

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

Morning Sitting

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT
WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

The House met at 9:30 p.m.

(Mr. Speaker [Hon. Stephen Wamalwa] in the Chair)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Honourable members, our Speaker is held up in another function official within the precincts of this Assembly but the programmes are well and I welcome you so that we can carry on with our duty and business of the day.

PAPERS

**REPORT BY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES,
IRRIGATION AND CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson, Agriculture or any member.

Hon. Martin Cheseto: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the report by the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Co-operative Development on Bungoma County Cooperative Societies Bill 2023.

(Hon. Martin Cheseto laid the report)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Members, report by the sectoral committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Co-operative Development on Bungoma County Cooperative Societies Bill 2023 having been laid before this House is now the property of this House.

**REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
PLANNING ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT 9 MONTH'S FINANCIAL
STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2022/23 IN RESPECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

Hon. Orize Kundu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a report by the sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the Bungoma County Government 9 month's financial statement for the year 2022/23 in respect to the department of Finance and Economic planning.

(Hon. Orize Kundu laid the report)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Orize Kundu a man with ten languages. The report by the sectoral committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the Bungoma County Government 9 month's financial statement for the year 2022/23 in respect to the department of Finance and Economic Planning having been laid before this House is now property of the Assembly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Martin Cheseto: On behalf of the chairman Agriculture, I rise to issue a notice of motion that this House adopts the report by the Sectoral committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development on Bungoma County Cooperative societies Bill 2023.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Martin Cheseto Chemorion. The notice of motion having been issue I therefor direct it be circulated to all Honourable Members for their consumption and it will form part of business that will be considered by this House.

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT 9 MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2022/23 IN RESPECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.

Hon. Orize Kundu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give a notice of motion to that this House adopts the report by the sectoral committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the Bungoma County Government 9 month Financial Statement for the year 2022/23 in respect to the department of Finance and Economic Planning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Orize Kundu. The notice of motion having been issued I therefore direct that it should be circulated to all Honourable members for their consumption and forms part of business to be considered by this House.

MOTIONS

REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT 9 MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 IN RESPECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson, Hon. Edwin Opwora

Hon. Edwin Opwora (Chair, Tourism): Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to move a motion on the report by the committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on the 9 month financial statements for the period ended March 31st 2023 in respect to the department of Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources.

Preamble

It is my pleasant duty to present the report by the Committee on Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources on the nine months executive Financial Statements Financial year 2022/23 for period ended March, 31st 2023 for Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources department. The document was tabled in this House on 3rd May, 2023 and was committed to each Sectoral Committee for processing and reporting back.

Committee Membership

The Committee on Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources as currently constituted comprises the following Members:-

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Edwin | Opwora | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Martin | Chemirion | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Joseph | Juma | Member |
| 4. Hon. Meshack | Simiyu | Member |
| 5. Hon. Anthony | Luseneka | Member |
| 6. Hon. Vitalis | Wangila | Member |
| 7. Hon. Sudi | Busolo | Member |
| 8. Hon. James | Mukhongo | Member |
| 9. Hon. Benjamin | Otsiula | Member |
| 10. Hon. Miliar | Masungu | Member |
| 11. Hon. Orize | Kundu | Member |
| 12. Hon. Benard | Kikechi | Member |
| 13. Hon. George | Kwemoi | Member |
| 14. Hon. Ndasaba | Dorcas | Member |
| 15. Hon. Aggrey | Mulongo | Member |

Guiding principles in the Examination of the Bungoma County Government Quarterly Reports and Financial statements

In the execution of its mandate, the Committee on Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources is given a legal backing under the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, County Government Act, 2012 and the Constitution of Kenya 2010. These statutory provisions include the following:

1. Constitutional Principles on Public Finance

Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 enacts fundamental principles that “...*shall guide all aspects of public finance in the Republic...*” These principles include, *inter alia*, that: **201(a)** *there shall be openness and accountability, including public participation in financial matters;* **201(d)** *Public money shall be used in a prudent and responsible way;* and **201(e)** *financial management shall be responsible, and fiscal reporting shall be clear.*

Section 149(1) (a) and (b) of the PFM Act 2012 provides as follow... *”an accounting officer is accountable to the County Assembly for ensuring that the resources of the entity for which the officer is designated are used in a way that is;*

- a) Lawful and authorized*
- b) Effective, efficient, economical and transparent*

2. Direct Personal Liability

Article 226(5) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 is emphatic that *“If the holder of a public office, including a political office, directs or approves the use of public funds contrary to law or instructions, the person is liable for any loss arising from that use and shall make good the loss, whether the person remains the holder of the office or not”*.

3. Obligations of Accounting Officers

The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 section 166 states as follows;

- 1. An accounting officer for a county government entity shall prepare a report for each quarter of the financial year in respect of the entity.*
- 2. In preparing a quarterly report for a county government entity, the accounting officer shall ensure that the report—*
 - (a) contains information on the financial and nonfinancial performance of the entity;*
 - and*
 - (b) is in a form determined by the Accounting Standards Board.*
- 3. Not later, than fifteen days after the end of each quarter, the accounting officer shall submit the quarterly report to the County Treasury.*
- 4. Not later than one month after the end of each quarter, the County Treasury shall—*
 - (a) consolidate the quarterly reports and submit them to the county assembly;*
 - (b) deliver copies to the Controller of Budget, National Treasury and the Commission on Revenue Allocation; and*
 - (c) publish and publicize them*

Acknowledgment

May I take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Speaker and Clerk for giving the Committee logistical support that made this exercise successful?

I also appreciate the Honorable members and the secretariat of the Committee on Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resource for carefully examining the nine (9) months executive Financial Statements Financial year 2022/23 for period ended March, 31, 2023 in respect to the department of Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources.

Further, this Committee extends its gratitude to the Executive Arm of the County Government, Department of Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources for the role they played in offering explanations and supporting documents as requested by the Committee.

ANALYSIS OF COUNTY QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH, 31ST 2023.

(a) County Resource Envelope for FY2022/2023

The total budget for the whole financial year 2022/23 is Kshs. 14,821,204,142 as per the approved 1st supplementary budget with the breakdown of the sources as indicated below:

| No. | Source | Amount |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Equitable share | 10,659,435,192.00 |
| 2 | Equitable share b/f | 867,288,525.00 |
| 3 | Retention | 293,425,903.00 |
| 4 | Conditional grant Devpt partner | 1,540,443,462.00 |
| 5 | Conditional grants National | 113,228,200.00 |
| 6 | Local revenue as per act | 500,000,000.00 |
| 7 | AIA | 847,382,860.00 |
| | Grand Total | 14,821,204,142.00 |

The financial statement submitted gives an expenditure outlay of Kshs. 14,164,547,621 I.e. Kshs. 656,656,521 less the approved amounts. The difference relates to AIA in the ministry of health for facilities.

(b) REVENUE

In third quarter, the County received total revenue of Kshs. 6,321,552,397. Actual in the half year financial statements was ksh.4, 085, 058,115. The source of the amount was as shown here below;

- a) Exchequer releases - Kshs. 6,303,156,902
- b) Other receipts (Mabanga ATC) - Kshs. 18,395,495
- c) **Exchequer Releases**

| Description | Period ended March 2023 | Comparative period |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | Kshs. | Kshs |
| Total Exchequer release quarter 1 | 1,664,556,086 | 1,514,522,313 |
| Total Exchequer release quarter 2 | 2,409,398,463 | 2,821,653,159 |
| Total Exchequer release quarter 3 | 2,229,202,353 | 2,271,332,689 |

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total | 6,303,156,902 | 6,607,332,689 |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|

(d) Other receipts

| | Period ended March 2023 | Comparative period |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| AMC fees(Mabanga Agricultural Training centres) | Ksh.18,395,495 | Ksh. 16,616,359 |

Grants received from development partners and National government was Kshs. 489,256,980 for implementation of:

- Scholarships and other educational benefits Kshs. 200,000,000.
- Other capital grants and transfers as detailed below:
 - NARIGP Kshs.237, 245,331
 - ASDSP II Kshs. 5,344,642
 - KDSP Kshs. 32,416,882

On local revenue, the report does not indicate what the County managed to collect in the period under review except Mabanga ATC reporting a collection of 18,395,495. In reference to Mabanga these translates to 70.4% of the set target in 9 Month hence an under achievement of 5%.

(e) COUNTY EXPENDITURE

The expenditure target for the period under review was Kshs 11,115,903,107 out of the total budget for the entire Fiscal year represents 75 % .Recurrent expenditure target was Kshs.7, 780,757,791.50 while the target for development expenditure programs in the period is Kshs. 3,335,145,315.

Notably the revenue realised was Kshs. 6,321,552,397 out of which 6,204,930,588 was expended translating to an absorption rate of 43% as opposed to 75%.

The transfer of a total of Ksh. 772,981,290 to other Government entities represents releases to the County Assembly in the quarter under review.

Personnel expenditures was 3,512,979,410 compared to 2,556,661,364 spent in 9 Months.

Budget Execution by programmes and sub-programmes, the information contained in the report from the treasury is not sufficient enough to interrogate every department. Submission of departmental budget implementation reports is necessary for scrutiny by the committee.

| | Period ended March 2023 | Comparative period |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|

| | Notes | Kshs. | Kshs. |
|--|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Receipts | | | |
| Exchequer releases (Transfer from CRF) | 1 | 6,303,156,902 | 6,607,508,161 |
| Other receipts (Mabanga ATC) | 2 | 18,395,495 | 16,616,359 |
| Total receipts | | 6,321,552,397 | 6,624,124,520 |
| Payments | | | |
| Compensation to employees | 3 | 3,512,979,410 | 3,218,169,746 |
| Use of goods and services | 4 | 1,032,758,738 | 936,293,433 |
| Transfer to other Government entities | 5 | 772,981,290 | 696,343,439 |
| Other grants and transfers | 6 | 489,256,980 | 517,327,834 |
| Social security benefits | 7 | 46,456,661 | 2,275,629 |
| Acquisition of assets (pg25) | 8 | 348,638,108 | 900,272,579 |
| Other payments | 9 | 1,859,400 | 121,816,408 |
| Total payments | | 6,204,930,588 | 6,392,499,067 |
| Surplus /deficit | | 116,621,809 | 231,625,453 |

(f) Retention

The period under review reported a bank balance of Kshs. 204,054,364 as retention funds compared to Ksh. 260,334,174 bank balance in the half year financial statements.

Outstanding retention 1 July 2022 Kshs. 293,425,903

Addition for July 2022-March 2023 Kshs.15, 294,298

Total balance Kshs.308, 720,201

Less: Retention Payment I July 2022- March 2023 Kshs. 104,665,837

Balance as at 31st March 2023 Kshs. 204,054,364

(g) Accounts Payable

Pending accounts payables (pending bills) across all the departments was Kshs. 1,199,681,317 with a total of Kshs. 316,728,948 paid up in the 3rd quarter leaving a balance of Kshs. 882,952,369. This amount is broken down in the report as follows:

i) Construction of buildings Kshs. 74,064,436

ii) Construction of Civil works Kshs. 248,921,595

iii) Supply of goods Kshs. 185,087,589

iv) Supply of services Kshs. 374,878,750

The specific creditors for each department with their respective amounts are shown in the submitted report.

(h) Accounts Receivable.

Accounts receivables (outstanding Imprests) across all departments amounted to Kshs. 294,183,471. Finance and Economic Planning department has the highest outstanding imprests at Kshs. 144,557,460 followed by Office of the Governor and Deputy Governor at Ksh. 35,111,650 The department with least outstanding imprests is Roads and Public Works at Kshs. 1,261,500 and Trade & industrialization at Kshs. 537,600. The individual officers holding unaccounted imprests in every department is given in the submitted report.

| Un-surrendered imprest at the end of the period | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1. | Agriculture, livestock and cooperatives Mgt | 4,418,426 |
| 2 | County Secretary | 11,947,880 |
| 3. | County Public Service board | 3,302,850 |
| 4. | Education and VTC | 3,005,100 |
| 5. | Finance and Economic planning | 144,557,460 |
| 6. | Gender, Sports and youth | 33,033,400 |
| 7. | Governors and DG | 35,111,650 |
| 8. | Heath and sanitation | 12,194,325 |
| 9. | Roads and public works | 1,261,500 |
| 10. | Lands and urban planning | 16,213,300 |
| 11. | Public Administration | 19,214,000 |
| 12 | Tourism and water | 9,385,980 |
| 13 | Trade and industrialization | 537,600 |
| | Total | 294,183,471 |

3.1 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

In the current financial year 2022/2023, the department of Tourism, environment, water and natural resources had an annual approved budget of Kshs. 293,829,230 as recurrent and Kshs. 141,885,107 as Development in Tourism and Environment, Ksh. 83,308,234 for recurrent and Kshs 314,764,221 Development in Water and Natural resources.

The absorption rate for the department was at 39 % in quarter under review, for recurrent and development expenditure.

The programmes are as under:

(a) General Administration planning and support service

- The allocation for Human resource Management was Ksh. 64,736,155, the department has utilized Ksh. 34,794,576 representing 54% absorption rate in the period under review.
- The allocation for policy and legal framework formulation was ksh.800, 000, it is at 0% absorption.
- The allocation for Marking of international/ national events was Ksh. 3,900,000 it is at 0% absorption.
- The allocation for Annual devolution conference was Ksh. 3,000,000; it is at 0% absorption in the period under review.

(b) Water and sewerage services

- The allocation for water services provision was Ksh. 324,748,647 the department has utilized Ksh. 74,704,299 at an absorption rate of 22%
- The allocation for stakeholders' engagement (water users association) was Ksh. 4,800,000 the absorption rate is 0% in the period under review.
- The allocation for Routine maintenance of water suppliers was Ksh. 2,400,000 the absorption rate is 0% in the period under review.
- The allocation for Office operation and maintenance was Ksh. 87,378,695, the department has utilized Ksh. 54,176,262 representing 38%

(c) Integrated solid waste management

- The allocation for Dumpsite management was Kshs 12,850,705 the absorption rate is 0% in the period under review.
- Garbage collection and transportation the allocation was ksh.225877, 107, the department has utilized 75,218,489 at absorption 67%.

(d) The status of outstanding imprests

The department had a pending staff receivables (outstanding imprests) amounting to Kshs. 9,385,980. In the period under review, unlike in the half year financial statements the department did not have un surrendered imprest However, the total County outstanding imprest for all the departments was Kshs. 294,183,471 at end of the period under review.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

1. The County treasury did not indicate how much each department received as revenue (Exchequer release) to implement their programmes in the period under review.
2. The executed programmes were not broken down into activities to disclose the detailed information on the actual budget implementation of the department.

3. Departmental monthly/annual work plans and the budget implementation status report should be submitted to the committee for comparison purposes with the financial report.
4. Notes as to how the outstanding staff imprests would be surrendered or recovered was not indicated in the report. Most imprests are beyond the 7 days limit.
5. The pending bills for the department were Ksh. 9,972,605 in the period under review.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the County treasury should indicate how much each Department received as exchequer for easy comparison in the quarters.
2. THAT the department should break down the Budget Execution by programmes and sub-programmes, into activities for easy scrutiny and oversight.
3. THAT the department should submit departmental monthly /annual work plan and budget implementation reports for comparison purposes with the financial report by the committee.
4. THAT the department should ensure compliance of Regulation 93(5 and 6 of PFM Regulation, 2015 on surrendering imprest and also enhance imprest management system. *A holder of a temporary imprest shall account or surrender the imprest within seven working days after returning to duty station.*
5. THAT the department should give pending bills first charge, when it comes to budgeting.

Conclusion

I beg this Honorable house to adopt this report of Tourism, Water, Environment and Natural Resources committee on the County 9 Months Financial Statements for period ended 31st without amendments.

I call on Hon. Martin Chemorion to second this motion.

(Applause)

Hon. Martin Chemorion: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank my able Chairperson for reading through the figures which sometimes are a bit complicated. I rise to second the motion with a few remarks. As the chairperson was reading out the report, there was an issue on the report where financial expenditures are not departmental specific, thus it is hard for us to scrutinize the expenditure and the revenues that we get. If we work out that definitely then we can have a proper scrutiny of the expenditures and revenue collection.

There was another observation on the plan to being provided which is affecting the absorption rate. For us to track the absorption rate, we should have the work plan that details how the implementation is being done.

On recovery of imprest; this is a consistent failure on our executive to hold the staff accountable. If they disregard the Public Finance Management Act on imprest, this could be an avenue for loss of public funds. The persons concerned should enforce this act, so that they ensure that all the imprest holders surrender within the stipulated time and if they fail then, there must be sanctions as per the law. With those few remarks, I beg to second the adoption of the report.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity. First of all, I want to thank the mover of the motion who is also my chairperson of the committee. As he was reading I have observed an area on un-surrendered imprest especially the department that is supposed to oversight to be seen as an example; that is Finance and Economic Planning. It is good that the Chairperson for Finance and Economic Planning Committee is here Hon. Barasa Mukhongo; Finance department has the highest un-surrendered imprest yet it is supposed to oversee other departments in terms of prudent use of public funds given to all other departments. It has over Kshs. 144 million as un-surrendered imprest. Unfortunately the chairperson is busy on the phone. I don't know if we are supposed to follow debates or be busy on our phones?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mukhongo, you need to be orderly.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Are we allowed to speak or be on our phones while in the House? I want you Mr. Speaker to direct on this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Sudi, the Hon. Mukhongo is disorderly I give him a short of warning and I believe he will respect that.

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: The issue that I am proposing is touching on his Finance department should show sanity yet it has the highest un-surrendered imprest. I want the chairperson to take up this matter and find out how they are going to oversee other departments? When you look at the way they utilize money allocated to them, they look at vote heads that are easy to benefit them. Those are the vote heads that are utilized but vote heads that can benefit the people of Bungoma like the dumpsite management money the Kshs. 12 million that was allocated not even a single coin has been spent. How I do you manage the dumpsite without spending the allocated funds? As a committee we did our best, struggled and got some money which has been there for 9 months and nothing has been utilized. There must be something wrong; it is our government but are we saying that the remaining 3 months are they going to

be able to utilize all the balances. This issue does affect tourism sector alone, even other departments.

You have heard what the members of the public are saying, they are crying that we have allocated money and there are no drugs in our health facilities. Where is the problem? Now we have rains and in the next 3 or 4 months there will be no rains and cries will be all over. We bought water drilling rig which has never been utilized within even the 9 months that have elapsed. Not even a single borehole was sunk. I rest my case, but as a county we must ask and oversight this government..

(Applause)

Hon. Meshack Simiyu: Asante Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipa nafasi. Mimi ni mwanachama wa kamati hii. Kwanza namshukuru mwenyekiti wa kamati hii kwa kusoma repoti. Mheshimiwa Sudi amesema mambo ya Bungoma sisi tukiwa viongozi wa kaunti ukiangalia kwa undani unaona kwamba saa zingine hatufanyi kazi vizuri. Nataka kuwaeleza wenzangu kwamba ripoti za matumizi ya pesa za kaunti kila wakati zinaletwa kwa hili chumba na tunapitisha, lakini wakati mwingine hatufanyi vizuri. Naomba wenzangu ya kwamba mambo ya maji waziri anapokuja mbele ya kamati yetu anaongea vizuri sana lakini hawezi tekeleza yale ambayo tumesikizana. Kwa sababu sasa hivi kuna mvua nyingi wakati itapungua wananchi wataanza kulia kuhusu ukosefu wa maji. Tukimaliza haya, nawaomba tufanye kazi vizuri jinsi tulivyoelezwa na Rias William Ruto wakati alitutembelea hapa. Nikimalizia sina furaha kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa dawa katika vituo vya afya, maji na karibu kila sekta mambo hayako sawa. Nauliza mwenyekiti wa kamati hii kutilia maanani maswala ambayo yamejitokeza kwenye ripoti hii ili kufanikisha maendeleo katika kaunti yetu.

Hon. Johnston Okasida: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me also contribute towards what the chairperson has just taken us through. I have noted that he was pleading with this House that all that he had wished in his department had not been accomplished. The worst of all was when he was talking about information where he says that relevant information that could have assisted them and this House to execute their oversight role was denied. When this House is denied or a committee is denied information that will assist them in oversight, then they are facilitating the failure of this House. At this juncture we must stand firm. I want to appreciate the Hon. Museveni my Chief Whip for the statements that he has said that we must stand up. Let us not accept to go to bed with the executive. What is happening is because most of us, if not all of us have gone to bed with the executive and that is why we are not being given information that we require.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, as you heard Hon. Opwora talking, when you are denied details of expenditure and you are supposed to oversight, what will you do in the absence of that information which

is critical? This House must stand up and be counted as a House executes her duties independently without depending on directions from other quarters. It is not only Tourism Committee that has been denied information, it is most of the departments and this is happening under the direction of the Department of Finance. You remember when we were passing a budget a few months ago; Finance department had an expenditure of Kshs. 482 million which was not accounted for. When we placed that particular item in this House nobody was willing to give those details of Kshs. 482 million. If the Kshs. 482 million was given to the department of Tourism, I want to believe that boreholes could have been sunk in every ward and on most of the markets. This is the time we must stand and be counted by ensuring that the money allocated to Bungoma County and to specific departments is used for the intended purposes. I support the recommendations in totality. I submit Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Milliah Masungu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to congratulate my chairperson of Tourism Committee for the report well read this House. As honourable members who are supposed to do our oversight, this is the time we have to stamp our authority. Any allocation to any department it means it has to do its rightful job allocated for. We serve the people and all the demands are through us. If a department brings here a financial report without proper accountability, then we must deal with them properly as an oversight team to give as proper report on the same amount allocated and on the specific work to be done.

There was an allocation that was set aside for the staff of the rig. I am surprised the rig has never reached any ward as per the proposal and allocation. So I want to appeal to all members whether you are in Government or opposition, at the end of the day we are answerable to the electorates and time is not with us. This is the second year and people are already coming and questioning our performance and it's all over on the media on how we are performing. I wish my Majority Leader and Hon. Joan, Kindly you are the Government spokespersons, pull up your socks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nanyokia. Hon. Makari!

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. When Hon. Milliah tells my Majority Leader to pull up the socks and she never wears socks, I do not know which socks...

(Laughter)

I would wish to congratulate the committee and the Chairperson of the committee for a very good report, but I humbly submit and underscore what my colleagues have said arising from the report. There is a very serious point to note; that vital information for oversight to this committee and not only this committee, other various committees were not provided. How can we be able to carry out oversight if vital information and documentation that is supposed to assist us is denied to the committee?

I want to submit that we are the makers of the budget of this department and when these people are coming here to help them pass their budget, they almost go to their knees but once we have passed the budget and it becomes their duty to implement, but now they become like chameleons changing colours, you ask for this one, they will tell you bring after next week and they keep on changing. Like yesterday in the Committee of Health, we were looking for some information and they conveniently withheld that information until we called off the meeting up to Thursday.

It's my sincere wish and prayer that let this House actually assert itself, so that they know that that actually we are able to hold them to account and if anyone will not toe the line, we are able to cut down their budget because they are just enjoying the budget we passed but they are not performing as is required.

On the imprest, you will note that 294 million un-surrendered imprest cutting across all departments. This is a very colossal sum and the law of imprest says that you are only given imprest for seven days, after which you are supposed to surrender. This shows that there was no purpose for the imprest taken, so they are trying to run around and trying to create an activity which was not there, that is why you can get an accumulated interest of Kshs 294 Million. As Hon. Sudi and Meshack Museveni have said about oversight, I want to tell members here that just as Hon. Ipara has said that those one's going to bed with the executive when elections come, it's usually very painful and I can tell you for a fact, the only people that made it back and were in bed with the executive is Hon. Milliah Masungu, Vitalis, Mulongo from Kibingei but those ones

(Laughter)

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is the point of information Honourable!

Hon. George Makari: Under which Standing Order Honourable Speaker?

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order Members!

Hon. George Makari: Under which Standing Order Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Only one Honourable member should be on the floor. We have to be orderly!

Which point of information Hon. Milliah?

A moment, Hon. Nanyokia, What is it?

Hon. Milliah Masungo : *(On a point of information)* Mr. Speaker, I wish to know how people go to bed the way Hon. Makari put it. I want him to inform this House how Honourable members can go to bed with the executive,

Secondly, can he also tell me further on how I was in bed with the last regime, where, at what time, which period and how I managed to manoeuvre and come back..

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, I know Hon. Makari Wasike has the answers. Hon. Makari before you proceed, let us have Hon. Waliaula Mulongo. What is it Hon. WaLiaula?

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: I want Chair of Health to tell me e the date, the month and the year when I went towards that bed that he is mentioning

(Laughter)

With the executive. If not, he must apologise or withdraw.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let's hear him. Hon. Wasike!

Hon. George Makari: Honourable speaker, you see I took the cue from Hon. Ipara who said there are members going to bed... May be Hon. Okasida can explain what he meant

(Laughter)

I just took the cue from him and then I added my own statement by referring to Hon. Milliah and Mulongo. If there is any person who is supposed to do the explaining of what the bed means with the executive it's not me, it's Hon. Okasida Ipara who began that conversation. You can allow me to proceed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed, Hon. Wasike!

Hon. George Makari: As I was saying, what Hon. Sudi Kalasinga, Ipara and Museveni were saying, this is our Government but from the look of things we wouldn't wish to begin fighting this Government but now it's becoming very comfortable. Three months after the passage of the budget, there is no advertisement for any project that we budgeted for; no road, ECDE classrooms, health facilities have been advertised and even those ones that were running most of them are incomplete, in fact Hon. Milliah has a complain over health facilities in her Ward.

There are those ones that were started way back, they are not even complete up to today and then we have put money in the budget for implementation of fresh projects. It's raining and everything is in a mess. There is a lot of outcry even on the health matters where I am the Chair of Health of the committee, we are getting the red flag that we are doing nothing but then the buck does not stop with us. We are just an oversight body; we are not implementers of these policies. As an oversight body, we must be able to pass the buck where it belongs and you know where the buck must end. It must stop at someone's field.

I support the report and want to congratulate the committee for a nice report.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much Hon. Wasike Makari for your very entertaining and humorous contribution. Honourable members, let's call upon the mover Honourable Wekesa Opwora to respond.

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you Honourable Speaker and all the members that have contributed to this motion. Their sentiments are actually valid and it also shows the state of the County a large. I know there are quite a number of issues that we really need to face head on as a House, so that we ensure that this County moves ahead and electorates feel our value in this House.

on the un-surrendered imprest, the department of Tourism and Roads actually was reported as doing well but as a committee we are going to tighten our oversight role to ensure that compliance to the PFM Act on surrender of imprest. I request that the committee should fully embrace it and ensure that this PFM act is observed.

On the low absorption rates, as a committee we have written to the department so that in the next meeting they avail the work plan and the procurement plan to ensure compliance of these reports.

On non-provision of the documents, I think as a committee we should ensure that documents are availed before us for interrogation. If the department does not provide the necessary documents then I request that all members regardless of the committee should not interrogate unless everything is provided. Otherwise, I believe that the committee recommendations will be adhered to fully.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Wekesa Opwora Edwin. Honourable members, a motion having been moved, duly seconded, debate having ensued, I now put a question that the report by the sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on the Bungoma County Government nine months Financial Statements for FY 2022/2023 in respect to the department of Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to)

The ayes have it.

(Applause)

Now, the table clerks will convey the same resolutions of the House to the relevant departments so that action going forward should be taken. Thank you so much. Next item!

**REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT NINE
MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/2024 IN
RESPECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL
TRAINING**

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chair Education or any member! Hon. Joan Kiron'g!

Hon. Joan Kiron'g: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to read a report by the committee on Education and Vocational training on nine months Financial Statement for the period ended 31st March 2023. I will skip the preamble and mandate of the committee. Allow me to read the membership of the committee.

Committee Membership

The committee on Education and Vocational Training as currently constituted comprises of the following members;

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Hon. Benjamin Otsiula | Chairperson |
| 2) Hon. Stephen Kaiser | Vice Chairperson |
| 3) Hon. Christine Mukhongo | Member |
| 4) Hon. Mildred Barasa | Member |
| 5) Hon. John K. Wanyama | Member |
| 6) Hon. Aggrey Mulongo | Member |
| 7) Hon. Angeline Rugut | Member |
| 8) Hon. Joan Kirong | Member |
| 9) Hon. George Makari | Member |
| 10) Hon. Jacob Psero | Member |
| 11) Hon. Timothy Chikati | Member |
| 12) Hon. Abraham Obama | Member |
| 13) Hon. Ali Machani | Member |
| 14) Hon. Hon. Jack Kawa | Member |
| 15) Hon. Allan Nyongesa | Member |

I can Skip acknowledgement then go straight to chapter two

ANALYSIS OF THE HALF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The committee extracted from the consolidated half year and nine months financial statements, the financial reports relating to the Department of Education & Vocational Training. The committee further conducted a one on one interrogation to seek clarity on the

expenditures and the rate of absorption of the budget. This was done on 10th May 2023 for the Half year and 29th May 2023 for the nine months.

ANALYSIS

The County targeted revenue for the financial year 2022/23 is Kshs14, 821, 204, 142 as per the approved 1st supplementary budget. The expenditure target for the period under review was Kshs 11,115,903,106 out of the total budget for the entire Fiscal year. This represents 75 % of the total expenditure budget for the Financial Year. Recurrent expenditure target was Kshs.7, 780,757,791 while the target for development expenditure programmes in the half year is Kshs. 3,335,145,315

By the end of the nine months period, the County received a total revenue of Ksh. 6,321,552,397 with the third quarter alone (Jan 1st – 31st March) receiving Kshs. 2,236,494,282 being the difference between what was declared by half year (Ksh. 4,085,058,115). The source of the amount was as shown here below;

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) | Exchequer releases | - Kshs. 6,303,156,902 |
| b) | Other receipts (Mabanga ATC) | – Kshs. 18,395,495 |

Of this, the department of Education & Vocational Training received a total of Ksh. 977,278,908.

OTHER GRANTS AND PAYMENTS

The other grants from development partners and national government reveals an actual amount of Kshs. 489,256,980 was remitted in the County as grants for implementation of programs compared to Kshs 280, 374, 020 at half year. On this Kshs. 200,000,000 relates to the department of education under the Scholarship and other educational benefits program.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE SCRUTINY

The department of Education & Vocational Training had an annual approved budget of Kshs. 1,843,259,915 comprising of Kshs 1,609,628,776 recurrent and Kshs. 233,631,139 for Development expenditure. As per the financial statements, the department received a total sum of Kshs. 952,371,876 by the end of the third quarter to fund its programs and activities translating to absorption of 52% of the budget. However, the department submitted to have received Kshs. 972, 373,541 relating to recurrent votes of Ksh. 941,828,646 and development amount of Ksh. 30,544,895 that was used to pay pending bills. The recurrent expenditure relates to Salaries (Ksh. 717,116,965.53), Administration and Support services (Ksh. 25,404,147), Education support (Ksh. 200,000,000).

Pending staff receivables (outstanding imprest holders) in the department stood at Kshs.3,005,100 at the end of 31st March 2023 up from Ksh. 1,166,300 that was issued by 31st December 2022.

Pending bill has outstanding amount of Kshs. 13,958,158 against a budget provision of Kshs. 70,832,789 (Recurrent Kshs. 1,188,650, Development 49,437,306 and Kshs. 20,206,833 for Ward based projects). By end of March the outstanding balance was Ksh. 9,862,936 having cleared Ksh. 4,095,222 in the quarter alone.

There is a disclosure of Ksh. 20,012,476.29 as cash balances in the Accounts of the various VTCs as at 31st March, 2023. The amount appeared similar to the balances as at 31st December 2023 with the department clarifying that they had written to the various VTCs to update their bank balances and therefore are awaiting their responses.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. From the financial statement and the Department`s submission, the absorption rate for development vote was still way below the required threshold of 75% despite being very close to the end of financial year.

b. The Ministry did not breakdown the imprest relating to its various departments. Additionally, the department submitted that some of the imprests listed as un-submitted were actually submitted to treasury.

c. There is a delay in processing and releasing of funds from County Treasury hampering the operations of the Department.

d. It was difficult to know if the VTCs truly have the amounts listed as cash balances because the department did not provide the information

e. The executed programs were not broken down into activities to disclose the detailed information on the actual budget implementation of the department.

f) The disparities between the treasury and the department were observed in the report. There was a balance of Ksh 257,000,000 and the financial year was lapsing and it had not been utilized.

Lastly, the adoption scheduled was signed by all members. So Mr. Speaker, allow me to call the seconder

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kirong recommendations. You have not read the recommendations, but I presume those are not signs of ageing. On page 13 but she can read the Bible very well, you know, she's a Reverend.

Hon. Joan Kirong: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The following are committee's recommendations;

- i. The department should endeavour to absorb its votes early to avoid end of financial year cash crisis.
- ii. That the county treasurer should indicate what every department receives in every Exchequer release and the activities being funded to allow easy of oversight.
- iii. That the department should prioritise activities to be undertaken and the timelines work plan to ensure success implementation of its programmes.
- iv. That a measure should be developed to ensure imprest surrendered in time.
- v. The department should ensure that VTCs submit their cash balances regularly.
- vi. That the department should be harmonising its report with the treasury before they present to the county assembled for interrogation.
- vii. That the department should increase its ability of expenditure to ensure the budget amount is utilised within the financial year.

That marks the end of the report, so allow me to call the seconder. Let me call *Mheshimiwa* Mulongo to second the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mulongo Waliaula please second.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to second the motion. The department of Education has established almost the same recommendation as the Department of Tourism and therefore as members of Education, whatever we witnessed in the report, a plan should be the first thing to happen. The departments have no annual planning and therefore all these messes are coming up because the departments have no proper planning. This imprest 294 million if we are not careful, as an oversight side we are going to be ignored all through. These imprests are supposed to be surrendered within the stipulated time and it's in the PFM Act.

The Department of Education has 3.5 Million of un surrendered imprest, when you go to Finance, Governor's, Deputy Governor among others they have huge un-surrendered imprest. As a Committee on Education we are supposed to do more oversight, but Honourable members who are present today are sleeping on the job. We need to wake up. We need to wake up if the money in the department is...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waliaula, are you sure all these members are sleeping on the job?

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: They are because whatever is happening today it's already... the statements are there. If the statements are there and we have not oversighted...you know...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members are sleeping on their job?

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Yes. I say yes, because what has gone through here shows that we are not doing our oversight.

As a County, there is money that remained in the account. The money was not paid fully either to contracts or salaries, 420 million remained on the account, the reason why the Controller of Budget refused to release other monies. This absorption of 32% and the highest being 52% we need to wake up as an oversight arm of the County.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waliaula, you are repeating that of waking up and sleeping. Do you know that that report and recommendation in itself is an act of oversight of this House? And that report is a product of these Honourable members? So are you in order to say that you are among those who are sleeping? I want you to use proper words because these members are not sleeping? I want you to correct that and withdraw.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: They are working.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No. Can you correct it and withdraw and before you continue?

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: I can't withdraw that because...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If you don't, I will invoke the Standing Orders Hon. Waliaula, you have to withdraw. These Honourable Members are not sleeping...order Members

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: There are so many words to be used.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: And that's why you are seconding that oversight report. That is an indicator that the House is not sleeping so withdraw that...

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: I withdraw the statement and I come back with this statement now...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well Hon. Mulongo.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: They need to improve on our oversight

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Very well proceed.

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to all the departments, they are all griping about the Treasury not submitting the money. It's across that there are delays from the treasury for submission of the funds to the departments. As the Department of Finance, we need to improve and oversight our department because every department is crying about treasury and we are here listening and we need to wake up.

The equipment came around in our county and those equipment are distributed minus MCAs consent. The department received the equipment's for the VTCs and elected MCAs were supposed to be involved to choose where this equipment was supposed to go. The department did it alone and therefore, we don't know whether the equipment functioned or not. Therefore, as the Department on Education, we need to oversight to see whether all those equipment were in proper condition or not.

Lastly, on matter of pending bills, we need to look into it because the money is on the account and they're not paying the contractors, then I don't know where we are heading to. I second the motion

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, the Hon. Waliaula for the passionate seconding of the motion with very harsh and very affirmative words. Honourable Members, a motion having been moved and duly seconded, I now propose the question that the report by the Committee on Education and Vocational Training on nine months financial statements for the period ending 31st March 2023 be debated and adopted by this House. I propose.

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate the mover of the motion and for the report she read, which I agree with by virtue that based on the Committee on Education and the Committee of Tourism their recommendations and findings actually the same. This shows that indeed work is being done, unlike what Hon. Mulongo is saying that the House is sleeping because if we were sleeping, I don't think both committees would have come up with these reports. So I want Hon. Mulongo to know that it is only through our oversight role that now, we are able to come up with this report and even do a self-criticism and ensure that we are going to push this Executive government do what they're supposed to do.

I want to echo the issue of the imprest. Let us try and enforce the way the PFM Act recommends, so that measures should be taken to the relevant people concerned in each department. Tough measures should be taken, so that going forward we will see this figure reduced. Otherwise, I support the motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Wekesa Opwora. Hon. Johnston Okasida,

Hon. Ipara Johnston: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also want to stress on imprest. This is where abuse is taking place, because if you have taken some money for a particular purpose, you are supposed to surrender that money immediately at the end of the tour, or the

assignment you were undertaking and when you find that the people are unable to surrender that money within the time, then it tells us that there is something that is happening or it was never used for that purpose and based on that. I want to make this simple recommendation that if this House can appoint an Ad hoc committee to look into this particular serious matter comprising of Honourable Members where people are called upon to tell us why they are not able to surrender their money...

If you look on the expenditure that the money has been spent to be accounted, some are in 3 million and above. So that tells us there is something wrong. As before Hon. Makari walked out, when challenged to substantiate to why he used the word, he referred the matter that it was me who started it. I didn't say this word not referring that somebody had gone to bed with the Executive. I was cooperating with someone who is not actually trustworthy to cooperate with. I used that word to mean it is when you stop being able to differentiate the wrong from the right. I used that word to refer to when you stop discharging your responsibility in favour of a person who is not supposed to have any favour. Lastly, I use that word when you begin to soften your position and always you find yourself defending undefendable that is the position I used that word. I submit.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you the Hon. Ipara Johnstone Okasida. Unfortunately, the members who are very much agitated by the same are all out. The Hon. Waliaula, Nanyokia and Wasike, are all out but those who are in have consumed that. Thank you so much Hon. Ipara. Hon. Isaiah Sudi,...

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Thank you Honourable Speaker so much for giving me this opportunity also to add my voice on this report. If you go through the report, you will see there is a lot of absorption of money on various programmes and the Speaker you being a member of Mitua/Soysambu, you know very well that we have a crisis in managing our scholarship students, especially those that we said the form three and form four whom as little as pronounced, but lets accommodate all of them. The absorption rate is slow which means the money was there and they never used it. Why is it that they could not use this money to pay for some of these students, so that they remain in school? I don't know if it is in my ward alone that most of them have only received 20,000 and here when you go through the report, you see that there is under absorption of money and yet we have deserving cases outside there, who have not benefited.

As I said earlier on the other report, this is our government but my senior Mukhongo is here and yourself, you know what happened to the previous government. We made it work by being un-accommodative to it because as you had said, my other speakers here other report that even went ahead and counted members who are so common with the other regime and most of them they didn't manage it. I am seeing now on our side because the electorates are not feeling us, because we are coming to the end of the year for our Education calendar and our student who is in Friends School Kamusinga where the County Government agreed in

writing by giving those official letters that we shall meet this obligation 53,000 per student and now we have only paid 20,000.

You know you passed through some of those schools. You know what the rules say that zero balances before the end of year. So I would request that as elected leaders, we are here courtesy of people who elected us that we must do something because with the 8-4-4 system is going, KCSE is being phased out and we are really endangering those students who would have performed well, who would have put our county on the map because most of the time they are just at home. Some have even left schools like Friends School Kamusinga to my nearby school like St. Anthony Mateka, not because they are willing or happy but because of the laxity we are seeing in our government.

On the issue of imprest; the compliance department which is Finance has already floated the law as a father of the home, you know your children learn so much from you. If you don't handle your character very well then most of them will be like you, so the Finance should do their best because they are compliance department. The compliance department is the one that is sleeping on this job, if I can use that word and should wake up but there's no way they will reprimand the other department. If yourself you are making a mistake then how do you correct another person. I support the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Isaiah Busolo Sudi for your contribution. The Hon. Mulongo Waliaula you were out when the Hon. Okasida made a very clinical submission teaching you the meaning of '*going to bed*'. Unfortunately you missed that lesson. Hon. Mukhongo,

Hon. James Mukhongo: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the opportunity. I stand to support the report but I have the following to say. The question in my mind, when did we pass this past budget that we are now over sighting? It was last year in April, and that is the time we passed the budget that we are talking about and the transition of the new government has made the government of the day not to work so hard. That is why we are crying about the absorption rate. However this is a period of nine months, we have approved the second budget where the current government will now execute its programs. As we support the government of the day, we will put it on toes to start working.

As Finance department, I want to inform the same House that many at times, we have had a lot of complaints that a treasury is not releasing funds, reason; in some areas you will find a department is not utilising it to its maximum because we need to spend our monies by every quarter, so we have put measures in place and I want to inform this House that as we move on you will see it happen.

Yesterday as I was seconding a certain report, I said each and every sectoral committee must put the government on toes particularly on the procurement plan. If those procurement plans

will be tabled in this House from various sectoral committees, we have 12 that is the time we will now give proper oversight to the executive. And this has been a song because you have been also in this House. We have been lamenting, complaining and requesting the executive to furnish these House with the procurement plans of which has never happened. It is a disease all over but this time round if we join hands together, I think they will do so.

On the issue of the pending bills, I agree His Excellency the Governor came up with a task force; it looked into the pending bills. As we complain, we found out that there were some ghost projects and I can attest to it that if you allow me, I can tell this House that there were cases where we found a photo taken was from my ward and it is paying a road in a certain ward and it happened. There is a photo we saw that paid a road in one of the Wards in Tongaren and the same was used to pay a contractor in my ward. So it is a challenge and we need as we put the government on toes to pay the pending bills. We have also requested the Executive to declare every sector to declare the total amount for the pending bills.

I know all members belong to committees. Have you ever seen? When they come today, they will tell us this is this amount of money then tomorrow they come up with a different figure. So we need to stand up and pronounce ourselves and say I belong to the government and unlike Hon .Mulongo who belongs to the opposition side, we must join hands because this is affecting all of us, whether we like or not, all of us will be sent home. And even our nominated colleagues because you will be considered again to have a nomination if you have also proven worthy to be nominated again. So we need to put our hands together and keep proper oversight to the executive.

I have taken note of the sentiments of honourable members on the issue of non-surrender of imprests and as a committee we will do our part as concerns the Department of Finance. I support the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, James Mukhongo. Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Otsiula,

Hon. Jeremiah Otsiula: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although sitting close to Hon. Mukhongo he has canvassed most of the issues that I wanted to touch on.

First of all, I want to appreciate the Deputy Majority Leader for moving the report eloquently on behalf of the committee and the seconder Hon Aggrey Mulongo for being passionate about his oversight role in this House. The Committee made observations; I think it was the fourth observation concerning VTCs. It's difficult to know if the VTCS truly have the amount listed as cash balances because the department did not provide the Committee with any information to that effect. We have repeated this in this House that the core mandate of County Governments is the issue of running of the affairs of the VTCs. The department which is in charge of running these VTCs cannot provide information to the committee then it means that there is a serious problem which as my brother Hon. Mulongo has said we must stamp our feet and push the department to its limit to ensure that money is accounted for. Otherwise these VTCs are suffering and if we don't put a keen eye on them I believe the Department of Education will be letting down the people of Bungoma County.

On low absorption rate, we have not met the 75% threshold; this was three months before the end of financial year. Surprisingly, my senior colleague Hon. Mukhongo has alluded that the budget was passed way back in April 2022. A motion was passed before this House declaring matters on education as matters of County importance. How is it possible that at that time or slightly after a month the department was still holding Kshs 24 million? It defeats logic. I believe this report is just an eye opener that perhaps we need to tighten our nuts, so that we can keep the department on toes.

Finally, in line with the fourth observation; we have seen the questionnaires have been issued. I believe if honourable members took time and followed up on all those questionnaires that have been send to the Principals of Schools in their respective wards, that's how we are also going to strengthen the issue of over sighting as alluded to the seconder of the motion. Let honourable members ensure that we get the correct information as a committee, so that we comprehensively also provide information to this House to enable our members push fair implementation of their projects in their respective wards. With those few remarks, I wish to support the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Benjamin Otsiula who is the substantive Chairperson of the Committee. Now I call upon the Hon. Joan Kirong who is also our Deputy Majority Leader to reply.

Hon. Joan Kirong: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me first thank the members for supporting the report. There are some few issues that the honourable Members have raised; let me agree with those who have said that let us do our role of the oversight. If you see across the departments, there is a problem of un-surrendered imprests, so I agree with members that let us put in place tough measures that will make this people to surrender imprests on time.

On being in bed with the Executive, I think those people who were serving this government in the last regime know how to share the bed with the Executive.

(Laughter)

If we avoid such characters this early, I think we will do our oversight role in a better way. Let me agree with Hon. Mukhongo that let us all join hands and put this government on toes, but if we start pointing other honourable members we will not be doing well.

On low absorption rate; I know this is the government of spending not saving. So let us make sure we absorb the money that has been allocated for certain work. I will end by saying that let us adopt the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon Joan Chemayiek Kirong for moving the motion. Honourable members, the motion having been moved, duly seconded and debate having ensued, I now put the question that a report by the Committee on Education and Vocational Training on the Bungoma County Government 9 month's financial statement for 2022/2023 in respect to the Department of Education and Vocational Training be adopted by this house.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILLS AND MOTIONS

THE BUNGOMA COUNTY PUBLIC MARKET AMMENDMENT BILL 2023

Mr. Speaker: The Chair person Hon. Ipara,

Hon. Ipara Johnstone: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 152 (2) (i)beg to move a motion that the Bungoma Market Amendment Bill 2023 be read a third time. I now call upon Hon. Sheila Sifuma to second.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Sifuma.

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to second that the Bill be read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable members. I now propose the question that the Bungoma County Amendment Bill 2023 be read a third time, I propose.

(Bill read a third time)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, the bill having been read the third time, now becomes the Act of this County Assembly of Bungoma and the table clerks will facilitate the transmission of the same to the Office of the Governor for assent.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable members, that being our last item on the Order Paper for this morning session of Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 9:30 a.m. We now adjourn and resume today at 2:30 p.m. We adjourn accordingly.

(House Adjourns)