	Waste Water Treatment Plant	Design Capacity	Discharge per day
1.	Bungoma sewerage ponds	4,000	1,200
2.	Webuye sewerage ponds	1,500	600

Pending bills as at 30th June 2025

The company has pending bills amounting to Kshs. 216,590,614 as shown below:

We have a table with a list of 78 pending bills (creditors). Allow me read the totals;

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The amount outstanding as per the de clustering report was Kshs 239,701,704, the amount paid in FY 2024/2025 was 23,101,090. We have the outstanding amount as at 30th June 2025 Of 216,590,614. I will request the Honorable members to check on the report on page 42 up to 44, it has a detailed list of all the creditors

Composition and status of the Board of Directors and Senior Management

a) Composition of the Board of Directors

The company has 7 Directors as shown below:

S/No.	Name of Board Member	Status
1	Mr. David Kibiti	Chairperson
2	Dr. Brian Singoro	Independent Director
3	Ms. Scholastica Masika	Independent Director
4	Mr. Benard Cheshari	Independent Director
5	Ms. Jemimah Kikechi	Independent Director
6	Chief Officer - Department of Water, Natural Resources, Tourism and Climate Change	Representing the County Government of Bungoma
7	County Executive Committee Member - Department of Finance and Economic Planning or alternate Director	Representing the County Government of Bungoma

b) Composition of Senior Management

The Senior Management team is composed of six (6) officers as shown below:

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S/No.	Name of Officer	Position	Effective date
1	CPA. Oscar Ojwang	Ag. Managing Director	30 th June 2025 (Seconded)
2	CPA. Tebline Tarit	Ag. Head of Finance and Accounting	18 th June 2025 (Seconded)
3	Ms. Jackline Olubwayo	Ag. Head of Human Resources and Administration	20 th June 2025 (Seconded)
4	Mr. Juma Ben Boss	Ag. Head of Procurement Services	10 th June 2025 (Seconded)
5	Mr. Isaac Simiyu	Ag. Head of Commercial and Corporate Affairs	Employee of BWASCO
6	Eng. Kennedy Wamalwa	Ag. Head of Technical Services	3 rd July 2025 (Seconded)
7	Vacant	Internal Auditor	N/A

Challenges facing the Company in the execution of its mandate

1. High Non-Revenue Water (NRW)

This includes water lost through leaks, theft, and inaccurate metering, significantly impacting negatively on the company revenues and ability to pay salaries and invest in infrastructure projects.

The Non-Revenue Water currently stands at 75% with the Chwele Region leading.

2. Low Revenue Collection Efficiency

The company has inefficient billing and collection processes. The Collection Efficiency currently is 78% against the WASREB standard of 95%.

3. High Operation and Maintenance Costs

The company is faced with high electricity, chemicals and other input costs. This has put a lot of strain on the company's finances and ability to respond to emergencies in a timely manner.

4. Population Growth and Urbanization:

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Rapid population growth and urbanization put increasing pressure on existing water distribution channels and sewerage infrastructure, leading to shortages and discharge of untreated waste in our environment.

5. Climate Change:

Climate change impacts, such as droughts and floods, have disrupted water sources and infrastructure, affecting water availability and quality.

6. Lack of Capacity Building:

The company lacks sufficient skills and expertise to effectively implement strategic plans and manage operations.

7. Customer Identification

The company does not know most of its customers. A customer identification survey needs to be carried out and the necessary interventions done to mitigate the huge non-revenue water.

CHAPTER FOUR COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee Observations

Hon. Speaker,

The committee made the following observations;

1. There are significant water losses arising from undetected leakages, illegal connections and inadequate metering systems. These inefficiencies have led to diminished revenue collection and poor service delivery.
2. Water infrastructure is frequently vandalized for scrap resale, causing service interruptions and increased maintenance expenses. The absence of effective deterrent and enforcement mechanisms has worsened the situation.
3. The Committee observed that most parcels of land designated for water treatment plants and waste water Treatment Plants remain unsecured, leading to encroachment .Additionally, the exact acreage of these parcels of land has not been established, as

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ownership of the land still resides with the Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency.

4. Many households and institutions remain unmetered, leading to inaccurate billing, poor consumption tracking and substantial revenue leakage. This gap undermines accountability in water usage and billing.
5. Most treatment plants lack properly equipped laboratories for water quality testing. Consequently, the company cannot effectively monitor water safety standards or ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.
6. The company suffers from insufficient technical and operational staff at lower levels, while maintaining six departmental heads despite financial strain. This imbalance hampers service delivery, maintenance efficiency and response times.
7. There is friction between BWASCO and surrounding communities which has caused disruptions and eroded public trust. The lack of structured community engagement and grievance resolution mechanisms has aggravated the problem.
8. Heavy dependence on electricity, particularly at Matisi and Nabuyole treatment plants, has led to recurrent service interruptions and high operating costs due to frequent power outages and escalating tariffs.
9. Poor feeder roads to treatment and sewerage plants hinder timely access during emergencies and maintenance operations, thereby affecting operational efficiency and service continuity.
10. The management failed to remit check-off loan deductions amounting to Kshs. 2,948,305 for the FY 2024/2025 to Equity, KCB and NCBA Banks. This constitutes a breach of employer fiduciary obligations and exposes the company to legal liabilities.
11. The management failed to remit the Housing Levy (Kshs. 809,547) and KRA PAYE (Kshs. 6,193,318) for the entire FY 2024/2025, contravening the Employment Act, 2007 and the Income Tax Act (Cap 470).
12. Pension remittances totaling Kshs. 61,395,821 (Lap trust and Lap fund) and Kshs. 4,827,064 (NSSF) were not made for FY 2024/2025. This endangers employees' retirement benefits and violates the Retirement Benefits Act (Cap 197).
13. The new domestic water tariff was raised by over 50%, burdening consumers amid persistent service inefficiencies and operational challenges. The increase appears misaligned with service quality improvements.

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Committee Recommendations

1. **THAT**, the BWASCO Board within 60 days after adoption of this report should undertake a comprehensive water audit and leakage detection survey incorporating the use of smart meters, pressure management systems and the establishment of District Metering Areas (DMAs). The Board shall also replace aged or leaking pipelines, introduce automated monitoring systems, regularize unauthorized connections and enhance enforcement against illegal tapping, in line with the Water Act, 2016 (Sections 72 and 75) and the Public Finance Management Act (Section 149), which require efficient utilization of water resources and prudent management of public assets.

A detailed implementation report on the above actions should be submitted to the CECM for Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources for onward transmission to the County Assembly.

2. **THAT**, BWASCO Board should in the subsequent Budget for FY 2026/2027 plan to Install security fencing, motion-sensor lighting and CCTV surveillance around critical infrastructure, engage community policing units and local Nyumba Kumi initiatives to protect installations, mark and register all metal components to deter scrap metal resale in line with Water Act, 2016 (Section 101) which Criminalizes damage or interference with water infrastructure and Penal Code Cap 63 (Sections 339 & 364) which Provides penalties for vandalism and destruction of public property.
3. That BWASCO Board, Lake Victoria Water Works, the CECMs for Water and Natural Resources and CECM Lands and Physical Planning should within 60 days after adoption of this report jointly conduct a comprehensive land survey to determine the exact acreage, boundaries and coordinates of all Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants. They should ensure the land is properly beaconed and mapped to prevent encroachment and collaborate with community leaders and humanitarian agencies to identify alternative burial sites in compliance with the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019 (Section 57) and the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA).
4. **THAT**, BWASCO and the CECM for Water and Natural Resources should fast-track the transfer and formalization of land ownership and titles from the Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency to the County Government and ensure all such land is duly registered. Further, a detailed progress report outlining the actions taken to secure the land, the status of title transfers and the measures instituted to prevent future encroachments shall be submitted to the County Assembly for consideration within 60 days after the adoption of this report.

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5. **THAT**, BWASCO Board should urgently Undertake a universal metering program for all consumers using prepaid or smart meters and establish a meter calibration and maintenance schedule in line with Water Act, 2016 (Section 72) that empowers water service providers to ensure metering and billing accuracy and Consumer Protection Act, 2012 which ensures fair billing and accountability in service provision. A requisition budget plan requiring financial or logistical support from the County Government should be submitted to the CECM for Water and Natural Resources for necessary action within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this report.
6. **THAT**, BWASCO Board should establish fully equipped laboratories at all treatment plants compliant with World Health Organization and WASREB standards, train laboratory technicians and institute routine water quality monitoring and reporting, partner with accredited institutions such as KEBS or universities for joint testing and certification in line with Water Quality Regulations (Legal Notice No. 120 of 2006, under EMCA) which requires periodic testing of water for safety and compliance and Public Health Act (Cap 242) that Mandates water safety to protect public health.
7. **THAT**, BWASCO Board should within 60 days after the adoption of this report Conduct a human resource audit to align staffing levels with operational needs, prioritize recruitment of technical and field staff (plumbers, plant operators, and maintenance crews) and rationalize management positions to reduce administrative overhead in line with Employment Act, 2007 (Section 10) which Ensures fair and efficient staffing practices and State Corporations Act, Cap 446 (Section 5) which Guides establishment and structuring of management teams in public entities.
8. **THAT**, BWASCO Board should within 60 days after adoption of this report establish a Community Engagement and Grievance Redress Unit (CGRU) within BWASCO and conduct periodic public *barazas* and information-sharing sessions on service schedules, disruptions and development plans and involve local community representatives in water projects which is in line the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 (Article 10 & 174) which Calls for public participation and inclusivity in governance and Water Act, 2016 (Section 68) which requires consumer participation in water management and dispute resolution.
9. **THAT**, BWASCO Board and the County Executive Committee Member for Water and Natural Resources in collaboration with Lake Victoria North Water Works should within 60 days after the adoption of this report meet to plan and budget for Installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for pumping stations and administrative offices in the subsequent budget FY 2026/2027 to reduce grid dependence and introduce hybrid systems (solar-grid) and water gravity-fed designs where possible also explore energy efficiency

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programs supported by the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) in line with Energy Act, 2019 (Section 224) which Promotes renewable energy adoption and the Bungoma County Climate Change Policy, 2020 which mandates adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability in essential services.

- 10. THAT** BWASCO Board, CECM Water and Natural Resources in Collaboration with the CECM Roads, Infrastructure and Public Works to plan and budget for grading and gravelling of feeder roads leading to treatment and sewerage plants in the subsequent budget for FY 2026/2027. Prioritize maintenance of access routes under emergency infrastructure improvement budgets and consider partnerships with KURA or the County Disaster Response Fund for rehabilitation works in line with County Governments Act, 2012 (Section 104) that Mandates counties to plan and maintain infrastructure for efficient service delivery and Public Roads and Roads of Access Act (Cap 399) which Provides for creation and maintenance of access roads to public facilities.
- 11. THAT,** BWASCO Board should within 60 days after the adoption of this report Institute a payroll reconciliation and monitoring system to ensure deductions are remitted monthly and automate deduction transfers directly to bank accounts through the IFMIS system. Further, hold the former Managing Director, finance officer and Human Resource Manager personally accountable for non-remittances. This is in line with Employment Act, 2007 (Section 19) which Requires timely remittance of all lawful deductions and Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (Section 196) that Provides for accountability of public officers in financial management.
- 12. THAT,** the BWASCO Board and the CECM Water and Natural Resources should implement an automated statutory remittance system integrated with payroll, reconcile and clear all outstanding arrears with KRA and the National Housing Development Fund (NHDF) in compliance with the Income Tax Act Cap 470 (Section 37) and the Affordable Housing Levy Regulations, 2023. Disciplinary action should be taken against officers responsible for persistent non-compliance that contributed to this non-conformity and an implementation report should be submitted to the County Assembly within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this report.
- 13. THAT** BWASCO Board should Within 60 days after the adoption of this report reconcile outstanding balances and negotiate structured repayment plans with Lapfund, Laptrust, and NSSF, automate pension deductions, ensure real-time remittance verification and undertake an external audit of employee benefit accounts in conformity to Retirement Benefits Act (Cap 197) which requires prompt remittance of pension contributions and

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NSSF Act No. 45 of 2013 (Section 18) which criminalizes failure to remit member contributions.

- 14. THAT,** the BWASCO Board should within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this report, undertake a comprehensive cost-of-service activity and submit the findings to the CECM Water and Natural Resources for onward transmission to the County Assembly. Further, the Board should engage consumers through public participation as per WASREB Tariff Guidelines (2018) and the Fair Administrative Action Act (2015, Section 4) and engage WASREB to review and align the tariff structure with service quality and infrastructure investment plans.

Mr. Speaker, the adoption schedule is fully signed by all the honourable members and I would like to take this opportunity to request Honourable Bernard Kikechi to second this motion.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kikechi, you have the honor of the committee to second the Committee's report. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Bernard Kikechi: Honourable Speaker, first, I would like to applaud my Chair of the Committee, Hon. Edwin Opwora, for having moved the report so well. Honourable Speaker, access to safe and reliable water and proper sanitation are fundamental rights as enshrined in Article 43 of our Constitution of Kenya. When it comes to Bungoma, BWASCO is the institution that has been mandated with this critical responsibility of providing safe, clean and pure drinking water to the people of Bungoma County.

As you have seen through the report, this company, BWASCO has so many challenges as highlighted in the report that has just been moved on the floor of the House. From it, you realize that even the biggest problem with BWASCO is the issue of non-revenue water, whereby a lot of water is lost through frequent leaks and bursts along the company's main water lines.

Another challenge is illegal connections, you will find that most of the water in BWASCO is produced by around 80% but when it comes to selling, it does not sell 80 per cent, it only sells around 30 to 30 something percent and the rest is lost majorly through a lot of illegal connections. You will find that most of the people are just taking un-metered water.

Critical to note is that our sewerage plant here in Bungoma of which part of that land has been turned into a public cemetery whereby people living around are burying their dead in that land, Honourable Speaker. You will find that they have even put their posters, the Sudanese and other

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people, on public land belonging to BWASCO. So, Honourable Speaker, this is a company, as clearly demonstrated in the report, that needs very, very urgent intervention, Honourable Speaker.

Even when you check on the financial side as aptly highlighted in the report, the company faces financial challenges ranging from huge pending bills, which are being poorly paid. You also note that even the company failed to remit the housing levy and KRA of over KShs.6Million for the financial year 2024-2025.

Honourable Speaker, even also when you look at the same financial year, you will see that the management also failed to remit the cheque of loan deductions amounting to over KShs.2.9Million and this one puts all the employees in very serious financial challenges, Honourable Speaker. So, Honourable Speaker, when you look at the committee recommendations, we have, as a committee tried so much and captured at least all solutions to the problems bedeviling this company of BWACO.

So, it is my appeal, Honourable Speaker, to this Honourable House that this is a very key report with very key observations and recommendations which when approved, will go a long way in stabilizing this very key public institution, Honourable Speaker.

As I second this report, I also urge that the Honourable Members support and pass this report so that at least we can bring back BWASCO to the right path of providing water, safe water, to the residents of Bungoma County. Honourable Speaker, I second.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kikechi, for seconding the report of the committee. Allow me, Honourable Members, to be able to proceed and be able to propose a motion for debate.

(Motion proposed)

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity. May I first of all appreciate the Chair of Tourism, Hon. Opwora for presenting this report that was seconded by Hon. Kikechi. Honourable Speaker, my only worry is that BWASCO is still behaving the same it used to when it was NZOWASCO, nothing has changed for Bungoma. Among the recommendations the committee will have done is for BWASCO...they aptly raised it in the observation that most of their charges are going towards electricity. Why is it that they don't want to solarize, like what Trans-Nzoia has done, so that they can save a lot of money? And solarizing is not that expensive. Going by the allocation that they have so far, that could enable them to be able to save, instead of paying a lot of electricity bills because we know what we are undergoing.

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Like, of late my electricity bills have doubled and when you follow up, they tell you it is about the consumption.

The other day I asked them to come and visit my site, because, one, I've done solarization in my home, so I use electricity only when I am freezing the food. Other than that, all the lightings are through solar. So I was asking them who is consuming all this? They say, no, we are going by the records of how you were consuming earlier. But now I have changed and all they say is they are addressing it. For such reasons how I wish they could have just solarized.

I also heard the chair say that Kimaeti residents are part of the beneficiaries but I don't have any BWASCO water in Kimaeti so I don't know which line is this that Kimaeti residents are benefiting. The only line we have is from Malakisi going to Busia and that line has not been able to benefit people of Kimaeti, those are some of the recommendations we need to follow up and see that any water passing through a certain region the community is supposed to benefit first. One time you might find us in scuffle with Busia but as a committee we have not taken any action.

All I want is the committee to follow up and find out which BWASCO water line is benefiting Kameti residents. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Jacob Psero: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity so that I raise a few things about water, particularly in my Ward because that is an area I understand better. In the first place, I want to thank our Chair for presenting the report in a nice way and eloquently and equally the seconder.

Mr. Speaker, I want to appreciate the visit of some of the members of the committee, and the Managing Director, as well as the Honourable Members of Parliament; Honourable Kapondi and Waluke from Sirisia. We have had a number of meetings in that particular plant and so far we have not had any changes.

In the first place, I want to find out from the mover of the motion about the official name of the water project in Chesikaki because in the first place, he mentioned the Kimama Water Project, but later on, the name changed to Chesikaki Water Project. Which is which? For me, I am aware of Chesikaki Water Project, which is found in Kimama and not Kimama Water Project. So let us make that particular correction.

Number two, is that we have a lot of water shortages in that particular project. Almost three quarters of a month, the residents miss water, simply because of a few things like lack of spare parts, lack of facilities and even repairs take a long time when we have water burst. I don't

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understand why because a number of employees are available and yet it takes two, three weeks before they come for repairs. So that means we have not had improvement from our new board of BWASCO.

The way Hon. Wambulwa has said, indeed there is not much difference between NZOWASCO and BWASCO. It is just the name, but what is happening now is exactly the same as what was happening in the past. Very little has been done in that particular department, I am requesting the committee, through the report that they have given us, to ensure that it is effective so that we can have improvement in that area.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, the road connecting the water supply and the rest of the area is very poor. It has not been repaired from the year 1979 up to today. In the meeting that we had, it was agreed that the Governor of this county would be able to repair that road and up to today, nothing has been done. So I urge the committee again to ensure that they enforce that by making necessary arrangements with the Governor.

Mr. Speaker, we also agreed that for effective service delivery, we ensure that we have an office closer to the Ward, particularly to serve all the people in the case of complaints, like the bills and many others. It is surprising that the residents of Cheskaki travel all the way to Chwele, where they get services. That is almost 10KM and to and fro is 20KM.

That means the residents of the area are not enjoying the services. They are losing a lot of money over just small things. I don't know what has happened with the office, because that was an agreement that was reached while we were on the site so let us ensure that we make a follow-up.

For ownership of this project, it is also good that the residents of this area are given opportunities to work in the project. Like in that meeting, we agreed that we employ a number of boys and girls from that area and so far, what we have witnessed is about three casuals and it has taken a long time for these residents to be casuals yet we have people from afar who are fully employed. Can we be able to make these people to like the project and be able to protect the water in that particular area by giving them an opportunity to serve as permanent employees? There is even one person who has worked there for 20 years and up to today, he is still on a casual basis. It is very unfair to these particular people. Let them also enjoy the services like any other Kenyan.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to know from the chair and the committee about the organization of the arrangement between the National Government and the County Government. It was agreed that the National Government has donated KShs.100Million to improve or expand the water treatment

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but so far, I am not hearing anything, I am not seeing anything happening in that particular place. I think it is high time again the committee works with the Governor and members of the National Government to see that this project benefits from this money. Otherwise, we shall continue having the same problems like what we have had in the past.

We had the MD on acting capacity and he was trying to improve the services of water in the county but unfortunately, this person was stopped from working immediately, they did not allow this person to continue serving the county as they look for another managing director. I am happy that now they have had a new person as MD but the office has been vacant for some time, though there was somebody on acting capacity who was not able to answer anything or even send people to come to the areas affected, like when we have water bursts and the rest, she could not be able to do that and that's why we have suffered with a shortage of water for a long time. In the future, let us ensure that we take time to employ a new person and the one who was there continues working until that particular time when a new person is voted in unless if there was a serious case of maybe fraud.

Mr. Speaker, in that site of Chesikaki water supply, we have had residents coming into the water project, entering the compound to fetch water and in the course of that, they make the water to be dirty because they are using containers that are dirty which contaminates the water leading to various diseases and lack of good health. We agreed that a tap is to be placed outside the project, possibly at the gate, so that it serves the rest of the *Wananchi* but up to today, there is nothing so far done and the tap is just little money, I think it is not more than even KShs.2,000. So the department is not serious and we are not happy.

Otherwise the area between Kimama and Cheptais we have a line connecting the 2 which is almost 10KM but in between we don't have reservoirs so that means the pressure is low, we don't have tanks that can be able to build pressure to push this water to go far and that is why people of Toroso, Pukonoi and Cheptais do not get water at all and nobody has bothered to visit even that area. I agreed with the officials of the water department, particularly for Chesikaki and Chwele to visit the area and see why people are not getting water but so far, nobody has done that. So, Mr. Speaker, we are happy that we have a new company called BWASCO but BWASCO is just a name, no benefit from it and something must be done.

Otherwise, I want to say thank you, sir, for that opportunity, hoping that the report will be implemented the way it has been done here, because there are so many good recommendations. But if they are not put in action, we shall not be able to move at all. Thank you, sir.

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Hon. Erick Wekesa: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to applaud the mover and the seconder. The seconder has experience in water matters and we thank him for the input that he has given not only to the House, but to the report also.

Mr. Speaker, there is a problem in Chwele that was highlighted but there is something that is maybe not so clear here, it needs to be understood that Chwele has a very high population but we have done a lot of illegal connections there. While I was trying to follow up the reason why people connect water illegally I discovered it's because you can have a request staying for as long as six months and I guess it is attributed to understaffing.

Honourable Speaker, BWASCO can do a good job, but we also need to fund it. BWASCO relies mostly on donor funds and that is very unfortunate because as a county, we want to make BWASCO look like it is not our real child, we have to do a deliberate move as a House and add money. We cannot be talking about staffing because staffing needs money, but when we allocate money, we are so mean. We hold so much money in the ministry and deny this much-needed cash for distribution. There are some requests I have regarding BWASCO as they carry out their distribution. It is good that they also involve Honourable Members and the committees in drawing the lines and overseeing distribution.

Hon. Speaker, as we talk, there is a program going on in my ward. Water is being supplied to areas where it is not needed. Where water is needed most, there is none. If Honourable Members can be fully involved, we can easily help identify the main areas of need because we are the ones who receive the requests. There is another problem. Although water is devolved, a big part of it still remains under the National Government.

The National Government, if they have any water project, should involve BWASCO so that they can guide them appropriately. Someone sitting in Nairobi draws a line from there and routes water through certain areas simply because of personal interests; for example, because he has a girlfriend in some area who tells him, "If you have any project in Chwele, make sure it passes through Sanandiki."

We may already have an existing line, yet another one is constructed, while other areas have no water at all. So let us be involved as a House. We are ready to support the organization and fully operationalize the recommendations of the committee. I support. Thank you. I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Kawa. Then I will have Hon. Francis Chemion. Sorry, Hon. Kawa. Proceed.

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Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will be very brief. First, Hon. Speaker, allow me to join my colleagues in applauding the mover, who is our Chair, and the seconder. From the sentiments of the seconder, there is indeed a problem in BWASCO, and I am a victim of the circumstances.

Honourable Chair and the Committee on Tourism, when you need water, the meter that you are given is often a used one with some amount already charged. So when you start using it, you are burdened with clearing previous arrears before you even begin paying for your own usage.

So, members of the committee, there is a problem in BWASCO, which is similar to the Biblical case of Saul who changed to Paul. I want to agree with Hon. Jack Wambuluwa that BWASCO is just a name; it is essentially the same as the earlier NZOWASCO. There is no difference, Honourable Chair.

Secondly, the Bokoli line, Hon. Speaker; you are aware that we have storage at Teremi. Imagine from Teremi to Miendo, there is no other storage. In case of leakage in between, people can go without water, especially if the leakage occurs at the Bokoli RSC. It can take almost one to two weeks before it is rectified. What is the problem? Is it because we have few staff, or what?

As Hon. Eric said, I want to urge members under my humble chairmanship that if we can put our heads together and allocate funds, we can have another storage facility from Teremi, perhaps around Bokoli Market and Bokoli RSC. If we have another storage tank there, I am very sure that in case of any leakage, it will not affect the lower parts of Bokoli. That is my belief, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Kikechi.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kawa, address the Chair, please.

(Laughter)

Hon. Kawa, address the Chair. Whether you have a meeting with Hon. Kikechi after this session is not our concern. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wanted the attention of the seconder.

Mr. Speaker: Now you are using the wrong means. Through the Chair, please.

Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you. The leader from Chesikaki, who represents the good people of Chesikaki, mentioned something about distance. We are in a devolved system. What does devolution mean? It means leadership comes closer to the people. So I always wonder; if I need

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services and I come from Miendo, imagine traveling from Miendo through Bokoli, Chenjeni, Teremi, and Chebukaka to Busakala just to access BWASCO services.

Hon. Speaker, it becomes demeaning. I want to urge the Chair that if we can organize and establish sub-offices in active markets; for example, in Bokoli and Chebukaka; we will be assisting our people by reducing the long distances they have to travel to access services.

As I finish, I want to say this: the report has been moved and duly seconded. I want to urge the Implementation Committee; this is where the buck stops. Whatever we pass here is not being followed. We have the Chair and the Committee on Implementation here. What is the role of this committee? I rest my case.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Chemion, please proceed.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Hon. Speaker, I have two issues regarding the report. The first is on support for BWASCO. For the first time, the Bungoma County Government allocated funds; around 30 million; to BWASCO. It is now the responsibility of the Sector Committee to ensure that this money is used prudently, whether to support activities or to clear pending bills, so that BWASCO can effectively serve the people of Bungoma.

The second issue is that, apart from solarization as mentioned by Hon. Wambulwa, BWASCO should also focus on sourcing water through gravity systems to reduce reliance on electricity. Why don't we source water from areas where gravity can distribute it across the county? If we utilize major rivers in Mt. Elgon and parts of Tongaren, we can significantly reduce electricity costs. During our review, we found a pending electricity bill of over 20 million.

Therefore, to reduce these costs, let us move to gravity-based systems. We have major rivers; River Sosio, River Kimilili, River Kibisi, River Kapkateny, and River Luakhakha. If we tap water from these rivers, we can supply water efficiently through gravity.

Finally, there is public concern about the flat rate applied per cubic meter of water. BWASCO should consider reviewing these rates. Rural residents pay the same as those running large businesses, yet their usage and income levels differ. If possible, there should be two rates; one for rural and one for urban areas. If not, then at least a review should be done. They should engage the relevant regulatory bodies to lower rates so that more people can connect, increasing overall revenue.

BWASCO is a critical body for this county. As an assembly, we must find ways to support it so that water supply is regulated and benefits the majority. Otherwise, I support the report with the observations I have made.

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Mr. Speaker: Hon. Simotwo, then I will invite the mover, Hon. Edwin Opwora, to reply.

Hon. Franklyn Simotwo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I appreciate the mover and the seconder of the motion. I want to join my colleagues in supporting the sentiments raised.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Franklyn, address me.

Hon. Franklyn Simotwo: I have not seconded, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Because he is not on Hansard.

Hon. Franklyn Simotwo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was mentioning that most colleagues have addressed issues concerning BWASCO. BWASCO and NZOWASCO are our companies, but even after transitioning, we still face the same problems.

For example, in Chebyuk, we have one of the KOICA phases, which is a major water project recently handed over. However, minor breakages in the line are not being addressed. The line, which serves areas like Kibabii, Chwele, and Siboti, has been leaking for over seven months, causing destruction to farms.

They need to act seriously so that we can also reduce reliance on electricity, as mentioned earlier, because this system is gravity-based.

Lastly, I want to emphasize the issue of rates. The committee should have addressed the disparity between urban and rural rates. In Chebyuk, only a few people have connected to water due to high costs. People compare rates and find them unfair.

Other counties, like Marakwet, have different rates for urban and rural users, but Bungoma applies a flat rate for all, including vulnerable groups. We need fairness in this matter.

I will not comment on employment issues, but I urge inclusivity so that local people can feel ownership of these projects.

I support the report but urge that the issues raised be addressed to better serve the people of Bungoma. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Edwin Opwora, you may reply.

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Hon. Edwin Opwora: (*Mover to reply*) thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my seconder and all Honourable Members who have contributed.

All the issues raised have already been captured in our report—both in observations and recommendations. I assure Hon. Jack Wambulwa that the Chesikaki Treatment Plant, established in the early 1970s, included the Kimaiti area. Any current water shortages are due to aging infrastructure, which we have addressed in our recommendations for BWASCO to resolve within 60 days.

I also assure Hon. Psero regarding Chesikaki. The official name is Chesikaki Water Treatment Plant, located in Kimama. BWASCO has already employed at least three staff from that area, showing progress toward inclusivity.

BWASCO is still a young company, having been established in October 2024. It needs our support. Issues such as alternative power solutions and water rates have been addressed in the report.

I urge this House to adopt the report so that implementation can begin and feedback provided within 60 days. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Opwora. Honourable Members, I will proceed and put the question;

(Question put and agreed to)

The Ayes have it.

(Applause)

The report is approved accordingly by the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members that was the last item on our Order Paper. We will adjourn now and resume today, 8th April 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

(The House rose at 11:34 a.m.)

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