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1

Bungoma County Assembly Staff Inspired at Annual Staff Conference

2

County Assembly Resumed Sittings with a Packed Agenda

3

Bungoma County Assembly Races to Clear Pending Business Ahead of Recess

4

Health Department presents sub-county facilities' financial reports to Assembly committee

5

County Assembly of Bungoma holds public participation on proposed changes to the Bungoma County Finance Bill 2024

6

Committee on Appointments Vets County Attorney Nominee

8

County Assembly of Bungoma launches its first internal audit under the Quality Management System

7

Bungoma County Assembly hosts Homa Bay delegation on Labour Relations and Member Services

## Inside this edition

# Bungoma County Assembly Staff Inspired at Annual Staff Conference

By Erick Ngobilo



**Leaders inspire staff at inaugural annual conference, highlighting teamwork and public service value**

**M**embers of staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma gathered for the inaugural Staff conference that presented a moment of inspiration and reflection. The conference was attended by the Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma and the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula. The theme of the gathering was, "Embedding Public Service Values and Teamwork for Exceptional Performance."

The Speaker challenged Members of staff to work as a team to ensure they deliver on their mandates. He appreciated the efforts so far put in by the members pointing out that his office has continued receiving

overwhelming positive feedback.

"You are the people who have uplifted the name of our Institution. I have been receiving accolades and compliments that I today want to pass to you. Most of what we have achieved has been as a result of your unwavering dedication," he said.

He pledged to continue expanding the training opportunities available for the Staff in order to improve their capacity and productivity.

The Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula pointed out that the conference

emphasized the Assembly's unwavering commitment to fostering excellence, collaboration, and innovation within its workforce.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Wafula applauded the steadfast leadership of the Speaker and the Board for steering the Assembly toward remarkable achievements. He also expressed profound gratitude to the dedicated staff, saying, "Together, we have achieved incredible milestones, and I am confident that by sustaining this spirit of collaboration, we will achieve even greater things."

Reflecting on the Assembly's

achievements, Mr. Wafula highlighted notable milestones that underscored the power of teamwork. Among these were the successful implementation of Performance Management and the introduction of the Quality Management System (QMS), both pivotal steps toward ISO certification. He also celebrated landmark events such as the official opening of the Assembly's office block by President William Ruto, the groundbreaking for modern chambers attended by the Speaker of the National Assembly, and the successful hosting of the CASA games.

The Clerk's address also delved into the conference theme, urging staff to embody public service values such as integrity, accountability, and excellence. He called for a culture of creativity, innovation, and open communication to ensure the Assembly remains dynamic and responsive to emerging challenges.

"We must address the well-being of our team," he added, emphasizing the importance of mental health and fostering a supportive work environment. Mr. Wafula also encouraged staff to enhance their financial literacy and plan for life beyond public service, recognizing the holistic growth of his team as essential to their success.

Describing his vision, Mr. Wafula pledged to lead as "first among equals," building a motivated and empowered team dedicated to service. He challenged attendees to reflect on their role in shaping the Assembly's collective success, asking, "How can you contribute to embedding the values of public service? How can we nurture teamwork and innovation to secure a brighter future for our institution?"

# County Assembly Resumed Sittings with a Packed Agenda

By Erick Ngobilo



*Sitting resumes with a busy legislative agenda ahead of December break*

The County Assembly of Bungoma resumed sittings on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, following a week-long recess. With the December break fast approaching, the Assembly faces a heavy legislative workload, promising a busy and productive few weeks ahead.

In a session held that day ahead of the resumption, the House Busi-

ness Committee (HBC) mapped out a rigorous schedule to clear all pending matters. Priority was given to Bills currently under committee consideration, as failure to finalize them before recess will necessitate their reintroduction in the next session.

Speaking during the HBC meeting, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, the Speaker and Chairperson of the committee, underscored the importance of

expediting policy deliberations. Among the key policies awaiting Assembly approval are the Youth Policy, Sports Policy, and Water Policy, which have already undergone public participation and committee scrutiny.

The Finance Bill, another critical piece of legislation, also features prominently on the Assembly's agenda. The Finance and Economic Planning Committee has concluded

public participation and is now set to table its report for House consideration.

Additionally, the Assembly will tackle two community-driven petitions from Kapkateny and Milima Wards. These petitions address specific local concerns and are expected to spark significant discussion within the House.

Several motions that have already been tabled or received Notices will also be prioritized. These include matters of strategic importance to the County, ensuring that legislative obligations are met comprehensively before the break.

In a key development, the Speaker announced the submission of a nominee for the County Attorney position by the Governor. Hon. Situma was expected to formally communicate this to the House during the session, after which the name will be forwarded to the relevant committee to initiate the vetting process.

Speaking on the busy schedule, the Speaker hinted at the possibility of convening special sessions during the December recess, should urgent matters such as the Supplementary Budget require immediate attention.

As the Assembly resumes its activities, the focus remains on efficiency, accountability, and service delivery to the people of Bungoma County. The coming weeks will be crucial in addressing key legislative and policy issues affecting the region.

## Bungoma County Assembly Races to Clear Pending Business Ahead of Recess

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma is racing against time to conclude its Third Session, with the

December recess set to begin on Thursday next week. This marks the final stretch for the Assembly before it reconvenes for its fourth

session on February 11, 2025.

During a House Business Committee (HBC) meeting held earlier

today, Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma, who chairs the committee,

called on Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) to intensify their efforts in clearing all pending business. He emphasized the need for longer sittings in the coming days to ensure the Assembly completes its legislative obligations.

Among the pressing matters is the Finance Bill 2024, a critical piece of legislation that remains a top priority. The Assembly will also consider the nominee for the position of County Attorney and deliberate on the County Budget

Review and Outlook Paper for 2024, a key fiscal document shaping the county's financial trajectory. Additionally, the Bungoma County Water Policy is on the table for consideration, aiming to establish a comprehensive framework for managing water resources in the region.

Other agenda items include statements from MCAs seeking clarification on pivotal issues. Kimaeti MCA Hon. Jack Wambulwa has raised questions about the status of the Musikoma-Kanduyi

dual carriageway project, an infrastructure initiative that has drawn considerable interest. The Assembly may invite the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Roads, Infrastructure, and Public Works, Mr. Bonventure Chengek, to shed light on the project's implementation progress.

Similarly, Hon. Henry Nyongesa has lined up a statement seeking details on cess revenue and the specific projects funded through it. The issue has garnered attention from MCAs keen on understanding how these funds are utilized.

With a packed agenda and the looming deadline, the Assembly is bracing for an intense and productive period as it seeks to fulfill its legislative mandate before the year-end break.

## Health Department presents sub-county facilities' financial reports to Assembly committee

By Rosemary Wachiye

**O**n Friday, November 22, 2024, officials from the County Department of Health and Sanitation appeared before the County Assembly Committee on Health Services to clarify documentation regarding expenditures in sub-county health facilities for FY 2023/2024.

Speaking in the consultative meeting on expenditure in the Sub-County health facilities that took place at the County Assembly Plenary, the Chairperson Health Committee Hon George Makari stated that the meeting had been occasioned by the report on Appropriation in Aid (AIA) performance, the Sub-County health facilities had realized 75% of the planned target that is Ksh. 618,550,574 out of the planned Ksh. 819,760,705 during

interrogation of the consolidated financial statements and reports for FY 2023/2024.

The health officials, led by County Executive Committee Member for Health and Sanitation Ms. Carolyne Makali and Chief Officer Dr. Magrina Mayama, were accompanied by all Sub-County Medical Superintendents. They submitted documents that included each health facility's approved budget for the financial year under review, expenditure reports for FY 2023/24, and certified bank statements for the last six months.

The Committee noted that despite a circular from the County Treasury giving Medical Superintendents the authority to be accounting officers in their respective facilities;

they were expected to submit quarterly expenditure reports to the Chief Officer. They were also directed to ensure all expenditures at the facilities align with the approved County budget.

The committee further urged the department to ensure timely procedural submission of quarterly reports from the Health facilities to the Chief Officer who is the accounting officer before further submission to the Committee for interrogation to enable the Committee to exercise its oversight role.

The reports submitted will enable the Committee to scrutinize expenditures at the health facilities, with reports on any pending bills to advocate for more funding for the Department during the approach-

ing first supplementary budget.

Medical Superintendents present in the meeting were Dr. Simon Kisaka for Bungoma County Referral Hospital, Dr. David Shibachi for Bumula, Dr. Brian Elima for Mt. Elgon, Dr. Phillip Koskey for Naitiri, Janet Chebet for Cheptais, Dr. David Wanikina for Webuye, Wellington Wanyama –Accountant Kimilili Sub County, Dr. Graham Masika for Chwele, Dr. Lukorito for Sirisia, Mr. Robert Mose –Administrator and Dr. Caleb Watta County Director Health.



Health Officials present Expenditure reports to Committee on Sub-County Health Facilities

# County Assembly of Bungoma holds public participation on proposed changes to the Bungoma County Finance Bill 2024

By Mash Misiko

The Finance and Economic Planning Committee had a public participation forum to discuss the proposed changes to the Bungoma County Finance Bill, 2024 chaired by Hon. Jack Kawa MCA for Bokoli Ward at Paskari Nabwana Hall. The event brought together various stakeholders from across the county including non-state actors/- civil society groups, members of the business community, and residents from all 45 wards.

The proposed amendments to the Finance Bill, 2024 covered several key sectors each aiming to introduce new charges or revise existing fees to enhance county revenue generation and improve service delivery. One of the most notable areas of revision was administrative fees, as the Bill introduces penalties for financial impropriety by County Government officers to promote integrity within the county's financial operations. No amendments were proposed to this section during the public participation.

In Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation, Fisheries, and Co-operative Development, the Bill proposes new charges for maize and livestock cess, animal sale yards, and cooperative audit fees. Several fees were also revised, including those for livestock sale yards, meat inspection at slaughterhouses, subsidized fertilizers, irrigation and drainage services, fisheries, and the sale of products from the Mabanga ATC demonstration farm.

On environmental matters, the bill introduces new charges for waste disposal, specifically targeting large and mega businesses to improve waste management and create a more sustainable environment for the county.

In Schedule Four, concerning Health and Sanitation, the Bill introduces new charges for services



**Finance Committee engages Stakeholders on proposed changes to 2024 Finance Bill**

related to private cemeteries, crematoriums, mortuaries, and exhauster services. Additionally, new fees for public health inspections and building plan approvals are included. The Bill also proposes charges for goods and services offered at county healthcare facilities, including the Bungoma County Referral Hospital, Level IV hospitals, and lower-level health facilities.

Lands, Urban, and Physical Planning introduces new fees for area rates on freehold properties, land transfer, and survey fees. It further includes revised charges for land subdivision and amalgamation, aiming to streamline land transactions and planning processes within the county.

On Roads, Transport, and Public Works, with new fees for fire safety compliance on building plan approvals, fire safety training for students, and county stickers for hearses and funeral service vehicles. The Bill also proposes revisions to charges for the hire of county vehicles and plant, as well as fees for canter and lorry stickers

for hearses and funeral service vehicles. The Bill also proposes revisions to charges for the hire of county vehicles and plant, as well as fees for canter and lorry stickers and impoundment.

On Trade, Energy, and Industrialization, new categories of charges are introduced for trade licenses for agro-vets, butcheries, and institutions of higher learning. Additionally, the Bill revises charges for various types of hospitality businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and lodges, as well as for retail of alcoholic drinks, mobile money transfer agents, cooperatives, and private educational institutions.

Schedule eight, Bungoma Municipalities in respect of Animal Control and Welfare, Physical planning (Building Plan Approval), Outdoor Advertisement & Signage, and Parking Management. The charges were maintained inconsistent with the bill.

Under Gender, Culture, Youth, and Sports, the bill introduces new charges for the hire of Masinde Muliro stadium, Kanduyi. It also

proposes a revision of charges for alcoholic drinks licenses for restaurants, retailers, and supermarkets.

The public participation session provided a platform for stakeholders to propose changes and submit their feedback in hard and soft copies with the assurance that the Finance and Economic Planning Committee will put their views into consideration. Several issues were raised during the meeting, including concerns over how the revised charges might affect small-scale farmers and local businesses. The Finance and Economic Planning Committee took note of these concerns and assured the public that their input would be incorporated into the final version of the Finance Bill. The committee is currently compiling a comprehensive report based on the feedback received during the public consultation.

As the Finance Bill moves forward, the committee committed to review and assess the proposed amendments, ensuring that the final version of the Bill reflects the priorities and needs of the people of Bungoma. The committee's commitment to public engagement and transparency is crucial for fostering trust and collaboration between the county government and its citizens.

The Committee will finalize the report and present it to the county assembly for further deliberation. The feedback from the public participation process will play a key role in shaping the final content of the Finance Bill, ensuring that it promotes economic growth, accountability, and sustainable development in County.

# Committee on Appointments Vets County Attorney Nominee

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma's Committee on Appointments has vetted Ms. Esther Masanyangila Wafula, the nominee for the position of County Attorney.

The vetting session, chaired by Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma, was a comprehensive process aimed at determining Ms. Wafula's suitability for the role. Nominated by Governor Ken Lusaka, Ms. Wafula is poised to serve a six-year term if approved.

During the vetting, Ms. Wafula highlighted her legal experience, stating that she currently runs a law firm and manages various cases. The committee probed her past work to assess adherence to the ethical standards and integrity requirements outlined in Chapter 6 of the Constitution.

Her declared net worth of Ksh 40 million was scrutinized, with Ms. Wafula attributing her wealth to inheritance, earnings from her legal practice, and investments in land across the country.

The committee also explored her

knowledge of key governance areas, including public procurement processes, financial management, human resource practices, and budget-making procedures. Members sought clarity on how she would ensure compliance with procurement laws and effectively guide the Governor in situations where legal or procedural conflicts arise.

In addition, Ms. Wafula was tasked to explain legal provisions governing human resources in public service, including grounds for summary dismissal, as well as the steps and documents involved in county budget preparation.

Acknowledging gaps in her responses, the nominee requested the committee's approval, assuring them of her willingness to learn on the job.

The committee is expected to compile a report on the vetting and present it to the County Assembly, which will make the final decision on Ms. Wafula's appointment.

# Bungoma County Assembly hosts Homa Bay delegation on Labour Relations and Member Services

By Mash Misiko



**Committees exchange insights on labor relations, members services and facilities**

**A** delegation from Homa Bay County Assembly visited the Bungoma County Assembly for a benchmarking exercise focused on Labour Relations, Members Services, and Facilities. The visit led by Hon. Joseph Sharon Chairperson of Homa Bay's Committee on Social Welfare and Hon. Henry Nyongesa Chairperson of Bungoma's Committee on Labour Relations aimed to foster knowledge exchange and best practices between the counties.

The delegation was welcomed by the Speaker and Clerk of the Bungoma Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma who expressed his appreciation for the effort made by the visiting team commending them for their initiative in seeking knowledge and best practices through this benchmarking exercise. Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula echoed similar sentiments emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing between the county Assemblies pointing out that such exchanges contribute to aligning the operations of the assemblies and enhancing their overall effectiveness.

Deputy Clerk Legislation county assembly of Bungoma Dr. Leonard Momos Presented on the Committee's role which includes overseeing the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) the County Public Service Board (CPSB) reviewing financial report and managing members' welfare, including car loans, office space and human resources.

Bungoma's committee has achieved several milestones, including vetting CPSB members, passing key policies, and constructing new chambers. However, challenges remain, such as insufficient operational policies and limited budget allocations.

This benchmarking exercise provided both counties with valuable insights to improve their operations and enhance the welfare of assembly members promoting a stronger public service.



**Committee on Appointments vets Esther Wafula for County Attorney, evaluating legal expertise and financial integrity**

# County Assembly of Bungoma launches its first internal audit under the Quality Management System

By Rosemary Wachiye

**T**he County Assembly of Bungoma Implemented the First Audit under the Quality Management System which will be held on Thursday November 26 to Sunday November 29 2024. Internal auditors exercise is to be conducted by a team of 20 Internal Auditors under the supervision of the Management representative, Mr. Abraham Simiyu and Team leader Mr. Alfred Makokha.

The QMS was implemented in the institution on 14th October, 2024, as a way of improving the delivery of services in the institution. In the process of preparation, the internal auditors were given intensive training, assessed and tested to be eligible to conduct the audit.

The purpose of the audit is to determine the extent of QMS establishment in the County Assembly in regards to Audit Criteria. It also aims to assess the level of QMS implementation in the County Assembly and identifying potential areas for improvements.

Utilizing the ISO 9001:2015 International Standards and the Assembly's QMS documented information, the audit promises a rigorous and systematic evaluation. Prior to the main exercise, the auditors convened a preparatory meeting to develop an audit checklist and review the Audit plan, ensuring a smooth and systematic approach. During the audit's opening meeting, Deputy Clerk of Administration Ms. Josylyne Situmah, who represented the County Assembly Clerk, called on staff to fully engage with the audit process and collaborate with auditors to guarantee its success.

"The QMS will transform our



***Internal auditors receive intensive training and evaluation under the supervision of Mr. Abraham Simiyu and Mr. Alfred Makokha ahead of QMS audit***

County Assembly into a more efficient, effective, and customer-centered organization," Ms. Situmah emphasized. She encouraged the team to leverage the audit as an opportunity to identify operational gaps in order to pursue continuous improvement, which was the ultimate benchmark for successful QMS implementation.

Dr. Leonard Momos, Deputy Clerk of Legislative Services, reinforced this message by urging process owners and staff to embrace the

QMS, describing it as a system that elevates the County Assembly's institutional reputation.

Lead Consultant Mr. Martin Nyongesa, who has been instrumental in the implementation process, underscored the core objective of QMS as improving quality services. He challenged the team to ensure process compliance, maintain strict adherence to established standards, and provide robust support for successful implementation.

Mr. Nyongesa further added that the Auditors had gained skills on preparation for the audit, conducting the audit and pursuing evidences.

"For the audit to be a successful, I urge you all to apply military precision and surgical accuracy in the process," said the consultant.

On the other hand the Mr. Simiyu reaffirmed the Clerk's commitment to the successful of the QMS system and its implementation in the County Assembly as the institution worked tirelessly towards attaining ISO certification.

The comprehensive audit represents a strategic step towards institutionalizing quality management and enhancing organizational performance at the County Assembly of Bungoma.

After the Audit, the team shall compile a report of the Audit findings. The reports of the departments audited, audit summary report and the final detailed report for the County Assembly.



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