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County Assembly Undertakes A Pre-certification Quality Audit

By Rosemary Wachiye



Staff of the County Assembly led by the Deputy Clerk incharge of Legislative Services Dr. Leonard Momos attend the opening meeting for the Quality Management System(QMS) Pre-certification Audit in CASB Boardroom

The County Assembly of Bungoma has undertaken a pre-certification audit to determine the status of the establishment and implementation of a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2015 standards in the institution.

The Quality audit on 5th and 6th March 2025 at the County Assembly precincts, was conducted by a team of 3 auditors led by Ms. Eunice Akani from the Great Conkors East Africa consultancy firm. The audit aimed at confirming the institution's preparedness for a QMS certification audit.

The team, which was distributed across the departments and sections in the County Assembly, evaluated the methods and procedures followed by staff while carry-

ing out daily duties and responsibilities.

They also looked into the status of the implementation of departmental and sectional objectives vis-à-vis the set targets and timelines. They checked the monitoring, measurement analysis, and evaluation, in order to find out whether the institution was on track with its internal and external issues while serving the interested parties.

Owing to the fact that QMS is customer-centered the institution's adherence to its Citizen Service charter and handling of customer feedback were evaluated. Noting the positive feedback received from clients, the auditors recommended a quarterly reporting of the feedback inclusive of compliments to note the progress being achieved.

In the closing meeting, the Auditors applauded the great milestones achieved by the County Assembly since the launch of QMS in its establishment in October 2024. They commended the staff of the County Assembly for their cooperation throughout the audit exercise.

The Deputy Management Representative Mr. Alfred Makokha stated that QMS was a continuous improvement process while also committing to ensuring 100% implementation of the QMS procedures in adherence to the ISO 9001:2015 standards.

The Management Representative, Mr. Abraham Wekesa, on the other hand, appreciated the management for the support towards the successful implementation of QMS

in the institution.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Clerk of Legislative Services Dr. Leonard Momos who was stepping in for the Clerk of the County Assembly, noted that they were moving in the right direction and the process should continue.

"The steps made so far have yielded positive results and we look forward to ISO certification this year," said Dr. Momos. He urged the Process owners to take heed of the issues raised by the Auditors and address them promptly to ensure the County Assembly attains its ultimate goal of ISO certification. **ENDs.**

County Assembly Sector Committees Interrogate 1st Supplementary Budget For Fy 2024/2025

By Rosemary Wachiye | Mash Misiko



County Assembly Sector Committees hold an interrogation on 1st Supplementary Budget for FY 2024/2025

County Assembly Sector Committees interrogated the 1st Supplementary Budget FY 2024/25 on Tuesday, 11th and Wednesday, 12th March 2025 at the County Assembly premises. The analyzed budget allocations revealed reductions owing to the shared equitable budgetary cuts across all departments in the County.

The first day of the exercise was conducted for the Committee on Tourism Environment Water and Natural Resources, Committee on Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization, Gender, Culture and Social Welfare Committee, Committee on Health Services and Youth and Sports Committee.

In the interrogation of the Tourism Environment Water and Natural Resources sector, the issue of Climate change took prominence in the discussions. The issue was being handled through co-funding between the Department and the World Bank hence the request to retain the funds as allocated in the initial budget.

There was a proposed increase for the construction of a Multipurpose Hall in Sang'alo Cultural Centre by Ksh. 2,015,320 under the Gender, Culture and Social Welfare docket. The department also committed to the collection of liquor licenses in the County by operationalizing the

Liquor License Committees in the Wards. The function that was previously being undertaken by the Revenue Department has been moved back to the Gender Department for efficiency. The CECM in charge of the department Mr. Benedict Emacar stated that the move was aimed at enhancing own source revenue collection in the County.

In Health and Sanitation Services, the issues of equipping health facilities, clearing pending bills, and purchasing medical supplies were prioritized. The reduction of the Appropriation in Aid (AIA) funds was not recommended since, according to the Department, due to the advent of the Social Health Authority (SHA), there has been a reported improvement in collections compared to the previous year despite the nurses' strike.

Day two involved Committee Lands, Urban, Physical Planning and Housing, Public Administration and ICT Committee, Labour Relation, Member Service and Facilities Committee, Committee on Finance and Economic Planning, Committee on Education and Vocational Training and Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development Committee. In the Public Administration and ICT Sector, the Committee called on the Department to ensure timely payment of contracted guards in various offices of the County Government. The delay in



ex-chequer releases was a contributing factor to the rent arrears owed by offices which the CECM Dr. David Wamamili and Chief Officer Ms. Teresa Wekesa committed to address with the funds allocated in the supplementary budget.

The County Public Service Board also appeared before the Committee on Labour Relations, Member Service, and Facilities and was tasked by the Committee to ensure payroll cleansing to address the issues of ghost workers. The department assured the Committee that they had concluded the headcount exercise and that they were in the process of authenticating the staff documents hence needed more allocation.

The interrogation session examined the Land, Urban, Physical Planning, and Housing departments, highlighting procurement delays for the Misikhu Market and concerns about physical planning to accommodate future growth. Discussions included land acquisition for the Matulo Airstrip, a critical infrastructure project. The committee urged exploring innovative revenue sources rather than traditional methods and noted the lack of allocations for clearing

pending bills.

In the Education and Vocational Training department, concerns were raised about reductions in the Ward-based Project Fund affecting grassroots education infrastructure. The committee sought clarity on scholarship and bursary programs and emphasized the need for properly equipped Vocational Training Centers.

A consistent theme across departments was concern about increased salary funds amid the county's financial situation. The Finance and Economic Planning department discussions focused on salary increments and the lack of allocations to clear pending bills, which strain the county's financial capacity. The committee stressed addressing the backlog of pending bills to maintain good relationships with suppliers and ensure smooth operations.

The sessions revealed critical issues across departments, with recurring themes of salary increments, revenue generation, pending bills, and procurement delays. The committees called for greater transparency, accountability, and strategic planning to foster sustainable growth. The deliberations of the various committees will be forwarded to the Budget and Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

County Assembly of Kisumu Committee on Delegated County Legislation pays a Benchmark visit to the County Assembly of Bungoma

By Mash Misiko

On Tuesday, 11th March 2025, the County Assembly of Bungoma was honored to host a delegation from the County Assembly of Kisumu led by Chairperson of the Committee on Delegated County Legislation Hon. Mariam Abeid, and Hon. Peter Obaso, Vice-Chairperson of the same committee.

The visit was a benchmarking exercise to learn from the County Assembly of Bungoma's best practices in managing the Committee on Delegated Legislation and fostering stronger Inter-County collaboration.

The Kisumu delegation was warmly received by Hon. George Kwemoi Tendet, the Chairperson of the Committee on Delegated County Legislation, who presided over the meeting which provided an invaluable platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between members of the two committees.

During the session, the Kisumu delegation was introduced to the County Assembly of Bungoma's approach to the scrutiny of statutory instrument documents with a special emphasis on the transparent procedures in reviewing delegated legislation. Both delegations discussed how effective legislation and governance at the County level require well-established, accountable, and inclusive processes.

A significant portion of the discussions focused on the incorporation of public participation in the making of delegated legislation. The County Assembly of Bungoma team emphasized the importance of involving citizens, particularly marginalized groups in sessions such as public hearings, consulta-

tive meetings and online platforms. The efforts were necessary in capturing their views in the legislative process. The Kisumu delegation expressed keen interest in adopting similar strategies to enhance public participation in their own county.

County Assembly of Bungoma's Deputy Clerk in charge of Legislative Services, Dr. Leonard Momos, also provided an insightful presentation on the legal and procedural frameworks guiding the Committee's oversight of delegated legislation. His presentation highlighted the legal provisions that empower the Committee to assess the effectiveness of statutory instruments in line with County and National legislation. The County Assembly of Kisumu team found this particularly beneficial in improving their oversight processes.

The discussions further explored the collaboration between the Committee on Delegated Legislation and other County Agencies, such as the County Executive and the office of the County Attorney. The Bungoma team emphasized the importance of fostering strong communication and cooperation with these agencies to ensure that delegated legislation aligns with the County's broader objectives. This cross-functional coordination was recognized as vital for smooth legislative operations.

The hosting team shared challenges faced in executing their mandate, such as delays in receiving statutory instruments from the Executive, limited resources for oversight, and technical complexities in reviewing certain pieces of legislation. However, they also shared the steps taken to address such challenges, including



Members of the County Assembly Committee on Delegated County Legislation host a visiting delegation from the County Assembly of Kisumu's Committee on Delegated County Legislation

strengthening their collaboration with the County Executive for timely tabling of bills and committee members' capacity building.

In her closing remarks, Hon. Mariam Abeid, who was leading the delegation from Kisumu, thanked their counterparts from Bungoma for offering the opportu-

nity for them to learn from their experiences. She reiterated the importance of such benchmarking visits in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the County Assemblies across the county over delegated legislation.

County Assembly Holds Public Participation On County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2025 And The Medium-term Debt Management Strategy Paper, 2025

By Mash Misiko



Members of the public and stakeholders attend the Public Participation forum on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2025 and Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Paper 2025 organized by the County Assembly Budget and Appropriation Committee

The County Assembly of Bungoma held a public participation forum on the 10th of March, 2025, to discuss the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2025 and the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Paper (MTDMS) 2025.

The forum was spearheaded by the Committee on Budget and Appropriations led by the committee chairperson Hon. Jack Wabulwa and the Vice Chairperson Hon. Nangulu, MCA Namwela Ward at Paskari Nabwana Hall in the County Assembly.

The morning session brought together participants from each of the 45 wards in Bungoma County who presented their opinions on basic issues regarding the county's financial plan for the subsequent years. The afternoon session involved stakeholders from other

fields, civil society, and the local community, among others.

The main focus was on the Budgetary allocations for the financial year 2025/2026, where participants called for prioritization of development projects and improvement of service delivery to the public. They raised concerns about transparency and accountability in the budget-making process, with a focus on three sectors: health, roads, and agriculture.

The participants urged the County Assembly members to prioritize the healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture sectors in the next budget. They noted those sectors as being of the utmost priority for the development of economic growth, which has a direct impact on the welfare and needs of County residents.

In the various sectoral groups, participants noted the need to improve Early Childhood Education and boost vocational training to equip the youth with skills fit for the job market; increase irrigation facilities and cooperative development that will yield increased agricultural production; the improvement and investment in of the road network, public transport, and development of infrastructure to boost economic growth and interconnectivity of the County; promotion of tourism, management of the environment, and water resource development to benefit urban and rural communities; and improved funding towards health facilities and sanitation services.

The participants called for the County Government to ensure access to medical supplies in public hospitals within the county. They wanted reforms in land, urban, and physical planning to manage the rapid growth of towns, and the provision of affordable housing solutions to address the rising demands of housing in the County.

They wanted the Government to ensure the implementation of policies in Trade, Energy, and Industrialization that would stimulate trade, promote local industries, and boost energy access, which are fundamental to the economic growth of the region. The need for a transparent and streamlined system within the County government was raised in order to enhance delivery of services and ensure effective administration.

They further urged Members of the County Assembly to hold the County Executive accountable for the use of public funds and the implementation of projects as intended. The stakeholders called on the Assembly to institute policies that would control and stop financial mismanagement and corruption in the County government. Effective monitoring, they argued is crucial in ensuring that money is spent well and that the public services meet the residents' expectations. The Committee will then retreat and compile a report based on the views received from the participants.

County First Lady Encourages Investment And Financial Hygiene During Ladies Of Honour's Annual General Meeting At The County Assembly

By Rosemary Wachiye

The County Assembly Ladies of Honour Group was encouraged to exercise financial hygiene and invest in income-generating activities during its Annual General Meeting, which was held at the County Assembly.

The County First Lady, Dr. Margaret Makelo, who graced the occasion, recounted her journey in life, how she had started from humble beginnings, and the growth she had experienced so far.

"We have a lot of opportunities to grow, especially financial-related growth. I encourage you to have a network of people from different spheres in life, where you can learn how to invest and make money for a better life," said Dr. Makelo. She urged women to seek mentorship from those who had gone before them and enlarge their knowledge base. She stressed the value of having money and not depending entirely on one's spouse.

Speaking at the meeting, Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula who was among the guests, applauded the group for their cooperation and for rising to the occasion despite challenges in their day-to-day lives.

Mr. Wafula called upon the female members of staff to challenge their male counterparts to also form a male caucus that will encourage staff bonding and empowerment.

"It is now a challenge to the men to rise to the occasion and be motivated to also unite through such forums and not to be threatened by the women's growth," said the Clerk.

He added that their unity manifests in the collaborative spirit that permeates beyond the workplace, as he encouraged them to utilize such forums to interact outside departments to create a harmonious and productive environment.

He pledged the support of County Assembly leadership to such groups by empowering them to seek individual and group development for the benefit of the institution at large.

The keynote speaker for the day, Dr. Christine Nabwire from Kibabii University, guided the ladies through financial hygiene with an insightful presentation and practical session. Dr. Nabwire called for prudent financial management that encompasses savings, investment, and spending within a budget.

She urged ladies to avoid impulse buying which is mostly brought about by social pressures. She challenged them to register the group as a Community-Based Organization with an aim to grow into a full-fledged SACCO. She stated the importance of economic empowerment and how it contributes to an all-round person who is impactful to the community.

The ladies had a session to ask questions and get enriched with knowledge on both social and economic issues. They were also advised to use challenges in the group as stepping stones for growth. The group leadership led by the Chairperson Ms. Caren Kamonya and Stella Wanjala presented the resolution of the past year's AGM as they presented key achievements made by the group and laid bare the plans for the development of the group.

The Ladies of Honour group was formed in the year 2016 with its main drive being visiting and supporting each other in happy moments such as during baby showers, weddings, and graduation ceremonies. Its membership is mainly female staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma.

The event climaxed with a photo session with the guests, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the auspicious occasion, as gifts were presented to the guests and participants from Sidian Bank.

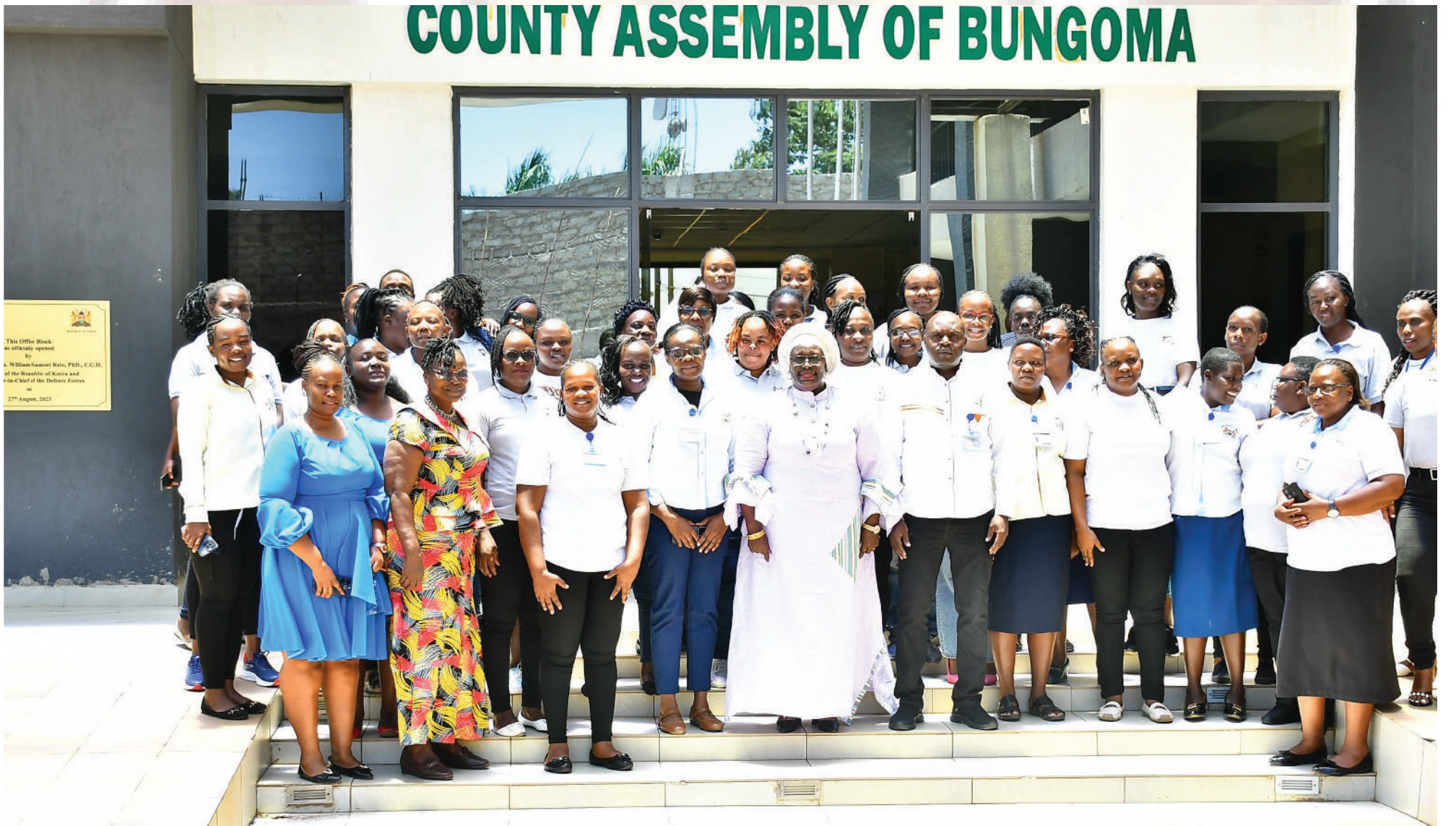


The County First Lady Dr. Margaret Makelo with the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma Mr. Charles Wafula ahead of the Ladies of Honour's Annual General Meeting

PICTORIAL SECTION



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA







County Assembly's Ladies of Honour hold Annual General Meeting graced by the County First Lady Dr. Margaret Makelo, the Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula, and keynote Speaker from Kibabii University Dr. Christine Nabwire



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 www.bungomaassembly.go.ke
 info@bungomaassembly.go.ke
 Bungoma County Assembly
 @Assembly Bungoma

Team Leader: Mr Charles Wafula

Writers: Rosemary Wachiye
Marsh Misiko
Erick Ngobilo

Photography: Public Communications Section

Designer: Shelton Nyongesa

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