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County Assembly of Bungoma Shines at FiRe Awards 2024

By Erick Ngobilo

In a landmark achievement, the County Assembly of Bungoma has emerged as the top winner in the County Executives and County Assemblies category at the prestigious Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards 2024. Held at the elegant Nairobi Safari Park Hotel, the ceremony celebrated excellence in financial reporting, transparency, and governance across various government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

The victory highlights the County Assembly of Bungoma's steadfast commitment to upholding the highest standards of accountability, setting a new benchmark for public institutions in financial management. Outshining tough competitors, Bungoma claimed the top spot, with the County Assembly of Marsabit and County Assembly of

Trans Nzoia finishing as first and second runners-up, respectively.

The delegation from Bungoma was led by the Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma, and the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula alongside other key leaders such as Hon. Everton Nganga, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts.

"This award is a testament to our resolve to ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability in managing public resources," remarked Mr. Wafula, acknowledging the organizing bodies, including the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) and the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB).

The FiRe Awards, launched in 2002, are regarded as East Africa's gold standard for financial reporting and compliance. The awards evaluate institutions against rigorous criteria such as adherence to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), governance frameworks, and sustainability reporting. This aligns with Section 194(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, which tasks PSASB with ensuring financial compliance in public institutions.

Hon. Emmanuel Situma, speaking at the event, emphasized the collaborative spirit behind this success. "This achievement reflects the hard work, diligence, and unity of the Assembly's leadership and

staff. It inspires us to set even higher standards in financial stewardship, becoming a role model for counties nationwide," he noted.

The award cements the County Assembly of Bungoma's status as a leader in public financial management, sending a powerful message about the transformative impact of accountability in governance.

The County Assembly has been a benchmark center from other institutions in areas such as Performance management, Infrastructure Development and Quality Management.



Bungoma County Assembly Concludes Third Session, Setting the Stage for Future Progress

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma concluded its Third Session today, marking the end of a productive legislative period and the start of a long recess that will last until February 11, 2025. The session, which Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma described as transformative, saw the passage of critical policies and bills that promise to significantly impact the county's development and governance.

One of the session's standout achievements was the approval of the Bungoma County Water Policy, a framework designed to improve water access and management across the county. This policy aims to address the pressing issue of water scarcity by promoting sustainable resource utilization and ensuring the provision of clean water to residents, a crucial step toward improving the quality of life for many households.

The Assembly also demonstrated its oversight role through rigorous scrutiny of the Musiko-Kanduyi dual carriageway project. County Execu-

tive Committee Member for Roads, Transport, Infrastructure, and Public Works, Bonventure Chengeck, faced tough questions from Hon. Members regarding recent road markings, incomplete works, and the financial details of the project. Hon. Members sought clarity on payments made to the contractor, the remaining balance, and the timeline for completing the project, reinforcing the Assembly's commitment to transparency and accountability in public works.

Reflecting on the session's accomplishments, Hon. Situma highlighted the passage of several impactful policies aimed at improving different sectors of the county. Among these were policies focusing on empowering the youth through internship opportunities, enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting agribusiness ventures, and ensuring food safety across the supply chain. The Disability Mainstreaming Policy was another significant milestone, aimed at creating an inclusive environment for people living with disabilities in Bungoma.



The County Assembly of Bungoma in a Sitting

The legislative achievements extended beyond policy formulation. The session also saw the adoption of critical Bills and Regulations, such as the Public Finance Management Regulations, which provide affordable car loan and mortgage schemes for county employees. Other notable legislation included the Second Supplementary Appropriation Bill, which allocates additional funding to key areas in the county's budget, and the Public Participation and Civic Education Bill, designed to enhance citizen engagement in governance. The Assembly also passed the Access to Information Bill, a vital step in ensuring that residents have greater access to government information, thereby fostering a culture of transparency.

The numbers tell a story of an active and vibrant Assembly. During the session, 164 papers were laid, 112 motions debated, and 37 statements addressed. Additionally, 51 communications were made to ensure critical information reached Hon. members and

the public, while four petitions were deliberated, reinforcing the Assembly's role as a responsive legislative body.

As the Assembly adjourned, Speaker Hon. Situma expressed optimism for the future, noting that the achievements of the Third Session have laid a strong foundation for progress in the upcoming Fourth Session. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the Assembly and its stakeholders to improve governance, public service, and infrastructure in Bungoma County.

The recess provides members with an opportunity to engage with their constituents, gather insights, and prepare for the work ahead when the Assembly reconvenes in February.



The Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma presiding over a sitting

Bungoma County Assembly Concludes First Internal Audit, Marks Milestone in Quality Management System Implementation

By Rosemary Wachiye

A team of 20 Internal Auditors under the Quality Management System completed the audit task and held the initial QMS Audit closing meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. In a meeting presided over by Mr. Charles Wafula, Clerk of the County Assembly, he commended the team's efforts in achieving a flawless process characterized by precision and comprehensive findings. Mr. Wafula explained that the internal audit exercise was designed to bolster confidence in the recently launched Quality Management System (QMS) within the County Assembly while identifying areas of weakness for potential improvement.

He committed to ensuring matters raised during the audit exercise are addressed for continuous improvement of the quality of services. He also challenged all Heads of Departments and Sections to ensure sensitization of all staff to bring them on board on matters QMS for sustainability. "I urge all staff mem-

bers to support the Quality Management System (QMS) process, as it will establish systems and structures within the County Assembly that will endure beyond the tenure of current office bearers," said the Clerk.

He further noted the recent visits by the delegation as a testament to the great milestone and good performance of the institution so far. "Quality Management System is the assurance engagement of the processes being undertaken and therefore should be taken seriously to tackle issues raised and ensure conformity to the process while contributing towards monitoring progress," stated Mr. Wafula.

The Team leader of the Audit process, Mr. Alfred Makokha called upon the team to implement the strategic direction given by the County Assembly leadership. He added that the internal audit will be followed by a precertification audit as the County Assembly strives to attain ISO certification.



The Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula and members of the County Assembly QMS team

SACCO Governance Benchmarking: Kajiado County Assembly Official Visit to Bungoma County Assembly

By Rosemary Wachiye



The Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma and the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula in a meeting with the delegation from Kajiado County Assembly

The County Assembly of Bungoma hosted a delegation of 6 officials from the Kajiado County Assembly on Monday 2nd of December, 2024 as they visited the institution to benchmark on matters of Savings and Credit Co-operative Society (SACCO) and staff Welfare through the Benevolent Fund (BBF). During a courtesy visit, the delegation was warmly welcomed at the County Assembly by several Bucounty SACCO officials and the County Assembly management including Ms. Josylyne Situmah, Deputy Clerk of Administration, and Dr. Leonard Momos, Deputy Clerk of Legislative Services. The visit involved meetings with Mr. Charles Wafula, Clerk of the County Assem-

bly, and Hon. Emmanuel Situma, the Speaker.

Speaking to the visiting delegation, Mr. Wafula encouraged the team not to relent on their vision of starting the SACCO, stating the benefits of the BUCOUNTY SACCO in Bungoma County Assembly, which started small but has grown to a membership of 100, including staff and Hon. Members. Mr. Wafula noted that the objective of the SACCO is for members to pull resources together for socio-economic empowerment.

He also commended the inter-county exchange programs, which enable the County Assemblies to exchange ideas, share knowledge

on best practices, and network for improved service delivery.

The Speaker, on the other hand, challenged the two SACCOs to ensure they come with friendly products with lower interest rates than the commercial banks. He urged them to be creative and spearhead the SACCOs with integrity to generate annual dividends for their members.

The benchmarking visit was informed by the intent to form a SACCO at the Kajiado County Assembly; they wanted to gain insight into how SACCO operates its challenges and lessons learned. They also disclosed that they

currently have a staff welfare Committee that caters to staff welfare on matters of bereavement and celebrations of achievements such as graduations and weddings for members.

The Bucounty SACCO officials shared a chronicle of events from the SACCO's initial stages up to date. They highlighted the accomplishments made so far, from the growth of membership through rigorous recruitment drives to the new products initiated, such as the issuance of salary advances, allowance buy-off loans, normal long-term check-off loans, and hotel business.

The County Cooperatives Director Mr. Moses Welikhe who was present in the meeting was instrumental in enlightening the two teams on SACCO issues to pay attention to.

"The difference between shares and deposits is that shares are non-refundable they can only be transferred to another member while deposits are refunded to a member during exit," said Mr. Welikhe.

He called for compliance with the SACCO regulations/by-laws in the operations as he antagonized corruption that has contributed to the downfall of most SACCOs in the past.

Bucounty SACCO officials present included: Current Officials: Mr. Jocktan Kabeyi, SACCO Chairperson, Ms. Martha Alaka, Vice Chairperson, Ms. Rosemary Wachiye, Honorary Secretary, Mr. Nicholas Maghas, Treasurer as well as Supervisory Committee members: Mr. Ramadhan Fwamba and Mr. Elias Taskin, led by Chairperson Mr. Alfred Makokha. Former SACCO Officials: Ms. Carolyn Wamalwa and Ms. Marystella Wanyonyi.

Konza City Delegation Visits Bungoma County Assembly to Review Jitume Program's Remarkable Impact

By Marsh Misiko

The County Assembly of Bungoma buzzed with excitement as a high-powered delegation from Konza City, led by Manager John Karanja, visited to assess the transformative progress of the Jitume Program. This flagship initiative aims to empower communities by providing cutting-edge ICT training, bridging the digital divide, and positioning Bungoma at the forefront of technological innovation.

Welcomed by Mrs. Joselyne Situma, the Deputy Clerk for Administration, the delegation began their visit with a courtesy call to Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Speaker of the County Assembly. During the meeting, Hon. Situma highlighted the program's remarkable success in fostering digital skills among youth, county staff, and even members of the Assembly.

"The Jitume Program has been a game-changer for Bungoma," Hon. Situma said with enthusiasm. "So far, two youths from each ward have been trained, gaining vital ICT skills that are opening doors to opportunities in the digital economy. As we celebrate this progress, I urge an expansion of the program to include our elderly residents, ensuring no one is left behind in this digital revolution."

The Speaker also revealed ambitious plans to expand the County Assembly's ICT lab, aiming to create more room for digital training and advanced learning opportunities.

The Clerk of the Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, expressed profound

gratitude to Konza City for their support of the initiative. He proposed formalizing the partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to solidify the collaboration and pave the way for specialized training programs, such as cybersecurity and advanced ICT certifications.

In his remarks, Manager John Karanja commended Bungoma's leadership for their vision and the Assembly's ICT department for their exceptional management of the Jitume Program. "The progress here is inspiring. The facilities are well-maintained, and the enthusiasm for ICT training is palpable. To further support this effort, Konza City will provide E-boards for board-rooms and meeting spaces, enhancing the County Assembly's digital capabilities."

The visit also provided an opportunity for Bungoma's ICT department to outline key areas for additional support. They identified critical needs such as power backup systems to ensure uninterrupted operations during outages, updated antivirus software to bolster cybersecurity, and increased internet bandwidth to meet the rising demand for digital services and online learning.

The Jitume Program stands as a testament to what can be achieved through collaborative efforts, innovative thinking, and a shared vision for empowering communities.



The Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma, the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula and Deputy Clerk Administration Ms Joselyne Situma hosting a delegation from Konza City

Christmas And New Year Message From The Clerk Of The County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula

Dear Honorable Members and Esteemed Staff of the County Assembly,

As we approach the joyous Christmas season and the dawn of a New Year, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt appreciation to each one of you. This is a time to reflect on the milestones we have achieved together, celebrate our successes, and look forward to new opportunities in the year ahead.

2024 has been a year of significant accomplishments for the County Assembly of Bungoma. Through your dedication, collaboration, and unwavering commitment, we have made notable strides in legislative excellence, governance, and service delivery to the people of Bungoma County. From the successful implementation of performance contracting to the launch of the Quality Management System, your efforts have laid a strong foundation for continued progress.

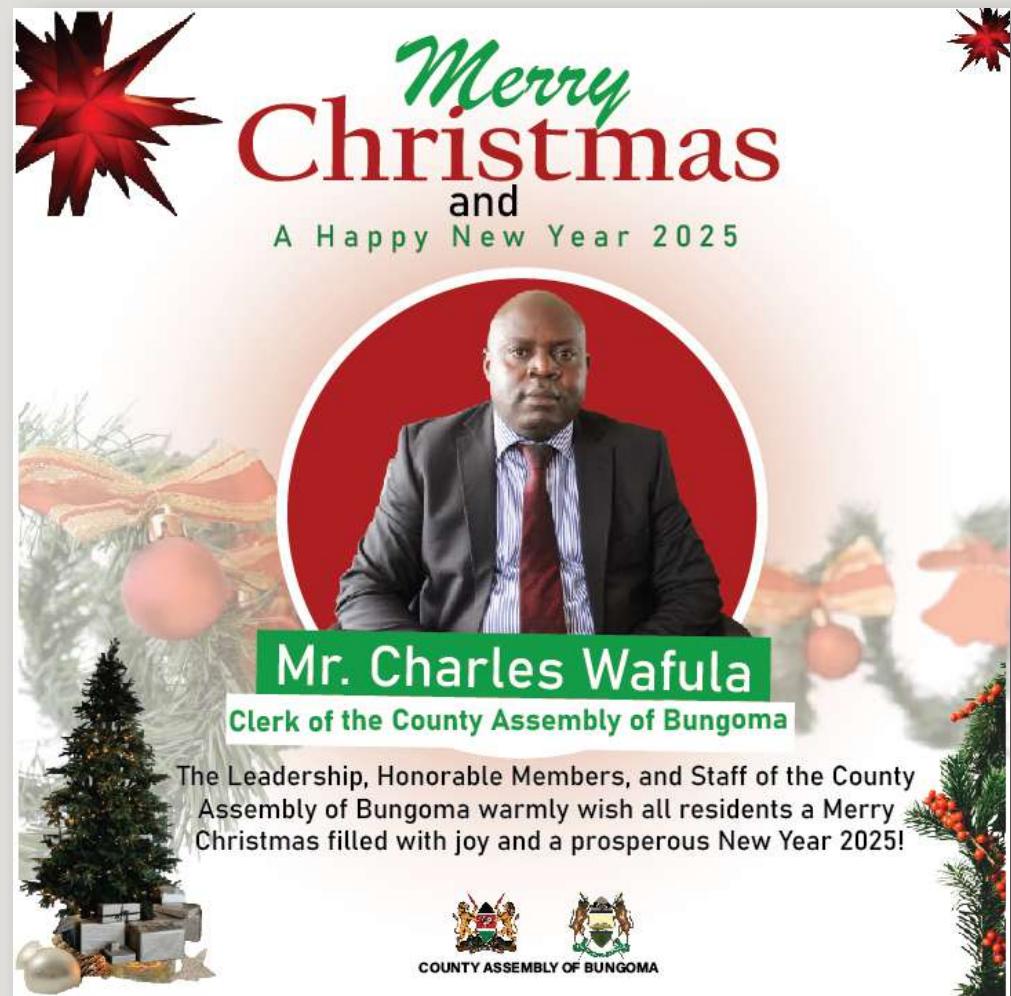
As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember the values of unity, compassion, and generosity that this season embodies. It is a time to share love and kindness with our families, friends, and communities, especially those in need. Let us also take this opportunity to recharge, spend quality time with loved ones, and prepare ourselves for the year to come.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am confident that together, we will achieve even greater heights. Let us remain steadfast in our mission to serve the people of Bungoma County with integrity, innovation, and accountability. With your support, I am certain that we will continue to uphold the principles of good governance and make a meaningful impact on the lives of our constituents.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas filled with joy and peace, and a prosperous New Year full of hope and success. May 2025 bring blessings, good health, and fulfillment to you and your loved ones.

Happy Holidays!

Warm regards,
Mr. Charles Wafula
Clerk of the County Assembly
County Assembly of Bungoma



Message from the Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma



Message from the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma



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