

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

**THE DAILY HANSARD**

**WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**Morning Sitting**

# COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

## THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

The house met at 9:30 a.m.

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

### PRAYER

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Members, this being Ash Wednesday, I want to urge that we remember to be humble, to love God and serve His purpose. What we are created for to know him, love Him and to serve him.

Hon. Members also today being Valentine's Day, I want to take this opportunity to wish all the members of this Assembly and the staff a happy Valentine's Day and may the day invoke good memories, happiness, commitment, hope, fulfilment, renewal and above all love.

### PAPERS

#### BUNGOMA COUNTY DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING POLICY 2023

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Tony Khaoya Barasa.

**Hon. Tony Barasa:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. With your permission, allow me lay the Bungoma County Disability Mainstreaming Policy 2023 before the House.

*(Hon. Tony Barasa laid the paper on the floor)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Well, this having been laid it stands committed to the Committee on Gender for processing and reporting back to this Assembly.

#### BUNGOMA COUNTY CHILDREN PROTECTION POLICY 2023

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Khaoya Tony Barasa, Member for Lwandayi Ward.

**Hon. Tony Barasa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Before me I am laying Bungoma County Children Protection Policy 2023 before the House.

*(Hon. Tony Barasa laid the paper on the floor)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Khaoya. Honourable Members, this Policy having been laid and now stands committed to the Committee on Gender for processing and report back to the Assembly. Well Hon. Jackson Wambulwa, Member for Kimaeti.

**Hon. Jack Wambulwa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am shocked that my senior member is saying before him, when he is laying before you. So I don't know whether that's the right language to be used on HANSARD or he has to correct and say he lays before the House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is one and the same. But maybe to use very many words he has to quell about...

*(Loud consultations)*

Very well, let's keep on working. Hon. Khaoya proceed.

Next item,

### **BUNGOMA COUNTY GROUP REGISTRATION POLICY 2023**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes Hon. Khaoya.

**Hon. Tony Barasa:** Hon. Speaker, I lay before the House Bungoma County Group Registration Policy 2023.

*(Hon. Tony Barasa laid the paper on the floor)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, very well.

*(Laughter)*

Hon. Members, the Policy having been laid stands committed again to the Committee on Gender for processing and reporting back to this House.

Next item,

### **BUNGOMA COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE POLICY 2023**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Khaoya, keep on working and keep on walking.

**Hon. Tony Barasa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I lay before the House the Bungoma County Culture and Heritage Policy 2023.

*(Hon. Tony Barasa laid the paper on the floor)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, the policy having been laid before the House stands committed again to the Committee on Gender for processing and report back to this House accordingly.

### **BUNGOMA COUNTY GENDER MAINSTREAMING POLICY 2023**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Keep on working Hon. Tony,

**Hon. Tony Khaoya:** Lastly, on behalf of the Leader of Majority, I lay before the House the Bungoma County Gender Mainstreaming Policy 2023.

*(Hon. Tony Barasa laid the paper on the floor)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, you've said on behalf of Leader of Majority that's nice. Hon. Members, again this policy stands committed to the Committee on Gender for processing and report back to this House accordingly.

Next item,

**REPORT ON LANDS, URBAN, FISCAL PLANNING AND HOUSING  
COMMITTEE ON FOURTH QUARTER EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD  
ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chairperson or any member

**Hon. Wafula Waiti:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a report on Lands, Urban, Fiscal Planning and Housing Committee on fourth quarter expenditure for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well, Hon. Waiti member for Naitiri Kabuyefwe. Hon. Members, a report by the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Urban, Fiscal Planning and Housing on the Bungoma County Government for the quarter financial statements having been laid, it becomes the property of this House.

Next item,

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**REPORT BY THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON LANDS, URBAN, FISCAL  
PLANNING AND HOUSING ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE, 2023**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Let the chair or the member himself do it. The Hon.Waiti.

**Hon. Wafula Waiti:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to issue a Notice of Motion that this House adopts the report by the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Urban, Fiscal Planning and Housing on the Bungoma County Government Fourth Quarter financial statements for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 with respect to the Department of Lands, Urban, Fiscal Planning and Housing.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Waiti. Hon.Members, the Notice of Motion having been issued, I direct that it be circulated now to all Honourable Members so that they can

have the content and prepare themselves as we purpose to dispense with it as part of the business to be considered by this House.

Next item,

## MOTION

### MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONDITIONAL ALLOCATION AGREEMENT

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Wambulwa Ouma Member for Kimaeti, Chair - Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**Hon. Jack Wambulwa:** Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order No. 58, I beg to move the following motion. Aware that article 189 and 190 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the cooperation between National and County governments and support for County government respectively.

Understanding that Inter-Governmental Relations Act number two of 2012, in particular, section 4 establishes the principle of Intergovernmental Relations recognising that the efforts of the Council of Governors to have a collaboration approach to development through partnering with the national government.

Aware that the Council of Governors proposed and through a standardised format, drafted a model Inter-Governmental Conditional Allocations transfer agreement between the Counties and National Government, indicating the mode of which funds for various programmes will be sourced and released from the National Government to operationalize activities in the respective County Governments in the current financial year 2023/2024 and for connected purposes.

Further aware of the 14 days' timeline provided for consideration and approval by the County Assembly since the receipt of the agreement is almost lapsing.

I now move and propose that the County Assembly resolves to adopt and approve the Inter-Governmental Conditional Allocation Agreement to enable the County Government of Bungoma access the additional funding from the National Government.

I hereby move and support the question. I call upon Hon. Luseneka who is the Minority Leader to second.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Well, the Hon. Namunyu Luseneka Anthony, Member for Bukembe West.

**Hon. Anthony Luseneka:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to second the motion as moved by Hon. Jack Wambulwa, Member for Kimaeti Ward. This document is very important to this County as it will enable the National Government Fund Projects in our County as much as we are number three in government but we are not proud because nothing has been done in this County.

As we speak, most Counties are benefiting because we have seen mega projects being launched in other Counties without this document and I believe that now that we have a framework in which the National Government is supposed to fund the County Governments, I am sure that when we pass this motion, we can use it to compel the National Government also start funding projects in our County.

What we have seen for the last one and half years is that our President comes here for prayers, public *Barasas* and goes away back to Nairobi instead of launching major projects like what we have seen in other counties. We have seen in Kisumu, Nyeri, Kiambu where he launched roads worth almost 5 billion and for us we are being given a tarmac of 300 metres. I think we are getting a raw deal putting in mind that it's Bungoma County that gave him the Presidency.

So I want to urge our leaders in this County that we start now pushing the County Government and the National Government to also launch mega projects because we participated fully in putting this leadership in place. So it is high time, we also get something out of this National Government. So I just want to urge the leadership of this county, the National leadership, that we use this document framework to also demand what is rightfully ours.

I am very sure that those in Kenya Kwanza, I know you can't come out openly and say that we are getting a raw deal. But for us, we will say we have seen our Members of Parliament say it. We have issues affecting us, individually and collectively, we have the Nzoia factory issue.

In Education matters, where 11,000 students have not joined Form one because of the poverty levels in this Country. We are leading in early pregnancies in this Country. So we are leading in the wrong things. I want us to lead in the right things. So it's us as leaders that have been put in place for our residents. Let's do what is supposed to be done, so that they can also enjoy the fruits of being number three in the National Government. I second.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Namunyu for the passionate secondment. Hon. Members, I propose the question that this House approves a motion on Approval of Inter-Governmental Conditional Allocation Agreement. I propose.

*(Question proposed)*

Hon. Masai Chemion, Member for Kaptama.

**Hon. Francis Chemion:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. This is a good thing that should be supported by the Members, so that we have that clear framework of our relationship between the National and the County Government. It is true that we are number...; it is a fact that cannot be disputed; because as per our Constitution, the National Assembly Speaker is number three in terms of hierarchy. Rome was not built in one day, I look at the Speaker and the experience he has and his networks, I am sure he is pushing for the development of this County. Yesterday alone for those who follow on what happens in this country, Bungoma is earmarked to benefit from water projects which totals to Kshs. 2.3 billion. If you add the KOICA project of Kshs. 1.95 billion, it will add to over Kshs. 3 billion in terms of water alone. These projects were pushed by our national leaders who visited the Permanent Secretary for Water.

In terms of road infrastructure, sometimes it is not in public but it is also good for the House to know that members on 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, the Speaker and the members of this County met the President and discussed matters on Health, Education, Roads and Infrastructure.

When we talk about Nzoia, we have a stakeholders meeting which you announced yesterday whereas leaders of this county, we need to go there and give solutions. We have been invited by the Governor and we must all attend and give our views. But the National Government has done its part by clearing the debt which amounts to billions which the Kibaki and Uhuru governments were unable to do. This is the only government that has written off the debts of sugar companies to a tune Kshs. 117 billion. That is something that we must comment the National Government. As we speak, Nzoia has no debt. The only issue remaining is for us leaders to discuss on how Nzoia will be managed. Either we leave it to the present management or we bring a new management. It is now up to us as Bungoma leaders to make that decision. Otherwise, the government is trying but we are not saying that we have gotten everything. As political leaders we must continue pushing and lobbying for Bungoma to be given a lion's share. I am sure by the end these five years will be somewhere.

This framework that has been presented by Hon. Ouma is good and we must embrace it so that there is a clear mechanism of working together so that we have the National Government working with the County Government in a clear manner. Before even this government came in place, the National Government has been holding a huge sum of money in the Health department yet health is devolved. You find a huge junk of money in Agriculture yet this function is devolved. Therefore, be it the Kenya Kwanza government or the previous government which should not be exonerated from blame because we know what they did for 10 years including the debts facing this country.

Look at Kibaki's time, Uhuru's time and now Ruto's time; and look at the huge debts that we are supposed to pay. It is because of a government that was in place and nobody could question the government because it was a government made in heaven since the opposition had been swallowed. Now that they are outside, anything small that Kenya Kwanza tries to do is seen as if it is messing the country.

In real sense it is struggling with debts. The President said out of Kshs. 10 that is collected, Kshs. 7 goes towards repayment of debts and the remaining Kshs. 3 is for both the County Governments and the National Government for operations. It is a difficult situation which does not stop us from demanding for our rights as a Bungoma County.

**Hon. Meshack Simiyu:** Asante Ndugu Spika kwa kunipa nafasi nizungumzie hoja ambayo imewasilishwa na Mheshimiwa Jack Wambulwa. Nataka kuwaomba hususani wenzangu kutoka mremgo wa Azimio kwamba hatujaenda mbali sana. Mmeongea vizuri kwamba tumepewa kile kidogo yenye tuko nayo lakini yale ambayo Mheshimiwa Spika Moses Wetangula anapanga ni mazuri.

Tuliitwa sisi sote kwa hoteli ya Hunters na sahii kabla hatujasema lolote pesa ambazo zimekuja kwa hii kaunti kulingana na kiwanja pia imetoka kwa serikali kuu. Mheshimiwa Wetangula alisema ya kwamba pesa ambazo wataleta ni nyingi na ni vizuri tuwe na subira tuone watatua pesa ngapi kwa huo uwanja. Kwa sababu alisema ya kwamba hazitakuwa chini ya bilioni mbili na pia watatungenezea barabara zetu.

Wakati Mheshimiwa Raila Odinga alikuwa pamoja na Rais mstaafu Uhuru Kenyatta, Raila alikuwa upande wa upinzani lakini alipoingizwa kwa serikali alikuwa akisema serikali inafanya kazi nzuri. Mwishowe tuangalie walituachia madeni kiasi gani kwa hii serikali ya Rais William Ruto. Nawauliza wenzetu waje polepole kwa sababu Mheshimiwa Ruto atafanya kazi nzuri.

**Hon. Milliah Masungu:** *(On a point of information)* Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance on a point of information. I want to notify this House that where we are now it is not about being government or in the opposition, it is about working and implementing. We promised our people that we are going to work and we must implement now.

My simple advice, because I was not in the House yesterday, members especially those elected, this is the time that our opponents are poking their noses in our words. We must put this government on toes because we need to implement what we promised our voters.

Kindly the issue of Azimio and all that I think it does not carry any sense right now. We have to check both governments and make sure that they are delivering in our respective areas of jurisdiction.

**Hon. Isaiah Sudi:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to add my voice on the motion that was moved by Hon. Jack Wambulwa. As we support the motion, I would

like to observe the following; when the Presidents visits Bungoma and compare with other Counties like Meru or Mombasa, before he goes to meet the members of the public they normally have leadership engagements. But here in Bungoma, it appears like there are a few people with monopoly of power or knowledge who surround the President. As much as we are saying that the government is not supporting us, how will he know that we have problems?

*(Applause)*

Because the President is only meeting a few people every time he is in Bungoma while other leaders are side-lined. I was elected the same way an MP was elected, why it that the President gives weight that he only meets MPs who some we schooled with and we are better than them. We are having problems because of the imagination that the MP is final.

When the President goes to Nyeri, there is always a leaders meeting to discuss projects and problems in those areas, so that when he meets the general public he addresses those problems. You cannot say a project of Kshs. 3 billion is enough when in Kapenguria they have a water project at a cost of more than 10 billion. Can such project be compared with that of Kshs 3 billion considering the population of Bungoma County? We need to have a structured engagement with the government even as we pass this motion.

The Governor should be told to allow us also meet the President to share our concerns. Look at the housing project that was launched; how can Bungoma be give 3,000 houses and Homabay 10, 000? Then we keep on saying that we are the ones who lowered the scale and made him to be the President. Look at the Special Economic Zone which was taken to Busia which never voted for this government. A special economic zone will create thousands of jobs and someone comes and tells us that he has given us an Industrial Park which empty at a cost of Kshs. 500 million. You compared this with an investment of between Kshs. 10- 30 billion in Busia which never voted for this government.

The government must reward its people and the reason we are saying even if we are going to pass this motion, we must have a structured engagement so that we can also benefit. Let us not allow a few people to pretend that they are helping the people of Bungoma and yet we are coming out empty handed.

*(Applause)*

I want to urge even our National Assembly Speaker; because people will ask and we don't have time; we are only remaining with three years, what are we going to tell our people? Even here in Bungoma look at the way projects are being implemented, we have left everything to the procurement department; we are under the mercy of procurement officers.

How are we going to implement our projects if the procurement is the one that is running project implementation? They are the ones to choose who does what. You are given a contractor who doesn't have capacity. Those who will seek to be re-elected like myself have a serious task ahead. I want to urge my colleagues that as we support this motion, we must also put the government on its toes. We request that the Governor should sit with us the way we are going to engage with other leaders in Bungoma at Siritamu Hotel tomorrow. We are supposed to sit as a House to deal with in-house issues so that while at the meeting we speak on the same wavelength. Imagine we are all going to meet there including the Governor not knowing what to say and do.

I will end there but you should be aware that you are also an elected member like me, the other day the President was in Japan and he managed to secure Kshs. 360 billion and while at the same place he announced that Kshs. 250 billion will be taken to a special economic zone in Mombasa. What about Bungoma? You know we are also going to pay because it is not grant. We are not getting anything. Even a single investor cannot come to Bungoma? We produce maize in Tongaren; we cannot have a maize milling plant? We have a milk plant that was built in Webuye, can this be equipped so that we get jobs for our locals.

*(Applause)*

We have serious levels of unemployment in this County. Apart from government jobs, we pay bursaries and scholarships, where will these youths get jobs if we are not encouraging investments in our County? This is the County that should give us an investment also even that of Kshs. 10 billion. Therefore, if the money will be increased then we shall be happy. I support the motion.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Caleb Wanjala:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity also to add my voice on the motion. The reactions you are getting from the members in this House is the feeling of the people at the grass root. We cannot pretend that all is well regardless of our political affiliations. As a county, we deserve the best and we need to be included in the mega projects that are being launched in this country.

The issue of Nzoia Sugar Factory has been a big mountain in this County and it is an issue that we cannot take lightly. As much as the National Government helped us to settle the debts for the farmers as much they cleared the Kshs. 53 billion debt that was holding Nzoia back, there are promises that were made by our President to Nzoia Sugar Factory and surprisingly none of them are being implemented instead what we are getting is different. In fact the issue of the meeting at Siritamu, we don't know if it is at conception or already the child has been born and we are going there to celebrate the child.

*(Applause)*

I say so because sometimes back we had a contracted management at Nzoia Sugar Factory who were given an opportunity for only 3 and a half years and by that time the factory was on its knees. For only 2 years, they transformed everything; in fact they were even given bonus to workers at Nzoia Sugar Factory. When this management left the factory it had Kshs. 3 billion in profit. As the honourable member of this great County of Bungoma, we deserve the best. Just like my colleague Sudi has alluded, the other day the President visited us but surprisingly even introducing some of our honourable members he used demeaning language which was not good to us.

*(Applause)*

The best way we can be able to realize is through inclusion on the decision making table because we don't want to be a rubberstamp on the issues that we have not consulted on. I represent Bukembe West Ward; I was present and even just getting an opportunity to air my feeling was not granted. This is the County that helped the leadership that is in place. Therefore, this motion is timely and this is the way to go in order to redeem ourselves and restore confidence in our voters and that people that we lead...

**Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, consult in low tones please.

**Hon. Caleb Wanjala:** Mr. Speaker, I support this but we want to see more. I'm on the government side but I would like to see more that what we are seeing today. We have no problem with the 300 meters tarmac that they have given us but it is like igniting war amongst the people of Bungoma. They are feeling that there are a few individuals who are in support for their own selfish gain; that we want to see development everywhere; we want also to be considered in that cake. This is timely and this is the way to go, we want to see more and more than ever before.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Tony Barasa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Although my thoughts were summarized by Hon. Sudi Busolo but allow me say the following; that the motion on approval of Intergovernmental Conditional Allocation Agreement; that we might be debating this are we privy to the agreement? We may be debating on a motion that is going to disadvantage Bungoma. Do we have the agreement with us? Are we privy to the contents therein so that we can discuss it?

Going forward, Hon. Caleb had said that when the President visited this County it is high time that we must pronounce ourselves as a House. MCAs we are being taken as leaders from a lesser God by not being given opportunity to air our views. We are being told to mobilize and when the real time comes leave a lone even the host MCA, our Leader of Majority, our

Leader of Minority are not recognized. I want to thank Hon. Balala who made his way to speak on behalf of us while in Webuye.

Therefore, as we discuss the Intergovernmental Conditional Agreement, we must also put ourselves and square it out that as our voices as leaders at the grass root level must be heard. I don't want to take a lot of time because the Hon. Sudi spoke my mind but going forward I am not aware of the 300 hundred metres but we are aware that Bungoma we are not being given enough and therefore we demand for our right share of the cake from the National Government regardless of political affiliations.

*(Applause)*

This agreement must come out clearly so that we can interrogate it properly so that our people can benefit. We thank that Madaraka Day will be celebrated here in Bungoma but we would want the involvement of these leaders. Right now we are seeing people coming from State House without even knowing that there is an Assembly in Bungoma which has its leadership. We need to be involved so that we can tell them about the real issues. With that, I support the motion but the contents of the agreement should to availed to enable us understand more.

**Hon. Aggrey Mulongo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving time to contribute towards this motion. Most important thing that came into our country is the 2010 Constitution which established County Governments. I support the motion which will enable us get some funds but must know the contents of the agreement. We might say it is Kshs. 100 billion or whichever amount, but how is the same going to be distributed? We need to know and somebody has mentioned about Hunters Hotel where we were being given the program for the President's visit but we were not involved in anything that was going to be discussed. At the moment, our leadership in this House should stand firm and have our own meetings. Like we have been invited for a meeting tomorrow, what have we discussed about Nzoia now? We need to speak in one language, so that even two speakers can summarize our concerns.

If we have not consulted when we reach Siritamu people might go the party way instead of having a common stand for the benefit of the people of Bungoma. Our Governor and the National Assembly Speaker as fathers of this County, they should come out and consult the leadership of this House so that when invited to meetings, we can also air out our views.

When a President says something that we don't agree with, we cannot stand and oppose because we understand that maybe our national leaders have been consulted and we choose to keep off. For instance, now on the issue of Nzoia Sugar Company we are 60 members in this House, we have 9 Members of Parliament, Women MP and the Senator; we are the representatives of the people. If we are going to allow 24,000 acres of land to be taken over by another person, history will charge us harshly.

If we sale the 24,000 acres of land, we can be able to raise Kshs. 1.6 billion that we can use to pay the workers, pay farmers and start off that factory without bringing an investor on board. When people are saying no for Mwea, when the people of Mombasa are saying, who are we to accept such?

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Waliula. Next on line Hon. Milliah Masungo member for Misikhu.

**Hon. Miliiah Masungo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for allowing me give my comments on the motion before us today. First, I want to support the motion the way it is. Conditional grants are a boost to the economy of this county and country as a whole. The way my colleagues have spoken, we have to know the programs that are being supported by the same grants. The chairperson Budget Committee, you can walk with me that as a county we have a percentage that we are contributing on the same before all these grants area allowed for us to spend. This is the taxpayer's money that as leaders of this House must be careful and keen on the programmes that the grants are going to supplement on our budget.

We have had conditional grants in the past if I am not wrong but we want to know how the implementation and end results of the same funding because the health sector is ailing, the agriculture sector is ailing, poor roads and yet we have these conditional grants. It is not the first time that we are having an MOU on conditional grants; many agricultural programmes have been funded by the conditional grants; how have we benefited as a county? In Health, how have we benefited as a county? Our referral hospitals are ailing.

We must put correct measures on these grants immediately we approve this because it is a supplement on what we have as a County. I want to appeal to members in this House that those programmes funded by these grants, we must be keen and careful on how they are being implemented in our respectful areas, how they are being shared across the county and what is the benefit to people.

As I finish, I want to appeal to my colleagues that all these sentiments we are putting across this House should be raised to the leaders tomorrow at Siritamu. I want to beg that let us be given time to discuss this matters exhaustively and come to an amicable resolutions that will move our County ahead of other Counties. Make sure our people are being taken care of; make sure that all that we are going to discuss is for the interests of the electorates. I support the motion.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Johnston Ipara:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to pick the last words as used by Hon. Miliiah "we must be careful and keen". I want to believe she picked those 'words is because of the disadvantaged position we Members of the County Assembly have in, in the recent time. I have been following what has been happening around that there is no respect

for any person who calls himself or herself an MCA. This started in Misikhu when we were invited for the education forum; you remember where you were sited, you remember when even it came to time when you left, you were taken for granted. Today, I want to say that I am the happiest man after seeing Tony, Sudi and those voices of reason rising up to be heard and say what touches on the county.

It is sad for this county and when we say these issues we should be thinking of which side you belong; whether on the government or the opposition; it does not matter. What matters for this county tangible development that our people are able to see? I know you are a teacher Hon. Speaker and you normally like following things. Recently there was a document that came where Bungoma was classified among the poor performing counties in terms of development. Our development was rated at less than 1%. You as a teacher, even a student who gets less than 1% automatically that student has failed in class. We have several principals in this House. You will understand that a child who gets less than 1% is a failure then it means that school is a non-performing school and we should not always be just singing a chorus just because we belong on a certain side.

Let me tell you; all of us shall be consumed with time, whether you are in the opposition or in Government because the question people will ask us during that time is; when you people were in that Assembly and the Member for County Assembly for Soysambu/Mitua was the Deputy Speaker and Hon. Sudi and Museveni were Whips... what will you tell our children and grandchildren? There is nothing!

We have been invited for a meeting tomorrow and I want to believe that we will be discussing very serious matters on development matters in this County. Who among you even the one who presented knows what we are going to discuss there tomorrow? Where you do not have an agenda, how do you prepare for that meeting? Where you do not know what issues will be discussed, how do you prepare and pick a pen and a piece of paper to write what you want to go and prepare?

*(Applause)*

It will not and that is why you find that Sudi is using the word a few elected leaders sit somewhere and discuss serious matters about the County. He is saying that not because that is against the Government but he is saying because of the disconnect that exist. When you are invited for a serious meeting like for tomorrow, they need to get ideas but how do you solicit for ideas where you have not informed these people of the topic of discussion?

First of all, let me address the issue, am I for the partnership? I am for the partnership if the partnership will help the people of this County have the services that they require.

I want to believe that it will bridge the gap that exists in the budget though we have been unable to use effectively and efficiently the budget that we have which is 15.9 billion shillings and I say this maybe the chair for budget will say no it's not 15. I am saying its 15 because we were told in the Senate we were added 1.2 billion shillings and that if added to

14.7 it will bring to 15.9 and do not forget...In terms of resource envelop, we are number 7 overall who receive a lot of money but do we have anything to show, no!

I support the partnership because it will assist us address the problem that most of us elected from the wards that we see but the question also to ask is; the money we normally leave in the departments, who among you can tell me that that money was used for a project either in Misikhu, Mukuyuni or Soysambu? Where does this money go, and that is why you find the Controller of Budget classifying our County as a County that uses less than 1%.

As we pass this and the money will be availed, what should be made privy is what are the projects that the National Governments wants to undertake in the partnership; what items that were declared by the Council of Governors as the ones that they propose the National and County Government to partner and which wards are these projects intended to be undertake, because we are issuing a blanket cheque to our respective Governors to use this money at their own discretion which will not be very beneficial to us.

I want to challenge the leadership of this House before tomorrow we make a mistake of going to that meeting, we want to have a serious meeting of the County Assembly members where we are given guidance, shown the way and agree whether that way is the best. I support!

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Ipara Johnston Okasida, member for Tongaren for your contribution. Hon. Sifuma Sheila... specially elected!

**Hon. Sheila Sifuma:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir for this opportunity to contribute to the motion that is on the floor this morning. I want to agree with most of the members on what they have shared in terms of going forward.

I feel as a House, we transferred our authority or mandate which is legislation, oversight and representation to other powers that be in different capacities. So the minute you transfer your authority directly or indirectly, there is one day it will come to bite you and I feel like this is one of the times it has come to bite us because one, we are not on the table for any discussion as a House. Maybe we cannot be there as a whole House but even representation. I feel like the powers that be have minimised the power of this House and I feel it's because of what we did maybe or what we have done previously so whenever you are not on the table be sure you are on the menu and you have been eaten severally and this is just ...

*(Applause)*

...but the beginning, because once you give away it's like your rights then why would you be given an opportunity to speak in any fora and that's why even whenever we have National events, leaders in this House who are even elected do not get a chance to speak but you see that can change depending on how we also present ourselves as a House. I think we are so divided that it does not make sense and we will not benefit the people of Bungoma if we go on like this. We have to figure out how we can work together to benefit Bungoma County then we can fight later. The time for fighting will come and be assured we will have our

fighting gloves but right now, let's work together and get development to the people of Bungoma.

I would like to know what the agreement is as an honourable member in my own capacity, I will not support this motion unless we get the report on what the agreement is to the House. It's submitted to the relevant committee that is the Finance and Delegated committee and we get these members to tell us if it's the right way to go or not.

You know sometimes if you just support things because we are in Government but is it benefitting our people or will we be able to meet the conditions in that agreement? For example in the Trade committee, I remember there was a grant for 100,000,000 that was to be given by National Government but the condition was if we budgeted for the 100,000,000 in our budget so if we cannot manage to budget for 100 million in our budget for the Trade department then we cannot be able to get the grant so it will be a grant on paper but it will never reach our coffers. So I would really want to look at the report that the Finance and Delegated team will come up with so that I be in a position to support but as of now I do not support this report and I want it to go on record.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Lastly, we have Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba, member for Township!

**Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba:** Asante Bwana Spika kwa kunipa nafasi hii. Kwanza, ningependa kusema kwamba tungependa kufanya kazi kwa umoja kama jumba la watu ambao tulichaguliwa na wapiga kura. Ile migawanyiko ambayo wanachama wengine wa jumba hili wanaongelea juu ya viongozi waliopita na kulaumu huko haiwezi katusaidia. Letu ni kupigana kuona kuwa miradi ambayo ipo, ile imeletwa na mashirika ya kimataifa na ile iliyoletwa na serikali kuu inatekelezwa. Kikubwa ni sisi kuhusishwa lakini hatuhusishwi katika hii miradi!

Ukiangalia katika idara ya kilimo utaona kuwa miradi imefanyika na hujahusishwa. Umma ambayo inataka ifanye majadiliano ndipo waseme mradi huu unawafaa ama haufai, barabara hii ikijengwa hapa itafaa au la, hatuhusishwi. Hawa wananchi wa kawaida hawahusishwi, pesa zinapokuja pesa hizi ni zetu, tunapeana asilimia fulani ya pesa ndipo hawa wafadhili watupatie hizo pesa kwa hivyo mimi langu naomba tuwe na umoja.

Tukigawanyika ndipo hawa wakuu kule juu hawataona kama sisi ni watu wa maana. Tuungane ili yale mambo ambayo tunataka tufanyiwe hapa chini kwa mfano mimi katika wadi yangu ninaambiwa tu kuwa tuna kilomita thelathini za kuwekwa lami kabla ya tarehe moja mwezi wa sita. Sijaulizwa niambiwe kilomita hizi zitaekwa mahali Fulani, kikubwa tusimame pamoja tuhusishwe katika mambo.

Kama ni upande wa Gavana, serikali kuu ikitaka kufanya mradi wowote, sisi kama jumba hili tuhusishwe na tusimame tuseme hili ndilo tunataka. Ninaunga mkono mjadala huo.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Asante sana Mheshimiwa Jeremiah Kuloba mwakilishi wadi wa Township. Hon. Jack Ouma, reply!

**Hon. Jack Wambulwa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank members for coming out openly and telling what the government is required of. My only concern is that as I support this motion, I am shocked that those in Government are the ones opposing. It's the first time I am seeing that in history. Having listened to these members, Bungoma might slide and truth be told, things are not good. Members are not happy and to the Liaison team that sits here and reports to the Governor, let him be told that Members of Parliament work with the National Government which is the President.

*(Applause)*

He does not want to work with MCAs; he works with the Members of Parliament. Things are not going to be easy. What has been happening of late like members have raised, when the President visits the County, our leader of Majority and Minority must be given chance to talk on behalf of Bungoma County Assembly.

*(Applause)*

We know not all of us can talk but we should not be left outside. These are the only people we can take our views through! We are being taken for granted! Yes we delivered for Ruto but does he care about us? He does not! We appreciate he is telling us to pass this motion so that he can give us resources but did he ask us what we need? That priority must be given, no legacy without numbers! You can only have a legacy if you have the numbers and the support behind you and that is the position of this Assembly. I want to make it clear that I am from the majority side but we are not happy with the leadership of Ruto Government.

I want to talk from my experience and I can refer to Hon. Museveni, Milliah who were there during those days of Councillors. I was the Chairman of Busia County Council and there is no time Kibaki stepped in Busia without listening to me. The first person he meets is the Chairman.

*(Applause)*

And the Chairman will be talking on behalf of the County Government by then. There is no time even Moi could come to the County without talking to the Chairman. Even Uhuru's time as much as he had his own challenges, he always gave priority to leaders...

*(Applause)*

Those around our President are misadvising him, he is going to turn out to be a dictator and these are the soldiers.

*(Applause)*

If these soldiers will run away then Ruto will remain alone. Let it be on record that the President needs to listen to these grassroot leaders. We are the mobilisers. We are the ones who went to the Mama mboga and told them to vote for Ruto. What has changed?

Finally, when he comes, he has already been directed where to go. I am a member of Bumula, why is Bumula always side-lined both in development and even any visit in Bumula? Does it mean Bumula never voted for Ruto? Bumula voted; he has no single project that he is telling us in Bumula. How do you expect us to continue supporting? It will be rough and difficult for him if he does not listen but all this is happening because our Governor does not want to listen to MCA's.

*(Applause)*

Truth be told our Governor does not want to listen to MCAs

*(Applause)*

When you call him, he does not pick calls. He is busy but when he wants his motion to be passed, he wants us to pass it. As we wait for our Majority Leader to come so that we can air our grievances, I want to say if the Governor does not listen to us, no motion shall be passed.

*(Applause)*

We are here to oversight his Government. It is time we also stood and did our right roles because he has taken the MPs as the MCA's. The other day I heard him having a session with MP's. When does he ever retreat with MCAs? He does not! And these are County funds that he is using to retreat with MPs. As the Chair – Budget, I am not happy. Yes, I support this program so that we can have resources coming to the County but we shall not allow things to remain the way they are.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Jackson Wambulwa.

*(Loud Consultation)*

Order members! Order!

Honourable members, I rise to put a question before the House that this House approves a motion on approval of Intergovernmental Conditional Allocation Agreement.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

The ayes have it, the motion is passed!

*(Applause)*

Honourable members, a motion having been moved, seconded and debated up and approved by the House...

*(Loud Consultation)*

Order members! Hon. Kuloba order! Very well, a copy of the motion accompanied with the HANSARD transcript to be forwarded to the County Executive for implementation. That is the directive.

Next item,

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Hon. Members that has been our last item on the Order Paper that has been very emotive and passionate. There being no other item, our sitting stands adjourned to 2:30 p.m. this Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

We adjourn accordingly!

*House rose at 10:52.a.m.*