

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2026

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

5th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2026

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

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable members, I have a few issues to communicate; Members you can resume your seats fast. Order members! Well, I was waiting for Hon. Museveni before I proceed.

1. ALTER OF THE ORDER PAPER

Now Honourable Members we have to alter our Order Paper of the day and we are going to drop Order No.9 which is a motion on the Committee of Powers and Privileges to be rescheduled. Also I want to ask that the Chairperson Agriculture has been given guidelines on how to present the report in the interest of time because of the Bills that are ahead of us which may take us up to 8.00pm. Therefore, the Honourable Member for Agriculture would give highlights and the areas that Members need to capture so that you'll reinforce on that.

During debate Honourable Members we shall also have limited time. Every speaker will have at most 5 minutes to make his or her contribution

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

House Summons;

IT IS NOTIFIED THAT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 18 OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY POWERS AND PRIVILEGES ACT CHIEF OFFICER DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING SHALL APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, vested on the powers given to the Speaker's Office, I direct that the business before the House are so huge and of County importance because of the Bills including the Appropriation's Bill. Therefore, the Chief Officer will come later after we dispense with the other businesses of the House.

MOTION

REPORT BY SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ON THE STATUS OF SIBUMBA AND KIKAI COFFEE FACTORIES IN NAMWELA WARD

Mr. Speaker: Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waiti, proceed.

Hon. Wafula Waiti(Chairperson, Agriculture): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise on Behalf of the Committee on Agriculture to present a motion on the Status of the Sibumba Kikai factories in Namwela Ward.

CHAPTER ONE

PREFACE

On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development and pursuant to the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Bungoma, I have the honour and privilege to present the Committee report on the status of Sibumba and Kikai Coffee Factories located in Namwela Ward. Coffee farming remains a critical economic activity in Namwela Ward and the County in general and contributes significantly to household incomes and local economic development.

Sibumba and Kikai Coffee Factories were established to facilitate processing, value addition and marketing of coffee produced by local farmers. Their performance directly affects farmer earnings and sustainability of the coffee sector.

The Committee undertook a fact-finding exercise on 5th February, 2026 following concerns raised by Hon. Charles Nangulu in a statement (As annexed) regarding the operational status, governance structures, financial management and service delivery at the two coffee factories. Fact Finding was conducted to ascertain the actual operational status of the factories and assess challenges affecting the two Coffee factories and listen to the Coffee farmers grievances.

The Committee held consultative meetings with the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development, Chief Officer Cooperatives, Director Cooperatives, Sub-County Cooperative Officer (Sirisia) farmers, factories former and current management and supervisory committees and other relevant stakeholders. The Committee established

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operational, governance and accountability concerns that necessitated the committee to undertake a fact finding exercise on the status of the two coffee factories.

The Committee established several operational, governance and accountability concerns requiring urgent intervention by the County Government, relevant regulatory agencies and investigative institutions.

The Committee further found that prolonged governance challenges, poor farmer engagement in the management activities and weaknesses in financial accountability have negatively affected the factories performance.

Terms of Reference

The Committee conducted a fact finding into the operations of Sibumba and Kikai Coffee Factories in Namwela Ward to establish:

1. The operational status of the factories.
2. Governance and management structures.
3. Financial management practices
5. Utilization of public resources
6. Challenges affecting the factories.
7. Recommend corrective interventions.

METHODOLOGY

The Committee employed the following methods:

1. Conducted visits to Sibumba and Kikai Coffee Factories.
2. Held meetings with factory management (management and supervisory committees).
3. Held consultations with the CECM, Chief Officer Cooperatives and County Cooperative Officers responsible for cooperatives.
4. Reviewed the Audit and Inspection Reports (Annexed)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the logistical and technical support accorded to it during its sittings.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Members of the committee and the secretariat who made useful contributions towards the consideration of this report. This report is signed by Hon. Wafula Wiati as the chairperson of the committee.

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CHAPTER TWO

SIBUMBA FARMERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

Sibumba Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited (hereinafter referred to as Sibumba FCS) was registered on the 1st of September, 1980 under the registration number CS 3262. The society is located in Namwela Ward, Sirisia Subcounty, Bungoma County.

The area of operation of Sibumba FCS is within the Sibumba FCS factory with its registered office being located withing the same premise.

As per Section 4, Subsection 4.2 of Sibumba FCS By- Laws, the objects for which the society was established are to organize and promote the welfare and economic interest of its members. In particular the society shall undertake:

1. To arrange cooperative marketing, processing, grading, packaging, and transporting the members produce and such other operations as may be necessary for the most profitable disposable of the produce.
2. To arrange for the purchase and resale of farm inputs and chemicals and other similar requirements of the members.
3. To take measures to control pests and diseases.
4. To foster education and training to members, committee members, and employees.
5. To provide cooperation and good will between members and the society.
6. To cooperate with other cooperatives in order to promote members interests and in furtherance of the society objectives.
7. To apply the cooperative principle of cooperation among the cooperatives in order to promote members interests. And in furtherance to objects of the society affiliate in to the relevant National Cooperative Union and the Apex society.
8. (Subsection 4.3) For the attainment of the above objects, the society may do acts and things that are permissible under the Act, rules and these by-laws including but not limited to acquiring property and chattels and doing all such other things as are incidental or consequential to the economic enhancement of its members interests provided such act is approved by the members in a general meeting

Composition of Sibumba FCS Management

The Management Committee

S.No	Name	Position	Membership Number
1	Wilfred Amos Wakoli	Chairperson	2574
2	Emmanuel Nabiswa	Vice Chairperson	2233
3	Oliver Kasembeli Mafumbo	Hon. Secretary	2544
4	Phylis Chepkoech	Treasurer	1470
5	Isaac Nasiuma	Committee Member	661
6	Alice Walubengo	Committee Member	1023
7	Moses Nalyana	Committee Member	709
8	Moses Majimbo	Committee Member	Deceased
9	Timothy Wochuna	Committee Member	Not Present

Supervisory Committee

S/No.	Name	Position
1.	Amos Tasike	Chairperson
2.	Abel Mandil	Vice Chairperson
3.	John Suto	Committee Member

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Findings and Observations as per the Inspection Report dated September, 2025

Governance

The current management committee, which was given another mandate to govern during the 19th June 2025 AGM, admitted to having a good working relationship between the executive and other committee members.

Both the management and supervisory committees have minute books. However, these minute books are not updated with minutes of several meetings. On the other hand, the supervisory committee did not have any minutes whatsoever in their official minute book. The committee has not yet held any meeting nor attended a joint meeting with the central committee. The supervisory committee, which by law is required to oversight the central management committee, has been partially effective.

The society has a members register with a membership of 3,846 farmers. Analysis of farmers payment schedules indicates that on an average, around 2,000 farmers actively deliver coffee and are paid by the society. Several farmers payments schedules were presented to the inspection team where it was observed that 80% of proceeds from coffee sales are paid out to farmers while 20% is retained for society operations. This is in accordance with regulations and rules of the cooperative movement.

When marketing farmers' coffee, the managements acquire the necessary permits for coffee movement. However, in the FY 2024/2025 there was a loss of 5 bags of coffee. The subcounty cooperative officer had permitted the movement of 209 bags of coffee but on delivery to Mussess Mill the society only delivered 204 bags. The management failed to communicate the reason for this variance to the permitting authority.

Of key focus to the inspection team was the drop in farmers payment from KSH 78 per Kg, in the first and second payment of FY 2023/2024 to KSH 45 per Kg in the first and second payment of the FY 2024/2025.

The inspection team established that:

- Clean coffee collected from farmers in the FY 2023/2024 was 535,217 Kgs while the total number of Mbuni kgs were 3,158 Kgs From the sales of these batches the first payment of KSH 40 per Kg was an advance from New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union(NKPCU)while the second payment of KSH 38 was the official rate that the society was to pay from actual sale of the 535,217 kgs of clean coffee. The advance from NKPCU was a liability of around KSH 12,000,000 and this informs why the

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society was able to pay the high rate of KSH 78 per Kg. With regard to Mbuni, sales, farmers were paid at a rate of KSH 110 per Kg and this actual sales of the 3,158 Kgs of Mbuni.

- Both the National and County Governments have issued notices clearly prohibiting coffee payments on cash basis. Still, several farmers of Sibumba FCS keep on receiving their coffee payments on cash basis with details missing such as full names, phone numbers and Identification numbers.

Engagement with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

In April 2024, Sibumba FSC applied for grant support from FAO. FAO accepted the proposal and agreed to provide financial grant support not exceeding KES 7,517,500 (Seven Million, Five hundred and Seventeen Thousand and Five Hundred Only Kenya Shillings). The Grant Support was to be paid out in three tranches:

- Tranche 1: KES 2,225,250 (Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Only Kenya Shillings). This corresponds to 30% of the total amount committed by FAO.
- Tranche 2: KES 3,758,750 (Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Only Kenya Shillings). This corresponds to 50% of the amount financed in the Grant Agreement.
- Tranche 3: KES 1,503,500 (One Million, Five Hundred and Three Thousand, Five Hundred Only Kenya Shillings). This corresponds to 20% of the total amount financed in the Grant Agreement.

Tranche 1 of the Grant had been disbursed to the Sibumba FCS Cooperative Bank Account A/C 011200*****14000 on the 31st of December, 2024. On conducting interviews with the members of the management committee and the C.E.O it was established that so far, a team from Sibumba FCS had attended two trainings in Kisumu. The C.E.O explained that through these trainings, the society had expensed KSH 450,000 from the first tranche of the grant. Hence, the society was left with a balance of KSH 1,775,250 in its bank account. The team that took part in the Kisumu training included:

- Members of the management committee.
- Members of the supervisory committee.
- Two staff members including the C.E.O

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Page 13 the bank account transactions as per the inspection report which was checked by the committee, Honourable Speaker, the same page 2.6 it shows how the loans from Financial Institutions were taken and utilized. The Table is there Honourable Speaker, Page fourteen the Human Resource of those Cooperatives, there are two tables showing Honourable Speaker, and then also there is a list of casuals of the societies.

Page fifteen Honourable Speaker, recommendations from the inspection team. Honourable Speaker, on page sixteen I will read out the fact findings by the committee.

FINDINGS FROM THE FACT FINDING BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee conducted a fact finding on 5th February, 2026 at Sibumba Coffee factory and noted the following;

1. Payment and Financial Management

- i. Delayed and irregular payments to farmers, with some going unpaid for up to six months.
- ii. Lack of seasonal payment schedules compared to neighboring factories within Sirisia Sub-County such as Menu coffee factory.
- iii. Burial and benevolent schemes remain inactive despite continued deductions.
- iv. Misappropriation and loss of Kshs. 1,775,250 being the balance of FAO Grant including non-disclosure and loss of income of Kshs 529,221 earned as interest from call deposit accounts.
- v. Farmers demanded accountability for Kshs 25 million spent, partly borrowed and partly donor-funded.

2. Weighing and Record-Keeping

- i. Inaccurate weighing scales and poor procurement of weighing machines.
- ii. Allegations of exaggerated coffee weights for select individuals.
- iii. Poor record-keeping of farmer information and coffee deliveries.
- iv. Lack of transparency during weighing processes.
- v. Reports of “air kilos” and ghost farmers inflating records

3. Management and Governance

- i. Farmers denied participation in AGMs and decision-making processes.
- ii. Lack of respect and poor treatment of farmers by management.
- iii. Farmers report mistrust and frustration due to mismanagement.
- iv. Management holds its meetings from distant towns, increasing costs and reducing accessibility to farmers.
- v. Coffee sold outside the country (Uganda) without clear accountability.

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- vi. Inspection reports not submitted within the required 90 days, contrary to by-laws.
- vii. Supervisory committee is inactive and thus impairing oversight and accountability on the management committee.

4. Market and Pricing

- i. Coffee prices at Sibumba remain significantly lower (Kshs 37–38 per kg) compared to neighboring factories such as Menu coffee Factory (Kshs 70–80 per kg).
- ii. Management allegedly unaware of mandated coffee prices.
- iii. Cherry coffee revolving funds diverted to cover payments instead of being used as intended.

5. Security and Logistics

- i. Reports of coffee theft during transportation, with documented losses (e.g., 205 kg on June 26, 2025).
- ii. Late delivery notes and poor tracking of consignments.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations:

1. Governance challenges have negatively affected confidence among farmers. Farmers have not been adequately involved in critical decisions affecting factory operations. The Committee noted that the supervisory committee was dormant with no minutes of its sittings and no oversight reports.
2. There are accountability concerns requiring special audit. The committee observed that there is Misappropriation of Kshs. 1,775,250 being the balance of FAO Grant with no clear records of expenditure as per the FAO utilization guidelines and Non-disclosure of Kshs. 529,221 as interest earned from call deposit accounts.
3. It was observed that there were irregular borrowings with no minutes indicating the farmers approval and various bulk withdrawals were made with no clear minutes authorizing such withdrawals and utilization.
4. The member register does not reflect the current membership. Not all farmers in the current register are actively delivering coffee to the society. As such, the clean-up should be done to expunch dormant and deceased members from the official register to avoid use of “ghost farmers”.
5. Coffee prices at Sibumba remain significantly lower (Ksh37-38) per kilogram compared to neighbouring factories such as many Menu coffee factories (Ksh70-80) per kilogram.

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6. Reports of coffee theft during transportation with documented loss (e.g 205 kg on 26th June 2025 with late delivery notes and poor tracking of consignment.

Committee recommendations

Honourable Speaker, the committee made the following recommendations;

1. That where investigations, audit and regulatory reviews establish gross misconduct, negligence, abuse of office and violation of cooperative laws or breach of fiduciary possibilities, The committee recommends immediate suspension of the affected board members, dissolution of the current board in accordance with the Cooperative Societies Act and applicable regulations, appointment of new board of management through an AGM.
2. That farmers should appoint a new supervisal committee through an AGM on the grounds that it fails to perform its oversight mandate. The committee neither held meetings nor presented any reports.
3. That the department of corporate development should undertake an independent audit within six days from the adoption of this report on Sibumba Coffee Factory. The audit report should cover financial and nonfinancial performance of the factory. That any person found culpable of financial misconduct or misuse of farmer's funds be held personally accountable in accordance to the applicable laws and also ensure that farmer's lost funds are recovered.
4. That the Cooperatives Department should ensure that the members register is cleaned up immediately to expunge dormant and deceased members from the official register to avoid issues of ghost farmers.
5. That the Department Of Cooperatives should oversee the alignment of Sibumba's coffee prices with regional standards and ensure management complies with mandated coffee pricing policies.
6. That the management adopts strict monitoring mechanisms to curb against theft and insecurity and provide a status report to the Department of Cooperatives of the action taken within sixty days of the adoption of this report.

CHAPTER THREE

KIKAI FCS

I now move to chapter three on Kikai Farmers' Cooperative Society, Hon. Speaker, that is page 19 of our report.

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It talks about the findings as per the inspection report. Page 20 Hon. Speaker there is assets and liabilities, I refer members to 3.3 and also there is verification of assets and liabilities on the same page. Page 21, there is insurance of assets, existence of assets, ownership of assets, storage custody and security of documents Hon. Speaker found on page 21. On page 22 there is creditor's register, security changes tied to the credit, types of credit (long term or short term), there is loans from government and if any from NGOs Hon. Speaker, loans from financial institutions, that is 3.4, found on page 22.

On page 23 Hon. Speaker there is governance, membership register that contains total membership (active and dormant), there is coffee production and mode of payment, there is minute book found on page 23. On page 24 Hon. Speaker, Supervisory Committee, It talks about sustainability strategies for the society, and then annual general meetings and special general meetings, resolutions of the sub-committees found on page 24. On page 25, I refer members to 3.6; it talks about human resource, staff establishment, staff qualification. On page 26 there is security personnel, there is workers versus management relations Hon. Speaker, and then there is general observations which talks about operations and structure of the society, there is Housing, corporate and social responsibility. Any other assets on page 27.

FINDINGS FROM FACT FINDING

Introduction

The committee conducted a fact finding visit on 5th February, 2026 at the factory regarding the management and operations of Kikai Coffee Factory and established the following;

1. Payment and Financial Management

- Farmers expected coffee sales per kilogram to exceed Kshs 45 for the 2024–2025 season, as promised, but this was not achieved.
- Loans processed through Kikai Rural Sacco are being serviced by farmers without their consent.
- Loan deductions reduced farmers' payments for the 2024–2025 season, despite the management committee lacking borrowing powers.
- Dividends and welfare schemes remain inactive, though deductions continue.
- The retired CEO continues to receive a salary despite leaving office.

2. Governance and Accountability

- Coffee is sold to Uganda without farmers' approval.

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- Management requires training in coffee production and cooperative governance.
- The Acting CEO has not been confirmed despite serving for over a year.
- Nepotism is reported, with relatives recruited as casual employees.
- Farmers are denied participation in decision-making and regular meetings.
- Inspection reports have not been submitted within required timelines.

3. Farmer Welfare and Participation

- Farmers express discomfort with M-Pesa/Safaricom payment modes, preferring Sacco payments for easier access to loans.
- Coffee weighing services are conducted at the factory instead of at farms, raising transparency concerns.
- Farmers' training has not been undertaken, despite deductions for the same.
- Roads leading to the society are impassable, limiting access and operations.
- Farmers report mistrust and frustration due to mismanagement and lack of respect from directors.

4. Security and Logistics

- Frequent coffee thefts have been reported, including a case involving approximately KSh 556,000 (1,415 bags of Grade I coffee), with no follow-up conducted.
- Security measures at the factory and during transportation are inadequate.

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COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **THAT**, the department of Cooperative Development should ensure that an independent audit of loans, deductions and salary payments is undertaken within sixty days(60) from the adoption of this report.
2. **THAT**, the department of Cooperative Development should ensure that the management of the factory confirms leadership positions promptly and review recruitment practices to eliminate nepotism and strengthen cooperative governance by mandating farmer participation in decision-making.
3. **THAT**, the department of Cooperatives should oversee the alignment of Kikai's coffee prices with regional standards and ensure management complies with mandated coffee pricing policies and investigate cross-border sales to Uganda and establish clear accountability mechanisms.
4. **THAT**, the management adopts strict monitoring mechanisms to curb against theft and insecurity and provide a status report to the department of Cooperatives of the actions taken within sixty (60) days from the adoption of this report.

CONCLUSION

The Committee finds that Sibumba and Kikai Coffee Factories remain important for economic development in Namwela Ward in the County. However, significant governance, accountability and operational challenges require urgent intervention.

The Committee believes that implementation of the recommendations contained in this Report will enhance transparency, Accountability, restore farmer confidence, improve operational efficiency and strengthen the Coffee Value chain within Namwela Ward.

Honourable Speaker, at this point, we are looking at the adoption of the report, where Members adopted the report by appending their signatures, as seen in the report. The remaining documents are the annexures attached to support the report. At this point, I call upon Hon. Cheseto Chemorion to second the report. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Wafula Waiti, Member for Naitiri/Kabuyefwe and Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee, for being a very sharp mover of the report. Congratulations. Hon. Cheseto Chemorion, Member for Cheptais.

Hon. Martin Cheseto: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. To begin with, I want to appreciate the Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee for moving the Motion very well. I also want to appreciate the Hon. Member who raised the statement for highlighting issues affecting our coffee farmers across the county.

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I want to start by appreciating the team that went out to carry out the research and the findings they made.

The cooperative movement has done a lot for farmers, especially coffee farmers in the upper region of the county, and it has changed many lives. It is through coffee cooperative societies that farmers take their coffee produce for pulping and eventual marketing.

However, there are issues highlighted in the report, particularly governance issues, which are key in ensuring that farmers get what is due to them. At the same time, crafty management takes advantage of governance gaps to defraud farmers of their rightful share of coffee revenue.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of theft in transit is very rampant in coffee factories. In fact, coffee management and directors use it as a means to divert parchment coffee to other markets, contrary to what the farmers agreed upon during AGMs.

Even when it comes to AGMs, whenever they conduct these affairs, they are often stage-managed. During AGMs, farmers are not actively involved in decision-making. The board of directors may pinpoint their cronies to raise issues while the voices of the masses, the farmers, are suppressed.

This scenario is very common in the coffee sector and requires the attention of this House and the Executive to rein in these corrupt officials.

On matters of human resources, each coffee factory has varying human resource needs depending on its capacity. However, if there were a controlled system through an HR manual indicating the number of staff, positions, technical roles, temporary workers, and casual labourers, and if we had access to payroll records, we would be able to avoid burdening farmers or eating into the finances they usually receive.

There is also the issue of non-disclosure of information. We have donors and development partners who contribute to farmers or donate to coffee factories. However, the management boards of these factories do not disclose these finances and instead use them for their own benefit. This has affected coffee farmers, especially in Namwela.

Honourable Speaker, I just want to stop there. I sincerely thank the statement owner for giving us examples of coffee factories where these malpractices exist, and now we are going to cascade these findings to other factories across the county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Thank you, Hon. Martin Cheseto Chemorion, Member for Cheptais, for seconding the Motion. Honourable Members, allow me now to propose the same for debate

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(Motion proposed)

Now, Honourable Members, we shall start with the owner of the statement so that he can open up the debate. As I stated in my communication, we shall have limited time. Kindly observe that so that we can proceed to other equally important orders today. Hon. Charles Nangulu.

Hon. Charles Nangulu: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me this chance to add my voice to this statement that I raised.

Honourable Speaker, this report concerns the cooperative societies we have in this county. As you go through the report, you will find that it cuts across the whole county. Our cooperative societies are actually being mismanaged by their Boards of Management.

When you investigate and talk to farmers about what is happening in Namwela, Sibumba, and Kikai, I would say that these issues cut across most of these societies.

First, let me applaud the Chairperson of Agriculture, Hon. Waiti, and the Vice-Chairperson who seconded the Motion. This report is actually very good. I would say it is one of the best reports I have ever received from this particular committee. This report is going to help me greatly in understanding how the two cooperatives in my ward, Kikai and Sibumba, are run.

The AGM is coming up tomorrow and Honourable Speaker this is the main report that is going to be presented to the members and farmers who have been eagerly waiting for it. I hope there are one or two farmers in the gallery listening to this debate.

I do not wish to repeat what has already been said. The recommendations and observations are accurate, and I am going to use them as a tool to guide how the cooperative societies should be run.

Honourable Speaker, as we speak today, farmers in one cooperative society, namely Sibumba are no longer taking their coffee cherries to that factory because they are angry and unhappy with the management. It is only this House that can provide such a report to help improve the running of cooperatives in this county.

I do not have much more to say, but I want to report that I am going to share this report directly with the farmers tomorrow throughout the day. I hope and believe that changes will be made in the cooperative societies because of this report. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Charles Nangulu Simiyu, Member for Namuela. Now, we have online Hon. Wekesa Erick, Member for Kabuchai/Chwele.

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Hon. Erick Wekesa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me thank the Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee and the entire membership of the committee for such a wonderful report.

Honourable Speaker, I have an interest in this report because my grandmother is a farmer who takes coffee to Kikai, and I am also a farmer in Chwele dealing with the same product.

Honourable Speaker, when you go to these coffee factories, you will find very rich leaders and very poor farmers. These individuals have learned how to circumvent regulations and steal from farmers using the provisions and the current legal framework governing cooperative societies.

I am of the view that, apart from supporting the recommendations, when you go through the report, you realize that most of these factories are crime scenes. People are looting. We have simply refused to use the right words. These people are thieves because if you can take out a loan without the approval of the members, you are stealing. We are just using soft language. These people do very bad things, and they do so because they know farmers are helpless.

I am proposing that we strengthen the county government's oversight of these cooperative societies to protect our farmers. We have remained too detached. When you assess the county's influence, you find that it plays only a ceremonial supervisory role and has given cooperative management excessive autonomy.

We hear of people hiring relatives. The chairperson employs the wife, the brother, and other relatives, while ghost workers continue drawing salaries using farmers' money.

Honourable Speaker, this report should serve as an eye-opener. The truth is that I wish the committee's recommendations could go further. I do not know whether the Standing Orders allow it, but I would recommend the arrest and prosecution of some of those cooperative society leaders so that it serves as a deterrent. As they say in Kiswahili, *iwe mfano kwa hao wengine*. We cannot allow this to continue.

Chinua Achebe once introduced a character, Eneke, who said, *“Since men have learned to shoot without missing, birds have learned to fly without perching.”* These individuals have learned how to steal without stopping anywhere, and we must stop them. Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. I submit and support the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Erick Wekesa. We now have the other Wekesa, Hon. Wekesa Kikechi Bernard, Member for Mbakalo.

Hon. Bernard Kikechi: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Honourable Speaker, I would like to emphasize the importance of this report because I participated in its preparation as a member of the Agriculture Committee.

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Much applause goes to my Chairperson, who has eloquently and correctly moved this report on the floor of this Honourable House. Honourable Speaker, I remember that when we conducted the interrogations and members of the society appeared before the Agriculture Committee, many glaring issues emerged.

As a committee, we worked very hard and identified the key issues affecting the cooperative society in question. This case is merely a pointer to the rot that exists within the cooperative sector. If you look at this case, Honourable Speaker, and read some of the findings, you find a CEO who retired almost a year ago but is still earning a salary. This is very unfortunate.

When you look at issues of theft, someone steals coffee worth nearly Kshs. 600,000 belonging to farmers, the culprit is known, and yet he continues walking free with no action taken against him.

How I wish that the recommendations we made as a committee would be followed up thoroughly, especially by the Committee on Implementation, so that they are implemented to the letter.

As a committee, Honourable Speaker, we will also play our role and make appropriate follow-ups so that this case can serve as an example to other rogue cooperative societies and boards that prey on innocent farmers and steal their hard-earned earnings.

As I support the report, I hope that all the recommendations we have made will be implemented so that the cooperative movement in this county can regain its footing. I support, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Wekesa Kikechi, Member for Mbakalo. Now online is Hon. Jacob Psero, Member for Chesikaki Ward.

Hon. Jacob Psero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. In the first place, I want to thank the Chairperson of Agriculture, Hon. Wafula Waiti, for presenting the report in an eloquent manner that is well understood by everybody.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of coffee growing, particularly in Western Kenya and specifically in Bungoma County, is actually a big problem.

The farmers in this county are not benefiting from the produce they get from their coffee. They do a lot of work in terms of weeding, pruning, spraying, and spending a lot of money on these activities, including the application of fertilizers. However, in the end, what they reap after harvest is just peanuts.

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Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is happening in the coffee sector because when we compare it with other regions, such as what is happening in the former Central Province, a farmer with just a small acreage, even 100 coffee stems, earns much more money than someone with an entire acre in Bungoma County, including in Chesikaki, where I come from.

In the first place, we have people called the Management Committee. I do not know why they are called the Management Committee. They should perhaps be given a more suitable name, maybe the "Thieves' Committee."

When somebody is elected in the first place, they appear to be very good and honest and provide all the facts. However, after one year or so, you find that they change their tactics and want to remain permanently in the society.

Right now, we have societies that are run by committee members who have remained in office continuously for over fifteen years.

Why do they remain there? During elections, they hire goons who do not allow other members to speak. These goons are strategically positioned so that if anyone raises a hand, it must be one of the goons, while ordinary members are denied the opportunity to raise issues. That is where the problem lies.

We have had Management Committees in the past that performed very well, but whenever they do well, those who are skilled in stealing organize goons to overthrow them. That is why we have had problems in those particular areas.

Mr. Speaker, I come from Chesikaki, and we have about nine coffee societies. Last year, coffee sales in Chesikaki, particularly through cooperative societies, earned very little money for farmers.

There is no society that paid more than Kshs. 100 per kilogram apart from one. The rest paid below that amount, despite the President stating that the lowest payment should be Kshs. 100 and above. However, that is not happening.

When you cross the border into a country called Uganda, the same kilogram of coffee—even before processing, in its raw form—sells for Kshs. 300 per kilogram. Yet on this side, farmers are not even earning Kshs. 50 per kilogram.

What is happening in Uganda? Where do Ugandans sell their coffee compared to our Kenyan side? I think the Department and our government should investigate and find out why there is such a difference. Otherwise, the government should allow everyone to sell coffee in Uganda.

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I have tried my best to remain patriotic and take all my coffee to the cooperative society, but in the end, it is stolen within the society itself. Even on farms, people come at night and steal coffee. You wake up the following day and find there is nothing left to harvest. So, we have a very serious problem, and it is a huge loss. We need to address it as a government.

Mr. Speaker, we also have people called cooperative officers who are supposed to supervise these societies. Yet you find that many of them have never been transferred since they were appointed. Some have stayed in the same Sub-County for as long as twenty years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Kindly summarize, Hon. Psero. Your five minutes are long gone. Summarize now. I will be giving Hon. Aggrey Mulongo the last opportunity so that we can move on to the next item. Proceed and summarize.

Hon. Jacob Psero: These officers who have overstayed in one station are part of the problem. They are the ones ensuring that payments remain similar across all societies. Is it possible for five societies to have the exact same payment rates despite geographical differences?

Why are these officers staying in one place for so long? Why can they not be transferred elsewhere? Our country is large. Some of them can go to Mombasa, and those from Mombasa can come here. Otherwise, it is a big problem, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jacob Psero, for your remarks. We want to conclude this matter. I had indicated that Hon. Aggrey Mulongo would be the last contributor.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I take this opportunity to thank the Chairperson of Agriculture and more importantly, the owner of the statement. This report is truly an eye-opener. I come from a coffee-growing area on the slopes of Mt. Elgon, and whatever is happening, all the Honourable Members who have contributed to this Motion have spoken nothing but the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why, despite agriculture being a devolved function, it does not seem fully devolved. It appears to be only halfway devolved or perhaps a quarter devolved. As a County, we are supposed to come up with our own regulations and legislation. We should have our own Act governing these matters.

Mr. Speaker, I once caught thieves stealing coffee. When I confronted them, they told me they had a permit. To be honest, I followed them because they were stealing coffee and taking it to the nearest market, which is Chebukwabi Market in Kimilili. When I followed up, I found that they had a processing machine and a permit. When I inquired, they simply produced the permit.

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Therefore, Mr. Speaker, whatever we are doing, even if we keep changing management from time to time, as a County, we must also establish guiding principles. Mr. Speaker, there are too many brokers. People with motorcycles are ferrying our coffee and taking it to Uganda.

This statement by Hon. Charles Nangulu is truly an eye-opener. We now need to summon the cooperative officers and have them explain how these operations are being conducted. Otherwise, farmers are forced to constantly watch over their coffee, whether it is ripe or unripe.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what kind of permission or permit these coffee traders are supposed to obtain. Therefore, I plead that we call these officers before this House. Let us pass this Motion, yes, but we also need the cooperative officers to explain how these operations should be conducted.

Otherwise, we shall continue discussing these issues while they continue happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Aggrey Mulongo. Hon. Wafula Waiti, reply.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: (*Mover to reply*) Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: I think Hon. Metrine Nangila was also online, but because of time, Honourable Members will understand.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, when the owner of the statement is satisfied, then, as the Chairperson of the Committee, I am also satisfied.

Honourable Speaker, I want to applaud my colleagues who have contributed significantly and strengthened this report. As a committee, I want to assure this Honourable House that we shall conduct serious follow-up on the implementation process. At the same time, I urge the counterpart Committee on Implementation to add weight to this matter so that we can help our poor farmers succeed.

Honourable Speaker, regarding the issues raised by Hon. Erick Wekesa concerning prosecution, I wish to clarify that in our recommendations, we proposed an independent audit to be conducted within sixty days. The findings of that audit will inform the prosecution of any culprits found culpable.

At this point, I urge my colleagues to approve this report as it is so that we can assist the poor farmers, not only in the two cooperative societies concerned but also in cooperative societies elsewhere, to earn the fruits of their labour. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, Hon. Wafula Waiti. Honourable Members, the Motion having been moved on the floor of the House and duly seconded, debate having ensued, and the mover having replied, allow me now to put the Question;

(Question put and agreed to)

The report is hereby adopted. The Clerks-at-the-Table, ensure this report is transmitted to the relevant offices for action in accordance with the recommendations of the report. Next item.

BILLS

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURE INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2025

Deputy Speaker: The Chairperson

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I beg to move that the Bungoma County Agriculture Institution Development Bill 2025 be now read a third time.

The bill, as amended, provides a sound legal framework for the development and management of Agricultural Institutions and ensures that our County fully exercises its devolved mandate. Honourable Speaker, I call upon Hon. Edwin Opwora to second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, the Hon. Edwin Opwora proceed.

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Honourable Speaker, I second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, at this level, I now propose to the House that the Bungoma County Agricultural Institution Development Bill 2025 be read a third time.

(Question proposed that the Bill be read a third time)

(Question put and agreed to)

The bill will be read a third time.

A BILL FOR AN ACT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA TO PROVIDE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES. **THIRD**

READING

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, Honourable Members, the bill having been read a third time, it is deemed to have been adopted in past and is now an Act of this Assembly. Therefore Clerks-at-

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the-Table will ensure that it is forwarded to the relevant offices through the vellum by the Speaker and also the County Chief who is the Governor of this County for his action. Thank you. We move to the next item.

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026. FIRST READING

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, next Order.

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026 (SECOND READING)

Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Wekesa, Opwora, Edwin, ooh, the Chair, where is the Chair? Chair, Budget and Appropriations.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Honourable Speaker, under Standing Order 141, I move a motion that the Bungoma County Appropriation Bill 2026 be now read a Second Time and I call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second. Before he seconds Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, this is a new way of handling the budget.

You will realize, Honourable Members, that since the inception of devolution, we have been carrying out our work in this House and then forwarding what we pass to the Executive for gazettelement.

For the first time, this County Assembly has changed the way it does things. We have taken the matter for gazettelement ourselves, as you can see, and this is intended to address the issue of altering whatever has been approved by the County Assembly. It is the County Assembly itself that has undertaken this process. It is something new before us, and it is our way forward, Honourable Members.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Tony, when Members are moving a Motion, you should know when you are out of order. Please resume your seat.

(Loud consultations)

Order! Hon. Tony. Hon. Tony, please maintain order.

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Hon. Francis Chemion: So, Honourable Members, this is something very new, and I therefore call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Members! Order, Members! Hon. Tony, you are out of order and are shouting without being given permission. Hon. Tony, please.

The mover of this Motion is quite right. We have not been doing this before, and you can now see it for yourselves. You have the yellow copies before you, which has not been the case previously. Therefore, he has a right to explain what is happening.

Hon. Caleb...

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for your guidance. I rise to second the Motion that the Appropriation Bill be read a Second Time.

Just as Hon. Chemion has explained, you will realize that in previous years, we have been passing the budget in this House, but somewhere between here and the Controller of Budget, the National Government, or the Treasury, things would change along the way.

However, this new method is going to help us because we will no longer experience what we call the diversion of funds.

You will realize that funds appropriated for certain vote heads have sometimes been diverted. If you ask the committee chairpersons or the Honourable Members present here, every time we conduct interrogations, we discover that there has been considerable diversion of funds.

This method is therefore going to help us, and I must applaud this Assembly and the Budget and Appropriations Committee for the wisdom and innovation they have demonstrated by introducing this new approach. Thank you. I second the Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Peter Caleb Wanjala, Member for Bukembe East, for seconding the Motion.

Honourable Members, allow me now to propose the Question for debate;

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it. We now read the bill a Second Time.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF A SUM OF MONEY OUT OF THE REVENUE FUND AND ITS APPLICATION TOWARDS THE SERVICE OF THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2027 AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM AND A SUM VOTED ON ACCOUNT BY THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICES AND PURPOSES. **(Second Reading)**

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members once the Bill has been read a Second Time, under Standing Order No. 142, the House will fall back to the Committee of the Whole House. So we arise.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Stephen Wamalwa) left the Chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

[The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Benjamin Otsiula) in the Chair]

Temporary Chairperson: Members resume your seats. Honourable Members welcome to the Committee of the Whole House for consideration of the Bungoma County Appropriations Bill 2026. I now call upon the Clerk-at-the-Table to read out the parts of the Bill in the sequence specified in Order No. 144.

We begin with Clause 2. Chairperson, Honourable... Sorry, Honourable Members I now propose that Clause 2 be part of the bill. Hon. Chemion

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Hon. Chair. I move that Clause 2 of the bill be amended by replacing the word "section" before 224 with the word "article" and replacing the word "government financial" immediately before the word "management".

So as to read Clause 2. The county treasury may issue out of the revenue fund sum of Kshs 17,189,941,276 only out of the revenue fund and applied towards the supply granted for the services of the year ending 30th June, 2027 in accordance with Article 224 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 130 of the Public Finance Management Act.

Justification: to correct a typing error. I now call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second the amendment.

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Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Honourable Chair. I rise to second the amendment.

(Question of amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Question, that Clause 2 as amended be part of the bill, proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Clause 3

Temporary Chairperson: Honourable Members, I now propose that Clause 3 be part of the bill.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Chair. I move that Clause 3 of the bill be amended by replacing the word "2026" immediately before the word in respect with the word 2027 so as to read Clause 3. The supply granted for the services for the year ending 30th of June, 2027 in respect of vote.

Justification: to correct typing error. I now call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Honourable Chair. I rise to second that the bill be amended as said.

(Question of amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Question, that Clause 3 as amended be part of the bill, proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Schedules

The First Schedule

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Temporary Chairperson: Honourable Members I now propose that the First Schedule be part of the bill. Hon. Chemion...

Hon. Francis Chemion: Chair, I move that First Schedule of the bill be amended by deleting the words salaries and immediately before the word expenses under vote number R491100000 to R4912000000. Then we have R4913000000. R4914000000. R here stands for recurrent expenditure then R4915000000, then R4916000000. Then R4917000000 inserting the word 'salaries' immediately before the word 'general' and inserting the word 'salaries expenses' immediately before the word general under vote number R4919000000 and R4923000000.

Justification: All salaries are domiciled in the Office of the County Secretary save for the County Assembly and Municipalities. I now call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala, our Bishop, to second the amendment.

Hon. Caleb Chemion: Honourable Chair, I rise to second the amendment of the schedule, Chair.

(Question of amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Question, that the first schedule as amended be part of the bill, proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

The Second Schedule

Temporary Chairperson: Honourable members I now propose that the Second Schedule be part of the bill. Hon. Francis Chemion?

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you Chair. I move that the Second Schedule of the bill be amended by replacing the word 2026 immediately before the word for with the word 2027. Under vote development 49-12-0000 and replacing the word scholarships immediately before the word construction with the word bursaries.

Justification: to correct typing error. I now call upon Hon. Caleb to second.

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Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Honourable Chair, I rise to second that schedule 2 be amended as proposed.

(Question of amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Question, that the second schedule as amended be part of the bill, proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Clause 1

(Question that Clause 1 be part of the bill, proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Long title

(Question that the long title be part of the bill, proposed)

Question put and agreed to)

Short title

(Question that the short title be part of the bill, proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

I therefore call upon the Chair that is Hon. Francis Chemion.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you Hon. Chair, Pursuant to Standing Order 145(16) I beg to move that the Committee do report to the House its consideration of the Bungoma County Appropriation Bill 2026. I call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second.

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Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Honourable Chair, I rise to second.

Temporary Chairperson: Thank you Hon. Caleb Wanjala. Honourable Members, I now put the question that the Committee do report to the House its consideration of the Bungoma County Appropriation Bill 2026.

(Question put and agreed to)

HOUSE RESUMES NORMAL SITTING

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

REPORTING FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the Chair of the Whole House to move.

Temporary Chairperson: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to report to the House a report of the Committee of the Whole House.

Pursuant to Standing Order No. 147. I report that the Committee of the Whole House considered the Bungoma County Appropriations Bill 2026 as follows;

1. Clause 2 was approved with amendments.
2. Clause 3 was approved with amendments.

Schedules

1. The first schedule was approved with amendments.
2. Second schedule was approved with amendments.
3. Clause 1 was approved without amendments.
4. Long title was approved without amendments.
5. Short title was approved without amendments.

Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Thank you, the Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Otsiula, Member for Khasoko. Next order.

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MOTIONS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair or a Member of Budget.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Honourable Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order No. 148(1), I beg to move that the House does agree with the Committee in the said report and request Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Peter Wanjala.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Honourable Chair, I rise to second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, I now put the question that this House does agree with the report of the Committee of the Whole House on the consideration of Bungoma County Appropriations Bill, County Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2026 with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to)

Next order.

BILLS

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2026

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Maasai Chemion.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Pursuant to Standing Order No. 152(2). I move a motion that the Bungoma County Appropriations Bill, 2026, be now read a Third Time. I call upon Hon. Caleb Wanjala to second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. The Hon. Peter Caleb.

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Honourable Speaker, I rise to second that the Bungoma County Appropriations Bill be read for the Third Time.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, I now propose that the Bungoma County Appropriations Bill, County Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2026 be read a Third Time;

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

We now read the bill a Third Time.

A BILL OF AN ACT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF SUM OF MONEY OUT OF THE REVENUE FUND AND THIS APPLICATION TOWARDS THE SERVICE OF THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2027 AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM AND A SUM VOTED ON ACCOUNT BY THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICES AND PURPOSES. ***(Third Reading)***

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, Honourable Members, a Bill having been read a Third Time is deemed approved and passed by this House and therefore becomes an Act of this Assembly.

I now call upon the Table Clerks to ensure that the necessary offices are furnished with the same so that the vellum can be prepared and signed by the responsible persons to enable the work of this County to move forward. Thank you, Honourable Members.

Well, Members, I want to take this opportunity to appreciate you. As you can see, we have started doing what is right so that whatever you do here cannot be altered by anybody. That is why I have been firm and did not want any disruptions, so that we can do the right thing here. Therefore, I want to appreciate you for sitting through this process.

(Applause)

Thank you for sitting through so that we now have our budget approved exactly as it was passed by this House. Thank you so much.

(Loud consultations)

Now, Members, as I ruled earlier and communicated, we have a Chief Officer who will appear after the conclusion of the business that was very important.

We now go back to Order No. 7, where we shall have the Chief Officer brought in so that he may be sworn in before the House. The Table Clerks will administer the oath to the officer. Kindly let us follow that procedure of this House.

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(Chief Officer - Finance Mr. Robert Simiyu ushered to the Plenary)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, I call for order. We have our Chief Officer here, and I want to take this opportunity to welcome him.

You are welcome to the House, and because of time, we want to move very fast. I will call upon the Orderlies of this Assembly to ensure that the oath is administered.

(Oath of summon administered to the Chief Officer)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Now, the owner of these questions; I believe the question concerning ECD is before the House. The owners of the second and third questions are not in the House, but we shall be guided accordingly as we proceed. Honourable Members, as we proceed, I want us to begin. Chairperson, Education Committee, Hon. Wambulwa.

Hon. Jackson Wambulwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to appreciate the Chief Officer for Finance for appearing before us. As you are aware, the CECM and the other team appeared before this House the other week. The Chief Officer happened to be away in Nairobi.

My statement will be brief, and I will request the Chief Officer to submit the relevant documents as he responds.

Coming to item (c), I require a certified County Treasury bank statement, specifically the IFMIS ledger, showing the actual cash-backed status and fund-tracking details of the appropriated Kshs. 29 million allocated towards the recruitment of ECD teachers.

Under item (e), I also require the technical implementation and structural transition guidelines adopted by the County Treasury under the new accrual accounting system regarding unspent personnel emoluments appropriations at the close of the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

If I receive these two documents, I will be assured that the process is proceeding well and that everything is secure. We have the finances as appropriated in the First Supplementary Budget. That is all I have. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much. Chief Officer, you are now allowed to respond.

Honourable Members, the response was circulated to each one of you. I believe you have it on your gadgets, so you may follow along as the Chief Officer proceeds. Chief Officer, you are welcome. You may use the Dispatch Box.

Chief Officer - Finance: Thank you, Chair.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Kindly come to the Dispatch Box.

Chief Officer - Finance: Thank you, Chair. I want to respond to the issue of the Kshs. 29 million.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chief, while I am here, I am not a Chair; I am the Speaker. I know you are used to appearing before our committees, but here, in this seat...

Chief Officer - Finance: Point noted, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, Chief.

Chief Officer - Finance: Mr. Speaker, I want to state that it is true that Kshs. 29 million was set aside for the recruitment of ECD and VTC teachers in the current budget.

I want to bring to the attention of the House that an SRC salary increment was implemented in February of this financial year this salary increment applied to civil servants across the country and was loaded onto our payroll by the National Government.

As a result, Bungoma County incurred an additional Kshs. 54.5 million in salary obligations, which had to be paid. This amount had not been appropriated in the budget. This means that the Kshs. 29 million, which formed part of the salary allocation, was utilized as part of the Kshs. 54.5 million salary increments that had been loaded onto our payroll by the National Government.

Therefore, as indicated in my written submission, that money has already been spent because of the unbudgeted salary increment, which we were nevertheless required to pay.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Members. Let him proceed. Kindly take note of your concerns. I will give Hon. Wambulwa an opportunity to respond. Proceed, Chief.

Chief Officer - Finance: However, I want to assure the House that the recruitment process for ECDE and VTC teachers is ongoing.

In the current budget, funds have been allocated for this purpose, and if the teachers receive their appointment letters in the next financial year, the funds are available and they will be paid. That is the assurance I wish to give this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you done?

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Chief Officer, Finance: I am done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Kindly resume your seat. Now, Hon. Wambulwa, then we shall have Hon. Ipara Johnstone, followed by Hon. Chikati.

Hon. Jackson Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, first of all, I request that the Chief Officer formally submit the document presented to the House so that it may be retained for evidentiary purposes.

Number two... Has it already been submitted? Okay, it has already been submitted. Secondly, I am shocked by the response from the Chief Officer. Is this not a case of diversion of funds? We have not had any supplementary appropriation to authorize the same. You can clearly see that the money was appropriated by the Executive without approval.

He is talking about Kshs. 54.5 million. Apart from the Kshs. 29 million, where did they obtain the remaining amount that was used for salary increments of County workers? You can now understand why the recruitment process did not commence on time.

When we appropriated the funds in the First Supplementary Budget sometime in February this year, we expected the ECD and VTC teachers to have been employed either in March or, at the latest, April. Now we are at the close of the financial year, and nobody has been employed.

The Chief Officer is trying to convince us that the money exists in the current budget for recruitment, but have you seen what is actually contained in the budget? He is saying that the teachers will be employed in July. When does the financial year begin? Does it begin at the end of June or at the end of July? That tells you that there is still something unusual happening. This is not about me as the owner of the statement. It is about Bungoma County.

The Chief Officer is a son of this soil. These are our sons and daughters who travelled from all corners of Bungoma County; from the far end of Kaptama to Kabula at the boundary of Mumias and Bungoma; from Tongaren to Kimaeti and Bukirimo; bringing their documents in the hope of getting an opportunity to serve the people of Bungoma.

More importantly, we have a shortage of teachers. Most ECD centers, which fall under our core mandate, do not have trained ECD teachers. Are we prepared as a County to ensure that our children receive quality education? Are we prepared as a County to ensure that our VTCs have qualified tutors who can provide quality training and education to enrolled students? It is shocking and unbelievable that the money has been diverted by the Executive.

Under Section 149 of the Public Finance Management Act, I believe you know what the law says. Therefore, I leave it to the House to make a determination on the matter. As the

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Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Technical Training, I am a disappointed man today. It is very unfortunate.

Honourable Members, you can now see that the employment of these young, energetic men and women, who are ready to help educate our children, has been jeopardized because there is no budget available.

I am sure that what has been submitted does not include the IFMIS ledger showing how the funds were reallocated by the Executive towards salary increments. This is very shocking. However, I leave it to the House and to God to guide us on this matter. We shall see how best we can help Bungoma County. Thank you, Honourable Members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jackson Ouma Wambulwa, Member for Kimaeti and Chairperson of the Education Committee. Hon. Chetekei Chikati Timothy, Member for Ndalu/Tabani.

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a member of the Education Committee, and we sensed that something was amiss. We thank God that we have an able Chairperson who came up with this statement because where we are heading, we see ourselves going back to the 2023/2024 situation, where the same mishap occurred.

Our brothers and sisters travelled from all over the county and came to Mabanga for interviews, yet nothing happened thereafter. I am also shocked by the response from the Chief Officer for Finance, one Robert Simiyu.

It is this House that appropriates funds, and if the Executive, in one way or another, decides to divert funds, who gives them the authority to do so? If it were not for Hon. Jack Wambulwa, the Chairperson of Education, would the Chief Officer have shed light on this matter so that we could know what is happening?

It is very shocking because if the recruitment process is not going to proceed, then it would be better for them to issue a circular to those candidates who have been shortlisted, informing them not to expect employment.

I am saying this because we are heading towards the General Election and some of us will be affected by this issue. It is going to affect us significantly. People have hopes after attending interviews, but at the end of the day, they are not employed simply because the funds have been diverted. Who authorizes the diversion of funds? It appears that the Executive has more powers than this House, which appropriates the funds.

Hon. Speaker, through your guidance and indulgence, I request that the Chief Officer for Finance step forward once again and assure this House regarding that money. Let him not talk about the

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next Financial Year, which begins next month. Let him assure this House that the money for the recruitment of ECDE and VTC teachers is intact, given that the recruitment process is ongoing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Chetekei, the Chief Officer categorically stated that the money was spent due to the SRC salary increment. That is what he has said.

The money was spent, so we cannot continue pursuing the line of argument that the money is still available. He has clearly stated, on record, that the money was spent. Therefore, we should move away from that line of discussion.

We have Hon. Everton Sifuna Nganga, Hon. Mildred Apiyo Barasa, and Hon. Ipara Johnstone Okasida, in that order.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to be brief on this matter. First, the Chief Officer firmly stated that money for the employment of ECDE teachers has been set aside in the budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

When the Budget was presented to this House—and it is still available on our gadgets—I have gone through it and have not seen anywhere indicating that funds have been allocated for the recruitment of ECDE teachers in the FY 2026/2027 Budget. I would like him to substantiate that claim and tell us exactly where that money is.

It may be hidden somewhere, but the Chairperson of the Budget Committee is here and can either substantiate or refute the Chief Officer's statement if it is inaccurate. I remember that the recruitment of ECDE and VTC teachers was advertised three times during the administration of Hon. Wangamati. No recruitment was ever done.

Again, from what I am hearing, if the funds meant for this programme were diverted to cover the salary increment deficit, then it means that nothing can be done regarding recruitment in the Financial Year 2025/2026. I would therefore like the Chief Officer to advise the County Public Service Board to stop the recruitment process because there is no allocation for it in the budget.

I am also learning that this issue of the intentional diversion of funds by the Executive, without the participation or approval of the County Assembly, is what contributed to the salary deficit for the months of May and June. I remember very well the issue involving Kshs. 970 million. This appears to be a recurring practice by the Executive.

What concerns me is that the Kshs. 29 million was allocated specifically within the Department of Education. How did they decide to distribute it across all departments when the money was strictly allocated under one budget line within the Department of Education? How did they do that, Chief? Just as Hon. Jack, the owner of the statement, mentioned, you are a son of this soil...

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, you need to listen to the submissions being made by the Honourable Member.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Hon. Speaker, we are actually supposed to assist this County Government, and you, as our Chief Officer, are a person occupying a position of trust. You hold a fiduciary responsibility, and we trust you.

Let him explain clearly because, from my understanding, there are no funds available for recruitment. Can you authorize the County Public Service Board to stop the recruitment process?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Sifuna. Next in line, we have Hon. Apiyo.

Hon. Mildred Apiyo: Asante sana Bwana Spika. Mimi tangu niingie kwa Bunge hili nimekuwa kwa kamati ya Elimu. Sijatoka huko hata siku moja lakini hizi milioni ishirini na tisa ni ya juzi tu. Milioni mia tano ishirini na sita ilienda hivyo. Saa hizi tena ni milioni ishirini na tisa. Ya mwaka jana 2024/2025 hatukujua mahali ilienda. Ya mwaka huu wanasema iliongezwa kwa mshahara na sio kwa idara ya Elimu pekee. Niko kwa kamati nyingi karibu nne na kila kamati ukisikia wanasema ni Chief wa Finance. Sasa Chief wa Finance huyu tangu niingie ndiyo huyu ama sijui ni mwingine.

(Applause)

Na kama ni yeye, tumechoka naye. Kama watu wamekuwa na uoga ya kumwambia, hii Bungoma inaanguka kwa ajili ya Chief wa Finance. Kama ni yeye tu tangu niingie ndio huyu tu wanaongea juu yake basi tunaumia na tunaendelea kuumuia. Kama hawezi kufikiria vizuri, huyu ni mtoto wetu wa hapa nyumbani. Nikienda nyumbani napita kwa mlango yake nikienda kwangu. ‘Papa khong’one’ saidia hapo.

(Applause)

(Laughter)

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Hon. Speaker, let me begin from where Hon. Apiyo left. You will recall very well that all appropriations are guided by the law, and the only institution vested with those powers is this Honourable House. In the event of any reallocation, the authority to approve such reallocation also rests with this Honourable House.

Honourable Speaker, with your permission, I would like to read parts of the Constitution so that I may ask direct questions. Article 201 states that public money shall be used in a prudent and responsible manner. Articles 221 and 224 provide that expenditure must be authorized, and such authorization can only be granted by the County Assembly, which is this House.

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Further, Article 226(5) states: "*A public officer who directs or approves the use of public funds contrary to the law is personally liable for any loss arising from that use.*"

Therefore, the direct question I want to ask our respected Chief Officer is this: Who authorized the utilization of the Kshs. 29 million that had been appropriated for a very specific purpose, namely the recruitment and promotion of ECDE teachers and vocational training instructors?

The other issue I would like the Chief Officer to clarify is this: According to his statement, the total requirement was Kshs. 54 million. Kshs. 29 million was taken from the Education Department under that particular budget item. Where did the balance come from?

Today, if the Chief Officer is being candid, as we have always treated him with respect and trust, let him tell this Honourable House who authorized the use of the Kshs. 29 million so that he may exonerate himself. I submit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Chief, you may respond to those questions first.

Chief Officer - Finance: Mr. Speaker, I want to state that there was no diversion of funds.

We paid the May salaries. We only have a shortfall in the June salaries, which have not yet been paid. If I were to print the bank statements and the IFMIS records, you would find that the June salaries remain unpaid and that there is a deficit.

The recruitment of ECDE teachers is ongoing. When you examine this year's salary budget, you will realize that there is an enhancement in which provision has been made for the 463 individuals who are to be recruited, and they have already been factored into our budget. Therefore, there is no cause for alarm that our sons and daughters will not be recruited. They are going to be recruited, and their salaries have been provided for.

Once a person is recruited, it typically takes about three months before they are fully incorporated into the payroll system. Therefore, if they receive their appointment letters in July, they will still be paid. The money is available.

As you know, the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act stipulate that recurrent budget allocations lapse at the end of the financial year.

Suppose the SRC salary increment had not occurred and the Kshs. 29 million had remained unused under recurrent expenditure, in that case, the money would have lapsed at the end of the financial year, unlike development funds, which can remain available. Therefore, we are saying that the money was not diverted.

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The office responsible for preparing the payroll is the Office of the County Secretary. As the Finance Department, our role is simply to process payments based on the vouchers submitted to us. If there was any diversion, then it would have occurred at the point where the funds were domiciled, namely the Office of the County Secretary.

I may be criticized for saying so, but at the end of the day, I only process payments based on what I receive from the relevant departments. However, I want to assure this House that the recruitment of ECDE teachers is ongoing, and once these individuals are employed, they will receive their salaries. That is the assurance from the Executive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Jackson Wambulwa.

Hon. Jackson Wambulwa: Hon. Speaker, I am shocked by what the Chief Officer is trying to tell this House. He is suggesting that, were it not for the recruitment of ECDE teachers, this money would have lapsed.

Does this mean that the County Government does not undertake supplementary budgeting to reallocate or supplement funds before the financial year lapses? The major question here is: who appropriated the money? As far as we are concerned, it is only this House that has the mandate to appropriate public funds.

Secondly, you have not responded to the issue regarding the Kshs. 30 million difference. Where was that money sourced from? This now confirms that, much as we spend time preparing and approving budgets, we may simply be doing so for formality's sake because, at the end of the day, the Executive still retains the discretion to decide where funds are utilized. That is what is being confirmed here.

We had issues of missing salaries in the 2023/2024 Financial Year for the months of May and June. You are now confirming that the very funds that were diverted are what were used to address those obligations. If salaries can be diverted in this County, then what is impossible? What about development funds? That is my concern.

Chief, what we are saying is not that we are opposed to the utilization of the funds. What we want to know is whether you followed the due process. Did you bring the matter before this House for appropriation? I referred you to Section 149 of the Public Finance Management Act. How I wish you could read it and understand what I meant.

It is very unfortunate, Honourable Speaker. The Chief Officer has finally informed us about the salary enhancement. I would like him to be clear and explain where exactly they made the enhancement that will now cater for the salaries of the ECDE and VTC teachers in the coming financial year, and under which vote head the enhancement was made.

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You see, if you say you have enhanced the budget, it means there was an addition somewhere under a specific vote head that will take care of that expenditure. If I may learn from CPA Hon. Nganga, enhancement means an addition somewhere, does it not? Yes.

Therefore, can we know where this enhancement was made that will cater for the entire financial year once the recruitment is undertaken next year?

More importantly, who gave the mandate for the Kshs. 29 million to be diverted from the office of the County Secretary? Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, we are going to hear Hon. Mulongo. I think the Chief also mentioned that there is a deficit in the June salary, so perhaps...

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I think since I came into this House in 2017, and even after being re-elected in 2022 up to now, this is the first time I have heard the Chief Officer say that development funds can be rolled over and that development money cannot be touched.

I think all the funds that I have budgeted for development projects in my Ward have simply lapsed over the years, with no rollovers. Therefore, Chief, can you tell this House whether the rollover policy started yesterday, today, or whether it is something that is now going to happen?

Secondly, if the Chief is saying that he is not the one responsible, then why can we not summon the County Secretary to appear before this House and clarify the issue regarding salaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, we have Hon. Nangulu Simiyu.

Hon. Charles Nangulu: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have just one concern. Now that we have established that the KShs. 29 million meant for ECDE recruitment was utilized elsewhere, could there be any other amounts that were similarly utilized because, in your view, if the money had not been spent, it would have lapsed? Perhaps there is another list of such allocations that we have not yet discovered, which you can share with this House.

It is only because the Honourable Chairperson for Education came across the allocation for ECDE recruitment. Could there be any other amount that you would like to declare before this House that was utilized in a manner inconsistent with the approved budget?

You also mentioned that Kshs. 54 million was required for salary increments, yet you only had Kshs. 29 million from the ECDE recruitment allocation. What happened to the difference?

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And if that difference is still outstanding, as you indicated in relation to the June salary deficit, have you provided for it in the current budget so that future salary increments can be catered for? Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chief.

Chief Officer - Finance: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to repeat that no money has been diverted.

The salary budget is maintained under a single vote line, and as we speak, there is still some money remaining under that vote line. This money has not yet been spent because we have not paid the June salaries.

I was explaining that the money will be utilized when we pay the June salaries because there is a shortfall in the salary budget. This shortfall arose as a result of the SRC salary increment that was loaded onto our budget, even though the corresponding funds had not been appropriated in our budget.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we should not say that there was any diversion or reallocation. There has been no reallocation whatsoever because such a conclusion can only be reached once we pay the June salaries, and I repeat that it is only the June salary that has a shortfall.

When Mheshimiwa Nangulu asked about the balance of the shortfall, I wish to inform the House that, as we speak, we have not yet finalized the salary requisition.

We are still trying to determine how to bridge the shortfall because there was a directive from the County Secretary that all recurrent expenditures, such as allowances, be suspended until the June salaries are paid.

We are currently in a crisis. We need to pay the June salaries, and we must find a way of covering the shortfall. I want to assure this House that I understand the concern is about recruitment. The recruitment process is ongoing, and the salaries will be paid.

I also wish to clarify that when salaries are budgeted for; they are placed under a single budget line. That budget line has already been utilized up to the end of May. What remains is the June salary, but there is a shortfall, and we are trying to determine how to obtain the required funds to settle the June salaries.

As for the issue of rollovers...

(Laughter)

I want to assure my good friend, Mheshimiwa Mulongo, that—

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Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mulongo, kindly note that whenever you wish to engage the Chief Officer, you must do so through the Speaker.

Chief Officer - Finance: I want to assure the House that this financial year, you will realize that development projects started late. At the moment, most of the projects are ongoing and have not yet been completed.

I want to assure this House that once these projects are completed; and I know most of them will be completed towards the end of the financial year; the funds allocated for those projects, which are development funds, will remain available.

The financial year ends next Tuesday, and I want to assure the House that the money allocated to development projects will still be there, so that when the IFMIS system reopens in August this year, payments can proceed.

I have already spoken to my colleagues and instructed them to prepare the necessary certificates so that they are ready. Immediately the IFMIS system opens, we shall begin processing payments to contractors. There will be no loss of funds.

I think this will be a unique year, but there will indeed be a rollover. That is the assurance I wish to give this Honourable House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Chief. You may now take your seat. We have a request for information. Hon. Apiyo had earlier requested an opportunity, and because of that intervention, we shall now hear Hon. Apiyo.

Hon. Jackson Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, I think this will be my final concern. When the Chief says that the money was neither diverted nor misappropriated, I find that difficult to understand. He is the Chief Officer for Finance and is in charge of our financial basket.

If you move money from the Education Department; money specifically allocated for Education personnel; to cater for workers in other departments, is that not diversion? Is that not misappropriation?

Why then do we have separate vote heads? Why it was specifically stated, when we were considering the First Supplementary Budget that the allocation was meant only for recruitment and promotion within the Department of Education and no other department?

Then the final one as you assures us about accrual. Exchequers have been coming from July last year and these exchequers have been coming for both recurrent and development. Are you sure that the monies that were coming for development were well utilized and we will not be affected

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in the end? I just want you to repeat and assure this House on accrual accounting; yes we know it is supposed to roll. But are we sure as Bungoma County that we shall have roll overs?

Unless we have certificates in place like you have just challenged the House. Unless we have certificates in place that will commit this development money at the controller of budget to show that either the project is complete. Now if we start the new year it is going to be paid. How about this projects that would not have taken over. What would happen? And you know there are departments that have not been able to award as we talk. What will happen to that? Just the two issues Hon. Speaker, thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Wambulwa. Hon Mildred Apiyo.

Hon. Mildred Apiyo: Bwana Spika, mimi ninaomba kama Chief anaweza kubali wakienda huko chini wabadilishane waweke Chief fulani wa Gender aende kwa Finance na wa Finance aende mahali pengine.

(Applause)

Kwa maana tangu tuanze hakuna siku moja nimekuwa kwa kamati wakakosa kutaja jina la Chief wa Finance. Ninaongea tu hivi lakini wewe Bwana Spika unajua ninachokisema kama hujui mtanifundisha vizuri. Kama ingewezekana hii nyumba kubadilisha hawa tungefanya hivyo, lakini kama haiwezi kufunyuwa hivyo mtafute mahali wanaweza kusaidia hawa watu Chief asaidiwe. Unajuwa nachoka...

(Applause)

Hii pesa nyingi kutengenezea kila department yeye peke yake kila mwaka si mnaona mnachokesha huyu Chief. Asanteni.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I want to request that that be the last remark from Hon. Apiyo so that we can allow the Chief Officer to make his final submissions, after which we will allow him to attend to other matters because the House is already seized of the issues he came to address.

The Majority Leader, who is the owner of the other two statements, is engaged elsewhere, and therefore we are not going to process them today. We shall reschedule and determine how the Chief Officer will respond to those statements at a later date. Chief!

Chief Officer - Finance: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I want to agree with what Hon. Apiyo has said. It is true; I am exhausted...

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(Applause)

You know, it is not easy being the Chief Officer for Finance. I usually tell people that to be a Chief Officer for Finance; you must be someone who is past menopause...

(Laughter)

...because it is not easy. You know, all the blame comes to Finance. When you look at issues such as salaries, the funds were appropriated under the Office of the County Secretary. My work is simply to process and pay the vouchers prepared and submitted by the County Secretary. I have to ensure that the payments are made. My assurance to this House is that, if I am not relieved of my duties, I will continue serving the County until my contract expires, which will be soon.

However, we should note that I am also a son of this soil. I have no other home; my County is Bungoma, and I truly love it. That is why I am saying that our sons and daughters who are going to be employed will receive their salaries. On the issue of the rollover, I want to assure the House, and I repeat, let us not doubt it; it will happen.

For projects that have commenced but are not yet complete, I want to assure the House that the money allocated for them will remain available. That is one of the reasons I have become unpopular because I want to safeguard these funds.

I want to ensure that at the end of every project, when a contractor has completed the assigned work, there will be money available for payment. I do not want a repeat of situations we have experienced before, where contractors complete their work and are later told that there is no money available to pay them. Therefore, this is my assurance to the House: test me, and I will not let you down.

I will ensure that those contractors are paid because I know the money is available, and it will remain in our CRF account until such a time as the certificates are ready for payment. There should therefore be no doubt that the funds will be available upon completion of the projects, even if the Financial Year has already closed. So, Honourable Members, there is no need to worry. The projects will be completed, and the money will be available for payment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members that is what the Chief Officer had to say.

Chief, you know why the Members are raising concerns about diversion of funds. It is because if money is appropriated to pay Chemion, it should not be used to pay Catherine. If it is intended for Ipara, it should not be used to pay Angeline. I think that is the point they are trying to make.

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If there is any reallocation of funds, what the Members are saying is that the House should be involved through a supplementary budget process so that we can reorganize the allocations and authorize the expenditure for its intended purpose. I think that is the bone of contention that the Members are raising. That is why you see them taking that direction in their arguments.

Therefore, I will stand you down for now so that we can reorganize and have you appear before the House at a later date to respond to the questions raised by the Honourable Majority Leader. Have a good evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Now, Honourable Members, that being the last item on the Order Paper, I wish to adjourn the House so that we may resume tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

The House rose at 5:10 p.m.

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