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County Assembly Of Bungoma Resumes Sittings After Short Recess

By Erick Ngobilo.



The County Assembly of Bungoma resumed its plenary sittings on July 22nd, 2025, following a short recess that began on July 10th, 2025. The resumption marked the commencement of a packed legislative week with significant reports, motions, and responses.

The afternoon sitting began with the tabling and debate of the Report of the Sectoral Committee on Public Administration and ICT on the implementation of House resolutions for the years 2022 and 2023. The report, already laid before the House on June 24th, 2025, seeks to assess how effectively previous House resolutions have been implemented by the executive arm of the County Government.

In addition, key papers were scheduled for tabling, including the Bungoma County Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Promotion Policy 2024, aimed at enhancing agricultural technical and vocational training across Bungoma County. A corresponding motion to adopt this report is slated for debate during Wednesday morning's sitting.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu (Khalaba Ward) and Hon. Benard Kikechi (Mbakalo Ward) will receive responses regarding the status of the perimeter wall at Muteremuko VTC and procurement of ECDE teaching and vocational materials, respectively.

On Wednesday afternoon, debate is expected on the Bungoma County

Climate Change Fund Quarterly Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st March 2025, as tabled by the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources. This will be followed by deliberations on the implementation of the Bungoma County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2015.

On Thursday, the Assembly will discuss the Annual Report of the County Assembly Service Board for the year 2024, highlighting internal administrative developments. A response to a critical statement on the status of casual workers in the county following a recent court ruling will also be tabled. Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama (Nominated MCA) is expected to get detailed feedback regarding employment verification, payroll

Members of the County Assembly of Bungoma attend a plenary sitting

adjustments, and executive compliance with the court's directive.

The week will conclude with another statement by Hon. Wanyama seeking clarification on the upcoming construction of an administration block for executive offices, with emphasis on project ownership, budgetary allocations, and physical progress.

County Assembly Adopts Bungoma County Agricultural Technical And Vocational Education And Training (ATVET) Promotion Policy, 2024

By Rosemary Wachiye

On Wednesday July 23, 2025, the Bungoma County Assembly adopted the Bungoma County Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Promotion Policy, 2024, following presentation of the report by the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development.

The policy framework represents the county's first comprehensive approach to promoting and developing Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training programs.

According to the committee's findings, the absence of such a policy had significantly hindered systematic growth and coordination of ATVET programs—initiatives that are essential for enhancing skills development, promoting youth employment, and driving agricultural innovation.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi Busolo, who presented the report on behalf of the committee, emphasized that the policy will facilitate strategic resource mobilization and enable effective implementation of ATVET initiatives throughout the county, ensuring alignment with national development priorities and standards.

The newly adopted policy addresses critical challenges facing agricultural education in Bungoma County namely inadequate knowledge and negative attitude towards ATVET whereby the policy promotes mentorship programs focused on agricultural value chains to combat inadequate knowledge and negative percep-



County Assembly members deliberate during a plenary session

tions toward ATVET programs; inadequate Human Resource where the policy promotes capacity building initiatives and personnel certification programs will address the shortage of qualified instructors and technical staff; inadequate infrastructure as the the framework facilitates land acquisition for new ATVET centers, addressing the critical shortage of training facilities across the county; low integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) where the policy promotes enhanced ICT capacity building programs will modernize agricultural training methods and improve learning outcomes; inadequate funding through comprehensive funding framework will

support ATVET programs while promoting innovative income-generating activities to ensure long-term sustainability; and weak governance where the policy establishes robust institutional governance and accountability frameworks to ensure effective program management.

The Sectoral Committee praised the ATVET Policy as both timely and strategic, noting its strong alignment with the County Government's broader objective of enhancing agricultural productivity through targeted skills development initiatives.

In related business, the Assembly also adopted the report from the

Sectoral Committee on Public Administration and ICT regarding the implementation of House resolutions for calendar years 2022 and 2023, demonstrating continued commitment to accountability and follow-up on legislative decisions.

The ATVET Policy will now proceed to implementation phase, with the County department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative development expected to begin rolling out programs.

Speaker Situma And CAF Officials Petition National Assembly To Fast-track Key County Legislation During Meeting With Speaker Wetang'ula

By Erick Ngobilo.

In a high-level engagement aimed at strengthening devolution, the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, on Thursday July 17, 2025, joined the Executive Committee of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) in petitioning the National Assembly to prioritize and approve key legislative proposals critical to the functioning of County Assemblies across the country.

The delegation paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. Dr. Moses Wetang'ula, where they tabled their case for urgent attention to a series of Bills currently at various stages of debate in Parliament.

Among the priority legislative proposals are the Intergovernmental Relations (Amendment) Bill, and the County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which is currently at the second reading stage. These Bills are expected to streamline coordination between national and county governments while enhancing fiscal accountability.

Other proposed laws that took center stage in the discussions include the County Assemblies Pensions Scheme Bill, 2024, the County Ward (Equitable Development) Fund Bill, and the County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023. These legislative proposals seek to solidify the legal frameworks that safeguard the interests

and operational independence of devolved units.

CAF officials, among them Hon. Situma, emphasized the need for structured intergovernmental legislative engagement, noting that such collaboration would not only foster coherence in law-making but also ensure alignment in policy execution between the two levels of government.

"We urged the Speaker to support the establishment of clear engagement frameworks between Parliament and County Assemblies to improve legislative harmony and cooperation," Hon. Situma said.

The team also appealed for enhanced capacity building and technical support for Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) and county legislative staff. This, they argued, is critical to strengthening their legislative, budgetary, and oversight roles. They proposed regular training programs, exchange of best practices, and access to modern tools that would boost legislative efficiency.

Another key concern raised was the harmonization of welfare benefits for MCAs. The leaders called on the National Assembly to champion national standardization in areas such as remuneration, health coverage, and security for county legislators.



Rt. Hon. Dr. Moses Wetang'ula, Speaker of the National Assembly, poses for a photograph with Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, and members of the County Assemblies Forum(CAF) Executive Committee during their official meeting

Ward Office Managers Sensitized On Financial Management And Office Operations In The County Assembly Of Bungoma

By Rosemary Wachiye.



Senior County Assembly staff conduct Ward Office Managers sensitization at Paskari Nabwana Hall. (Pictured) Principal Legal Counsel Ignatius Wangila (far left), Deputy Clerk Administration Josylyne Situmah, Senior Accounts Controller Julia Naliaka and Principal Human Resource Officer Abraham Wekesa(far right)

On Thursday, July 17, 2025, the County Assembly of Bungoma held a sensitization workshop for ward office managers across all 45 wards of Bungoma County to train them in financial management, standing imprests, and lease agreement requirements for ward offices.

Staff from the Finance and Accounts department guided the Ward Managers through crucial processes in executing their duties, including requisition of operational funds, the application and approval process for imprests, surrender requirements, documentation for surrender, timelines, and consequences of delayed surrender.

The Deputy Clerk in charge of Administration, Ms. Josylyn Situmah, called upon the Ward Managers to acquaint themselves with the County Assembly processes for efficient service delivery. She stated that the institution had rolled out a Quality Management System and was currently implementing performance management, hence the need for all staff to be updated and aligned.

The Principal Human Resource Officer, Mr. Abraham Wekesa, expressed concerns over the irregular attendance of some ward managers at their offices. Mr.

Wekesa noted that while a few offices opened occasionally, some failed to open at all, which greatly hampered service delivery to the public.

"The presence of ward managers in the offices daily is crucial for effective public service and to maintain public trust. I therefore urge all ward office managers to ensure that their offices are opened daily as required to provide timely assistance and effectively address the needs of the public," said Mr. Wekesa.

The Principal Legal Officer, Mr. Ignatius Wangila, emphasized the importance of adherence to legal procedures, particularly on matters involving the termination of officers. He cautioned against dismissal of Ward officers by Ward Managers without following due process. Furthermore, he pointed out the need for accountability in the management of ward offices. He stressed that for office rent to be processed, every ward officer should have a valid tenancy agreement, a KRA pin, title deed, and a photocopy of the National ID.

The Principal Internal Auditor, Mr. Alfred Makokha, noted that the County Assembly was in the process of formulating laws to ensure that every individual's

information is captured. He also added that the asset management team would be visiting all wards to ascertain and account for public assets and that responsible officers would be held accountable in case of any loss or misplacement. He further encouraged all ward managers to join the County Assembly Sacco for their financial well-being and empowerment.

Managers were given the opportunity to seek clarification on issues pertaining to Ward Office operations. A case in point was a ward office building which had been constructed by the area chief and the community, not the county government. Such cases were to be addressed through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the chief for proper accountability.

Others were sharing their offices with officials from the County Executive, posing a challenge to their mandate, especially in matters that require independence. They were required to submit the needed documents to process lease agreements and further draft MOUs with other office occupants.

The managers sought assurance that their concerns would be addressed by the Members of County Assembly in their respec-

tive Wards and the County Assembly Administration.

Additionally, some managers raised concerns about salary deductions, specifically claiming that certain deductions were not functional. Those who raised concerns about remittance to SHA (Social Health Authority) were informed that SHA was operational in accredited hospitals such as the Bungoma County Referral Hospital, though delays in remittance were occasioned by delays in ex-chequer releases.

The ward managers were encouraged to join and follow the County Assembly official website and social media pages to stay updated on County Assembly events and support the information being shared.

The meeting concluded with the promises to surrender imprests, file returns on time, improve communication, and ensure smoother working conditions for ward office staff.

Bungoma County Assembly Speaker Inspects Ongoing Construction Of Ultra-modern Debating Chamber

By Erick Ngobilo



On Friday 18th July, 2025, Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, today conducted an inspection tour of the ongoing construction of the ultra-modern County Assembly Debating Chambers—a flagship infrastructure project being implemented under the stewardship of the County Assembly Service Board, which he chairs.

Other Board Members are Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Majority Leader), Hon Ali Machani (Representing Minority Coalition), Mr. Anthony

Mabele (Public Representative), Ms. Jessicah Mayabi (Public Representative) and Mr. Charles Wafula (Clerk of County Assembly and Board Secretary).

Accompanied by the Assembly's Works Officer, Mr. Cleophas Obilo, Hon. Situma began the visit by joining construction workers for their morning devotion and prayers. He commended their dedication to duty and expressed satisfaction with the quality of work done so far. The Speaker also expressed optimism that the project would be completed within

Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Speaker County Assembly of Bungoma accompanied by Works Officer Mr. Cleophas Obilo, interacts with construction workers during an inspection of the ongoing County Assembly Debating Chambers project

the stipulated timelines and in accordance with the required standards.

The project, valued at Kshs. 399,734,190.00, was officially handed over on 16th February 2024 and commenced on 15th March 2024. It is scheduled to run for 104 weeks, with an anticipated completion date of 13th March 2026.

As of 12th July 2025, a total of 69 weeks had elapsed, accounting for 66.34% of the contract period with 45% of the physical works completed.

The new facility will feature a state-of-the-art debating chamber, executive offices for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Majority and Minority Leaders, as well as several committee rooms and

offices for staff. Once completed, the building is expected to significantly enhance the working environment for Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and boost legislative efficiency.

"This project is more than just a building—it represents our unwavering commitment to good governance and institutional growth. We are confident that the contractor will uphold the highest standards of workmanship and deliver on schedule," Hon. Situma said during the inspection.

The main contractor, M/S Shamim Investment Limited, is also handling the electrical and mechanical subcontracts. Oversight is being provided by a multidisciplinary team from the State Department of Public Works, including architects, quantity surveyors, structural, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineers. A Clerk of Works from the County Assembly is also stationed at the site to ensure quality control and compliance.

Hon. Situma reaffirmed the County Assembly's commitment to transparency and accountability in public projects. He noted that regular progress updates would continue to be shared with the public to maintain openness and build public trust.

County Assembly of Bungoma Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma Honoured by Indian University

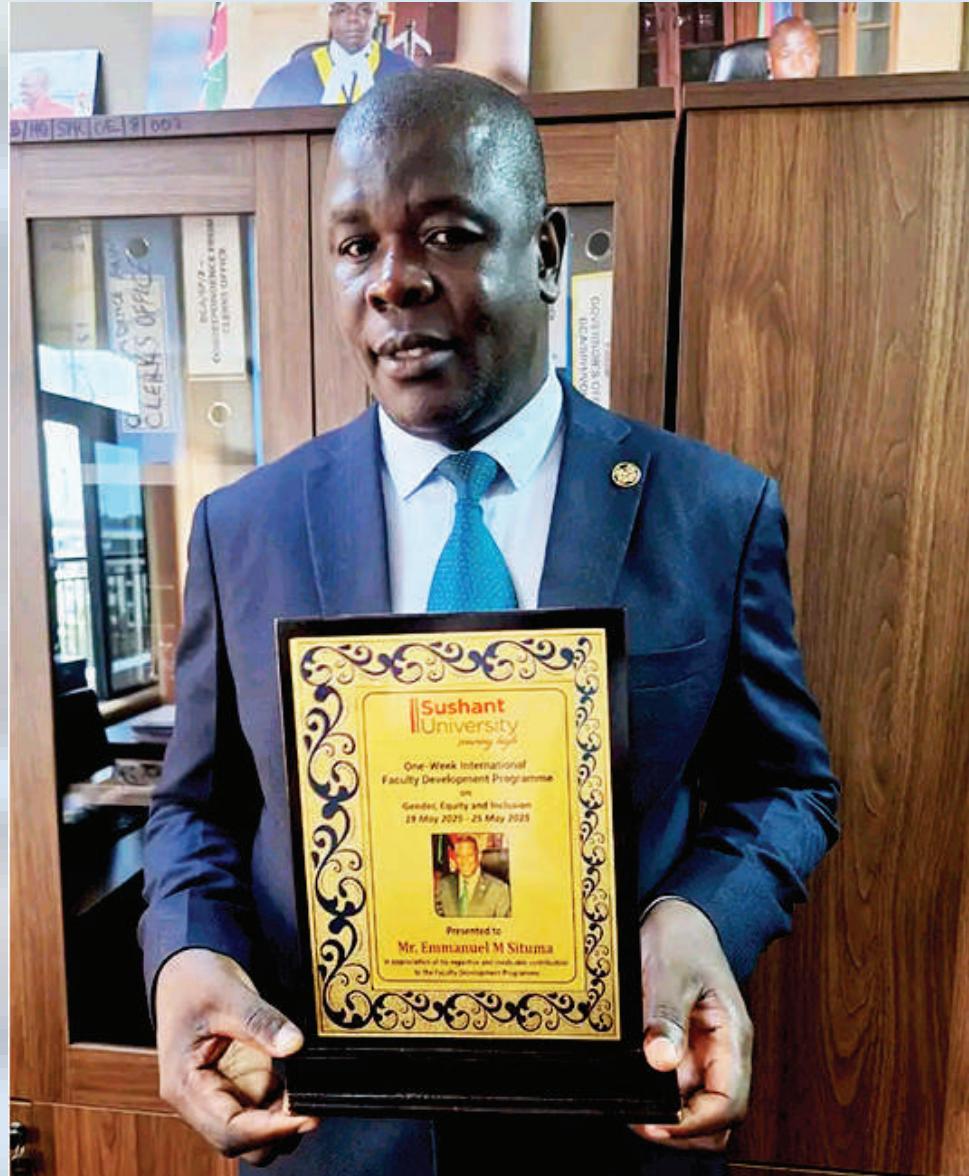
By Erick Ngobilo

The Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, has been honoured by Sushant University in India for his outstanding contribution as a Resource Person during the prestigious five-day International Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Gender, Equity, and Inclusion.

Hon. Situma, who is an alumnus of Nagpur University in India where he earned his Law degree, presented a compelling paper titled "Upholding the Dignity of Women: Recent Perspectives on Women's Rights in Kenya." His presentation explored the constitutional, legal, and institutional frameworks shaping women's rights in Kenya, as well as the significant strides the country has made in promoting gender equity.

Drawing from his legal background and legislative experience, the Speaker highlighted key constitutional provisions such as Articles 27, 28, and 43 of the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, which anchor the rights of women to equality, dignity, and socio-economic inclusion. He delved into progressive laws like the Sexual Offences Act, the Matrimonial Property Act, and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, showcasing Kenya's commitment to addressing gender-based injustices.

Hon. Situma also cited notable case studies and judicial precedents,



Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, displays an award conferred upon him by Sushant University, India, in recognition of his distinguished contribution

including CREAW vs. Attorney General, which emphasized the government's constitutional duty to implement the two-thirds gender rule. He lauded the judiciary's bold interventions such as the

2020 advisory by former Chief Justice David Maraga to dissolve Parliament due to its failure to comply with gender parity requirements.

The Speaker's presentation drew global attention for its candid assessment of both the progress and persistent challenges facing women in Kenya, including gender-based violence, limited political representation, economic inequality, and entrenched patriarchal norms—particularly in rural communities.

As the head of a county legislature, Hon. Situma also shared success stories from Bungoma County, where the Assembly has passed gender-responsive budgets, supported the establishment of GBV recovery centres, and collaborated with civil society groups to train Members of the County Assembly on gender-sensitive legislation.

In recognizing him, Sushant University commended Hon. Situma not only for his scholarly presentation but also for strengthening academic and legislative collaboration between Kenyan and Indian institutions. The Speaker continues to enjoy strong ties with Indian universities, built over the years from his time as a student and through ongoing professional networks.



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