COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2026

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly **5th Session**

Version 00 **Revision 00**

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

WENESDAY 17TH 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

1. ADJUSTMENT OF THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, I wish to make the following adjustments on our Order Paper. The first item on our Order Paper that is the motion of the report by the Committee on Powers and Privileges on technicality of capacity building on the Conflict of Interest Act, 2025 and other integrity framework is hereby removed from the Order Paper and is taken back to the HBC.

No.10. Bills, the Bungoma County Agricultural Institution Development Bill 2025 is taken back to the HBC for a fresh inclusion on our Order Paper.

Item no. 7 under Questions and Statements, we are expecting a response from the CECM from the Department of Tourism, Water and Natural Resources Statement sort by Hon. Jack Wambulwa. It is also removed and it will be allocated time by HBC next week.

2. SUMMONS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE

Lastly, Honourable Members, we had summons to the Chief Officer - Finance and Economic Planning to appear regarding the Kshs. 29,047,027 which was appropriated to recruit ECDE teachers and instructors for VTC. He was supposed to appear here today but has sort for permission on the following grounds Honourable Members;

1. He is a witness in Ethics and Anti-corruption case commission in Mombasa. I will be able to read the letter summoning him.

From the EACC Office,

Robert Simiyu,

Through County Secretary Bungoma County.

Dear Sir,

Sermon to attend court, Mombasa ELC no. 144, 2021 consolidated with case no. 003 of 2023

Joshua Katana Juba verses Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization - KALRO and others.

We refer to the matter above.

This is to notify you that the matter is scheduled for hearing on 15th and 16th day of June, 2026 and you are hereby required to appear in person before the Land Environment Court at Mombasa on the day to testify as a witness of the said of the state. You are further required to liaise with the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission office at Mombasa on or before 14th of June for purpose of conducting a pretrial conference. Our Attorney Ms. Ivonne Ndamu and Japheth Mbaka will be there to take you through pretrial process. That is one of the reasons why he is not able to come today.

2. The Office of the Clerk to the Senate of the National Assembly. The governor is supposed to appear there before the Committee of Public Investments. He was supposed to have appeared and sort for the same therefore its being rescheduled. Governor made a request to appear on 18th so I will read that communication from the County Government of Bungoma Office of the Governor reference Mr...

Honourable members, kindly take up your seats please.

It’s addressed to JM NYEKENYE CBS, Clerk of the Senate P.O Box 41,842 Nairobi. Reference is made to your letter reference senator DGAMCBICSFB/2026/165 of 28th of May 2026 requesting my officer to appear before the above mentioned Senate Standing Committee on Thursday 4th June. Refer to my response of 2nd June, I requesting an extension of one week following bereavement affecting one of my CECM.

I request that I appear before the Senate Committee scheduled on 18th June 2028. So he is not with us here from Mombasa, he will be joining the Governor and the CECM Finance tomorrow at the Senate.

In his own letter he has made a request that we indulge him appear before this House on Tuesday next week 23rd of June 2026. That is his own request as per his dairy. Members, I postpone his appearance today to next week on Tuesday to shed light on the Kshs. 29 million. To that extent

Members, I think we only have one matter on our Order Paper. We will now go on with our Order Paper.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Order no. 33(5). Resumption of business, I will ask the chair to resume from where we stopped as per our part 33(5) of our Standing Order.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula (Chairperson Budget): Mr. Speaker, I will proceed from where I left; that is development programmes on Education.

Q	**Education**					
	DEVELOPMENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Wardbased projects	3110599	269,284,972	269,284,972	86,005,050	
	Supplier credit - not eligible (Savings)			638,669		
	pending bill				3,800,000	
				269,923,642	**89,805,050**	(180,118,591.65)
R	**Trade, Energy & Industrialization**					

	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)	ITEM CODE	ALLOCATION	DECREASES	INCREASES	
	electrictity expenses – energy					
	Domestic Travel - Trade	2210300	4,259,412	2,000,000		
	Training expense – Trade	2210700	1,700,000	700,000		
	Hospitality – Trade	2210800	3,965,351	1,500,000		
	Domestic Travel – industry	2210300	4,022,922	2,000,000		
	Training Expense –Industry	2210700	1,272,405	272,405		
	Other opersting expenses – Trade	2211320	3,300,910	1,000,000		
	other operating expenses - other (WBP3%)	2211399	-		1,513,050	
	purchase of office furniture – Trade	3111001	500,000	500,000		
				7,972,405	**1,513,050**	(6,459,355.00)
S	**Trade, Energy & Industrialization**					
	DEVELOPMENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Wardbased projects	3110599	56,340,690	56,340,690	48,921,950.00	

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	Other infrastructure and civil works (Kamukuywa)	3110504	57,109,942	55,000,000	4,000,000.00	
	Overhaul Other infrastructure and civil works (CAIP)	3110699	40,000,000	20,000,000		
				131,340,690	**52,921,950**	(78,418,740.13)
T	**Gender**					
	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Field allowance	2210309	12,063,738	3,000,000		
	Tuition Fee (training expenses)	2210711	1,840,000	1,000,000		
	Supplier credit - not eligible (Savings)			159,881		
	Field operation allowance (sensitization of circumscisers-600K, Sikhebo -700K)	2210310	6,618,400		1,300,000	
				4,159,881	**1,300,000**	(2,859,880.50)
U	**Gender**					
	DEVELOPMENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	

	Ward Based projects	3110599	3,889,113	3,889,113		
	Renovation and Equipping of Kimilili Library	3110504	4,009,391	4,009,391		
	Equipping of Sang'alo Cultural Center	3110504	1,500,000		4,009,391	
	pending bills sang`alo				4,824,056	
				7,898,504	**8,833,447**	934,943.35
V		**Youth and Sports**				
	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Daily Subsistance allowance	2210303	47,000		1,103,000	
	Field allowance	2210309	13,193,830	2,103,000		
	Telephone, telex, Facsimile and mobile phone services	2210201	-		100,000	
	internet connection	2210202	7,610		50,000	
	routine maintenance of Motorvehicle	2220101	157,760		45,700	
	refined fuel	2211201	655,400		50,000	
	Membership Fees, Dues and Subscriptions to Professional	2211306	295,700	245,700		

	and Trade					
	Catering service -hospitsality	2210801	3,280,354	1,500,000		
	Supplier credit - not eligible (Savings)			78,000		
	Sanitary and cleaning services	2211103	272,000		1,500,000	
	office general supplies	2211101	738,765		2,500,000	
	other operating expenses - other (WBP3%)	2211399	-		684,000	
				3,926,700	**6,032,700**	2,106,000.00
W	**Youth and Sports**					
	DEVELOPMENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Other infrastructure and Civil works - supplier credit	3111504	27,015,369	27,015,369	14,500,000	
	Ward Based Project	3111599	-		22,116,000	
	Sub-Total			**27,015,369**	**36,616,000**	9,600,631.00
X	**Lands**					
	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)		**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	

	Domestic Travel	2210300	6,848,627	3,500,000		
	Accomodation allowance - Training expenses	2210710	1,202,800	500,000		
	Catering service	2210801	2,249,600	1,200,000		
	refined fuel and lubricants	2211201	1,589,400	200,000		
	other operating expenses - other (WBP3%)	2211399	-		351,000	
	temporary expenses	2211320	3,551,370	1,000,000		
	Purchase of Computer	3111002	1,400,000	1,000,000		
				7,400,000	**351,000**	(7,049,000.00)
Y	**Lands**					
	DEVELOPMENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Other infrastructure and civil work (Reorganization of markets)	3110604	9,599,190	7,000,000.00		
	Wardbased Projects	3110599	19,198,636	19,198,636	11,349,000	
	Supplier credit - not eligible (Savings)			1,593,571.00		
	pending bill reallocation from savings				1,100,000	

				27,792,207	**12,449,000**	(15,343,206.65)
Z		**Housing**				
	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Domestic Travel	2210300	5,982,698	4,000,000		
	Training expense	2210700	1,664,000	664,000		
	Office general supplies	2211100	1,703,900	703,900		
	Temporary expenses	2211320	2,303,500	303,500		
	maintenance of residential houses	2220204	1,800,000	1,000,000		
	Supplies and accessories for computers and printers	2211102	220,000		736,965	
	KISIP cofounding	2640503	22,000,000		25,000,000	
				6,671,400	**25,736,965**	19,065,565.00
AA		**Bungoma Municipality**				
	RECURRENT -PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	

	Training expenses	2210700	1,800,000	800,000.00		
	Travel cost	2210301	1,000,000		3,000,000	
	Daily Subsistance allowance	2210302	1,000,000		3,000,000	
	field allowance	2210309	1,200,000		2,000,000	
	field operations allowance	2210310	-		6,000,000	
	Boards and conferences	2210802	3,500,000		6,000,000	
	other operating expenses - other (WBP3%)	2211399	-		2,439,000	
				800,000	**22,439,000**	**21,639,000.00**
AB	**Bungoma Municipality**					
	DEVELOPMENT – PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Ward Based Project	3110599	-		78,861,000	
				-	**78,861,000**	**78,861,000.00**

A C	Kimilili Municipality					
	RECURRENT -PROGRAMMES	ITEM CODE	ALLOCATION	DECREASES	INCREASES	
	printing advertising	2210500	525,000	100,000		
	Training expenses	2210700	3,900,000	2,900,000		
	Hospitality	2210800	4,156,066	2,079,871		
	office general supplies	2211101	560,000	200,000		
	Travel cost	2210301	925,000		3,000,000	
	Daily Subsistance allowance	2210302	1,475,000		3,000,000	
	fiel allowance	2210309	1,408,000		2,000,000	
	fiel operations allowance	2210310	-		5,000,000	
	Catering services	2210801	1,561,066		2,000,000	
	Boards and conferences	2210802	2,595,000		5,000,000	
	other operating expenses - other (WBP3%)	2211399	-		3,060,000	
	Feasibility and appraisal studies	3111403	800,000	300,000		
	Research					

					-	
				5,579,871	23,060,000	**17,480,129.19**
AD	**Kimilili Municipality**					
	DEVELOPMENT – PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Ward Based Project	3110599	-		98,940,000	
				-	**98,940,000**	**98,940,000.00**
AE		**GOVERNOR`S OFFICE**				
	DEVELOPMENTENT – PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Foreign Travels	2210405	15,000,000	5,000,000		
	printing advertising	2210502	5,000,000	1,000,000		
	Supplier credit - not eligible (Savings)			124,698		
				6,124,698	**-**	**(6,124,698.00)**
A		**Public Administration**				

F						
	RECURRENT -PROGRAMMES	ITEM CODE	ALLOCATION	DECREASES	INCREASES	
	domestic travel - Travel Cost	2210301	2,550,986	1,000,000		
	Accomodation allowance	2210302	4,500,000	1,000,000		
	Daily subsistance allowance	2210303	2,500,000	1,000,000		
	field allowances - national celebrations	2210309	7,500,000	2,000,000		
	Training expenses	2210700	7,000,000	2,000,000		
	Hospitality supplies	2210800	1,150,000	150,000		
	Temporal imprest	2211320	2,800,000	1,000,000		
	Supplies credit (rent for black house)	2410104	3,808,164		3,395,796	
	Communication supplies – ICT	2210201	1,212,000	212,000		
	KDSP co-funding		5,000,000		5,000,000	
	Field Allowance – ICT	2210309	4,653,260	1,653,260		
				10,015,2	**8,395,7**	**(1,619,464.0**

				60	**96**	**0)**
A G		**County Secretary**				
	RECURRENT -PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	salaries (Clinical officers arreas)	2110100	-		20,000,000	
	Foreign Travel	2210400	1,000,000	1,000,000		
	Training expenses	2210700	2,499,996	1,499,996		
	General office supplies	2211101	1,511,976	500,000		
	Contracted professional service	2211310	2,500,000	500,000		
	Purchase of furniture	3111001	800,000	400,000		
	HR section - Purchase of furniture	3111001	600,000	200,000		
				4,099,996	**20,000,000**	**15,900,004.00**
A H		**County Attorney**				
	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	domestic travel	221030				

		0	3,500,000	1,500,000		
	Foreign Travel	2210400	1,000,000	1,000,000		
	Training expenses	2210700	1,250,000	250,000		
	Hospitality(Committee boards & conference)	2210800	2,353,600	1,353,600		
	Specialized materials	2211009	500,000	200,000		
	legal dues pending bills	2410104	20,000,000		15,000,000	
	other operating expenses - legal dues	2211308	33,500,000	20,000,000		
	Contracted professional service	2211310	3,000,000	1,500,000		
	Temporary imprest	2211320	1,200,000	1,200,000		
	Furniture purchase	3111001	400,000	400,000		
				27,403,600	**15,000,000**	(12,403,600.00)
AI		**County Public Service Board**				
	RECURRENT -PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	domestic travel - Travel Cost	2210301	3,854,531	800,000		

	Daily subsistance allowance	2210303	7,691,104	2,000,000		
	field allowances	2210309	3,965,706	1,000,000		
	Catering services	2210801	4,402,144	1,000,000		
				4,800,000	**-**	**(4,800,000.00)**
AJ	**Finance**					
	RECURRENT(PROGRAMMES)	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Daily Subsistance allowance - Economic Planning	2210302	3,842,160		3,000,000	
	field allowance - Economic Planning	2210309	2,501,755		3,000,000	
	field operations allowance - Economic Planning	2210310	2,679,600		4,000,000	
	Daily subsistance allowance – Planning	2210303	4,920,775	2,446,450		
	Daily subsistance allowance – Accounts	2210303	4,673,305	2,000,000		
	Daily subsistance allowance – Procurement	2210303	4,361,960	2,000,000		

	field allowance - Economic Planning	2210309	2,501,755		3,500,000	
	Field allowance – Auditing	2210309	3,593,170	1,500,000		
	Field allowance – Revenue	2210309	2,130,909	1,000,000		
	Field allowance – Budget	2210309	3,874,925	2,500,000		
	Field allowance - M&E	2210309	2,692,550	1,000,000		
	Daily subsistance allowance – SPCU	2210309	6,583,612	2,000,000		
	Daily subsistance allowance – Statistics	2210303	3,822,435	1,500,000		
	Daily subsistance allowance - Public Participation	2210303	2,000,000	1,000,000		
	Training expenses - Accounts	2210700		1,000,000		
	Training expenses – procurement	2210700		1,000,000		
	Training expenses - Auditing	2210700		1,400,000		
	Hospitality – Accounts	2210800		1,000,000		
	Hospitality – Auditing	2210800		800,000		
	Hospitality – Revenue	221080				

		0		1,700,000		
	Catering services – Budget	2210801	2,072,500		1,000,000	
	Catering services – Planning	2210801	2,921,180		1,000,000	
	Office general supplies – planning	2211100	620,000		2,000,000	
	Office general supplies – procurement	2211101		1,000,000		
	Office general supplies – budget	2211101			2,000,000	
	Office general supplies - Economic Planning	2211101	537,860		3,500,000	
	Supply of accessories of computer	2211102	150,000		3,500,000	
	office general supplies-Other (economic planning)	2211199	-		3,500,000	
	other operating expenses - other (Finance+WBP3%)	2211399	27,676,761		10,015,000	
				24,846,450	**40,015,000**	**15,168,550.00**
AK		**Finance**				
	DEVELOPMENTENT – PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	

	Emergency fund	2810205	131,000,000	31,000,000		
	Equilization Fund (National govt grant)		-		95,592,537	
	Ward based (purchase of motorbikes	3110599	-		485,000	
				31,000,000	**96,077,537**	**65,077,537.00**
AL		**COUNTY ASSEMBLY**				
	DEVELOPMENTENT – PROGRAMMES	**ITEM CODE**	**ALLOCATION**	**DECREASES**	**INCREASES**	
	Purchase of Motor Vehicle	3110701	8,500,000		1,233,171	
	Purchase of ICT networking and Communications Equipment	3111111	123,589,408	1,233,171		
				1,233,171	**1,233,171**	**-**
	GRAND TOTAL	**DEVELOPMENT**		**2,003,301,401**	**2,003,301,401**	**0.00**

Mr. Speaker, I will not proceed and read the recommended departmental allocations as listed below:

Name of Sector		2026/27 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. SUMMARY ALLOCATION DECREASES AND INCREASES	

	TREASURY INITIAL TOTAL	RECURRENT	Increase /Decrease	NET RECURRENT	DEVELOPMENT	Increase /decrease	NET DEVELOPMENT	COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED TOTALS
Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development	***524,754,427***	59,567,037	***-2,317,550***	***57,249,487***	465,187,390	***68,850,806***	***534,038,196***	***591,287,683.15***
Tourism and Environment	***763,766,343***	364,439,774	***3,350,000***	***367,789,774***	399,326,569	***5,000,000***	***404,326,569***	***772,116,343.00***
Water and Natural Resources	***714,101,878***	45,315,674	3,645,000.00	***48,960,674***	668,786,204	***-2,461,004***	***666,325,200***	***715,285,874.26***
Roads and Public Works	***929,235,158***	32,030,716	***5,645,000***	***37,675,716***	897,204,442	***-65,129,554***	***832,074,888***	***869,750,603.74***
Education and Vocational training	***360,613,057***	66,945,953	***264,159,950***	***331,105,903***	293,667,104	***-180,118,592***	***113,548,512***	***444,654,415.35***
Health	***2,185,216,800***	1,402,216,017	***(26,593,000)***	***1,375,623,017***	783,000,783	***-3,578,936***	***779,421,847***	***2,155,044,864.24***
Sanitati				***1,368,9***	0	***0***	***0***	***1,368,94***

on	1,368,943	1,368,943	-	43					3.00
Trade, Energy and Industrialization	261,749,120	58,416,894	(6,459,335)	51,957,559	203,332,226	-88,418,740	114,913,486	166,871,044.87
Lands, Urban and Physical Planning	147,529,159	21,815,312	(7,049,000)	14,766,312	125,713,847	-15,343,207	110,370,640	125,136,952.35
Bungoma Municipality	130,390,398	47,998,371	21,639,000	69,637,371	82,392,027	78,861,000	161,253,027	230,890,398.00
Kimilili Municipality	120,143,234	53,529,403	17,480,129	71,009,532	66,613,831	98,940,000	165,553,831	236,563,363.19
Housing	412,884,275	57,126,098	19,065,564	76,191,662	355,758,177	0	355,758,177	431,949,839.00
Gender and Culture	50,675,028	41,276,524	-2,859,881	38,416,644	9,398,504	934,943	10,333,447	48,750,090.85
youth sport	65,727,610	37,492,241	2,106,000	39,598,241	28,235,369	9,600,631	37,836,000	77,434,241.00
County Assembly	1,166,461,439	966,961,439	0	966,961,439	199,500,000	0	199,500,000	1,166,461,439.00
Finance and Economic Planning	505,174,197	274,174,197	15,168,550	289,342,747	231,000,000	65,077,537	296,077,537	585,420,284.00

County Public Service	53,918,999	40,686,784	-4,800,000	35,886,784	13,232,215	0	13,232,215	49,118,999.00
Governor's Office	177,205,250	177,205,250	-6,124,698	171,080,552	0	0	0	171,080,552.00
Office of the Deputy Governor	40,408,450	40,408,450	0	40,408,450	0	0	0	40,408,450.00
Public Administration	914,648,857	562,148,857	-1,619,464	560,529,393	352,500,000		352,500,000	913,029,393.00
Sub-County Administration	8,472,553	8,472,553	0	8,472,553	0	0	0	8,472,553.00
Office of the County Secretary	7,305,746,929	7,305,746,929	15,900,004	7,321,646,933	0	0	0	7,321,646,933.00
County attorney	69,601,636	69,601,636	-2,403,600	67,198,036	0	0	0	67,198,036.00
Total	16,909,793,740	**11,734,945,052**	**307,932,670**	12,042,877,722	**5,174,848,688**	**-27,785,115**	5,147,063,573	17,189,941,295.00

Honourable Speaker, having covered that and reached there, I have already referred to the other annexures Honourable Speaker as they are already on page number 72 of the report. So I believe Honourable Speaker, at this point you can allow me to…

Mr. Speaker: Call your seconder please.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I want now to take this time Honourable Speaker to call upon…

Hon. Speaker: You are off HANSARD please.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Yes, to call upon Hon. Francis Maasai to come and second the report.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you Hon. Speaker. First of all I want to take this opportunity to thank the mover of this report who is none other than our Chair, Budget Committee. Honourable Speaker, it has been a tough task going through the report from the morning session to this time. I want to thank him for doing that. Hon. Speaker, and for the benefit of our colleague members, this document is a culmination of very many other documents. It is not just a document that has come before the House but it has come in very many other forms. Hon. Speaker, the genesis of all this is the strategic plan. From the strategic plan, we have the CIDP (County Integrated Development Plan), from there we have those other documents, the ADP, The County Fiscal Strategy Paper, the Debt Management Strategy Paper, the CBROP.

All these, eventually, have brought us to this level where we are now having this Budget and Appropriations report. And Hon. Speaker, for the benefit of our House also, this report was tabled here in the correct time as provided by the Public Finance Management Act. It was tabled here on 30th of April 2024, and Hon. Speaker, as the constitution also mandates us, there was public participation, and therefore, the contents of this report, part of the issues that we have considered in coming up with this report were issues that were raised by the public. They came before us as a committee, some of them brought their memorandum before the committee and they presented. We also had some people from all the 45 Wards who came before the committee and gave their views. So public participation was adequately done to enable the committee to also take into consideration the views of the public.

For instance Hon. Speaker, this time, for the first time we had the Clinical Officer's representatives coming before us with their issues and other members of our service through their unions. And therefore, if you see what we have come up here with, there is some consideration also of those people who appeared before us. We also have what came from the Executive and also the sector committees also gave their recommendations. So we had to balance all those issues to come up with this report. So the envelope that is carried in this report Hon. Speaker is Ksh. 16.91 Billion.

The local revenue for us, the others, most of it is equitable share, around 70% but we have local revenue, which is estimated to rise to around Ksh. 800+ million. You know currently the highest we have ever collected, as our local revenue is Ksh. 485,500,000. That was the last financial year before this one that is running, but the estimate here given Honourable Members in this report and this budget is Ksh. 800+, it is above by Ksh. 225,800,000 above this County Fiscal Strategy Paper sealing.

AIA also you have heard from the report, what they have given as their projection and their target is Ksh1.8 billion and if you look at the historical trend of this AIA, you realize that the highest this county has ever collected in AIA was Ksh. 960,000,000 but the projection given here is 1.8 billion. And the story has been given members, if you have been following very well, what is provided for the facilities to utilize is Ksh1.3 billion. It is now assumed that the balance would be collected by facilities and it will be taken to the departments. And you know what the law says, the FIF law say monies collected at the facility are utilized at the same point. So that is another area that as members we need to know.

Thirdly honourable members, is the wage bill, it is becoming a tough issue. If you look at the consumption, out of the Ksh16.91 billion, the wage bill, personnel emoluments alone is consuming around Ksh7.8 billion, that means it is consuming almost half of what we are getting. That is under personnel emolument. If you look at the percentages it is 46.6%. It is close to half, so it is another issue that members as we struggle balancing the remaining resources because normally, personnel emoluments is first charge then whatever remains has to go to development. It has to go to other recurrent, operational and maintenance issues.

Hon. Speaker, in this report, and this may be the first time that the county government and this Assembly have really struggled to ensure that pending bills are paid because our people, our contractors, our suppliers have had issues. Most of them have been auctioned; most of them have run out of business because of non-payment of pending bills.

The Executive proposed a payment of Kshs. 910Million in the proposal that came before the Assembly and in the wisdom of the committee, they also said we must also be part of the team that is pushing for the payment of pending bills, They enhanced it by around KShs.43Million. Cumulatively, money that is provided for pending bills is KShs.953million. There is a small shortage on our target of KShs.1Billion but at least we can say this report is going to touch the citizenry of this county because most of the pending bills that we have captured here came from the sector committees and they touch our people. People who have supplied goods of KShs.200,000, KShs.1Million and many others of which if they are paid money, will circulate in our County.

Look at the focus of this budget, where has it put a lot of emphasis? This budget, most of the emphasis has been put on the CS's office, that is personnel emolument which is consuming 43.6 percent, that is where most of our money is. Then we have Health which is also key and it is consuming 12.9 percent of the budget, then Water and Tourism, 8.74 percent, County Assembly, 6.9 per cent, Public Service Management 5.5 per cent, Roads 5.5 percent, Agriculture 3.10 per cent, Finance 2.99 per cent, Housing, 2.44 per cent, Education which is also part of our key mandate is 2.13 per cent, then we have trade 1.55 per cent, Governor's office 1.29 per cent, Lands, 0.87 percent, Bungoma Municipality 0.77 per cent, Kimilili 0.71 per cent, Youth 0.39 per cent, County Public Service Board, 0.32 per cent and Gender 0.30 per cent. You can easily get to know the emphasis or the areas that have been really focused on by looking at the percentages.

Honourable Speaker, on Ward-based projects, we maintained what had been proposed by the Executive of KShs.25.5Million and if you look at this report, this time we have attached all the projects that are going to be undertaken in our Wards. As a committee, we were a bit adamant and stubborn in terms of receiving late changes of our projects, because we have had issues with those changes that come very late in the day. We were very adamant and we have the list with us here of the projects that will be done in our Wards under CEF, any member in this House can get to know what is going to happen in terms of Ward-based projects in Siboti Ward or what will happen in West Bukusu. You can check for others, because everything is captured here and we hope procurement will be done in time so that these projects are also done in time.

Again, this is a fundamental change, in the running budget, we had provided 10 percent as administrative cost and you remember members, we put it under a special coordinating unit. It was amounting to KShs.135Million and we reduced it by KShs.22 million, which we put to the office block that time. There were some more cuts but this time, honourable members, in the wisdom of the committee, they are going to apply 3 percent as administrative cost for these Ward-based projects. It implies that if you have a Ward project that is going to cost KShs.1Million, then 3 per cent will be used as administrative cost; it will not be consumed by the project. So if you check on your Ward-based projects at the tail end, you will realize that maybe you had put a project of KShs.5Million but what you see is what remains after deducting administrative fee. We also said the administration cost will be domiciled in the mother departments of those projects. If it is roads, all road projects are done at roads department and the 3 per cent will be domiciled there so that we avoid the appetite that comes when you see a very fat sheep somewhere where you can easily be tempted to take it away and own it.

I have explained explicitly on the pending bills, and the list of pending bills is also provided, at the tail end. Even in your report, honourable members, if you check on your gadget, there is a table or there is a document that shows the priority pending bills per department and the majority of these, honourable members passed through your hands in your sector committees. What may have changed, if you realize there is 0.01 change. That could have come because maybe the project that was mentioned was not supported. There were no documents to prove that that is a pending bill. For those ones that had no duly verified documents, we removed them from the list to avoid eventually paying for something that nobody can be accountable for. You can check all those projects that are consuming the KShs.953 million.

Honourable Speaker, we have a pending bill in the Office of the County Secretary. Our Community Health Promoters have a pending bill of four months and if you do the tabulation, you realize that it adds up to KShs.35Million and these CHPs have had issues and honourable Speaker, this time we are encouraging and telling our Executive to ensure that they provide the money for CHPs in time because it lies under personnel. Why should they be paid after four months or five months and yet the money is budgeted for. We have provided for the four months so that we will not have any issue with the CHPs.

Gratuity also is provided, KShs.30Million. This one will cover those ones who will be going away. We have pension arrears of KShs.100Million. If you look at the history of our county, there was a time they were deducting money from the employees but they were not remitting to those pension firms so we have a lot of arrears. But in this Budget, 100Million is provided for.

Then there was July 2024, the County Government of Bungoma did not remit the housing levy fund of 12,729,703, that is also provided for, to avoid penalties.

Then on personnel, maybe to open it a bit again for members, because these things we meet all the time outside there. We have had issues with the promotion, it is a thorn in the flesh. Promotion is an issue and here they have provided money for promotion, which is KShs.29,639,585, this also encompasses annual increment.

Then you remember members, there was a recruitment of casuals or members on contract of 673, there is a provision of KShs.148Million to convert them into P&P and most of them may have received their letters of conversion awaiting this budget to be passed so that they are paid, these ones come from the health department.

Then on CO-funding, the National Government is giving KShs.107Million and we also co-fund with the same amount so we have put our share also of KShs.107Million to cover 12 months of 2026/2027 financial year.

Then we have casuals, you remember the casuals that went to court and they won several times, although most of them, not all of them have come up, but most of them have been absorbed, and they were supposed to be covered and therefore we have provided KShs.102,420,640 to cover the casuals.

Then we have recruitment. Honourable members, you know in the running budget we provided KShs.29Million for the recruitment of ECD teachers and VTC instructors, there was a provision. Up to now, that exercise has not ended and because of that, there is a provision now that will run from July, assuming that that exercise would be over in the course of this month so that they are taken care of from July. But the amount provided is not adequate. This should be made clear to members, what has been provided here will only cover five months from July. Then we will have to look for further funding to cover the remaining months in our first supplementary budget. What we would have done, we would have solved the issue of lack of staff in our KShs. 244Million and what is provided is KShs.101Million.

Honorable Speaker, the issue of clinical officers also has been taken care of. Initially, from their tabulation and from their memo, they required something like KShs.43Million but when we interacted with the CS's office. It came out clearly that part of those clinical officers are part of the 673 so part of their issues will be covered by the KShs.148Million then the rest will now enjoy what we provided, which is KShs.20Million to cover their issues that came before the County Assembly. So they were heard and something has been done.

Honourable Speaker, in Agriculture, we have NAFCDP co-funding. It is provided, we have KShs.5Million and we put this one to meet the condition that is there. Then NAFCDP grant co-funding work plan was provided to the committee so it is in order and what we have given them is okay.

In Agriculture again, Honourable Speaker, we have also enhanced the farm input provision. What the executive had proposed was 500 bags per Ward and what we have done as a committee is at least to enhance so that we meet the needs of our people. We have enhanced it to 600 beneficiaries per ward. We would have wished to push it to 800, but because of the envelope and the resources, the competing issues, we were unable to reach there, and in the near future if we ever get other resources, we can always provide for that area because it touches the people at our Ward level.

In Education, Honourable Speaker, this budget has provided KShs.5Million for learning materials. In the running budget, we didn't provide, the one that is ending this month but this one we have said learning materials in our ECDs are required, and there is a provision of KShs.5Million. We have a VTC capitation of KShs.20Million to cover all the 80-something VTCs. Remember this is the only money that reaches our VTCs so it is a very critical area.

There is also an enhancement of Ward bursary from Kshs.4Million to KShs.6Million so every Ward will have KShs.6Million to give to the needy students in our various Wards.

Then we have a feeding program, we have provided KShs.20Million although it had issues but from the sector committee's report, they even required more. The sector committee of Education recommended that we add, which may happen in the subsequent budget.

Under Health, on page 29 of our report, we have a new grant that has come which I want members to be abreast of because it will be something that you will be meeting, it is called Building Resilient and Responsive Health Systems. This is a grant of Kshs.93.4Million and it is going to address very many issues including: KEMSA commodity supplies like drugs, non-pharms etc, it will address recruitment, training and the purchase of smartphones for CHPs, it will address operationalization of Kenya quality model for health, it will address procurement of assorted IPC material, heavy duty gloves/boots, it will also address capacity building of facilities in-charge, then preparation and printing of service charters for 30 primary health care facilities ,then there will be induction of health facilities management committees. Most of our committees have never been inducted, this grant has come in handy to help us induct the health facilities management committee. The grant will support HPTs and lab services and project management and M&E. You can see it is a very, very good grant that has come to support the health department in our county.

We also have AMREF that has come in and we have put a co-funding of KShs.50 million for AMREF and AMREF itself is giving KShs.350Million.

In the Health sector members, we have seen there is a provision for the completion of the 300-bed capacity with a provision of Kshs.19Million. This one is also critical for us.

Sometimes we have been dividing these monies for Health and eventually we are accused of providing very little. For example, the total amount that has been provided for drugs alone in this County of Bungoma is Kshs.204Million. In terms of non-pharms and dressing, KShs.190Million, in terms of fungicides KShs.20Million, in terms of chemicals and industrial gases KShs.20Million, Lab materials KShs.120Million, X-ray suppliesKShs.63Million. Members, you need to be abreast of this because sometimes we are accused that we don't provide enough money for drugs, non-pharms and those supposed to be delivered. We also have money for food, purchase of uniforms, purchase of beddings and linen.

Under development in BCRH alone, that facility, they have provided KShs.50Million for the completion of the 300-bed capacity. Remember we have KShs.19Milllion; we now have KShs.50Million going towards that.

Webuye also completion of modern outpatient, KShs.50Million. Primary health care, KShs.50Million for refurbishment and renovation of level 2 and level 3 facilities. Then there is a new thing for BCRH, that morgue is not in good state and we said we must do something. The recommendation of the Health committee was that we put money there so that we construct another morgue so we have provided KShs.10Million for a morgue and you know morgues nowadays are sources of revenue because you can see private morgues are everywhere. For us to give our people dignity, those ones who cannot afford going to those prestigious ones, let us dignify our people by constructing a new morgue.

On Tourism, we have KShs.340Million for garbage collection across the county and this covers 95 markets, there is an addition of many other markets to make it 95 because initially it was lower than this.

Climate change, we have KShs.14Million for institutional support, which is a grant. We have climate change co-funding of KShs.91Million from Exchequer then climate change itself is KShs.308Million. We have BWASCO, we are supporting our body by giving them KShs.15Million...

We have COICA co-funding, we have COICA grant, we have purchase of tools, spares for drilling. Then under Gender, Honourable Speaker, KICOSCA, which is a perennial event, is a yearly event, it is given 12 million, but this is not adequate. The committee sees to the matter that 12 million is not adequate, but in the eventual, maybe supplementary budget, they will see what to do.

Sang'alo Cultural Center, its pending bill is provided fully, so it will be paid. Then Youth and Sports, we have KISA Games, games for the youth, 13 million is provided. Chemoge High Altitude, a pending bill of 14.5 million is provided out of 24 million.

Ndalu Tabani, there is a provision of 1.2 million for a project that was done under Youth and Sports. Under Roads, Honourable Speaker, and this one, the Roads Committee also was very handy, their recommendations were very straight, to the point, and we took their advice seriously as a committee. We have 10 million for equipping of fire station. We have issues with the fire in Bungoma, so there is 10 million provided for it. We have 23 million for Contract framework for Roads, and then we have RMLF, 184, 554, 999.

On Finance Members, we have retention; you remember there was a borrowing of Kshs. 150 million on retention account. They have paid 75, what has been remaining is 75. It is now provided fully, so there should never be any issue with retention again if this money is paid.

Emergency fund was reduced from Kshs. 131 million to Kshs. 100 million. The revenue system, the BAMS, has a provision of Kshs. 25 million. Then equalization fund, Kshs. 95 million for nine sub-locations in Mount Elgon.

The Lands, we have 4.5 for surveying beaconing of public lands, that is 100 parcels. We have bought very many pieces of land, or parcels, but we have not surveyed them, we have not put beacons, so there is a provision for that, 4.5. There is Kshs. 4.4 million for valuation role for Chwele, and then we have 40 million for Matulo Airstrip.

Finally, Honourable speakers, I look at Housing, and this one, Members, you need to know that there are very many grants that are geared, that go to our Municipalities.

That is why Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba is happy; he is smiling because of this budget, because if you looked at the programmes under Bungoma Municipality, almost all the projects that are supposed, meant to be done, will be done by these grants. We were even joking with him that now, why don't you allow us to take the SEF to the rural areas, where there are no grants. It was a joke, but it may be something in the future.

So, CUSIP grant itself is Kshs. 17 million, KUSIP co-funding Kshs. 47 million, and KUSIP 2 grant Kshs. 297 million. Office block Kshs. 9.3 million, Governor's residence Kshs. 24 million, Deputy Governor's residence Kshs. 20 million, and renovation of residential houses Kshs. 5.7 million.

Municipality, we have UIG grant of Kshs. 8.7 million, we have UDG grant of Kshs. 55 million that is Bungoma, all that money is rotating in Bungoma, Kimilili, UIG grant Kshs. 45 million.

Trade, we have Kamukuywa had issues and this one we need to say, the sector committee recommended that we leave only Kshs. 5 million in that vote. And when it came before the Budget Committee, it became very difficult to decide which is the correct variation, because there were two variations.

One was amounting to Kshs. 57 million, a variation report; another one came of Kshs. 65 million, another variation report. So, it became difficult now to say which is which, and why the two, so, in their wisdom they said as it is being reconciled, as they reconcile those variation reports.

CAIP, these are industrial park members. The Industrial Park, so far, the County Government of Bungoma has deposited 125 million to the special purpose account. The national government has deposited 250, it's shared in totality. So, the people who have not done their bit is the County Government. The biggest problem is not even the monies, the monies are there, they are in the special purpose account, but the utilization. The project is at 30 percent, imagine, and we have those lots of money in the special purpose account. So, in the wisdom of the committee we said why should we even put more money there, and yet we have other things that can help the County. So, they reduced it by 20 million and what remained there is 20 million.

On Public Service, medical insurance for our staff, they have provided Kshs. 399 million. We are telling them to expedite the process and pay this money, sometimes they put it in the budget, but they don't pay, eventually, our staffs suffer.

Then we have KDSP co-funding of Kshs. 35 million. KDSP money is Kshs. 35 million, co-funding is Kshs. 10 million. I will finish now by coming to our own House Members.

In the County Assembly, we are running the project, the chambers, we are running the chambers. We have provided some money for the chambers. This financial year, the contractor has not brought any certificate, if he brings, there is money for it, but there is also a provision for it. Public Service Board also has money for it.

So, Members, briefly, that is our budget, that is what is inside, contained in this budget. I now take this opportunity, Honourable Speaker, to second this report. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Benjamin Otsiula, for moving the committee report, and equally, Hon. Francis Chemion, for seconding the committee report. Honourable members, allow me now to be able to propose a motion for debate;

(Question proposed)

Hon. Eric Wekesa, you are the first one to go.

Hon. Erick Wekesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to thank the Budget Committee, under the able leadership of Hon. Benjamin Otsiula, who is and Advocate of the High Court, and not forgetting Bishop as the Vice Chair, Member for Bukembe East. Honourable Speaker, the Budget Committee has demonstrated awareness of the needs of the people of Bungoma by taking the shortest time to come up with such a wonderful document. However, Honourable Speaker, while looking at the Health Department, I'm particularly concerned because we haven't availed much money for hiring more medical personnel, yet we have a lot of Dispensaries.

Honourable Speaker, Health is not about the buildings, but rather the service provided in those buildings. It's a matter of concern that recently we had something disturbing, we hired a lot of unskilled personnel to those hospitals; those who do manual work; and we have forgotten to provide those hospitals with the technical needed staff.

Honourable Speaker, concerning the same Health in FSP, we had Bokoli and Chwele, Level Four Hospitals, allocated some Kshs. 50 million each, which has so far been removed. Honourable Speaker, with the SHA arrangement, any hospital that has a theater earns more. It is an advantage to any facility that does operations, they will get more money. Going forward, I want the Honourable Committee to note that those big hospitals can now do activities using their own money given by SHA.

I want to give an example Webuye Level Four Hospital which is putting up a good wing using their own source given by SHA, because big hospitals receive more money from SHA. Going forward, I wish we consider the low Level Four Hospitals, upgrade them, equip them, so that they can also help our people and decongest these big facilities. I rise to support the report in its entirety with a gratitude to the report writers. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Vitalis Wangila.

Hon. Vitalis Wangila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, allow me to appreciate the mover of this motion, who is none other than Hon. Benjamin Otsiula, and the seconder, not forgetting the whole membership of the Budget Committee. Mr. Speaker, I was keen and my interest was in four areas.

I wanted to see how they have come up with the issue of the pending bills, bursary, and farm inputs. Mr. Speaker, on the pending bill, this is the first time the committee has come out with the list of the companies or the projects to be paid per the department. In future it will be easy to follow up and ensure that the listed companies are paid from the allocation appropriated by this House specifically towards settlement of pending bills in a particular fiscal year. This will help us establish real pending bills in every department.

Mr. Speaker, on the bursary, Mr. Speaker, we as the Honourable MCAs where we come from, parents are already for suffering, they are not able to raise fees for their children. Previously, we had this kitty of the bursary, and we were helping these particular families that cannot be able to pay school fees for their children. I am requesting the Budget Committee, in case there's any other additional funds, I request that they enhance this kitty, so that we continue supporting our needy families.

On Agriculture, whereby they have said they have enhanced the number of fertilizer bags or beneficiaries to 600, I want also to say *heko* to them, but I also urge them, in case there's any chance, please let's enhance that kitty so that more people can benefit. As much as we need a healthy society, most importantly, we need also to have food security. I support the report, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Hon. Jack Wambulwa.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to support this report.

One, I want to appreciate the Budget Committee led by Hon. Benjamin Otsiula and the team that worked on it. Honourable Speaker, my only concern is that, as a county, we need to be serious in matters of revenue collection.

Looking at what they are telling us they collect, Honourable Speaker, if I tabulate as a layman, monies that we collect from CESS alone is almost meeting the target, if we are serious. And we have never even known where this money goes to, both for cane, cereals, and talk of the hard core. Honorable Speaker, the Department of Finance, I think the sector committee, should follow up and establish where money go to.

Other than that, Honourable Speaker, we also have major markets in Bungoma that are doing so well; Kamukuywa, Chwele, Myanga, Mayanja, and many others including Bukembe. They collect a lot of money, both from the markets and the permits. During our time as CAP 265, Honourable Speaker, before local authorities were dissolved, we could collect more than what we are collecting now. What has happened, and we have invested a lot in our markets and major town in Bungoma County.

On the issue of pending bills, Honourable Speaker, I want to applaud the committee for considering allocating funds towards pending bills. My only concern is, were these bills verified. Sector committees, I think we are just in a rush of recommending that they pay pending bills without verifying. I'll give an example of Kimaeti, Honourable Speaker, under Cooperatives, if you go there, you will find that Bumula Cooperative Society was completed by a different contractors, but today, they are paying a contractor who was already cleared by the last regime. He's the same appearing as the one owed, Likifa. Likifa moved away when he was already paid. So how comes again he's being owed over Kshs. 4 million to be paid. We need to be verifying these pending bills before recommending to Budget Committee to allocate funds.

Honourable Speaker, there's also something interesting in this budget, that the Executive did not bother about the rural Wards. You look at their allocations; they are only based in Municipalities and towns. How about these rural Wards that give us revenues. What we are saying is that I am not against municipalities getting, but they also need to upgrade the rural wards markets that are in dire need for repair. I am advocating for renovation of these markets so that they can look clean, they can look presentable for our traders.

You go to most of these markets, they have no toilets, and they have no water. So, we are collecting revenue at the expense of our people. If we are to sensitize them and tell them on the requirements before they collect, Bungoma County will collect zero. They have not done anything for the last over five years, so, something needs to be done in the rural Wards.

On the administration costs, Honourable Speaker, it's good that the Budget Committee has taken money back to the departments. And we also want the departments to release this money to the technical staff. The problem is that technical staffs go out; like roads; including the operators, they go and work, but then when it comes to paying, they don't pay them.

You remember, like we had a committee here investigating on how these funds were used, Honourable Speaker. Do you recall that these workers were never paid, yet the money was released? Where does this money go to? Just like what we had put in the CEF in department up to Kshs. 130 million, up to date, nobody has told us where the money went to yet the workers were not paid. We insist that Sector committees should follow up and make sure that this money is released to the technical team.

Coming to the ECDE and VTC recruitment, I've seen they are allocating money which cannot cater for the whole year, that's about six months. Honourable Speaker, as we talk today, there's money that was allocated in the supplementary budget, the Kshs. 29 million that people are not willing to come and account for in this House. There are always excuses here and there.

I wish this money was rolled over to also help clear the balances for these teachers, so that when they are employed, this money can take care of their salaries. Even though you are allocating this money, my big worry is that we don't have a CEO of the County Public Service Board. So how is the process going to continue and make sure that we employ on time. If we have taken almost six months without employing. Honourable Speaker, that's a concern that I'm raising.

Finally, I also want to appeal to the House that there's a partner who was brought on board by the Department of Education, by the name AIDU. AIDU is doing quite good work in Bungoma County across the 45 Wards. They came in to support this E-learning in ECDEs. And as you are aware, the CBE program requires students to start understanding e-learning from ECD level.

I'm sure every Member is aware of it, they were supposed to get counterpart funding, but the department delayed in moving to the House to declare. We must move with speed to see how we can retain them because they are doing a good job.

They are now in Mukhaweli, VTC, training the trainers to go to the Sub-counties. By next month, they are going to train all the ECDE teachers in the County to see how best they can help our young kids. Something needs to be done towards counterpart funding. As much as I support the report, we might require moving an amendment so that we get an allocation for counterpart funding for this program in the Education Department. Otherwise, I support the report, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Everlyne Anyango, then I'll come to the Leader of Majority.

Hon. Everlyne Anyango: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am on my feet, first of all, to applaud the committee on the work well done. Honourable Speaker, I also want to applaud the mover of the motion for his eloquence and want to thank him that he has done a good job. He has been on his feet from morning up to when he finished in the second session. And I want to say that God gives him more years in this House.

Honourable Speaker, I am on my feet and looking at the committee's work on allocating money on the pending bills that has been everybody's song in this County. One day in this House, I stood on my feet and said, that were it not for the streetlights, Bungoma town would be in darkness as from five in the evening because our people were not being paid.

I want to thank this committee for quoting the companies that need to be paid from the allocation on pending bills. As much as my senior, Hon. Wambulwa has already poked holes on the list that some of the companies were already paid by the former regime, this is something that the committee can correct. To this far what the committee has done to this county is good.

Looking at the money that they have allocated to the CHPs. CHPs are the first doctors. These are the people that meet the sick person at that lowest point. They are even woken up from sleep at night. They walk; some of them do not even have means of bringing the patients to the Health

Centers or to the Level Four Hospitals but looking at what was happening that they have not been paid for four months.

I was meeting some of them in town and they tell me, help us get our money because things are not good. If this House will continue to follow up on what the Committee on Budget has done to the people of Bungoma so that their dues are received on time, we will have our people smile all the way to the supermarkets.

Hon. Speaker, I know sometimes you pass around supermarket in this town. There are no shoppers which simply means there has been low business in this town. The cash flow has been at the lowest point ever.

So looking at what this budget has done to the pending bills owners. People have been auctioned. I was one time talking to Hon. Sundukwa Grace and she told me, a contractor put up a room in one of her health centers and that contractor has not been paid for years now. The contractor is always at her doorsteps every morning, crying. How do you feel if somebody went to the bank, borrowed money and is not being paid? To the committee congratulations.

I will pray that the departmental committees, let's be vigilant and follow up so that the Executive does not again cross-change. Because we have been seeing projects that are done today are being paid and those ones that were done years back are not being paid. Hon. Speaker, I thank you. I thank the committee and I support this motion in totality. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Everlyn Anyango, I will go to the Leader of the Majority, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa and then I will have Hon. Ipara in that order. Proceed.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Speaker. Also allow me to appreciate the mover of this report, Hon. Wakili Otsiula for standing for almost three and a half hours. Again also appreciate the seconder, who has really simplified the report and as you are aware, a good idea always yields to a better idea and a better idea sometimes also yields to the best idea. What I know is that this House now should come up with the best idea so that at least the people of Bungoma can also feel comfortable with this budget.

Mr. Speaker, as we debate on this budget, my mind also goes to the previous budget that we are implementing. It has a lot of challenges which are just man-made. I am also worried that the same budget that we are going to approve today may also undergo some challenges, like the one we are implementing. The Executive side is not here but I urge that the budget should be implemented as approved by this Assembly.

When the seconder was seconding, he used some words that really touched my heart and I went through the budget and saw that actually, we are handling a budget of Kshs. 16 billion and he really stressed. It really touched me and I went through all departments so to see in this Kshs. 16 billion budget, what are my people of Tuuti/Marakaru getting from this? And if you peruse, you may see that my people of Tuuti/Marakaru may only be benefiting with the CEF allocation.

That's where the big question is. As we appreciate the Members of the Budget Committee, will also single down to our votes and see what are we getting. What are our people also receiving? Mr. Speaker, we should also ask ourselves, is it a balanced budget or not? Because we are here to ensure that we represent our people. If I am only going to benefit from the CEF allocation, then I have nothing to say that I am happy with this budget.

There is this thing on municipalities. Municipalities are reaping a lot from this budget, plus the CEF money yet the rural Wards are reaping nothing. So we should look into it critically and see which format the Executive used to ensure that we have a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last budget in this regime. That’s why I am saying we should look into it critically and we are happy that dollar is also coming so that in case we may not do equity on this, then we should use that dollar to ensure that even the Wards are also benefiting.

When meetings of urban centers were being done, they were being held in Kibabii University and when the boundaries were being extended, they extended up to Mayanja Market and unfortunately, my people are being taxed heavily that they are in municipality but I am benefiting nothing. As much as I am approving this budget, my heart is heavy. That's why I am saying we should look into it critically because we are here to ensure that we have equity in terms of distribution of public resources. Mr. Speaker, unless we look into it, then some of us may pass it with heavy hearts.

There are some few issues in this budget I am looking at the pending bills allocation under the Office of the County Secretary starting with the issue of the community health promoters. They have arrears of three months. Mr. Speaker, you are aware that when we passed the current budget fy 2025/2026, there was a full allocation. I don't know now where the three months arrears is coming from. So as much as we sympathize with our people, let the Executive also convince us and say, these arrears is coming because of A and B. So that we know who is this diverting the funds which was meant for the community health promoters. So the Kshs. 35 million for community health workers, I know Wakili when replying, will tell us more about it.

The issue of deduction we were handling it since the previous years but the critical issue that we should look into is on non-remitted House levy for July 2024. We all are earning. When we check our pay slips, our pay slips are deducted on the issue of this housing levy. As much as the seconder tried to inform us on how it came about but this one is automatic. It's also budgeted for in our salary. If we are now again, budgeting extra on the wrong that someone did initially then as a House we shall also be doing disservice to our people. On this remittance, this House should be hesitant unless action has also been taken to any officer who deliberately diverted this amount is when maybe we can approve.

(Applause)

Otherwise we won't.

Mr. Speaker, we have this issue of the casuals, the 463. You are aware that we had some employment of 198, whereby some of these officers were taken care of. When they are employing the casuals some of them also are taken care of. At the end of it, the remaining people were not exactly the 463. If you can also inquire from the County Public Service Board, they will inform you that the people that turned out were about 350. When we are now budgeting for 463, what are we basing on, Mr. Speaker? We are budgeting extra on what doesn't exist.

You heard the CEO of this county allege that we have 1,000 ghost workers. Therefore, when this House approves the budget for 463, we will are also be doing disservice to our people.

On the same issue of 463, there is an agreement in between the union of those workers and the county service board. The agreement was that if they are employed, the issue of arrears should not appear. So if this House could allow me then this 50 million that is meant for these arrears could be added to our bursary so that at least it could help our people.

(Applause)

I have also seen some imbalances in some departments and I don't want to unmask it and I see Members are getting unsettled, but briefly.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

Briefly, we shall see so that at least we come out with the best idea to help this county and also to balance our wards. Mr. Speaker there's an issue of grants that we also need to see and be aware of their work programs. As we are approving this budget, even the Roads Committee is not aware of the work plan of this current financial year on fuel levy. As we are also approving this one, we have no work plan on fuel levy.

So, the determinant factor is the department so, we as an Assembly where shall we intervene? I am praying hard so that at least, if God so wishes that before August or September, we have a supplementary to re-align with these issues so that at least we have some balances in our Wards. Otherwise, I do appreciate the committee and I do support only on few issues that I am saying as a House, we should sit and re-align.

Lastly, as I sit I have also looked at the issue of our administration block with an allocation of Kshs. million and our budget is almost 400 million. Mr. Speaker, do we really hope that it will be completed? Now if we are budgeting only Kshs 9 million on the administration block, what is in our minds? If we are serious on implementing this project then we should allocate enough budgets for it or abandon it because now, the Kshs. 9 million is for what?

There’s an issue on Matulo. We are now getting some information that the same land that they want maybe to sell to the county is already public land. How I wish, through the Chair of Lands Committee, they should go out to establish what is coming out. Because I am told more than 70 acres belongs to the county and the same 70 acres is the one that we want to buy again.

We should dig deep and find out the correct position with regards to ownership of this land because we must have value for money allocated towards this course. Is it private or public land? Hon. Machani can bear me witness, during that time some ill-minded people used to acquire public land illegally.

Otherwise, I support the report with a few amendments aimed at balancing this budget. I support.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First of all, let me laud Hon. Otsiula for standing for over two and a half hours. You know I have first aid skills, and I was preparing to come and save his life if he fell down, but he remained standing.

Mr. Speaker: Lawyers are known to stand for hours. Proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for that information. Lawyers can stand for a whole day. Thank you for that.

I also rise to support this motion, but with several observations. Let me start from where Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, the Leader of Majority, left off. He talked about Matulo. During one of our deliberations, particularly during the interrogations, we discussed that issue in depth and agreed on it. That is why we removed that money, according to the statement of the mover of this particular motion.

The reason we removed that money was that there was no documentation showing whom we were going to compensate. You understand that if today you wanted to buy a small piece of land for use in your ward, the legal requirements are very clear. We were wondering whether those requirements had changed for Matulo. However, I persuaded myself, as I did yesterday and up to a few minutes ago. I said this: I persuaded my heart to accept so that I could follow up gradually and find out how they intend to spend the Kshs 40 million because, on my own and as a committee, we failed to obtain those documents.

I also want to persuade the majority that we should allow them, as you have just requested, so that the committee and I can make a follow-up. In statements made by the Executive at one time, they said our boundaries extend to an area covering 70 acres. We were therefore wondering, with regard to the runway and the expected boundary, how far it stretches. Nobody was willing to provide those details. So I want to persuade ourselves that we should allow this money to remain where it is and then follow up to find out how they intend to spend it so that we can hold somebody accountable for any mischief.

Hon. Speaker, before I go further, I would like the mover of the report to go to page 59. In particular, I want to draw his attention to the bullet on O&M, where an expenditure of Kshs 152 million is indicated. Perhaps when you respond, you can clarify that. Secondly, on the same page, I would like you to look at the bullet on PFM staff, where an expenditure of Kshs 21 million is proposed.

As they were talking about this, I was reminded that non-pharmaceuticals in hospitals are used for prevention, while drugs are used for treatment and control of diseases. Therefore, as we discuss these matters, we need to make observations on the two. Is our intention to prevent diseases so that we do not allow them to spread further, or is our intention to treat and control them?

A very serious issue is the one concerning Community Health Promoters, and it has been mentioned by those who spoke before me. Community Health Promoters are the first people who rush in to prevent conditions from worsening. They are the ones who prevent lives from being lost. However, the way we have treated these people in our county is unfair and inhumane. That is why I also want to join hands with the Hon. Leader of Majority. If we indeed allocated money for them during the current financial year, why are they not being treated like any other worker in this county?

I want to talk about mandatory deductions. The law is very clear. The word itself, "mandatory," means something that must be deducted, with the knowledge and consent of the worker. There are statutory deductions such as PAYE and others. There are also contributions made by members of staff to organizations they have voluntarily joined, such as SACCOS.

This money is deducted, yet it fails to reach its intended destination. Among these recommendations, perhaps in the future, since they are not included now, we must recommend criminal action against the perpetrators—those involved in the diversion of that money. Every time we simply compensate silently because, when we allocate money, it amounts to silent compensation by replacing funds that were supposed to be used for another purpose. This has encouraged those working for the county to misuse the positions and authority they hold.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the committee, particularly regarding pending bills. Whether due diligence was undertaken or not, I am assured of one thing: before payment is made, an examination is conducted to ensure that the payment meets the requirements of a genuine payment.

Honourable Speaker, they have done it. So many people have died, so many people are under deep stress, and so many people, as we speak today, are deep in their graves. The reason is a government that is on a spending spree, spending every penny along the way and showing no concern for the welfare of those who provide services to us.

As I come from Tongaren, you may remember that people used to refer to Tongaren as *Matopeni*. However, through those people we often misuse and criticize; the contractors; today I am able to reach Tongaren without encountering mud. I want to thank the Committee; they have done well on bursaries, farm inputs, and particularly on roads.

My desire was that we could have ring-fenced all this money that we are giving these departments. The reason I say this is that if you look at our own-source revenue, based on their own declaration, they have set themselves a target of over one billion shillings. My wish was that whatever they declare they are able to collect should be allocated to their own recurrent budget. The other money brought from the equitable share should then be redirected to cater for the necessary and mandatory requirements of our people across the county. If that is done, we shall save these valuable resources.

Let me talk about personnel salaries. In the words of the mover of the report, he said that the calculation is based on estimates. Those are his own words, and you can find them on page 12 of the report. Where on earth; or even in heaven; are calculations based on estimates when you have actual figures?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, none of us has been to heaven, so we cannot know which formula they use there, please.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for that reminder.

Mr. Speaker: And even me, I am not ready to go to heaven.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am worried.

Mr. Speaker: On page 12?

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: On page 12, in the first paragraph towards the end, he used the words, "based on estimates." You may remember that at one time, through the medical cover, the figures were 6,229. Then, after a payroll cleansing exercise, the figures increased by 1,000. Today, here we are saying that it is based on estimates.

We are losing a lot of money that could have been directed to very useful purposes. I want to laud the Committee when they said that they would not allow money collected from health facilities, or a portion of it, to be brought to a central point. I want to agree with them. This money is supposed to be used within those local facilities to assist the people, as stated earlier by Hon. Eric.

You find that money is taken away instead of being left in Chwele, Kabuchai, Mukololwe, Tongaren, and Lukhuna. This is unnecessary, and we should not allow it to happen.

This confirms one thing that has always worried me: this government is a violator of every part of the law. They respect none of it; they only respect their own wishes. We should not allow this while we are seated here. Let us not allow it. History will judge us harshly.

Lastly, let me commend this Committee, particularly for deciding to decentralize the 3% administrative fund. You may remember that during the current financial year, Kshs 135 million was centralized at one point. When we called for the first meeting, we found that Kshs 91 million had already disappeared. When we wanted to find out who had authorized the disappearance of that money, nobody had those details. That is why I say this is a government that violates every part of the law.

Let me now finish by referring to A-in-A expenditure of Kshs 2.7 billion. Perhaps the accountants are here, and the CPA holders are here. Is it possible that if this money is collected by our health facilities and other departments, it can have an impact on the main budget from the equitable share? Can it help us reduce what we allocate to them, considering that they also receive this revenue? You will guide us on that. I submit and support.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Martin.

Members, once you have made a request, stop there because Hon. Orize has been requesting non-stop. Therefore, he will be the last one on the list. So, Hon. Martin, then I will go to Orize.

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I also join my colleagues in commending the Budget Committee for coming up with a report and a budget that are responsive to the people's needs.

I want to start by commending the Committee, especially on the provision of co-funding. We know that donors and development partners often show willingness to finance projects, but with certain conditions attached.

If we do not meet those conditions, we will definitely lose out. These grants provided by donors go a long way in filling financial gaps during project implementation. These grants are usually intended to benefit local communities, especially those in rural areas. If we lose out on them because of failure to provide co-funding, we will miss essential services needed by our people.

In particular, the provision for the KOICA funds and the FLOCCA climate funds is going to help us implement important projects.

Secondly, I also want to commend both the Budget Committee and the Sector Committees for addressing the issue of variations and trying to compare them critically.

For example, in the Trade Sector, there were conflicting figures regarding the Kamukuywa variation, and the Committee stood firm in establishing the correct figure to be used for budgeting purposes. Variations have often been used as conduits through which the Executive siphons public funds for its own purposes. Therefore, kudos to the Committee for taking a firm position on this matter.

I also want to commend the Health Sector Committee and the medical superintendents for coming up with almost actual figures regarding expenditures at health facilities. According to the report, there was some tampering by officials in presenting the proper figures. I thank you for identifying this issue and also for allocating Kshs 20 million to Cheptais Sub-County Hospital.

On the issue of bridges, however, I beg to differ slightly. The removal of Kshs 11 million from the bridges budget and directing that the funds be sourced from the emergency fund may not be appropriate. The emergency fund is not meant only for bridges.

Suppose there is a warning of El Niño, the emergency fund may be required for resettling affected people, assisting flood victims, or responding to disasters such as fires. This emergency money is not intended solely for bridge construction.

Therefore, I think the Chairman can consult with the Chairman of Roads so that this Kshs 11 million remains in the bridges allocation, at least to ensure that some work is done on the bridges rather than relying entirely on the emergency fund.

Finally, there is the issue of payroll management and recruitment. The County Public Service Board had proposed a digitized recruitment process, whereby promotions and other human resource functions would be handled digitally to eliminate the problem of ghost workers.

In fact, the Public Administration and Labour Committee, following a statement requested by Hon. Kawa, has been grappling with issues involving even ghost directors; people purporting to hold positions as directors. Obtaining this information manually is proving to be quite difficult.

I would have suggested that the money reduced from the County Public Service Board's budget be reinstated so that we can begin the digitization process, particularly the digitization of recruitment procedures. This would help us avoid situations such as those described by the Chairman, where the Board has to deal with approximately fifteen sacks of application letters.

That is a heavy workload, especially considering that the available human resource capacity is inadequate and, in some cases, borrowed from elsewhere. I think the Honourable Committee responsible for recommending the appropriation of this budget should consider this proposal. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cheseto. Now, I will go to Hon. Juma Orize.

Hon. Orize Kundu: Asante Bwana Spika kwa kunipa nafasi. Mimi kwangu nashukuru kwa kazi amabayo Kamati ya Makadirio imefanya, kwa muda wote ambao wamekaa wakapangia kaunti hii mikakati ya kuendeleza kaunti yetu.

Kwangu mimi hii bajeti ya mwaka huu imefika Billion 16. Jinsi mtangulizi alisema, mwananchi wa kawaida faida anapata ukifanya tathmini ya Billion 16 ni chache sana. Kwa maoni yangu kitu ambacho kinasaidia mwananchi wa kawaida kwa mfano sisi wajumbe wakati unafanya maombi ya karo ya shule umepewa millioni nne lakini ukijuumisha maombi yanafika milioni zaidi ya kumi na mbili. Lakini kwa sababu ya uhaba wa pesa unafanya kulingana na pesa iliyopewa. Hii ni ile faida ambayo mwanachi mdogo anapata kwa hiyo bajeti

Kwangu mimi tukifanya makadirio pia tuangalie seheme ambayo mwananchi anapata faida pia ajiskie pia kama Mkenya. Kwa sababu pia anachangia ushuru wa nchi hii na wakati wanafanya makadirio ya nchi lazima pia yeye apate faida. Bungoma imepata shilling billioni 16 lakini mwananchi wa kwangu nyanjani kule Siboti mimi sina hata soko,kwa wadi yangu. Kitu ambacho anapata pekee yake usaidizi wa karo ya shule.

Jambo lingine wakati wa kugawa mbolea tumepewa mbolea mifuko 500 lakini wale ambao wameandikisha ni maelefu ya watu. Hivyo basi unalazimika kugawanya mfuko mmoja jwa watu wane au hata watano. Kwa sababu ya umaskini licha ya kugawana mfuko mmoja zaidi ya watu wane wote wanaenda nyumbani kwa furaha.

Mimi wakati tukifanya kampeni na Gavana aliwahakikishia wananchi kwamba mbolea itakuwa mifuko elfu moja kwa kila wadi. Mimi nilijua kwamba Kamati ya Makadirio italeta ripoti mwaka huu kwamba wamefikisha mifuko 1000 ya mbolea. Lakini naona wameongeza kutoka mifuko 500 hadi 600 pekee.Na kuna pesa zingine zimelala mahali ambazo hazisaidii mtu wa Bungoma.

Kwa mfano uwanja wa ndege wa Matulo haufawaidi wa tu wa Bungoma pekee. Maoni yangu hiyo pesa ambayo wangeeka Matulo irudishwe iwanunulie watu wa Bungoma mbolea wafurahi nayo. Ahsante Sana.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ali Machani.

Hon. Ali Machani: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me to add my voice to this debate.

First of all, I want to thank the Honourable Members who took the time to come up with this document. It is not their document; it is our document, originating from both the Executive and the Assembly. I also want to thank the Secretariat, who, despite their other engagements, took time to assist the Budget Committee with the technical expertise required to come up with this document.

Every year, we approve such a document in this House, and over the years, we have consistently been on record appreciating the Committee for the work done, while also making changes to the Budget so that our people can receive services.

As many Members have pointed out, we are going to work with a budget of Kshs 16 billion. My biggest concern, as I support this report, is the implementation of this document once it is approved by this House. It is not all about the money that I see. It is not all about the nice words we are using. My concern is that we are now left with only one year before we go to elections. As elected Members seated in this House, we will be judged largely on this budget.

Wherever you come from, you are aware that candidates are already emerging. They are talking about the Kshs 13 million we were given under the CEF. They are talking about the bursaries that we did not push for until now, when elections are approaching. It is only now that we are coming up with bursaries. They do not know the other things we have done.

The implementers of this budget are the same people who have mishandled previous budgets approved by this House.

How sure are we that when we give them this budget, they are going to implement it according to the needs of the people? Things outside there are not favorable for us, and Members can agree with me. Unless a Member spends no time in their ward, if you go to the ward and listen to the people, you will realize they are very serious about finding ways to remove Honourable Members and bring new faces into this House.

Therefore, how we unite and speak with one voice regarding the implementation of these projects is what will save us. The mother committees in this House should conduct serious oversight.

Whether you have been allocated money or not, I have seen Members serving on the Budget Committee. If you look at Agriculture, just examine what has been done there.

Honourable Members of the Budget Committee, I do not want to expose anyone, but please examine carefully what has been allocated. I do not want to join my colleagues in saying that Maraka has not benefited from anything. However, it is important that when you serve on the Budget Committee, you also remember that you represent the entire House.

I would like the member who will be responding to tell us what has been allocated to Agriculture. In Agriculture, we have the milk processing plant in Webuye, and milk coolers are distributed across different wards. I wish something had been done under the same programme so that we can improve livestock production because the majority of Members have decided to use CEF funds to improve livestock farming.

Previously, we approved budgets, but after approval, what eventually reached the ground was different. After approval by the Controller of Budget, things always changed. I do not know what measures we have taken, and I think you are the ones to guide us, so that this House does not continue facing the same challenges it has experienced before.

We have been approving budgets here, but once they leave this House and go to the Executive and the Controller of Budget, when you compare the final implementation against the approved budget, things have always changed. That is my biggest concern.

Away from the CEF, which is the Ward Fund, Honourable Members in this House, I wish we could consider improving the Kshs 25.5 million allocations we have approved. There is no county project that an ordinary *mwananchi* can point to in Chepyuk, Soy Sambu, or Bumula apart from ward projects.

For county projects, the majority of contractors do not even want to submit tenders. Even now, for some of our projects, contractors are afraid to submit applications. You will see advertisements published three or four times, yet no bidder turns up. What does that indicate to us?

It indicates that if we cannot enhance and protect the Ward Fund, which is CEF, we are not going to attract contractors in this County because of the way much of the work under the Executive is being handled.

Even when you look at those pending bills, they exist because, as a County, we took too long to pay reputable contractors from the North Eastern region and elsewhere. I cannot say much because they know themselves. That is where we have attracted so many penalties.

This County is facing challenges because of the roads, the stadium, Kamukuywa, and Brigadier projects. We could have been much further ahead.

If you compare what the Assembly is doing and what the Executive is doing, the difference is very significant. How do we address this? By improving our oversight, especially over the Executive, because we are giving this budget to the same people who have been mishandling it. Honourable Speaker, if we could increase the fertilizer subsidy so that a bag costs KSh 1,000, the ordinary *mwananchi* would feel the impact.

If we can get money from O&M, I do not know the exact meaning behind it, but we have budget analysts and experts in this House who can tell us whether it means Operations and Maintenance or something else. If O&M has been allocated Kshs 152 million, why can't we adjust it and obtain some meaningful funds to improve bursaries?

Some of us have been winning elections because of the ordinary *mwananchi* at the grassroots level. When you pay Kshs 5,000 for a student in a day school, the parent only needs to add Kshs 4,000 and the year's fees are settled.

How I wish we could increase bursary allocations from Kshs 6 million to at least Kshs 8 million. If every ward received Kshs 8 million, it would benefit all wards equally because bursaries are one of the few programmes that cut across the entire County. Other projects may be concentrated in townships or urban areas.

I have not seen the milk processing plant mentioned here, yet it consumed a significant amount of money. Although it is located in Webuye, it will benefit the entire County. I have not seen anything mentioned for Maraka. The Chair is aware that under Youth and Sports there is a pending bill which I thought could have been addressed, but I have not seen it included.

We also need to create more firefighting stations across the County. As much as we are talking about the County as a whole, how will we respond to emergencies arising in Mt. Elgon, Brigadier, or Bumula? The time taken to travel from here to those areas in response to emergencies is a loss to this County.

How I wish money could be reallocated from other sectors because we are merely giving the Executive resources to campaign for senior leaders in this country who are not particularly concerned about this County.

We have a firefighting station in Webuye, but I have not seen it mentioned here. Similar facilities were started in other areas, yet no money has been set aside for them. As we discuss municipalities, I am also concerned because of the frustrations my colleagues have experienced. I do not know how things will be handled, but I hope circumstances will improve.

However, we have not set aside any money to deal with the new municipalities. I am aware of what is happening in Sirisia. The town committee for Webuye Town has already been gazetted, yet I have not seen any money allocated for feasibility studies or any activities necessary to fast-track the operationalization of Webuye Municipality.

To be honest, this County treated Webuye unfairly in the past. The first municipalities to be gazetted were Bungoma and Webuye. Kimilili became a municipality following a pronouncement by the late Elijah Mwangale when the President visited Kamusinga.

If you check the records, you will find which municipalities were originally commissioned and issued charters. However, because of politics, Webuye was left behind. Now that it is almost becoming a municipality. I thought the Committee could use its wisdom to set aside some funds to accelerate the process. The Lands Department also needs to establish what properties we own in Webuye.

I know one of my colleagues mentioned that people used to acquire land illegally. In this country, many things happen that cannot be openly discussed in this House. However, there is a lawful procedure for acquiring land. If you follow the correct procedure, there is no illegality. If you do not follow it, then it becomes illegal.

In Webuye, I heard one Member say that Webuye Hospital is putting up structures using SHA funds. At the same time, Webuye is helping to decongest Bungoma Referral Hospital. How I wish we could empower sub-county hospitals because they help decongest the referral hospital. We can achieve this by improving health facilities in the constituencies we come from.

If an Honourable Member falls sick today, they will automatically be referred to Bungoma. Imagine someone coming from Chepyuk or Soysambu. If we do not improve facilities such as Naitiri and Bumula hospitals, then we are not serving our people effectively.

My biggest concern, as we express our views on this budget, is that we must strengthen oversight. The Implementation Committee and the parent committees have a responsibility to provide oversight.

From now until August, we must see projects progressing. Otherwise, if projects are implemented next year when campaigns have already begun, people will claim that they are being done for political reasons. I can see that today we shall take a very short time to approve this budget. Thank you. I support the budget as it is, subject to adjustments in certain areas.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Stephen Wamalwa.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I feel I also have to give my observations and contribution regarding this very important document and report.

First of all, let me commend the mover of the Motion, the learned advocate of the High Court, Hon. Jeremiah Benjamin Otsiula, for his eloquence and determination in standing through the many hours required to move this Motion.

I also commend the entire membership of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, together with its Secretariat, for the work they have done in bringing before this House the highest budget estimates in the history of this County.

This being the highest budget estimates ever, I want to believe that the County Government will purpose to implement it. Last year, we had a budget here, but the Executive deliberately chose to implement it according to its own preferences rather than according to the aspirations of this House.

That is a fact, and we all know that we have a Government that may not always prioritize programmes that benefit the people, or perhaps they have their own reasons for doing things the way they do.

Therefore, we hope that this year the County Government of Bungoma, particularly the Executive; will implement this Budget in the interests of the people of Bungoma.

It would be unfortunate, especially because this is the last fully implementable budget before elections, if the Government implements it in the same skewed manner that it has implemented the current budget.

The Budget Committee mentioned the issue of rollovers. I hope measures will be put in place to ensure that projects earmarked for implementation but not completed on time will have their funds rolled over so that implementation continues and the problem of pending bills is addressed.

Some of these pending bills we are experiencing are deliberately created by the Government. The Government is not keen on paying contractors or settling bills for services rendered to this County Government. As a result, pending bills accumulate, and then the same Government turns around and complains about pending bills.

Where I sit, and I know many Members agree with me, the Government is not genuinely committed to resolving the issue of pending bills.

This being the final year before elections, I am worried. I do not know whether they are going to pay these contractors. I am a worried representative of the people of Bungoma because we have a Government that is not keen on paying some contractors who have been auctioned, lost their property, become sick, developed high blood pressure, and suffered other hardships, while those entrusted with safeguarding public resources remain healthy, merry-making, travelling, and flying around.

Last year's budget was not implemented according to the wishes of this House. Let us hope it will be implemented properly this year. I have some issues that I want to raise here.

First, devolution is with us, and the spirit of devolution was that development should reach every corner of this country. That is why resources are allocated to each of the 47 devolved units, with Bungoma being one of them. Once those resources reach Bungoma, they should be further devolved to every corner of the County.

The spirit of devolution is equitable distribution and equity in the sharing of resources. These resources may not be enough, but they can be shared equitably so that every region of this County feels part of the Government.

What is happening in Bungoma today can be compared to what happened during the Moi era, when those who sang the *Nyayo* tune received development, while critics of the Government were sidelined. Bungoma was once told, *"mtakula bakheba yenu."*

Today, in Bungoma, the Government appears to want to punish communities that criticize it. They can even transfer people or misplace them. This is the Government we are serving—our Government, a legacy Government.

Where I sit, I feel that we are not living according to the spirit of devolution. Equity in Bungoma is a concept that this Government does not seem to understand. Development allocations are skewed. The Government is allocating resources in an uneven manner, and it does not require rocket science to see that.

Look at the grants from donors. They are distributed in a skewed manner, favoring certain areas while leaving out others. I do not want to speak specifically about the region I come from because it may appear that I am defending my area. Instead, I am speaking on behalf of the many rural areas that have been neglected, while others are favored because of their relationship with the Government.

Areas such as Tongaren and Kiminini Ward appear completely neglected. It is as though, if they could throw a bomb there and disperse the people, they would. That is how our Government is sharing resources through this Budget.

When you examine the proposals from the Executive, they are heavily skewed.

Secondly, on resource sharing, I want to beseech our colleagues that if we are talking about KSh 25.5 million per ward, then let us remain faithful to that principle. Furthermore, let us ensure that whatever little is available is distributed across every needy area. That would uphold the spirit of devolution and equitable sharing of resources. At some point, this budget falls short of that standard, and we have observed it.

The issue of local revenue is also mentioned in this budget. I feel that the Government is using local revenue projections to create other problems. Every time the Executive appears before this House, the common refrain is that they did not realize enough local revenue and that this is why they are unable to address various issues. If that is the case, then it beats logic that they continue projecting high local revenue figures.

Where I sit, I feel the Executive is again projecting unrealistically high figures so that later they can use revenue shortfalls as an excuse for failing to address certain issues. They can then blame local revenue collection.

I suggest that we address this issue before we go any further. We should even consider setting lower projections. If we collect more than projected, we can always bring the money back to this House for appropriation.

Projecting unrealistically high figures may appear attractive to Honourable Members and the public, but it later becomes an excuse for failing to implement projects, failing to pay contractors, and then saying, “We did not collect enough revenue.”

(Applause)

That is where the rain is beating us, Honourable Members. In fact, it will not just be ordinary rain; it will be a hailstorm, and it is coming.

Honourable Members, when you look at page 15, there is the issue of deviations and reallocations to priority programmes. I want to ask the House: which are these priority programmes that the deviations are intended to address? Priority programmes should not mean office facilities, local travel, hospitality, and similar expenditures. Perhaps that is what some people consider priority programmes.

They are not addressing critical issues such as ambulances. In this County, there are remote areas where hospitals are dilapidated and in poor condition. When people fall sick, they have to travel long distances to seek medical attention. This Government cannot prioritize the purchase of ambulances, yet according to them, that is not a priority programme.

The County Public Service Board, which is responsible for employing people in this County, does not have a single vehicle. I have not seen the Executive proposing the purchase of even one vehicle for the Board because, apparently, that is not considered a priority programme. Which are these priority programmes?

This is the Government we are serving; a Government that feels everything is fine. Yet this is the last budget before elections.

On the issue of pending bills, I am worried because I have been here long enough to know that the Government can pay when it wants to pay and can refuse to pay when it chooses not to. Who stopped the payment of Community Health Promoters, and why? We had a budget for that programme.

What stopped the payment of gratuity? Gratuity is part of an employee's compensation package and forms part of their earnings. We budget for it in this House. Who stopped those payments? Now they have become pending bills.

What about pension arrears, Honourable Members? Who failed to remit those funds? We have been budgeting for pensions in this House.

Let me say this today. We cannot continue shielding people who make mistakes while money meant for the people is mismanaged. Who is the Chief Officer who failed to remit pension contributions? Who is the CEC Member responsible for these failures? Why is it that up to today we have not heard of any arrests or disciplinary action against officers who have mismanaged funds meant for the people of Bungoma? Instead, this House is forced to sanitize the situation by budgeting to cover the messes created by officers who misuse taxpayers' money.

On the issue of the non-remittance of the Housing Levy, Hon. Speaker, you are the Chairperson of the County Assembly Service Board. If I fail to remit my Housing Levy for one month, what happens? Can this Assembly then come and budget for my failure to remit? Can the Assembly decide to pay on behalf of Hon. Stephen Wamalwa because he failed to remit? Perhaps I am confused and need to be educated on this matter. I believe there is something I do not understand because if an officer fails to remit, recovery should be made from that officer automatically. Why then are we budgeting for this?

The issue of casual workers has already been canvassed and discussed, but I want to be factual and precise. Out of the 463 casual workers, only 358 were absorbed. I want to be specific about that. Only 358 were absorbed, while the rest were not. Yet we are being asked to budget for all 463 workers, and we know very well that we do not live in heaven. I have never been there. I will only decide to go there when my time comes.

Mr. Speaker: You are too young to go to heaven. Even I am not in a hurry.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: So why are we budgeting for them?

Secondly, as I said, we do not live in heaven. We live here in Bungoma, and we know very well that there was a discussion concerning the arrears owed to these casual workers.

It was agreed in principle that they would be absorbed without any issue of arrears. Yet today we are presented with a budget those factors in those arrears. Who is fooling whom? There is a problem.

Honourable Speaker, there is also the issue of the feeding programme. We have to look back and review the implementation of the previous budget; how was this feeding programme addressed and implemented? Was it successful? Because we budgeted for it.

There is something about the feeding programme, whatever little is there, but we are asking: has it been handled well? Or is it another conduit for people to make money? I want to agree that feeding our children is a good programme, a very nice one, but are we doing it right? Honourable

Speaker and Members, in our wards, I do not know how many of you can stand up and confidently say that the issue of the feeding programme in your ward has been very successful. I dare to ask.

Honourable Speaker, on the issue of roads, in the last budget, whose utilization we are now finalizing, we had the issue of fuel for every ward. I am very sure that maybe all these Honourable Members from the 44 wards, apart from Soysambu, had their roads worked on using the fuel that we budgeted for because in Soysambu, it was not done. Honourable Speaker, you can look at the mood of the House; there was no such thing, yet we made a budget for the same, and the CECM for Roads is now in Finance. We have a lot of questions.

Today again, on pages 42 and 43, they are talking about supply credit of a whopping Kshs. 136,174,210. The amount has been enhanced by Kshs. 4.7 million to clear deficits in the verified pending bills. Honourable Speaker, which pending bills are these? The Leader of Majority here knows that there was a time recently when someone was forcing the payment of some contractors for non-existent projects in Roads. Honourable Speaker, we are aware, and we even know the roads in question. So, is part of this money going to address such things?

I am a worried person. These pending bills that they are talking about; which ones are they? This House has to know before they are paid. We are not going to allow money to be expended to address services rendered only on paper, like the issue that happened in NYS. If you are not careful, it is going to happen in Bungoma. This is a lot of money that should be used to buy medicine or provide bursaries for needy students in our wards, Members.

I also want to believe that the issue of the Brigadier Road is not part of this. I come from Brigadier, but we budgeted for that road in the last budget, and we allocated every penny required to complete it. Therefore, they should not bring this issue of variation as a conduit to get extra money. They have to tell us where the money went.

Honourable Speaker, there is also the issue of youth, and it is unfortunate that the Chairperson for Youth is not here. When we talk about youths in this county, what can we pride ourselves on? Can we say that we are supporting the youth when we only have tournaments? Are tournaments empowering the youth? Is the government keen on empowering the youth of Bungoma?

Honourable Speaker, where I stand, I say no, they are not ready because last year, in the previous budget, we had Kshs. 30 million that was supposed to address the issue of youth empowerment by ensuring that they could participate in tendering. After they secured tenders, because we know they have no capital, they could then come to the government and obtain a loan so that they could undertake the activity or project. Upon completion, the government would recover its money, and the youths would also benefit from the proceeds. Honourable Speaker, when we say that 10% of tenders are reserved for the youth, are we true to the spirit of that commitment? Do we mean it? Honourable Speaker, I say no.

In Bungoma, the government believes that empowering the youth means organizing tournaments, football matches, and having them on social media to abuse our opponents while giving them handouts. According to the Government of Bungoma, that is empowerment. For me, I believe otherwise. Where is the money that is actually going to address the issue of youth participation in the development of this county through tendering and contracts? There is nothing, Honourable Speaker. This is our government; this is Bungoma. I am not happy.

Honourable Speaker, I have an issue regarding lands on page 46. Honourable Speaker, the land in Matulo is not being given adequate attention by the government. This money is simply being allocated, and perhaps a vote created, which will later be used at the supplementary budget stage for something else. That is what I can say because if the government was serious, we would have addressed this issue of Matulo land and the airport long ago.

Even the Speaker of the National Assembly once spoke about it in our presence and urged the Governor of this county to ensure that the matter was fast-tracked. Honourable Speaker, they have not done anything towards addressing it because before we budget, we must have discussed valuation. I want to ask: has valuation been done in Matulo? It has not been done...

Honourable Speaker, regarding those people who are to be compensated, have they agreed? Has the Government reached an agreement with them such that we can now budget for compensation? There is nothing of the sort. That is why I say the Government can do anything if it wants to and refuse to act when it does not want to. Therefore, I have a problem with the issue of land, among many other land-related matters.

There is also an issue concerning Kimilili Municipality. On page 50, under other Capital Grants, the UIG Grant has an allocation of Kshs 45,368,215 for upgrading Monday Market, construction of new open-air sheds, upgrading access roads at Kshs 20 million, storm-water drainage at Kshs 10 million, and urban walkways at Kshs 15 million. When we present a block allocation in a budget, we need specifics. If Kshs 20 million is allocated, and Kshs 10 million is allocated elsewhere, we need to know exactly which streets and which locations in Kimilili are being targeted. The projects should be itemized.

Perhaps I am wrong and need correction. I am willing to accept correction if I have misunderstood. However, we need clarity. Sometimes we are laymen. Do not be overly technical with us. Be open. Lay everything out clearly so that we understand. Do not confuse Ali Machani Mutoka with Eric Wekesa.

As I conclude, there is the issue of Kamukuywa. In our previous budget, we allocated funds for the completion of Kamukuywa Market, including addressing variations. I was the Chairperson of the Committee that undertook that exercise, and you gave me permission to oversee that work. Why then is someone still talking about Kamukuywa in this budget? From where I sit, Kamukuywa should not receive any more money going forward, just as Brigadier Road should not.

(Applause)

No one should misunderstand me and think that I am opposed to Kamukuywa. I fully support Kamukuywa. Similarly, I am not opposed to Brigadier Road. However, what remains now is for people to be arrested and explain where the money went.

Regarding Kamukuywa, Honourable Members, we should stand firm. We already allocated money for that market, and therefore we do not need to budget for it again.

As I conclude, I want to suggest that we conduct a thorough, very thorough, and extremely thorough forensic audit of our payroll. Only then will we know whether the Governor is telling the truth or whether the officers under him are telling the truth. If the Governor says we have ghost workers, while officers say there are no ghost workers, then who is telling the truth? We need to establish the truth.

The only way we can do so is if this House refuses to be divided and speaks with one voice in demanding a forensic audit of the Bungoma payroll. The last thing I wish to say to the Honourable Members, this House, and everyone present is this: Let us budget for prosperity. Let us budget for posterity. Let us budget meaningfully so as to change the lives of the people who gave us this mandate. May God bless you. I support this budget, but with reservations.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, there will be no reply to this Motion today. I will adjourn debate until tomorrow at 2.00 p.m., when I will allow the mover to reply.

As you know, the debate began at 2.00 p.m., and therefore Members have until tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. to propose any amendments they may wish to bring. Even if amendments arrive late, I will allow them under my powers provided by Standing Order No. 1.

You know, Hon. Otsiula is not aware of one thing. The moment you reply to the Motion, amendments can no longer be introduced. Therefore, I cannot lock Members out.

(Applause)

You have until tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. to submit amendments. Even if they arrive at 1.00 p.m., I will still allow them under my powers.

(Applause)

We are not in a hurry. Today is only the 17th of June, not the 30th of June. We still have several days ahead of us. So do not worry, Hon. Otsiula.

You need to go to the sauna, refresh yourself, and forget about all this. You are serving the County of Bungoma and the people who elected you. You are serving them in their true colours.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, that being the last item on the Order Paper, we will adjourn and resume tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 5:38 p.m.