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County Assembly Rejects Governor Lusaka's Memorandum Approved Budget

By Erick Ngobilo.

The County Assembly of Bungoma has unanimously rejected a memorandum by Governor Ken Lusaka seeking to alter the 2025/2026 County Budget that had earlier been approved by the House.

During a Special Sitting held on 30th June 2025, all 53 Members of the County Assembly present voted in support of a report by the Liaison Committee that recommended the House dismiss the Governor's reservations. Only 9 members were absent from the 62-member Assembly, far exceeding the constitutional threshold of two-thirds (42 members) required to overturn the memorandum.

The Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma had earlier in the day committed the Governor's memorandum to the Liaison Committee, which has been

handling budget matters following a legal dispute over the term of the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Governor Lusaka had returned the approved budget to the Assembly claiming that it violated the law, citing excessive amendments beyond the statutory 1% threshold, unlawful reallocation of funds from various departments to the County Treasury, interference with the doctrine of separation of powers, conflict of interest, and asserting that budget-making is solely a County Executive function.

In a hard-hitting rebuttal, Members of the County Assembly dismissed the Governor's assertions, stressing that budget-making is a collaborative process involving multiple stakeholders, including the County Assembly and the public.

"The County Assembly is not a rubber stamp for the Executive's budget proposals," declared the Liaison Committee in its report.

The Committee emphasized that the law gives the Assembly a clear and constitutional role in refining and balancing the budget to reflect the public interest.

The Members also accused the Governor of acting in bad faith, stating that the tone of the memorandum was confrontational and disrespectful to the Assembly. Earlier attempts by the Governor to withdraw the memorandum were declined by the House.

During a tense afternoon session, the Speaker directed a roll call vote to ensure transparency. All 53 members present voted in support of rejecting the memorandum. While moving the Committee's

report, Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, who also chairs the Liaison Committee, defended the Assembly's actions as lawful and grounded in the Public Finance Management Act, the principles of public participation, and observance of statutory timelines.

"The memorandum was inadequately informed about the budget approval process and failed to consider the report of the Liaison Committee," the Committee noted, further stating that the document exposed significant gaps in understanding public finance law, constitutional interpretation, and institutional roles.

The Committee recommended that the Assembly invoke Section 24(3) (b) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and uphold the Bungoma County Appropriation Bill, 2025 as passed on 18th June 2025 — without any amendments.

Bungoma County 2024/2025 Second Supplementary Budget Withdrawn

By Erick Ngobilo.

The County Assembly of Bungoma has withdrawn the County's Second Supplementary Budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025, effectively halting any further consideration of the document. The document had been tabled in the House and committed to the Liaison committee which is holding brief for the Budget and Appropriations committee that has a case in court over its reconstitution.

This decision was reached during a stormy afternoon sitting on 24th

June 2025, after the Chairperson of the Liaison Committee, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, moved a motion to withdraw the budget. The motion was seconded by Khasoko Ward MCA, Hon. Benjamin Otsiula.

In rejecting the supplementary budget in its entirety, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) called for the full and immediate implementation of the already approved First Supplementary Budget.

They further issued a stern warning

that "any further delay or selective implementation of the First supplementary budget under the pretext of awaiting approval of a new supplementary budget shall be treated with utmost contempt and regarded as a blatant violation of the Public Finance Management Act, a breach of constitutional principles of accountability, and negligence of duty in service delivery to the people of Bungoma County."

While tabling the motion, Hon. Wamalwa noted that with just 13

days remaining to the end of the 2024/2025 financial year on 30th June, there is inadequate time to subject the budget to the required legislative processes. He emphasized that budget scrutiny involves extensive work by various Sectoral committees, followed by reporting to the Liaison Committee and report writing.

"Given the timelines, it is not feasible to conduct the proper scrutiny and due diligence required under the County Assembly Standing Orders," he said. He

added that approving the supplementary budget at this stage would render it inoperative and unenforceable.

MCAs also raised concerns about pending bills amounting to Sh364 million, which remain unsettled despite having been approved under the First Supplementary Budget. Additionally, the Assembly expressed dissatisfaction with the County Treasury's failure to disclose loans reportedly acquired to pay May and June 2024 salaries—an omission that violates Sections 122(1) and (5) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), and which denies the Assembly critical oversight information.

In seconding the motion, Hon. Otsiula criticized the CECM for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Chrispinus Barasa, for allegedly personalizing the budget making process. "The entire supplementary budget is suspect and malicious,"

he declared.

However, Majority Leader Hon. Joseph Nyongesa cautioned against singling out individuals, noting that the budget passes through many hands before Cabinet approval. He challenged members to follow through with oversight action where necessary.

Minority Leader Hon. Vitalis Wangila decried the misappropriation of funds in the County and called for the prompt clearance of pending bills. He further cautioned against the diversion of funds meant for key services.

The resolution by the House to withdraw the Budget will be communicated to the Executive by the Clerk of County assembly Mr. Charles Wafula.



County Assembly members deliberate during a plenary session

Azimio One Kenya Makes Leadership Changes

By Erick Ngobilo.



Hon. Vitalis Wangila
Leader of Minority



Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu
Deputy Minority Leader



Hon. Aggrey Mulongo
Minority Whip



Hon. Allan Nyongesa
Deputy Minority Whip

The Azimio One Kenya Coalition in the County Assembly of Bungoma has announced changes to its leadership structure.

Hon. Vitalis Wangila, Member of County Assembly for Kabula Ward, has been elected as the new Leader of Minority Party. He takes over from Hon. Anthony Lusenaka,

the MCA for Bukembe West, who has been dropped from the position.

Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu, the MCA for Malakisi-Kulisiru Ward, retained her position as Deputy Minority Leader following the leadership reshuffle.

During an afternoon sitting on

Tuesday 24th, June, Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma officially communicated the changes to the House. He informed Members that a leadership meeting convened by Hon. Wangila in his previous position as Deputy Chief Whip and chaired by Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba also elected Hon. Aggrey Mulongo, MCA for Kibingei Ward, as the new Minority Whip.

Hon. Mulongo will be deputized by nominated MCA Allan Nyongesa.

Misikhu Ward MCA Hon. Milliah Masungo who previously held the position of Minority whip was also replaced.

Speaker Situma directed the Clerk of the County Assembly to effect the changes with immediate effect.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Approves Kshs. 15.88 Billion Budget For Fy 2025/26

By Marsh Misiko

The County Assembly of Bungoma has approved a Kshs. 15.88 billion budget for the 2025/2026 financial year, marking an increase of Kshs. 656 million from the current year.

The budget maintains the 68:32 ratio between recurrent (Kshs. 10.73 billion) and development (Kshs. 5.15 billion) expenditure reflecting the county's continued focus on balancing service delivery and investment.

The budget is supported by a

broadened revenue base. The equitable share from the National Government has increased to Kshs. 11.69 billion, while conditional grants from the national government and development partners total Kshs. 2.22 billion. Notably, KOICA (Kshs. 500 million) and KISIP II (Kshs. 297 million) are among the largest contributors. Health-related revenues are expected to drive Appropriation-in-Aid (AIA) to Kshs. 1.29 billion almost double the previous year. However, local revenue is projected to fall sharply by 43.8%, from Kshs. 1.19 billion to

Kshs. 671 million, raising concerns over fiscal sustainability.

The approved budget exceeds the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2025 ceiling by Kshs. 478 million, breaching the 1% deviation limit set under the Public Finance Management regulations. The County Government attributes this to revised AIA projections and the reprioritization of critical programs such as staff recruitment, pension obligations, and infrastructure maintenance.

Budget allocations across departments show significant disparities. Health and Finance departments saw increases of 34.15% and 18.67% respectively, while others, like Sanitation 96.65% and Education 23.73%, experienced major cuts. The Office of the County Secretary receives the largest allocation 40.15% of the total budget primarily due to consolidated personnel expenditures for the executive.

Personnel costs remain a major fiscal pressure, with Kshs. 6.83 billion allocated 43% of the total budget. The budget includes funding for new recruitments, staff promotions and the regularization of 463 casual workers as directed by a court ruling. A Kshs. 320 million pension allocation exceeds agreed obligations, with recommendations to redirect the surplus toward hiring ECDE teachers and technical staff in health, agriculture, and water.

With 94 employees set to retire in FY 2025/26—mainly in the health and agriculture sectors—the County plans to recruit 50 new personnel, prioritizing directors in acting positions and essential technical roles. This recruitment is expected to be financed through savings from retirements and existing allocations.

Ward-Based Projects (WBP) also received a boost, with allocations raised from Kshs. 30 million to Kshs. 35 million per ward, totalling Kshs. 1.575 billion. Implementation will be centrally managed by the SPCU unit to enhance efficiency and reduce delays.



A section of Members of the County Assembly in a plenary sitting

Committee On Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation And Cooperative Development Probes Cheriwet Coffee Factory Over Financial Irregularities

By Marsh Misiko



The County Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development, interrogates the Chief Officer for Cooperative Development, Timothy Wafula Wanjala and the leadership of Cheriwet Coffee Factory over the financial mismanagement in the factory

The County Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation, and Cooperative Development launched an investigation into Cheriwet Coffee Factory in Kaptama Ward, interrogating factory leadership over financial management concerns that have affected local coffee farmers.

The meeting held at the County Assembly chambers and chaired by Hon. Wafula Waiti (MCA Naitiri-Kabuyefwe Ward), focused on extracting accountability from both outgoing and current Central Management Committee members, as well as the previous Supervisory Committee.

The Committee issued strict direc-

tives requiring factory leadership to provide documented evidence upto June 10, 2025, including: complete bank statements showing all withdrawals and outstanding loans, detailed breakdown of dividends from mbuni (coffee cherry) sales with full sales figures, payment records showing amounts paid to farmers per kilogram during first and second payment rounds for financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 and records of reported coffee theft incidents and preventive measures implemented.

Appearing before the Committee Chief Officer for Cooperative Development, Timothy Wafula Wanjala, disclosed concerns over payment figures that highlight the financial challenges facing the coffee factory.

During the 2023/24 season, farmers received only Ksh 40 per kilogram in their first payment, followed by a reduced Ksh 20 in the second payment. While the 2024/25 first payment showed marginal improvement at Ksh 45 per kilogram, the overall compensation remains a point of contention for struggling farmers.

Management confirmed that coffee theft at the factory had been officially reported to Kaptama Police Station under OB number 9/20/10/2024. The matter was still before the courts in an ongoing court proceeding.

The committee has committed to pursuing all raised concerns systematically, promising enhanced governance, transparency, and accountability at Cheriwet Coffee Factory. Additional investigative meetings are scheduled as the Assembly intensifies its oversight role to protect coffee farmers' interests and maintain the integrity of the cooperative movement.

The investigation reflects broader concerns about cooperative management across the county's agricultural sector, where thousands of smallholder farmers depend on fair payment structures and transparent governance for their livelihoods. ENDS.

Bungoma County Assembly Donates Foodstuffs And Essentials To Kanduyi Children's Home

By Rosemary Wachiye

The County Assembly of Bungoma organized a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative with a visit to Kanduyi Children's Home. The event demonstrated the County Assembly's commitment to giving back to the community, embracing social responsibility, and supporting vulnerable members of society.

A delegation of 30 staff members from the County Assembly visited the children's home and donated a variety of foodstuffs, basic necessities, and other essential items as part of their community service efforts.

The institution's Administrator, Mr. Daniel Odeny, expressed appreciation for the County Assembly's support, stating that it would go a long way toward meeting the institution's needs. He noted that

despite receiving government funding, resources remain insufficient due to the growing number of children at the Child Welfare Society.

Mr. Odeny explained that while the institution can accommodate 107 children, it currently houses over 300 children, creating an urgent need for additional dormitories and adequate water supply systems.

The County Assembly staff, led by the Principal Human Resource Officer representing the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Abraham Wekesa, stated that this gesture was just the beginning of future community engagements. He thanked the Children's Home management for their care and support of the children, describing it as selfless service to the community.

Mr. Wekesa challenged the older children to dream big and focus on changing their lives through academic excellence. "No dream is too big to be achieved. You have the chance to become better and great in life. Just dare to dream, work hard, and you will achieve greatness," he said.

On behalf of the County Assembly leadership and staff, the head of Human Resource Management presented the donations to the Children's Home administration. The County Assembly staff participated in entertainment activities with the children and concluded the occasion by sharing a meal with all the children and staff of the institution. They had the opportunity to engage with children of various ages, ranging from as young as one week old to 18 years old.



County Assembly of Bungoma staff members presenting donations to Kanduyi Children's Home Administrator Mr. Daniel Odeny



Staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma, led by the Principal Human Resource Officer Mr. Abraham Wekesa, interacting with children at Kanduyi Children's Home during a visit to the institution for a Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) initiative



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