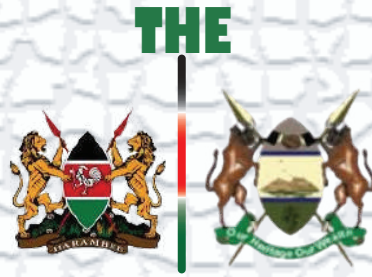


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County Government of Bungoma Unveils KSh15.8 Billion Budget for 2025/2026 Financial Year

By Erick Ngobilo



Bungoma County Finance CECM, Mr. Chrispinus Barasa, presents 2025/26 Budget highlights at the Bungoma County Assembly plenary

The County Government of Bungoma has tabled its proposed budget for the 2025/2026 financial year, outlining a KSh15.88 billion expenditure plan aimed at accelerating development, improving service delivery, and enhancing fiscal discipline.

Presenting the estimates before the County Assembly on Thursday, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Chrispinus Barasa, described the budget as a strategic roadmap towards economic growth and improved livelihoods. He noted that the proposed budget is guided by principles of fiscal prudence, resource efficiency, and inclusive development.

Mr. Barasa disclosed that the total resource envelope stands at KSh15,881,407,761. Of this amount, KSh14,669,300,222 has been allocated to the County Executive, while the County Assembly will

operate with a budget of KSh1,212,107,539.

The CECM explained that the proposed budget will be financed through a combination of equitable share from the National Government, own-source revenue, donor support, and conditional allocations. The equitable share remains the largest contributor at KSh11.68 billion, followed by locally generated revenue at KSh671 million. The county also expects KSh1.29 billion in appropriations-in-aid, alongside KSh1.65 billion from development partners and KSh572.8 million in conditional grants from the National Government.

Among the major donor-funded initiatives are projects supported by DANIDA, UNICEF, the Kenya Devolution Support Programme, KOICA, and the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISP II). Other notable grants include the Climate Change Fund and allocations through the Urban

Support Programme.

The 2025/2026 budget plan allocates 68 percent of the funds—equivalent to KSh10.7 billion—to recurrent expenditure, while development initiatives will take up 32 percent or KSh5.15 billion. This distribution, according to Mr. Barasa, ensures that the county remains operational while simultaneously investing in transformative projects across all sectors.

A closer look at the spending plan reveals that the Office of the County Secretary commands the highest budget at KSh6.37 billion, which includes substantial personnel costs. Public Service Management and Administration follows with an allocation of KSh762 million. Other key sectors such as Roads and Public Works, Health, Water and Natural Resources, Industrialization, Housing, and Tourism and Environment have also received significant investments.

Health services, for instance, will benefit from a combined allocation of KSh1.6 billion, which includes KSh1.29 billion under hospital facilities. Roads and infrastructure will receive KSh616 million, while water services have been allocated KSh592 million. The tourism and environment sector will operate with KSh622 million, which includes KSh153 million under the Climate Change Fund.

The Housing department is set to benefit from KSh397 million, while industrialization initiatives will be supported by KSh199 million. Education and vocational training

centres will receive KSh179 million, a figure Mr. Barasa said is intended to improve learning environments and equip youth with practical skills.

A highlight of the development agenda is the KSh1.35 billion set aside for ward-based projects, which will be implemented directly at the grassroots level to ensure local priorities are addressed.

In terms of economic classification, personnel costs account for 43 percent of the total budget, translating to KSh6.83 billion. Operations and maintenance have been allocated KSh3.68 billion, while grants and development projects consume the rest. Mr. Barasa reaffirmed the county's commitment to managing public resources effectively and outlined measures to contain expenditure, including a freeze on new hires except for essential technical roles and a policy to relocate all departments to government-owned buildings to eliminate office rental costs.

Additionally, the county has earmarked KSh818 million for the settlement of pending bills, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the county's creditworthiness and support local contractors.

Upon tabling the estimates, the Speaker of the County Assembly directed the budget to the Liaison Committee, which will spearhead public participation and facilitate engagement with sectoral committees. The budget is expected to be reviewed, amended where necessary, and approved by June 30, 2025, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act.

Bungoma County Assembly Staff Urged To Embrace Early Investment

By Rosemary Wachiye

Staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma attended a comprehensive financial planning seminar on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the Paskari Nabwana Hall, where they received expert guidance on securing their financial futures.

The half-day program, facilitated by Insurance Company of East Africa (ICEA LION) representative Mr. Wilberforce Wangila, delivered crucial insights into strategic financial management. Wangila emphasized that effective financial planning involves developing tailored solutions that address individual financial needs and aspirations.

"Well-structured financial plans are the foundation for achieving your life objectives," Wangila told the attendees. He outlined key financial targets including family security, home ownership, business development, and retirement planning.

During the session, Wangila clarified the distinction between beneficial and detrimental borrowing. "Good debt represents money borrowed for wealth-building purposes, while bad debt constitutes expensive loans that undermine financial stability," he explained, encouraging staff to exercise prudence in their borrowing decisions.

The presentation covered essential aspects of wealth generation and preservation, pathways to financial independence, diversified investment strategies, and systematic saving approaches. Wangila stressed the importance of sound financial management as protection against unforeseen circumstances such as unexpected job

loss, retirement adjustments, or health crises.

"The financial decisions you make today will determine your quality of life tomorrow," Wangila emphasized, encouraging staff to begin investing early regardless of their current income level. He demonstrated how compound interest significantly rewards those who start investing in their twenties and thirties compared to those who delay until their forties or fifties.

During a lively question-and-answer session, staff members sought guidance on topics ranging from mortgage options to education savings plans and retirement investment vehicles. Wangila provided tailored recommendations, stressing that financial strategies should evolve with life changes and economic conditions.

Senior Human Resource Officer Ms. Anne Wekesa expressed gratitude to the facilitator, noting that the workshop represented a strategic investment in the staff's financial wellbeing. "Financial literacy is a critical life skill that impacts every aspect of our personal and professional lives," she remarked. "Today's session aims to equip our team with the knowledge needed to make informed financial decisions and develop sustainable wealth-building habits."

The seminar concluded with participants receiving resource materials and access to follow-up financial consultations. This initiative reflects the County Assembly's ongoing commitment to holistic staff development and welfare beyond the workplace.



Officer from Insurance Company of East Africa (ICEA LION), Mr Wilberforce Wangila, sensitizes County Assembly staff on strategic financial management

County Assembly of Bungoma Shoots down Proposed Membership to two Committees

By Erick Ngobilo



Members of the County Assembly of Bungoma at a plenary sitting in the County Assembly

The County Assembly of Bungoma has shot down a report by the Selection Committee seeking to reconstitute the Public Accounts and Investments Committee (PAIC) and the Budget and Appropriations Committee (BAC).

This follows the expiry of the three-year term for the two committees, as stipulated in the Standing Orders of the Assembly. Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma made the official communication during the Assembly's sitting held on April 17, 2025, at 2:30 PM, signaling the need for the reconstitution of the critical committees.

Ahead of the debate, Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, who presided over the Sitting, urged Hon. Members to refrain from personal attacks, emphasizing that the motion dealt with the reconstitution of the entire committees, not specific Hon. Members.

Moving the motion, Selection Committee Chair and Majority Leader Hon. Joseph Nyongesa explained that the proposed membership had been carefully considered by engaging all county assembly parties. The process aimed to ensure proportional representation based on party

strength, uphold gender balance, and include marginalized groups.

Supporting the motion, Minority Leader Hon. Anthony Luseneka highlighted the importance of retaining experienced Hon. Members for the sake of continuity in committee work.

Before dissolution, the Budget and Appropriations Committee was chaired by Hon. Jackson Wambulwa (Kimaeti Ward) and deputized by Hon. Charles Nangulu (Namwelela Ward), while PAIC was chaired by Hon. Everton Nganga (East Sang'alo) with Hon. Timothy Chikati (Tongaren) serving as deputy.

Following the Assembly's vote to shoot down the report, Deputy Speaker Stephen Wamalwa announced that the Liaison Committee, which he chairs, will temporarily take over the roles of the two committees to ensure uninterrupted operations. He further clarified that the same motion cannot be reintroduced in its current form for the next six months. The Selection Committee is expected to retreat and reconstitute the two committees.

County Assembly Committees Interrogate 1st And 2nd Quarter Financial Statements And Reports For Fy 2024/25

By Rosemary Wachiye | Mash Misiko | Erick Ngobilo

Interrogations for the first and second quarter expenditures of County departments in Bungoma County by various sectoral committees of the County Assembly have concluded. The reviews were conducted for two days between Friday, April 25, 2025, and Monday, April 28, 2025.

The Chief Officer in charge of the Roads, Transport, Infrastructure, and Public Works Department, Mr. Edward Makhandia, appeared before the Committee on Roads, chaired by Chebyuk Ward MCA Hon. Frankline Simotwo, to explain the various issues in his department.

The committee tasked Mr. Makhandia, alongside his team of officers, with explaining the low revenue collection in streams such as parking, where only Sh9 million was collected. In his defense, the Chief Officer pointed out that other revenue streams had surpassed the target by over 197%. Overall, the department realized revenue collection of Sh70.8 million against a target of Sh79.8 million, which represented an 89% realization.

During the interrogation of the financial statements, the Sector Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources pointed out the lack of crucial financial details in the information that was presented. The department had not provided a detailed account of funding received from the exchequer, internally collected revenue, and grants received during the reporting period. The committee noted that those gaps pose challenges to the accountability of public funds.

The Committee flagged the slow implementation of ward-based and flagship projects under the department. They urged the department to address delays in service delivery to the public by accelerating the roll-out of these projects. The

committee also reviewed the climate change projects reported to be only 25% complete and gave particular attention to why these projects are so far behind.

The Committee on Youth and Sports chaired by MCA for Mihuu ward, Hon. Violet Makhanu held a critical session to interrogate the Department of Youth and Sports on its expenditure for the first and second quarters of the financial year.

According to reports presented most ward-based projects are currently at around 50% completion. While the pace has been steady, the committee expressed concerns about delays and urged the department to fast-track implementation, especially as the financial year progresses.

The committee also received updates on two major flagship projects: the High Altitude Training Centre and the Masinde Muliro Stadium. These two are nearing completion, with both currently standing at an impressive 99% progress rate. Their near-finalization marks a significant milestone for the county's sports infrastructure and is expected to boost athletic performance and community engagement upon launch.

Meanwhile, the Department of Gender, Culture and Social Welfare also faced tough questions from the Committee on Gender, Culture and Social Welfare, chaired by Bokoli MCA Hon. Jack Kawa. Appearing before the committee, Chief Officer for Gender, Mr. David Maling'a, was pressed to improve revenue collection from liquor licensing and to clear all outstanding imposts.

The committee further inquired on the status update of all ongoing projects under the department, with the construction of a Multi-purpose Hall in Sang'alo



reported as the only active project. The department was directed to prioritize the settlement of pending bills' first charge based on the period owed, with older obligations taking precedence.

The Committee on Trade, Energy, and Industrialization chaired by Hon Everton Nganga sought to find out the progress of the County trade loans that had been disbursed. The Department stated to have received part of the money that had been disbursed and that they have launched a recovery plan for the loans issued in the earlier disbursements. The committee called for fairness and accountability in the process.

The Committee on Health Services, chaired by Musikoma Ward MCA Hon. George Makari, concluded the day with Dr. Magrina Mayama, Chief Officer for the Department of Health, appearing before the committee alongside other departmental officers.

The Health Department was tasked to explain the delay in the distribution of medical equipment that had been purchased. Dr. Mayama stated that there was an ongoing verification exercise to ascertain the needs of each hospital facility before distribution.

Officials from the County Department of Public Service Management Administration and ICT led by County Executive Committee Member Mr. David Wamamili and

Chief Officer Ms. Everlyne Wekesa appeared before the Committee on Public Administration and ICT for interrogation of the first and second quarter financial statements and reports for Financial Year 2024/25.

The committee chaired by MCA for Lwandanyi Ward Hon Tony Barasa sought to know the custodian of the department payroll and directed the department to provide a detailed list of personnel. The department was further directed to regularize employment to tackle the concern of misplaced staff in offices who are not professionals.

The committee also raised concern over unsurrendered imprests in the department and instructed the team of officials to ensure all imprests are surrendered in compliance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

They were further tasked to submit supporting documents and reports of the cleared imprests, a list of completed projects that had not been paid, ongoing projects that had not been paid, and a list of the projects that had been committed and the contractor not moved to the site.

The officials also provided the status of the construction of five Ward offices that were underway, namely in Kapkateny, Milima, Tuuti-Marakuru, Chebyuk, and South Bukusu.



County Executive officials appearing before County Assembly Committees for interrogation of the first and second quarter financial statements and reports for FY 2024/2025

Bucounty Savings And Credit Co-operative Society Limited Holds Its Third Annual General Meeting

By Rosemary Wachiye

Bucounty Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Limited (SACCO), affiliated with the County Assembly of Bungoma, held its third Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 30, 2025, in Paskari Nabwana Hall at the County Assembly of Bungoma.

The event marked a significant milestone accomplished by the SACCO over the past year. Members of the SACCO were briefed on the progress made by the SACCO Chairperson, Mr. Jocktan Kabeyi.

Addressing the members, Mr. Kabeyi appreciated their support towards the SACCO management during the past year they have been in office.

He acknowledged the growth of the SACCO to 110 members as he urged staff of the County Assembly who had yet to join the SACCO to do so.

He enumerated the SACCO products that members stand to benefit from, such as access to loan facilities for education, emergencies, salary advances, and check-off loans through the payroll, among others.

He further stated plans to digitize operations of the SACCO to enable members to access services in real-time, which will enhance operational efficiency.

Speaking at the event, the representative of the Clerk of the County

Assembly of Bungoma, Mr. Ignatius Wangila, assured the SACCO members of the full support of the County Assembly Management to provide an enabling environment for the growth and expansion of the SACCO.

"I urge the leadership of the SACCO to expand the membership base by considering the inclusion of immediate family members of the County Assembly staff who are in employment as well as associate members," said Mr. Wangila.

He further challenged the Board of Directors to diversify the products offered and look into viable investment opportunities that can generate returns for members, such as real estate, agribusiness, and

government securities.

The Sub-County Director for Cooperatives, Mr. Wilfred Wasike, called upon the leadership to enhance the borrowing system to enable prompt access to loans.

He urged them to ensure the safety of members' funds by insuring the loans issued to members against unforeseen circumstances.

The procedure for conducting Annual General Meetings was upheld to the letter with the moderation of the Vice Chairperson of the SACCO, Ms. Martha Alaka. The members present gave various opinions on the matters raised, and resolutions were attained.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of critical decisions that paved the way for future plans of the SACCO. Key among them was the operationalization of the restaurant in the County Assembly precincts run by the SACCO.







BUCOUNTY SACCO members attend the third AGM in Paskari Nabwana Hall, County Assembly of Bungoma



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