

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2026

Afternoon Sitting

**3rd County Assembly
Version 00**

**5th Session
Revision 00**

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE, 2026

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

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISIT BY CENTRAL BAPTIST JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM KANDUYI

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, allow me make the following communication from the Speaker to the House for the visiting delegation /school.

Honorable members, it's my pleasure to welcome the students and teachers of Central Baptist Junior School from Township ward in Kanduyi constituency. The primary objective of this education visit is to expose the students to the actual workings of the County Assembly including plenary sessions, committee and its relationship with the County Executive so that they can be able to relate to the classroom theory on devolution to their real practice.

Honourable Members, I am told these students are 207, so they will be coming in in batches. We have the first batch, students who are inside here, kindly be upstanding, kindly resume your seats.

(Applause)

They are accompanied by teachers, that is;

1. Madam Wilfrida Wafula
2. Madam Millicent Lusweti
3. Madam Sarah Awino
4. Mr. Fredrick Kiprono
5. Mr. Mathew Wanyama
6. Mr. Cherome Wanjala

Version 00

Revision 00

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7. Ms. Agnes Kwatera
8. Ms. Jackeline Malenge
9. Pastor John Maina

Be upstanding; kindly resume your seats.

(Applause)

Honourable members, as our tradition during the appropriate time on our Order Paper we will allow few speakers to make brief remarks. As you are aware we are going to have an open session of the invitees; they are around. We will be able to run our program because we must have this session that is important for all of us. Thank you. We proceed.

PAPERS

1. REPORT ON THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEES ON TRADE, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION ON THE STATUS OF COMPLETION OF BUNGOMA COUNTY AGGREGATION INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mr. Speaker: I am wondering, today you are looking very dark. Hon. Alice proceed.

Hon. Alice Kibaba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to table a report of the sectorial Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the status of completion of Bungoma County Aggregation Industrial Park. I table.

(Report tabled by Hon. Alice Kibaba)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the report by the Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the status of the completion of the Bungoma County Aggregation Industrial Park report is hereby tabled by the committee and the same becomes the property of the House.

2. REPORT OF THE PROCEDURE AND HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Cornelius!

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I stand to table a report on amendments of the Standing Orders by the Committee on Procedure and House Rules. I table.

(Report tabled by Hon. Cornelius Wamalwa)

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the report by the Committee on Procedure and House Rules on the amendment of the Standing Orders is hereby tabled and now formally becomes the property of the House accordingly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Alice proceed!

Hon. Alice Kibaba: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to issue a notice of motion that this House adopts the report of the Sectoral Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the status of completion of Bungoma County Aggregation Industrial Park.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, a notice of motion has been duly issued by the sector committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the status of completion of Bungoma County Aggregation Industrial Park. I urge the Clerks-At-The-Table to share the said report with our Honourable Members. The same will come up as a motion on our Order Paper.

3. THAT THIS HOUSE ADOPTS THE REPORT OF THE PROCEDURE AND HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Cornelius, proceed.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you Honorable Speaker. I stand to issue a notice of motion of the House Rules and Procedure Committee that this House adopts a report on the amendments of Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, a notice of motion has been dully issued by the Committee on Procedure and House Rules that this House adopts the report of the committee on the amendments of the Standing Orders. The same be shared with the Honourable Members especially the annexure on the amended Standing Orders so that they prepare for the same. When it comes up as a motion, we are able to debate.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Statement No.33 of 2026

MEMBER FOR SOYSAMBU MITUA WARD, HON. STEPHEN WAMALWA TO SEEK A STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING AND THE CHAIRPERSON SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES REGARDING THE STATUS OF PENDING BILLS RELATING TO MAKUTANO HEALTH CENTER AND MISANGA DISPENSARY

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Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, Deputy Speaker, kindly proceed!

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise to seek a statement from the aforementioned offices because of the pending bills due for the projects initiated way back in 2017 and having not been completed.

These are projects for the year 2017 /2018 and because of lack of finances we had to sacrifice some money for this year's current development to go towards addressing the pending bills for these projects.

As we speak they are stalled and there is no indication of payment and that is why I rise to seek this statement. I seek to understand

1. The current status of the pending bills relating to Makutano Health Centre and Misanga Dispensary including the contractual obligations, certificates issued and the stage reached in the payment process.
2. The total amount allocated in the approved budget for settlement of the pending bills for the two Health facilities indicating
 - a) The total amount appropriated
 - b) The amount disbursed and paid so far
 - c) Any outstanding balances yet to be settled
3. Whether any payments have been made towards pending bills and if so provide
 - a) The names of the beneficiaries/contractors paid
 - b) The amounts paid
 - c) The dates of payment and
 - d) The outstanding certified amounts
4. The current implementation and operation status of Makutano Health center and Misanga Dispensary including whether the projects are complete, functional, stalled or pending further works.
5. The measures being undertaken by the department of Finance Services and Economic Planning and the Department of Health Services to ensure that the pending bills are settled within the current Financial Year 2025/2026 and do not spill over to the Financial Year 2026/2027

Version 00

Revision 00

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6. The specific administrative Financial and Legal Measures the Departments have put in place to fast track the verification approval and payment process for the pending bills in compliance with

- a) The Public Finance Management Act 2012
- b) The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act 2015
- c) The County Governments Act 2012
- d) The Controller of Budget circulars and guidelines on pending bills management

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Chair Committee on Finance, Hon. Zeddy!

Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana: Thank you Hon. Speaker. We request for 14 days to come up with an appropriate report.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, they are seeking 14 days, they will be given. Today being 9th of June, let's have feedback on 23rd June 2.00 p.m. session.

Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana: Noted.

Mr. Speaker: It's okay, we proceed. Sorry, there are two committees here and Hon. George Makari is just smiling at me. Hon. Makari, you are jointly given 14 days with the Chair Finance because it's basically your department.

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker, I have never seen a statement being issued through committees.

Mr. Speaker: It can be sought; it is not something new.

Hon. George Makari: Is it possible that we will hold a joint session with Finance?

Mr. Speaker: We are going to invite the relevant department of Health and Finance, there is nothing wrong. If there is anything wrong, it will be the first one in history, don't worry.

Hon. George Makari: Most obliged Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: 23rd Honourable members, before I am able to allow the issue of other people in, let me just come back to the issue of our visitors in the Public Gallery. Those who have come in after we commenced the sitting in our public gallery. Honourable Members, we have pupils/students of Baptist Junior School, it's a good number, and they are 207. Part of the students are outside, some are in the Speaker's gallery with their teachers.

Version 00

Revision 00

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We would want to have few speakers over the same. Now that Hon. Cornelius and George Makari were claiming the other day that they are from your area, you can now share that time and finish on this issue. Hon. Cornelius!

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to welcome the teachers and the students of Central Baptist School in this August House. As we know, last week there are a number of students from the same school that were here and today we just want to welcome them once more. As you know, this school is closer to this House, it's one of the schools in our CBD Bungoma town so I will not have much, just to welcome them and wish them well.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. George Makari.

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker, thank you. I know you were in this House last week and you chaired the session around 150 students from this school were in the House. First of all allow me to welcome them back. I know those that are here were not here last week and I want to welcome the teachers. I can see they are seated in the Speaker's Gallery and I heard one name that I remember so well, Ms. Kwatera.

She has been a head teacher in one of my schools in Musikoma Ward. She is a diligent teacher, I want to pay homage to her and all the teachers that have accompanied the students and this is a school within township ward.

We were in Kisumu yesterday and I know Hon. Cornelius was not there; I was with the area MCA for the school in Kisumu and I told him your school is coming tomorrow; maybe Hon. Cornelius has information from him. He told me he is not aware about the school coming so we are carrying a burden that is not ours anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari, just wind up please.

Hon. George Makari: Whichever way Hon. Speaker. I want to say this; when you were chairing the session last week and you know we went with Hon. Nganga and Hon. Cornelius out there and asked the students how many come from Musikoma, do you know 95% of the students were from Musikoma and Hon. Cornelius had five students, Nganga had 3 from West Sang'alo ward. When I tell Hon. Cornelius and Jeremiah that most of these students in their wards come from Musikoma, they never take me seriously but we confirmed that day and Hon. Cornelius can confirm that actually we asked and they confirmed 95% of these students and some of the teachers come from my ward.

From the host Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba who is not present today, he is engaged elsewhere and as a person who has 95 % of the students, I want to welcome them...

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: This time it may be 100 %

Hon. George Makari: I want to welcome them to this County Assembly and tell them to work hard. Bungoma Baptist Primary school is an esteemed institution and we want you to work hard and respect your parents.

Today and even yesterday and last week I am saddened to mention that one of my schools called St. Theresa Sio High School students wanted to burn the school and you know they are day scholars. They had carried petrol to burn the school. Even Bungoma High School is a way. I have a student in Kisii High School, they are back home. Kibabii High School are back home...

Mr. Speaker: Why are you forgetting Namachanja!

Hon. George Makari: Honorable Speaker, students of Namachanja High School are home. You remember the school where they burnt 16 girls and some of the girls are 16 years old and you are a reputable lawyer. Do you know these students are going to spend their life in prison until they die? Not only reaching 80 years. Being in jail at 16 years is a very deplorable state.

I want to implore our students, if there is something you want to correct, correct it. I can tell you an analogy; I was having some voter from my ward at lunchtime today and I was telling her a story about my high school days. She told me she has a student in Kimugui High School and Kimugui is in the ward of my good friend Hon. Nganga. The student was caught planning to burn the school and with a lot of bhang. I told her there is a certain age which you are not yourself and I told her I was in that age and if it was not for God, I would be in jail up to now. We wanted to kill the Principal; it's a true story...

Mr. Speaker: I know...

(Laughter)

Hon. George Makari: And anytime a strike was about to happen whether I am in school or not, I was number one on the list. I was telling this lady, we are eating with you lunch and you know if it was not for God, I would not be sitting here with you; I would be in jail for life.

You know there is a certain age which I don't know what takes over, is it the devil or what. At that age I was not thinking about my life; I was thinking about my peer group. You know you have a circle of friends that ignite you to do something but do you know they stand aside when everything has gone wrong; they stand aside, so you go and face the fire alone. So I told her, I am sorry to say she was a lady...

(Laughter)

Version 00

Revision 00

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But there is nothing we were doing Honourable Speaker, we were just eating lunch anyway...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Aggrey Mulongo, what is the problem

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker, why can't you ask Hon. Mulongo why he is laughing so much and this is a voter from my ward. I was telling her if it was not for God, I would be in jail the rest of my life. We would not be sitting here today eating lunch because that principal would have died and I was always number one as a ring leader. I would be in jail for the rest of my life and I know it is always about God.

The point I want to drive home Honourable Speaker is that the students...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Waiti, I am not allowing you to speak but I want to assist you with one thing, take time and see Hon. George. He is now born again and he is confessing what he did...

(Laughter)

Number two, take time, he is being honest and advising at the same time. He told me one time that his leaving certificate had a weird recommendation, he can do best near a police station. He is being honest.

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker that is the recommendation a Principal of a school wrote for me. When we were going for elections in 2017, I knew one of the requirements was a leaving certificate so something told me to go back to the school to get a new certificate. Fortunately, when I went back, the person I got as secretary to the Principal was my own cousin and then I told her I didn't pick my leaving certificate from this school and then she went and tried to check the records and by good luck I didn't sign for the certificate. She said I can see you did not pick the certificate but I had picked the certificate with a recommendation that this boy can only work near a police station.

(Laughter)

That is the certificate I got, now when I got my cousin as the secretary to the Principal and of course the Principal was not there as it was on a weekend, on a Saturday. Also I can tell you for free the person I got at the gate of the school was my former head boy; he was a soldier there; one opening the gate. You know I was driving and he is now the one opening the gate for a school that he was a head boy; do you see the paradox of life? And the boy he abused, had a Honda from Uganda, that was my first vehicle and the head boy of the school is the one opening the gate for me when I was going to get a new certificate to rectify the one I had been given.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari wind up please I have many speakers online because this story requires a Kamkunji.

Hon. George Makari: So the guy opened for me and by good luck my cousin was a secretary then I told her I was a good boy and you know she wrote a nice leaving certificate that I used in 2017. If it was not for her, I could not have presented the certificate that the other Principal wrote to me.

Just to underscore, I want to tell the students, learn and be obedient to your teachers because your teachers are now your parents. If you don't learn you will discover later that you should have actually learnt. If there is any misbehavior in you, rectify it. I know it might look so simple when I say this but there is a stage in life you will reach and you will remember that you would have learnt. I implore on you to be obedient to your teachers who are like your parents.

To the teachers honestly, you are molding our children the right way, continue doing that work. Thank you Honourable Speaker

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sheillah...where I go to church, if somebody is confessing, why stop him from confessing honestly.

(Laughter)

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir for this opportunity to also just welcome our students and their teachers to the parliament this afternoon. Mr. Speaker Sir, I think we need your guidance because Hon. Makari is guilty of obtaining by false pretense; he is guilty of nepotism and other vices. I don't know, maybe based on your guidance, if it is a good position for our students or he was telling them in a way that they should avoid those vices Mr. Speaker. We need clarification and it needs to be stricken out of the HANSARD. Maybe your guidance as we proceed.

Mr. Speaker: My understanding was simple; the message is clear; indiscipline does not reward you. So, I think from what he has explained and what he went through in that stage, he was indiscipline but now he has seen the light of Christ.

(Laughter)

Hon. Sheilla Sifuma: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: That is why he is a bishop...

Version 00

Revision 00

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(Loud consultation)

Those ones disputing, there are only two or three Members here who have churches and I can name them. Hon. George Makari has a church, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa has churches, eighteen branches in this county and of course, Hon. Caleb. The rest just go there to be prayed for. Hon. Sheillah proceed.

Hon. Sheilla Sifuma: Thank you Mr. Speaker for that guidance. I think the students have been...

Mr. Speaker: The only problem I am having, Hon. Makari, you must work hard to pray for these Members to understand that you can offer prayers. Of course, I have others like Honourable MCA for Nalondo, he is prayerful during intercession. He prays for people in Malindi.

(Laughter)

Hon. Sheilla Sifuma: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for that guidance and clarification. I know our students have the message home and they will reform early in life so that they don't have to wait to get born again much older like our Hon. George Makari.

Just as an encouragement, do your best in school, don't engage in bad vices as has been mentioned on the floor of this House because at the end of the day, you carry your cross as an individual and once you are done with your examinations, you go home by yourself; you don't go as a group. I just want to encourage you to work hard, keep good friendships and also remember to pray. As you have heard in this House, there are several bishops, in case you are not born again, you can see them after the session and they will lead you to Christ.

Saying that, Honourable Speaker, I think I would also encourage the students to always aim higher. Once they are done at this level, they go to the next because education never stops and I pray that all of them actually become doctors and professors and lead from the front. Having studied in a school in town, it is very important because people from the village should not come and surpass you yet you had all the exposure. You have come to Parliament and have met Honourable Members who have actually given you a reason to push. I wish you all the best in your academics, work hard and respect your parents and teachers.

I wish to offer a special congratulations and thank you to the teachers. You know, I'm a daughter of a teacher so whenever I see teachers, I am very happy because those are my mothers and my fathers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Honourable Members. I may want to give you some guidance. In our Searjents at Arms Office, we have people who have come in obedience of summons. I will allow Hon. Erick say

Version 00

Revision 00

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something then I will ask my Deputy Speaker to speak about the next batch, we have one more batch out there. Hon. Eric, you speak...it is okay. Hon. Opwora.

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also welcome our students and teachers to attend this session. Honourable Speaker, I know the students are here to learn and learning from experience is one of the best things ever. What Hon. Makari has said here actually is moving and I would beg that given the kind of pressure that we are experiencing in the country now of students burning schools, especially dormitories, I would really urge Hon. Makari to take time and visit some of these schools and give a talk. I believe it can help by virtue that there is a lot of social, economic and some political pressure out there that might be the cause of schools burning. In Hon. Makari's speech, I noted that his leaving certificate said that he needs to work near a police station and I believe that is why he is actually just near a police station.

(Laughter)

There are some things that maybe are foretold so don't take it in a negative way.

However, Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity to also encourage our students that let them learn from the mistakes of others and let them not be an example. By virtue that already in this county and in this town, we have had schools that have threatened to burn, let them learn that they should not follow that trend. I went to Friends School, Kamusinga with the Honourable Deputy Speaker here, my father went in that same school in the late 1950s. One of my uncles was also there in the 1970s and I came way late. I was imagining if they had banned that school in those early years because some of the dormitories that were there were built in as early as 1950s but those institutions are still there. So the students of nowadays, I don't know what pride you will have years down the line when you will be passing near that school and you feel that you participated in burning that school yet, at that time, maybe your child will also be in that school.

I know teachers have a lot of pressure but even parents, we are leaving a lot of responsibility to the teachers yet there is little they can do. This issue needs to be taken seriously because soon it is going to be a national disaster, Honourable Speaker, because very soon we shall not have school-going children if the trend is going on. It is something that the nation needs to wake up, the government needs to wake up and let us have a conversation around our homes so that we do not leave the burden to the teachers.

Otherwise, Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the teachers for bringing these students here. There's a lot that they are learning and we as political leaders, we should also be ready to support these schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Opwora, our Honourable MCA for Luuya/Bwake. Honourable Members, allow me to ask the remaining speakers who wanted to make a brief remark to do so for the next batch.

On behalf of other Members, allow me, to ask that the students to be disciplined. I have been seeing a video saying that the work of teachers is to teach but the character and the behavior is the core mandate of the parents. We ask you to be good students at school so that you learn more from your teachers so that in the future you become good citizens. You have heard Members speaking here, they were also pupils like you, and they worked hard so that they are able to at least have a good living. So we urge you to be disciplined.

Now that you are all coming from township school here, you have heard of what happened to Sio Secondary School, Namachanja here, Kibabi, Cardinal our neighbor schools. Be good students because back home, we are aware that we are also parents, we are trying to sacrifice for you to have at least good education. So kindly be good students at school and give your teachers humble time to teach you so that you are able to learn in a good environment. Thank you for those few remarks.

(Applause)

Members, the next item in our Order Paper is to have the visitors from the summons in obedience although I have received here communications, two in number from the Department of Finance at the Treasury, one from the Chief Officer of Finance. We will have to go further and ask, because I am aware that when you are talking of Chief Officer, we have Chief Officer of Finance and Economic Planning in charge of the budget-making process and another Chief Officer in charge of other items like payments. If they are all in Kisumu, you know the problem for us Lawyers, I will have to confirm with the register in Kisumu if the Chief Officer of Finance is in Kisumu before the Committee of Budget or not. That is a true position. We have summoned him to appear, so we don't have the Chief Officer appearing for us here.

Equally, the CECM is bereaved. We are all aware, they are burying the father on Friday so we are only able to have the Service Board members and the Department of Education but still, we must have feedback to the summons that were sent by Hon. Jack here. I think Searjents can bring them in.

(Members from the County Executive ushered in)

Yes, Hon. Makari.

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker, I'm aware about the communication by the Chief Officer Finance, I don't know, is it the Chief Officer Economic Planning or the one in charge of payments for finance?

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: The one who was sent here is a Chief Officer, R.J. Simiyu.

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker, I want to ask a question and I know you have enough wisdom. I know Honourable Speaker when God held a meeting in heaven to apportion wisdom, he gave you more than what we have and I know you know the only Member in this House who doesn't have it and I don't want to mention the name...fortunately, he's not in. He has gone out. Honourable Speaker, which one overrides the other? A summon or appearance before Budget Committee which did not pass through your Office or the Office of the Clerk? If the Budget Committee summoned the Chief Officer for Finance in Kisumu, do you have such a communication that the Chief Officer will be appearing before the Budget Committee?

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not aware, but we are going to confirm today. You know, the beauty part of this is that with the committee, we are going to verify if he's there or not.

Hon. George Makari: Then Honourable Speaker let me also give you another scenario. The same Chief Officer did not appear to us when we were interrogating the half-quarter yearly statements. He refused to appear. The same Chief Officer, when the Leader of Majority raised statements which he was supposed to appear in this House and you are aware, the same Chief Officer, did not appear before the committee. So, what are we going to answer Hon. Nyongesa when the time is allotted?

Mr. Speaker: That is the easiest, we will bring it back here; we will change from the committee to the Whole House.

Honourable Members allow me welcome our County Secretary, Mr. Nasong'o, Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Fredrick Wanyonyi and our CECM for Education Eng. Agnes Wachie before us here.

I hope they have been able to compare notes. You know where we come from in a cabinet we have something called collective responsibility; they may be having the answer that we want to seek here. I will ask the mover of the statement to go to the main issues here then we will have them sworn in, they respond then we shall have them released so that we go to the next item on our Order Paper.

Hon. Jack, it is your statement, they can't answer before you read it again. Go to the main issue that we sought down there.

The Honourable MCA for Kimaeti Ward sought a statement here touching on the issue of employment of ECDE teachers and promotion of TVET tutors on the issue of the money that was put in the budget that is KSHs. 29Million and equally what has been put in place about the Service Board running in view of the

Version 00

Revision 00

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suspension of the CEO. Just go through it so that we allow the CS, then the Chair of the Board then our CECM for Education Eng. Agnes Wachie.

MOTION OF DEFINITE URGENT COUNTY IMPORTANCE

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: **AWARE THAT** during the consideration and passage of the Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026, this Honorable House meticulously appropriated a sum of **Kshs. 29,000,000 (Twenty-Nine Million Shillings)** specifically to cater for the long-overdue recruitment and promotion of ECDE teachers and VTC instructors across the County; **DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT** to date, there has been absolutely no visible administrative action, public advertisement, or collaborative framework initiated by the County Department of Education, the County Public Service Board (CPSB), and the Department of Finance showing a clear, definitive intent to expend the said allocated amounts as legally appropriated by this House; **NOTING WITH GRAVE CONCERN** that the current 2025/2026 Financial Year is rapidly drawing to a close, leaving an extremely narrow window of days before the lapse of the budget cycle, thereby threatening to lock out hundreds of deserving educators and compromising the quality of early childhood and vocational education in our County; **FURTHER CONCERNED THAT** the recent administrative action by H.E. the Governor to suspend the Secretary/CEO to the County Public Service Board has thrown the board into a functional paralysis, leaving zero administrative surety or institutional leadership to oversee, process, and finalize this vital recruitment exercise within the remaining days of the fiscal year; **APPREHENSIVE THAT** with the rollout and strict implementation of the new **Accrual Accounting System** within the public finance architecture, any unspent budgetary allocations at the tail-end of the financial year risk being swept back or reallocated, unless strict, lawful "ring-fencing" protocols are structurally enforced by the County Treasury;

NOW THEREFORE, this House **RESOLVES** as follows:

1. **THAT**, the County Secretary and Head of public Service, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) and Chief Officer for Education and Vocational Training, the CECM for Finance and Economic Planning and Chief Officer for Finance, and the Chairperson of the County Public Service Board (CPSB) do immediately appear before the Floor of this House within **twenty-four (24) working hours** to offer satisfactory responses regarding this deliberate delay.
2. **THAT**, the County Executive do layout a clear, watertight framework on how the Kshs. 29 Million will be strictly ring-fenced and protected under the Accrual Accounting System specifically for its intended purpose without rolling over into general pending bills or being diverted.
3. **THAT**, the Executive organs do concurrently table on the Floor of this House the following statutory, administrative, and financial documents:
 - a) The current Payroll Status and Staffing Gap Analysis for ECDE teachers and VTC instructors as compiled by the Department of Education.

Version 00

Revision 00

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- b) The formal requisition and communication trail between the Department of Education, the Office of the County Secretary, and the County Public Service Board requesting the declaration, advertisement, and filling of these vacancies.
- c) A certified County Treasury Bank Statement/IFMIS ledger showing the absolute cash backed status and fund tracking of the appropriated Kshs. 29 Million.
- d) An official legal and administrative brief from the County Secretary and the CPSB Chairperson detailing the caretaker or acting management arrangements in place to execute board functions following the suspension of the Board Secretary.
- e) The technical implementation and structural transition guidelines adopted by the County Treasury under the new Accrual Accounting System regarding unspent personnel emolument appropriations at the close of FY 2025/2026.

Honourable Speaker, it is signed by myself. As I sit down, Honourable Speaker, I only have the response from the County Public Service Board, the other three departments, I don't have. Even though Education, I have the attachments that went to the Service Board, but I don't have any response from the County Secretary, who is the head of the Public Service. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You could find out from your gadget, I think I saw something from the CS, which was scanned and sent to the Honourable Member's gadgets. Just find out from our Plenary WhatsApp wall so that we are able to confirm before I am able to have the CS to respond. Yes, our County Secretary, you will be the first to take the stand...

Hon. George Makari: Before he comes in, Honourable Speaker, what Hon. Jack has enumerated and, on our gadgets, I have a response from the County Secretary here. I have a response from the department of Education, is this County Public Service Board. I doubt if it is the department of Education, but what Hon. Jack Wambulwa has asked, I have not seen the staff payroll, I have not seen any information on staffing gaps. I have not seen any formal requisition from the department to the County Public Service Board and the IFMIS statement and the bank statement for the matter under review, Honourable Speaker.

I don't know if the mover of this statement has all these details, but what I have here, Honourable Speaker, I can see the County Secretary response is here and I can see this one, the response from the County Public Service Board. Any other information, Honourable Speaker, as detailed by the mover of the statement, I don't know if he has them or it's only...

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Hon. George Makari, you are much in order, but either way, before we proceed, if the CS is to respond, he must take an oath first. We can't be able to engage the CS and start asking questions, and I will be able to ask, respond to, where his, basically, the perimeters are.

On the issue of the Treasury and the Chief Officer is not present, still we are going to invite him here, and we will want this thing clear. This plan doesn't refute coming to this House. If you look at the budget, if you can't come before this House, don't ask us money for your department. It's as flat as that. If you are having 12 directorates, you can't come before this House, then you want us to give you money to spend. It can't be business as usual. Let me have the CS take an oath so that he's able to respond to what belongs to him. Yes.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, I request that I get the response from the CS in hard copy so that it can enable me to go through and peruse clearly because I will strain without glasses, and I didn't carry my glasses, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Now, Hon. Jack Wambulwa, leaving your glasses at home can't be our problem, and if I send you a message on WhatsApp you won't be asking for glasses. Let's be honest here. Honourable Members, let's be fair here, if it's money, if it's messages on WhatsApp, you're not complaining, but on this one, you're saying that you're going to strain.

Hon. Tony Khaoya, hold on. In the meantime, let me find out where the hard copy is. I'm also having a soft copy, so Hon. Tony Khaoya

Hon. Tony Khaoya: Honourable Speaker, I'm not a Lawyer, and maybe for procedural purposes in this House, last time I checked on our officer here, he's not in the Legal Department and now we are going to administer oath. I know a senior member, like the Service Board Chair, is a Lawyer; who is going to administer oath? Are we allowed by Standing Order for any officer to administer oath?

Mr. Speaker: I had called one to come.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Yeah, because I'm worried, if she's going to administer oath, unless we read so that we get it clear, and if so, we have employed Principal Clerks here, Legal Counsel, why can't we get one from the Legal Department. We have so many.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, I keep on asking that we have to have Standing Orders. Standing Order number 193, Summons under paragraph number 1 shall be issued by the Clerk or the directions of the Speaker or the chairperson of the committee, acting in accordance with the instruction of the... Now, the specific part of what you're asking, we could still allow him to swear him in, for evidence purposes, but if you want us to have Musumba here or Ignatius here, you can have them availed here.

Hon. Tonny Khaoya: Honourable Speaker, for the purposes of our historical issues, and we have employed a number of them, let's have our Legal Counsel here, because it's a matter of County Importance.

Mr. Speaker: No, we'll have them, don't have to worry. Yeah, in the meantime, Jack wants a copy. I know you have some problems of seeing, but where Mpesa is, he has no problem. You want to say something, Honourable? Yes, Hon. Sheila Sifuma.

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Maybe a point of information, even as we debate on the legality. I think, remember the time we had a concern on the legality of the officers in office, did we get communication of the legality back in office, because at the time there was a problem, maybe just a clarification for my sake.

Mr. Speaker: What?

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: The legality of the officers back in office, because they had been dismissed earlier by the Governor.

Mr. Speaker: We had the communication; it came from the Governor's Office.

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Jack Wambulwa

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, as we wait for our Legal Counsel to come and swear them in, my main concern here will be that even before we start off, wouldn't we be doing a double job, that if we were to proceed with the three Members, minus the finance, which is the most responsible to account for these funds, and is the one that has been taking us around, Honourable Speaker. Even if we were to proceed with them without finance, they might say we have, and finance is not confirming, because part of it, you have got to see where I wanted a certified County Treasury bank statement that's the IFMIS Ledger.

Version 00

Revision 00

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That's the only document that can confirm that we have this money. Number D, which is key, an official legal and administrative brief from the County Secretaries to the CPSB chairperson, detailing a caretaker or acting, this one they can respond, then the technical implementation, and structural; of course they can answer

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Jack let them respond what belongs to them, let the other departments of treasury come and respond what belongs to them. As you're all aware, even if you go to Kisumu, you can't stay in Kisumu for a whole week, you will just have to come back, we are going to re-issue summons to the treasury people to come here.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Other than those summons, Honorable Speaker, a summon is like you are summoned to appear before the High Court on whatever matter you had.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jack Wambulwa, even sometimes you can issue summons and be unable to attend and given a reason, so if they are going to refuse to come here, we have other mechanisms.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: For today, he has given his communication here, he's before the Budget Committee in Kisumu, and I will ask the HANSARD report of the Budget Committee in Kisumu from the Chair.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you Honourable Speaker. What we are saying is that we respect the Standing Order that is our Bible, if our Standing Order is clear on this matter, who can swear in, we should proceed Honourable Speaker, because that's our Bible.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, you have said you wanted to see the Legal Counsel. I will avail one here. Now when you see Hon. Allan Nyongesa saying that we hire the service of Hon. Anthony Lusenaka, you know even prayers can't salvage that problem, that you procure the service of Hon. Anthony Lusenaka. Celestine Moshong, you will be able to swear in for us our County Secretary to provide some information. Then equally you will stay around, you'll swear in for us our CECM for Education, and then equally you'll swear in the Chairman of the Service Board, Senior Counsel Fredrick Wanyonyi.

(The County Secretary Mr. William Nasong'o sworn in to give evidence to the House)

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Thank you, our County Secretary. Celestine Moshong will remain around so that we avoid going forth and back. Allow me to have all of them sworn in as they sit and then from there they can be able to respond as Celestine Moshong goes back to her duties. So, let's be able to have CECM.

(CECM Education Ms. Agnes Wachiye sworn in to give evidence to the House)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, you put your particulars, Chair just hold on first. Yes, Chair Fredrick

(Chairperson of CPSB Mr. Fredrick Simiyu sworn in to give evidence to the House)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, so we will start with the CS so that she is able to respond. We'll respond to our statements sought by Honourable Jack. Do you have a copy of the statements sought? You only respond to what belongs to you.

The one meant for the service Board Chair, he'll come, the one meant for the CECM Education, she'll come and be able to respond to her part. I think we can start from there, you ask that I give the microphone first. Now, you are on HANSARD.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, you ruled that I get a hard copy, up to now, I have not received anything. Unfortunately, they supplied to Hon. George Makari and left me out.

Mr. Speaker: Let's allow the C.S. so that he's able to explain his part of the response so that he goes back to do something else, please. C.S kindly proceed. Hon. Jack Wambulwa, I have given you my copy no more stories.

County Secretary: Hon. Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members of this House and our guests who are invited, good afternoon. I want to just go straight to the question which Honourable member raised in this House and I just want to be brief and state that the Office of the Secretary, CEO to Bungoma County Public Service Board, Mr. Makata Samida Joseph has served his full term of six years and the term expired on 24th of December 2024. By then, Hon. Speaker, we had initiated the process of recruiting his successor.

That process of recruitment took a while and therefore, with the consultation with His Excellency, the Governor we thought it was wise not to leave that office vacant bearing in mind that it is a very important office. The CEO holds two major roles, he is the secretary to the board and at the same time also the accounting officer of the board and also to an extent, he is the authorized officer.

Version 00

Revision 00

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So through my office, His Excellency extended his term for another five months and when the five months elapsed on 23rd of May, as we speak, he has completed the extension framework. Unfortunately, as it was coming to an end another issue also arose and on 20th of May, His Excellency, the Governor had to suspend him and other officers for some irregular issues that arose.

As I have said, we had started the process of recruiting actually a CEO and along the way we had a snag that came as a result of... in the first recruitment exercise, we didn't have enough competitors in that category and therefore, the panel which was approved by this House could not submit a name to His Excellency for appointment and arising from that, we had an option of extending the panel to complete the exercise.

So they made another attempt and as they were coming to the close of that exercise this Honourable House received a petition from a Kenyan citizen, challenging that extension of the panel and with that effect, I received a communication from the Office of the Clerk and it was dated 21st of May but in my office, according to our record, I received this information on 4th of June.

4th of June means just last week and when I received this official communication from this House, then I now had to move very fast to see what is the best alternative to make sure that the body, that is the employer does not have the issues as has been raised by the honourable member. I first of all contacted the chair, who is here and we had a discussion together with the appointing authorities, the Governor and we have resolved that in the meantime, we are going to have somebody in acting capacity to do that in that very short period as we look for the substantive CEO and secretary to the board.

As I speak now Hon. speaker, it is very unfortunate that the whole county, we only have two officers who are senior and at the same time are qualified and have professional standing CS, that is certified secretary and therefore, because they are also holding key positions, we are now looking at how best we can now transit one of them to take up that role. I want to assure this House this afternoon that we know that role is very, very important.

The people of Bungoma are learned people. If they find a lacuna they will even come to this House challenging almost everything that is being done and therefore, I want to request that the process of getting one person to take up that role is on. The only challenge is that the two of them are holding very key positions and if we don't handle it very well, it might also bring other issues. So I am requesting that within

Version 00

Revision 00

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the coming five days, we should have solved that issue of the acting capacity as we wait the process of recruiting a new CEO and secretary to the board be in place. I submit Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow Hon. Tony I see you are on your feet. Kindly resume your chair so that...

Hon. Tony Barasa: Hon. Speaker maybe on issues of clarification and maybe a fling of the term from the current secretary and I think you will ask for indulgence maybe from the record on HANSARD. I heard him say that the expiry of the term of the former County Secretary was 24th December, 2025 and then two, I heard him say they even extended the contract of the secretary of the board with five months. In the response, I am seeing three months so I think I wanted maybe to get the clarification. Is it three months or five months?

Lastly, he has spoken about... we have only two certified secretaries within Bungoma County. Hon. Speaker we also know about issues to do with secondment. We also have a certified secretary here within the County Assembly. Can we second that officer and that is certified CS Mbito. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, CS just hold on so that...

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. The CS has responded. If you look at paragraph five of the response, he says that the activities conducted by the Selection Panel beyond the 2017 of December 2025, we hereby declare...

Mr. Speaker: Is it 17th of 2017?

Hon. George Makari: 17th day of December 2025. This is his response. I declare it illegal and consequently null and void for violation of Section 58 (16) of the County Government's Act. Now Hon. Speaker, this is the County Secretary of Bungoma replying to us and you see the County Secretary of Bungoma is the nexus of the administration of Bungoma. He is not any small person.

You remember in the Appointments Committee when we were vetting him here, I asked him a question and he said he is okay with it. I asked him, having operated in State House for almost 10 years, are you sure you want to leave State House and come to be the County Secretary of Bungoma? He said yes. You remember that question, Hon. Speaker? He said he is okay with working in Bungoma. He is the nexus of all the

Version 00

Revision 00

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activities that are happening in Bungoma. Hon. Speaker let me remind you before I come to the question, whatever I want to tell you.

Hon. Speaker, him being the nexus of the County Government of Bungoma, he is in the middle of everything that is happening. Is it possible that the secretary of County Public Service Board can employ people and their salaries and their payroll be backdated without the County Secretary knowing? That is just beside the point; it's not part of what I am saying.

Mr. Speaker: Now, Hon. George let us stick to the questions before us here.

Hon. George Makari: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: So that we don't have to mix issues.

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker when I was starting, I said I am just diverting a little bit but I am coming.

Mr. Speaker: But now do you expect an answer that we won't be able to seek.

Hon. George Makari: But Hon. Speaker he is here and you see most of the messes that are happening on the payroll...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. George, even when you are summoned, you must be prepared. He came for what he sought. If you want to ask those questions another day, bring him here...

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker obliged.

Mr. Speaker: So that we are able to stick.

Hon. George Makari: I said when God was giving wisdom, he gave more to you and he gave less to us.
(Laughter)

I oblige. Can the County Secretary tell us that it is possible for members of the public to raise a petition and see the mess that was done by the County Government and yet they have an Attorney? Then it takes a

Version 00

Revision 00

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petition for them to see that there was an illegality done, according to paragraph number one, two, three, four and five.

Is it possible that your Attorney cannot advise that there was an illegality that was committed? That until a petition comes to this House; it's committed to the Committee on Justice. Hon. Speaker as I said you have a lot of wisdom. You committed to the Committee on Justice and then Justice now points out that this was an illegality. Then, the County Secretary and the County Attorney now come and act and say, whatever we did was now an illegality. Whatever was done is now null and void. Does it take a petition for them to see? Yes, that is my question, Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It is okay, Hon. Eric.

Hon. Eric Wekesa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I had an issue that you have so far, in a way guided but let me stick to the issue at hand. The County Secretary has alluded that there are only two CSs in the County and they are holding key positions. I am meant to understand that CEO to the board is a crucial position because it affects employment and the running of this County.

Can they find a way of quickly ensuring that the acting capacity CEO is given? Even as I cry about or as I lament about the CEO whose time was extended and problems got him during the extension. Not that because he comes from my ward but I suspect that those who recommended his suspension might have been selective in a way. Because you have said it is an issue for another day, having guided my senior Makari I also stick to... because it's mentioned in the response that the Governor suspended the CEO.

Whoever recommended the suspension of the CEO, looking at the timing and the urgency and the current situation, I think was not just ill-advised but somehow I feel low on opinion of that kind, because he cannot do things alone. How can the CEO be culpable alone? I know the board is new, the chairman is new but there must have been other people involved in the same thing. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Evelyn Anyango. I will come back to Hon. Jack.

Hon. Evelyn Anyango: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for catching my eye. Just before this House, a few minutes ago the County Secretary has just admitted to this House that he is not hands-on on his duties because were it not for the petitioner, this county would have continued to lose money.

Version 00

Revision 00

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The taxpayer would have continued to lose money because this is a committee that has been holding meetings. My question is, what is he doing so that the taxpayer's money that was lost because of not noticing errors quickly, that the taxpayer's money was used, what is he doing to recover the money or to give the taxpayer justice? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jack, then from there we will stop, have the responses then go to the next officer before us Honourable Members. At the end of the day, you know we have a motion.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. The County Secretary is the chief advisor to His Excellency, the Governor on matters of administration. Just before they suspended the CEO, I am sure they must have sat down with the Governor. How did he advise him? Didn't they see any lacuna that by dismissing the CEO the process will stall, or they did intentionally knowing that now they want to cause confusion to the people of Bungoma who are the taxpayers, so that this money can get lost?

Number two Hon. Speaker, among my prayers that's number A. He has just submitted here on what he has written in the letter. He did not respond on the issue of the current payroll status and the staffing gap analysis for ECDE and VTC teachers. This is just a department.

(Applause)

He has not submitted that. Even if he submits what he has written, Hon. Speaker, is he serious with this House? Does it mean that this report never reached him? Or he was in a hurry responding? This is a serious matter and with due respect, the County Secretary, my friend Mr. Nasongo, why play games with the House? Why don't you give us a clear status? Because this is just a department.

If it's the whole county, you always have excuse saying, it's bulky, but this is just a department of Education and especially ECDE and VTC, not any other education staffs. Where is that payroll? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but members as we are doing so, look on your gadgets. We have a response apart from what was given. A booklet of this nature is on your gadgets, so that you look at them as he responds. Yes, CS kindly proceed.

County Secretary: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to respond to the issues that have been raised. The first one was the issue of the time frame for extension. We did extension in two batches. The first one was

Version 00

Revision 00

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written, I have a letter attached which was dated 23rd of December, 2025 and then we had another one, which is dated 23rd of March 2026. The first one was three months and the second one we gave him two months, anticipating that within that framework we will finish the exercise. So that is why maybe you saw just one letter. There are two letters to that effect.

Then secondly, the Honourable Member has suggested that if we have a standing CS, who is from maybe the Assembly to assist. I think those are just doors to explore, so that we don't have a lacuna. So I think it is welcomed. We can follow it up. Number two is the issue of the petition that it is only out of the petition that we are coming to this knowledge. Honourable Members, I want just to state that in law there might be different interpretations and I don't want to pretend to be a lawyer before this House.

We have a lawyer who came before this Honourable House and that mandate was bestowed to him. For me, I advised accordingly and the only thing Honourable Members that we need to note is that that extension was actually coming to an end on the 23rd and therefore the issue that happened was on the 20th. So look at it from different angles. The extension was coming to an end.

So what I will say is that this House is a House that accepts petitions to come and look at them and I think I should applaud you that you saw what we didn't see therefore, that is how life is and I want to state that...

Mr. Speaker: Yes, that line of submission is very dangerous because I remember on 30th, December 2025 when the chair was being sworn in and the other board members, I spoke about this issue. Section 58 (a) subsection (16) extension was done and the law says for fourteen days from 4th of December it was only for fourteen days which ended around 17th of December.

County Secretary: I withdraw the statement and I want to Mr. Speaker that in normal like Court cases, I just want to say this, if you allow. If you have a Magistrates Court and you have gone before the court and find that the Court has not done what is right there are lawyers, there are magistrates. You go to the High Court then the High Court quashes the decisions of the lower Court. You move from the High Court, you go to the Court of Appeal, the Court of Appeal can quash the decisions of the High Court yet they are judges.

So, I plead to say that, that is normal life and I want to say that if it was an oversight then we will take a keener look at every issue that comes even if we are advised by our County Attorney on these matters. I want also to respond to the fourth Member who wanted to know whether we have only two CSs in the County who are qualified and having good standing in terms of profession as I have said we are exploring

Version 00

Revision 00

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all possible ways as one of them has been already presented and we will seek guidance so that we see that office being filled as quickly as possible.

The other issue that came up was how to we return the money that was lost, tax payers money, I think this one I cannot make a statement now because it's something that needs maybe deeper scrutiny to see how best it can be done. I don't want to make a statement on this floor which I would not maybe follow up through.

The other one was Hon. Jack Wambulwa your Honourable Speaker, speaks of the advice. Advice remains an advice but the final decision comes from the one who is advised, and therefore the point of limitation on my part is I give the advice but the final decision is made by the owner.

Lastly the issue of the payroll I think this issue has been around for quite a time when we talk about the payroll and we have been saying that it's bulky which is true, but we have drafted a mechanism of maybe reducing the fields and submitting partially part of the payroll because it has so many fields. Like I speak Honourable Speaker, we have already submitted actually a version of it to the Board to look at it because it is very important for them to do that but if this House will agree, Honourable Speaker, I can present the paged version of the payroll to the House. It has so many fields if you were to print papers you might find it is not possible. But if you allow...

Mr. Speaker: CS let us understand.

Hon. George Makari: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: What makes it impossible to print a payroll of the County Executive because I am sure its departmental wise? If you are asking the payroll of Education Department which I am sure even if are three hundred staff in the department, is it possible.

County Secretary: No, it's possible and that is why the CEC Member for Education Mr. Speaker, we agreed in our small meeting before we came that she brings that section of the payroll and she has done so. That part is actually well answered, but if this House requested, I bring the whole payroll but in a fetched version, I will do it. That is what I can assure the House, because I have done it and the chair of the board here can affirm to the same. But it is a paged one not all the fields. Thank you Chair.

Mr. Speaker: It's okay let's be able to have the CEC. Yes

Hon. George Makari: I know you were the Speaker when one time you have been with us from 2017 as the Speaker and Mr. Speaker you know I always pray for you that in the next Assembly again you continue

Version 00

Revision 00

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being the Speaker. And I seconded you and as I said Mr. Speaker, the wisdom you have cannot be equal to what we have today as members. Mr. Speaker one time you remember when we were doing interrogation in this House, there was excess money on the payroll of around one hundred and thirty million which was again supplemented in the Supplementary Budget. How a payroll Mr. Speaker, can contain excess money to the tune of more than one hundred and thirty million.

Honourable Speaker, in the wisdom or lack of it, the treasury came here and said one hundred and thirty million should be removed from the payroll. County Secretary can you be able to tell us how that can happen because specifically you have the number of employees that you pay. How is possible that after paying all the people; I can see the CECM for Education is looking at me keenly Honourable Speaker. How is it possible that on the payroll Honourable Speaker, we can have excess of one hundred and thirty million which should be taken away during supplementary and...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. George Makari, I recall well.

Hon. George Makari: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It's true but we are going out of the bracket of the questions, because the best venue for answering that question is during the Sector interrogation of finance department so that they explain how they were able to over budget with one thirty million. Now you may want to hang the CS here but the real man who is supposed to hang here is the Chief Officer for the treasury.

Hon. George Makari: As I said that when God was allocating wisdom Honourable Speaker, he gave you more than enough to you. Mr. Speaker obliged.

Mr. Speaker: Members listen the CS is supposed to give the response also, Yes Hon. Jack

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, one on my prayer number (a) the CS is running away from responsibilities, for him to tell us that the CECM Education will provide a payroll. Who is in charge of the payroll Honourable Speaker in this County? I thought we had transferred all the powers to CS Office. Why is it that he cannot provide, now he is putting the task to the CEC Education, who doesn't know the current status of workers that we have, even after cleansing.

Number two; on acting appointments Mr. Speaker, the County Government Act does not contain specific provision authorizing organizing secretary to CPSB. However section (64) provides the following Mr. Speaker, a person shall not...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jack Wambulwa are you reading for us the law or you are asking questions to be answered.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Yes, I'm just trying to clarify to the CS because we have to go by the County Government Act.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: *A person shall not be appointed to hold a public Office in an acting capacity unless the person satisfies all the prescribed qualifications for holding the public office.* The provisions recognize the acting appointments maybe made in public offices, but it does not identify the appointments in the acting of the County Secretary to the CPSB. Hon. Speaker...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jack before we go in that direction, are you aware of the qualifications of whoever is acting where you sit?

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: I am not aware Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: If they are having somebody; maybe they have looked at the requirements; that is why he is there because like now, you and I are not aware.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Before making that statement, I think they might have done the evaluation. So when you say you are questioning the appointed in acting capacity, that means you are aware of his qualifications like he is just layman like my friend who ran away, Hon. Mulongo. That direction still is tricky because you are not aware who is acting and his academic credentials in terms of qualifications. That area I think you can leave it out. If you are on the payroll...

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: I just wanted to clarify because he was on HANSARD on the same so that he can clarify. More so on payroll Hon. Speaker. Let us be sincere who is in charge of payroll in this County?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jack Kawa, use your microphone please.

(Laughter)

Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform my good brother County Secretary, that as we talk about payroll, this is not the first time we are talking about the payroll. We have been interrogating our Sectoral Committees. We invite the Committees to appear before us but there is a problem with producing the payroll from their side Hon. Speaker. I just want to know from the County Secretary, how sure are we that he will furnish us with the payroll he is mentioning here, Hon. Speaker?

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jack Kawa he is on HANSARD he can repeat it again. You know when he speaks before us here and he fails, I will sanction him myself. CS can you come back and confirm that you are going to provide if need be. Yes.

Hon. Ipara Okasida: Hon. Speaker, I am wondering how this House is being reduced to a broom. The custodian of Payroll is the County Secretary and from the beginning of this financial year, you remember well that every penny that is directed towards the salary of any worker is under the Office of the County Secretary. I believe that the document the CEC for Education has is a nominal roll and, in this House, a nominal roll is not relevant for us. What is relevant is how the money we appropriated is spent and for this case...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara just for correction, the statement sought by Hon. Jack had an indication of the CEC Education. So, you cannot start wishing her way that she has a nominal roll. She has her specific part to answer. For correction purposes, she is here pursuant to the summons issued by this House. If she is going to speak, she is speaking for the department. You cannot say now that her being here is nominal roll it cannot be that way. Proceed.

Hon. Ipara Okasida: Hon. Speaker. I am saying this because I did listen to what the County Secretary said. The County Secretary was clear that, on matters for specific payroll for the department of education, the CECM is here and she will present the details. That is why I want to agree that the only document that the CECM should present the nominal roll and not the payroll. Every budget that we have approved in this House has been directed on personnel management to Office of the County Secretary. We should not agree even our attention to be diverted.

Mr. Speaker: Members before I allow the CS to come and respond because I was trying to confirm with the Committee on Public Administration if you are not aware, the entire payroll of the County Executive is with Committee on Public Administration soft copy. So they have it.

If you want us to make a print out, I think I will have them make a printout. You must be prepared to look at it because it is voluminous. 7000 plus people, is not something small. The document is with the Committee on Public administration. If you want us to have it shared on your gadgets some of them like the one for Mulongo will go off because of the nature of the gadget he is having.

Hon. Ipara Okasida: Hon. Speaker with your permission.

Mr Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Ipara Okasida: We normally approve our budget of around Kshs. 6 billion.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Ipara Okasida: That is huge money and it is entrusted to one person called the County Secretary. Does he say that money is a lot? That he cannot manage it?

Mr Speaker: No.

Hon. Ipara Okasida: We should not give...

Mr Speaker: What I am saying is that the payroll is with the Assembly of Bungoma. It is with the Committee of this Assembly. Yes, let me allow the Chair to speak first.

(Loud consultations)

No. Hon. George Makari I am the one to give you permission. Kindly resume your Chair. I have asked to confirm.

(Loud consultations)

Mr Speaker: Hon Makari, hold on first. Hon. Kawa sit.

(Loud consultations)

I am not speaking on their behalf because I am aware whenever we prepare the budget, we keep on asking and the Committee on Public Administration gave suppressions. If you are a member of the Committee on Public Administration and the way you are denying it, let me hear from the chair. If he is saying it is not there. Resume your seat. We can't be on our feet the two of us.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Thank you Chair. I want to also confirm Hon. Chair, being a response to *Mheshimiwa* Jack, the department should also extract from the Department of Education. I want to confirm as a chair Public Administration, we requested for the payroll and they really submitted in the soft copy which we have as Public Administration.

Mr Speaker: When I try to confirm with the Chair which I know they were given, is that answering on their behalf Members?

(Loud Consultations)

Mr. Speaker: I want to confirm because the document I did ask them to submit from the Executive to prepare the budget, one of them was the payroll... to prepare the budget. So the entire County not the one

Version 00

Revision 00

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that you are asking so. Jacks' specific was on Education Committee which they are asking. There is nothing wrong to extract and give the owner of the statement what they are asking.

(Loud consultations)

Yes but now, on the issue of the entire payroll...

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kawa be patient... Hon. Makari.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you Hon. Speaker. When the Public Administration asked for the payroll, they asked as the Committee. Now we are here on a serious matter of County importance. We do not want diversional tactics. We want them to reply to what we are asking.

(Applause)

You see we were not aware whether any payroll was submitted to any Committee until today you are now defending them. How do you expect from...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari. Whenever we say we go to Kisumu for ...resume your seat...for the Committee Chairs to submit the Sector Committee Reports, Members ought to attend. When Hon. Tony was submitting before the Committee on Budget, he mentioned. I do not want to say you were absent and maybe you were delayed on the road.

(Laughter)

Members let's leave that area here, we go to something else but the chair of the Service Board and the CS, the committee here, the House here wants specifically Education Department extracted...

(Loud Consultations)

They want specific area extracted. Bring it here tomorrow because when the CS is going to come and the Chief Officer, they will ask him the same question. Can we move on Honourable Members? Yes, CS I think you can confirm on HANSARD that...

County Secretary: Thank you Hon. Speaker for your guidance and I just want to confirm that the payroll for the Department of Education will be submitted in full softcopy but if it is printing then a breached version. Thank you Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It's okay. Hon. Joseph Nyongesa.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you Speaker. Mine also goes to the CS and it is still the same on the issue of the payroll. Mr. Speaker when the three officers were being suspended; we had a specific pronouncement from the CEO of this County; and he was clear that actually we have around a thousand ghost workers. I don't know how the CS is working on that payroll to ensure that they are eliminating those ghost workers. Now that he is here, can he also assure us with that pronouncement which was made clearly to this County? Thank you Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes CS.

County Secretary: Hon. Speaker and Hon. Majority Leader of the House, I want to first of all affirm that His Excellency the Governor made that pronouncement and it is in the public domain. I have also been close to him to maybe ask for further information because at his level, he might be privy to information that we might not be privy, and up to now, he has not given me details. What I want to assure the House is that as I stand before this House, I don't have a list of a thousand ghost workers so far. What we have done is we have started investigations to establish the truth about the statement and therefore I don't want to come to this House and say we have a thousand ghost workers that I don't know.

Mr. Speaker: CS, *unajua* we are all lost. What these people want is the individual names in the near future of one thousand ghost workers. It was not spoken by a layman or the cleaner, it is the CEO of the County, and in those cases, we want them to be surcharged. Hon. Majority.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Hon. Speaker, as you are aware that the custodian of the payroll is the CS, and you know the Governor cannot pronounce minus maybe getting the information from the CS. I don't know if he was saying this information was from which quarters, unless we are not following our structures Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, let me hear Hon. Allan first before I hear you. Yes Hon. Ipara.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker Sir, I have the privilege to sit in the Public Administration. By the advantage of being in the Public Administration, I accessed two documents. The first document was the medical cover for staff members of the County who were numbering to six thousand, two hundred and twenty nine and the majority can confirm that. The second...

Mr. Speaker: Which majority?

Hon. Johnston Ipara: The majority.

Mr. Speaker: It's okay.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Johnston Ipara: The second document was on the payroll. Hon. Speaker, as we are sitting in one of the committee rooms, the figures that we were given were seven thousand, around three hundred. Hon. Speaker that confirms to the fears the Governor had. If you do a simple calculation between sixty two and seventy two you already have a thousand. And that confirms ghost workers Hon. Speaker, and it means if you calculate only basic salary of one thousand employees, we are losing over Ksh2 billion. That is not accounted. When the custodian of the payroll appears before this House, with half-baked details Hon. Speaker, should we entertain that?

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the way the Leader of Majority has said that clarification even equally I also want it to be confirmed who are these one thousand, because they will basically be surcharged, not just a mere joke, because basically you cannot have one thousand ghost workers on a payroll. So CS prepare that, if need be, we want whoever spoke that to come here and be cross-examined and we will not hesitate to do that. CEC please.

CECM Education: Thank you Speaker Sir and Honourable Members, good afternoon. I received the summons, this was received to our offices on 5th of June, 2026, and we brought the documents back to the Clerk yesterday at 5:30 p.m. We were late by 30 minutes; I want to apologize for that. On the questions that were before us, I would attempt Mr. Speaker Sir, to respond to question number one and two. I have learnt here, of course payroll stays in the office of the CS, but as a department, we do monthly submission of the staff that we have in our establishment, the current capacity of the staff. So the staff establishment in the department of education is three thousand, one hundred and eighty five. The current capacity is two thousand, two hundred and sixty, so that leaves a gap of nine hundred and twenty five.

I want to mention that we started the process of recruitment of new staff. That was two hundred and twenty five ECDE teachers and one hundred and thirty five VTC instructors. We sent intent to recruit ECDE teachers and VTC instructors. And it was not just recruitment, we also wanted to promote our staff but on promotion, we could not do that because we did not have a scheme of service. We prepared a scheme of service which was forwarded to the cabinet on 19th of February and it was approved. And because the scheme of service was approved, we commenced on the process of promoting our ECDE and VTC instructors. On recruitment, we did, through the County Public Service Board, an advertisement which was done on 13th of March, 2026 and process began.

And from where I stand, I want to believe that this process is still going on because I have not received any communication to the effect that we are discussing here. On 23rd of April, we received a notice of promotion from the Public Service Board requesting us to give them a list of people that we wanted

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Revision 00

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promoted, and these were both VTC and ECDE. We had given them a list of seven hundred and sixty seven staff to be promoted. I said from where I sit, I said the process is still going on. I submit, Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I think she has given her version and Honourable Members, I'll urge that as we are asking questions, have time for your plenary WhatsApp wall, because what we are all arguing, you have the payroll on that attachment of the Ministry of Education of the three thousand on your gadget. The document shown is basically one of the responses, it has the payroll, so as you are asking me questions and say that I am defending them, I had this document here and you have it on your gadgets. So, Hon. Makari, Hon. Tony its Hon. Makari.

Hon. George Makari: He is my neighbor...Honourable Speaker having listened to the submission of the CECM Education on the issue at hand, I have equally gone through a document from the department. The intent was 365, although the earlier programming was 750 but available funds I can see through the documentation actually this is from the chair of County Public Service Board, is around 363 or 365. I want the CECM to confirm, do we have the KShs. 29 million for recruitment of ECDE teachers? You see Honourable, let me remind you, we did the supplementary budget, I can't remember the exact month, and I know you know...

Mr. Speaker: December

Hon. George Makari: That was December and Honourable Speaker, we allocated money in the budget for recruiting these people.

Financial Year 2023/2024, the advertisement was done and the County Secretary was in office. People walked from wherever they were to Mabanga FTC. They did an interview and some of them did not have nice clothes and so they borrowed to look presentable before the board. Honourable Speaker, do you know there was no recruitment for those people, 2023/2024 financial year those were 90 VTC instructors and so many people for ECDE. They were not recruited Honourable Speaker.

This year we allocated money in the Budget in December for recruitment and we are closing the financial year in June this year. Why should they wait for all this period and the County Secretary is here who is a senior advisor of the Governor on matters of the County? Why should we wait; leave alone this one that we are dealing with; you find that all the projects in the County are waiting. We pass the budget in June, they wait until March Honourable Speaker, they now begin fumbling to look for contractors to Execute the jobs.

Now let us come back to the issue at hand, with the money you had KShs. 29 million now you are doing intent as late us now in the day and the year is closing. Can the CECM confirm if we have the KShs. 29 Million for recruitment? Is it still there or this money is allocated to the other department for whatever purpose? Honourable Speaker, that is where I am now.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Jack.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker I want to echo what Hon. Makari has raised and the CECM Education is here trying to defend the C.S's office on matters payroll. I don't mind them having equal responsibilities but more importantly, I expect her to be concerned about the KShs. 29 million that was allocated towards employing our own children.

Honourable Speaker, now that we don't have the Chief Officer Finance, can we be told by the office of the C.S where the KShs.29 million is because he alleged here Honourable Speaker, I don't know if you heard him, that he is not sure where that money is. He said so; he is not sure whether that money is there or not. Have we had any supplementary to change this money to go to another vote or what happened? He must be aware of any changes on this amount Honourable Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Tony.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Honourable Speaker three quick questions to Waziri and the service board. Waziri we are aware that we allocated KShs.29Million to employ our people in Bungoma County. I want you to confirm to this House when you did the intent to the service board and if you did that intent to the service board, I want the Chair, Service Board then to pick up from there. If the intent comes to your office, how long does it take for the recruitment process from the advert, shortlisting, how long does it take for us to get these people employed? The last one again to the CECM and the Chair, Service Board, are we hopeful as a county that we are going to employ these people, our people this financial year? When we are remaining with around 24 days, if yes, is the money allocated or intent that came showing we have money from the department of Education, is that money safe, the KShs.29. 7 million. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I will have Hon. Ali Machani then I will go back to the CECM then the chair.

Hon. Ali Machani: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Recruitment is a process but the biggest worry from us is this is now the third time. There was a time when recruitment was pronounced, people sat for interviews and nothing happened. There was a time also it was done nothing happened. I think Honourable Speaker; one it is demoralizing our people and graduates are there each and every year from the same field. We are aware Honourable Speaker and you are the chairman of the service board. You understand and each and every member here can agree with me that a game is always in the system. Money is there and this is a recurrent, and recurrent cannot be rolled over. Let us buy time, the recruitment can be done at the tail end then we can ask the Assembly to give us other money now that we have recruited them they have received the letters and they have accepted. Now it can work in the new financial year 2026/2027 that is what we want the County Secretary to mark in his mind.

What we are talking about is the current year where we are remaining with around 20 days for the financial year to lapse. Now how sure we are that money is still there, that is the worry of Honourable Members

Version 00

Revision 00

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without witch-hunting. If the answer is yes, then how are you fast tracking the process that people are dillydallying to finish? Where we sit, the service board has done its part that you requested as a service to them as the user end now to them they have done their part but you are the one as the CECM Education to push so that your money can be spent than someone else diverting because we know this county how people behave. They may see that this is recurrent, let us divert when we will go to the Assembly, as usual, they will allocate money. So that is the biggest worry Speaker not that you are defending anybody but I wanted us to understand what we want to hear is whether money is there and if money is there, where are we in terms of recruitment.

Mr. Speaker: Yes CECM, you will have the microphone.

CECM Education: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Public Service Board did a letter to us to confirm the money for recruitment of the ECDE and VCT instructors, on 24th of February it was confirmed that indeed we had KShs.29Million and we even guided on how to recruit. The number 360 we were guided by that letter and so on March 30th that is when we made an advert and when I earlier submitted, I said that where I stand, we still have the money and the process of recruitment and promotion is still going on unless the County Public Service Board chair comes here to say otherwise. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: You know this people are interesting Honourable Members. They are keen on one thing, as CEC you're answering is the money there or not now? Not in February. Is the money there now or not? They are keen on that. You know let me tell you something for free, whenever you see my Honourable Members asking something, they are aware where the smoke is coming from so don't waste time lying to them.

(Loud consultations)

Confirm is money there or not because when they are asking this statements, I've come to learn with experience they know the answer so don't lie to them. Have the microphone.

CECM Education: Last I spoke to the Department of Finance, the money was there and I believe the money is still there.

Mr. Speaker: Last is when?

CECM Education: That was in April.

(Loud consultations)

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, we will clear this mischief in a simple way. Hon. George just hold on we'll clear this mischief. We will have the CECM Finance here, CECM Education here and Chief officers here. As simple as that because if it is in April, we're in June. Madam Agnes be aware of one thing, whenever these Honourable MCAs ask me something, they know the answer.

Hon. George you wanted to say something...

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker, I said with your wisdom you know you cut me off when I wanted to...you know I think the County Executive will always think we come here to do gymnastics and I don't think we come here to do that. We have other serious issues to deal with. If you tell us you asked for this confirmation in April, we're in June. We want to close the financial year and as we speak now, she is not sure and she has not even told us whether the confirmation was positive or negative. So does she want us to believe what she says to this House and we are going in interesting times, where tempers are very short and anything can happen.

(Laughter)

The period we are entering is a terrible period. The tempers become short and be sure anything can happen and I know you don't care because you know some of you already put your luggage on a 'stick' and you are moving out. You don't care but we care. We promise you before you exit with your stick and clothes on the pole on your shoulders we will have dealt with you properly and we will deal with you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari those are threats now.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

No, Makari those are threats now. That one withdraw.

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker, what do you want me to withdraw now?

Mr. Speaker: What you've said...

Hon. George Makari: You know Honourable Speaker, the problem with me is I speak the truth. I can see you also don't want the truth but can you just...

Mr. Speaker: The question here is the words you've used...

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. George Makari: Like which one Honourable Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The one you've used.

Hon. George Makari: But that's my way of talking even Hon. Nganga can tell you I always speak like that.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. George we are saying use parliamentary and decent language.

Hon. George Makari: No I never issue threats. If you argue, I don't threaten you. I just hit you so when I speak...

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Are you suggesting that you hit my officers here?

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker that's not a threat. That's my language so there's no threat there. I am just giving out what I feel, honestly...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Tony no... I haven't given permission. Ali Machani hold on, CEC sorry...

CECM Education: Speaker Sir,

Mr. Speaker: Have the microphone first please.

CECM Education: Honourable Speaker, I'll carry the threats and as I carry the threats, I have read communication from the Department of Finance. The process of recruitment has been going on. We are actually done with the process of promotions and I'm sure the chair of the County Public Service will talk about that. When you insist that I say if the money is there or not that would be very difficult for me because I do not even access the IFMIS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Is okay, Chair Public Service, yes. Just hold on chair please. Try to use the microphone...

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you Speaker. I think we should not mix the issue of promotions and recruitment because recruitment was for the new staff; promotions for the old staff. Kshs. 29 million was meant for recruiting new members. We should not mix that one because I've seen *Waziri* saying that the

Version 00

Revision 00

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process has been on, promotions has been on. No, we are specifically on 29 million which was meant for new staff.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Additionally...

Mr. Speaker: Tony I've not given you the microphone...

Hon. Tony Barasa: Additionally before she responds...

Mr. Speaker: What you took for lunch, I don't understand.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Additionally, Honourable Speaker, the CEC has just confirmed that she has no powers to confirm whether the money is there or not. So, I want to agree with you that the summons that we extended to the Chief Officer - Finance should remain active so that they can come and clarify. Do we have this 29 million or not? So, after their submission we will still need to have the Finance department here. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Ali Machani then I'll have chairman so that we move on, hold on please.

Hon. Ali Machani: Chair from where you sit and other Members who have information in law, any information you present before this House and you're on oath the other bad side of it and it can turn against you. That's the wisdom that guided this House to invite those in Finance and the mother ministry and where the Service Board is also so that when each of every Member sitted raising issues to the department, we can get the answer direct.

As one of my colleagues has said, is that like we are raising issues on finance but each and every member sitted here, they're not sure of the Kshs. 29 million. Whatever they are giving us is hearsay or information they got in April. Things happen in Government from April up to now almost 10th we are only remaining with 20 days. Now the CEC is keen on promotion and I am happy with what you are doing but the recruitment of new staffs is our main concern.

Secondly, the person who could answer our concerns is attending the budget making process minus understanding, that the budget will come to this House and Honourable Members have the powers to remove the money if that activity is not convincing us. County Secretary and I think with the CEC where you think you have no information kindly, you are on oath, don't put your hands into a frying pan. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Yes chairperson CPSB?

Version 00

Revision 00

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Chairperson CPSB: Thank you Mr. Speaker and members of the House for having given me this opportunity to respond to the concerns raised in the statement dated 5th of June, which of course at the tail end of the same letter requested some information to be given. I'm here to give some information in regard to the documents requested and I will restrict myself to the recruitment of the ECD teachers, as well as recruitment of VTC instructors. I think we have more concentrated on the ECD teachers and left out the vocational training instructors.

The process kicked off, if I would say in a speech by the Governor when we were being sworn on 29th of December last year. On 11th of February 2026 we got intent to recruit 225 vocational training instructors and 495 ECD teachers. The recruitment must of course have a budget so the requirement we wrote to finance to confirm whether the budget is available. On 24th of... if you are following my written response 24th of February 2026 finance confirmed that there is about 29 million for recruitment. The budget being tight, they advised us on the numbers that we needed to recruit.

Having cleared the budget Hon. Speaker, we started the process of recruitment. We did an advert. If you go to the attachment, we did an advert, and the advert is a small one but it will direct you to the website where the declared vacant positions were situated. There was overwhelming response, if you look at my write up we got vocational training trainer assistant (3H), 705 Assistant vocational training (3G) 553 total, 1258. When it comes to ECD teachers, ECD assistant teachers job group H were 1840 assistant ECD teachers 3873. A total of 5713.

At this juncture, I want to say the response was overwhelming and we are still far behind other counties in terms of digitalization. We are not using a computer or an ARP system to receive this application online. We are actually still manual, I said the other day here and I wouldn't repeat. It is like we are still using callbox while others are using cellphones. So all this applications were but in sacks and I think they were about 15 of them. As a good process and good governance, we had to do a long listing which took a long time. First, we also don't have enough staff. We only have about 2 HR staff plus an assistant director 3. The assistant director is supposed to supervise the 2 HR's. So we had to borrow staff. I want to at this juncture put on record Bwana Speaker, we worked well with the CS. We worked well with the ministry of education because they lend us their staff to help us in the process. We wouldn't have managed it.

Last week, we were in Kisumu shortlisting. We are at the tail end I think by the end of this week, would have completed shortlisting. We have been as transparent as possible. I think the delay in making recruitment especially in ECD had a high tall on the county. We want to shortlist any person who makes a shortlist.

Version 00

Revision 00

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We developed a tool for the requirements. For ECD were not much. For you to be a ECD teacher you require a D+, have teacher's TSC number, a certificate from your college and I believe we put in because this are entry levels. You employ somebody who is above 45 years; he doesn't qualify into entry level for reasons that by the time he does only 5 years is eligible for retirement. So anybody who was below 45 years qualified and in that one, we also locked out quite a number of applicants. It is unfortunate because I think they have been waiting for this opportunity to be shortlisted and it never came.

We are likely to start because we have a window of communicating to these ECD teachers inviting them for the interviews and given that we are just calculating. If you are to take in an interview 20 minutes, ECD alone will take us some months. We also have some other applications if you look at my...we have vocational training instructors as well as a director in the ministry of health and another 4 directors who is deputy and assistant. So, we are looking at probably end of July to complete the exercise. What do I say? I would say that the process is now smooth. There hasn't been any complain. I think everybody is okay. We have worked with the CS, we have worked well with the Chief Officer – Education. We have worked well with *Waziri* and I think the process is going on well. If you have time, I would commend and with your permission I can comment on the promotion.

Mr. Speaker: Yes

Chairperson CPSB: On the promotions, we have a problem with the VTC on vocational trainers. The ones that we have for promotion don't have the required papers and for you to be promoted, you need what is called pedagogy. Pedagogy is a science of developing lessons and disseminating notes to the students and instructions. Most of the people who came forward for promotions don't have pedagogy.

Pedagogy is also related to DVAT certification license so if you don't have pedagogy, you can't be given a training license. So, what are we saying, if they don't have, we can't even promote them and we have already proposed to *Waziri* should come back to us so that we then go ahead promoting the instructors who are in charge of the colleges. They are about 80. They are only 5 that qualified in the promotion list. With that information Bwana Speaker, I submit.

Mr. Speaker: It is okay. Take your seat. We will have some questions. Hon. Tony you go first.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Thank you Honorable Speaker. I want to thank the chair for the submission. I have noted some two issues from his submission;

1. The challenge of staffing in his department, we are aware that the service board is an independent body and is mandated for recruitment and when the chair is crying of lack of staff, what is he doing as a chair to address the issue of lack of staff in his department aware that they always get their own share as a service

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board to run their own activities. If he is coming to cry here that they don't have staff and they are the employers, what are the mechanisms put in place for him to address the issue of lack of staff in his department.

Aware that the CEO is maybe the custodian of the documents and maybe the one to raise the intent to the board, what are you doing to address the issue of lack of staff?

2. Another challenge that I have noticed, I want the chair to admit to this House, if employment intent came in February, as we speak, we expect the results of the recruitment, end of July, are we really valuing the people of Bungoma?

Suppose two, three, four departments gave intent to employ, will it take two years for us to get these people on board? If that is the reason that maybe we don't have staff, what is the mechanism put in place so that we can shorten the term of recruitment from the months like now you have said ECDE will take more than a month. Suppose we have two or five departments putting their intent to recruit, what are you going to do so that we can address the issues of delay in employment?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Nganga.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you Hon. Speaker. First, I would like to thank the submission that has been given by the Chair - Service Board. My question; is there any illegality to proceed with the shortlisting and inviting the applicants to come for the interview in the absence of the Secretary to the Public Service Board because the County Secretary said that they are contemplating on how to come up with somebody to act in that capacity. Now that we have been proceeding with the shortlisting, we also want to invite them for the interview when the secretary of the Public Service Board is not present.

Two, I don't know who should be blamed. The chair person has said that they came up with an intent to recruit ECDE and VTC instructors in the month of February and he has said that interviews will be completed at the end of the month of July which means to my understanding the monies that was set aside, that is twenty nine million will not be used to pay or prepare the payroll for the new staff that they are going to recruit.

Whom are we supposed to blame because at the end of the process they are supposed to come up with the pin numbers or the pay slip numbers to put this ECDE teachers and VTC instructors on the payroll? We shall be sure that the twenty nine million is now committed after preparing the payroll and when will this happen when we are coming to the end of the Financial Year that is 30th June. Whom are we going to

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blame? Chair, you are the one who is now in charge of the process of recruitment, to my understanding you are letting down the County Government of Bungoma.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kiron'g, just hold on, I am giving you the microphone.

Hon. Joan Kiron'g: Thank you Mr. Speaker, mine is to inquire from the Chair, Service Board. He has talked about promotion, so I want to know if the process of promotion is still going on or you're done with it.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Jack. When you finish allow the chair and CEC respond, we go one way.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I am concerned with the response by the chair.

One, I want to remind him that before you came into that office, people were being employed. We have never taken this long employing. I remember in the Second Assembly, we employed the village administrators, enforcement, it was a big number but it didn't take this long. What are you trying to tell us by saying you have a shortage of staff? How were they operating by then and indeed we had the CEO who was contracted to finalize the same? Does it mean he did not advice you accordingly or what happened?

Two, this money was appropriated in the first supplementary to take care of this employment, why should it take from February when the intent was brought to you? Up to now, you have not even invited the shortlisted to appear before you for interview? Does it mean chair, there's something you know about the twenty nine million that you don't want to tell us or what is it? Because for you to tell us that the earliest we can employ and is on record, is July. Where will that money have gone to? Let the chair come out clear and tell us if he has a response in a quite form that this twenty nine million is not there, that is why he is postponing to the next financial year.

This is unfortunate, coming from a learned friend who is a Senior Counsel to this House, telling the House that the earliest they can start receiving the employment letters is in July whereas the allocation is for 2025/2026.

As I sum up, I think the three executive officers sat down and came up with a language, but now during their responses they are not matching. They might not have agreed it was in a hurry. Truth be told, all we want to know is where the twenty nine million, and if we don't employ by now where will the money go to.

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Mr. Speaker: Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, Makari then we have the responses. Just before you proceed, they have spoken about this 29 issues let us just avoid repetition because Hon. Wambulwa spoke about it so that we are able to move on. Majority proceed please!

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you Speaker and you are aware that I never repeat. Mine is straight and brief. The chair Service Board commented on the issue of promotion, that most of the VTCs had no qualifications or requirements and he is also aware that actually now Eng. Agnes is here, how they did it was so selective that those that qualified were left out. So how should we now complain and say this had no qualifications and yet we have left the right team outside and done selectively humiliating others. So I think as a County we should reform.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Ipara.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I will also be precise. Number one, the Chair Public Service Board said that he received intent, let him reveal the one who forwarded the intent to him.

Two, under article 232, it says that the shortlisting should take a reasonable time. What is reasonable to him as a learned friend and here he is saying that the advertisement was done at that time and they expect to complete the shortlisting by July. Those are the issues.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, let's have the chair of the service board.

Chairperson CPSB: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will start from the last going to the first. Shortlisting for ECD teachers is almost complete, letters going out next week inviting the shortlisted candidates for interviews. So contrary to what you have said, the shortlisting is complete. The interview is going to take place 14 days from now. The interviews should be on and I said they are likely to be completed in July. On qualified candidates were left out; I am answering from majority leader.

We felt that the best way to promote people who have never been promoted from the time they were employed. The County government of Bungoma took of I think in 2013 and none of the ECD teachers has ever been promoted. So, we felt that some who are likely to retire would never be promoted and as a board, we made a decision and the decision was supported by the Executive that we promote anybody who is above 50 years. We have found that yes, some of the special VTC cannot be promoted because they don't have the required documents.

One of the duties of the County Service Board is to promote professionalism. We do not promote you just because you have to be promoted, you have to produce documents and that is our duty. So we are saying

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that money that is meant to promote people in the 50 years who don't deserve promotion can then be channeled to support people heading institutions and I believe that is the best way to go.

Next question is ... probably that, we colluding with my brother Nasong'o and my sister to hide information. There is nothing to hide. I am as open as you can see me.

(Laughter)

And by the way Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record. You have not invested in this County in systems. What have delayed the whole process is that we are not computerized. In fact I'm happy the way the Assembly is. You are far much ahead; you can't compare the Executive with what I am seeing here.

(Applause)

Everything is manual. Supposing you don't handle those sacks that were carrying the applications and one of them gets lost, what happens.

(Laughter)

It means you have to repeat the process. We have to be careful and of course you compare us to the previous Board. I suspect there is no comparison. If they were doing things faster. We have never seen the minutes and understand how they were doing it. We were the one... and I kept on pushing the Governor and Nasong'o, the County Secretary so that they can let us have Makata for the five months, so that he can actually handover. Up to now he has never even handed over the minutes that he wrote when we were sitting. So if I would have seen the minute's maybe I could have discovered the magic of ensuring that the process runs faster. But for now, I suspect they never did the right thing, because I have never seen the minutes.

Promotions where are they? They are complete. We are working on letters and the letters will be out any time soon. Are we letting down the County Government of Bungoma as a Board? No, we are doing the right thing and we will continue doing the right thing and when you see our reports, you will realize that we are actually doing the right thing. Are we committing an illegality by operating without a CEO? At the moment no, because we are allowed by law to amongst ourselves to appoint a member to take minutes and that is exactly what we have done. We have discussed and I am just filling in the gaps of the CS, we have discussed with the CS and I think we were with the Governor as late as last week. We have agreed that he gives us somebody who can come and sign appointment letters and that will be done at the right time. But for now we are proceeding on the basis that one of our members are very competent. By the way I am a CS.

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I am a certified public secretary, so I know how to guide. Under me, I can't say we shall be 100% perfect, but we will be some how near there.

(Laughter)

So there will be no problem. You don't have to see...

(Applause)

...and worry about anything. Intent took too long, it's because we are not computerized and you have never invested money. In fact you should see my write-up. One of the prayers in conclusion is, you must buy a system and it is as cheap as Kshs. 13 million. There can be the most expensive one that cost Kshs 100 million but even just buy a small one of Kshs13 million so that when you now apply... let me tell you what caused the delay out of this five thousands six thousand people you are seeing. We were to sort them by wards because, we believe that going forward.... and I am addressing you passionately. Going forward we should employ at least an equal ratio for wards?

(Applause)

And if you have had a digitalized system, somebody will apply online. If he comes from Tuuti/Marakaru "yote itaenda Tuuti/Marakaru" and will now continue even showing those who are male and female. It will within a week we would have produced this long list which would take one and half month recording every details "wakimaliza gunia moja wanafungua nyingine" and that is exactly what causes the delay. So it's about digital, it's about you. It's about the Assembly investing in systems. If you don't invest in the systems sit back, relax. Don't complain.

(Laughter)

On lack of staff; you know we actually don't have enough staff but we have talked with the CS and he is willing to give us staff. Maybe it is because of the budget issues. Our staff budget I think is Kshs. 22 million and it is not enough to accommodate more employees. And you don't come and first thing "unafika kwa afisi Bwana Spika" then you start asking for a vehicle or more staff "abcd". You also have to study the situation, understand the issue of money and you can see what is actually keeping us even more alert is the issue of 29 million and you want to know where it is.

So the issue of budget is an issue that we need to discuss, convince Nasong'o that we need to do more staff. I will give you an example. Samburu which has about 2900 employees has 35 staff. HR is about eight and of course they don't have a budget. Nakuru with a size of six thousands staff members has about fifteen HR

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staff members. For us we have two plus one Deputy Director supervising the two. So we are under staffed and when we talk about being under staffed we are in a way of asking you to increase our budget. Thank you Bwana Spika.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Members you know they were closing the remarks. Yes, that was it. Yes, is there anything you want to put across?

(Loud consultation)

Yes, CS you are not on HANSARD please. Come on HANSARD.

County Secretary: Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving us an opportunity to come before the House, especially on this issue of recruiting ECD teachers. I just want to pray that this process will not be bungled and we have our ECD teachers in class. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: CS as you are going away, this issue of 29 million, you know you've not spoken about where it is going to? The 29 million was specifically for employment of the ECD teachers. That is it.

(Loud consultations)

Yes, so when we jump to the New Year, what happens to it? Because these people are going, they are very keen on that money... No problem, we'll ask you to come back next week with both chief officers, to confirm this. As the chair of the board is working around the clock with those seven sacks to have them employed, it's no problem. Have a good evening.

Members, let's release them. Still in the County, we can still at least invite them again to appear here for shedding light.

Members, allow me to appreciate them for honoring this invite, but we retain one more invite for the Chief Officer of Finance. I can confirm him with the counterpart Rashid are before the committee of budget in Kisumu. I think allow them to be released. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, CEC. Thank you, CS.

(Officers from the Executive exit the plenary)

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Members, we have a motion. So can we agree when we have the Chief Officer before here? On that Kshs.29 million, we are all being petty. No. At least you must prepare to come... Yes. Thursday? Yes. Thursday afternoon on Kshs. 29 million. But Members, sometimes as you keep on asking questions, I'm asking kindly, have time to look at what they post on our wall because the issue of the payroll we are talking about is on your own wall of the plenary. It's there from the Ministry of Education. So on Thursday 2:00 p.m. Are we together, Members? Now, guide me or move me accordingly for that purpose. On the next item. Read it.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING ON BUNGOMA COUNTY REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Grace you have the duty of moving the committee report but before you proceed, can you confirm the quorum?

Hon. Grace Sundukwa: Speaker, the quorum is overflowing.

Mr. Speaker: No. Honourable Members, I read the names as we confirm. Okay. Chair. Hon. Polycarp, you know the report was asked that time Okay. Godfrey, Aggrey Mulongo, Sundukwa, Makari, Tony...

(Loud consultations)

Even if you count her, Orize, you're not in this committee.

(Loud consultations)

Members, as per that time, the chair was Polycarp and that's not the position. He was not there. He cannot be there in this report as per now. We don't count him. That's the practice.

(Loud consultations)

What? Not around here at the time of calling it. He's not here. Deputy Speaker is here. We proceed.

(Applause)

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And I'm not saying that you give the quorum then you take off.

(Laughter)

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The Committee on Finance and Economic Planning undertook a review of the Bungoma County Revenue Enhancement Action Plan (REAP), developed through an inclusive and participatory process involving County Executives, technical officers, sector departments with the technical support from the Commission on Revenue Allocation(CRA) and the World Bank under the Kenya Accountable Devolution Program(KADP III). The report was received on 8th September, 2025, tabled on 16th September 2025 and consequently committed to Committee on Finance and Economic Planning.

The Commission on Revenue Allocation provides technical assistance in disseminating the comprehensive Own Source Revenue Potential and Tax Gap Action Plan for additional six Counties Bungoma included between 12th and 15th May 2025.

The Revenue Enhancement Action Plan is anchored on the 2022 National study on Own Source Revenue (OSR) Potential and Tax Gap, which was commissioned by CRA to support Counties in strengthening fiscal autonomy, improving revenue administration, and bridging the gap between potential and actual revenue collections. Bungoma County is among the Counties that benefitted from the expansion of this initiative following the successful piloting in other Counties.

The Committee notes that H.E. the Governor appended his signature to the Action Plan on 21st August, 2025, thereby demonstrating County Executive's commitment to its implementation and alignment with County fiscal reform priorities.

Legal and policy framework

The Revenue Enhancement Action Plan is firmly grounded in the Constitution of Kenya and existing public finance laws. In particular:

Article 216(3) (b) of the Constitution which mandates the Commission on Revenue Allocation to define

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and enhance revenue sources for both the national and county governments.

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Article 209(3) empowers County Governments to impose property rates, entertainment taxes, and any other tax authorized by an Act of Parliament, as well as fees and charges for services provided.

The persistent underperformance in Own Source Revenue across Counties has increased reliance on National transfers, undermining fiscal autonomy and sustainable service delivery.

The Committee was satisfied that the REAP aligns with these constitutional imperatives and provides a lawful and structured approach to strengthening Bungoma County's revenue base.

RATIONALE FOR THE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

The Committee observed that Bungoma County has consistently failed to meet its own source revenue targets, resulting in:

- Underfunded approved budgets;
- Weak budget execution; and
- Accumulation of pending bills.

The 2022 CRA study estimated Bungoma County's annual OSR potential at approximately Kshs. 2.9 billion, indicating a substantial untapped revenue base that can be realized through improved administration, compliance, digitization, and enforcement mechanisms

Mandate of the Committee

The Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning derives its mandate from the provisions of Standing Order 217(5) of the Bungoma County Assembly Standing Orders which shall be to: :

- Investigate, inquire and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- Consider quarterly reports of the assigned departments and report to the House within twenty – one (21) sitting days upon being laid;

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- Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- Study and review all County legislation referred to it;
- Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- To vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing order 208(Committee on Appointments); and
- Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation

Committee Membership

The Committee on Finance and Economic Planning as currently constituted comprises of the following members:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Godfrey Wanyama | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Stephen Wamalwa | |
| 4. Hon. Joan Kirong | |
| 5. Hon. Vitalis Wangila | |
| 6. Hon. Aggrey Mulongo | |
| 7. Hon. Violet Makhanu | |
| 8. Hon. Jack Kawa | |
| 9. Hon. Hentry Nyongesa | |
| 10. Hon. Tony Barasa | |
| 11. Hon. George Makari | |
| 12. Hon. Anthony Lusenaka | |
| 13. Hon. Miliar Masungu | |
| 14. Hon. Grace Sundukwa | |
| 15. Hon. Catherine Kituyi | |

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Acknowledgment

The Committee is grateful to the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk to the County Assembly of Bungoma for the logistical support received as it discharged its mandate. Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Committee for dedicating their time to examine the Bungoma County Revenue Enhancement Action Plan report.

It is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning, to present this report on Bungoma County Revenue enhancement Action Plan. It is signed by Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi - MCA West Nalondo Ward Chairperson, Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning.

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CHAPTER TWO

Overview of Bungoma County Revenue Potential

The Committee undertook an in-depth examination of Bungoma County's Own Source Revenue (OSR) potential as established through the 2022 National Study commissioned by the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA). The study applied the Deterministic Frontier Analysis (DFA) methodology, which benchmarks County revenue performance against the average of the best-performing counties within each revenue stream. This approach enabled the identification of both the revenue gap (difference between potential and actual collections) and the revenue effort (extent to which the County is exploiting its available base).

The Committee observed that the estimated annual OSR potential of approximately Kshs. 2.9 billion demonstrates that Bungoma County possesses a strong and diversified economic base capable of supporting sustainable revenue growth if appropriately harnessed. However, actual collections have remained significantly below this frontier, pointing to systemic weaknesses in administration, compliance, enforcement, and data management rather than a lack of taxable economic activity.

CRA Methodological Approach and Its Relevance to Bungoma County

The Committee observed that CRA applied the Deterministic Frontier Analysis (DFA) methodology, which benchmarks each County's revenue performance against a calculated

—frontier derived from the average performance of the five best-performing Counties in each revenue stream. This methodology allowed CRA to:

1. Estimate Bungoma County's theoretical maximum revenue potential under efficient administration;

Quantify the tax gap between

Mr. Speaker: Just hold on, Hon. Allan what is the issue?

Hon. Allan Nyongesa: Thank you Honourable Speaker request the mover to sit down, we can't be standing the two of us...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Grace once I give the microphone automatically resume your seat...You know you can't switch on the microphone it is switched from this side.

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Hon. Allan Nyongesa: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I'm sorry to interfere with Hon. Grace moving the report for Finance, I'm on my feet knowing very well that I am a whip in this House but the report being moved is critical to this House looking at the composition of this House is only Members of Finance apart from the three of us.

I want to move you to Standing Order 38 that is during the proceedings of the County Assembly, that is Standing Order 38 (1) and (2) read together...

Mr. Speaker: Which Standing Order?

Hon. Allan Nyongesa: 38(1) and (2)... I can read for you Honourable Speaker if you are not yet there...

Mr. Speaker: What are you suggesting? ...I'm reading it

Hon. Allan Nyongesa: Okay

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Zeddy what do you want to say?

Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana: Thank you Honourable Speaker, the Member who has been on the floor as a whip I think he has failed his duty. Let him whip his Members because on his side it is empty so that we can proceed with this motion.

Mr. Speaker: The thing is that he has raised a quorum hitch ring the bell we see what happens...

(Bell rings)

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members it is confirmed that the Honourable Members who are present are 10, the quorum has not been raised the quorum is supposed to be 21.

ADJOURNMENT

Based on that, we will adjourn this sitting and resume tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. The motion at hand will be the one starting at page no 7 Chapter 2, 2.2. That's the position and I think the mover is guided that tomorrow she will be the one to continue moving if she is absent it collapses...

(Applause)

(Loud consultations)

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Those are the rules. If you are moving a motion and it is adjourned in the middle it is hard to move again. If you are absent, it is not moved. Then again if there is no quorum, we will adjourn again until we meet the quorum.

(Loud consultations)

Quorum of the whole House and the Committee. Honourable Members when you were enjoying the retreat we were not there.

The House rose at 5:51 p.m.

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