

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE HANSARD

TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2022

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

1st Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT

TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2022

The House met at 2:30 p.m.

(Mr. Speaker [Hon. Emmanuel Situma] in the Chair)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Honorable Members, I have the following communication to make;

1. This is an internal Memo addressed to;

To: All Honorable Members

From: The Office of the Clerk, County Assembly of Bungoma

Subject: Burial and Benevolent Fund (BBF) Application forms

The County Assembly of Bungoma Burial and Benevolent Fund Scheme was created in 2015 through a motion in this House under Article 1.3 (1) of the County Assembly of Bungoma Burial and Benevolent Fund Scheme Constitution guiding the Scheme, all MCA's, County Staff and Members of the County Assembly Service Board representing the Public are automatic members of the scheme. A meeting will be organized for Member's sensitization.

Please find in your official email the BBF Constitution for your information.

With respect to the above, you are requested to pick the membership application forms from the records office for filling, and then return them to the Human Resource office for further necessary action.

2. This is from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, State Department of Early Learning and Basic Education; to the Honorable Members of the County Assembly of Bungoma,

County Stakeholder Engagement on Education Reforms

The subject refers.

The Presidential working Party on Education will be seeking views from members of the public in Bungoma County on Thursday 3rd November, 2022 as from 8:00 a.m. The venue is S.t Theresa's Sio Secondary school. As a stakeholder in Education, you are invited to attend and present your views. Attached is your invitation letter.

Signed by the County Director of Education

I will ask Members to forward their views to the Deputy Clerk. We will send the Chair of the Committee, Hon. Otsiula to represent the entire Assembly. You channel your views to the Deputy Clerks office; we will send him as our representative.

3. I have reports from the Office of the Clerk about the Chairpersons to various committees and Vice Chairpersons.

To: The Speaker

From: The Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma

Committee Services Department: The election of the Committee Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons

The County Assembly committees conducted elections on 28th October, 2022 and the following is the list of the Committee leadership;

Sector Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	VICE CHAIRPERSON
Public Administration and ICT	Hon. Tony Barasa	Hon. Caleb Wanjala
Labour Relations and members Welfare	Hon. Hentry Nyongesa	Hon. Catherine Kituni
Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public works	Hon. Frankline Simotwo	Hon. Polycarp Kimeta
Health	Hon. George Makari	Hon. Jerusa Aleu
Lands, Urban, Physical Planning and Housing	Hon. Francis Chemion	Hon. Linda Kharakha
Trade, Energy and Industrialization	Hon. Johnson Ipara	Hon. John Wanyama
Education and Vocational Training	Hon. Benjamin Otsiula	Hon. Stephen Kaiser
Gender, Culture and Social Welfare	Hon. Jack Kawa	Hon. Abraham Obama
Youth Affairs and Sports	Hon. Violet Makhanu	Hon. Grace Sundukwa
Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources	Hon. Edwin Opwora	Hon. Martin Chemorion

Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Co-operative Development	Hon. Waiti Wafula	Hon. Iddi Owongo
Finance and Economic Planning	Hon. James Mukhongo	Hon. Orize Kundu

Attached is the list of the minutes and attendance list of the Members.

Elvis. W. Werunga- PCA,

Committee Services Department

Then I have another one from the PCA Legislative, from the Clerk's office.

Election to Standing Committees

The County Assembly conducted elections of Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the committees on Friday 28th October, 2022 as provided:

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	VICE CHAIRPERSON
Budget and Appropriations	Hon. Jack Wambulwa	Hon. Charles Nangulu
Justice ,Cohesion and Legal Affairs	Hon. Metrine Nangalama	Hon. Everline Anyango
Delegated County Legislation	Hon. Linda Kharakha	Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba
Implementation Committee	Hon. Jacob Psero	Hon. Maureen Wafula
Public Accounts Committee and Investment	Hon. George Tendet	Hon. Benard Kikechi
Committee on Appointments	Hon. Emmanuel Situma	Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
Speaker's Panel	Hon. Emmanuel Situma	Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
House Rules and Procedure	Hon. Emmanuel Situma	Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
Liaison	Hon. Stephen Wamalwa	
House Business Committee	Hon. Emmanuel Situma	Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
Powers and Privileges	Hon. Emmanuel Situma	
Committee on Selection	Hon. Joseph Nyongesa	Hon. Antony Lusenaka

4. Honorable Members, I equally received a letter from Hon. Lusenaka, the Leader of Minority in this House. It is addressed to me about leadership of PIC and PAC.

Honorable Members kindly take your seats!

I only want to address one issue in the said letter. The last paragraph which I wish to quote for the record of the House; it is on this premise that we demand that the membership of the Public Accounts and Investment Committee and Implementation Committee be properly constituted within three (3) days from the date of the service of this letter which was on 28th.

That the minority coalition must have a majority of one to comply with the Standing Order number 209 (3) and 212 (ii), failure to which we will seek legal interpretation from the courts.

My advice is as follows; the Office of the Speaker does not work with ultimatums.

Two, I do not take instructions from Honorable Members.

Lastly, I will ask you to read the Standing Orders in entirety. The one that I want to quote for you Members is not for me; it is for you because you are the ones who passed the list of committees' membership.

Look at number 60 (2): Membership of the committees is through a House resolution which you passed here in my absence.

To change membership of the entire County Assembly committees' establishment, you must bring a motion and overhaul the entire system the way it is.

Look at number 2(ii);

A motion to rescind the decision on such a question may be removed with the permission of the Speaker;

This House sat here and approved Members to these committees. To change committee membership the way you have done here, bring me a motion seeking to change the membership. I will allow that to come to the floor of the House.

Lastly, doing so means you will not be having any committee membership at this given time. It has to come after six months from that day you passed it last week on Wednesday. That is the position in law. It's not me, the majority or the minority.

MOTIONS

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

The thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the Public Policy contained in the address of the Governor; delivered on Tuesday 18th October, 2022

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, this is a continuation of the debate. Members who have had a chance to contribute are not allowed because the same motion will be allowing new Members to give their contribution as we go on with this debate. So basically it is the second day and I will allocate the day to the Leader of Majority and the team and the Minority team accordingly. We proceed!

Members, we will use our second day. We have two more days to debate and that will go up to tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. before we close.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I also want to agree with the Leader of Majority that the address by the Governor touched on most of the issues bedeviling our County.

On matters Education, the Governor clearly pointed out the issue of having ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable basis. We hope that during his tenure, he is going to provide an avenue for employment of ECDE teachers. You know, most of them have undergone training but the previous regime failed to absorb them. It is a good gesture that the Governor is aware that most of our people are still suffering despite having undergone training.

The issue of the scholarship fund has been thorny in this County and from my end I am happy that the Governor is keen; and in fact there is a taskforce in place and that he is waiting for that report.

It is good that when the Supplementary Budget is passed by this Honorable House, we put into consideration, because in future if it turns out that the number of those who are enrolled on the scholarship program exceed the budgetary allocations, then it means that is working outside the budget. It brings trouble on the implementation.

There is an issue concerning Education and the Vocational Training. I know the Governor may have failed to capture something on the vocational training, but he talked about the TVETS. Looking at most of the Vocational Training Centres at the moment, we are having a problem with the student enrolment; and going forward Members will be called upon to see how we can explore ways of ensuring that we get sufficient enrolment of students in those institutions. Otherwise, the instructors may end up losing employment because they will not have students to teach in the long run.

Otherwise, looking at this address by the Governor, I am well convinced that it is touching on most of the aspects that we as a County are supposed to explore and develop as an Assembly; so that we can make this County better in the next five years.

Hon. Joan Kirong’: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute on the address from His Excellency the Governor.

First of all, I want to congratulate His Excellency the Governor for his Second election after the break from 2017-2022.

Allow me to thank the good people of Kapkateny Ward for re-electing me to serve them for a second term. Also allow me to appreciate two men in this country that is Mr. President His Excellency, Dr. William Samoei Ruto and the National Assembly Speaker Hon. Moses Wetangula for their unity in 2022 politics. They made me to be on the majority side and I am enjoying; and some Members will agree with me. We witnessed it on Friday and I want to tell this House that we also passed through what you experienced on Friday and that is what made us go and...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kirong’ stick to the motion at hand which is basically the Governors speech!

Hon. Joan Kirong’: I am going there Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am hearing that you are building your case. Proceed!

Hon. Joan Kirong’: I was just telling the House the privileges of being in the Majority Party and to show people that things can change. The Governor’s speech was good and brief and let me support some few agendas. For example, I will support that Agriculture is indeed the backbone of our Country's economy and I will also support that we hire the extension officers so that they quip our farmers with farming knowledge; because we found that they cultivate up to the river banks on sloppy areas without any control, but when we get such people, they will equip them and get best farming knowledge.

I will also support that let us improve the coffee societies in areas that are growing coffee. Because if we support or improve coffee farming, we will encourage people to plant coffee and it will reduce the burden on our side; because if they get money from their coffee, they will be able to pay fees and even meet other needs.

When I summarize on Agriculture, we get that our farmers are suffering because of the middle men. So I will urge the County Government to set aside a policy that will help them know how to measure their farm produce to avoid exploitation from middlemen. You find that these middle men are buying quality goods at a low price.

Allow me also add my voice on Infrastructure. The other day when we had dinner with our Leaders including the National Assembly’s Speaker. He told me that he had finished the plan of constructing Roads from Kuywa Junction, Kapkateny Ward all along up to Chepyuk...

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Hentry!

Hon. Hentry Nyongesa (*On a point of information*): May I inform the Speaker on the floor that she restricts herself on the Governor’s speech; because I am hearing her continuing to mention...

Mr. Speaker: I think it is just supposed to be self-explanatory. We are discussing the Governor's speech. I do not want to be seen to be interrupting you anytime you are contributing because it becomes annoying. Members just stick to the motion at hand so that we save time and allow other Members because I am seeing the queue is long, it is over 10 Members on the queue. Kindly Hon. Kirong', stick to the motion!

Hon. Joan Kirong': Mr. Speaker, I do not know what Hon. Nyongesa is up to!

Mr. Speaker: No, he is just being keen.

Hon. Joan Kirong': Because I was coming there by telling this House that my Road is among those new roads that are supposed to be constructed. Unless he is looking for something!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kirong', just stick to the issue, the rest...

Hon. Joan Kirong': I am sticking...

Mr. Speaker: The rest you will be allowed to discuss out there away from us.

Hon. Joan Kirong': You know I first mentioned Infrastructure...

Mr. Speaker: You are in order but in the line of argument... Hon. Hentry, just allow Hon. Kirong to proceed with her submissions!

Hon. Joan Kirong': I know where he is heading but we shall solve. I wanted to conclude that my road from Kuywa to Chepyuk is going to be constructed. So I was going to support the motion that let him hasten because our road is among the new roads that are going to be constructed; and I know that after construction it will open up the economy of Bungoma. Because the foods that come from there are feeding people of Bungoma and our neighbours.

(Applause)

Let me say something on Health; that health is great .In the Governor's speech, he said that 80% of the population access level one and two facilities. So I would support that let the government upgrade the health centres and even equip them with modern machines so that minor problems like dislocation of body parts can be managed at our local hospitals; and that will deal with the congestion of patients at the County Referral.

You know how you feel if you are sick and you find that in the County Referral the patients are sharing beds and you find others sleeping on the floor and yet they are sick. Our people are suffering and if the Government will implement that, then our people will be okay.

(Applause)

I will also support that Health Professionals are motivated so that they can work hard.

Let me finish with education. Mr. Speaker I will also support my colleagues by saying that let us increase the number of ECDE teachers because of the high number of children. It seems that the people of Bungoma are doing a good job.

Lastly, let us strengthen vocational training. You find that in some Wards the polytechnics or the buildings are incomplete. Like in my Ward, I have one polytechnic which is incomplete and the youth are willing to train. So, if we strength this sector, we will give the youth skills that they will use to build their lives. Thank you, I rest my case

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, I will ask you that I don't want us to invoke order 109 on the issue of time limitation. Just know that as you contribute there is a long queue.

Hon. Ali Machani: I want to tell colleague Honorable Members that we need to appreciate our colleagues. When you see a leader speaking their mind, it is good to appreciate. It is not very easy to speak in this House. You might be more educated, but when you are given a chance to pronounce yourself you'll see...

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, you have informed Members. Hon. Milliah Masungo...

Hon. Millia Masungo: I wish to be heard in silence Mr. Speaker and I seek your protection...

Mr. Speaker: You are protected. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Milliah Masungo: Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to also comment on the speech of our Hon. Governor. First let me take this opportunity to congratulate him for his re-election to his second term as the Governor of this Honourable County of Bungoma. The elections were tough and Members can bear me witness; those who went through that process. Whoever made it, we have to thank God. Mr. Speaker I will be very brief, I will specifically touch on a few issues because most of these departments or parts of the speech that I wished to talk about have been addressed by my colleagues.

I will go straight to Trade. I wish to thank the Governor for his speech on matters trade; I remember in the last regime, I was lucky to serve on the Committee of Trade. We were part of the team that discussed and shared out monies in our Wards on: Trade Loan, BUCOYEF- Bungoma County Youth Fund, BUCOWEF- Bungoma County Women fund, BUKODEF Bungoma County Disability Fund, plus the Trade Loan that was specifically from the department of Trade.

Because all these other monies were managed by the Gender and Culture Department, I expected that the Governor could have dwelled on this programme because it was one of his flagship projects in the year 2013; when he was the Governor of Bungoma County. When we took over, I remember that we only disbursed this fund once and it ended like that. So I expected him and following his campaign manifesto; he insisted that the revival of the Trade Loans amongst the mama mbogas, the youth of Bungoma, People Living with Disability

would be his first priority. This was his first speech and I expected to hear that when he touched on Trade.

This money as we speak attracted very little interest of 5% which several Wards by 2019 had revolved more than five times. I would wish that the Leader of government business in the House who is also the Leader of Majority reminds the Governor and insists that this is our fund, that we own it as the County Government of Bungoma. Partially he touched on the Hustlers' Fund. I was left wondering because Hustlers Fund is specifically from the National Government.

In his speech if Members were very keen when he touched on the coming up of CBOS and women's groups, he said that in preparedness for the Hustlers Fund which was an oversight. The hustlers fund is specifically a programme of the National Government and with 90%; comparing with 5% of the money that as a government and independent institution, the County Government of Bungoma used to give and fund these poor women of Bungoma, the disabled persons and youth of Bungoma. I want to beg that the Hon. Governor should stick to that Fund to enable the Bungoma mama mbogas move and the Bungoma youth to do business.

I listened to Sulwe this morning and there is a lot of theft across Bungoma County. What does that indicate? There is a lot of idleness among the youth and so I want to beg; I am saying 2019 because I was on the Trade committee in this House and that was the time when my goals had not been tamed. We even went as far as... Mr. Speaker I want to remind you; through the Department of Trade...

Mr. Speaker: You remind the House not me kindly. Yes, information from Hon. Jack.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa (*On a point of information*): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform my fellow Senior Member Hon. Milliah Masungu and the House at large that when the Governor was mentioning the Hustler's Fund, yes it is a national function just like you remember in the last regime the dual carriage was undertaken. Was it a County function? The scholarship that we are talking about today, is it a County function? These are things that we implement as a government and therefore it will be wrong for you to allege that our Governor did not touch on issues to do with devolved functions. He has the right to liaise with the national government so that our people can benefit; and more so as I sum up, those who got into the Trade Loans. I remember when we came in; the previous regime had run it so well. It was a revolving fund! It is until the former Governor put his hands into it, that is why it is not there.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, let us stick to the issue at hand. I appreciate your contributions.

Hon. Milliah Masungo: Speaker I also wish to remind this honorable House that when we are making reference to some matters, it is for our own benefit. What I am insisting on is that

that the Trade Loan should come back into existence. Why I am saying so and most specifically to the Honorable Members who has been on the point of information? Mr. Speaker I was on that committee, we came up with the regulations, amalgamating this fund together. Those regulations as we speak went up to the Cabinet level. What happened there is not my business, but right now, now that we have the Chairperson of the Committee on Trade, it his responsibility and I am also creating an activity for Trade Committee.

I wish to insist that kindly if the Governor can set aside more funds to boost that fund, it will reduce the level of poverty in our women and our youth in Bungoma.

I will move to Agriculture and I will be very brief. Agriculture, we all understand that is the backbone of our County Bungoma. Apart from the subsidies we are giving to our farmers, I want to say this. That the Governor should be stricter on putting down measures on how all these subsidies will be managed. I have extension Officers in my Ward, but these people have always been with us even when we are issuing fertilizer, and that is it.

Giving them motorbikes should be followed up and issuance of subsidies should start early. When we are identifying beneficiaries, there are circumstances when you go to a village or when the Chiefs, because it is the prerogative of the Chiefs to bring these beneficiaries. But you find somebody with a quarter acre being given a 50kg bag of fertilizer, a 50kg DAP fertilizer bag and CAN and immediately he moves out of the gate, he sells that fertilizer. Do you think we are going to control lack of food in Bungoma? So what I am saying is that the Extension Officers you know Speaker I am very tall...

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate your height but just use the microphone... you are not on HANSARD

Hon. Milliah Masungu: So Speaker, I would wish that the extension officers at the time of recruiting the farmers should be practical. They should go and state the exact acreage a farmer has and the amount of fertilizer that should be given to any beneficiary who has come forth. That fertilizer is not a campaign tool. Our own agenda is to change the lives of our people. So I wish that apart from giving them the motorbikes, there should be a serious monitoring and evaluation team that should also oversight the Extension Officers.

As I finish on agriculture; I will still remind the Hon. Governor that among his flagship projects in 2019, Chwele slaughterhouse was number one, just the way he mentioned on the Brigadier road. That was another thing he would have mentioned because the slaughterhouse should reduce the levels of unemployment amongst the youth in this County.

The milk processing plant in Webuye is a project of the former Governor, but again for the benefit of the people Bungoma, that milk processing plant is 80% complete. We want it to be completed so that we can cut down the level of unemployment amongst our youth.

On Health, we have very many congested dispensaries in our Wards; some recording up to 600 patients in a day. Any dispensary, and this the Health Chairperson or any member who has been on health can attest to, that any dispensary recording 600 patients in a day qualifies

to be a Health Centre. So I would wish that as he improves on level 1 hospitals to level 5, let him go back to those dispensaries and improve on them so that we cut down on some cases that are always referred to Bungoma.

Secondly, every member of staff has to be motivated. We have had so many cases of medical staffs going on strike and immediately they strike, everything comes to a standstill. I wish that he puts a lot of funds in health to allow for the continuation of service to our people.

As I wind up with education, we have enough support the way my colleagues have said here. That like the scholarship, we can come up with so many things and put them here and support our people. I want to remind them that the scholarship is properly intended in this government of Bungoma. We came here when I was the Chairperson of Education and we adopted the Policy and the Regulations on the Bungoma Education Support Scheme. So we are legally there and what we want from the Budget Committee is that they allocate more funds for our students to get enough scholarship. That one is ours forever!

On infrastructure...

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, I do not want to interfere with any contribution but as you are speaking, any clicking microphone you are seeing around is a queue. The honorable Members are waiting. So as we do so, kindly take care of your brother's interest.

Hon. Milliah Masungu: I am winding up Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that guidance. On infrastructure, we have to put more money on maintenance. We have managed to make very good roads in our Wards, but what we are lacking is the maintenance fee. So let the Governor put enough money in maintenance, because apart from our Community Empowerment Fund, we are doing the roads and we need maintenance of our roads in our Wards. I submit.

Hon. Job Mukoyandali: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. First and foremost, let me take this opportunity to thank the good Members of West Bukusu for electing me to this House. I want to support the Governor's Speech; but as much as I support it, I have some few remarks to make.

That on agriculture, I did not see the Governor bringing it out clearly the issue of research. If our Governor puts a lot of money and emphasis on research, then I want to believe that we will be guided properly. In Bungoma County, we have sugarcane farming, we have tobacco farming, and there is this issue of the slaughter house at Chwele which has really been promoting chicken farming within the County. But as we sit here today, I am sure the chicken slaughter house is not working, which means a lot of what we might stand here and speak about cannot be properly implemented on the ground; if at all such energies that were put on coming up with such warehouses cannot be properly utilized.

On infrastructure, the Misikhu- Brigadier road issue has now gone beyond ten years. We are also talking about the issue of the dual carriage way. But this Misikhu-Brigadier road, I believe should not go beyond these five years without being brought to an end. Let it not be a song for today, a song for tomorrow then it is a song for the next day. I believe and request

the Governor to concentrate on that road; he has the capacity. Let him ensure that the issues of that road comes to an end so that they work on in to completion.

In our wards, we are facing a lot of problems in terms of the road network. How I wish a lot of money is put on the road network. There is need to open up the new roads. How I wish we sit together and come up with a proper plan just to ensure that the road network within our villages is actually okay. But as much as we also speak about that, let us look at the companies that are operating from our Wards. For example there is a BAT Malakisi which is operating; they have trucks running carrying Tobacco, we have sugar companies which transport cane from our farmers; it is equally great that they are doing that. They are promoting agriculture within our area, but let the Governor bring on board these companies. So that as much as we are also struggling to make sure that we maintain these roads, let us have a clear policy on how to guide these companies so that they can also help in maintaining of those roads.

I want to submit that as a County Government, there is a way we are failing. The reason why I say so is that we have a lot of machinery within the County premises. When you walk there, you will think the County is very rich; it has the machinery to work with on our roads; but you will find those graders and all those machines just lying there. I want us to have a very clear way of working on that and in future, let us put the County Executive Committee Members and the Chief Officers who are coming to handle those respective departments on toes so that these machines are maintained throughout, because if they are properly maintained, I want to believe we will not have problems with the road network.

Maybe on health just partially, we have the health professionals who have been on internship for a very long time. They have been serving in our hospitals and our dispensaries. How I wish we came up with a clear policy of putting them on permanent terms of employment so that at least their morale is boosted and they will give their services to the maximum.

There is an issue of the Community Health Volunteers. These people stay on stipend. Let the Governor come up with a clear policy on how he is going to put them on some monthly salary and not a stipend. There is a lot they do to help our mothers in the villages; their access to the village is more reliable than that of the Nurses. If well remunerated, I can confirm that the issue of losing our people recklessly within the villages will no longer be there.

Water is a key commodity; nobody amongst these honorable Members can survive without water, but as much as the County Government purchased one rig, I can say that one rig working in 45 Wards is not realistic. I would have wished that the Governor in his speech had told us that he was actually going to purchase maybe two or three more rigs so that we make sure that as we plan among the 45 Wards, we have a schedule upon which those rigs are going to move across our areas of jurisdiction; because water is very important.

As I finish on the issue of water and sanitation, there is a dam in my Ward which can serve the whole of Bumula Constituency. How I wish that the Governor would have done proper research so that he utilizes that particular dam. Currently, we have piped water run by Lake

Victoria North, but how I wish the Governor adopted this as one of his flagship projects so that we solve the water issues in Bumula Constituency.

The issue of ECDE teachers hiring was a very bright idea for our Governor; I want to say he did us good. One of my sisters is employed as an ECDE teacher and I can say I enjoy her bread when I don't have anything in the pocket. When you look at the enrolment right now in PP1 and PP2 grades in our schools, it is very high; these are small children who need a lot of care. If the Governor goes ahead and hires more teachers the way he presented it in his speech, it would be better. If this is not the case, let us have interns who can be given these opportunities by the County Government.

Lastly, my attention is drawn to the issue of climate change. Today everybody is suffering a lot in terms of climate change. Unfortunately, I stand to be corrected. We are actually remaining with only three weeks to pass the Climate Change Bill. I am aware that we have up to the 30th of November, 2022 for us to pass this Bill and if we don't, we will end up losing 50 million shillings per Ward. There are some components within climate change that range from the climate change fund structure of the Ward and the County level; which are within the Act of the climate change. Then there is that climate information system, there is monitoring and evaluation. Up to this minute since the World Bank bought this Fund, Bungoma is one of the Counties which is yet to touch on any of the four components. It is quite annoying that we might end up losing this Fund if we are not so keen, now that we only have three weeks to pass this Bill. This is the locally led Climate Change Action Fund by the World Bank.

I believe all of us will appreciate that the 70% of the 50 Million is supposed to be utilized within our respective Wards. Only 30% will remain at the County level for monitoring and evaluation. This is a fund that is going to improve on water projects, roads, irrigation, and Health amongst other programmes.

As I finish, let us ensure that even the companies operating from within this County are able to look at ways in which this issue of climate change can be handled. For example, when you go to Nzoia Sugar you will see the fumes being released directly to the environment. You go to Malakisi VAT and its farmers; you will get the fumes being released directly to the environment. As much as we are not taking care of this, the issue of climate change might affect us for life and we might not find a solution for climate change.

I want to say that 70% of 50 Million is a lot of money. Somebody can sit in a seat somewhere and is not happy that 70% of this money is coming to our respective Wards. This is where I want to submit that Members let us be serious on the issue of climate change. Let that Bill be brought on the floor and let us pass it. Let us utilize that money for improving our Wards. I want to repeat what an Honorable Member has said here that it is not a campaign tool, but this is the money that is going to help us in our Wards.

You can imagine what 50 Million can do in terms of Road network, Agriculture, tree planting, Water projects, Health etc. I want to ask the Honorable Members in this House that

occasionally we have so many differences in terms of ideas and parties, let us make this 70% of 50 Million a reality within our Wards and I can tell you we will have a lot to improve.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Lubwani. The moment you request to debate, it comes in that order. Allow the system to run.

Hon. Tom Chikati: Thank you for giving me a chance to contribute and applaud the speech by the Governor on 18th of October 2022. I only have two key issues.

One, I want to thank him especially on Health for recognizing the CHVs, and by saying that they are going to get a stipend; even though we need to get more as Hon. Mukoyandali has put it.

The second thing is how I wish that the Governor would have also under good governance identified the village managers commonly known to us as *Wakasas* and also the *Nyumba Kumis* (community policing) so that they also be getting a stipends because they work with Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and D.O's in our villages; to realize that what they do for our messages to reach the president. It starts with them; so how I wish that could have been captured by the speech of His Excellency, the Governor.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Chikati but beware that those people you are talking about are for the National Government; for it is not a devolved function. So we will learn as we go forward my brother.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to also contribute to the policy statement by His Excellency, the Governor. First, I want to thank God and the people of Khalaba for getting me where I am; it wasn't easy. I thank the people of Khalaba for showing faith in me and electing me to represent them in this August House. I would also like thank everybody in this House who was elected and even nominated to serve the people of Bungoma. I would also like to congratulate the Governor for his re-election to serve his second and the final term.

I also want to thank and congratulate the Prime Minister of the UK because he has Kenyan roots and the first man of color to...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makhanu, is it relevant to the Governor's speech or you are also building the case?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: I am building my case. He is the first man of color and has roots in Kenya and the first youngest in 200 years to be the Prime Minister in the UK.

Moving to the policy statement of the Governor, first I would like to thank the Governor for the policy statement he gave on 18th. The 10 points if actualized, Bungoma is going to be much better than other Counties.

The first point was on Agriculture. I represent a Ward which is in town. In most cases when they distribute fertilizer to farmers, we are told that we don't have land. Sometimes you find that what is given in other Wards does not get to Khalaba. I want to appeal that if it is a

policy that they passed, it can be relooked into. Yes we are in town, maybe living in a plot, but I have land elsewhere. I want to appeal to the Governor that whatever that is given to other Wards should also be given to the residents of Khalaba because they sent me here to plead on that.

Mr. Speaker: Out of curiosity Hon. Makhanu, if you own land somewhere else like in Maraka in Webuye or in West Bukusu, why can't you get fertilizer from west Bukusu?

Hon. Ali Machani (*On a point of information*): I just want to inform Honorable Member that now after being elected he has been given the mantle. It is upon him to plan and change because it is your predecessor who changed that in this House; that Khalaba people cannot get subsidized fertilizer just because they are in town. Now that you have come in with new brains and ideas, it is you now to appeal to the Speaker that you change those things because they have made your people to be disadvantaged.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Coming back to that point, the Governor talked so well on Agribusiness, Modern technology and all that. I hope it is not just words but it will be actualized.

Secondly, on infrastructure; as I told you, Khalaba is unique in this way. On one side, there is a road connecting two Counties, Bungoma and Kakamega. The other side is a river called Khalaba where we derived the name Khalaba. In this Ward, if it comes to infrastructure, the longest road is about 4KM, but most of the roads are about 300M and 400M. So I just want to appeal to the Governor that whenever we are doing roads, we should consider Khalaba Ward.

These short roads I am telling you, I'm most cases the contractors do not reach the river. They leave when they are 50m close to the river; and sometimes you wonder where the roads are leading to. It has to cross over but now that we have short roads, I would appeal to the Governor that if they are doing Roads in Khalaba, they should also consider doing bridges. As we speak today, when it rains in town here, all flooded water ends up in Khalaba. People in Khalaba have lost land. You buy a 50M x100M plot and because of flooding, they are complaining that their land is no longer 50M x 100M in dimension the way they bought it.

Mr. Speaker: Are you saying the land goes away with the river?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Yes. All waters from town end in River Khalaba at the lower side.

Mr. Speaker: So the land disappears?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: I wish one day we walk down there with you when it has rained. Recently we had flooding at the bust park and the shops around there were also flooded. The drainage is poorly done and in fact I will urge the Governor that any contractor that will come to Khalaba will have to do a thorough job, not like the ones that have been there.

You will find that when they are doing drainages, instead of putting proper drainage system in place, you find that on one side they dig deep trenches; they do stone pitching yes, but, it is

not even straight; it meanders on one side, the other side is left unattended. Instead of putting those drainages up to the river, they are left half way. So for the next five years the Governor is going to serve, I appeal even to the Committee on Roads which is here, that please consider Khalaba whenever a road is done, let them bring a contractor who is versed with the terrain of Khalaba so that they do the drainage thoroughly and not to subject my people to suffering.

Hon. Hentry Nyongesa: The Honorable Member is bringing another Motion to this Motion. How I wish that he prepares a Motion on its own so that this House can deliberate and have a way forward for him to have what he is bringing to the House. We are discussing the Motion here and he is bringing issues on how the contractor should work.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makhanu I think you are properly guided so that you do not digress so much on the Governor's Speech.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: I'm properly guided. I was saying that about infrastructure, we were told that the County of Bungoma has about 800Km of roads and we have only tarmacked 142Km, so we have a lot to do. I appeal to the Governor and his team that this time when they are doing allocations; I think we shall put more money on infrastructure so that we can at least have a quarter of the 800KM to be tarmacked.

On health, today when I speak, I have seen the Governor seeking to make sure that Bungoma people get access to efficient, affordable and quality Healthcare. If we can focus on preventive primary care, it will be better if we are putting more money to curative Health care. As I speak today, in Khalaba we lack even a single dispensary. So when he talks that way, I feel so happy because he considers Khalaba. Khalaba with over 40,000 people is without even a single dispensary and today in Bungoma, all the best private Hospitals are found in Khalaba.

Mr. Speaker: Out of curiosity, do you want that you don't get sick so that you have a private dispensary?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: I don't want them to get sick of course!

Mr. Speaker: Don't they get sick or what happens?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: They get sick but you know we rely on the County Referral Hospital which is congested. So it would be fine if we are given two or three dispensaries so that we can decongest our referral hospital.

On primary Healthcare, I also applaud the Governor for considering the CHVs as my colleagues have said.

The fourth one is about education. The Governor is out to make sure that he will expand as he said in his policy statement; that he will expand ECDE and even employ more teachers; I commend him on that so much.

Financial management was point number six in his policy statement, but he did not talk about austerity measures. Today, I visited Toyota Kenya Bungoma, they walked me around and

what I saw there was not good. My colleagues have talked about Agriculture, tractors and a lot more. The Governor talked about repairing broken tractors and buying even more.

I went to Toyota Kenya offices in my Ward and I saw County Vehicles there. There were five County Prados parked there and I was told that they have been there for the last five years; and when you look at them they are in good condition. So I urge the Governor that may we have a department of repair and maintenance of County Vehicles and Machinery.

That is just a tip of the ice berg and we not have added maybe the tractors, motor cycles and others. It was not a good show and they were saying that sometimes our vehicles are taken to Kericho for repairs and yet they have a very good workshop. I found them doing some repair and maintenance services to police vehicles. I would urge the Governor to use the available Garages locally like Toyota instead of taking these jobs to other Counties.

The Governor also talked about strengthening devolution; I must commend the Governor because he talked about some services being devolved to the Ward level. We need to sensitize our people on everything that goes on and this maybe will lead me to urge the Governor to fast track the formation and appointment of Village Councils; so that together they can reach the common *Mwananchi* (citizen.)

This is my maiden speech and I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity; and I look forward to a healthy debate in this House, and to echo the sentiments of our Majority Leader, it is not going to be praise and Worship choir for the County Government. I hope when they do well we shall praise them but when they don't, this House must pronounce itself.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you for allowing me to contribute to the Governor's speech. First of all with your permission, allow me to thank the special people of Tongaren- Kiminini Ward who out of their democratic right and trust gave me the responsibility to be their servant for the next five years. I want to say thank you so much. According to the speech given to this Honorable House by the Governor on 18th of October, he intentionally did talk about the preamble; the leadership.

Some people may think that he talked over that just for the sake of talking. What he was referring to is that this House needs leadership that can foresee and is able to resolve issues that emerge. He also talked about our relations. That this House can pass Bills; enact laws if we relate closely with one another; and also consult and advice each other. Some of us, this is the first time that we are in this House and we are speaking.

We are also following the footsteps of our seniors. The way they conduct themselves will also mentor us to become good leaders for tomorrow. So our relation is very important and will enable us help one another. He also talked intentionally about respect. Respect is very important. When you respect the opinion and the decision of each one of us, it will create an atmosphere that all of us can accept to work closely. He also talked about Governance. We are in this House because of governance. We were elected purposely to offer governance.

He also talked about transparency and accountability. That the way we conduct our businesses, they must be transparent and not opaque; the common word that was there in August. We should also be accountable in our actions. This takes me back to the Leader of Majority's contribution to the Governors speech as well as the Leader of Minority.

They reminded me that this is the beginning of a tough long journey that will take us to the top of the hills where you will have nobody to assist you. It will drop you down to the valleys where you will have nobody to assist you in solving the issues that emerge from the people that elected you. Every time you are about to make a decision think about the third eye that could be looking at you!

I also want to say that I believe that the Governor in picking the ten agendas did carry out thorough research. He was informed and he carried out a survey; particularly when we talk of agriculture, infrastructure, Health, Water, trade, Climate change and education. When I go back to Agriculture, as most of you understand, it is the backbone and it is the backbone of economic growth and development of this County.

If you look at the West you will find that we have BAT at Malakisi. If you look at the central you will find that we have Nzoia Sugar Company and when you go to the East you will find that we have Naitiri Sugar Company. The reason is that Agriculture will provide food for the people. It also provides industries with raw materials that make them operate; and at the end of the day, we the people who reside in Bungoma County make money from agriculture.

It also creates business for those who do business, because today, we have Mt. Elgon, Tongaren and Bumula as the food baskets for this County; and when you go to Chwele, the food that you find there either comes from Mt. Elgon, Bumula or Tongaren. So Agriculture is one of the pillars that should not be forgotten.

Honorable Members might be wondering why we are supporting what the Governor said. Don't forget that Agriculture also provide International Trade. Some people may wonder which international Trade. The flowers that we have in our farms find their way out of this Country. The money that we get through the budgetary provisions to our counties are generated mostly agri- business and we may say that this County is an Agricultural economy.

I want to believe that the Governor in his policy paper may be having the details of what I wish to say. I want to propose that maybe as he finalizes his policy paper on distribution of fertilizer, let it be moved from the Ward to the Sub location so that we are able to reach more people who need it; so that we can increase productivity in most of the areas.

As my colleagues have said, we must also have Field Officers. Not only having Field Officers, but effective Field Officers who are accessible to the farmers at the time of need. As members said, there is need for introduction of mechanical tractors to be used in Agriculture. If you go to most parts of the World, they mostly depend on machines to increase their productivity. I wished to propose that if the Governor through the concerned department could carry out rehabilitation of our cattle dips; for if you walk across the County you will find out that most of them are not in use.

I also remember during the first term when the first Governor was elected, he introduced fish farming in most parts of the County, and this brought in a lot of money to our people. Besides money, there was also an element of diet; which is mostly recommended by Hospitals, that you should eat white meat. I want to request that if he can also consider that in his policy paper, I want to assure you that this County will compete and it will come in as number one.

Moreover, you should not forget about roads. I am saying roads because I am having Tongaren in my mind. During campaigns, most of you visited Tongaren and you saw that it is an Island that is away, unseen and is unheard of because these roads are impassable. What I wanted to record here is that if the Governor could create what we may refer to as interdepartmental unit; where the County Public Works, KERRA and KENHA can jointly and at least once in a quarter meet and consider projects that they have within the County; because I referred somewhere on a document and I saw KERRA was doing the same road as KENHA and they were also doing the same road that the county government was doing.

If all of them can do a project at the same time, then it means that our beloved people of this County will lose value for money since funds end up where we cannot account for.

With that Hon. Speaker, I submit my case.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ipara, I will have Hon. Wafula Waiti.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker, may I take the shortest time possible raising some three issues from the Governor's speech.

Number one, I want to congratulate him for his re-election to his final term.

I now want to raise something on Agriculture, just to emphasize, because most of the points have been discussed by my colleagues. May I emphasize on the issue he raised on early planting by our farmers. The County Government should move with speed to assess needy families who wish to get the farm inputs early enough.

I wish to emphasize on the point of CBOs where the Governor said that the money that will be coming from the County Government or the Hustler's Fund shall be channeled through CBOs. As we discuss on the issues of CBOs, I want to raise this point; that every morning, I don't know about my colleagues, but I have a number of youth coming in as visitors with envelopes containing applications for employment.

We have our collapsed corporations; the County Government through your able leadership can revive the Cooperative Societies in this County that is on record as the founder of cooperatives movement in this country; and yet most of the cooperatives have collapsed. If this County can revive the so called Farmers' Cooperative societies, that can be a way of creating employment for our youth. We have a cooperative or a society or a factory for that matter known as Malakisi ginnery. It is on record and in history that the first and last elections for the Board of Directors, was held 48 years ago in 1974. Up to now, we still have the same leadership.

Mr. Speaker: Are you saying they are all still alive?

Hon. Wafula Waiti: That is what I am wondering! 48 years down the line can we imagine if those people are alive and how can that factory survive with such kind of leadership? It is the duty of this County Government to revive intensively those factories or cooperatives for the welfare of our youth.

As I finalize, if you look at the issue of health, on the 18th day of last month we had the third opening of this County Assembly, where our good Governor emphasized on improving the primary health services of our people. He assured us of confirming the health- casual workers to permanent positions. As we do that, it is my humble submission that first of all we have some dispensaries of this County which have lasted for 20 years; most of these dispensaries if I may mention one in my Ward, there is a dispensary known as Sirakaru dispensary. By the time of registering, it was registered as a Health Center but for all these years it is operating as a dispensary. How I wish that this good government could upgrade such dispensaries to Health centers.

Members are aware when a dispensary is upgraded into a Health center, automatically a clinical officer will be posted there. Now, a case like Sirakaru dispensary, the nurses there operate during day time and when you look at the chart, it covers a catchment area of an approximate population of 8,000 people. You can imagine the 12 hours of the night, these people are helpless.

Mr. Speaker: Or is it that there are no sick people at night?

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Let us not imagine that Mr. Speaker, but I want to submit that we upgrade our dispensaries into Health centers and that will offload our big hospitals like the referrals and Sub-county hospitals.

When we come to infrastructure like my colleague Hon. Ipara has just mentioned, yourself and my Leader of Majority plus my good friends, colleagues, Mr. Biashara

Mr. Speaker: Who is Mr. Biashara in this house Hon. Waiti?

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Hon. James Mukhongo and Chief Whip Hon. Museveni are witnesses. When they visited our area last weekend, they almost slept on the road. So, when we talk of infrastructure in Tongaren, we are the people who are suffering the most in this County. Let the County move with speed and complete the Misikhu-Brigadier road and many other roads in that region, I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you I will have Hon. Jack Psero, Hon. Kimeta Polycarp and Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama in that order.

Hon. Jack Psero: Thank you Mr. Speaker,

Mr. Speaker: Members who have that height it is a problem; just persevere with these microphones please, proceed.

Hon. Jack Psero: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to raise issues on the speech of the Governor. First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Chesikaki Ward for electing me as their MCA. I know it was total war and I am happy that I won at long last. Thank you, my heroes, of Chesikaki, bravo Chesikaki!

Secondly, I would like also to thank the Leadership of this House for the various appointments I have been given as a Member particularly as a Chair of the Implementation Committee, I know there was a big war but I am happy I won.

Thank you Leader of Majority for taking care of me and I am happy that some 25 years ago I took care of you as your supervisor when you were writing your examination.

(Laughter)

I am happy that you are paying back for those services. Otherwise, I also want to thank our Governor for being elected for the second term and also for the good speech he gave us in this particular House. I am happy that the agenda that he gave us is quite promising and it means well to this particular County.

On Agriculture, I am happy with the proposals that he made particularly on food security. My colleague Honourable Members, in this county, maize is the staple food. I am only worried that the price of this commodity is going up very fast and I don't know why. At the same time, it is sold to people coming from very far. I know there is that freedom of selling commodities by any farmer to anybody, but I am worried that as a county if we cannot take stern measures, we can end up missing food and bringing disaster the way it has happened in other countries and I mean counties of North Eastern. It is my prayer that the Governor in his wisdom can pump funds in the department of Agriculture so that we can come in and store cereals; and in the near future we can purchase this food particularly for our schools.

Coffee is one of the cash crops that we cherish in this County particularly on the slopes of Mt. Elgon and other places with fertile soils. It is my request that our Hon. Governor could increase the coffee factories so that we can bring services closer to the farmers. At the same time, we have the issue of Mt. Elgon Coffee Mill which Hon. Chemion mentioned last week. I am impressed Hon. Speaker that this mill is serving farmers very well and our farmers are being paid well on this particular commodity. The price of coffee is now encouraging and that is why there is a lot of theft of this commodity in the farms; and even in the coffee societies. It is my appeal that this county brings checks and measures on security of this commodity so that our farmers can get enough money to pay school fess and perhaps pay something for their food.

Mt. Elgon Coffee Mill is in my Ward and is lacking a number of facilities that is affecting the price of that commodity; particularly the storage bit. The stores are inadequate at the same time the laboratories are very small and cannot serve these farmers very well. It is my humble appeal to the Governor that he increases funds to this particular mill, including that one of Musese and any other that can be started in the near future. Otherwise with the coffee payment improving, we shall not have many requests from these farmers on getting bursaries.

On infrastructure, I want to appreciate the two governors the present and the former Hon. Wangamati for ensuring that we have enough roads in our Wards. I am very sure that in Chesikaki Ward they have constructed a number of roads and fortunately some three weeks ago or so, we have had torrential rains in those particular regions, particularly on the slopes of Mt. Elgon. The roads which were murramed have been washed away; the bridges also across the most rivers have been washed away. The culverts were blocked and right now we have a problem of transportation; particularly for the coffee and maize farmers. It is also my humble appeal that we ask the Governor to ensure that funds are set aside for this purpose, so that we can re-carpet these roads. It is also my suggestion that roads on these steep slopes, we do tarmacking to avoid constant repairs in this area.

On health I am impressed with the programme the Hon. Governor has given us in raising the level 1 and 2 dispensaries to the level of Health Centers. I hope he will speed up this activity to enable people in our Wards to enjoy good healthcare; particularly in getting enough drugs and at the same time getting good facilities. Most of these dispensaries you cannot get drugs; you cannot get these x-ray machines and other facilities that are required including personnel. In Chesikaki dispensary we have very few personnel managing a large population in that area. We are asking the Governor to give us or employ more of these nurses to ensure that we have good healthcare in those particular areas. I have also noted with a lot of concern that some dispensaries have not been completed; the construction has taken almost 10 years; for example Kimama Dispensary. It is my hope that this time round the Governor can give us some funds to complete this particular project.

On water; water is life and without water we can have so many calamities in our areas and in our County. We have Chesikaki water supply which is one of the giant water projects serving the whole of Chesikaki Ward and the neighboring Wards like the Ward of Hon. Nangulu in Namwela Ward, Cheptais and Lwandanyi. Unfortunately, this project was started sometime back in 1970 and most of the machines are won out and the demand for water is high. It is my hope that the Governor will bring enough funds in that particular area to renovate this project so that we can have that area served with enough water.

Students in our schools are really suffering, particularly girls; because they require a lot of cleanliness and a lot of attention and therefore without water, they will not be comfortable and I want to believe they will not take learning seriously. So, we are appealing to the County Government to ensure that something is done towards this so that we can benefit as a region and our people will be happy while appreciating the work done by the government.

In terms of education, we appreciate all the plans of bursaries, scholarships and many others that deal in that line. I want to appreciate the Hon. Governor who introduced ECDE classes in most of our Wards; these young children have in the past been left to suffer. They were just learning from outside; no shelter and when it rains, that becomes the end of learning and the students are left to go home. I am happy that most of the classrooms have been constructed; unfortunately most of them are incomplete. It is my proposal that we complete these classrooms, particularly where window pens are lacking, there is no paint and even some floors are worn out.

The same applies to TVETs like in Toroso or in Chesikaki Ward; I have two TVET units, one at Kimabole and another one at Toroso. The one of Torosso has taken 10 years and is not complete, it is just at the wall pane, and I don't know if there is a programme for these TVETs to be completed because they are important. These are places that provide training particularly to our youth; and these youths require employment. There are so many people who are idle and they require employment. They have form four certificates but those certificates cannot give jobs, unless they get training in these particular TVETs.

It is my humble appeal that we complete them, equip them and ensure they are operational. This will make our students complete classes and the enrollment number will go up in these TVETs. Like in Toroso, we have just very few students because where they are learning from, facilities are depleted; primary school classrooms are not conducive for learning.

Finally, my friend Hon. Chemion mentioned about Chemoge High Altitude Training Centre for our athletes. The youth require entertainment and the only places they can succeed in, is in sports like athletics in Mt. Elgon. It has taken too long for this project to be completed despite the fact that a lot of money has been invested in this area. It is my appeal that this time and particularly from January, we make this place to be usable and have many of our young men and women using it to earn a lot of money the way the counterparts in Eldoret are doing.

When you go to Eldoret, there are so many big hotels which have been constructed by sports men and women and they are earning a lot of income from them. We want the same in Bungoma County and I want to believe that if we do this and put a lot of money in this, we shall be very comfortable and we shall help our youth partake in so many activities in this area. I beg to end my submissions here.

Hon. Polycarp Kimeta: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this chance to also comment on the Governor's speech, but before I do that, I wish to thank the people of West Nalondo Ward for giving me the victory that has given me the mandate to be in this Honourable House. I would like to also congratulate the Governor for being elected for the second time. Lastly, I wish also to congratulate you for being elected as the Speaker of this House.

I want comment on the issue of Agriculture that the Governor articulated very well. He highlighted issues that are very important to the farmers. It is high time that farmers take agriculture as a commercial venture and not a consumption business. They need to understand that agriculture can bring money to their pockets and this one is going to improve the living standards of our people. He also mentioned that he is going to facilitate Extension Officers with the motorbikes, but we also wish to say that as he gives them the motorbikes, they need to be supervised very well; so that the farmers can get good time to be with the Extension Officers and understand the new techniques of farming. It is high time that our County changes from the normal farming techniques to other farming systems and rotational cropping.

The governor also said that he will facilitate our farmers with tractors and other supplements that will enhance production in general. We also want to thank him for introducing a programme of subsidy insurance, this will give hope to farmers who will now know that they can get money from tertiary or lending institutions to put in agriculture; and at the same time they would be covered in case their crops do not perform as per their expectations.

When we look at agriculture, it goes hand in hand with infrastructure. For us to have farm produce and market our commodities to our local markets we must have very good infrastructure; these are the roads. Currently, across the County we are having very bad roads in general. From his speech, he said that of the 3,032KM across the County, only 800 Km are the ones that can be seen; out of that we only have 142KM that is tarmacked. This shows that our road system is still in dire need; that we need to put measures that can rectify the road system in the County. I suggest that he puts enough funds in the roads department and ensure that they acquire machinery to reduce the cost of periodic maintenance of these roads and create new roads across the County.

When we come to the issue of healthcare, we thank him so much for highlighting the issue of Community Health Volunteers. These are people who play a primary role on our people back in the villages, in other words they work as subordinate nursing staffs to our people in the local hospitals. One, he said that he will upgrade the level one and level two hospitals, but he should also go ahead and create simple life dependence clinics. These are the clinics that deal with day-to-day diseases across the County; diseases like hypertension, tuberculosis etc. They should start being handled in our primary clinics in our areas. These dispensaries should also be given the mandate to handle these life dependency clinics so that we can cater for our patients across board. The issue of NHIF should be prioritized across the hospitals in the County; he should come up with a formula of making sure that all this government health facilities have access to NHIF and are accredited with NHIF status.

When we look at the issue of good governance, he said that he invoked executive order one to create the taskforce to review pending bills, education scholarship programme and staff and human resource. This is a plus for him because it will make us understand and know that the funds available are utilized properly. There are programmes like the education scholarship program that have had challenges of mismanagement; with the taskforce in place and the report, they will come up with recommendations that will help to streamline the system. On the issue of human resource and County staff, it will also highlight the number of staff in the county database and ways on how to champion for their interests and their wellbeing.

We have an issue on sports and culture and I thank the Governor for committing himself to prioritize the completion of Masinde Muliro Stadium. It is one of the oldest stadiums where agriculture shows used be held in early 90s when we were still young. If he will complete the said stadium, it will enhance a lot of economic empowerment to the county at all levels.

The high altitude training center is a facility that is situated in area that is mountainous. For trainees from counties like Kericho, Narok and Nandi, they will have to visit this area for training and events which will assist to improve our economy.

Lastly I will talk about the Climate Change Bill which is proposing that they will roll down a 50 million shillings financial plan to the Wards. This will improve the Wards at all levels through creation of jobs, climate sustainability and promote farming activities in the County; putting in mind that the funds will run for three years. It means that the Wards might benefit to a tune of 50 million shillings each. If the money is well managed at the Ward level, we are sure that the Governor will deliver highly on his promises made during campaigns. I thank you for giving me this chance Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Governor's speech. Before I do that, I want to take this opportunity to thank my Party Ford Kenya for giving me an opportunity to serve in this August House as a Nominated Member. You should expect from me team work and full cooperation to ensure that we offer proper oversight, legislate and represent our people.

Coming back to the Governor's speech I will only talk about one pillar that is close to my heart; on agriculture. Recently the Central government did a survey and the figures that they brought out are mind boggling. Agriculture alone contributes about 20% to our Gross Domestic Product. This sector employs about 40% of the total population in this country. Now, it even gets better because when you talk about the rural population, agriculture employs about 70%.

When I look at the Governors blueprint I see he has put agriculture as number one and that tells me that this is a person who knows what he is doing. He mentioned good things about agriculture; first, he said that we need to embrace agriculture as a business, encourage value addition, expand and increase supply of firm inputs and lastly he talked about subsidy insurance programme.

I want to make a little addition to what the Governor said that can improve the sector. The biggest concern to me is that this county has many industries that are on their knees. When you look at Nzoia Sugar factory, it is in a sorry state. Some of us went to school using sugar cane money and payment was on time, farm inputs were being given for free by the factory and then deducted from farmers when they delivered the cane. Right now the factory is on its knees.

When you look at Malakisi cotton ginnery it is the same thing. There are many factories that this County Government needs to purpose and put enough funds to ensure that they are back and running. It should be remembered that when Pan Paper went down, it went down with Webuye town which is currently a ghost town. I would not wish that we also let go all these other industries. The County Government should put in funds...

Mr. Speaker: Are you saying that a town of Hon. Stephen Sonko is a ghost town yet he stays there?

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: It is a ghost town Mr. Speaker. Secondly, the Governor talked about introducing an insurance programme. To add on this, I think we need to think about putting up proper storage for farm produce for our farmers. When you look at our farm process, there are a lot of post-harvest losses because farmers don't have proper storage. This is basically brick and mortar and if you ask me, it is possible to have a proper silo in every Sub-county and farmers don't need to pay to use the silos. The same produce they are storing there is actually security; where they can be allowed to pay during selling of their produce. This will also assist farmers get better prices for their produce.

Last but not least, the Governor also spoke about ensuring that there is an increase in supply of farm inputs, but there is another factor to it. The problem in this country is about the quality of the farm inputs. The County Government needs to work hand in hand with the National Government to ensure that farm inputs are affordable and most importantly we need to ensure that all these farm inputs are supplied by firms accredited by the government for quality control. That is what I had to add on in respect to the agriculture pillar. I submit Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you Mr. Speaker for according me this time. First of all I want to thank the people of Cheptais for electing me to this August House. Secondly, I would not have been elected if I had no support from one of the nominated MCAs, the iron lady of Cheptais Hon. Eunice. She took charge of my campaign and ensured that I was elected together with Hon. Fred Kapondi.

On the issues of development highlighted by the Governor; I have some input on agriculture. I want to thank the Governor for emphasizing on agriculture. The issue of farm inputs in terms of provision of fertilizers and seeds has actually helped a lot of peasant farmers in the county at least to put food on the table. How I wish that we scale up this programme to include some agrochemicals to fight against the insects.

The provision of tractors to farmers is a noble idea but we need also to look at the cost-benefit-analysis at the end of the day. The issue of operations and maintenance; there is a lot of machinery lying idle in the yards. The ones that were given are not functional, and therefore, we need to have a clear operations and maintenance program to make sure that the benefits goes down to the farmers. This will help to avoid wastage of public funds on machinery that cannot be serviced.

On coffee sector, a lot has been talked about in this sector. Mt. Elgon, Kabuchai and Sirisia are well known for coffee production, where households generate their income to meet their day to day expenses including paying school fees for their children. I want to beseech the County Executive to come up with a clear plan to stop coffee smuggling which is a menace along the Kenya-Uganda boarder. Just yesterday I received a call from a Cooperative Officer complaining that how come we have a lot of road blocks on the roads yet coffee is being smuggled to Uganda? It calls upon the County Executive to ensure that they protect the coffee sub-sector in this County because that is where money is.

On Extension Workers, I applaud the Governor for laying emphasis on the importance of the Extension Workers. These are frontline workers who help farmers at the grassroots level. There is a time we moved from where the officers were reaching out to the farmers and we went to demand a driven approach which is a bit challenging, because you have the extension workers in their offices waiting for the farmers, yet most farmers are still using old technology; and the extension workers are sitting on knowledge on new approaches in agriculture.

Partly, the reason could be that these extension workers are not being facilitated enough. In the National Government, the Sub county heads were being facilitated by being given authority to incur expenditure. Why should we have extension workers from Cheptais or Tongaren coming to Bungoma to look for imprests? Why can't we delegate expenditure authority to Sub- county heads to fast-track development in the villages? In fact in the National administration structure, the Chief is properly facilitated and that is why he can properly discharge his functions. Let us as an Assembly implore upon the Executive through Chief Officers to decentralize expenditure authority at Sub County level so that the workers can be easily facilitated.

Yesterday I was engaging a Ward administrator on the issue of garbage on Cheptais market; if you go to Cheptais right now the first site on the tarmac you will see garbage which is now the dumping site; and the Ward administrator cannot do anything because he is not properly facilitated. The Executive should look into it to fast-track development at the grass root level.

On roads, all of us are feeling the pinch of having poor network in our Wards. We do the roads but operation and maintenance is poor. Why should we wait to contract a culvert that has just been washed away and wait for a month or 10 months to repair a culvert? We should come up with a plan where we can engage locals and pay them. So that if we have a culvert that has been washed away, they can do repairs unlike waiting for long for procurement processes to be done? After procurement a contract who feels short changed raises issues yet our people continue to suffer. This needs to be looked at. I don't know how the transits Lorries were allowed to use the Chelwe- Cheptais road. They have damaged this road and a follow should be done to ensure that our roads are maintained.

On climate change; this is the elephant in the room everywhere. I think there is a conference happening soon in Egypt regarding climate change; because this is what is killing us. There is abnormal rainfall this year round. We were not prepared to do farming because of the climate change which we did not anticipate. Let us try and fast-track the Climate Change Bill so that we can have proper interventions to mitigate against climate change issues.

Still on natural resources management which is related to climate change, if we protect our forests for those who come from forest regions, this can help to normalize the changing weather patterns. If we pass this Bill, un-lock the World Bank funds and transfer this capital grant to the community to do interventions that can help mitigate against climate change in our Wards, the better. We would have saved this mother earth.

On tourism, I believe that this money if at all it comes after passing the Bill, other issues like promoting tourism attraction sites, amenities for tourists especially for us from Mt. Elgon, we have un-tapped potential. The other day you trooped to Kibuk to celebrate the thanks giving event of Her Excellence the Deputy Governor. If something had been done on tourism, I think you could have slept in the mountain and enjoyed and sampled Mursik by the Ndorobos in Mt. Elgon.

On trade, I come from the border area Chepkube; we have a tarmac that reaches Chepkube market and it is only two kilometres shy from the border and that is how our people generate income. In fact most of the traders run away from Lwakhakha to do smuggling in Chepkube. In future I would propose that the Executive looks into opening a border point at Chepkube to increase cross-border trade in our Sub-County.

Finally, on health, I once interacted with the CHVs and they were very happy for the stipend programme proposed by the Governor; and they felt that this is now their Governor because he has thought about them. But there was another critical part of the human resource in primary health about the birth attendants. They are saying that they also help in the safe delivery of expectant mothers, yet they are not on the stipend programme. It is my proposal that the birth attendants should also be incorporated and be given the stipend that has been proposed.

Our County is unique and borders with Uganda, therefore, we need to think big and have a state of the art referral hospital which can serve up to Uganda, Sudan and even Congo. We can expand our referral hospital; make it state of the art in order to promote hospital tourism where we can generate income. It is a food for thought for the County.

On health workers the Governor promised to employ more nurses. My plea is that we should not just promise; let us employ these officers because they are critical in helping us even to be the most populous county in the next 20 years. I beg to submit.

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank you for giving me this chance to make my maiden speech in this House. First I want to thank the people of Township Ward for giving me what was required to enable me land in this House. On the speech of the Governor, I want to emphasize on three issues; one touching on trade whereby in his address I haven't seen any measures that he has put in place about the tax holiday that he promised our people during campaigns.

Secondly, building and improving modern markets for our people given that the locality where I come from is business based and I would like this issue to be emphasized. Still on trade, I haven't seen anywhere that the Governor has captured the issue to do with street lighting which is vital to enable us have a 24-hour economy.

On roads, the 800 kilometers that he indicated to be of bitumen standard, most of them are getting worn out. We would like in future to have proper working modalities; proper road

networks so that the roads can last for a longer period. For example in my Ward there is a road that was constructed about two years ago yet there are potholes everywhere.

I would like to also talk about the issue of strengthening Municipal Boards; being a former Board Member of Bungoma Municipality Board, it is written here but we would want to see the Governor put in place all the required structures so that the municipalities are functional. The municipalities that were there in the last regime were not functional since all the funds that were allocated to them were withdrawn. We would like our Governor to make sure that when funds are allocated to these municipalities, they are not again withdrawn and put in other departments.

On education, it is a good thing that Governor has put in place the taskforce, but the bursary and scholarship issues are traumatizing me every morning. We should increase the capitation on scholarship and bursaries because we have an increasing number of students joining secondary schools every year. With those few remarks, I thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, I have many requests lined up. Hon. Stephen will be the first one tomorrow because looking at Standing Order 28; the Governors address shall be debated for four continuous sittings and we are still carrying on; with this being our second sitting. We will adjourn for now and resume our sitting tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

House Adjourns