

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE HANSARD

WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 2022

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

1st Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT
WEDNESDAY 2ND 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, this is from the Office of the Speaker. The following Members will serve on the Committee of Rules and Procedure for the time being.

1. Hon. Cornelius Makhanu
2. Hon. Christine Mukhongo
3. Hon. Benjamin Otsiula
4. Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
5. Mr. Emmanuel Situma

For the Speakers Panel;

1. Hon. Christine Mukhongo
2. Hon. Benjamin Otsiula
3. Hon. Stephen Wamalwa
4. Mr. Emmanuel Situma

PAPERS

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa (Deputy Speaker): I stand to lay on the table of the House the following papers.

1. The Bungoma County Government Budget Review and Outlook Paper, 2022

2. The report of the Auditor General on the financial statements on Bungoma County Education Support Scheme for the year ended 30th June, 2021
3. Report of the Auditor General and financial statements of Bungoma County Assembly Employee Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021
4. Report of the Auditor General on Financial statements on Bungoma County Youth and Women Empowerment Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021
5. Report of the Auditor General on Financial statements of Bungoma County Trade Development Loans Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021
6. Report of the Auditor General on the Special Audit on COVID 19 Vaccine roll out in the Bungoma Government.

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, I will commit the following documents in the following order:

The Bungoma County Government Budget Review and Outlook Paper 2022 is committed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee for processing and reporting back to the House;

The report of the Auditor General on the financial statements on Bungoma County Education Support Scheme for the year ended 30th June, 2021 and the Report of the Auditor General and financial statements of Bungoma County Assembly Employee Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021; The report of the Auditor General on Financial statements on Bungoma County Youth and Women Empowerment Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021, Report of the Auditor General on Financial statements of Bungoma County Trade Development Loans Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2021 and the Report of the Auditor General on the Special Audit on COVID 19 Vaccine roll out on the Bungoma Government are committed to the Committee of PAIC for processing.

MOTION

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR;

THAT THE THANKS TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY BE RECORDED FOR EXPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC POLICY CONTAINED IN THE ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR DELIVERED ON TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2022

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, this is already in session.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Thank you for giving me a chance to make my remarks on the speech of His Excellency, the Governor. I will first record my appreciation to the people of South Bukusu for re-electing me to serve another term of five years. Re-election, as my colleagues have said, is not easy. You must defend it vigorously. The exercise is competitive and managing to come back is

not an easy task. I therefore say thank you to my good people of South Bukusu for having trust in me and I will always serve them.

On agriculture, where His Excellency, the Governor highlighted key issues like repair of tractors and acquisition of new ones to enable our farmers till their land. As a farmer, I find it very important because Bungoma is an Agricultural County and our big economic backbone is Agriculture. If we can manage to empower our farmers so that they till early enough and plant in time, then the issue of food shortage will end.

He also talked about value addition and I have seen some of my colleagues saying that he has not touched on the dairy factory in Webuye. I told them that he mentioned about value addition and milk is a product that can be added value on. So we shall encourage our people to do so as we support him with legislation as Members of this House so that through value addition, our youth and other people in our community will get employment.

When we were first elected to this House in 2017, the quantity of subsidized fertilizer was 750 bags per Ward; and that Budget had been done by His Excellency, the Hon. Ken Makelo Lusaka. What happened is that as we moved on, for the other four years, the farm input started diminishing. We have been wondering when you look at the situation in our County right now; our farmers are struggling for they don't have fertilizer. If they had fertilizer, then we would be having enough maize in the coming months. At least we are lucky that we have enough rains.

If indeed he is going to increase the quantity of subsidized fertilizer to maybe 1500 bags as he promised during campaigns, because fertilizer is now very expensive and if you can manage 1500 bags per Ward, then that is a boost in Agriculture and it will increase food production in this County. Those with TV sets have seen in other counties that even students have stopped going to schools because of food shortage resultant from drought. So we shall endeavor to support him so that he delivers on that noble pledge.

On infrastructure, he said very clearly that the Brigidier- Misikhu road which was his brain child. When he was lost elections in 2017, the baby stopped growing. I am happy that the baby will now grow because the father is around.

If you go to Brigidier in Tongaren, one of our promising agricultural zones in this County; and the Budget Committee has been trying to put money on that road. Somewhere along the way, you will find that the money has been removed. Let me hope that the Governor meant it when he said that he is going to make that road so that the good people of Tongaren can market their goods and make sure that they reach the market in this County and beyond. This will ease the cost of doing business if that road is done.

He also mentioned that he is going to take his development agenda to our Wards. As an elected MCA, I think I will have an opportunity to improve on infrastructure in terms of water, ECD centres and other areas; for the betterment of my good people of South Bukusu and beyond. So

the Governor meant well when he said that he will also tarmac by putting bitumen on all our Sub County selected roads. This is a positive step, because for the last five years, there are only two or three roads that benefitted in terms of bitumen roads.

When you look at a Market like Chwele, it doesn't have even a single tarmacked road, but it generates a lot of revenue for this County. If he meant that he will do such like things, I am very sure the people of Bungoma will wish that the law allows, so that he runs for the other five years.

Having a Governor whose policies are people driven means that people will really have to benefit in terms of roads and water supply; because in Bumula and if you go to a special Ward like Siboti, there is no water! Our people suffer when we have dry spells and I am encouraging that when we come up with policies and regulations on how we will be operating so that we benefit the residents of this County.

If you look at Education, he has already started implementing his manifesto; he formed a taskforce to inquire into the scholarship fund. It is not that he is witch hunting anybody. He wants to put it rightly so that genuine beneficiaries are students that are bright and from poor families.

Today I have been to the department. I gathered that a student was awarded scholarship and the Governor himself went to that home and promised the family that he will take up the responsibility of their child's education. I am shocked that the student is currently in form three and not even a single cent has been paid to the school. You can imagine that; and I am told that when you go to other Secondary Schools, you find that there is excess money that was paid to nonexistent students.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi you don't anticipate debate... because I am sure those reports will come here for debate.

Hon. Isiah Sudi: I was just citing it as an example and I want my colleagues, especially those who are new to understand. You know the new ones thought that maybe the scholarship ...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi, those remarks are not in good faith!

Hon. Isiah Sudi: Mr. Speaker you see we have Senior Members in this House, like Hon. Mukhongo who has been here three times, you want to say you are like him? How? You have only been elected once my friend.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sudi, can you stick to the motion at hand please?

Hon. Isiah Sudi: Let me go back to the motion but Speaker that was on a light note. I started by saying that to be re-elected is not easy my brothers and sisters, we need to work hard.

On scholarships, maybe people outside there thought that it is this House that did not want it, but when you look at the way it was being administered, there was a problem. People come with letters and when you go there, they say you are not in the system. How the letter was generated we don't know! The letter is generated, a student is taken to school, he or she is there for three years and not even a coin is paid against his/her school fees. This is a challenge that we have and I am very sure His Excellency, the Governor is going to address that so that the programme is done smoothly to benefit our people.

This scheme they call Bungoma Education Scheme Programme, we put there 200 million shillings then the scholarship itself takes 400 million shillings. Local bursaries beneficiaries have been stranded for long. When you go to VTCs, even learners are not willing to go there because there are no teaching materials and the tutors are stranded. We did not concentrate so much on our core mandate as a County; even though educating the poor is also good, but you see the mandates are well spelled out in the Constitution that this is what you should do. Because there is another person somewhere who is also doing this.

Had we taken it the way the Constitution wanted, because all VTCs are dying like the two in my Ward, maybe the one with the highest number of students could be having 10. Imagine there is a manager there, there are two or three tutors there being paid by the County Government of Bungoma teaching two or five students. We need to change so that we embark on our mandate as the Governor put it, so that we encourage the youth to join these VTCs.

Life skills are very important because you will not lack anything, just like a carpenter, you will only lose the skill when you die; you remain relevant for years. But you see now those centers are not well equipped, I hope this Honourable House will now balance the budget when it comes here so that we give them enough funds and make them grow again. We need to assist our youth; because if the youth are assisted, theft incidents that we hear on radio will decline.

Another issue was that His Excellency, the Governor promised to work very closely with this House, an issue which had been handled wrongly for the last five years. Those who were here know there was a very poor relationship between this House and the Executive. Even when the committees could summon them to appear on issues that are touching on our people, they chose to ignore. But if the Governor has decided that he is going to work closely with us to make Bungoma better, I am sure that all statements from our Members in this Honourable House will get answers and that will provide good direction in the field of politics.

In the last regime, there are statements that were raised and which are still pending; there are no answers. The Governor said that he was going to use Wards to advance his development agenda. So Members let us join hands and assist him that when the regulations come to this Honourable House, we pass them because we cannot work minus those regulations and policies. He is going to bring his own CECs that he has nominated, once the names come here, I urge this House that

we pass them so that we give him power to work. Otherwise there are so many things that he touched on.

My colleagues have touched on most issues like in Health. He said he is going to make our referral hospital to be full-fledged level 5 facility. This is very good because level 5 hospitals come with a lot of advantages. It will have a CT scanner, we shall have an MRI, dialysis room, ICU rooms and that will reduce the cost of taking our people to Eldoret for treatment.

He also said he is going to accommodate those casuals with skills in the health sector; that, he will employ them, which is a plus. He further said that he was going to increase the stipend for Community Health Volunteers and that he will be paying them on time because they help prevent some diseases. They are the first doctors on the ground, they attend to our people and I think that is a plus.

I would have contributed more, but I have seen my other colleagues are on queue. I will stop there so that I allow my brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Before I pick the next person from the requests here, allow me allow this elderly man to contribute from the dispatch box, Hon. Aggrey Mulongo... and because of his age, he forgot his card.

(Loud consultation)

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this chance to contribute towards the Governor's speech. I take this greatest opportunity to thank the people of Kibingei for making sure that Mulongo is back to this Honourable House. People of Kibingei whoever is here and I think all the social media platforms were focused in Kimlili because they were saying *Mulongo aende nyumbani* (Mulongo must go home)...

Mr. Speaker: You are out of order Hon. Mulongo.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: So, to contribute towards speech, the Governor gave us a very wonderful speech and if we are going to go by it, then I think this great County of Bungoma will be headed somewhere. He was much focused and the speech was very precise. If this House is going to work with him, then we are going to move a step forward.

On my side, I don't want to repeat what other Honourable Members have talked about. I just want to comment about the municipalities. This House passed the municipalities law but the last regime did not adhere to it, we only have functions but the budget was not allocated to them. If we are going to create more municipalities then we need to devolve the functions plus the budget. I wish to ask Hon. Lusaka the way he talked about municipalities that reaching December he is going to devolve the budget to the municipalities, let him adhere to that. I will be the happiest man on earth because the municipality offices are in my Ward and three quarters of municipality officers come from my Ward. If implemented I will say that Kibingei Ward will

now have to be on the map because are going to enjoy what we have proposed as Kimilili municipality. We are going to have tarmac, we are going to do budget and we shall not even depend on this CEF. We shall be having 300 Million shillings per year. I am very happy.

(Applause)

Touching on Education, His Excellency must at least do something on ECDEs, they have really suffered, they have not been getting salaries, and they have not been having proper material. In fact, in my Ward, I have three of them that I have just been supplying them with some money to buy materials for the learners. So, Education Committee when you are here, I plead when you are going to make the budget, please add some money to this ECDE centers at least for them to buy materials and pay those teachers of the Board. I will be happy when they are paid because they are there voluntarily.

This House is a House of rules and if we want to go far in our oversight of the Executive, then let us start by doing oversight on ourselves. Otherwise, we shall be doing some things that even the Executive will be looking at us and wondering what we are doing since we would not be following the law. I don't want to belabor much because most Members have contributed and I wish that more Members do contribute. I wish to stop there and say that *wacha tufuate sharia* (let us follow the law).

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Member, next time I will fine you.

Hon. Ali Machani: Thank you Honourable Speaker. First of all I want to thank my colleagues who have been elected to this House to serve the people. Whether elected or nominated, we want to say thank you to our creator. It is now high time we work as an Assembly. Let me be on record thanking my voters in Maraka. It is not easy in this county to win elections on an ODM Party ticket all through, unless you are very close to your people. I want to quote one Honourable Member who said here in the last Assembly that he had hopes of winning elections... no you don't say that because elections change every time. Those of you who have been elected, I know Members of the community who supported you to be in that position will be the first ones to hate you and those who helped you to be nominated will be the first ones also to hate you. It is not easy for you to be re-elected or to be nominated again. Hon. Speaker I want to thank you for being elected again and it will be on record that you served twice and we still pray for you.

I am also privileged to have time through your permission to comment on His Excellency, the Governor's speech to this House. I like being very open and what I mean is that the Honourable Governor of this county is serving his second term. It is only that last time he was not privileged to make it but some of us served with him...

I know I was on the other side but the Governor towards the end was forced to get a new face to assist him accomplish his service. Starting a journey is not how it will end. I want to thank him for what is contained in his document. It might appear brief but from where I sit it contains what

he promised during the campaigns. What is promised during campaigns is far away from what is implemented. I saw this happen during the last regime where he promised many things and I thank God he was able to do what he did and which is on record; I know that every individual has his own weaknesses. The old Honourable Members will agree with me that you will only be praised and appreciated when you are there. In the Bukusu culture, you are praised during your burial. They will praise or blame you when you have lost or retired from a position. The reason you see the Members who were with Hon. Wycliffe Wangamati, they can now blame him even 20 times but for me I say that he performed. It is only on one or three things that he did not manage. He is still young and you never know about tomorrow.

I did not know if Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka could be Senate Speaker. I was on the other side but I saw him win elections and we are now working with him serving the people of Bungoma. The most important thing is that whatever he has promised, it is this House that will make sure that we guide him to deliver accordingly. The curtailment of any government emanates from the Legislative House. Even in the Commonwealth countries, when legislators are not keen with your agenda, they will not support it however good it is. Let us pray that God gives him wisdom to understand the people he is dealing with who are the Honourable Members. We have been brought on board from different backgrounds, different interests and may be at the end of the day, those who are his enemies may turn up to be his friends and those who are close, who might have celebrated when he was being sworn in may end up being his enemies.

He has promised good things here, my prayer is that he should get good people who are going to have the interest of the residents of Bungoma at heart. Those who can listen not people who are going to be bosses. I have never had a privilege of producing a CECM from my Ward. I wish to share with Members that those whom you are championing to approve, they are your first enemies. They will even use resources to de-campaign you and those that have been here can agree with me. Those you have employed, Hon. Mukhongo can agree with me, when we were in the local authorities, you could pick a young man from the streets and influence the Clerk to employ him; Hon Waiti can also agree with me. Once employed the time you are in a full council meeting where the Mayor or the Chairman is seated to dissolve the council, the first people to pray that you go and lose elections to an extent of sharing your fall with your opponents are those that knew you.

I want to appeal to Honourable Members, if you do good to others, God will reward you twenty times. Hon. Lusaka is not perfect in whatever he pronounced during his campaigns, I can see quite a number of the issues have been pointed out in his speech. How I wish that he could first of all come up with a policy framework. Making pronouncements is simple and people can clap for you. But if you have not put measures in place to guide your agenda which is navigated properly in this House; and in a write up to be assisted by these Members from either the majority or minority side.

The good thing is that the voters don't know the majority or minority; they will give an equal judgment. These members will assist you if you bring your Integrated Development Plan and make sure that all the plans and whatever that is in your manifesto is captured in a five year development plan. They will also assist you when working on the Annual Development plan. They will also assist you pick those projects that can be implemented within that financial year to completion.

The problem is, if not guided you can pick on a project that will even take 20 years. Who has guaranteed that you will be re-elected after five years? Once you do that, assisted by the Honourable Members, working closely with the Speaker; sometimes you will go with the majority. You will make noise, but if he knows that his interests are on the other side, you will make noise until God comes. I am saying this because sometimes when you are a Governor and you do not recognize the Speaker, he can make your work difficult because his pronouncement is equal to that of the high court.

That is why I am pointing out without bias that Governor Lusaka is as good as an angel and Wangamati is the devil; I think this will not be the right pronouncement as a Leader. All these leaders will come and go but whatever project comes from them is what our people will want to see. You can hold a position, you can be number one in this country, you can be *waziri* (CEC Member) but what people will want to remember is what Lusaka is going to do for us in five years.

When he will make proposals on the budget and properly observe the budget cycle, you will not see any petitions; you will not see people rushing to court. Many institutions are spending a lot of resources, whether you go to the Executive or the County Assembly; it is because someone is seated in a good office but not following the law. He is avoiding statutes, not respecting others and that is why you will see members of civil society going to court; and even the MCAs going to court.

You can see what is happening in Meru; if you want to know the characters of an individual give him an office. I want to thank Hon. Lusaka because if guided properly, he brings his budget early to enable him start implementing what he has proposed. We should now focus on assisting him to get the CECMs and the Chief Officers that will assist him to bring the supplementary budget that will enable him adjust and capture what he wants done. Let us give time and this House will pronounce itself within a year.

Honourable members, there are those who say that he has done right, there are those who will say no because sometimes it is all about interests. Maybe they have employed someone who might contest you and this will change everything. May be they have picked someone whose partner wants to contest. My brothers, you should get prepared as I prepare myself. From my

side Hon. Speaker, pray for me for what I have seen in this Assembly. 001 was a giant of this House; I don't want to pronounce his name but when elections came, I was trying to make a follow up on those serious debaters that have left this House. Now my eyes are on Hon. Mukhongo who is close in terms of seniority; Members pray for us that we win elections in 2027, and if I don't win, pray for me to get something else.

Generation change is real; the young people outside there are not so nice to us. If he voted for you while in Form Four, he will not want to vote for you for the fourth time. Whatever we are going through in this Assembly minus our disagreements; I appeal to you Hon. Speaker that whether I will be on your side or not, continue giving fatherly advice so that this House doesn't get into disagreements like what we observed in the last House. I might be on the either side, but we will always remain brothers. Let the Honourable Member from Kibingei get what he deserves. If a Member for Maraka is supposed to get something, he should be allowed to get. I think that is what we have been doing and I wish to appeal that we support you so that we play our oversight role both on the Executive side and also on our side. We should be transparent, as we oversight the Executive, let us also check ourselves on what we are doing, if it is right or wrong.

Our colleagues whom I am reluctant to refer to them as new members; God can bless them more than I have been blessed. It is not shocking that there will come a time when I will be passing at gate and I see new faces in this Assembly. Let us not treat those that will be appointed as County executive Committee Members as enemies; we should treat them as our brothers and sisters and they should do the same to us.

I know when we will be doing vetting and approvals; you may end up not supporting the proposal by the Governor or a proposal from any quarter. The best approach is that those that will be given offices should know that consultations ought to be paramount. That is why even in this Assembly, those Members that have been elected and nominated for the first time we have something called *Kamukunji*, we managed to succeed in the first Assembly because we had several *Kamukunji* sessions. If you see something going wrong, do not gossip along the streets. We used to have many people from the civil society and several of them were being engineered by the Honourable Members from within. They could even talk about where you come from and even how you homestead looks like. We should avoid such characters.

I think the Governor will perform. From the minority side, I cannot judge him from where he has started; I will do so after a year or years. When I see the scholarship collapsing, I will pronounce myself. Those candidates sitting for grade six and class eight exams this year and come next year the Governor doesn't have a plan for them. I will pronounce myself since I have been elected to be in this House as other Members have also been elected. It is all about interests; I will not keep quiet in this House and the Governor is seated down when students have been

send away from school for lack of school fees. However nice he is, I will say no. If he is performing, if he is going to pay school fees, if he is going to add the stipend on the CHVs, I will support him.

I wish to see that his proposals are captured in the supplementary budget to enable him fulfill his agenda. Let him give services to the residents of this county and whoever that is feeling that he will not perform; I think that is a pre-mature judgment because he has not started implementing the budget and if he has, started I think he has started with the taskforce interrogating how money was spent. From where I sit on the minority side, I want to hold my horses and see how he will begin. If he starts off with a good approach, we will continue supporting. For your information, if you are not aware then you should be made aware. I like the time when I was in this House with Hon. Mukhongo, Hon. Majimbo and Hon. Opicho whom I know are not in this House save for the Hon. Mukhongo. We used to put Hon. Lusaka on his toes and he really listened to us. The problem came to this House when the second Governor came in and there are Members who handled him like an egg. Even when names were brought here and you say nay, my brother I don't know how you will be taken...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Machani, if I recall, you were on the Committee on Appointments and that line of discussion should be left for approvals.

Hon. Ali Machani: Hon. Speaker, I am trying to build an understanding to the members that today even if you are in government...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Violet Makhanu, what is the issue? Kindly resume your seat Hon. Machani. I want to know if it is a point of order or information and under which Standing Order?

Hon. Violet Makhanu (*On a point of information*): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I have listened to my senior Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka and he is putting it out that when the former Governor Hon. Wangamati won elections in the last regime, he was being handled like an egg by the majority or his party members. I am surprised that when now the team that brought Wangamati to this Assembly realized his mistakes and wanted to correct him, the person who was up in arms protecting him was the Member on the stage. Why is he now talking about us taking care of Lusaka as an egg after protecting him during the time he had done mistakes? *Mheshimiwa* Balala can now lie to this House that...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Violet we have gotten your point!

Hon. Ali Machani: I did not understand if she was informing me or the Honourable Members so let me take it that she was informing because she did not direct her point of information to me, but let me own it.

As I said before coming to leadership, the friends you start with are not the friends you will finish with. I thought I had already answered these comments before she was on her feet, but what I am saying is whatever you are doing when you come in an office, those friends you have come with may support you to the end or they may see some anomalies and maybe those anomalies as seen by you is not what is seen in me. I have also said that in the Assembly, it is all about the interest of my voters first.

If you are doing something good in my Ward as per the approval of the funds set aside, I will support you but if you are not doing it in my Ward whether you come from ODM, Ford Kenya or UDA, I have no business with you. So maybe in one way or another from the beginning, they used to do projects in Wards from those Honourable Members but along the way, they concentrated in my area; mostly on scholarship.

I want to be very open. My students in Maraka perform very well but when they were awarding scholarship, I want to be on record, I got support for those students who are from poor families and they performed very well. I can even mention the schools, but what we are saying is that you can support me; your enemy is not my enemy, your friend is not my friend and that is the best practice from serious scholars. My sister, I think that is my style but I do not want you to adopt it. What you love is not what I love kindly. I think that point of information is....

Mr. Speaker: It is me to declare whether it is wrong or right. Proceed!

Hon. Ali Machani: Thank you Hon. Speaker and just to sum up, that the issue on VTCs, I am happy that every Ward has a VTC if not, I think there are some arrangements. The problem VTCs are having is the same problem the ECDEs are having. We have put up some classrooms but there is no learning equipment or materials. You go to VTCs and you will find students are there but there are no materials or maybe they are understaffed. How I wish and I think the His Excellency, Governor Kenneth Makelo Lusaka pointed out in his speech. Well, we may say it is brief, but I do not know if he has raised it in his supplementary proposal.

My only worry is that for a budget to be put in place, there are three or four parameters to be observed. You cannot even from the days of Jesus Christ...I am a Muslim but I know much of Christianity because in most cases Muslims do comparatively, they read both sides. From where I sit, it is said that if you cannot collect revenue you cannot raise revenue and if you cannot raise revenue under Public Finance Management Act, my seniors in Finance Hon. Mukhongo...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ali Machani to just clarify, you know when you say collecting and raising it is the same thing. Make us understand!

Hon. Ali Machani: Hon. Speaker, thank you. I know you are a scholar you know what you are asking. When I say collecting, it is going to the market, there are areas that were earmarked to collect, but raising is those areas in the ceiling. I think CPA is here we have two CPAs here;

Hon. Nganga and Hon. Kikechi. When we say collecting, I am only leaning on the word His Excellency, the Governor when he said he is going to give leave to the mama mbogas out.

We can remember we have just done away with the Governor who promised mama mbogas not to pay revenue and Members can attest, but if you open up a window that on Saturday and Sunday you will not be collecting or on Wednesday; and in this County we have market days gazetted by the Government and the Defunct Local Authorities. That these are the gazetted market centers which will assist us to raise revenue. But you give mama mbogas I do not know the measures you will use to know if a mama *omena, viazi*, pick up with *mboga* is a mama mboga. It means we are going to make the work of the Finance Chairperson to be very difficult because it was not captured in the Finance bill.

Two, we work with the budget which is a cycle where if you overlook one step you will not raise revenue and you cannot only rely on the national funding, you will also rely on normal collections. I think technically, I am not much of a scholar; I am much of a politician. I think I have pointed out areas that need more observation. I rest my case. I support the speech. Let us walk the talk. Let us be able to say what we mean and that is a serious order.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ali Machani.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Thank you Honourable Speaker. First, allow me to thank the people of Lwandanyi and the Almighty God for giving me this opportunity to come to this August House in this third Assembly. It was not easy and I wish to also thank my family and in my ways allow me thank the Honourable Members seated in this House both elected and nominated, because of the hand of God. The grace of God has made us to work together in this third Assembly.

Two, let me also appreciate you for being re-elected as a Speaker of this third Assembly and also thank the Leadership of this House both the Majority and Minority leadership for the position they took to lead us in this House.

Coming to the speech of the Governor, allow me say the following and I will start with page 24 where the Governor said that I have set before you legislative agenda in line with my executive vision for the people of Bungoma County; and he proceeds to say, “these are the same commitments that for the social contract that have been with the people of this great County. I strongly believe that the same applies to you as well together we can fulfill the hopes of our people and aspiration to make Bungoma great again.”

In the 10 point agenda of the Governor’s speech, I want to say that it is upon this Honourable House to come up and work as a team for us to achieve successes so that we can help the common *Mwananchi*. This one is going in line and the agenda of the National Government that gave promises to this House. If you look at this ten point agenda as Bungoma people, we must also thank God because it has shown on us that in one way or another, it will work with the

National Government plus our County allocation. We can achieve the success the people have yearned for and indeed freedom is with us here.

If you look at the docket of Sports and Culture, the Governor said he is going to promote Bungoma cultural hub which should be desirable and it will be an attraction center within Bungoma County. The Governor also promised that he is committed to the completion Masinde Muliro Stadium not forgetting the Chemoge high altitude center that was forgotten by the last regime. If we put this one into consideration and put our minds and read the acknowledgement of His Excellency, the President William Samoei Ruto, putting our sons from Western as CS Ababu Namwamba. That if we are going to work together, the Bungoma people and Western region at large will benefit greatly.

In his ten point agenda, point number 10 is climate change. The Governor said that the passage of this Bill will unlock additional licenses from the funding of the World Bank to our Wards; to a tune of 50 million shillings per Ward for three consecutive years. This is magic. If indeed we are going to walk the talk and put our words in action and pass this Bill, and I am happy that our sectorial department on Climate change is led by senior Chairperson Hon. Opwora Edwin, if you are going to put...

Mr. Speaker: When you declare him senior, I wonder what you would you call Hon. Mukhongo!

Hon. Tony Barasa: Not senior Mukhongo, Senior Chairman here Hon. Edwin Opwora. If indeed this committee is going to work and expedite this and we pass in this House, we are going to get additional funds of not less than 50 million per Ward for three consecutive years. What does that mean? Remember in the National Assembly when they are going to do legislation on CDF, Affirmative Action, Hustlers Fund and the Senate Oversight Fund, they have also introduced that Ward Fund with a minimum of 25 million shillings maybe per Ward plus the 50 million shillings that will be unlocked through the Climate Change Bill, we are going to do wonderful in this House.

I want also to take this opportunity to answer the opposition side. I remember when the Governor, the Leader of Majority and the Leader of Minority... Hold your horse, I want to answer you! When the Governor read his speech here one day...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Tony, just contribute!

Hon. Tony Barasa: I am contributing Hon. Speaker. I am building my case. You know it is good to listen. Opposition Members including Hon. Machani went to media and said Honourable...Let me build my case... I am building my case allow me!

Mr. Speaker: Don't mention names here!

Hon. Tony Barasa: Honourable Members, some senior Members of this House went to a local station and said that the Governor's speech has not addressed the issue of flagship projects that were started by the former Governor. I want to draw your attention to page 10 where the Governor said on infrastructure and he said, "I am committed to complete Misikhu-Brigadier Road, the dual carriage and all the projects started by my predecessor." It is written there! It is very immoral for leaders to go on social media because of being remote controlled without reading the content of the speech.

(Applause)

It is there! We want to acknowledge that the Governor is committed; he is there willing to complete the projects that were started by his predecessor. It is not like the way His Excellency, the Governor in his first regime started Chemoge High Altitude Centre five years down the line we have been budgeting for this Chemoge High Altitude Centre, but it was not finished. So we want the spirit that was exhibited in the speech and if there is any Senior Member who wants to challenge me that it was not said. It is on page 10 of this speech by His Excellency, the Governor.

I also want to laud that we need some time to make serious commitments in this House for us to prosper. In that regard, I am saying that it is this House that is going to appropriate funds for the Health sector and in his speech, he is committed to primary health care.

It is this House during the budget making process that will prioritize our devolved functions so that our people can feel the need of devolution in this country. Devolution came after the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya in 2010. As I conclude, I wish to also state that indeed Vocational Training Centres are devolved functions. We need to stand as a House for us to protect the Vocational Training Centers.

Since the resignation of the Deputy Director for VTCs Mr. Mukoche, we have never had a replacement. Chair Education is here, that department is not anywhere and we need to come to terms and stand as a House for us to rescue the Education sector. Having said that, I want to stand and support the speech by His Excellency, the Governor.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Tony.

(Applause)

The only thing I am worried of was your energy, what did you have for lunch?

Hon. Linda Wekesa: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to address this Honourable House. I want to thank all the Members here who are elected and nominated. For those who are elected, I know it is through your election that you guaranteed a position to be nominated. I also want to thank you Mr. Speaker and congratulate you for being elected again for a second term as Speaker of this House, and further to the Governor for being elected for a

second term. I know most of Hon. Members have spoken and I will be brief on my points, but I will try to touch on things that have not been spoken on and expound on them.

One is on agriculture; I wish to draw the attention of the Governor on livestock farming. I know our County has also invested in livestock farming and I would simply ask that in regards to agriculture, he looks at vaccination of livestock to curb and control the spread of diseases, construction of cattle dips for disease control and also Artificial Insemination for proper breeds and good yield in the sector of livestock farming. I also urge that he also look at cooperatives. I know that there are cooperatives that existed before, but if the Governor could look at them or we can pass policies that could jumpstart them to help our farmers while they can take or process their rites.

I give an example of Muranga County for instance; in the last regime the Governor of Muranga launched an avocado cooperative society which really helped farmers to sell their products. If invented here, I think it would be a good thing for farmers to showcase and sell their products.

Onto my second point about education, I know the County Government is in charge of Early Childhood Education, but I know there are barriers that have affected the children to attend school; and I am really happy that the Governor has reinstated the bursary and the funds that are being given to children who are not able to cater for their school fees. That is the scholarship, thank you.

I think other issues such as roads infrastructure are also curtailing our children from going to school. I have seen there are bridges that have not been built; and at times when it is raining, children use local bridges to cross and it is quite scary. If he can make proper bridges in terms of when they are doing tenders to consider bridges in several counties in conjunction with like-minded people so that our children can still go to school when it is raining.

Finally I will go to sports, culture and entertainment and this sector touches mostly on the youth. I know the youths were very vibrant in supporting the Governor during his campaign. I urge that this time when he is considering employment; I mean he has demonstrated that before but as he is continuing, we ask that as part of supporting culture and the youth at large, that he offers employment. One of the things when you look at the youth in our County and the country at large, you only narrow down their problems to unemployment, vulnerability to drugs and identity crisis that results from unprecedented social and cultural change.

Because we are so much into retaining or harnessing the culture of our county, I think it would be proper if he considers their talent by harnessing them at an early stage such as in high school. I remember when I was in high school, when you were the best football player, a group would poach you. If the county can have a similar arrangement of supporting young people who can show case their talents maybe in sports music and any other areas, our culture would not be lost. Talent would not be wasted and the county would be so much on.

Mental issues have also been related to the challenges our young people face and I urge that maybe a guiding and counseling center be put in place in addition to the health sector to enable our young generation to talk about the challenges of life.

Finally, in conserving the youth, I know during tendering processes, there are the big fish that get the tenders while our young people are left out...

Mr. Speaker: When you say the big fish, then other one should be small fish.

(Laughter)

Hon. Linda Wekesa: Okay, I will say the people with deep pockets or what can I say? They are the ones who are able to get tenders and we know there is a category for the youth. But when you go deep, the people who get awarded the tenders are not youth. We all know that I will seek that the Governor intervenes and ensures that during the tendering process the youth are considered to enable them put food on the table. It will encourage the youth in the county and country at large. Lastly in policies, this is the House that will put the Governor on the spot to deliver on his mandate. The issues that he has highlighted in his speech would require that we put proper policies in place to guide his administration. That is the support we need to give him; that retrogressive and repugnant laws or self-centered policies will not help us go far. Otherwise I support his speech; it was a good speech and a very short one. I am glad he was able to address most of the issues that are affecting the County thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Honorable Leader of Majority, I will ask that you make a summarized contribution.

Hon. Joseph Juma (*Leader of Majority*): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I want to appreciate to appreciate the Members especially those who are seated in the House for showing a sign of leadership and patience. It is not easy for an Honourable Member to sit more than two hours but it is a great win for us legislators. Allow me appreciate all Members who contributed over this speech and more so our seniors; and also let us continue using the new comers because it has been a wonderful session since we started the debate on this speech.

More emphasis has been shown in terms of maybe concentrating on the issue of devolved functions and more so as an Assembly. We shall do so and also try and advice our Governor to stick to the devolved functions. I was keenly listening and what I have learnt is that, just like the last regime when I was listening to my senior Hon. Machani saying that I was on the other side, but sincerely we were on the same side because it was NASA; the combination of NASA was Ford Kenya, Wiper and ODM. So we were put in the same port only that some of us pulled out because of the ugly behaviors, but anyway we learn to correct the next time.

On my part, what I will do as a leader of this House is proper coordination between the Assembly and the Executive and as I said earlier, let us stick to our lane and ensure that our people who elected us get the proper services and value for money.

Finally, allow me say this because we are seated here, leadership is seasonal; today you are a leader. Tomorrow you are a common *mwananchi* (citizen), but all in all you will one day say I was a leader. If you are an MCA, nominated or elected, you should stay out of fear that when you lose an election maybe it is about life and death! No, it is seasonal, let us be flexible and ensure that the chance we have we utilize it properly. Otherwise thank you so much Members for your contribution.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Joseph Nyongesa our Leader of Majority. Honorable Members that means we have complied with the Standing Order number 28 (4); we have done our four days exactly and it brings to an end the debate on the Governor's speech.

ALTERATION OF THE HOUSE CALENDAR

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (*Leader of Majority*): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe before I move it, there is an observation and if I don't speak on it, I may forget because when we were entering this House, we were being given some forms to fill. But as we all know, men are born polygamous and I have only seen one slot for spouse, so kindly let's improve on it.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Joseph Nyongesa I am not aware of those forms and if you are complaining where you are, I wonder ...

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Men were born naturally polygamous and so when we are only given one chance for a spouse, it really demeans your family; because for me, I have around three or four...

(Applause)

So as an institution, we should improve on it. Anyway Members, it is part of life.

Mr. Speaker: Let us come back to the agenda we are supposed to have.

(Laughter)

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Maybe Speaker before I move, allow some discussion on it...

Mr. Speaker: We can't discuss it because it is not part of our agenda. It has to be on the Order Paper first, so kindly, proceed Hon. Joseph.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I will now move the motion on the alteration of the House Calendar.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 31 (4) and taking cognizant of the recruitment interview of the Clerk by the County Assembly Service Board to take place tomorrow 3rd November, 2022 as from 9:00 a.m. here in this Plenary; this House resolves to alter its calendar for the first session. That the House adjourns today Wednesday 2nd November, 2022 and to resume its sitting on Tuesday 8th November, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, allow me call upon Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka to second.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka, you will be put on HANSARD first.

Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka: Mr. Speaker I think he did not prepare me well but whatever he is pronouncing is almost in a way that I must second. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka. I don't want to take that line of Hon. Milliah Masungu on how nice it is, but let's just go back to the issue at hand.

Honorable Members, I propose a motion for the House to debate. A motion has been moved and seconded that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order number 31 (4); and taking cognizance of the recruitment interviews of the Clerk by the County Assembly Service Board to take place tomorrow 3rd of November, 2022 as from 9:00 a.m. here in this plenary; this House resolves to alter its calendar for the first session (regular session) and therefore orders that the House adjourns today 2nd of November, 2022 and to resume its sittings on Tuesday 8th of November, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Honorable Members, I have been told to read the mood of the House, and it is plain white, so I will proceed and put a question to the said motion. A motion once again has been moved and seconded that this House pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order number 31 (4) and taking cognizance of the recruitment interviews of the Clerk by the County Assembly Service Board to take place tomorrow 3rd of November, 2022 as from 9:00 a.m. here in this plenary; this House resolves to alter its calendar for the first session (regular session) and therefore orders that the House adjourns today 2nd of November, 2022 and to resume its sittings on Tuesday 8th of November, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

(Question put and agreed to)

The House will adjourn today Wednesday in this session and resumes its sitting on 8th of November, 2022 on a Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. So Honorable Members, we will adjourn as per that alteration. Equally, looking at the said calendar and at the Order Paper; that was our last item under Motions, so we will adjourn now and resume as per the approved motion.

House adjourns