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County Assembly Of Bungoma mourns the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo, MCA Chwele Kabuchai Ward

By Rosemary Wachye

The County Assembly of Bungoma fraternity gathered today, Thursday, August 14, 2025, to pay their final respects to the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo at the entrance of the County Assembly plenary hall, marking a solemn moment in the institution's history.

The funeral procession arrived at the County Assembly of Bungoma at 12:30 p.m. in spectacular fashion, led by the Salvation Army Band, followed by his colleagues Hon. Members and a large crowd of mourners who had accompanied the cortege from Life Care Mortuary. The procession was a testament to the respect and admiration the late Hon. Mukhongo commanded across the County.

The late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo was a senior Member of the County Assembly representing Chwele Kabuchai Ward, a position he held with distinction for three consecutive terms since the advent of devolution in 2013 until his untimely demise on August 4, 2025.

His service to the people of Bungoma County extended beyond the devolved government era. Hon. Mukhongo was honored in front of the Debating Chambers, where he served for close to two decades, having been first nominated by the Ford Kenya Party to the County Council in 2002 and subsequently elected as a Councillor in 2007.

The ceremony drew large numbers of his fellow Hon. MCAs and County Assembly staff, led by the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly, all gathered to bid farewell to their departed colleague. Notable attendees included the Member of Parliament for Kanduyi, Hon. John Makali; former MCAs who had

worked alongside the late leader, including Hon. Henry Majimbo Okumu; and the County Executive Committee Member for Health and Sanitation, Mr. Chrispinus Barasa, who conveyed condolences on behalf of the County Executive.

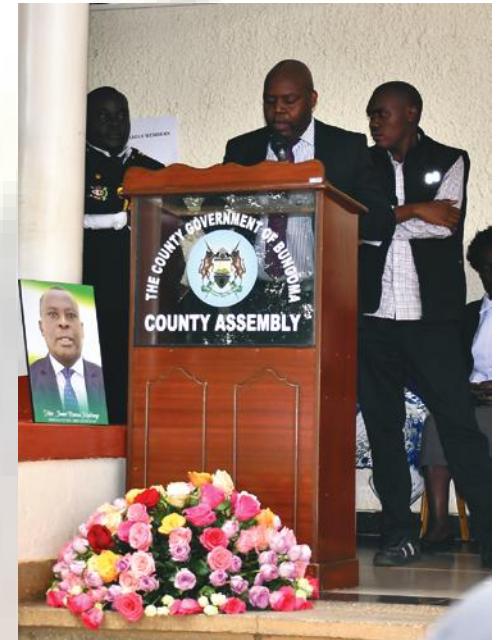
The gathering was a colorful display of respect, with some congregants dressed in Ford Kenya's signature green color while others wore black as a symbol of mourning for the departed legend.

The body of the late Hon. Mukhongo was received with full honors by County Assembly Serjeant-At-Arms officers in their official regalia, as the County Enforcement Officers managed the crowd with dignity and order befitting the solemn occasion.

The Leadership of the County Assembly, led by Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma, delivered heartfelt tributes mourning the late leader. The Speaker reminisced about Hon. Mukhongo's first day at the County Assembly on March 21, 2013, when he took his oath of office, and how he carried himself with dignity and purpose throughout his service. Hon. Situma particularly remembered the late as a passionate defender of Chwele Market traders and an enthusiastic player on the County Assembly football team.

His fellow Hon. MCAs led by the Leader of Majority Hon Joseph Nyongesa and Leader of Minority Hon Vitalis Nyongesa described the late as a servant leader who dedicated himself to represent his people at all cost.

Hon Makali who was the first Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, described the late as a



leader worth emulating, emphasizing his unwavering loyalty to his institution, his political party, and the people of Chwele Kabuchai Ward, whom he faithfully represented for many years.

Following the ceremony at the County Assembly, the procession proceeded to Salvation Army Church, Pongola, for a church service before continuing to his home in Pongola, Kabuchai Sub-County, for an overnight vigil. The County Assembly of Bungoma fraternity will join the family for a candle lighting ceremony in honor of the departed leader.

A memorial service and tributes will be held on Friday, August 15, 2025, at his Pongola home, providing an opportunity for the community to celebrate his life and legacy. The final burial service will take place on Saturday, August 16, 2025,

Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Clerk of the County Assembly Mr Charles Wafula, Kanduyi Member of Parliament Hon. John Makali, Leader of Majority Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, Leader of Minority Hon. Vitalis Wangila, Members of County Assembly, former MCAs and staff pay their last respect to the late Hon. James Mukhongo, MCA Chwele Kabuchai Ward

at Mukhweya Primary School, where the late Hon. Mukhongo will be laid to rest among his people in the Ward he served so faithfully.

The County Assembly of Bungoma has lost not just a dedicated public servant, but a champion of the people whose legacy of integrity, service, and unwavering commitment to his constituents will continue to inspire future generations of leaders.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

HON. JAMES BARASA MUKHONGO

MCA CHWELE KABUCHAI



It is with heartfelt sorrow that the County Assembly of Bungoma family mourns the passing of one of our own Hon. James

Barasa Mukhongo, Member of County Assembly for Chwele Kabuchai Ward. He peacefully departed on August 4, 2025, at Hopkins Crescent Hospital in Bungoma, where he had been receiving medical care.

A three-term MCA elected under the Ford Kenya Party banner, Hon. Mukhongo was a pillar of wisdom, courage and service. First elected in 2013, he earned the trust and admiration of both his Ward and fellow leaders through his consistent dedication to public service and development.

Throughout his distinguished career

First County Assembly (2013–2017),

he served as:

- Chief Whip – Majority Party
- Vice Chairperson, Finance and Economic Planning Committee
- Member, Committees on Delegated County Legislation; Lands, Urban and Physical Planning

Second County Assembly (2017–2022),

- Chairperson, Finance and Economic Planning Committee
- Member, Committees on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources; Lands; and Selection



SUNRISE | SUNSET
10TH JULY 1966 | 4TH AUGUST 2025

Third County Assembly (2022–2025),

- Chairperson, Finance and Economic Planning Committee
- Member, Committees on Lands, Urban and Physical Planning; Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Gender and Culture
- House Business
- Appointments
- Powers and Privileges
- Selection

Before the advent of devolution, his political journey began in 2002 when he was nominated by Ford

Kenya as a councillor and later elected in 2007. From those early days, his heart was firmly rooted in servant leadership.

He will be dearly remembered for his firm stance on matters of integrity, his relentless pursuit of better livelihoods for the people of Chwele/Kabuchai, and his passionate defense of Chwele market traders. Outside the Assembly, he brought warmth and camaraderie as a dedicated member of the County Assembly football team.

As a family: leaders, staff,

colleagues, and friends, we are deeply pained by this loss. We celebrate the life of a man whose contribution to Bungoma County will not be forgotten. We send our sincerest condolences to his family, loved ones, constituents and all who were touched by his life.

May His Soul Find Eternal Peace And Rest

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA FAMILY



County Assembly Of Bungoma Kicks Off Jitume Digital Training Programme

By Marsh Misiko

The County Assembly of Bungoma officially launched a five-day Jitume Digital Training Program on August 4th, 2025. The program which will take place at the County Assembly Digital Library is aimed at equipping participants with essential digital skills and marks a major step in promoting digital literacy and youth empowerment within the County.

Deputy Clerk in-charge of Administration Ms. Josylyne Situmah presided over the program's official

opening ceremony. In her welcome address, she encouraged participants to maintain discipline and respect throughout the training period while emphasizing the critical importance of adhering to program guidelines.

"I urge all participants to approach these training sessions with the seriousness they deserve," Ms. Situmah stated. "The knowledge and skills you acquire here have the potential to unlock numerous employment and entrepreneurial

opportunities in today's competitive job market."

The training will be conducted by facilitators from Emobilis partnering with Ajira and Konza City Technopolis, the Department of Research and Library Services, under the leadership of Ms. Martha Alaka, with support from Mr Dunstan Namusonge and the ICT Department headed by Mr Benedict Mutoro.

Speaking during the launch, Ms.

Alaka outlined the key areas the training will cover, including digital marketing, Search engine optimization (SEO), online work safety and soft skills for digital profile creation. She added that the program will bring together experienced facilitators committed to empowering learners with both technical skills and practical digital skills required in today's dynamic digital economy.

Mr. Stephen Maingi, one of the lead Jitume Program facilitators, emphasized the transformative potential of the training. He encouraged participants to fully embrace the learning opportunity and use the newly acquired skills as a foundation for accessing employment and entrepreneurial ventures.

"This training extends beyond mere technical skill acquisition," Mr. Maingi noted. "We aim to build participants' confidence to work effectively across various digital environments and platforms."

Additional facilitators supporting the program include Mr. Danik Murumba and Ms. Catherine Machocho, both of whom bring valuable experience and insights to the training process.

This initiative reflects the County Assembly's commitment to fostering technological advancement and capacity building at the grassroots level. As digital transformation continues to influence the way people work and live, programs like Jitume serve as a bridge to ensure that communities in Bungoma are equipped to thrive in a fast-evolving digital landscape.

The training will culminate in a closing session, where participants will be awarded certificates of completion marking the beginning of their journey into the digital world.



Senior Research Officer Ms. Martha Alaka, Deputy Clerk incharge of Administration Ms. Josylyne Situmah and facilitators from emobilis, Ajira and Konza City Technopolis address participants of Jitume Digital Training Programme at the County Assembly Paskari Nabwana Hall.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Adopts Proactive Risk Management Strategy

By Stellah Wanjala

The County Assembly of Bungoma has implemented a proactive risk management framework aimed at preserving institutional value, ensuring efficient service delivery, and upholding good governance principles as outlined in the Constitution. The initiative focuses on building organizational resilience in an increasingly uncertain operating environment.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of modern governance challenges, the Assembly has positioned risk management as a cornerstone of sustainable performance. The institution has developed a comprehensive system covering risk identification, analysis, assessment, reporting, and monitoring to ensure effective threat management.

The Assembly has established Risk Management Committee to champion the integration of risks management in organizational processes and strategies for informed decision-making. Each department now has appointed risk champions responsible for facilitating risk discussions in operational areas, escalating incident reports, and maintaining updated risk registers for committee review.

The County Assembly Service Board (CASB) has approved risk appetite statement indicating the risks that the County Assembly in order to create an unbiased basis for prioritization of resources as it works towards achieving its strategic objectives. By clearly articulating this threshold, the County Assembly can make consistent, informed decisions that support stability, adaptability and long-term success especially in the face of uncertainty.

The County Assembly is implementing programs that do not solely focus on control of threats but rather provide resilience towards the potential threats hence guaranteed continuity through:

Embedding of risk management in daily operations: The County Assembly has integrated risk awareness and mitigation strategies into its daily operations, strategic planning and decision making process. This has promoted the culture of vigilance and accountability among its stakeholders since risk is promoted to a shared responsibility across all levels. This in turn ensures risk based decisions and reduced vulnerability to disruptions.

Approval of ERM policy: The policy serves as a foundational component for building and sustaining risk resilience at the County Assembly of Bungoma. It establishes formal procedures for identifying, assessing, managing, and monitoring risks across all operational areas making it a critical tool for long-term stability and adaptability.

Scenario anticipation planning and simulations: The County Assembly aware of potential threats is intentional on testing organizational response to potential crisis. Fire drills have been organized to gauge the level of preparedness of members of staff to such occurrences.

Sensitization: Members of staff have been sensitized on risk management to help encourage a risk culture in the organization. The County Assembly aware of its publics has put in place robust measures to ensure that the sensitization program captures all stakeholders to better promote a risk aware culture.

continuity in a crisis through a structured approach.

Implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS): The implementation of QMS in the County Assembly supports standardization of performance which systematically addresses risks. This promotes sustainable service delivery and customer satisfaction even under strain.

Performance management: Setting clear expectations and aligning individual performance with strategic objectives creates a workforce that is risk resilient and responsive.

Strategic plan: The County Assembly of Bungoma has developed a strategic plan 2025/26 – 2029/30 that is vital to creating organizational risk resilience through a provision of a structured framework that helps it effectively anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from risks while harnessing from the opportunities presented by uncertainties. The strategic plan ensures risk management is aligned with organizational strategic goals providing a ground for risk prioritization hence improved decision making and effective resource allocation and decision making.

Approval and implementation of policies: The County Assembly Service Board has approved and implemented multiple policies designed to provide structured operational guidelines, ensure consistency, and enhance preparedness. These policies not only serve as a control measure for potential risks but also increase risk resilience by ensuring business

Beyond managing identified threats, the County Assembly is committed to building organizational resilience. In today's volatile environment marked by various risks, this focus on risk resilience is essential for long-term sustainability and effective governance.

The Assembly's proactive stance positions it to not merely survive uncertainties but to thrive despite challenges, ensuring continued service excellence to the people of Bungoma County. ENDS.

RISK APPETITE STATEMENT

Risk appetite is the amount of risk an entity is willing to accept in pursuit of its strategic objectives. It sets the parameters within which management is expected to operate.

Risk-Appetite Methodology

The approved criterion of expressing the institutional risk appetite is under the following classes;

- Higher appetite (acceptable, aggressive); Assembly's risk appetite will be rated high when it has greater tolerance. Greater tolerance to uncertainties/ potential losses. It implies that the County Assembly is comfortable to engage in risk ventures with the hope of achieving greater rewards. It shows strategic willingness to embrace more uncertainty for possible higher returns and not recklessness.
- Medium appetite (moderate); - Relative tolerance to uncertainties. It implies willingness to engage in risk ventures with caution within some allowable margin.

- Low appetite (unacceptable/conservative);-Zero tolerance for uncertainties/potential loses. Implies that the organization is not must put in place robust strategies to completely eliminate the risks.

willing to engage in risky ventures at all and therefore the institution must put in place robust strategies to completely eliminate the risks.

OVERALL RISK APPETITE STATEMENT

The table below outlines the relatable risk categories and the amount of tolerance the County Assembly of Bungoma has towards compound elements of the categories as resolved by the County Assembly Service Board.

(Continuation)

RISK CATEGORY	APPETITE STATEMENT	
Operational	Zero tolerance to poor storage of documents	Zero tolerance to conflict of interest.
	Zero tolerance to negligence, misuse and wastage of Assembly resources	Zero tolerance to unfair disciplinary action against employees
	Zero tolerance to misfiling and wrong referencing of documents	Zero tolerance to un-surrendered imprest.
	Zero tolerance to ineffective internal processes	Zero tolerance to noncompliance to relevant regulatory requirements
	Tolerance to salary delays not beyond 2 weeks	Zero tolerance to goods and services that do not meet user requirements.
	Zero tolerance to external interference to the audit process	Zero tolerance to noncompliance with contract agreements with service providers.
	Zero tolerate to unfair treatment of customers	Zero tolerance to non-adherence to occupational, health and safety policies and protocols
	Zero tolerance to delays in procurement process	Zero tolerance to work related injuries
	Due diligence to be done for all tenders above 1Million	Zero tolerance to structural defects that may lead to injuries at work
	Zero tolerance to inventory mismanagement	Zero tolerance to noncompliance to partnership/contractual agreements
	Machine failure should not last more than 24 working hours	Zero tolerance to lack of service level agreements and contracts with service providers
	Zero tolerance to delays in maintenance and repair of machines and equipment as per manufacturer guidelines and existing policies	Zero tolerance to delayed initiation of procurement process beyond 7 days after receipt of procurement requisition from user departments.
	Zero tolerance to lack of appropriate working tools	Zero tolerance to undertraining of staff and members
	Zero tolerance to delay in payments of utility bills	Zero tolerance to absenteeism
Technological	Tolerance to changing technological system.	Zero tolerance to drug and substance abuse at work place
	Zero tolerance to use of unlicensed software, ICT products and systems.	Zero tolerance to behavior against the signed code of conduct.
	Zero tolerance to poor/ lack of back up for information/data	Zero tolerance to gender based harassment
	System failure should not be experienced beyond 24 working hours	Zero tolerance to non- subscription to research information sources
Financial	Zero tolerance for expenditure outside the approved budget	Zero tolerance to lack of data and information back up
	Zero tolerance to inflated project costs, goods and services costs.	Zero tolerance to inaccurate data and information from departments.
	Zero tolerance to delayed remittance of statutory deductions	Zero tolerance to mismanagement of passwords
	Zero tolerance to misclassification of vote heads	Zero tolerance to viruses and malicious software attacks
	Zero tolerance to unsupported transactions	Zero tolerance to entry of unauthorized persons and weapons to the Assembly
	Tolerance to short-term borrowings to be repaid within the financial year it is borrowed.	Zero tolerance to unruly behavior by members and staff of the Assembly within the precincts of the Assembly
	Zero tolerance to helicopter payment	Zero tolerance to insecure working environment
	Zero tolerance to un-updated asset register	Zero tolerance to leakage of confidential reports and information
	Zero tolerance to loss of entity funds and assets	Zero tolerance to adverse stakeholder confidence on the Assembly roles.
	Tolerance to budgetary re-allocations not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved vote head allocations.	Zero tolerance to invisibility of the County Assembly.
Strategic	Zero tolerance to unrealistic revenue forecasts.	Zero tolerance to unfavorable audit opinion.
	Zero tolerance to plagiarism in the county assembly reports and documents.	Zero tolerance to negative organizational culture.
	Zero tolerance to non-adherence to departmental work plans.	Zero tolerance for failure to dispose of obsolete assets within a year from the time they are declared unusable.
	Zero tolerance to inadequate oversight by Assembly committees on County Programs	We will adhere to government protocols for pandemics and epidemics
	Zero tolerance to non-implementation of House resolutions.	Zero tolerance to disposals that are environmentally harmful and are non-compliant to green supply chain requirements.
	Zero tolerance to delayed submission of documents requested from the executive for more than 14 days	Zero tolerance to noncompliance to the approved Succession planning and management policy
	Zero tolerance to performance below 85 per cent of the planned strategic initiatives.	Zero tolerance to delays in accessing of exchequer funds credited to the County Assembly for more than one week.
	Zero tolerance to political interferences	System and ICT equipment should not fail for more than 24 working hours
Governance	Zero tolerance to inadequate technical expertise input for legislation, oversight and representation.	Zero tolerance to intentional disruptions that will hinder continuity of operations
	Zero tolerance to understaffing.	Zero tolerance to white elephant projects.
	Zero tolerance to unsupportive audit processes by departments	Projects not to delay for more than 25 per cent of the contract period.
	Zero tolerance to untimely implementation of audit resolutions and other oversight agencies/commissions	
	Zero tolerance to uncoordinated enterprise risk management.	

(Continues on the right)

County Assembly Of Bungoma Hosts Khalaba Medical Services For Health Sensitization Program

By County Assembly Communications Team



Dr. Isaac Omeri and staff from Khalaba Medical Services sensitize staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma on medical services offered at the facility.

The County Assembly of Bungoma hosted representatives from Khalaba Medical Services on Thursday, July 31, 2025, for a sensitization session and free medical outreach program. Khalaba Medical Services is a Level 4 healthcare facility located in Bungoma town.

The visit provided a platform for Khalaba Medical Services to introduce their institution and highlight the range of healthcare services offered at the facility with the aim of fostering future collaboration with the Assembly and the larger Bungoma County community.

The sensitization session, which engaged County Assembly staff members, was led by Dr. Isaac Omeri, CEO of Khalaba Medical Services, accompanied by Miss Purity, the institution's Marketing Officer, and other staff members from the medical facility.

Dr. Omeri emphasized the hospital's mission to provide accessible, high-quality healthcare services across Bungoma County and the wider Western region. He outlined the facility's dedication to meeting the diverse health needs of the community through comprehensive medical services.

Miss Purity elaborated on the facility's mission, vision and core values, outlining the wide array of services available—including major and minor surgeries, cancer screening and treatment, antenatal, maternal and child health (MCH), postnatal care, obstetric and gynaecological services, optical care, as well as both outpatient and inpatient treatment.

An interactive question-and-answer session followed the presentations, allowing Assembly staff to engage directly with the medical team, addressing their healthcare concerns and queries. The program

culminated in a free medical camp being held on the Assembly premises, offering health screenings, malaria testing, HIV testing, and general consultations.

The team from Khalaba Medical Services extended a warm invitation to all County Assembly staff and the people of Bungoma to visit their facility and benefit from their comprehensive healthcare offerings.

This initiative reflects a growing partnership between the health sector and public institutions in promoting the well-being of our citizens. The County Assembly of Bungoma remains committed to supporting efforts that enhance public health and awareness within the county.

Such partnerships are crucial in bridging healthcare gaps and ensuring that quality medical services reach all corners of Bungoma County, ultimately contributing to the overall health and prosperity of the community.



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