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County Assembly of Bungoma Approves Nominees For Bungoma and Kimilili Municipal Boards

By Marsh Misiko



A nominee appears before the Committee for vetting

On February 4, 2025, the County Assembly of Bungoma held a special sitting to approve nominees for the Bungoma and Kimilili Municipality Boards. The session also saw the official tabling of a nominee for the position of Chairperson of the Bungoma County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committee (CRUAHC).

The approval process was crucial in

meeting the World Bank's regulatory timelines, ensuring that both boards are fully constituted and operational. The nominees underwent a rigorous vetting process by the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Urban Planning, Physical Planning, and Housing, which assessed their qualifications, experience, and suitability for their respective roles.

The approved nominees for the Bungoma Municipality Board are

Paul Maloba Kamala, Job Wekesa Munyasia, Wafula Nafula Wilkister, and Dorcas Katiambo. For the Kimilili Municipality Board, the nominees are Wafula Barasa Dennis, Samson Sichangi Wanyonyi, Ziprine Nasike Wafula, Abigael Nekesa Wafula, and Caroline Khasoa. The vetting sessions were conducted on January 28 and 29, 2025, ensuring a thorough review before the final approval.



A section of approved Board members for Bungoma and Kimilili Municipalities when they appeared for vetting.

During the special sitting, Hon. Johnstone Ipara Okasida, Vice Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee and MCA for Tongaren Ward, presented the vetting report. The report was seconded by Hon. Francis Chemion, MCA for Kaptama Ward and Chairperson of the Committee.

Hon. Joseph Juma, the Majority Leader, strongly backed the approval, emphasizing that securing World Bank funding depended on meeting governance requirements. Additionally, Hon. Caleb Wanjala highlighted the importance of ensuring inclusive representation by considering the municipalities' geographical boundaries when making appointments.

Following a detailed deliberation, Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma called for a vote, resulting in the unanimous approval of nine nominees. This decision marked a significant step toward strengthening governance structures in both municipalities, setting the stage for enhanced urban planning and development initiatives.

With the approvals finalized, the County Assembly of Bungoma adjourned its sitting, set to reconvene on February 11, 2025, after a long recess to address other pending matters. The confirmation of these nominees marks an important milestone, ensuring that both the Bungoma and Kimilili Municipality Boards are equipped to drive urban development and secure critical funding.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Resumes Sittings For The Fourth Session Of Third Assembly

By Rosemary Wachiye



The County Assembly of Bungoma during a sitting



Bungoma County Assembly in a sitting

The County Assembly of Bungoma has resumed its sittings on Tuesday 11th February, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. which marks the commencement of Fourth Session of the Third Assembly.

In a sitting presided over by the Deputy Speaker Hon Stephen Wamalwa, the House approved the

Legislative Calendar for the Fourth Session of the Third County Assembly which is scheduled to start Tuesday 11th February to Thursday 4th December, 2025.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 173 (g), the Leader of Majority Hon Joseph Nyongesa tabled names of Members nominated to serve in the House Busi-

ness Committee for the fourth Session of the third County Assembly. The House approved the nomination of the Members to serve in the House Business Committee, namely Hon. James Mukhongo, Hon. Violet Makhanu, Hon. Jack Wambulwa, Hon. Hentry Nyongesa, Hon. Johnston Ipara, Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, Hon. Jacob Psero, Hon. Metrine Nangalama and Hon. Mildred Barasa.

The Deputy Speaker welcomed members to the Fourth Session which he stated that the session will be a moment for reflection, accountability and renewed connection with the people they serve.

He also gave a breakdown of the achievements made by the County Assembly in the Third Session of the Third Assembly namely: the processing of 21 Policies and Guidelines, one Regulation, 4 petitions, 113 motions and 5 Bills.

He thanked Hon Members for their

commitment for the last 3 sessions that has ensured the continued efficiency and service delivery to the people of Bungoma County. He lauded members of the public for their participation through petitions, submission of memoranda and attendance of public participation on legislations before the House.

He further stated that the Fourth Session will be critical for the passage of legislations for the County on Health, Infrastructure and Education sectors among others for the betterment of the people.

The sitting was attended by 45 Students from Chemweisus S.A Secondary School from Elgon Ward in Mt. Elgon Sub County who were accompanied by 3 teachers. The Area MCA Hon George Kwemoi welcomed the school to the County Assembly and applauded the school for the steady progress terming it as a center of excellence in the area.

Public Accounts Committee Interrogates Bungoma County Assembly Management Over Audit Findings For The Year 2023

By Marsh Misiko

On February 10, 2025, the County Assembly of Bungoma's Public Accounts Committee interrogated the assembly management regarding critical audit findings from 2023. This session aimed to address issues raised in the Auditor General's Report on the County Assembly's Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2023, as well as the report concerning the Car and Mortgage Scheme for Assembly Members for the same period.

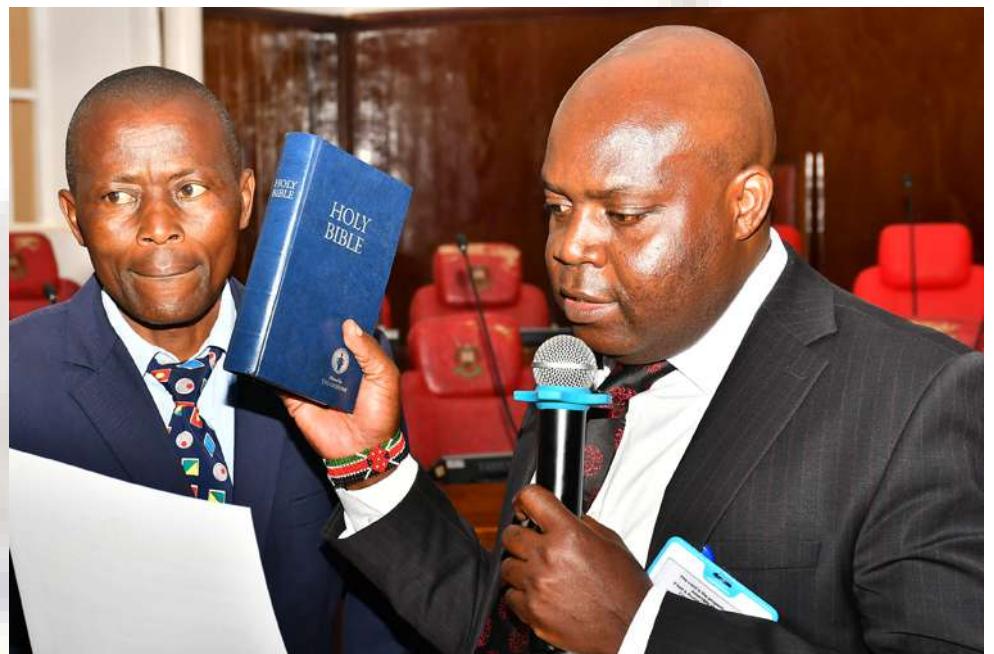
In the first report, the auditor raised several queries regarding pending bills, ethnic diversity within the staff, the one-third basic pay rule, and the ICT control environment. The management responded, stating that all pending bills had been paid, except for the ones related to CAF subscriptions.

The committee also addressed salary deductions that exceeded two-thirds of basic pay. Manage-

ment assured the committee of its commitment to compliance with the one-third basic pay rule and promised to enhance internal controls in the management of the server room according to government ICT standards.

In the second report, the auditor questioned unsupported prior-year adjustments, doubtful long-term receivables, budgetary control and performance, and the lack of jointly registered ownership documents for vehicles under the Car and Mortgage Scheme. Management confirmed that it was addressing these concerns and had initiated a recovery plan for long-term receivables by sending demand notices to non-compliant individuals.

Regarding the registration of joint ownership documents, management indicated that logbooks and title deeds had been submitted as part of the ongoing process to co-own the vehicles.



The Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma Mr. Charles Wafula takes oath ahead of interrogation by PAC Committee

During the interrogation, Auditor General Mr. Jonathan Karube Pkatey expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the Bungoma County Assembly. He acknowledged the assembly's commitment to improving financial and operational practices, despite facing some challenges. Mr. Pkatey emphasized the importance of enhancing performance, ensuring transparency in reporting, and adhering to regulations governing public funds.

He also congratulated the Members and staff of the County Assembly for their efforts, highlighting that their collaborative working relationship and effective coordination had contributed to the assembly receiving an unqualified audit report, which reflects positive governance.

This interrogation by the Public Accounts Committee into financial management within the Bungoma County Assembly revealed some weaknesses but also indicated proactive measures being taken by the assembly's management to address the audit queries. The unqualified audit report serves as a testament to the assembly's commitment to accountability and efficient use of public resources. By continuing to adhere to legal and regulatory standards, the assembly can build public trust in its operations.

The committee was satisfied with the County Assembly Management's responses and proceeded to compile a final report on the matter.



The Public Accounts Committee during the interrogation of the Bungoma County Assembly Management over audit findings

County Assembly of Bungoma Recognized by the Commission on Administrative Justice

By Erick Ngobilo



The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Clerk Mr Charles Wafula and members of the County Assembly of Bungoma Ombudsman Committee during the Award ceremony.

The County Assembly of Bungoma has been honored by the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), also known as the Office of the Ombudsman, for its outstanding commitment to resolving public complaints and implementing service charters for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The County Assembly achieved an impressive aggregate score of 90 percent, marking a significant improvement from the previous year's 68 percent. This remarkable progress was acknowledged during a recognition ceremony where the CAJ awarded the Assembly a compliance certificate.

The certificate was officially presented to the County Assembly by CAJ Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Mercy Wambua, in a ceremony held at the Commission's offices in Nairobi. The event was graced by

the Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, and members of the County Assembly of Bungoma's Ombudsman Committee, led by Principal Legal Counsel, Mr. Ignatius Wangila. Also in attendance were County Assembly Service Board Members, Dr. Antony Mable and Ms. Jessicah Mayabi.

The County Assembly was commended for its proactive approach in handling public complaints, ensuring that whistleblower and conflict of interest reporting mechanisms are accessible within the Assembly's precincts. The Assembly has strategically placed complaint boxes in open areas for easy access by members of the public. Additionally, the Assembly has established registers for tracking complaints, whistleblower reports, and conflict of interest disclosures.

Speaking during the event, CAJ CEO, Ms. Wambua, lauded the County Assembly for its leadership in adopting the Access to Information model law for County Assemblies, which has already been approved and is awaiting gazettement. She emphasized that reporting by County Assemblies and other public institutions is crucial for the full implementation of the Commission's mandate on administrative justice and transparency.

In his remarks, County Assembly Clerk, Mr. Charles Wafula, reaffirmed the Assembly's commitment to upholding high standards of governance and compliance with set regulations. He noted that the County Assembly has been working tirelessly to improve service delivery, and its efforts have been recognized through various prestigious awards.

"These awards are a testament to

our dedication and hard work. Among the awards we have received are the Fire Award 2024, the Gender Mainstreaming Award, the Huduma Awards, and unqualified audit reports, which affirm our commitment to accountability and efficiency," Mr. Wafula stated.

Following the award ceremony, the leadership of the County Assembly paid a courtesy call to the Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice, Mr. Charles Dulo, and Vice Chairperson, Ms. Dorothy Jemator Kimengech. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fostering positive collaborations with the County Assembly of Bungoma to further enhance good governance and service delivery.

Bungoma County Assembly Approves Lands Department Report And Adjourns For Caf Conference

By Marsh Misiko

On February 13, 2025, the County Assembly of Bungoma adopted the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Urban, Physical Planning, and Housing report on financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2024, which had been tabled in the House on February 12, 2025.

The report highlighted the operations of the Department of Lands, Urban, Physical Planning, Housing, and Municipalities and was an important step in ensuring transparency and accountability. These financial statements provide the committee with insights into how public funds allocated to the sectors are managed and enable additional scrutiny of their financial transactions. Adoption of the report thus demonstrates the County Assembly's commitment to good governance and fiscal accountability within the Department.

In a significant subsequent step, the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, MCA Tuuti

Marakaru Ward moved a motion to adjourn the House. The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Minority, Hon. Anthony Lusenaka, MCA Bukembe West. This was in response to the invitation to attend a Special General Assembly organized by the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) from 18th to 20th February 2025.

County Assemblies Forum is a coordinating body of the forty-seven (47) County Assemblies established by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 under Article 176. It primarily helps County Assemblies share inter-linkages, networking and best practices in legislative functions while boosting intergovernmental relations. While its activities assist County Assemblies in their law-making, oversight, and representation functions, this annual meeting aims at addressing issues relating to legislative challenges and proposals affecting devolved governance in the Counties.

Hon. Nyongesa stated that the

implication for full house attendance is strongly upheld for the success of the meeting, whose impact will be felt through efficiency in performing legislation, oversight, and representation functions. He added that the meeting will serve as a valuable learning opportunity for Members of the County Assembly and provide a forum where they can engage with colleagues from other County Assemblies to address common challenges faced in devolved governance.

On the other hand, Hon. Francis Chemion MCA Kaptama ward emphasized that the presence of Members at the CAF meeting is critical for ensuring that the spirit of collaboration among County Assemblies is developed and sustained.

The motion was passed leading to the adjournment of the Assembly sittings from Tuesday, 18th February 2025, to Thursday, 20th February 2025, to give room for Members to attend the CAF meeting.

According to the communication from the Speaker, normal sittings will resume on Tuesday, 25th February 2025.

The adjournment of the House is, therefore, an indication of the commitment to making sure that the members are adequately prepared for the discharge of their duties while recognizing the essential nature of collaboration at the national level. Taking part in the CAF conference will help the Counties grow, and lay a sound foundation for Kenya's devolved governance system.

Ladies of Honour Mark Valentine's Day Celebration at the County Assembly

By Rosemary Wachiye

The female staff at the County Assembly of Bungoma, known as 'Ladies of Honour', marked Valentine's Day with a memorable celebration that combined cake cutting and receiving flowers. The event, held in the County Assembly's Paskari Nabwana hall, was sponsored by one of the Hospital service providers in Bungoma County as a means of giving back to the community.

Ms. Caren Kamonya Sapaya, the Chairperson of the group, expressed the group's appreciation to the Hospital for the gifts. She added that Valentine's Day was a day to celebrate friendship and unity among the team. "We appreciate the facility for extending their love to the County Assembly community through this initiative," she said during her opening remarks.

The celebration featured a moment of inspirational talk by officers from the guest facility. The Ladies of Honour, as the group is fondly known, also used the occasion to highlight its achievements in the year.

The red theme was evident in the flowers that were presented to each participant as members shared light moments of laughter remising the day's meaning of

sharing love.

"This Valentine's Day celebration goes beyond the traditional meaning of the day. It's about strengthening our bonds as female staff and creating meaningful impact in each other's lives," noted one of the group officials Ms. Margaret Mukenda.

The annual event climaxed with a cake-cutting session that symbol-

ized blending celebration with their commitment to public service and women empowerment.



Female staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14th of February, 2025 sponsored by the Hopkins Hospital



A section of the Committee members during the vetting

Nominee for the position of Chairperson of the County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committee Vetted by Committee on Lands

By Rosemary Wachiyé

On Monday 17th February 2025, the County Assembly Committee on Lands, Urban, Physical Planning and Housing conducted a vetting of the nominee for the Chair of the Bungoma County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committee in the County Assembly Precincts.

The Committee on Lands, Urban, Physical Planning and Housing chaired by Hon Francis Chemion, put Mr. Titus Wafula Makokha to task to explain the functions of the County Committee on Affordable Housing which was distinct from the national government Affordable Housing Board.

He outlined key responsibilities of that position, which include advising the County Governor on affordable housing programs, developing a five-year housing investment plan, and collaborating with Municipal Boards on physical infrastructure development.

The nominee expressed his knowledge of the Boma Yangu program and its relation to the Affordable Housing Project, which he stated is a platform that allows individuals to save towards home ownership

and allocation of homes.

He regrettably noted the lack of information in public on the affordable Housing program in the County leading to low uptake of the program.

The nominee, an Electrical Engineer by profession who worked at Kenya Power and Lighting Company and the Rural Electrification Authority, stated that his pro-bono work involved free maintenance of power lines in Sibembe Village.

The Bungoma Affordable Housing Project is a mixed-income development integrating social, affordable, and market units. The project comprises 372 housing units and 13 shops in total.

After concluding the vetting exercise the Committee will compile a report on whether it approves the suitability of the nominee for the stated position or not and present it to the County Assembly for consideration.

The nominee for the position of the Chairperson of the County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committee taking oath before the Committee.



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