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Inside
this
edition

County Assembly of Bungoma Vets nominees for Bungoma County Attorney and Bungoma Municipality Board Member

Bungoma County Assembly Advances Governance Standards With Comprehensive Staff Training

Envisioned ICPAK And County Assembly Of Bungoma Partnership For Improved Governance

County Assembly Approves Appointment Of Edward Waswa Oringe As County Attorney

County Assembly of Bungoma conducts a Customer Satisfaction Survey for the year 2025

Palm Sunday Procession Marks The Start Of Holy Week At Bungoma County Assembly

County Assembly of Bungoma Vets nominees for Bungoma County Attorney and Bungoma Municipality Board Member

By Erick Ngobilo | Marsh Misiko

The nominee for the position of Bungoma County Attorney, Mr. Edward Waswa Oringe, today appeared before the County Assembly of Bungoma's Committee on Appointments for vetting. He was nominated to the post by Governor Ken Lusaka, following a prolonged vacancy in the office.

The vetting session, held at the County Assembly Plenary Hall, was chaired by Hon. Emmanuel Situma, the Speaker of the County Assembly who also heads the Committee on Appointments.

Mr. Waswa, a practicing lawyer, was thoroughly examined on his qualifications and readiness to serve in

the role. Committee members questioned him on a wide range of areas including Public Procurement, Public Finance Management, Human Resource Management, and relevant laws governing county operations.

He was particularly tasked with outlining legal scenarios where an employee may be summarily dismissed, identifying procurement methods, articulating the values and principles of public service, and explaining how he would guard against conflicts of interest—especially with regard to the appointing authority.

In response, Mr. Waswa demonstrated knowledge of the applica-

ble legal frameworks and pledged to uphold the rule of law and integrity in the execution of his duties. He also addressed legal risks counties often face in financial management, such as misappropriation of funds, violation of procurement laws, and failure to account for imprests.

The nominee shared his personal and professional background with the Committee. Born in Navakholo, Kakamega County, Mr. Waswa said his family later moved to Lukhuna in Bungoma County. He is currently based in Kiminini, Trans Nzoia County, although he primarily works in Nairobi where he runs his private legal practice.

Admitted to the Bar in 2018, Mr. Waswa has operated his own law firm and previously worked as a personal assistant to Governor James Orengo during his tenure as Senator. He also served in several law firms where he gained critical legal experience.

He told the Committee that his legal expertise and hands-on experience make him the right candidate for the County Attorney role. If confirmed, he pledged to strengthen the Office of the County Attorney, ensure proper legal scrutiny of documents before they are presented to the Assembly, and promote a harmonious relationship between the Executive and the County Assembly.

Mr. Waswa emphasized his commitment to reducing litigation costs by advocating for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. He disclosed that his net worth stands at KSh30 million, made up of land, motor vehicles, and unpaid legal

fees. He also stated that his law firm handled over 76 cases in the past year with an 80 percent success rate.

He assured the Committee of his commitment to high standards of integrity and teamwork, should his nomination be approved.

The position of the County Attorney has been vacant for a while now after the previous holder left. The Governor earlier nominated a person to the post but withdrew the name immediately after vetting was conducted.

The Committee on Appointments is expected to retreat and prepare a report on Mr. Waswa's suitability, which will be tabled before the full County Assembly for debate and consideration.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Lands, Urban, Physical Planning, and Housing held a vetting session led by the Chairperson, Hon. Francis Chemion, for a nominee appearing for the second time to fill the position of Municipal Board Member for Bungoma Municipality.

The nominee, Mr. Ben Ndichu Karuga's name had earlier been withdrawn before a report was done on his candidature.

Hon. Francis Chemion, who chaired the session, emphasized the importance of ensuring that all nominees for public office meet the required educational and professional standards.



Nominees for the positions of Bungoma County Attorney and Bungoma Municipality Board Member undergo vetting proceedings at the Bungoma County Assembly plenary

Bungoma County Assembly Advances Governance Standards With Comprehensive Staff Training

By Rosemary Wachiyé



County Assembly of Bungoma staff participate in a sensitization session on the transition to Accrual Basis Accounting, Quality Management Systems(QMS) and corruption prevention strategies



The Bungoma County Assembly conducted an intensive staff training session on Wednesday focusing on three critical areas: the transition to Accrual Basis of Accounting, Quality Management Systems (QMS), and Corruption Prevention strategies. The day-long event, held in Paskari Nabwana Hall, aimed to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance governance standards.

Senior Accounts Controller Ms. Julia Lunani led the session on Accrual Basis Accounting, highlighting how

this system—which records revenues and expenses when earned or incurred rather than when cash changes hands—will transform financial reporting at the Assembly.

"This transition represents a significant advancement in our financial governance," Lunani explained. "It will dramatically improve transparency, enable data-driven decision making through precise asset and liability tracking, and align our practices with International Public Sector Accounting Standards."

The County Assembly has opted for

a "big bang" implementation approach, requiring immediate adaptation across all departments. Lunani emphasized the importance of interdepartmental collaboration to ensure a successful transition.

Principal Finance Officer Mr. Symon Walukana reinforced this message, noting that proper implementation would help maintain the Assembly's impressive record of receiving unqualified audit opinions for two consecutive years.

The Corruption Prevention Committee Secretary, Mr. Peter Mbito, detailed the Assembly's comprehensive anti-corruption framework. His presentation outlined the committee's mandate to implement preventive measures and their accountability to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) through quarterly reporting.

Mbito showcased several achievements in corruption prevention, including:

- Establishment of an active Corruption Prevention Committee and Integrity Assurance Officers
- Implementation of gift registries and conflict of interest documentation
- Development and execution of the 2023 Corruption Prevention Policy

"We've created multiple reporting channels for staff to safely report concerns," Mbito said, pointing to strategically placed suggestion

boxes, dedicated email addresses, and direct committee member contact. "While our committee addresses EACC concerns at the institutional level, each staff member plays a crucial role in maintaining vigilance against potential corruption."

The day concluded with QMS Lead Secretariat Ms. Karen Wanyama presenting remarkable progress in the Assembly's quality management initiatives. Recent pre-certification audits showed the institution's compliance score jumping from 64% to 86%.

With certification audits approaching in the coming weeks, Ms. Wanyama provided specific guidance on documentation standards and procedural compliance. She emphasized proper document signing, complete filing systems, secure document handling, and regular monitoring and evaluation reports.

The QMS Secretariat has committed to addressing all identified non-conformities before the certification audit to ensure the highest possible standards are maintained.

This comprehensive training demonstrates Bungoma County Assembly's commitment to excellence in public service delivery through improved financial management, corruption prevention, and quality assurance systems. ENDS.

Envisioned ICPAK And County Assembly Of Bungoma Partnership For Improved Governance

By Rosemary Wachiye

The County Assembly of Bungoma welcomed a delegation from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK). The delegation of officials from this statutory body, which oversees and advances the accountancy profession in Kenya, conducted a session with staff and Honorable Members from the Public Accounts and Investment Committee, Committee on Budget and Appropriation, and Committee on Finance and Economic Planning at the Paskari Nabwana Hall.

The Vice-Chairperson of ICPAK, CPA Prof. Elizabeth Kalunda, revealed that the meeting sought to bolster the proficiency of the accounting profession in the County Assembly. She applauded the institution for securing unqualified audit reports for two consecutive years. She also highlighted the County Assembly's exceptional performance that triggered its recognition in last year's FiRe Awards. Prof Kalunda articulated ICPAK's desire to collaborate with County Assemblies to

strengthen skills in financial interrogation for enhanced governance.

"We have identified a gap in financial interrogations and plan to unite with the County Assembly to empower Committees in fulfilling their oversight role," said Prof Kalunda.

Prof. Kalunda announced that ICPAK would establish a parliamentary liaison office to steer parliamentary committees through capacity building and support. She encouraged committees to pinpoint their specific training needs.

Prof. Kalunda additionally emphasized that the accrual basis of accounting, which now prevails at the national level and across the counties, will tackle the issue of pending bills.

A representative of ICPAK CEO CPA Hillary disclosed to the members that ICPAK functions closely with the National Assembly on matters of legislation since its 11-member

Board encompasses various experts who contribute value to legislation. He elaborated that similarly, they intend to assist the County Assembly with legislation matters.

He furthermore proposed crafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Assembly that will govern the public finance management. The initiative garnered support from the Speaker of the County Assembly Hon Emmanuel Situma who pledged the County Assembly Service Board (CASB)'s willingness to undertake it. Hon Situma declared that CASB remained committed to backing training to ensure continuous learning for the County Assembly to function with integrity and professionalism.

"The County Assembly must allocate 5% of its budget towards professional training to boost professionalism and efficiency in service delivery," he said. Hon Situma praised the institute for its service towards ensuring professionalism and adherence to ethical

standards which foster transparency and accountability as well as prudent financial management.

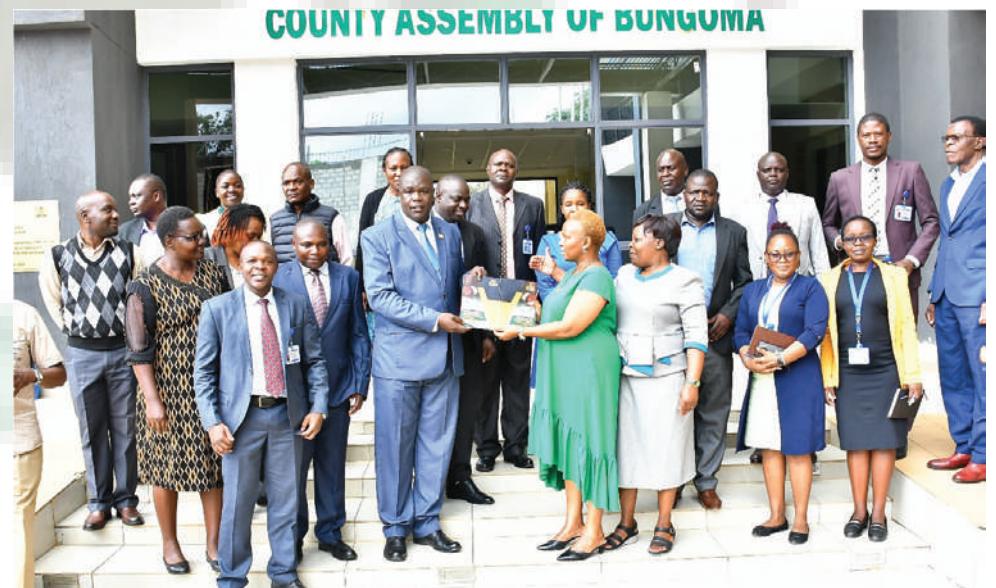
The Speaker outlined the County Assembly's ongoing efforts in service delivery through the implementation of robust performance management. He emphasized the need to strengthen professional bodies that monitor the discipline of their members and operate within established standards.

The delegation also delivered a courtesy call to the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, who guaranteed the team his full support for the training of accountants. He maintained that the introduced accrual system of accounting necessitates training for accountants to ensure efficiency.

The team was accompanied by the ICPAK Western branch in Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, and Busia. The Chairperson of ICPAK Western Branch CPA Diminah Chikamai confirmed the team's dedication towards supporting Counties..



The County Assembly of Bungoma Speaker, Hon. Emmanuel Situma and The Clerk, Mr. Charles Wafula receive the delegation from ICPAK (Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya) led by the Vice-Chairperson CPA Prof. Elizabeth Kalunda during their visit to the County Assembly of Bungoma



County Assembly Approves Appointment Of Edward Waswa Oringe As County Attorney

By Mash Misiko



Mr. Edward Waswa Oringe appears before the committee on Appointments for vetting. The Chairperson and County Assembly Speaker, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, along with the County Assembly Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula, attend the proceedings at the County Assembly plenary

The County Assembly of Bungoma has today approved the nomination of Mr. Edward Waswa Oringe as the new County Attorney. Mr. Waswa was nominated to the position by Bungoma Governor H.E. Kenneth Lusaka.

The report by the Committee on Appointments chaired by the County Assembly Speaker Hon Emmanuel Situma that vetted Mr. Waswa had recommended his appointment. The committee

report was formally tabled before the County Assembly by Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa and seconded by the Leader of Minority Hon. Anthony Lusenaka.

During the debate, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) expressed unanimous support for the report commending the thorough vetting process and Mr. Oringe's qualifications for the position. Members agreed that Mr. Oringe is well-suited to serve as County Attorney citing his legal expertise and com-

mitment to public service.

The Assembly further noted that the appointment aligns with the requirements of the youth inclusion provision under the Employment Act reinforcing the county's commitment to equitable representation in public service.

The Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula is expected to officially communicate the House resolution to the Governor to facilitate the swearing-in of Mr. Oringe before he assumes office.

The Assembly's decision paves the way for Mr. Oringe to officially assume his duties where he is expected to play a critical role in offering legal counsel to the County Government and ensuring that the rule of law is upheld in all county operations.

The move is seen as a significant step in strengthening Bungoma's legal and governance framework while also signalling a commitment to inclusivity, youth empowerment and adherence to national employment policies within the county leadership.

County Assembly of Bungoma conducts a Customer Satisfaction Survey for the year 2025

By Mash Misiko

The County Assembly of Bungoma has consistently prioritized improving its services to meet the needs and expectations of its customers. This commitment is reflected in the annual Customer Satisfaction Surveys conducted to gather valuable feedback from the public.

In the year 2025, the Assembly once again reached out to its esteemed customers to participate in a new survey designed to ascertain whether its services are aligned with the public's needs while identifying areas for future improvement.

The survey process was initiated by Mr. Charles Wafula, the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma, to assess the level of customer satisfaction with County Assembly services.

Staff from the Research and Library Services and Public Communica-

tion and Media Relations Sections, namely Martha Alaka, Elijah Odera, Diana Mechumo, Erick Ngobilo, Dunstan Wafula, Rosemary Wachiye, Sospeter Malaba, Joseph Kalamu, Remmy Opasah, George Kituyi, Mash Misiko, Sussy Makinia, Linda Tubaka, and Hussein Walla, facilitated the process.



A section of the County Assembly of Bungoma staff conducting a Customer Satisfaction Survey

The survey targeted a wide range of stakeholders, including the County Secretary, CECs and Chief Officers, the Secretary of CPSB, Kibabii University, CBOs and NGOs, media organizations, educational institutions, suppliers, members of the public, and former attachment students.

The main purpose of the 2025 survey was to gauge how well the County Assembly was performing in meeting public expectations. It assessed transparency, accountability, quality of service, and areas for improvement. Through this initiative, the County Assembly focused on gaining meaningful insights into the level of satisfaction among its customers and identifying specific areas that needed attention. By gathering honest and constructive feedback, the Assembly aimed to create a more responsive and customer-centered environment.

The survey itself was divided into several sections each designed to capture specific feedback on different aspects of the County Assembly's services. The first section, General Information, focused on demographic details about the participants to provide context for the responses. Questions asked included gender, age group, years of experience with the Assembly,

and the departments or offices most frequently interacted with, including the Speaker's Office and MCAs' Ward Offices.

The second section, Customer Focus and Service Delivery Charter, evaluated the Assembly's commitment to customer satisfaction. Participants were asked to rate statements like "Bungoma County Assembly is driven towards meeting customer needs" and "County Assembly services are accessible" on a scale from 1 (Strongly Agree) to 5 (Strongly Disagree). This section aimed to understand the public's perception of the Assembly's focus on service quality, accessibility, and fairness.

The survey delved into the effectiveness of the Assembly's communication efforts in the third section, Sources of Information and Communication. Participants provided feedback on the effectiveness of the Assembly's communication channels, such as its website, social media platforms, and overall information dissemination. Respondents were asked whether they felt these channels were visible, user-friendly, and provided accurate and timely information.

The fourth section, Service Dimensions, assessed how well the

Assembly was fulfilling its core mandates and responding to the needs of the public. Questions in this section included: "Does the County Assembly perform its core mandates effectively?" and "Do Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) represent public interests effectively?" Respondents also rated their overall satisfaction with the accessibility of County Assembly services.

An important part of the survey focused on Complaint Handling. This section was designed to assess the Assembly's ability to manage and address complaints. Participants were asked about the effectiveness of the complaint channels, the objectivity and timeliness of responses, and whether feedback was provided after complaints were lodged. These questions aimed to ensure that the Assembly was handling public grievances in a fair, transparent, and efficient manner.

The final section of the survey allowed participants to share their suggestions for improvement. Respondents were asked if they had faced any challenges while accessing services from the County Assembly and if so to describe those challenges. Additionally, participants were encour-

aged to provide recommendations on how the Assembly could enhance its service delivery. This open-ended section highlighted valuable insights into areas where the public felt improvements were necessary.

The results of the survey will be analyzed and used to shape future policies and improvements in the County Assembly's service delivery. By engaging with the community and understanding their concerns, the Assembly aims to create an environment that is more responsive, efficient, and accountable. The feedback collected will guide the Assembly in making informed decisions that better meet the needs of its customers.

The exercise conducted by the County Assembly of Bungoma is part of the Assembly's ongoing commitment to align with the quality management system (QMS) to enhance service delivery and ensure that its operations align with public expectations. The insights gathered through this survey will not only help improve existing services but also guide the development of new policies that foster transparency, accountability, and overall service quality.

Palm Sunday Procession Marks The Start Of Holy Week At Bungoma County Assembly

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma had the honour of hosting the starting point of this year's Palm Sunday procession amongst Catholic faithful in Bungoma County, a key event in the Christian calendar, led by Bungoma Diocese Bishop, Rev. Mark Kadima.

Hundreds of faithful gathered at the Assembly's main entrance early in the morning, braving the morning chill to participate in the blessing of the palms and the reading of the gospel. The congregation then proceeded in a solemn procession to Christ the King Cathedral in Bungoma Town, where the Mass was celebrated.

Among those in attendance were the Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, and the Clerk, Mr. Charles Wafula, who joined worshippers in prayer and reflection.

During the service, the Church offered prayers for the Members of the County Assembly and staff, asking for divine guidance in their service to the people of Bungoma. Bishop Kadima expressed gratitude to the County Assembly for graciously allowing the procession to commence at its premises.



Bishop, Rev. Mark Kadima presides over a Holy Mass service at the County Assembly



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