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Bungoma County Enacts Sh15.9 Billion 2025/2026 Budget

By Erick Ngobilo.

Bungoma County Governor Ken Lusaka has officially signed into law the County Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2025/2026, enacting a Kshs. 15.9 billion budget aimed at driving inclusive development and strengthening service delivery across the county.

The signing ceremony took place at the Governor's residence in Kamukuywa and brought together Members of the County Assembly, County Executive Committee Members, and other senior government officials.

Speaking during the event, County Assembly Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma called for early commencement of procurement processes to ensure timely execution of development projects. He emphasized the need for the County Executive to not only implement projects but also launch and publicize them for public awareness and transparency.

"The Assembly will continue to provide robust oversight to guarantee that public funds are spent effectively and in line with the law," said Situma.

Governor Lusaka, while assuring the Assembly of his administration's commitment to full budget implementation, vowed to dismantle cartels within certain departments that he said were undermining efficient service delivery. He lauded the consultative approach that shaped the budget.

The Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, traced the budget journey back to April 30, 2025, when the County Executive Committee Member for Finance tabled the initial estimates of Kshs. 15.88 billion. Following in-depth scrutiny by sectoral committees, public participation, and Assembly deliberations, the final figure was revised to Kshs. 15.93 billion, incorporating a Kshs. 45 million allocation from the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC).

The budget adheres to the Public Finance Management guidelines, with 68% (Kshs. 10.8 billion) allocated to recurrent expenditure and 32% (Kshs. 5.06 billion) to development. Of the total budget, Kshs. 1.21 billion (7.6%) goes to the County Assembly while Kshs. 14.71 billion (92.4%) is allocated to the County Executive. Funding sources include national government transfers, conditional grants, and local revenues.

Among the key development priorities highlighted are the completion of the blood bank and radiology unit at the Bungoma County Referral Hospital and a 100-bed maternity ward in Bumula. In education, the budget supports vocational training through increased capitation and recruitment of ECDE teachers and VTC instructors. Over Kshs. 50 million has also been set aside for youth empowerment programs.

The infrastructure sector also

received a significant boost, with Kshs. 155.9 million allocated for the completion of the Misiku-Brigadier Road and Kshs. 90 million earmarked to expand electricity access in 24 wards through REREC support.

However, Mr. Wafula expressed concern over the county's declining revenue performance and a rising wage bill, which currently accounts for 43% of total expenditure—surpassing the recommended ceiling of 35%. He called for urgent reforms, including enhanced revenue forecasting, more strategic hiring, and phased reduction of personnel costs to maintain service efficiency.

Deputy Speaker and Liaison Committee Chairperson, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, commended the Assembly for increasing ward-based project allocations from Kshs. 30 million to Kshs. 35 million per ward—bringing the total to Kshs. 1.575 billion.

Hon. Wamalwa also outlined several recommendations adopted during the budget process, including transitioning to Oracle Hyperion for budget preparation, clearly identifying funding sources for all projects, and expediting policy frameworks for youth, women, and disability funds. He underscored the importance of flagship projects with measurable impacts, recruitment aligned to service needs, and collaborative legislation development with support from research institutions and legal bodies.

The leaders present emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the Executive and the Assembly to ensure the successful implementation of the 2025/2026 budget for the benefit of all Bungoma County residents.



Bungoma County Governor H.E Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma Hon. Emmanuel Situma and the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula during the signing of the enacted sh15.9 billion Bungoma County budget

CAF Executive Committee Holds Consultative Meeting with Bungoma MCAs on Key National Concerns

By Erick Ngobilo.



The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) Executive Committee has held a consultative meeting with Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) of Bungoma to chart the way forward on pressing issues affecting County Assemblies across the country.

Led by CAF Chairman Hon. Seth Kamanza, who also serves as the Speaker of the Kwale County Assembly, the Executive Committee outlined their key priorities during a plenary session held at the County Assembly of Bungoma chambers. The visit is part of a nationwide tour by the newly elected CAF leadership aimed at familiarizing themselves with the expectations and challenges facing MCAs.

Among the CAF Executive members present were Secretary General Hon. Chege Mwaura, Western Regional Cluster Representative

Hon. Chris Omulele (Vihiga County Assembly Speaker) and Kakamega MCA Hon. Milton Omukunda, CAF Organizing Secretary Hon. Tonny Barasa (also Bungoma MCA), Deputy Secretary General Hon. Grace Sundukwa (also Bungoma MCA), and CAF CEO Ms. Lorna Losem accompanied by her Secretariat.

Addressing the House, Hon. Kamanza emphasized that CAF's foremost priority is pushing for financial autonomy for County Assemblies. He noted that the Senate had already passed legislation to that effect, awaiting concurrence by the National Assembly. Once enacted, this law will enable County Assemblies to receive their share of revenue directly, without going through County Executive Committee Members for Finance or Governors.

CAF is also lobbying for salary enhancements for MCAs through

job group reclassification. Hon. Kamanza explained that a regrading of MCAs' job groups would automatically result in better remuneration. Additionally, CAF seeks the restoration of plenary sitting allowances and the establishment of a pension scheme for MCAs who serve more than two terms, as opposed to the current end-of-term gratuity arrangement.

Another critical agenda item for the Forum is securing legal recognition for CAF, which is currently registered as a society. Members expressed concern over the lack of legal anchoring, especially considering that similar institutions, such as the County Assemblies Speakers and Clerks forums, enjoy Senate patronage.

CAF executives are also advocating for adequate funding through the County Allocation of Revenue Act (CARA), which determines financial ceilings for County Assemblies

Executives from the County Assemblies Forum(CAF) during a consultative meeting with the Hon. Speaker, the Clerk and Hon. Members at the County Assembly of Bungoma

each fiscal year. They called for MCAs to have a voice in CARA discussions, as decisions made in the Senate significantly impact Assembly operations.

The team pledged to institutionalize the annual Legislative Summit to create a platform for MCAs across the country to exchange ideas, share success stories, highlight challenges, and formulate unified strategies.

Speaking during the session, Bungoma County Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Joseph Nyongesa urged the CAF leadership to act on their promises and deliver tangible results. "The issues you've outlined are not new. They affect us all — MCAs and Speakers alike. We need commitment and action," he said.

Other MCAs echoed this sentiment, expressing frustration over long-standing promises that have not yet materialized. They called for speedy resolution of the challenges and a stronger, more proactive CAF.

In his remarks, Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula emphasized the need for collaboration between CAF and all relevant actors to ensure the Forum is anchored in law. He warned that the current lack of legal recognition continues to deny CAF access to key funding opportunities and donor support. "County Assemblies have been sidelined in critical programs like KDSP due to CAF's weak legal status. We must address this urgently," he stated.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Enhances Leadership Capacity Through Strategic Training

By Rosemary Wachiye

The County Assembly of Bungoma Service Board (CASB) and Management Committee have completed a leadership training program focused on performance management and strategic planning, aimed at enhancing service delivery and operational efficiency within the institution.

The training session, facilitated by national government experts, brought together CASB members and departmental heads to address critical leadership competencies, including communication, collaboration, emotional intelligence, and institutional values integration.

Strategic planning consultant Lennard Asher led participants through sessions on vision alignment, goal setting, cultural integration, and values alignment. Asher emphasized the importance of establishing robust strategies,

systems, and structures to effectively govern the institution.

"Leaders must develop self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, empathy, and strong interpersonal skills to deliver better services," Asher noted, identifying these as key areas for individual improvement. The consultant challenged participants to embrace teamwork as a foundation for executing the County Assembly's core mandate effectively.

A facilitator from Public Service Performance Management Unit under the Office of the President, Mr. Bernard Beigon took the participants through the various performance management tools which include the strategic plan 2025/26 - 2029/30, the Performance Contract, and enlightened them on how to cascade them down to institutional, departmental and individual work plans.

The Chairman of the County Assembly Service Board Hon. Emmanuel Situma stressed the importance of accountability and collaborative leadership. He assured participants of the Board's commitment to providing resources for continuous knowledge and skills development through training.

"We must guard against mismanagement of public resources and assets, ensuring the conduct of all members of staff align with our institutional core values," Hon Situma emphasized.

The Chairman also revealed plans to host the Senate Mashinani outreach program at the County Assembly, calling for unified support to ensure its success. Dr. Anthony Mabele, a member of the Board, praised the team's dedication to institutional advancement. "Let us ensure we make the County Assembly of

Bungoma better than we found it—structurally, systemically, and in terms of our public image," he stated.

Ms. Jessica Mayabi highlighted the importance of accountability and leaving a positive impact in leadership roles. "Our work is visible, and we must continue performing at our best to leave a lasting mark," she said.

Representing the minority party, Hon. Ali Machani expressed confidence that teamwork and committed implementation would enable the institution to deliver quality services to Bungoma County residents.

The training represents part of ongoing efforts to strengthen governance and service delivery mechanisms within the County Assembly, positioning it to better serve the people of Bungoma County.



The Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma Hon. Emmanuel Situma, the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula, members of the County Assembly Service Board(CASB) and Management committee members during a leadership training program.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Committees Elect New Vice Chairpersons

By County Assembly Communications Team



Five Committees of the County Assembly of Bungoma conducted elections for new Vice Chairpersons on Tuesday July 8, 2025, ushering in fresh leadership across the Committees.

The elections mark a significant transition in the Committees' governance structure, with the nominated Members of County Assembly (MCA) securing leadership positions across various committees.

The Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization elected Hon John Kennedy Wanyama (Ford-Kenya) as the Vice Chairperson following a proposal by Hon. Linda Kharakha and seconded by Hon. Bridget Katasi, both from Ford-Kenya.

The Committee on Delegated County Legislation chaired by Hon. George Tendet, Hon. Dorcas Ndasa-ba (Ford-Kenya) was declared elected unopposed after being proposed by Hon. Alice Nanyama

of the Democratic Action Party-Kenya (DAP-K) and seconded by Hon. Wafula Waiti (Ford-Kenya). In her acceptance speech, Hon. Ndasa-ba expressed gratitude to fellow members and pledged to serve with diligence, integrity, and inclusivity.

In a separate meeting for the Committee on Powers and Privileges Hon. Bridget Katasi (Ford-Kenya) emerged victorious through secret ballot in a session chaired by County Assembly Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma. Upon her election, Hon. Katasi thanked members for their trust and committed to support the committee's work with dedication and responsibility.

The Committee on Justice, Cohesion and Legal Affairs elected Hon. Everlyne Anyango (Ford-Kenya) following a proposal by Hon. Linda Kharakha (Ford-Kenya) and seconded by Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu (Jubilee Party).

In the Labour Committee meeting,

Hon. Catherine Kituyi (Ford-Kenya) secured the Vice Chairperson position after being proposed by Hon. Charles Nangulu (Ford-Kenya) and seconded by Hon. Everlyne Anyango (Ford-Kenya).

The elections demonstrated notable cross-party cooperation, with members from Ford-Kenya, DAP-K, and Jubilee Party participating in the nomination and seconding processes across various committees.

The successful conclusion of these elections reinforces the County Assembly's commitment to effective governance and service delivery, setting a foundation for enhanced legislative work in the county.

The new leadership is expected to drive Committee activities forward as the Assembly continues to execute its mandate of overseeing county operations, passing legislations and representing public's interests.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Streamlines Service Delivery Through Customer Feedback System

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma is determined to improve service delivery and citizen-centered governance by strengthening its customer feedback mechanisms as part of its broader Quality Management System (QMS) implementation and performance Management.

Through the consistent collection and analysis of feedback forms from all visitors who seek services from the County Assembly, the Assembly is tracking how well it meets public expectations while identifying areas for service improvement.

The County Assembly values public opinion and actively uses the feedback forms to improve service delivery.

According to data available at the County Assembly Public Communications Department "The County Assembly of Bungoma checks the

quality of its service delivery through feedback forms. The majority of the responses received so far reflect positive public experiences and satisfaction."

A significant number of the customer feedback forms collected and reviewed during the weekly review cycle indicated that the Assembly departments are largely meeting customer expectations. The forms highlighted professionalism, responsiveness, and improved access to information as some of the key strengths within the institution.

However, not all the responses were favorable. A small number of forms pointed to concerns over slow service delivery and unprofessional conduct by a few staff members. These critical voices underscore the need for continued attention to staff training, ethics, and timely service — priorities

which the Assembly leadership has pledged to address.

The launch of the Quality Management System (QMS) has streamlined how feedback is received, processed, and acted upon. QMS has not only enhanced internal coordination but also ensured that feedback loops are closed by guiding departments to respond promptly and effectively to concerns raised by customers.

Central to this process is the role of the Public Communications Office, which coordinates the printing, distribution, and analysis of feedback tools. The office also compiles periodic reports and works with the Assembly's departments to ensure the implementation of the Service Charter.

Furthermore, the Assembly's Committee on the Ombudsman plays an oversight role by review-

ing complaints raised through the feedback forms and making relevant recommendations. The committee ensures that accountability mechanisms are in place and that repeat complaints are escalated to relevant offices for action.

"Customer feedback helps us stay grounded in reality," said the Clerk of County Assembly Mr. Charles wafula "It provides a mirror through which we assess how our services are perceived, which in turn shapes decision-making, resource allocation, and personnel performance."

Under the performance management framework, customer feedback is factored into the institutional evaluations.

Members of the public are encouraged to always fill the customer feedback forms top record their complaints and compliments for improved service delivery.

Student Delegations Visit The County Assembly

By Mash Misiko

Groups of students from schools across Bungoma County and neighbouring regions on many occasions visit the County Assembly to experience governance in action.

The visits are aimed at equipping students with knowledge about the structure and functions of the county assembly helping them better understand the roles of their elected leaders. The tours are part of the practical experience schools wish to gain after undertaking course work on Devolution.

Schools interested in organizing

such visits are required to send a formal request addressed to the Clerk of the County Assembly. The letter should clearly state the specific areas of interest and can be submitted via email to info@bungomacountyassembly.go.ke.

Upon receipt, the requests are reviewed and schools are scheduled for visits based on the County Assembly's calendar. It's important to note that due to ongoing House business visits by delegations are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This means that not all schools may be accommo-

dated on their preferred dates. Among the schools that visited in July were Kimukungi R.C Comprehensive School, St. Cecilia Secondary School Marinda, Cheptais Boys High School, Little Marafiki Academy, Bethesda Girls, Friends School Kuywa, and St. Mary's High School Webuye.

During their visit the students are taken through a detailed induction session led by Public Communications team and the Sergeant-at-Arms. They are oriented on key topics such as the objectives of devolution, structure of

county government, roles and responsibilities of the County Assembly and Executive and the legislative process from drafting bills and committee review to public participation and final approval.

A major highlight for the visits is usually attending a live plenary session where students observe live sessions as Hon. Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) debate motions and discuss key issues affecting the county.

The session also touch on some of the challenges county governments face including limited funding, delays in disbursements from the National Treasury and the need for more active citizen engagement.

They also have a chance to meet and speak with several MCAs, who offer words of encouragement and advice on leadership and career development.



Learners from different learning institutions with some staff and Members of the County Assembly during educational visits at the County Assembly of Bungoma



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