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County Assembly Of Bungoma Resumes Sitzings After Recess

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma resumed its plenary sittings on Tuesday September 9, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. after an extended recess that began on July 29, 2025. While the County Assembly was initially scheduled to reconvene on August 22, the recess was extended by a further two weeks, with Members of County Assembly (MCAs) officially returning to business this afternoon.

The sessions resume at a critical time, with a heavy agenda awaiting members. Central to the Assembly's business this week is the reconstitution of the County Public Service Board (CPSB) which has been left with vacancies following the lapse of the previous membership's term.

In line with Section 58A of the County Governments Act (Revised 2020), Governor Kenneth Lusaka submitted the names of five nominees to constitute the Selection Panel tasked with overseeing the recruitment of new CPSB members. The nominees are:

- 1. CS Elizabeth Wanyonyi – Chairperson**
- 2. Advocate Saul Wasilwa – Representing the Law Society of Kenya**
- 3. CPA Rita Nabalayo Manyonge – Representing ICPAK**
- 4. Chemonges Stephen – Representing the Workers' Association**



File Photo: County Assembly of Bungoma in session

Association **5. Julius Bakasa – Representing the Private Sector**

The Assembly is expected to deliberate and approve their appointment or otherwise, paving the way for the recruitment of new CPSB members to ensure continuity in public service management and delivery.

The Assembly's programme for the week also includes the tabling

and consideration of critical reports, including the County Annual Development Plan for 2026/2027, the Auditor General's report for FY 2023/2024, and committee reports on youth affairs, sports, health services, and land management.

In a solemn moment, the Assembly will also pay tribute to the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo, the MCA for Chwele-Kabuchai Ward, who passed away during the recess. Hon. Mukhongo

served the County Assembly with distinction across three terms, holding various leadership positions and championing legislation on finance, planning, environment, and social welfare.

Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma is expected to guide members through the packed order of business, emphasizing the importance of diligence and unity as the Assembly embarks on its regular legislative duties.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Applauded As Governor Lusaka Assents To Valuation And Rating Bill, 2025

By Marsh Misiko

The County Assembly of Bungoma has been lauded for its pivotal role in modernizing Bungoma County's revenue framework during the official assent to the Bungoma County Valuation and Rating Bill, 2025, by Governor Kenneth Lusaka.

The Bill, which was passed by the County Assembly on July 29, 2025, was formally signed into law by the Governor on Friday, August 22, 2025, during a ceremony attended by County Assembly leadership, Members of County Assembly (MCAs), County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), and other senior county staff.

The Bungoma County Valuation and Rating Act, 2025, provides for the establishment of a County Valuation and Rating Office and the preparation of a valuation roll. The Act will address objections and appeals while overseeing the proper collection of property rates. It seeks to increase its own source revenue collection, which will increase the equitable share.

The law introduces a clear legal framework for the valuation of land and property across Bungoma County. It exempts freehold agricultural land and provides tax reliefs and exemptions for institutions such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship. The Act also protects vulnerable groups through targeted rebates and exemptions.

Governor Lusaka, while assenting to the Bill, underscored its transformative impact on the county's taxation structure. "This Act



institutionalizes accountability and transparency in property valuation and taxation. It will ensure equity while boosting the county's fiscal sustainability," the Governor stated.

Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, commended MCAs for their dedication to legislative reforms that will modernize revenue collection and address revenue leakages. He specifically highlighted issues in revenue flows from county hospitals, butcheries, and posho mills, noting that the new law will



Bungoma County Governor Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, County Assembly of Bungoma Speaker, Hon. Emmanuel Situma and Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula during the assent to Valuation and Rating Bill 2025

significantly improve oversight and collection in these areas.

Hon. Situma urged the County Executive, through the County Attorney's Office, to move swiftly in drafting the regulations required to implement the new Act, along with other recently passed laws that await operational frameworks.

The Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, echoed the call for quick implementation, urging the Executive to take immediate steps in developing

regulations to actualize the law's provisions.

Majority Leader Hon. Joseph Nyongesa also thanked Governor Lusaka for assenting to the Bill, stating that it lays the foundation for a reliable, transparent, and modern property taxation system that supports sustainable service delivery and effective long-term planning.

Occupational Safety And Health And Its Benefits At The Workplace

By Werunga Elvis

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is a vital aspect of modern workplaces, focusing on the prevention of accidents, injuries, and illnesses that may arise from work-related activities. It goes beyond compliance with legal requirements to fostering a culture where employees feel safe, valued, and motivated. A strong OSH framework ensures that both employers and employees play active roles in creating a healthy and productive work

environment.

Occupational safety and health at the work place being mandatory in Kenya both in the private and public sector, it is with this in mind that the County Assembly of Bungoma has instituted an Occupational Safety Health Committee in compliance with the Occupational Safety Health Act (OSHA) of 2007.

The Bungoma County Assembly Service Board has made strides

to ensure the safety; health and welfare of its employees are safeguarded by conducting risk assessment, implementing preventive and protective strategies and maintaining a safe working environment.

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee of the County Assembly of Bungoma was established in July 2024. Under the leadership of its chairperson, Deputy Clerk Administration Ms. Josylyne Situma, the

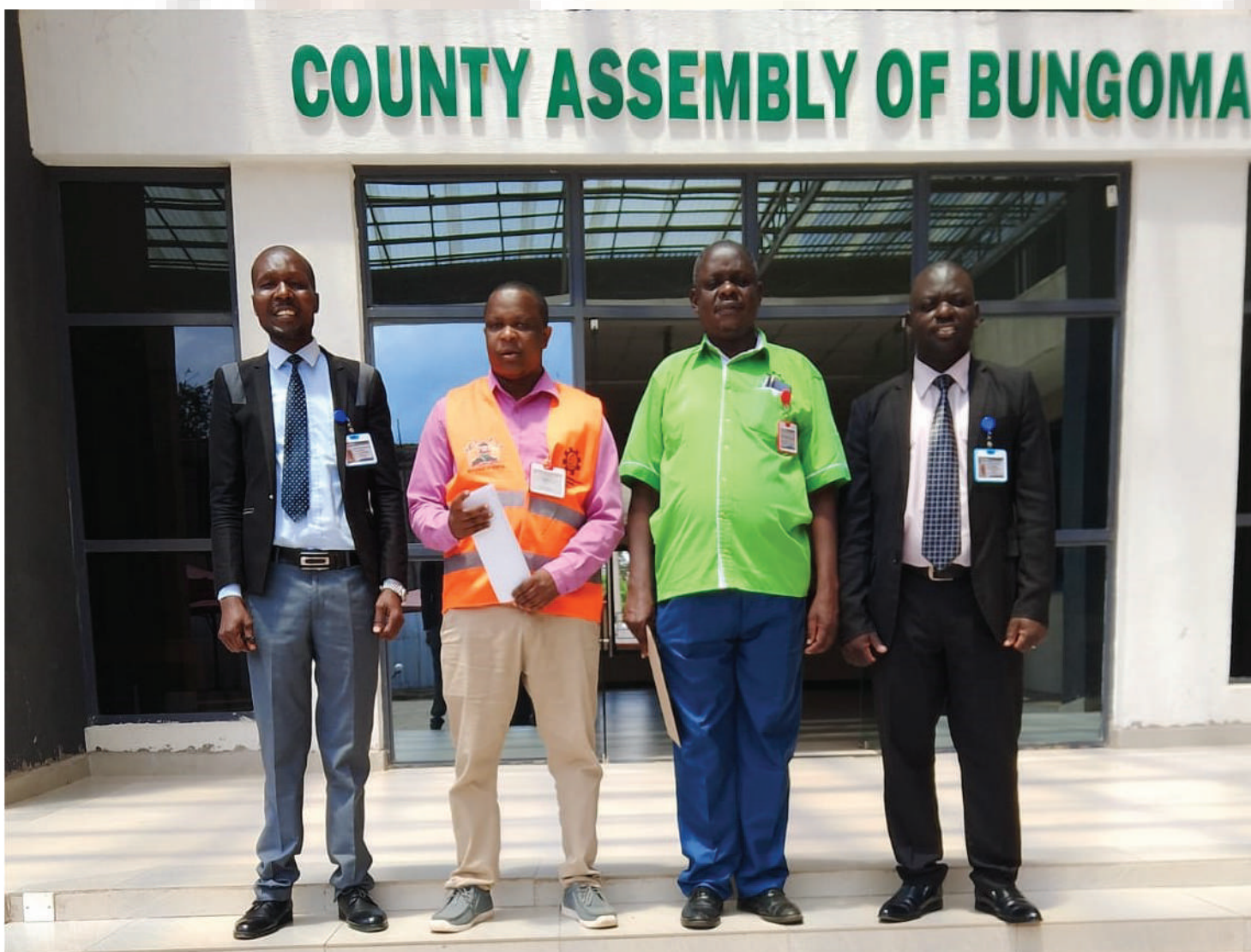
Committee has made commendable strides since its formation. The Committee has conducted several meetings, sensitized staff on its existence, duties, and responsibilities, and formulated a policy to guide its operations.

Further, in compliance with the dictates of OSHA and WIBA of 2017, the committee has ensured that the work place is duly registered and has obtained a valid certificate, an abstract for the work place operations as well a register to record all incidences that are related to work injury.

The Committee is in the process of carrying out statutory safety and health audit, fire safety audit and a risk assessment in addition to having its members trained on occupational safety and health related courses.

It is worth noting that in the short stint; the efforts of the committee have been recognized by the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health services and the County Assembly of Bungoma, got position two overall under the public sector category after Laikipia County Government in Occupational Safety Health during this year's commemoration of the World Day safety and Health observed on 28th April, 2025 in Laikipia County.

Workplaces are often exposed to various risks, ranging from physical hazards such as machinery and slips, to psychosocial risks like stress and burnout. By adopting effective OSH measures, organizations can in essence;



Officials from the Directorate of Occupational Safety Health Services with staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma

- Prevent accidents and injuries through proper safety policies reduce workplace hazards.
- Protect employee health by addressing occupational illnesses and ensuring ergonomic practices keeps workers healthier.
- Promote compliance in meeting regulatory standards avoids legal penalties and builds organizational credibility.

The implementation of Occupational Health and Safety practices at the County Assembly workplace can yield numerous significant benefits. When employees work in a healthy and safe environment, they become more efficient, motivated, and engaged, which naturally reduces cases of absenteeism and operational downtime. This improved work environment directly translates to better overall performance and enhanced productivity across all departments.

From a financial perspective, the

County Assembly can achieve substantial cost savings by preventing workplace accidents. This proactive approach reduces expenses associated with medical costs, insurance claims, worker compensation, and lost working hours that typically result from workplace incidents. Additionally, prioritizing employee well-being significantly improves staff morale, as employees feel valued when their safety and health are given priority. This sense of care and attention boosts employee loyalty, increases job satisfaction, and enhances staff retention rates.

The County Assembly's commitment to strong OSH practices will also enhance its organizational reputation. Being recognized for exemplary safety standards enables the institution to attract top talent while gaining increased trust from clients, regulators, and stakeholders. Furthermore, consistent compli-

ance with safety standards shields the Assembly from potential fines, lawsuits, and reputational damage that could arise from workplace incidents. Ultimately, these safety practices ensure the sustainability of operations by maintaining continuity in all Assembly functions and services.

As a model County Assembly, Occupational Safety Health provides a strategic opportunity to build a culture of safety which includes regular safety training and awareness programs, formulation and effective communication of safety policies, active involvement of the staff in identifying hazards and suggesting improvements and continu-

ous monitoring, audits, and reviews of safety procedures in line with International recognized standards.

In conclusion, Occupational Safety and Health is not just a regulatory requirement—it is an investment in people and organizational success. A safe workplace leads to healthier employees, stronger productivity, reduced costs, and a positive work culture. Ultimately, prioritizing OSH ensures that businesses thrive while safeguarding their most valuable asset: their workforce.

(The Writer is the Principal Administrative Officer at the County Assembly of Bungoma.)

A strong OSH framework ensures that both employers and employees play active roles in creating a healthy and productive work environment.

WERUNGA ELVIS

County Assembly of Bungoma Hosts week long Jitume Mentorship and Digital Skills Training

By Shelton Mukewa

The County Assembly of Bungoma organized Jitume Digital Training Program that was held at the Digital Library from August 4, 2025 to August 7, 2025. The program was aimed at empower-

ing participants with essential digital skills to boost their career and entrepreneurial ventures.

The training was conducted by facilitators from Emobilis in partnership with Ajira and Konza

City Technopolis, alongside the County Assembly's Department of Research and Library Services and ICT Department.

Participants were introduced to digital marketing, defined as the

use of digital platforms, channels, and tools to promote products, services, or brands to target audiences. According to facilitators, digital marketing relies on the internet, mobile devices, social media, search engines, and



Facilitators from emobilis, Ajira and Konza City Technopolis and participants of Jitume Digital Training Programme at the County Assembly Digital Library

other technologies.

The learners explored various types of digital marketing, including digital marketing such as, Search Engine Optimization (SEO) that improves website content to rank higher on search engines like Google and yahoo. Content Marketing which entails creating valuable content such as blogs, videos and info graphics to attract and engage users. Social media marketing which involves promoting on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter(X) and LinkedIn. Email Marketing through sending emails to nurture leads, promote offers or build customer relationships. Search Engine Marketing (SEM) which entails running paid advertisements on search engines such as Google. Other forms covered included affiliate marketing, influencer marketing, and pay-per-click advertising.

Participants were also trained in basic graphic design, learning to create digital posters for businesses using Canva software—a

free online graphic design platform that enables users to create various visual content including posters, flyers, and social media graphics.

A graphic designer at the County Assembly of Bungoma, Mr. Shelton Mukewa, reviewed sample designs and provided professional insights. He explained that graphic design boosts businesses and brands by visually communicating their identities and messages, which attracts customers, informs audiences, and increases brand awareness. According to Mukewa, effective design creates positive first impressions, builds brand identity and recognition, enhances communication, increases sales engagement, differentiates businesses from competitors, and amplifies marketing efforts.

Facilitator Mr. Stephen Maingi trained participants on email marketing fundamentals, covering its purposes and essential tools. The purposes of email



Deputy Clerk incharge of Administration Ms. Josylyne Situmah, Senior Research Officer Ms. Martha Alaka and facilitators from emobilis, Ajira and Konza City Technopolis at a photo session during the launch outside the County Assembly Administration Building

marketing discussed included promoting products and services, announcing offers and events, sharing newsletters and updates, and nurturing leads into buyers.

Types of email marketing cov-

ered included newsletters, promotional emails, welcome emails, transactional emails, follow-up emails, and re-engagement emails. Tools highlighted included Mailchimp, Brevo, Constant Contact, and others.

Artificial Intelligence Set to Transform Law-Making in County Assemblies

By Celestine Moshong.

Our country Kenya is taking bold steps to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into governance, and county assemblies are expected to be among the key beneficiaries of this digital revolution. From streamlining legislative drafting to boosting efficiency in law-making, AI is being hailed as the next frontier in public administration.

On March 27, 2025, the government officially launched the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, 2025–2030, a policy blueprint that seeks to harness AI's potential while ensuring ethical and inclusive deployment. The strategy is built on four pillars namely digital infrastructure, data, research, and innovation. It envisions AI-driven growth in sectors ranging from

agriculture and healthcare to public service delivery.

For Kenya's forty-seven County Assemblies, AI presents both an opportunity and a challenge. These arms of devolved governments are responsible for drafting laws that affect millions of citizens at the grassroots. By embracing AI, County Assemblies could cut drafting time,

eliminate errors, and ensure consistency across statutes. AI could be applied in identifying inconsistencies in Bills and Regulations, comparing existing laws to avoid duplication, conducting regulatory impact assessments, and proofreading draft legislation.

Globally, several parliaments have already adopted AI in

law-making. Italy's Chamber of Deputies uses AI to sort and number amendments, while its Senate relies on AI to check compliance

with drafting rules. In Brazil, the Chamber of Deputies deploys AI to interpret and group amendments, making legislative debates more structured and informed.

Despite the prom-

ise, Most of Kenya's County Assemblies are yet to adopt AI on a large scale. Experts warn that the road to full integration will not be easy. Legislative drafting is deeply contextual. Laws are shaped by social, economic,

cultural, and political realities that AI may not fully grasp. Machines can process data, b

ut they cannot understand human values and local contexts that often shape legislation.

AI systems are also vulnerable to bias. Since they operate on existing data, they risk replicating inequalities or overlooking marginalized groups. This raises ethical questions about representation and inclusivity. Security is another concern. With many AI tools relying on cloud-based platforms, there is the risk of sensitive legislative drafts being exposed before official publication. Further, Kenya's multilingualism creates linguistic barriers; if AI systems are not adapted to local languages, they could reinforce inequalities in legislative access.

Several hurdles stand in the way of AI adoption in county assemblies. There is a shortage of AI experts and a lack of adequate training for legal drafters. Many counties still face limited digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. The high cost of implementing and maintaining AI systems adds to the funding

constraints already faced by devolved governments.

Experts are calling for more research into how AI can be safely and effectively integrated into county assemblies. Such studies should focus on improving drafting processes while addressing potential risks. They should also develop ethical frameworks to deal with bias, accountability, and data privacy.

Currently, Kenya has no specific law regulating AI. The country relies on existing statutes such as the Data Protection Act, the Computer Misuse and Cyber-crime Act, the Consumer Protection Act, and the Intellectual Property Act. While helpful, these

laws are not comprehensive enough to tackle the complexities of AI. In

April 2023, the National Assembly passed a motion urging the government to formulate a regulatory framework for AI. However, progress has been slow, and the absence of clear legislation leaves county assemblies in uncertain territory.

If well managed, AI could transform law-making into a more efficient, transparent, and evidence-driven process. If poorly handled, it could erode accountability and democratic values. For now, county assemblies are watching global developments closely, even as they await clear policies from the national government.

As the country deepens its digital transformation journey,

the challenge for county assemblies will be to balance innovation with responsibility. The task ahead is not just to adopt AI, but to ensure that it works for the people, not against them. With the right investments in infrastructure, training, and policy frameworks, AI could mark the beginning of a new era in legislative drafting in Kenya's devolved units.

The next few years will determine whether county assemblies seize the opportunity—or are left behind in the global AI revolution.

(The author is a Legal Counsel at the County Assembly of Bungoma)

March 27th, 2025
the government officially launched the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, 2025–2030



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA



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 Bungoma County Assembly

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