

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL, 2023

Morning Sitting

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL, 2023

The House met at 9:30 a.m.

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, I rearrange the Order Paper. Item number 5 (i) will come after the Motion 8.

PAPERS

**REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED COUNTY LEGISLATION ON
FAMILIARIZATION ON PROCESSING OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a report by the Committee on Delegated County Legislation on familiarization of the processing of the statutory instruments.

Mr. Speaker: When you table, you bring it forward Honorable Member.

Honorable Members, the report by the Committee on Delegated County Legislation on familiarization on processing of statutory instruments is hereby tabled by the Committee and subsequently it becomes the property of this House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That this House adopts the report by the Committee on Delegated County Legislation on familiarization on processing of statutory instruments

Hon. Linda Kharakha: I issue a Notice of Motion hat this House adopts the report by the Committee on delegated County Legislation on familiarization on processing of statutory instruments

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Linda. Honorable Members, a Notice of Motion having been duly issued by the Committee on Delegated County Legislation on familiarization on processing of statutory instruments, I hereby direct the table Clerks to immediately have it circulated to Honorable Members as the same will form the business on our Order Paper in the Course of the week or early next week before we adjourn for the long recess.

STATEMENTS

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 47(2)(c) a statement sought by Hon. Henry Nyongesa from the Chairperson, Sectorial Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development in relation to the status of operationalization of Agricultural CESS in Bungoma County.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Lusenaka, you are standing in for Hon. Henry Nyongesa. Equally, who is standing in for the Chair of Agriculture? None of you is in the Committee on Agriculture? We will have the same pushed to 2:00 p.m. Hon. Lusenaka, you will still be holding brief for him.

MOTIONS

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION ON THE STATUS OF TRADE LOANS IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

Hon. Ipara Okasida: I stand to move a motion on the report by the sectorial Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the Status of Trade Loans in Bungoma County.

Page 2 there is a table of contents in roman numbers, three, list of tables, four, list of figures, five acronyms.

Executive Summary

The 2013-2017 Bungoma County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) as prepared within the framework of Article 220(2) (a) of the Kenyan Constitution and Section 104(1) of the County Governments Act, 2012, provided for County Trade Loans Fund.

The County Trade Loans Fund was established as a revolving fund, upon realization that a majority of county entrepreneurs could not access affordable credit facility from local and foreign mainstream banks due to high interest rates, cumbersome loan procedures and documentation, lack of collateral to use as security for the loans and lack of information on how to access the loans.

The objective of the fund was to provide capacity building through training of traders and Loan beneficiaries; and offer affordable credit facility to the MSMEs within Bungoma County which were initially not able to access credit due to stiff rules in banking and micro-finance institutions. This report presents an assessment of the status, performance and impact of the trade loans in Bungoma County.

Cross sectional survey design was adopted to involve trade loan beneficiaries across all the 45 Wards in Bungoma County. The target population was 6427 trade loan beneficiaries in Bungoma between FY 2013/2014 and FY 2021/2022. The stratified random sampling

technique was used to select a sample size of 900 trade loan beneficiaries who participated in this status analysis. Desktop review was used to identify the specific beneficiaries, telephone contacts, locality (Ward) and loan amount borrowed. Thereafter, individual beneficiaries were reached through telephone. They were cross examined on training received on prudent financial management, amount received, nature of business, impact of the loan on the business, whether they are still in business, repayment capabilities, challenges faced and personal opinion of the fund. 65% of the loan recipients were trained on prudent financial management and business management skills while 35% were not trained.

Further, an average 65% of the beneficiaries paid back the loans. Finally, an average of 54% of beneficiaries alluded to the fact that the trade loan benefited their business and improved their general well-being. In conclusion, the trade loan granted was fairly well distributed among the 45 wards in Bungoma County. Majority of the beneficiaries had repaid back the loan which was being recapitalized as a revolving fund and had a fairly good value for money in terms of usage and improvement of their livelihoods.

However, the County Assembly should check into budgetary allocation, loan recovery strategies through review of the County Trade Loan Development Fund (CTLDF), 2014. The findings and recommendation of this report will inform policy review and oversight of the Trade Loan Fund Scheme by the County Assembly of Bungoma (CAB) and any other interested stakeholders.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following is the committee membership as currently constituted;

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Johnston O Ipara | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. John K Wanyama | Vice chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Tony Barasa | Member |
| 4. Hon. Meshack Simiyu | Member |
| 5. Hon. Wafula Waiti | Member |
| 6. Hon. Kimeta Polycarp | Member |
| 7. Hon. Bernard Kikechi | Member |
| 8. Hon. Timothy Chikati | Member |
| 9. Hon. Alfred Mukhanya | Member |
| 10. Hon. Metrine Nangalama | Member |
| 11. Hon. Alice Kibaba | Member |
| 12. Hon. Brigid Katasi | Member |
| 13. Hon. Angeline Rugut | Member |
| 14. Hon. Sheila Sifuma | Member |
| 15. Hon. Linda Kharakha | Member |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee is grateful to your office and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly for the tireless effort towards making this undertaking a success through facilitation and other Logistics offered as the Committee discharged its mandate.

Secondly, the Committee wishes to register its appreciation to the Office of the CEC Trade, Energy and Industrialization and her team for ensuring the requested reports were presented to this committee in time for discussion

In addition, the Committee is greatly indebted to the committee members for their overwhelming participation in the entire process. It is as a result of their commitment and dedication to duty that the work of the Committee and production of this report came to completion.

The significant role played by the Secretariat for their steadfastness in the compilation and accomplishment of this report cannot be overlooked.

I wish to confirm that the recommendations of the Committee in this report were unanimous. It is now my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the members of the Trade, Energy & Industrialization Committee, to present to this House the Committee's report on the Status of the Bungoma County Trade Loan Fund for debate and adoption.

Signed by Honorable Johnston Okasida Ipara Chairperson Trade, Energy & Industrialization Committee,

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY TRADE DEVELOPMENT FUND

BACKGROUND

Overview of the Trade Loans

The County Trade Development Fund was established as a revolving fund, upon realization that a majority of county entrepreneurs could not access affordable credit facility from local and foreign mainstream banks due to high interest rates, cumbersome loan procedures and documentation, lack of collateral to use as security for the loans and lack of information on how to access the loans.

The fund was therefore established with the objective of capacity building of the medium small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) through offering relevant trainings on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and loan management. The fund also provides affordable credit facilities to traders through offering loans. This was in order to help MSMEs which were not able to access loan from banks, Saccos, microfinance and shylocks by establishing a revolving fund at each of the forty-five (45) Wards to access both the knowledge and fund.

This was also to uplift the living standards of the residents of Bungoma through offering affordable credit to traders which in turn would lead to additional employment opportunities and reduction of the overdependence.

The Trade Loans got a life line in the First Bungoma County Integrated Development (CIDP) plan of 2013-2017. It was captured in the CIDP as management of joint trade development loans and its performance indicator was number of beneficiaries issued with trade loans. The

trade loan CIDP cost estimate per year was projected at Kshs. 40,000,000 which totaled to Kshs. 200,000,000 for the five-year plan.

Further the CIDP of 2017-2022 on Trade Loans, projected automation of Ward Trade loan scheme with the objective to enhance loan management. The performance indicator was geared towards staff training and delivery of hardware. The CIDP also projected review of the county trade loans scheme regulations at a projected cost Kshs. 4,000,000. The CIDP further projected disbursement of County Trade loan to MSMEs with the objective to enhance access to trade loan by traders at projected cost of Kshs.120, 000,000. However, there was no new budgetary allocation for disbursement based on evidenced County Fiscal Strategy Papers between FY 2017/2018 and 2021/2022.

Bungoma County Development Fund derives its authority and accountability from the County Trade Development Fund Regulation 2014. The fund is wholly owned by County Government of Bungoma and is domiciled in the Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization under the section of Enterprise Development.

The objective of the fund was to: provide capacity building through training of traders and Loan beneficiaries; and offer affordable credit facility to the MSMEs within Bungoma County which were initially not able to access credit due to stiff rules in banking and micro-finance institutions. This report seeks to assess the status, performance and impact of the trade loans in Bungoma County. The findings and recommendation of this report will inform policy review and oversight of the Trade Loan Fund Scheme by the County Assembly of Bungoma and any other interested stakeholders.

Objectives and Terms of Reference (TORs)

The committee's objectives in regards to this exercise were as follows;

- i) Determine the amounts budgeted for on the fund from inception;
- ii) Find out the status of loan disbursements and recoveries;
- iii) Ascertain the performance of Trade Loan Fund per Sub County and per ward;
- iv) Assess the practicability/ compliance of the Trade Loan Fund Regulatory framework; and
- v) Establish the Impact on the Trade Loan Fund and value for money if any realized by the County Government of Bungoma and make the necessary recommendations for adoption by this Honorable House.

Methodology

Cross sectional survey design was adopted to involve trade loan beneficiaries across all the 45 Wards in Bungoma County. The target population was 6427 trade loan beneficiaries in Bungoma between FY 2013/2014 and FY 2021/2022. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 900 trade loan beneficiaries who participated in

this status analysis. Desktop review was used to identify the specific beneficiaries, telephone contacts, locality (Ward) and loan amount borrowed.

Thereafter, individual beneficiaries were reached through telephone. They were cross examined on training received on prudent financial management, amount received, nature of business, impact of the loan on the business, whether they are still in business, repayment capabilities, challenges faced and personal opinion of the fund.

Both quantitative and qualitative data underwent mining to remove outliers, transcription and coding ready for analysis. Qualitative was analyzed using thematic and content analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed descriptively using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Further, the analyzed data output was presented through pie charts, Bar charts and tables.

FINDINGS AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Budgetary Allocation

The loan portfolio of the fund was Kshs 118,737,863 from the exchequer releases as outlined in the table below:

Budgetary Allocation

FY 2014/15		FY 2015/16		FY 2016/17		FY 2017/18	
Budgeted	Exchequer Release						
100,000,000	100,000,000	50,000,000	9,380,000	36,000,000	9,357,863	30,000,000	Nil

Source information is Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization Report, (OAG Report period ended 30 June 2021)

Loan Disbursement

Background Information

In the financial year (FY) 2014/2015 a total of Kshs. 96,293,677 was distributed in two phases across the forty five (45) wards. Kshs. 48,578,000 was disbursed to 1989 beneficiaries while Kshs. 47,715,677 to 2126 beneficiaries in the first and second phases respectively. Pursuant to the Bungoma County Trade Loan Funds Regulations 2014, an administrative cost of 3% was deducted to cater for operations and administration of the fund.

In the FY 2015/2016, Kshs. 9,380,000 was released from the exchequer for the Fund. Following Bungoma County Assembly Resolution, it was resolved that Khalaba and

Township Wards owing to their business orientation, be given a boost on the trade loans from the fertilizer subsidy per ward. Subsequently, funds meant for fertilizers in the two Wards were transferred to the Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization and issued as trade loans in the two Wards. The amount disbursed for the two Wards amounted to Kshs. 13,828,000. Additionally, the exchequer released for the FY 2016/2017 of Kshs. 9,357,863 which was also disbursed to Khalaba and Township Wards for the same reasons.

The total amount disbursed from FY 2014/2015 to FY 2015/2016 was Kshs. 118,737,863. From the FY 2017/18 the fund did not receive any additional funds from the exchequer owing to challenges with gazettelement of the regulations, loan repayment challenges, management issues and the proposal to have all County funds amalgamated as raised by the Offices of the Auditor General and Controller of Budget.

Subsequent disbursements (revolving) of the fund were therefore based on the repayment per Ward. By the end of the FY 2020/2021, a total of Kshs. 88,495,429 had been recovered from the beneficiaries. The amount recovered has been utilized as a revolving fund in 21 rounds to 3,486 beneficiaries with best performing wards revolving five times.

On 16th September, 2019, the Chief Officer of Trade, Energy and Industrialization communicated the discontinuation of the disbursement of the County Trade Loan in the entire county following the County Treasury memo dated 27th March, 2019 on Amalgamation of the County funds based on the internal and external Auditors reports. (Appendix 3)

Analysis on Number of Trade Loan Beneficiaries and Disbursement in Bungoma County

An analysis of all the beneficiaries and disbursement done in the entire county is presented in Table 1.2. The table outlines the list of beneficiaries per ward, amount disbursed in different financial years between FY 2013/2014 to FY 2019/20 across the Nine (9) Sub Counties.

Table 2: Analysis of Number of Beneficiaries and Disbursement per Ward

1. Webuye West
2. Kanduyi Sub County
3. Webuye East Sub County
4. Kimilili Sub-County
5. Tongaren Sub-County
6. Bumula Sub County
7. Kabuchai Sub County
8. Sirisia Sub County
9. Mt. Elgon Sub County

Comparative Analysis of Trade Loan Beneficiaries and Disbursement per Sub County of Bungoma

The number of beneficiaries in Nine (9) Sub Counties was summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Bungoma County Number of Beneficiaries per Sub- County

Figure 1 shows that the total number of beneficiaries is 7,471 (inclusive of revolving). The highest beneficiary Sub County is Kanduyi with 1,922 beneficiaries, followed closely with Bumula Sub County with 1,325 beneficiaries. The lowest beneficiary Sub County is Kimilili with 479 beneficiaries, just after Sirisia Sub County with 499 beneficiaries.

Figure 2 shows distribution of Trade Loans across the Sub Counties. The analysis shows that Kanduyi Sub County is the greatest beneficiary consuming 29% of the total amount disbursed by the Trade Loan Development Fund, followed by Bumula at 16%. Webuye East Sub County was the lowest consumer of at 5%.

Figure 2: Bungoma County Disburses Amount per Sub County

Comparative Analysis of the Beneficiaries and Disbursements

Analysis of the number of beneficiaries and the amount disbursed per Ward in every Sub County was undertaken. In depth analysis was done for the Nine (9) Sub Counties and presented.

Webuye West Sub County

Webuye sub- county number of beneficiaries per ward

Figure 3 shows the distribution of trade loans in the Four (4) Wards in Webuye West Sub County. The highest and lowest beneficiary of Trade Loans is Misikhu (201) and Bokoli (141) respectively.

WEBUYE WEST		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Sitikho	4,535,000	29
Matulo	4,247,820	27
Misikhu	3,344,000	21
Bokoli	3,540,000	23

Webuye West Sub County Amount Disbursed per ward

Figure 4 shows the utilization of Trade loans in the Four (4) Wards of Webuye West Sub County. The highest consumer was Sitikho Ward, Kshs 4,535,000 which is 29% of the Fund disbursed in the Sub County. Misikhu Ward was the lowest consumer with Kshs 3, 344,000 representing 21% of the disbursed fund in the Sub County.

Kanduyi Sub County

Kanduyi sub- County number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 5 shows the distribution of trade loans in the Eight (8) Wards in Kanduyi Sub County. The highest beneficiary of Trade Loans is Khalaba Ward (582), followed closely by Township Ward (530). West Sang'alo Ward was the least beneficiary among the Eight (8) wards with 95 beneficiaries.

KANDUYI	
WARD	NUMBER OF BENEFICIERIES
Bukembe East	120
Khalaba	582
Bukembe West	112
East Sang'alo	191
Musikoma	155
Tuuti Marakaru	137
Township	530
West Sang'alo	95

Kanduyi Sub County Disbursed Amount per Ward

Figure 6 shows Trade loans disbursement in the Eight (8) wards of Kanduyi Sub County. The highest consumer was Khalaba Ward at 36% of the Fund disbursed in the Sub County. Bukembe East was the lowest consumer with Kshs. 2,319,000 representing 4% of the disbursed fund in the Sub County.

KANDUYI SUB-COUNTY		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
West Sang'alo	2,338,000	5
Bukembe East	2,319,000	4
Khalaba	18,633,700	36
Bukembe West	2,990,000	6
East Sang'alo	4,482,000	9
Musikoma	4,877,270	9
Tuuti Marakaru	2,643,000	5
Township	13,735,000	26

Webuye East Sub County

Webuye East Sub County Number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 7 shows how wards within Webuye East benefited with the Trade Loans. The highest and lowest beneficiaries being Mihuu (199) and Maraka Wards (171) respectively;

WEBUYE EAST	
WARD	NUMBER OF BENEFICIERIES
Ndivisi	184
Maraka	175
Mihuu	199

Webuye East Sub County Disbursed Amount per ward

Figure 8 shows the utilization of Trade loans in the three (3) wards of Webuye East Sub County. The highest consumer was Ndivisi Ward, Kshs. 4,201,000 which is 43% of the fund disbursed in the Sub County. Mihuu Ward was the lowest consumer of Trade Loans with Kshs. 2,679,000 representing 21% of the disbursed fund in the Sub County.

WEBUYE EAST		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Mihuu	2,679,000	28
Ndivisi	2,864,000	29
Maraka	4,201,000	43

Kimilili Sub County

Kimilili Sub county number of beneficiaries per ward

Figure 9 shows the beneficiaries of the trade loans in the existing four Wards in the Sub County. The highest beneficiary was Maeni Ward while Kibingei was the lowest beneficiary.

KIMILILI SUB-COUNTY	
WARD	NUMBER OF BENEFICIERIES
Kimilili	114
Kamukuywa	111
Kibingei	95
Maeni	159

Kimilili Sub County disbursed amount per ward

Figure 10 shows that Maeni Ward was highest recipient of the disbursed amount in Kimilili Sub County to a tune of 27%, while the lowest recipient was Kibingei Ward representing 22%.

KIMILILI		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Maeni	3,131,000	27
Kimilili	3,059,750	26
Kamukuywa	2,966,000	25
Kibingei	2,590,000	22

Tongaren Sub County

Tongaren sub county number of beneficiaries per ward

From figure 11 the highest beneficiary ward was Ndal/Tabani Ward with 199 Beneficiaries, followed closely by Tongaren with 196 beneficiaries. The lowest beneficiary Ward was Milima Ward with 72 beneficiaries.

TONGAREN	
WARD	NUMBER OF BENEFICIERIES
Naitiri	115
Soysambu	175
Milima	72
Tongaren	196
Ndalu/Tabani	199
Mbakalu	130

Tongaren Sub County Amount Disbursed per Ward

Figure 12 shows the highest recipient of disbursed funds was Ndalu/Tabani Ward with Kshs 4,543,750 (23%), followed closely by Soysambu with Kshs. 4,535,080 (23%). The lowest recipient was Naitiri ward Kshs. 2,008,000 (10%).

TONGAREN		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Mbakalu	2,353,500	12
Naitiri	2,008,000	10
Soysambu	4,535,080	23
Milima	2,140,000	11
Tongaren	4,095,705	21
Ndalu/Tabani	4,543,750	23

Bumula Sub County

Bumula Sub County Number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 13 shows the beneficiaries per ward spread in the Sub County. The highest beneficiary of Trade Loans in the Sub County was Kabula (286). West Bukusu Ward (114) and Siboti (114) were the lowest beneficiaries.

BUMULA	
WARD	NUMBER OF BENEFICIERIES
Bumula	161
Kimaeti	173
Khasoko	209
West Bukusu	114
South Bukusu	268
Kabula	286
Siboti	114

Bumula Sub County Disbursed Amount per Ward

Figure 14 shows that South Bukusu (20%) had the highest disbursement while Siboti(7%) had the lowest disbursement

BUMULA		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Siboti	2,053,000	7
Bumula	3,928,250	14
Kimaeti	4,569,750	16
Khasoko	3,525,850	13
West Bukusu	3,485,500	12
South Bukusu	5,791,800	20
Kabula	5,087,000	18

Kabuchai Sub County

Figure 1: Kabuchai Sub County Number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 15 shows the beneficiaries per ward spread in the Sub County. The highest beneficiary of Trade Loans in the Sub County was Chwele/ Kabuchai (203). West Nalondo Ward (100) was the lowest beneficiary of trade loans.

There is an omission there Mr. Speaker of the amount disbursed but we have percentages.

KABUCHAI	
WARD	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
Luuya Bwake	30
Chwele/Kabuchai	32
Mukuyuni	18
West Nalondo	20

Kabuchai Sub County Disbursed Amount per Ward

Figure 16 show that Chwele/Kabuchai (32%) had the highest disbursement while Mukuyuni (18%) had the lowest disbursement.

2.3.8 Sirisia Sub County

SIRISIA SUB-COUNTY	
WARD	NO. OF BENEFICIERIES
Lwandanyi	177
Namwela	186
Malakisi/Kulisiru	136

Sirisia Sub County Number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 17 shows the beneficiaries per ward spread in the Sub County. The highest beneficiary of Trade Loans in the Sub County was Namwela (186). Malakisi/ Kulisiru Ward (136) was the lowest beneficiary.

SIRISIA		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Malakisi/Kulisiru	3,750,000	33
Lwandanyi	3,839,000	34
Namwela	3,654,000	33

Sirisia Sub County Disbursed Amount per Ward

Figure 18 show that Lwandanyi (34%) had the highest disbursement while Namwela (33%) had the lowest disbursement.

Mt. Elgon Sub County

MT. ELGON	
WARD	BENEFICIARIES
Elgon	140
Cheptais	75
Kapkateny	160
Chepyuk	51
Chesikaki	70
Kaptama	74

Mt. Elgon Sub County Number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 19 shows the beneficiaries per ward spread in the Sub County. The highest beneficiary of Trade Loans in the Sub County was Kapkateny (160). Chepyuk Ward (51) was the lowest beneficiary of trade loans.

MT. ELGON		
WARD	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENTAGE
Kaptama	3,638,500	23
Elgon	4,539,000	29
Cheptais	1,390,000	9
Kapkateny	2,725,000	17
Chepyuk	1,490,770	9
Chesikaki	1,967,967	13

Mt. Elgon Sub County Number of Beneficiaries per Ward

Figure 20 show that Elgon (29%) had the highest disbursement while Cheptais (9%) had the lowest disbursement.

Loan Recoveries

According to the report submitted by the Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization, it was indicated that out of the Kshs. 119,176,177 disbursed from the Fund, Kshs. 88,495,429 had been recovered and re-disbursed as revolving by the end of the FY 2020/2021. The amount disbursed comprised exchequer releases for the financial years 2013/2014 through to 2016/2017 and funds diverted from the fertilizer subsidy in Khalaba and Township Wards.

Arguably, there is notable non-disclosure of the loan amounts outstanding and the full amounts recovered as the loan recovery records are not updated. The Office of the Auditor General raised issue with the non-disclosure of documents in the report for the year ended 30th June, 2017. Additionally, an analysis of the beneficiary details submitted revealed that contacts, business locations and nature of business undertaken for the first and second phases were missing. In the absence of this vital information, it was difficult to trace the beneficiaries in case of default. Analysis of the Auditor Generals' report on the fund for the period ended 30th June 2021 revealed an outstanding loan balance of Kshs.110, 517,098 on the fund.

The fund has witnessed a high default rate and several challenges were cited by the beneficiaries and the fund administrators as hindrances to full recovery among them:

- a) Poor loan vetting processes and appraisal of loan beneficiaries;
- b) Lack of proper training for both the vetting committee and the loan beneficiaries;
- c) Poor record keeping, hence difficulties in the identification of the loan beneficiaries;
- d) Inadequate follow-up by the fund administrators and the committees;
- e) Constant political involvement leading to influence of the committee to issue loans to non-deserving beneficiaries;
- f) Wrong perception of the funds as being grants to the beneficiaries.

Regulatory Framework of Trade Loans

Bungoma County Trade Loan Scheme was operationalized after the approval of the County Trade Development Loan Fund Regulations, 2014. The fund was administered at both county and ward levels where the key mandate of administering the fund was vested on the fund administrator to manage the day to day activities while the county trade boards were to ensure the regulations were implemented as prescribed.

County Trade Loan Development Fund Regulation 2014 stipulates that the fund administrator should only use 3% of the budgeted amount for the administration of the Fund. In the course of implementation of the fund, the Office of the Controller of Budget and the Auditor General raised issues on non-gazettement of the regulations, and other pertinent issues as outlined below.

Observations from the Auditor General's Reports

The Office of the Auditor General in the report for the year ended 30th June, 2017 raised the issue of non-sustainability of the fund owing to the high expenditure on administration of the fund in comparison to the interest accrued.

Further, in the report on the Bungoma County Trade Development loans fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021, (**appendix 4**) it was indicated that the last time loans were issued was in the financial year 2019/2020. At that time, there were outstanding loans amounting to Kshs.104, 189,595 which were expected to have been repaid by the end of 2020. That indicated that the Fund was not in a position to disburse new loans and that there were challenges in effecting recoveries.

The financial statements reflected a balance of Kshs.115, 775,298 relating to current portion of long-term receivables from exchange transactions which comprised of Kshs.13, 770,097 and Kshs.102, 005,201 relating to interest received and current loan repayments. Analysis of the delinquency reports revealed that 5,865 loan beneficiaries loaned an amount of Kshs.139, 781,991 were in arrears amounting to Kshs.110, 517,098 despite the loans having matured where no explanation was provided on why Management did not invoke the default and breach of terms clause in Regulation 21(1)(a) of Bungoma County Trade Development Loans Fund Regulations, 2014, which empowers Management to institute recovery as a civil debt.

Additionally, the list of defaulters scrutinized by the OAG revealed that one hundred and eighty-eight (188) defaulters are staff of the County Executive of Bungoma, who collectively was in arrears amounting to Kshs.4, 728,004 where no explanation was provided for the failure to recover the loans from the staff of the County Executive.

The report further reveals a balance of Kshs.3, 931,515 which included Kshs.341, 717 relating to mobile money transfer balances that were not recorded in the cashbook. However, the reconciling item remained outstanding since year 2019/2020, contrary to Regulation 90(3) of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015.

The OAG cited failure to gazette the Fund's Regulations; although procedural requirements was obtained up to the passage of the Regulations by the County Assembly, the Regulations have not been gazetted to date to give effect to the establishment of the Fund. This is contrary to Article 199(1) of the Constitution, which provides that county legislation does not take effect unless published in the Gazette.

In summary, the Office of the Auditor General questioned the sustainability of the fund due to technicalities on the administration of the fund and un-disclosure of full information as pertains to the management of the fund. The office further raised concerns on maintenance of

the books of account as per the requirements of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations 2015 and the commitment of the fund administrators, committees and boards to recover the defaulted loans.

Advisories by the Office of Controller of Budget

The County Governments Budget Implementation Review report for the first quarter of the FY 2017/18 and 2019/20 highlighted delay by Fund Administrators to submit quarterly expenditure reports on the established Funds among them the Trade Loan as required under Section 168 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

In view of the advisories, the Fund Administrators acted contrary to the requirements of PFM Act, 2012 through failure to submit the quarterly financial statements. In the absence of information on the financial and non-financial performance of the Fund, the Controller of Budget could not release additional funds for the Trade Loan Scheme. This explains the notable reduction in the amounts released by the exchequer from the FY 2016/17 to 2017/18.

THE IMPACT OF THE TRADE LOAN FUND DISBURSED ON THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Overview

A sample of Nine hundred (900) beneficiaries, twenty (20) per Ward were randomly selected and interviewed on the impact of the loans in line with the objectives of the Fund. The aim of the analysis was to assess the status of the business at the time of the interview, to determine whether the beneficiary attended training before disbursement of the funds and its effect on the management of the business, to assess whether the money loaned had been fully or partially paid and the general improvement on the livelihood of the beneficiary.

Comparative Analysis of the Impact per Sub County

Comparative analysis of the impact of Bungoma County Trade Loans was done and the results per Sub County in percentages (%) were summarized in Table 1.3.

Table 1: Summary on the impact of trade loan fund in Bungoma County

Sub County	State of the business		Training Done		Repayment Status		Improved livelihood	
	Operational (%)	Not operational (%)	Trained (%)	Not Trained (%)	Paid (%)	Not Paid (%)	Improved (%)	Not Improved (%)
Bumula	40	60	69	31	66	34	46	54

Kanduyi	75	25	78	22	78	22	78	22
Kabuchai	50	50	55	45	65	35	70	30
Mt. Elgon	40	60	53	47	67	33	37	63
Kimilili	55	45	65	35	55	45	50	50
Tongaren	48	52	52	48	56	44	40	60
Webuye West	40	60	50	50	65	35	35	65
Webuye East	73	26	80	20	60	40	80	20
Sirisia	53	47	87	13	73	27	47	53
Average %	53	47	65	35	65	35	54	46

State of the Business

SUB COUNTY	OPERATIONAL	NOT OPERATIONAL
Bumula	40	60
Kanduyi	75	25
Kabuchai	50	50
Mt. Elgon	40	60
Kimilili	55	45
Tongaren	48	52
W. West	40	60
W. East	73	26
Sirisia	53	47

State of the businesses per Sub County

Figure 21 shows the status of the businesses loaned per Sub County. Kanduyi Sub County had the highest number of businesses still in operation (75%), followed closely by Webuye East at 73%. Bumula, Mt. Elgon and Webuye West sub counties recorded the least number of businesses still in operation at 40% each.

Training

Trainings undertaken

SUB COUNTY	TRAINED	NOT TRAINED
Bumula	69	31
Kanduyi	78	22

Kabuchai	55	45
Mt. Elgon	53	47
Kimilili	65	35
Tongaren	52	48
W. West	50	50
W. East	80	20
Sirisia	87	13

Training received before fund disbursement

Figure 22 shows that Sirisia Sub County recorded the highest number of beneficiaries who were trained before disbursement of the loans at 87%, followed closely by Webuye East and Kanduyi sub counties at 80% and 78% respectively. Webuye West recorded the least number trained at 50%.

Repayment Status

Repayment Status

SUB COUNTY	PAID	NOT PAID
Bumula	66	34
Kanduyi	78	22
Kabuchai	65	35
Mt. Elgon	67	33
Kimilili	55	45
Tongaren	56	44
W. West	65	35
W. East	60	40
Sirisia	73	27

Figure 23 shows that Kanduyi Sub County recorded the highest number of loans repaid (78%) followed closely by Sirisia sub county (73%) while Kimilili Sub County (55%) was the least.

Improved Livelihood

SUB COUNTY	IMPROVED	NOT IMPROVED
Bumula	46	54
Kanduyi	78	22
Kabuchai	70	30
Mt. Elgon	37	63
Kimilili	50	50
Tongaren	40	60

W. West	35	65
W. East	80	20
Sirisia	47	53

Figure 24 shows Webuye East recorded the highest percentage (80%) of the beneficiaries whose livelihood was improved through the loan disbursements. This was followed closely by Kanduyi Sub County at 78% and Kabuchai at 70% .Webuye West Sub County recorded the least number of those who recorded change in livelihood at 35%

Discussions

An analysis of the trends in the budgetary allocation and the exchequer releases indicated that the budgetary allocation in the FY2014/2015 was Kshs. 100,000,000 with an exchequer release of Kshs.100, 000,000. In the FY2015/16 the amount budgeted was Kshs.50, 000,000 but the exchequer release was Kshs. 9,380,000. It was notable that in the FY2015/16 and FY2016/17 there was a reduction on released amounts by the exchequer. Similarly, in the FY2017/18 the budgeted allocation of Kshs.30, 000,000 was not released due to queries highlighted by the offices of Auditor General and Controller of Budget.

According to a report on Bungoma County Trade Loan Fund by the Department of Trade, a total of Kshs96, 293,677 excluding 3% administrative cost was disbursed to 4,115 beneficiaries in two phases during the FY2014/15. From the reported findings, the first phase of the disbursement was done in the FY2013/2014 in the month of April 2014.

The exchequer release of Kshs9,380,00020 and Kshs9,357,863 for the FY2015/16 and FY 2016/2017 respectively and loan recoveries were used as revolving for the continuity until the financial year 2019/2020 when the disbursement was stopped by the Chief Officer Trade, Energy and Industrialization.

Loan recoveries on Trade loans as the FY2014/2015 to FY 2020/2021 amounted to Kshs. 88,495,429 against Kshs 119,176.177 that was disbursed. From the findings on loan recoveries there was a discrepancy between the Auditor general report and the report from the department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the outstanding loan amounts.

Comparative analysis carried on Trade Loan; it was revealed that a total of 7,397 people benefited from both allocations and revolving funds that accrued during the repayment of loans. Kanduyi Sub County had the highest number of beneficiaries with 1,922, followed closely with Bumula Sub County with 1,325 beneficiaries. The lowest beneficiary Sub County is Kimilili with 479 beneficiaries, just after Sirisia Sub County with 499 beneficiaries.

From the finding it was observed that Township and Khalaba Wards had the highest amount disbursed and number of beneficiaries which was attributed to resolution of the County Assembly to exclude them from farm input support programme owing to their business

orientation. However Kimilili and Sirisia Sub County had the least beneficiaries due to agricultural orientation.

From the analysis conducted on the impact of the trade loan fund disbursed on the economic well-being of the beneficiaries across the county, an average of 53% of the businesses loaned were operational while 47% were not operational. This was attributed to COVID 19 pandemic, insecurity, change of priority, personal consumption, and poor strategy on business and management skills. The analysis also reveals that 65% of the loan recipients were trained on prudent financial management and business management skills while 35% were not trained. Further, the findings reveal that on average 65% of the beneficiaries paid back the loans. In summary, an average of 54% of beneficiaries alluded to the fact that the trade loan benefited their business and improved their general well-being. Moreover, Kanduyi (78), Kabuchai (70) and Webuye East (80) alluded to the fact the trade loan benefited their businesses.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS

The committee observed as follows;

1. Gazettement of the Trade Loan Regulations; by the time of this report writing exercise the department had not gazetted the regulations after the advisory as suggested by the Kenya Law Reforms, the Office of the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget.
2. Loan default; as per the OAG's report, it was revealed that 188 (one hundred and eighty-eight) defaulters are staff of the County Government of Bungoma who were in arrears amounting to Kshs 4,728,004. The list was submitted by the department as herein attached as (appendix 4) an effort to recover the loans has been made as evident in the memo as (appendix 5.)
3. Lack of public awareness/ sensitization on the importance of the revolving funds, how to access it, the purpose of the loan and the need for loan repayment.
4. Administration of the fund; that there was an ineffective organization structure and poor record keeping given that although the fund is domiciled in department of Trade, it is administered by the ward administrators who are not answerable to the department. Consequently, this has contributed to laxity in management of the fund as well as pursuing the defaulters despite this having been spelt out clearly in the Regulations (21)(1)(a) of the Bungoma County Trade Loans Regulations 2014, which empowers the management to institute recovery as a civil debt.
5. Vetting criteria; there were no clear vetting and appraisal procedures which led to high loan default.
6. Discontinuation of the fund; There was a correspondence from the Chief Officer of Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the discontinuation of the disbursement of the county trade loan dated 16th September, 2019 following the county treasury memo dated 27th March, 2019 on amalgamation of the county funds based on the internal and external auditors' reports; however, despite the directives, the department still continued with disbursement of funds. All the withdrawals were done by the Fund Manager Mr. Stephen Sitati. (See appendix 3)

7. Constant audit queries occasioned by lack of gazetted regulations and high rate of loan default.
8. Inequality in disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries
9. The administration cost of the fund was higher than the percentage (3%) prescribed in the Regulations.
10. Lack of budget for the fund to support the balances in the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts.
11. Bank statements submitted by the department as at 31st January 2023 indicated a balance of Ksh.2, 865,631.20 for the ward trade loan scheme account and Ksh.3, 243.00 as at 31st November 2022.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee upon scrutiny and engagement with the department on the status of the trade loans fund hereby recommends as follows;

THAT,

1. The department must fast track the process of gazette of the Trade Loan regulations to ensure there's a legal framework to operationalize the fund prior to disbursement of funds.
2. The department must send demand letters to the county staff in default and institute recovery measures as per the HR guidelines and the regulations. In addition, the department should review the credit policy on loan application, vetting, appraisal and loan recovery. Members of staff should equally be barred from benefitting from this scheme to avoid conflict of interest and further a clear interpretation of an applicant be spelt out in the Trade Loans regulations.
3. In respect to the members of the public in default, the department MUST establish internal controls and improve on loan recovery mechanisms by rolling out the automation system on the Traders and Loan Management System integrated with the Bank and M-pesa to assist clients repay their loans at their convenience.
4. Improve on sensitization and trainings of the public/ beneficiaries on the importance of the revolving funds, how to access it, the purpose of the loan as well as the need for loan repayment. The trainings MUST be done prior to the programme rollout.
5. Due diligence must be conducted to ascertain the true loan portfolio and how much of the current loan is recoverable. This will segregate data of all the loan beneficiaries including those still active in business, deceased cases, relocated business, closed, and those that are doubtful of recoveries.
6. The regulations must clearly provide for the vetting and appraisal procedures
7. The Department must submit to the committee, names of all the officers who disbursed the funds contrary to the correspondence from the Chief Officer of Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the discontinuation of the disbursement of the county trade loan dated 16th September, 2019 following the county treasury memo dated 27th March, 2019 on amalgamation of the county funds based on the internal and external auditors reports. This

will enable investigations into the irregular and/or illegal disbursements and subsequent prosecution of those found culpable.

8. The Department must submit to the committee updated report of Members of staff who have been in default, action taken and amount recovered through check off system and a separate one for members of the public upon adoption of this report by this Honorable House.

9. The Department must enhance and review the loan allocations to beneficiaries on need basis to curb disparities in disbursements and further, have clear guidelines to cap the limits and disbursement.

10. The Department must ensure that the administration costs do not exceed the limits allowed in the regulations.

11. The Department must provide a budget for the fund to support the balances in the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts.

12. The Department must give full disclosure of material expenditure in compliance with regulation 90(3) of the Public Finance Management (county governments) Regulations, 2015 upon adoption of this report.

13. Any officer who served at the County Trade Loan Fund should not be allowed to run the fund until their names are cleared by the CECM Trade and Finance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the aforementioned findings/ recommendations, the committee emphasizes that despite noting that loan granted was fairly well distributed among the 45 wards in Bungoma County; and majority of the beneficiaries having repaid back the loan and further having had a fairly good value for money in terms of usage and improvement of their livelihoods; the County Trade Loan Scheme should be revived upon accomplishment of the following:

1. The Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization should:

a) Expedite on review, approval and Gazettement of the Bungoma County Trade Loan Development Fund Regulations to enable future budgetary allocations for the Fund;

b) Develop proper record management system to enhance accountability and transparency in the administration of the Fund;

c) Submit to the County Assembly quarterly reports on Trade Loan Fund

d) Implement Clause 21(1) (a) of the Bungoma County Trade Loan Development Fund Regulations 2014 and institute recovery of default loans. A decisive move should be taken to recover through check-off outstanding loans from the highlighted 188 County Government staff. Additionally, for posterity, the department should develop implementable loan strategies to enable recovery of subsequent loans.

e) Comply with advisory from the Office of Controller of Budget and Auditor General on administration of the Fund as stipulated in the Regulations to ensure its sustainability;

f) Comply with Public Finance Management Act, 2012 on the management and administration of Trade Loan Fund and ensure the MSMEs benefit as per the set objectives across the county;

g) Capacity build and empower the Fund Administrators, County Trade Board and the Ward Vetting Committees to ensure that the vetting criteria as stipulated in the Regulations are adhered to and that the objective of the Fund is met as envisioned in the planning documents.

2. The County Assembly should exercise its oversight role on the management of the Fund by initiating a special audit of the records and books of account of the Fund. The audit report will guide the County Assembly in review of the existing regulation and allocation of trade loan funds in the subsequent annual budgets. Thank you. I move.

The documents that are attached are references, second is the adoption schedule signed by all members, I may spell the names out; Hon. Johnstone Ipara did sign...

Mr. Speaker: I'm sure they were read and they are the same people at the end of the report.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: They are there. The rest are attachments for reference by members. Let me call Hon. Sheila to second the motion.

(Applause)

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to add a few points that the report has outlined about budgetary allocation, loan disbursement and loan recoveries. It has identified the challenges of the fund such as inadequate funds, lack of proper monitoring and evaluation, lack of awareness to the beneficiaries before getting the loans. It has also proposed several measures to improve the fund such as increasing budgetary allocation, strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system and creating awareness among the beneficiaries. It has finally concluded that the trade loan fund should be adequately funded and monitored to ensure the funds are used for the intended purpose.

A few things that we have faulted in terms of the trade loans; there is a high rate of default because of missing details, poor record keeping by the fund management, high expenditure on administration where a lot of money rather than the loan itself. There have been issues of loan not being taken up by the traders and we have seen an issue where 188 staff of the executive were noted as defaulters. We need gazettement of the regulations and there is also a note on poor reporting by the fund administrator which made Bungoma to get a reduction on the allocation from the National Government.

May be to applaud a few constituencies that have done well on loan repayments; those are Kanduyi and Sirisia. I think they have done the best in terms of loan repayments.

(Applause)

I call upon Kimilili and Tongaren to improve because they are least in terms of loan repayments. Honorable members in those constituencies can also assist us moving forward.

As I finish, Bungoma County to be a business hub in the region, we have to support our traders to create an enabling environment for the starting and running of businesses. This we will have to build from the bottom-up. That is where and why the trade loan is revolving and it should be of interest to all legislators looking to improve the livelihoods of their constituents. Borrowing from best practices, Bungoma traders will receive loans directly on their phones. That is where the trade loan should go, where a trader can just access the loan

directly on their phone and pay it through the same means. Bungoma traders will utilize the loans in doing business and not take it as grants where they can use the money for other business and *shughuli mbali mbali*...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sheila, because you have taken note of what I want to communicate, proceed please.

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at Bungoma traders being able to access the loan in the fairest way possible, where no one will be favoured in getting a loan. Traders will put the Bungoma County on the map as a business destination for investors because the businesses will be doing...

Through policy guidelines and regulations, there will be increase in categories that will benefit from the loan including individual traders. We will have more SMES benefiting from the loan; these are the small businesses at the local level; the *mama mboga* and *bodaboda*. We are looking at the loan being able to finance LSOs and LPOs because once you have an LPO; you should be eligible for a trade loan in the County. On that note, I want to second the motion.

(Applause)
(Question Proposed)

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, allow me appreciate the chairperson and the seconder of the report. I wish Hon. Mulongo representing Kibingei could be here to listen on how Hon. Sheila seconded the report.

The initiative was meant to improve the economic status of people. What happened as the committee has observed that it was politically motivated to kill it. Given that now we are here again we can use it again as a tool to ensure that it is properly managed. If we can increase this fund, we shall improve the economy of our people. As it has been pointed out that Kanduyi was somehow the best in terms of repayment of loans, but we thank Wards within Kanduyi like Township and Khalaba where there was an arrangement whereby members were not given free fertilizers, instead they impressed to issue off trade loans.

I call upon my colleagues that for success of this fund, we must make sure that our people are repaying. As I speak even in my ward, there was poor performance because by then we asked... though using it as a campaign tool, people not to repay the loans which made our people to relax. Going by the committee recommendation, let us empress this fund.

I was listening to one of our colleagues on Sulwe FM, where he indicated that we better empress the issue of scholarship instead of trade loans because people are not repaying. We need as leaders to give direction and ensure that our people are repaying the loans to improve the economy of this County through hard work. Free things are letting our county down. Otherwise, I support the report.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. My senior Majority Leader says that they used it as a campaign tool and that is why there are many defaults. I want to support the report by first applauding the Committee Chairperson. He is among my favourite eloquent readers of reports.

(Applause)

I also applaud the committee for the effort in putting together the report. This issue of trade loans is among the manifesto of Governor Lusaka. During campaigns, he insisted on issuing out trade loans to members of the public within Bungoma County. The idea is good but the strategy, implementation and recovery of the same were wrong. The mind set of our people has come to reflect that anything coming from the government is free. You can check the Hustler Fund, there are many defaults running into billions of money because the mind set of our people tells them that this is free money from the government. I don't know if we have to enact stricter rules or change of mind set or what.

The first disbursement was 100 million from their report. The second one was 9 million; the third was 9 million bringing a total of 118 million. The recovery was 65%, however, along the way this programme was discontinued in 2019. If 88 million was recovered and there is this issue that the Auditor General advised that the funds must be amalgamated. Now where did this 88 million go? May be the committee was supposed to tell us; amalgamated with which funds and is the 88 million still available? Can we check and find that this 88 million is still there?

They have given us the repayment percentage per sub-county and this House should applaud Kanduyi for being the highest to repay back and the Honorable Majority Leader has just confirmed this. If 118 million was disbursed and 88 million recovered, on page 25 the Chairperson whom I expect to be hawk-eyed having been a police commander, where did 119 million come from. Because on page 25 you have said that amount disbursed is 119 million and the amount recovered is 88 million by that time. If 118 million was disbursed and there was no addition where did you get the extra one million?

There is the issue of high default and among the defaulters are 188 members of the executive. I want to tell you one incident arising from my ward. You have heard that Musikoma was given 4.8 million. When I took over, I found that the only amount recovered was 250,000 and I found that most of the beneficiaries were girlfriends of the Ward Administrator and the MCA as Hon. Majority Leader indicated that they were using it as a campaign tool. When I tried to follow up on the 250,000 remaining to be disbursed, there was already a list that had been written by the Ward Administrator advising on disbursement of the 250,000. When I followed up on the list, none of those listed people were from Musikoma Ward. One was a girlfriend in Bukembe, another one was from Sirisia, another one was from Harambee and no one was from Musikoma Ward.

The strategy of implementation was left to Ward Administrators which was wrong. I will advise that this committee takes this up to analyse and come up with a strategy for the executive to implement this trade loan well because implementation using Ward Administrators was a wrong approach.

As I wind up, the chairperson has also pointed out that around 2018, over 500 beneficiaries had benefited and with a total amount of 139 million. If the amount that came from the treasury was 118 then somewhere you have said 119, how do you arrive at 139 million again? Maybe chair as you come to reply, we need to know. The committee did not tell us where they have come from. Was it conversion of fertilizer subsidy of Khalaba and township into trade loans? So the committee should have explained this increment from 118 to 139 million. This 188 staff that benefited are not like any other person on the streets. These are people employed by the County Government of Bungoma and the recovery can just be effected from their own payslips. There is no need of these people sitting on this money from 2013 up to 2022 and yet they are on the pay slip of the county government. Why can't this recommendation be taken up swiftly that these people get surcharged and this money is recovered from them?

One of the committee recommendations; that the administration cost of 3% must not exceed the amount put on the regulations but while chair read that the Auditor General raised the issue that there were no regulations. So I'm wondering which regulations the chair was referring to yet the Auditor General raised the same issue. So Chair you need to clarify. But it's a good report and I want to support it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Chemion.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support this report ably read by Hon. Ipara and seconded by Hon. Sheila. What the majority leader said is very true. You know, even in some Wards those people who accessed these loans were being used as conduits. They were conduits in that they could access the money and hand it over to the person who was in charge of the ward by then. So that they are told if you access 500,000 or 400,000 you take 50,000 you give me 450,000. Do you think such a person will ever pay because they handed over the money to another person and whenever this issue is raised over trade loan, there are very many people outside there who politicise it because they know it will come back to haunt them.

Those committees that had been established at the ward level were just there to rubber stamp and some of them were not even involved. In most of the cases, it was the Ward administrator making the decision personally. When I assumed office in 2017, there was some money that was supposed to be dispersed, but the Ward Administrator sat somewhere and picked some people and dispersed the funds minus even informing me. Later I discovered that able people in the society were the beneficiaries.

I thought it was supposed to help those small traders than those with stock of 4 million or 5 million. So the Administrator decided to pick 11 able persons and dished the money minus my committee input. So, from the report, the committee is saying we must put some measures to ensure that we tighten that area. We ensure that we have a very strong committee that will help me in dispersing and managing of the loans.

Honourable members talking about Khalaba and Township; they took their money for subsidy and put it there. But you see subsidy that is given to other wards to buy fertiliser and to buy seeds is free. Now we are giving the traders of Khalaba and Township money that they are supposed repay....

(Applause)

So we are disadvantaging those two wards and they should be aware that fertilizer is free and loan has to be repaid. So I feel we must relook at it so that we have uniformity within our county.

I wish if these recommendations are implemented then this facility will be able to help our traders. The Chair in his response will tell us whether we have new regulations in place that will help to manage this fund.

Finally, we have the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. I know something was put there for trade loan and it will come up in the main budget. But what will we use to control these monies, if the new regulations are or they are not gazetted. So I know the Chair is up to the task and will inform us, so that we know what we are doing. Otherwise this is a good report and I applaud this committee.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Chemion. Hon. Kawa.

Hon. Jack Kawa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First, allow me also appreciate the committee and the chair of the said committee for the good work.

Secondly, I was among the people who initiated this in the first regime, together with Leader of majority and Hon. Ali Machani who is out. We started this with an idea of assisting our people But this issue of politics, I don't know if it still applies, because when something good comes up, then politics supersedes it. So unless we pray our living God to guide our people to know what will come tomorrow. I want to echo what Hon. Makari over the 88 million recoveries; do we have it? If yes then what next?

Chair, I was listening keenly when you were giving us this good report but as an MCA for Bokoli from 2013 up to date, disbursement in my Ward stopped in 2017 and I wanted to know if we have balances from across the wards, because although every ward had its own

account and the money was controlled and the cheques written at the headquarters. We want regulations to be put in place to assist us. Unless we do that, I'm very sure 2027 I will be here and we shall start singing the same tune over the trade loan.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kawa, first pray to God to be alive that time then the rest will come.

Hon. Jack Kawa: I am very sure that I will be alive.

Mr. Speaker: Don't be saying you are very sure.

Hon. Jack Kawa: I will be alive Honourable Speaker. I have faith that I will be alive and the pastors and bishops are here.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kawa stick to the main issue, the issue of pastors and bishop leave it out. Proceed.

Hon. Jack Kawa: Honourable Speaker, I was in Agriculture Committee and members from Khalaba and Township requested that instead of having fertiliser and seeds, they decided to put their money to Trade Loans. But now we have new Honorable members, let them dance their own tune.

Otherwise, I want to appreciate and applaud the committee for the good work and we want to request that as we pass it, we want it be implemented at the right time. Otherwise, I support and appreciate the committee.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kawa. I will have Hon. Stephen. Members of the said committee, let me allow other members to contribute then you will be given a chance to speak.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for catching my eye. I am also on my feet to support this report moved very well by Hon. Ipara and seconded in a very clear manner, by the Hon. Sheila Sifuma.

I was interested in the manner in which a member for Musikoma said that some Honourable members really supported their girlfriends even within and without this County, including those from Harambee market in Kakamega County. I just wonder how a member who is serving the people of Bungoma could go to that extent, but again I not was surprised because I know it was mentioned that some friends of the then Honourable members and ward administrators also benefited, which means these people are known. I believe these people are still alive and they are known and therefore we can find a solution to this problem.

On the onset, we know very well that the source of a problem is always the solution to the same problem. What was the source of the problems here? We have had an elder here; the

Hon. James Mukhongo once said in this House that they were inciting people that don't pay because it's government money. So the problems started with the first Assembly from the upper Tongaren where I come from. We had a member in this House called Namaswa from Ndalú and I'm happy that he is in the gallery today as a Liaison Officer. We had the Hon. Eli Tindi and others. So I want to believe as the Hon. Mukhongo said that they told people don't pay. I don't know if they did the same, but those people who were given are known.

The source of the problem is always the solution to the same problem, so let us go back Honourable members and try to find out how we can cure this problem. So I want to suggest that the beneficiaries of the fund are unknown and let us go back to the villages because today the County government has cleared the way by ensuring that the smallest unit of administration is in place led by the village administrators. Let us go back to the villages because as leaders, we have a responsibility of curing a mess.

We are not going to stand on top of hills and shout that there is a problem but instead we must go back to those who are elected by universal suffrage, led by the Hon. Okasida Ipara that we go back and bring out those names and make them public. Let us shame them and let others know that these are the people who are holding on your money. If they don't bring back this money, it means this village is going to miss out. We cannot give money to those who do not want to repay the same money

(Applause)

I believe as leaders we need to give direction, and any society that has succeeded is a society that has brave, courageous, bold leadership. Leaders who are ready to take a bullet for leading their community in the right direction. I want to equate this to what we were calling bottom up or Hustlers fund. So I want to believe the hustler fund began in Bungoma and therefore the issue was just mismanaged but then we can go back to the drawing board so that we can realise the true intentions of this fund.

For those people who misled especially those who gave girlfriends and relatives and others and advised them not to pay, these are economic crimes, and these people must be made to know that actually that is a crime. But those who made pronouncements, I know they can correct it. I ask leaders in this Honorable House that let us go back to the villages and correct the situation.

I want to suggest we make proposals that will ensure success of this fund and it will be made by the committee and this House. Regulations will address various issues including repayment and loanees will comply with the fund.

As I finish, Members these elections come, we can lose or we can win but it depends and the books of history will judge you, because you like it or not even if you want to serve in this Assembly for 80 years, there is a time you will go out. How will you be judged? Let us stand up and tell our people the truth. Even if it makes you now lose your election but let the truth prevail.

I believe that not all people can vote you out members, if you say the truth. We have some people who can influence others and it can change. Let them know that you can see the truth. Tell them however bitter it is. Let us go out and tell our people the truth.

Lastly, our community will continue languishing in poverty. People of Bungoma will just soak themselves in poverty for as long as we have not told them the truth. If we want our people to continue languishing in poverty members, let us just sugar-coat them instead of telling them the benefits of borrowing the money and repaying it in time. We keep on saying that Kikuyus are wise, they know how to do business, and it is because they are innovative. We are also innovative. Our mothers have two breasts; they have two eyes. We are also leaders. The only problem we are so cautious, may God help us. I support.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Jeremiah Kulobal

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Asanti Bwana Spika kwa kunipa hii nafasi. Kwanza nashukuru marekebisho ambayo yamefanyiwa mswada huu. Sheria ambazo zimejaribu kuwekwa ili tuwe na utoaji mzuri wa pesa hizi za wafanyabiashara.

Kwanza hatujawa na uchunguzi mzuri kuhusu wanabiashara waliopata fedha hizi, kwa sababu zilikuwa zinapeanwa kiholela holela. Mtu alikuwa anapewa pesa bila kujulikana anaishi wapi.

Kabla sijaingia katika jumba hili nilikuwa katika sehemu ya Jua Kali na wenzangu ndio waliokuwa wanapewa. Pesa iliyokuwa inapeanwa ilikuwa ndogo kama elfu ishirini ama kumi.

Pia hakuna siku niliulizwa kwako ni wapi, nipe ramani ya kwenda kwako ili wakati ninaposhindwa kulipa ama ninapopotea nitafutwe. Nimekuwa katika vikundi ya Faulu Kenya, Kenya Women na K-REP Bank. Huko fedha zilikuwa zinapewa wafanyibishara ambao walikuwa kwa vikundi na pia lazima walikuwa wamejuana kwa muda mrefu. Kwa hivyo hasa hata sisi lazima tuweke watu wetu kwa vikundi ili mmoja akipotea na pesa za kikundi wale walimsimamia wanamtafuta hadi alipe hizo pesa. Mbona sheria kama hizo tusiziweke hizi pesa ifaidi wafanya biashara wadogo wadogo. Ikiwa tutakuwa na mpangilio kama huu katika fedha hizi sifikiri kama tutapoteza ama tutasumbuka kudai kama vile tunafanya sasa.

Watu wanafaa kufunzwa kwanza kabla ya kupewa pesa. Mtu anafaa kupewa mafunzo jinsi ya kufanya biashara na umuhimu wa kurudisha hizo pesa.

Pia tuwe na mpangilioa ambapo wale watu wanapeana fedha wanapeana ramani kuonyesha yule mtu amechukuwa fedha anakaa mahali fulani na wale watu wa kuja kudai wasiwe wale waliopeana hizo fedha, kwa sababu hawataleta ripoti kamili kuhusu hizo fedha.

Kuhusu fedha zilizokuwa zimotelwa upande wa mbolea ndizo zilileta hii shida. Township na Khalaba, walikuwa na dhana kua ikiwa watu wamepewa mbolea ya bure na hizi fedha pia zimetolewa upande wa mbolea zimeongezwa katika fedha za loan kwa wafanyi biashara, wao wakaona ikiwa fedha hizi zilikuwa za mbolea hivyo pia wakaona inafaa wapewe bure.

Hiyo mambo ya kutoa pesa na mbegu na mbolea na kupeleka kwa loan, mimi na mwenzangu wa Khalaba na wafanyi biashara wa township hapa hatutaki hivyo. Tunataka ikiwa ni mbolea tuwe na usawa pia wapewe. Ikiwa pesa za biashara wapewe hivyo. Pia nilikuja nikagundua kuwa wale watu waliofaidika na hizi fedha wengi hawakuwa wakaaji wa Wadi ya Township.

Tulikuwa tunatafuta wengine tunaskia anakaa Siaya, wengine Busia. Kumaliza donda ndugu hili lazima watu wawe kwenye vikundi wale watu ambao wanajuana. Twende tuwafunze watu kuwa hizi pesa ni zao na zitazunguka kwa hawa watu walipe, zirudi tena kwa hawa. Hata mimi nilikuwa na hiyo Kasumba kabla niingie hapa kwenye hili jumba nichaguliwe. Mimi ni kati ya wale watu ambao hawakulipa hizo fedha kwa sababu nilijua hizi fedha zilikuwa ni za bure. Mbolea ilikuwa ni ya bure na nimepewa elfu ishirini na nilikataa kulipa lakini saa hizi vile ninanvozungumzia naweka mikakati ya kuzilipa zote elfu ishirini hizo bila shughuli yoyote.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara, don't worry; I will recover that one for you. Proceed!

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Mswada huu ni mzuri. Sisi wenyewe tulio katika jumba hili ndio tutapeleka huu ujumbe kwa watu tuwaambie pesa hizi ni zenu, chukua mzungushe zirudi, zitaongezeka ziwe nyingi mpewe, vile mtalipa ndio vile mnaongezewa. Ninaunga mswada huu.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ipara. Hon. Ken Wanyama.

Hon. Ken Wanyama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start with the issue of Trade Loans Regulation; this was a noble idea for the executive to launch the trade loan but having such a fund with hundreds of millions without regulations, really puts the County at risk. But as a committee, I want to share with the Honourable members that we have actually fast-tracked the issue of Trade loans regulations. It is actually here at the County Assembly with our legal department to just check on small issues of compliance then it should be gazetted in no time. So going forward, I think most of the issues that Honourable members have raised are actually captured in the regulations.

The second issue is administration of the fund. You will realise that this fund is domiciled in the department of Trade but it's being managed on daily basis by the Ward administrators who do not report to the department of Trade and in our deliberations, we realise that this was one of the issues that really needs to be sorted out so there is a need for the two departments that is Trade and Finance, to work hand in hand to ensure that the management of these Trade loans is actually smooth.

The third issue is the issue of automation. The biggest problem we came across is that a lot of this money was being paid through the ward administrators and out of these payments, we are not even sure how much was finally remitted back to the loan account. There is an urgent need to ensure that the department gets a good loan management system to ensure that loan disbursements and recoveries are actually done through the system to minimize pilferage of the fund.

Last but not least, there was the issue of administrative cost which was way high above the three per cent that is indicated in the regulations. On the 26th of September 2019, the CEC of Finance and Economic Planning issued a memo stopping disbursement from this fund but subsequently we have done an analysis that after this date and I just want to give a very brief analysis.

When you look at the administration cost alone, the fund manager disbursed a total of 2,878,850 against loan recoveries for the same period totalling to 4,751,526. When you look at those two numbers, administrative cost is totalling to about 61 % of the loan recovered so in terms of value for money, it's really not there so the department needs to ensure that this fund actually serves the purpose for which it was created which is giving loans to our business people so it needs to be serious and reduce on the amounts spent in meetings and following up on debts and yet you are not collecting any debts. I support the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Linda!

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, the regulations are with us, we will ask that it is fast-tracked so that it is gazetted and we are able to deal within the laws when disbursing the funds. You realise that the previous regulations were not gazetted. That is the reason why most of the people disbursed funds the way they wished and you could not hold them liable under the law or regulation whatsoever.

Another point is on administration of funds. Hon. Ken has alluded to the fact that the ward administrators are not answerable to anyone when disbursing funds. You realise that also the fund manager himself is the only person who controls that account. How I wish we have at least signatories to the same account so that not one person is calling the shots in withdrawing the funds whenever and wherever they wish to withdraw for some dubious reasons. This alludes to the fact that even for the administration funds, they are alluding to its way above 3% which is supposed to be the administration fund limit.

There is an issue of disparities that had been raised by Honourable members. A disparity in figures is due to the failure in internal risk management and failure of the fund manager to do proper financial statements. I do not know if it is to error, fraud or by decision in doing so because some of the questions we asked when we were doing the report were not clearly met. Even the Auditor General in his directive was not able to get the exact figures and needed to do an audit again to be able to give a precise answer to the amount of figures. As we speak because of the one money calling short of withdrawals and disparities in figures and misstatements, you cannot really tell what we have in account as a balance now.

It is a hurdle we have had to ask being given statements that are faulty; they are not quite to error.

Lastly, I will encourage that we get on once the regulation is in place so that now Bungoma is a business hub, funds once disbursed we are able to trade easily. The small scale traders and start-ups will be able to be jumpstarted and then job creation will be a thing of the past then there will be increased revenue collection.

While I seat, I do not know if it is possible if this trade loan fund can have a USD code app which does not limit anyone despite of the kind of phone you have to be able to access funds without going to the ward administrator but now you fill in your details on the app and be able to access the fund regardless of the kind of phone you have and lastly, a proper enquiry maybe to be able to get the exact figure for different wards and the balance we have in the account of the trade loan fund.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Meshack!

Hon. Meshack Simiyu: Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika kunipa nafasi nichangie. Kwanza nataka nishukuru *Chairman* wangu wa *Trade* kwa kazi nzuri yenye amefanya lakini yale yenye nilitaka kuongea wenzangu wameongea lakini ukiangalia hii pesa wakati ilianza mwaka wa 2013, nafikiria hii pesa kama Wadi yangu mwenzangu mwenye alikuweco alikuwa anapeana haswa anaita watoto wake anawapea hiyo pesa wafanyie kazi ya kwamba watarudisha na hawakurudisha. Wakati tulienda kuuliza majina tulipata majina ya watoto wake na shida ilianzia hapo pia akapea ndugu zake na marafiki zake so pesa mingi ilipotelea hapo.

Tukiweka mikakati nzuri nina hakika kwamba hii pesa inaenda kusaidia watu wetu haswa kama wadi yangu. Unajua tukienda kupatia wafanya biashara wenye wanajua umuhimu wa pesa katika kazi yao najua wetaweza kurudisha pesa bile shida. Lakini ukipea mtu mwenye hajawahi shika pesa aanze biashara ndio kurudisha inakuwa shida kwa sababu akimaliza hiyo pesa anafilisika na hatakuwa na pesa ya kurudisha. Nafikiri langu wacha nikomee hapo.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Meshack. Hon. Cornelius you close the debate and then Chair of the committee be prepared to reply to the motion.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support the report and I just want to take this opportunity as you have heard it is my ward Khalaba and Township which has been mentioned today more than any other ward. This issue of subsidy whoever came up with that policy and *Mheshimiwa* Kawa has said it was in House. I representing Khalaba and Hon. Jeremiah of township, going forward let us get equal shares like other wards, so that we can remove all these. We see it as discrimination of our wards.

Going forward, we have seen the loopholes that have been there. In fact I heard those who were going round giving those loans, they were looking at the stop over any trader. If you have a small one they do not give you. This fund was meant to uplift those who are down there, so they were going for those who had big stock and discriminating against small ones.

In this country we have enough for everyone but we do not have enough to misappropriate or steal. Let us bite the bullet and tell our people that we are the government. As a leader once you tell your people that this is Government money, don't pay and you know very well that this is a revolving fund that is supposed to be paid, misleading. Going forward, we request that all that belongs to us these two wards like subsidy fertiliser, let us get everything so that we are all equal so that it does not bring up these issues.

Otherwise, I thank Honourable members who have spoken very well like Hon. Makari and Chemion defending our two wards which have been discriminated upon. Thank you so much, I support the report.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cornelius. Honourable Chair, you are called upon to reply to the motion.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Mr. Speaker Sir, as I was walking then Hon. Metrine...

Mr. Speaker: Honourable proceed, that is not an issue for us. Those are called side shows.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very humbled by the way my Honourable colleagues have conducted themselves and they have shown that they are really patriots and they mean well for our County and more so for the people who live in Bungoma County and by doing business they also help us generate some revenue that we use in the services that we provide to our people.

Hon. Nyongesa said this was a good idea intended for the well-being of our people and it goes in line with the recommendations of the committee that actually this is a good idea that should be supported by every Honourable member and anyone who means well for the people of Bungoma County.

Hon. Makari, in the opening did say that it touches on the manifesto of the Governor who happens to be the team leader for all of us in Bungoma County. I want to agree. He was so worried on why the procedures were not well implemented or put in place as required. I want to say one, the regulation was there but that particular regulation had not been gazetted and that is confirmed by the Office of the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget. When they say they will never continue disbursing money until when the issues they had raised which were very critical are addressed.

He also did have an issue on the difference of amounts between the two figures 118/119. I want to remind Honourable members that that was a business account and in business anything you do the intention is to earn some additional money and the additional money that was earned through interest that was paid by the Bank is what brought the difference.

The second item that brought the difference is the repayments that were made thereafter and lastly the money that we got from the fertiliser subsidy from two Wards.

I also want to address the issue raised on the Trade Loan Regulation by Hon. Chemion. I want to inform him that is new regulations are on the final stages and soon it will be in this House for adoption, and I kindly request the Honourable members that we adopt it so that we correct the mess that was created.

Hon. Kawa, talked about money that was maybe mistaken that 88,000,000 is available in the account. 88 million is not available in the account. Immediately it was recovered, it was redisbursed. It went back to those who wanted money to run their businesses and the actual balances that we have as of today reflected in the booklet you are holding on page 34, it shows on the scheme account of the trade loan we have 2,865,631.20.

On the operation account, we have 3,243 and he was also worried about the list of the defaulters. I want to confirm that we did receive the list of all defaulters of 7,471. Among that list, it is for the people that were there. Some of them paid, they are almost completing their loans, and others have not made any attempt to repay their loan.

Hon. Stephen, there are some people who are inciting people not to pay. I do not want to confirm that because actually, I have no evidence to show some people somewhere incited or Stephen did incite and I want to agree with Hon. Stephen that as a House we must agree and make hard decisions.

That we must avail a list of shame of those people who took the money and intentionally have decided to refuse to pay the money and was shocked when Hon. Jeremiah made a confession and I want to believe that confession indicates that he has accepted all the liabilities then it means that is one of our victims.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Okasida, do not worry. I will do recovery for you and allow him to do the repayment. If he defaults, I will do the recovery for you.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: I also agree with him that actually the proper vetting process was not there. Appraisal of the beneficiaries or applicants was not there and that was a big problem for us to make a follow up and recover the money. We did not have the details of the beneficiaries, what business they were conducting, where they can be found. A guarantor was not provided and in the new regulations that will soon come and on the recommendations that we made, we are saying it is paramount that a guarantor must be provided by every applicant of that loan.

Honourable members did rise about overlapping roles by ward administrators. When we talk about Finance, it does not require a stranger to assist you in managing and collection. It requires yourself and we are saying that since this facility is domiciled in the department of Trade, Trade department should be allowed to have her officers from the County headquarters to the ward, so that they would be held accountable in terms of collection of loans and reminding of the loan beneficiaries on the need to pay that loan..

Lastly, Ken, Linda and Hon. Makhanu concurred in their presentation and I want to say that we have recommended automation as the way forward. New regulations will also assist us manage this one prudently. I rest my case.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Okasida on the reply on behalf of the committee. Allow me proceed to be able to put a question to the said motion for the House to make its decision over the same.

Honourable members, a motion was moved and seconded and debate having ensued that the House adopts the report by the sector committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialisation on the status of the Trade loans in Bungoma County.

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it.

(Applause)

Honourable members, the report, its observations and recommendations are hereby adopted by this House, for onward transmission to relevant departments for implementation purposes accordingly.

We will come back to item number 5(i) and 6(i) .proceed!

PAPERS

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD ON THE RECRUITMENT OF THE FEMALE MEMBER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

Mr. Speaker: Yes Honourable majority!

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Majority Leader): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me to table the report of the County Assembly Service Board on the recruitment of the female member of the County Assembly Service Board, March 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, the report by Bungoma County Assembly Service Board on the recruitment of the female public member of the County Assembly Service Board has been tabled by the Leader of Majority and it is the property of the House accordingly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD ON THE RECRUITMENT OF THE FEMALE MEMBER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

Mr. Speaker: Honourable majority, proceed and issue the notice!

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me give a notice that this House adopts a report of the County Assembly Service Board on the recruitment of the female member of the County Assembly service Board, March 2023.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nyongesa. Honourable members, a notice has been dully issued by the Leader of Majority and member of the Service Board. I hereby direct the table clerks before us to share this report with the Honourable members as the same will be forming part of our agenda as a motion on the Order Paper in the course of the day. It will be done right away.

BILLS

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY PUBLIC MARKETS AMENDMENT BILL COUNTY ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2 OF 2023 - FIRST READING

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, our Deputy Speaker!

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise on my feet to table the Bungoma County Public Markets Amendment Bill, the County Assembly Bill number 2 of 2023-first reading.

Mr. Speaker: It's okay. Honourable members, the Bungoma County Public Markets Amendment Bill 2023 having been read for the first time, I do proceed and commit the same to the Joint Committee of Finance and Trade for processing and reporting back to the House accordingly.

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY'S BILL COUNTY ASSEMBLY BILL NUMBER 3 OF 2023- FIRST READING.

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Stephen, proceed!

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Honourable Speaker, I rise to table the Bungoma County Co-operative Society's Bill County Assembly Bill No. 3 2023- first reading.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, equally the Bungoma County Co-operatives Society Bill 2023 having been read for the first time, I proceed and commit the same to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Irrigation for processing the same and reporting back to the House accordingly.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, that was the last item on our Order Paper and we adjourn our sitting for now and resume our sitting today in the afternoon at 2:30 p.m. for our normal sitting. We adjourn accordingly Honourable members.

(House adjourns)