

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

**THE DAILY HANSARD**

**WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026**

**Afternoon Sitting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> County Assembly**

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**5<sup>th</sup> Session**

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## COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

### THE DAILY HANSARD

**WENESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026**

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

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

### PRAYERS

### QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

STATEMENT NUMBER 333 OF 2026;

A RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES REGARDING THE STATUS OF PENDING BILLS RELATING TO MAKUTANO HEALTH CENTRE AND MISANGA DISPENSARY

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well The Hon. Wasike Makari.

**Hon. George Makari:** Hon. Speaker, thank you. I stand to issue a progress Report on the Joint Committee on Health Services and Finance and Economic Planning on the status of pending bills under the Department of Finance and Economic Planning and Health Services regarding Makutano Health Centre and Misanga Dispensary.

Pursuant to provision of Standing Order 54(A) of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders, the Committee on Health Services and Finance on Economic Planning hereby submit their progress report on a Statement sought by Hon. Stephen Wamalwa who is today the Speaker of the Assembly, in respect to the status of the pending bills in the Department of Finance and Economic Planning and Health Services regarding Makutano Health Centre and Misanga Dispensary.

The Statement sought a response on the following;

1. The status of the pending bills relating to Makutano Health Centre and Misanga Dispensary including the contractual obligations Certificates issued on the stage reached in the payment process.

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2. The total amount allocated and approved in the Approved Budget for settlement of the pending bills for the two health facilities indicating;
  - a) Total amount appropriated.
  - b) The amount disbursed and paid so far.
  - c) Any outstanding balances yet to be settled.
3. Whether any payments have been made toward the pending bills and if so, provide the
  - a) Names of the beneficiaries / contractors paid
  - b) The amount paid
  - c) The dates of payment
  - d) the outstanding certified amounts
4. The current implementation and operation status of Makutano Health Centre and Misanga including whether the projects are complete, functional, stalled or pending further works.
5. The measures being undertaken by the department of Finance and Economic Planning and the department of Health Services to ensure that the pending bills are settled within the current Financial Year 2025/ 2026 to not spill over to the Financial Year 2026/2027.
6. The specific administrative financial and legal measures the department has put in place to fast track the reification, approval payment process for the pending bills in compliance with;
  - a) Public Financial Management Act 2012...
  - b) The Public Procurement Asset Disposal Act 2015
  - c) The County Government Act 2012
  - d) The Controller of budget circulars and guidelines on pending bills management.

Honourable Speaker, the committee wrote to the concerned Department for responses which were received on 22nd of June 2026 Reference Number MOH/CEC/CCA/Response/Volume V (23) and has shared the same with the concerned Honourable Member for consideration.

Honourable Speaker the relevant departments were invited to make all submission on 23rd June, 2026 but did not turn up due to competing tasks and have requested Committee for postponements with the interrogations to another convenient date.

Honourable Speaker the committees, during the Tuesday 23rd June, 2026 internal meeting considered the request and have invited the two Departments to appear on 30th June, 2026.

The committees therefore, ask for further seven days to conclude on the matter and Honourable Speaker report back to the House. Honourable Speaker Signed by Hon. Orize

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Kundu on behalf of the Chair Hon. George Makari Chairperson - Committee on Health Services. Honourable Speaker that is the progress Report. Thank you.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I think, yes I am in receipt of the same and we agree with the request of the committee on the same. The dates and time requested, I think is appropriate, so seven days that is when? Today is 24<sup>th</sup>; you will report back to the House on 30<sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m. Next item.

## MOTION

### A REPORT OF THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS ON THE YOUTH INCLUSIVITY AND OPPORTUNITIES IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well, Hon. Grace Sundukwa, now we want to get the quorum, the Youth Committee Members, kindly be upstanding.

*(Loud consultations)*

Honourable Members we cannot be mischievous if the quorum is there is there; if it is not, it is not. So we have the list of Members, let us confirm. Give me the list.

*(Loud consultations)*

Okay, Hon. Violet Mkhanu the quorum is not attained. But look here, Honourable Members okay, fine, it is attained.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Grace proceed please. Kindly proceed.

**Hon. Grace Sundukwa (Vice Chairperson, Youth):** Thank you Speaker.

### A REPORT ON YOUTH INCLUSIVITY AND OPPORTUNITIES IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

#### Executive Summary

The committee on Youths' Affairs and Sports undertook an oversight review of youths' inclusivity and opportunity in Bungoma County in fulfilment of its constitutional mandate to exercise oversight over County Executive and functions. The review assessed the effective accessibility and implementation status of the youths' empowerment programmes across

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Bungoma County. The youth population in Bungoma County continues to grow rapidly presenting both an opportunity for socio-economic development and a challenge in terms of employment creation and service delivery.

Despite the existence of several youth empowerment initiative including digital skills training under the Ajiri program, Industrial Attachment, Internship, procurement inclusion through AGPO and policy framework on youths and sports, the committee found that program impact remain constrained by uneven access, limited recognition, insufficient funding and weak monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Key findings indicate that training opportunities are not evenly distributed across wards; internship and attachment placement are inadequately relative to the demand. Youth participation in procurement remains low due to structural and information barrier and the recently adopted policy framework have not been fully operationalized. The committee therefore recommend expansion of decentralized training hubs, structured internship quarters, strengthen AGPO sensitization and support mechanism, formulization of public-private partnership, increased budgetary allocation to youths program and operationalization...Speaker you can help me on to pronounce that word...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** What is that? Which word is that? Can you tell me the word? I want to help you.

*(Loud consultations)*

**Hon. Grace Sundukwa:** I cannot tell you the word because I need your help.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** So read it.

**Hon. Grace Sundukwa:** It's on page 4, second last paragraph, and the last line.

The report seeks to guide evidence-based decision making and strengthen accountability in youth development programs within Bungoma County.

## **CHAPTER 1**

On behalf of the members of Youths and Sports Committee, it's my duty to present the report on youths' inclusivity and opportunities in Bungoma County.

### **Background Information**

The youth constitute a significant and rapidly expanding proportion of Bungoma County's population making their participation in social, political and economic development a key priority. According to the 2019 Kenya population and housing census, the County reported a population of 1,670,570 of whom approximately 467,171 were youths. The CIDP 2023/2027

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further indicates that youth age between 15-29 were 464,188 in 2019 with a projection rising to 527, 953 in 2022 and 552,127 by 2027.

This demographic trend demonstrate a growing labour force with direct implication for employment planning, service delivery and development programming. Despite their large contribution to the labour force, youth unemployment remains significantly high. The CIDP 2023/2027 reports that 60% of youth aged between 15-29 years are unemployed compared to an overall County unemployment rate of 43%...

Additionally, 40% of the youth population have dropped out of school, while 25% rely on informal work activities such as *boda-boda* operations, exposing them to unstable incomes and limited career progression.

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) Article 260 defines youth as persons aged 18 to 35 years and places clear obligations on both national and county governments through Article 55 to implement affirmative programs supporting youth access to education, employment, participation, and protection from harmful practices.

Over the past several years, Bungoma County and its development partners have implemented several youth empowerment initiatives, including internships, apprenticeships, vocational training through VTCs, youth empowerment funds, digital innovation hub- AJIRY, Access to government procurement opportunities (AGPO), and sports and talent development programs.

Given the County's expanding youth population and persistent unemployment challenges, the Committee on Youth and Sports undertook a review to determine whether existing programs are responsive, adequately resourced, well-coordinated, and aligned with constitutional and policy requirements. The findings will support evidence-based recommendations aimed at strengthening accountability and informing the planning of concerned parties for the future.

### **Terms of Reference (TORs)**

In undertaking this review, the Committee was guided by the following Terms of Reference:

1. To identify all youth programs implemented by the County Government that promote their inclusivity and determine their current implementation status.
2. To evaluate the County's compliance with Articles 10 and 55(b) of the Constitution by assessing how youth views are incorporated and reflected in governance, planning, and budgeting processes.
3. To assess the achievements, gaps, and challenges in the implementation of youth inclusivity and empowerment programs and determine their overall effectiveness.

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## **Scope of Work**

The review covered all the 45 wards in Bungoma County and focused on youth programs documented and submitted by the Directorate of Procurement and the Department of Youth and Sports

## **Methodology**

The Committee adopted the following methods in preparing this report:

1. Desktop analysis of existing records and reports on youth inclusivity and empowerment programs.
2. Consultative meetings with the Directorate of Youth and Sports as the implementing agency.
3. Data analysis of youth programs from County reports and submissions.

## **Legal Framework**

The Committee conducted its work within the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, County Governments Act, 2012 and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015

### **Constitution of Kenya 2010**

Article 260 of the Constitution of Kenya defines youth as persons aged between 18 and 35 years. Further, Article 55 requires the State to implement affirmative programs ensuring youth access education, representation, employment, and protection from exploitation.

Article 10 provides for national values and principles of governance, including participation of the people, inclusiveness, equity, transparency, accountability, and sustainable development.

### **County Governments Act, 2012**

Section 87 outlines principles of citizen participation, including timely access to information, inclusion of marginalized groups, and protection of youth interests in public decision-making.

Section 115 mandates public participation in all county planning processes, including budgeting, development planning, and performance management.

### **Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015**

The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act (PPADA), 2015 in Kenya gives legal effect to the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) program, requiring public entities including County Governments to reserve at least 30% of their budgetary

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procurement allocation for enterprises owned by youth, women, and persons with disabilities. This initiative seeks to promote fair, transparent, and equitable access to government contracts and tenders.

Mr. Speaker, I skip the mandate of the Committee

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well, that is per Standing Order Honourable members, Standing Order number 217 (5) proceed.

**Hon. Grace Sundukwa:** Acknowledgment

Mr. Speaker Sir, I take this opportunity to thank all Hon members of the Committee for their dedication and time in coming up with this report. The Committee would also like to appreciate the Secretariat who worked with us for their commitment to ensure that the report was produced on time. Lastly, the Committee also extends its gratitude to the offices of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly of Bungoma for logistical support received as it discharged its mandate.

It is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports, to move the report on Youth Inclusivity and Opportunities in Bungoma County. This report is signed by Hon. Violet Makhanu, the Chairperson of this Committee.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Skills Development and Training Initiatives

#### AJIRY Digital and Skills Training Programs

According to the Mission Statement of AJIRY, it seeks to promote opportunities that effectively engage young people in work that challenge them to develop skills, gain critical awareness, and participate in training, mentorship and employment opportunities to create a better future.

AJIRY program is designed to offer workforce sourcing solutions for full time, contractual, short-term, casual, or Gig Economy to employers and users. They also maximize in areas that empowers the youth job placement, training, mentorship and nurturing talents.

The Department has been implementing various capacity-building programs under AJIRY, including:

- ICT/digital literacy modules
- Financial literacy training
- Business development and entrepreneurship coaching

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- Market linkages for youth enterprises
- Job Placements
- Cybercafe space
- Music recording studio
- Animation and green screen technology

### **Partners and Institutions**

The Ajiry was the only program in the County that attracted partners who have since left. The program is affiliated to Tribus TSG a subsidiary of Centum Investments PLC and many other partners including MasterCard foundation.

Other key collaborators include local tertiary institutions that send learners to find experience through industrial attachments to the County Government.

### **Industrial Attachment, Job Creation & Placement Efforts**

#### **Industrial Attachments**

The Committee established that several County departments provided attachment opportunities in the last financial year, with gender-disaggregated data showing moderate participation by female youth.

The County Government remains committed to ensuring that young people gain exposure and practical experience in relevant fields. During the last financial year- 2024/2025, a total of 180 students from various universities and tertiary institutions benefited from industrial attachment within the Youth and Sports department and its associated County Executive Departments. These opportunities have enhanced employability by providing hands-on experience, career mentorship, and exposure to public service operations

### **Youth Inclusion in Procurement (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities)**

AGPO is a Kenyan government affirmative action program ensuring women, youth, and persons with disabilities get at least 30% of public procurement contracts to boost their economic empowerment. It aims to level the playing field by setting aside specific tenders and making it easier for these disadvantaged groups to participate in government business, requiring at least 70% ownership by these groups for businesses to qualify.

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## **Youth-Owned Enterprises Benefiting from AGPO**

Article 227 of The Constitution of Kenya and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 provides for the implementation of this affirmative action.

The Committee's review established that Bungoma County has implemented several youth empowerment initiatives, including digital skills development, industrial attachments, internship programmes, and participation in public procurement through the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) framework. Among these, AGPO stands out as a key policy instrument designed to economically empower youth by reserving at least 30% of public procurement opportunities for enterprises owned by youth, women, and persons with disabilities, in line with existing legal provisions.

However, analysis of available data indicates that youth participation in AGPO within the County remains significantly low (23%) relative to the available opportunities. While a number of youth-owned enterprises are registered and eligible to benefit from the scheme, only a small proportion have successfully secured tenders or contracts. This demonstrates a clear gap between policy intention and actual uptake.

The Committee observed that several factors contribute to this low level of participation. Firstly, there is inadequate awareness among youth regarding available procurement opportunities and the procedures required to access them. Secondly, many youth-owned enterprises lack the technical capacity, financial resources, and documentation required to competitively bid for tenders. Thirdly, procedural and administrative barriers, including complex procurement requirements and delayed payments, further discourage participation by youth enterprises.

Additionally, the data suggests that there are insufficient tracking and reporting on the extent to which the 30% procurement reservation is being achieved at the county level. The absence of disaggregated and regularly updated data on AGPO allocation limits transparency, weakens accountability, and makes it difficult to assess compliance with statutory requirements.

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The Committee further established that existing support mechanisms for youth under AGPO, such as training, mentorship, and advisory services, are either inadequate or not systematically implemented. As a result, many youth enterprises remain unable to transition from registration to actual participation and benefit realization.

AGPO provides a critical avenue for advancing youth economic empowerment in Bungoma County, however, its impact remains constrained by low uptake, capacity limitations among youth enterprises, weak institutional support systems, and insufficient monitoring of compliance. Strengthening awareness, simplifying access procedures, enhancing capacity-building initiatives, and improving data tracking mechanisms will be essential in ensuring that youth derive meaningful benefits from the programme.

### **Mentorship and Leadership Development Programmes**

The Department reported mentorship forums focusing on leadership, innovation, and civic engagement, conducted in collaboration with NGOs, youth groups, and institutions. Beneficiary numbers remain low due to limited funding and lack of partners.

The department successfully sponsored 10 youths to attend the Youth Devolution Conference in Kajiado where the participants benefited from:

- a. Leadership mentorship sessions
- b. Exposure to national and inter-county governance
- c. Networking with collaborating organizations
- d. Exchange of ideas with other youth leaders across the country
- e. Training on youth-led development and policy engagement

This initiative has contributed to building a more informed and empowered youth population within the county.

### **Implementation of Youth, Sports, Internship Policies and the Youth Fund.**

The Department has continued working on policy frameworks aimed at strengthening youth development, sports management, and employment pathways. However, the Committee has

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noted the process has been very slow without any notable progress towards benefitting the youth.

**a) Youth, Sports and Internship Policies**

The County Assembly adopted the Youth, Sports and Internship Policies in September 2024 and are already in place to guide programmes and interventions targeting young people in Bungoma County. However, there is no indication of implementation of these policies since the adoption.

**b) Development of the Sports Bill and Regulations**

The Bungoma County Sports Bill has been developed and is awaiting public participation before submission to Cabinet for approval. Upon approval, the department will proceed with developing the Sports Regulations for full operationalization of this Bill.

**c) Operationalization of the Amalgamated Youth Fund**

As advised by the Senate, the department has amalgamated the youth funds into a single framework to improve coordination, operationalization and impact. The Notice of Public participation on the Fund was issued on the County Government of Bungoma website and the department expected to receive written submissions not later than 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (*Annexed*). The exercise however, stalled due to inadequate funding allocated to the department for this purpose. As a result, key policy implementation processes, particularly operationalizing the Youth Fund and validating the Sports Bill remains pending.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Committee Observations**

The committee made the following observations;

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1. That there are no youth empowerments programmes in the County, resulting in limited and disparities in the access to youth-reserved opportunities and services.
2. There is a high rate of youth unemployment and underemployment with a majority of youth engaged in informal and unstable income-generating activities.
3. The number of internship and industrial attachment opportunities available and provided within the County is insufficient to meet the growing demand among youth.
4. Youth participation in the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme remains low at only 23% due to limited awareness, procedural complexities, and lack of financial capacity among the Youth.
5. Despite this assembly passing and the existence of youth-related policies, there have been limited efforts in the implementation and the operationalization remains untenable two years down the line.
6. The youth are not adequately involved in several key aspects including but not limited to decision-making processes such as planning, budgeting, Youth Trainings and policy formulation.

**Committee Recommendations.**

The Committee made the following recommendations;

- 1. THAT,** the Department of Youth and Sports should not only ensure that the AJIRY Center is functional but should also expand ward-based training hubs to ensure equitable access to AJIRY and skills-building programs. Additionally, the Department should ensure that rent arrears for the facility have been cleared before vacation from Nomad House.
- 2. THAT,** the Department should identify, negotiate, and formalize partnerships through duly executed Memoranda of Understanding with private sector entities, tertiary institutions, and development partners for purposes of enhancing youth employment opportunities, skills development, mentorship, and innovation.

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3. **THAT**, the department through County Public Service Board should ensure the implementation of the Bungoma County Internship Policy guaranteeing annual placement of fresh graduates across all departments.
4. **THAT**, in compliance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015, the County Executive should strictly enforce the minimum thirty percent (30%) procurement reservation for youth, women, and persons with disabilities and the County Treasury Directorate of Procurement in conjunction with the Department of Youth should publish and submit AGPO compliance report annually for the consumption of the public and information to the County assembly.
5. **THAT**, the County Executive Member responsible for Youth affair shall, within 90 days from the adoption of this report, fully operationalize the approved youth and sport policy by developing and publishing the requisite implementation regulation and submit to the County Assembly for approval and subsequent implementation.
6. **THAT**, the County executive shall, in compliance with the Article 10 of the Constitution and Section 87 and 115 of the County Government Act 2012, shall institutionalize youth participation in governance through mandatory inclusion and meaningful participation of youth representative in all public participation process relating to planning, budgeting, and policy formulation.

The report was signed by all members. Thank you, Speaker. I call upon Hon. Allan to second the report.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well, the Hon. Sundukwa Grace Namarome, Member for Sitikho. Now, the Hon. Allan Herald Nyongesa, specially elected.

**Hon. Allan Nyongesa:** Thank you, Speaker. I second.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Members. The report of the Sector Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on Youth Inclusivity and Opportunities in Bungoma County, having been moved and duly seconded;

*(Motion proposed)*

The Hon. Wekesa Eric, Member for Kabuchai/Chwele.

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**Hon. Eric Wekesa:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for this opportunity. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Committee Chair, who is in absentia and is being ably represented by the Vice-Chair, who has confidently and eloquently moved the report.

Without much ado, the youth of this County and the country have been taken care of by the recommendations of this committee. However, there is something worth noting: sometimes the youth themselves are the problem. We can see many companies registered under AGPO, but there are mature, serious old men behind these youth, taking the money while the youth merely present the papers. Therefore, as we make recommendations for the 30 percent procurement opportunities, commonly known as AGPO, the beneficiaries should genuinely be the youth.

The challenge of financing the projects, supplies, or businesses awarded to the youth can be addressed through special funding, a waiver, or an upfront payment to youth-owned companies so that, when they are awarded jobs, they can deliver without many struggles.

If the committee's recommendations are fully implemented by the relevant stakeholders, the youth of this County will be in a much better place than they are now. Thank you. I support the report.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Eric Wekesa, Member for Kabuchai/Chwele. The Hon. Johnstone Ipara Okasida, Member for Tongaren/Kiminini.

**Hon. Johnstone Ipara:** Honourable Speaker, let me begin by lauding the mover of the report, and particularly the seconder of the report, who was caught by surprise. He was not prepared to second the report, and he himself qualifies under the category of youth because I listened very carefully when the mover said that a youth is a person between the ages of 18 and 35.

Today, I want to agree with this department's recommendations, particularly Observation Number One, which states that there are no youth empowerment programmes. Just imagine, the County Government is supposed to allocate some money for youth programmes, but this money is not there.

Efforts to allocate this money have resulted in nothing. The reason is that there is no goodwill from the government that the people of this County elected to serve them and protect their interests. If you visit other counties, you will find that they are very serious about empowering the younger generation. Young people are the majority. Even today, if you counted the young people in our County, they would form the largest group, yet we have never given them priority.

As you sit there, you happen to be a leader of this House. I urge you, together with your colleagues, to take the lead in ensuring that all programmes benefiting the youth in this County are given first priority.

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Secondly, there is a high rate of unemployment. As you normally drive down to SoySambu, you always avoid passing through Tongaren and Misikhu. The reason is that along the way, there are stages where you find our youth just standing around. It is not because they enjoy idling; it is because they have nothing to do. Many of them are even more highly educated than most of us.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Ipara, you are on HANSARD insinuating that I avoid that route. That is not in order.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Johnstone Ipara:** Honourable Speaker, with due respect, I withdraw that statement.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well.

**Hon. Johnstone Ipara:** The simple point I wanted to make is this: even though we say that we should consider the youth under procurement programmes, where will they get the money?

I remember one time you yourself proposed that we come up with an initiative to allocate Kshs. 35 million in our budget to cater for the youth. When procurement opportunities arise, they would have somewhere to obtain the funds they need. Once they are paid for the projects they undertake, that money would then be refunded.

This did not materialize. The reason is that the government in place has no goodwill towards the younger generation of this County. Do not forget that the young people are the future of this County, and if we fail to prepare them well, we will have failed as leaders.

I remember one time Hon. Ken said that we must always prepare those who come after us so that they can succeed us. They should know how we work and how we prepare them. When we talk about a succession plan, it means asking ourselves: suppose today or tomorrow we are no longer MCAs, who will the people prefer? You must prepare people behind you to support you, stand with you, and take over leadership. Yet we have never prepared our youth.

That is why today I stand with this report. It contains good observations and sound recommendations. If these recommendations are implemented, we shall have somewhere to go. I also want to urge the Chair of the Implementation Committee, who happens to be seated next to me, to follow up on this report and ensure that it is implemented to the letter. I support.

**Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Johnstone Ipara Okasida, Member for Tongaren Community. Yes, your neighbour is there. We need the youth of this County to be counted, not merely as cheerleaders, but as part of the leadership. Yes. Hon. Wilson Metrine Nangila, specially elected.

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**Hon. Metrine Wilson:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

**Deputy Speaker:** Sorry. Let her proceed. You are an elder; I will give you some extra time.

**Hon. Metrine Wilson:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for protecting me and for being a gentleman. First, I would like to applaud our Vice-Chair of the Committee for being very eloquent and, despite it being her first time, for moving this motion so well.

I also want to echo the sentiments of my fellow Honourable Members, Hon. Eric and Hon. Ipara, that indeed we need to support our youth so that they can become better leaders in the future.

I would like to say that, as Hon. Eric mentioned, most of our youth are being used by people who are not youths to conduct business through their companies, perhaps because we have not put in place programmes to train these young people on how to do business. I think we should establish such programmes and invite experienced entrepreneurs to speak to our youth so that they may learn how to apply for tenders and how to access loans, apart from whatever support we may offer.

A Youth Fund alone might not be sufficient because, as Hon. Ipara pointed out, we have a high percentage of youth in our County. We should ensure that they are aware of what they need to do and how to keep their accounts active so that they can qualify for LPO financing from our banks. Otherwise, I support the report. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you so much, Hon. Metrine Nangila Wilson, Specially Elected. We have Hon. Makari on the line. Hon. Chetekei, kindly... No, he is patient enough.

*(Laughter)*

You are the Chair of the Implementation Committee, so you should come almost at the tail end so that you can give us a way forward on how you are going to follow up on this matter. I now have Hon. Wasike Makari George, Member for Musikoma.

**Hon. George Makari:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First of all, I laud the mover of the motion, Hon. Sundukwa, for her eloquent presentation, even though she could not pronounce some words correctly. She nevertheless did well.

You will realize that she was absent during the Health Committee report, but this afternoon she came and moved the report on Youth and Sports. We should also clap for her because she came anyway.

*(Applause)*

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I want to support this report and the recommendations therein, as eloquently stated by Hon. Ipara and the other Members who contributed to the report, and as seconded by my good friend Hon. Allan, who was actually caught off guard, as Hon. Ipara said. I think Hon. Grace did not prepare him very well to second the report, so he was caught off guard, but he seconded it anyway.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Makari, you are taking a very dangerous direction. You know he is part of the Committee that prepared the report, so I believe he was prepared all along and could second it at any time. Therefore, Hon. Grace, who came for this report and was absent during the Health Committee report, should not be the one to prepare him. Every Member should always be prepared.

**Hon. George Makari:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for the guidance. As much as I support the report, in fact, I was thinking this Committee should be disbanded by the Committee on Selection. You will find that only those who qualify as youth are Hon. Allan, Bosire, and Grace. The rest, like Hon. Chikati, are almost exiting planet Earth and therefore should not qualify to serve on the Youth Committee.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Chetekei, just relax. You are okay. You will respond, and I will give you enough time. Do not worry. Relax; you will have your time Hon. Makari, proceed.

**Hon. George Makari:** Hon. Speaker, I have a problem with the current generation of youth. As much as we want to spoon-feed them, those of us who are older can attest to what we went through. We were not spoon-fed or given empowerment programmes, although I support such programmes.

The thinking behind the Hustler Fund was that the youth could rise up and start their own businesses. But do you know they borrowed money and never paid it back? Almost Kshs. 8 billion was lost through loans from the Hustler Fund. This is a generation that wants to ride on the backs of others.

As much as I support the report and agree that we need programmes to sustain and support the youth, do you know this is also a group that cannot easily be sustained? If you want to be assisted, first of all your mindset must be ready. If your mentality is simply to receive support without generating your own ideas, then there is a problem.

Let me give you an example. When I finished Form Four, I was around 18 years old. Do you know what I started doing? I did not wait for the Government to introduce empowerment programmes. I began carrying molasses. I do not know if you have ever visited our home in Kakamega. I would cross from our home in Bunyala and go to Makunga Market on the way to Kakamega Town. We would carry molasses, and I know when I mention molasses, Hon. Chikati can bear me witness that it is used to prepare *chang'aa*. I would transport it on a bicycle at night; not during the day; and sell it to those who brewed *chang'aa*. As an 18-year-old youth, I did not wait for Government AGPO opportunities to find me.

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I began carrying it on a bicycle at night, and I can tell you for free that a five-liter jerry can of molasses was bought at Kshs. 60 and sold at Kshs. 120, giving a 100 percent profit. A 20-litre jerry can was bought at Kshs. 200 and sold at Kshs. 400, also giving a 100 percent profit.

That was me as an 18-year-old fresh from Form Four. Kindly tell me whether the youth of today can generate ideas, put them on paper, and create their own income instead of depending on the Hustler Fund, which they consume without repaying.

It is a mess. Even if we continue singing about youth unemployment and supporting them through empowerment programmes, without a shift in mindset, we are simply pouring money into a bottomless pit from which nothing will ever be recovered. I can say that without hesitation.

In Nigeria, there was a time; and even currently; almost half of the population were...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Members let us listen to Hon. Makari, please. I will give you time. Let him finish.

**Hon. George Makari:** Honourable Speaker, order the Members!

Three-quarters of the people in Nigeria are Master's and Degree holders, yet there is no...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Hon. Allan!

**Hon. George Makari:** Hon. Speaker, I said that among the Members of that Committee, only Hon. Allan and three others qualify as youth, so I do not know why Hon. Allan is interfering when I am speaking, yet he knows he is my good friend.

As I was saying, I am not against this report. In fact, the recommendations are good, but the gist of the matter is that even if we establish very attractive empowerment programmes, without a shift in mindset, we shall achieve very little.

Hon. Eric said something that we must also take seriously. Even if we reserve AGPO opportunities for the youth, do you know that the people who actually benefit from those opportunities are the older people?

The youth only register the companies, but the people doing the work are not the youth because they do not have the capital to construct roads or supply goods. The people behind AGPO opportunities, which are reserved when tenders are advertised, are not the youth. It is as though you are sitting in your office, and a youth comes to you saying, "I have applied for this job," and you become the financier of that project.

The youth is not the person actually doing the job. Therefore, when payment is made, the financier takes three-quarters of the money. The youth may receive around Kshs. 20,000

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each; if they are five, they share Kshs. 100,000, while the financier takes four million shillings.

The bottom line is this: are these youth ready to change their mindset and stop expecting to be spoon-fed? They are simply sitting there waiting. When Hon. Ipara said that he always avoids passing through Misikhu because of the youth along the road...

*(Laughter)*

You see, Honourable Speaker, when they see your Prado...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Makari, withdraw that. It was a bad joke.

**Hon. George Makari:** Honourable Speaker, perhaps I can give him time to withdraw because I did not hear him withdraw. I can sit down so that he can withdraw.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** No, he cannot repeat himself. Hon. Okasida, you may just sit down. Hon. Makari, I do not want to believe that signs of ageing are catching up with you because you look different.

**Hon. George Makari:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Where we come from, when they see a Prado, registration number KCJ 186, and they know it belongs to the Speaker, they prepare themselves to receive money that they have not worked for. The youth gather by the roadside doing nothing. Hon. Eric can attest to that because he won an election only about a year ago. When they see your vehicle or his approaching, they prepare themselves to receive money.

Even if we establish countless empowerment programmes, without a shift in mindset; without *kujitoa* and working hard; there is nothing they will achieve. Even if you allocate Kshs. 2 billion to empowerment programmes, without a change in attitude and mindset, it will not help.

The worst thing that has happened to us is this generation called Gen Z. Some of them cannot even differentiate between the left and the right, and they do not seem to care. They are not disciplined at home. They simply sit around wearing earphones, spend time on TikTok, wait for lunch and supper, leave home to wander around, and return late in the evening.

Those of us who are ageing out of active leadership wonder what kind of generation we are leaving behind. This is a serious matter, not a laughing matter.

Those who follow Kanyari know that there is another child associated with him. I do not know whether people have seen her on TikTok. She is only ten years old but is already a content creator earning more than Kshs. 500,000 through content creation. She says she does

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not care about school or college and that by the age of twenty-five she will be thinking about having children. This is where we are today.

We must think seriously about this. Even if we support youth empowerment programmes, are the youth ready to be empowered? You give them money, and they waste it. There is no constructive activity they undertake with it. Give a group of twenty youths Kshs. 200,000 today, and they will simply share the money among themselves. By tomorrow, there will be no business to show for it.

So, I want to support the report, and I hope my sentiments have been taken into consideration.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Makari. That was very passionate, and he was speaking from his heart. Each one of us has an opportunity to speak, so do not worry. Each one of you will have a chance to contribute. Let us now have Hon. Chetekeyi Chikati, Member for Ndalu/Tabani, followed by Hon. Bosire, the youth, Onyiengo.

**Hon. Timothy Chikati:** Thank you, Speaker. As far as I am concerned, I am a youth, and I will never grow old.

I really want to agree with the sentiments of Hon. Makari. Truth be told, you can only help somebody who is ready to help themselves, but there is no way we can force anyone. When you look at the population of this country and this County, you will find that the youth are the majority.

You are a politician. Do you know that if these youths decided to vote overwhelmingly; just the youth, these Gen Zs; they could produce the President of this country? But these youths do not even vote. Their job is just shouting on social media.

I am saying this because... Do not interrupt me when I am on the Floor of the House. You will have your time, Hon. Allan. You will have your time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Chetekeyi...

**Hon. Timothy Chikati:** This is the reason why we removed you from the Youth Committee...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Chetekeyi...

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Timothy Chikati:** Keep quiet...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Chetekeyi, order!

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**Hon. Timothy Chikati:** I am saying...

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Let us be orderly, Honourable Members, and let us mind the language we use. Let us be parliamentary.

I want to beseech you to debate with passion but without hurting other people. Kindly ensure that we do not disrupt the flow of your contribution or the proceedings of the House. Let us use parliamentary language that is appropriate. Very well. Proceed, Hon. Chetekeyi.

**Hon. Timothy Chikati:** Speaker, of course, the truth hurts. I am saying this because I had started a programme in my ward to help these youths. I bought them car wash machines. I bought them salon equipment, including blow dryers and hair dryers. I bought the young men shaving machines. After one month, all these items had been sold, and I immediately stopped the programme because they were not ready to be helped.

So, as much as we advocate for the 30 percent allocation for the youth, and as much as we advocate for employment opportunities for our youth, these young people; as Hon. Makari has said; it is all about mindset. They have to change themselves first before the Government can effectively come in to support them.

Where are we heading? I wish this could also be one of the recommendations. The population is increasing at a very high rate. I think men are overworking as far as reproduction is concerned because the youth population is growing rapidly. These men need to start using protection so that we can slow down the rate at which we are producing this young Gen Z generation.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Chikati, are you done? Well, he is done. Let us now have Hon. Onyengo Bosire Aggrey, specially elected.

**Hon. Aggrey Bosire:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This report is a call to action, and this is a House of solutions, not blame games. You cannot stand here and accuse the youth while forgetting the systemic failures of the Government.

That is why Hon. Makari's only example, when talking about the youth, was selling molasses for brewing *chang'aa*. He could not come up with any other example of what young people can do today.

*(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker it is very sad that right now places like Ajiri centre are closed. I used to go over there and I could meet youths that are very motivated, youths wanting to learn, use their talents out here and make a living out of them. It is sad that one centre in town was closed

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while we should be talking of about 45 centers. That is each ward to be having a center, instead we can't even support one.

Mr. Speaker the issue here is people are trying to run their businesses but let us assume and say that you get a tender today. You will need to deliver and then get paid after one year. Youths don't have money to run tenders after tenders or projects after projects. They expect when they do a project they get paid and use that money to do the next project and so their companies are dying. They get the opportunities but then, the companies die immediately. This should be a House of solutions not blame games. We can't stand here and start blaming the youths for our failure. We can't generalize failure. We can't generalize behavior just because maybe Honorable members are not youths and say all youths. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** That is Hon. Onyieko Bosire Aggrey. I think today he has been so passionate than ever before on matters youth. Very well we have the Hon. Kuloba Jeremiah, Township.

**Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba:** Asante Bwana Spika kunipa furusa hii ya kuchangia kuhusu maswala ya vijana. Karibu kila mnenaji hapa naona kidole kinamwelekezea kijana ambaye hajafanya vile inatakiwa na sio mmoja ni karibu mtindo huo uko katika kila sehemu. Hasa mimi ninaye toka katika mji huu wa Bungoma.

Nina idadi kubwa ya vijana ambao wametoka sehemu za nje wakiwa na dhana kwamba, hapa mjini ndipo pana kazi, lakini wakifika hapa yale ambayo yaliwatoa nyumbani yanakuwa ni tofauti. Hata tuongee mara mia, ikiwa dhana iliyo katika vijana hawa haitabadilika, tutakuwa hatuna suluhu. Ikiwa tutatenga fedha tuweke mahali na dhana zao hazijabadilika, itabidi tuwapeleke katika mafunzo wajue jinsi maisha yalivyo. Jinsi wanavyochukulia ni kwamba maisha ni rahisi.

Vijana wengi tumeweza kuwapatia fedha za kujikimu katika maisha lakini hatujawafundisha jinsi ya kutafuta hizo fedha. Nachukuwa Bwana Spika mfano, wakati wa sherehe za Madaraka katika Mji huu wa Bungoma. Tulikuwa na nafasi nyingi sana za kazi. Vijana wakaleta mgomo wanataka kuajiriwa kazi katika uwanja wa michezo wa Masinde wakidai kuwa vijana wametoka Kisumu, vijana wametoka Nandi, vijana wametoka Mkoa wa Kati ndio wanao pewa nafasi za kazi.

Mimi nikiwa mwakilishi wa sehemu hii niliamka asubuhi moja nikaenda kweli nikapata vijana wale wanafanya kazi pale hawanitambui kuwa mimi ni Mweshimiwa kwa sababu hawanijui wala hawanitambui nilipokuwa nikipita pale. Nikashurutishwa kwamba wale vijana walikuwa sio wa Bungoma. Asilimia 80 ya vijana ama nafasi za ajira zipewe vijana wa

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Bungoma. Wasimamizi katika kazi hio walikubaliana nami siku iliofuata vijana wetu walipewa nafasi za kazi lakini baada ya juma moja, vijana hao walilipwa pesa zao Jumamosi na Jumapili hawakurudi kazini.

Jumatatu hawakuja kazini, ikabidi twende kwenye vyombo vya habari, kwa sababu wale walio kuwa wamekuja wageni tumewatoa tumesema wenyeji wafanye kazi na wenyeji wenyewe baada ya kupata mshahara wa juma moja hakuna watu wa kazi. Wale wageni wamerudi penye walitoka. Tukatangaza kwenye redio waje wafanye kazi hawakuja. Walienda wakawa walevi chakari; hawakurudi kazini. Wakasahau kuwa shida bado ipo.

Ninalenga wapi? Vijana mimi nimejaribu kuwapatia biashara ndogo ndogo lakini wakati unawapa ile biashara wanabadilisha maisha, yanakua ya hali ya juu. Baada ya mwezi mmoja hiyo biashara haipo. Nilijaribu kununua vyombo kumi vya kuosha magari mimi mwenyewe. Vile vyombo viliuzwa. Hata sio kuuza walianza kunywa pombe, wakaanza kugombana na kuvivunja. Kunao walioenda na mkono wa mashine, mwingine akaenda na gurudumu. Nikamtafuta Bwana Gavana wetu, tena akanipa mashine zingine kumi. Zile kumi kabla zifike mahali walipokuwa wanaenda, zilikua zimepelekwa madukani kuuzwa.

Vijana wetu tutawasaidia kivihi hata kama tutazungumzia juu ya ripoti ambayo imeletwa hapa, kama hatuwezi kuwapeleka mafunzo ama kubadilisha dhana ya hawa vijana tutakua tunarudia tu hayo hayo makosa.

Fedha zile zilikuwa hapa za vijana, vijana wengi katika Township ndio walio omba hizi pesa kuwa wafanyie biashara lakini vile tunazungumza hivi, hakuna hizo fedha. Hazijawai rudishwa! Vijana wenyewe ukiwapata njiani wanakusimamisha wanataka pesa asubuhi.

Wamesimama kwenye veranda za maduka ukipita kama huna fedha wewe utaambiwa *one term* lakini ukiwapatia fedha wanasema tano tena.

Kwa hivo vijana bado wana shida. Hata kama idara ambayo inazungumzia, waende wajifunze na tuna vyuo vya mafunzo kwa vijana hapa nilitangaza ni vya bure hakuna malipo yoyote. Katika jirani yangu kuna Mteremko. Vijana hawaendi kule; ni wachache sana wanaotaka kuenda kule.

Hata ukiwapeleka kwenye nafasi za kazi wanaharibu. Ukiwapa mtaji wa kuanzisha biashara wanazama nao. Vijana hawa tutawasaidia vipi? Kamati hii ambayo inahusika na vijana mtatulaumu bure. Hata tuweke fedha ngapi, vijana lazima wabadilike na wawe na nia na ari ya kubadilika. Naweza ongea mpaka jioni kwa sababu mambo ni hayo hayo tu. Asante.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you so much.

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**Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba:** *Taaluma yao inaitwa siku hizi wafyetuzi. Asante.*

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Members! We are now calling upon the mover to reply. As she comes, it is true that we have a problem, but we also have to provide solutions as leaders. Yes.

**Hon. Grace Sundukwa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to appreciate all the comments made by the Honourable Members. I also want to begin with the last Honourable Member who was on the microphone. I urge him to withdraw the statement in which he referred to our youth as *wafyetuzi*. That is not an appropriate term to use when referring to our young people.

Being a House governed by Rules and Procedures, we cannot refer to my young sister or brother as *mfyetuzi*.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Grace Sundukwa:** Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I have been listening keenly, and the main issue here is that our youth are not well informed, and it is because of us.

The Department of Youth and Sports has not been adequately funded. I can give an example. The Sports Bill has been pending since 2025, and up to now, public participation has not been conducted because the Department has no funding.

Secondly, we cannot blame our young people when the County Government itself has failed. Look at the issue of the Ajiri Centre. Since the partner left, it has now been almost two years, and the County Government has not paid the rent. As a result, the landlord closed the premises. We now owe the landlord Kshs. 2.9 million.

We have machines there, yet we are here claiming that our youth are lazy. How?

*(Applause)*

On the issue of AGPO tenders, a youth from Sitikho Village cannot know that there are youth procurement opportunities without proper training.

In the recent budget that we passed, Members, you were all here. If you look at the Department of Youth and Sports, it was the only department allocated the lowest percentage of funding yet we are here claiming that the youth are stubborn.

Hon. Speaker, as I request the House to adopt this report, I urge Honourable Members to consider allocating more funds to the Department of Youth and Sports for the betterment of our youth in Bungoma County. Thank you.

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*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well, Honourable Members. During the recently concluded budget process, I stood on the Floor of the House and spoke about the money appropriated for the same purposes last year, which was never utilized. You heard me. I repeated it, but none of the youthful Members present stood up to propose amendments to address the matter.

*(Loud consultations)*

No. For this Financial Year, we must stand on our feet. We should not be afraid. I want to encourage you, Members. Order! I want to encourage you, Members.

*(Laughter)*

I want to encourage you, Members. Let us not be Members who merely pass blame or apportion blame. Let us stand up and be counted. It is we who will ensure that the youth of this County either progress or go down the drain, and this House has a responsibility to save them.

They cannot achieve everything we have mentioned without a budget being appropriated to address their needs. Even if the Department is allocated billions of shillings, without clear and well-intended programmes, it will not yield any meaningful results.

We need to empower our youth by setting aside money for them and ensuring they can access tenders, as mentioned by Hon. Bosire. Without that, Members, we are merely making noise.

*(Question proposed)*

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

The ayes have it. The report is therefore adopted,

*(Applause)*

Together with its recommendations.

I want to repeat myself, Honourable Members, and allow me to point this out. Hon. Allan Nyongesa, Hon. Onyiengo Bosire Aggrey, Hon. Grace, and the others, who fall within that youth bracket, fight together. Let us stand up and be counted so that, while you are here, you will be remembered as those who bore the scars while fighting for the cause of the youth. That can only happen if we allocate adequate funding for youth programmes in our budget.

## ADJOURNMENT

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That being our last item of our business, the House now adjourns and will resume tomorrow, Thursday, at 2.30 p.m.

***The House rose at 3.55 p.m.***

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