

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2025

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

4th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2025

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

(Temporary Speaker [Hon. Benjamin Otsiula] in the Chair)

PRAYER

PAPER

REPORT BY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS IN THE YEAR 2022/2023.

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Edwin Opwora, Chairperson Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Hon Edwin Opwora (Chairperson, Tourism): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to table a report on the status of implementation of the House resolutions for the year 2022/2023.

(Paper laid by Hon. Edwin Opwora)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Edwin Wekesa Opwora, Honorable Members a report by the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on implementation of House resolutions in the year 2022/2023 having being laid on the table of the House therefore becomes a property of the House, we proceed.

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT,
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Temporary Speaker: The chairperson, Hon. Opwora, proceed.

Hon. Edwin Opwora (Chairperson, Toursim): Thank you. I rise to give a notice of motion on the report by sectoral committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on implementation of the House resolutions in the year 2022/2023.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Opwora member for Luuya Bwake ward. Honourable members a notice of motion having been issued that this House adopts the report by the sectoral Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources on implementation of House resolutions in the year 2022/2023. I therefore direct the Clerks at the Table to circulate this report to Members as it shall form part of our business in our coming sessions. Next?

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBER FOR MBAKALO WARD HON. BENARD KIKECHI

Temporary Speaker: Yes Hon. Benard Kikechi, you want to use the dispatch.

Hon. Benard Kikechi: Thank you. Pursuant to Standing Order No.47 (2) (c) I am here to request for a statement from the Chairperson Sectoral Committee on Education and Vocational Training in respect to the budgetary implementation on the program of teaching and learning materials for Early Childhood Development (ECDE) and equipping of vocational training centers in the department.

In the statement led the chairperson inquire into, and report on the following:

1. The procurement process advert, evaluation report, professional opinion and inspection report of the delivered materials and equipment
2. Criteria used in the discipline of ECDE, teaching and learning materials and vocational training equipment for each center
3. Provide a full itemized report and verification of delivery status for each item listed under the ECDE materials budget totaling Ksh 20.6m including quantities delivered to centers and current usage status
4. State whether all ECDE teaching and learning materials and vocational training equipment have been delivered to the respective centers

5. Measures the department has taken to ensure full delivery of the undelivered ECDE materials and when this will be completed.

6. They should provide a comprehensive status update on items procured for Kshs.19, 418,668 budgeted for equipping vocational training centers across the County.

7. Measures the department has taken to prevent future delays in the procurement administration of ECDE, teaching and learning materials and vocational training equipment.

Lastly, any other information deemed necessary.

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Benard Kikechi, for issuing that statement. Honourable Members, the statement is therefore committed to the Committee on Education and Vocational Training. Hon. Johnston Okasida?

Hon. Johnston Okasida: On behalf of the committee 14 days will be appropriate to address the issue raised.

Temporary Speaker: Honourable Members, the Committee on Education has requested for 14 days to furnish the House with the appropriate response. You have the 14 days. I think that still take us to 2nd of July, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

MOTIONS

REPORT BY THE LIAISON COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR

2025/2026

Resumption of interrupted Business

Temporary Speaker: Yes our Deputy Speaker, Chairperson - Liaison Committee, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, you can proceed from where we had reached.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Thank you so much members. We were looking at the table of increases, now we were on Housing. We had tackled...

Housing	397,884,275	31,126,098	2,697,900	28,428,198	366,758,177	46,857,987	319,900,190	348,328,388.00
Gender and Culture	44,735,914	26,276,524	16,256,000	42,532,524	18,459,390	1,114,264	17,345,126	59,877,650.00

youth sport	58,492,241	53,492,241 41	14,636,3 40	68,128,5 81	5,000,000	- 1,220,00 0	3,780,000	71,908,581.0 0
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youth sport	58,492,241	53,492,241	14,636,340	68,128,581	5,000,000	-1,220,000	3,780,000	71,908,581.00
County Assembly	1,212,107,539	968,617,279	604,415	969,221,694	243,490,260		243,490,260	1,212,711,954.00
Finance and Economic Planning	590,997,595	328,997,595	55,473,971	384,471,566	262,000,000	-37,000,000	225,000,000	609,471,566.00
County Public Service	53,918,999	40,686,784	-2,394,000	38,292,784	13,232,215		13,232,215	51,524,999.00
Governor's Office	216,505,250	199,705,250	-8,130,547	191,574,703	16,800,000	-16,800,000	0	191,574,703.00
Office of the Deputy Governor	39,608,450	39,608,450		39,608,450			0	39,608,450.00
Public Administration	762,219,101	368,495,597	-6,850,000	361,645,597	393,723,504		393,723,504	755,369,101.00
Sub-County Administration	8,472,553	8,472,553		8,472,553			0	8,472,553.00
Office of the County Secretary & Attorney	6,375,953,304	6,375,953,304	44,515,889	6,420,469,193			0	6,420,469,193.00
WBP	1,350,000,000			0	1,350,000,000	-1,350,000,000	0	0.00
Total	15,881,407,761	10,726,441,565	122,071,486	10,848,513,051	5,154,966,196	-77,071,486	5,077,894,710	15,926,407,761.00
Component percentage	100	68		68	32		32	100.00

The report is adopted. The adoption schedule is signed by the entire Liaison Committee Members. Hon. Speaker with that, allow me now call upon a seconder, an ardent Member of the committee, Hon. Francis Chemion Masai, to second the report. Thank you.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson, Liaison for the charisma, zeal and energy in moving the motion. You have also demonstrated that you are energetic, and we appreciate whoever prepared for you breakfast; she did a wonderful job. Hon. Masai Chemion, it is your pleasure to give us your seconding remarks. Please proceed.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. You have been keen following up this report. I want also to congratulate you as I also congratulate the mover. It was not a simple task. To read through this report fluently and eloquently is not simple; therefore, we appreciate and acknowledge the Chairperson Liaison, who is our Deputy Speaker for going through this wonderful report.

I want to begin by saying the Constitution of Kenya 2010, in its own spirit and by its own word, looks at resources and talks of the resources being shared fairly or equitably within the Republic of Kenya. What this committee has done is to look at the basket that has been given to the County of Bungoma and by interrogating the proposal from the Executive.

The committee tried its best to share the resources equitably to the County of Bungoma, to all the 45 wards. You realize that the committee used many means and methods and one of the methods, was the views from the public.

When the public appeared before this committee at Pascal Nabwana Hall, the youth of this county spoke, the women of this county gave their views, the men of this county gave their views, and the civil society of this county also gave their views. We also had the sectoral committees who interrogated their sectoral departments also giving their views.

Based on the views of the sector committees, members of the public, civil society, and also on its own views as a committee, came up with this report that has been read here today. For purposes of emphasis, we are talking about a budget of Kshs. 15.88 billion. That is what was done by this committee and you know budget is a process, Members. It didn't begin from here.

It has so many other documentations, you know Members, from the Fiscal Strategy Paper, ADP, CIDP, all those, they had been done. It culminated now to this document that is with us. So, this is a deviation from what has been there.

It's a big deviation because, the highest amount that has ever been spread to the 45 Wards since the inception of Counties is this document that is before us. It is the first time that Wards are going to receive the highest amount. If the devolution was there to serve the people of Kenya, it is going to serve them through this document.

So I was saying, you remember, this issue of ward based started with one million in 2013-14 there. It has been progressively going upwards, but it has never jumped the way it has jumped through this document. From 25 million now to 35 million per ward.

That is devolution now going to the grassroots. The people of Tongaren, the people of Mt Elgon, the people of Bumula, the people of Kanduyi will now realize development closer to them; closer to their households. This addition to me is serving the people of Bungoma the right way.

We even endeavored to have more, but it was just a question of other issues, other pressing issues. This committee wanted even to go beyond 35, but you know there are other competing issues.

The second issue that I want to address is the issue of revenue target. We have been targeting wrongly all along. We target Kshs. 1.2 local revenue, at the end of the year, we collect 300 and something million.

The remaining balance we would have already attached it with the projects in our wards. Therefore, we have been ending up having a lot of pending bills because of wrong targeting of our own local revenue. This document, Members, has brought that target from wherever it was.

It had gone to 1.2 billion, the target. As we speak now, the target in this document is below 700. It is around 600 and something.

We left some gap so that the Department of Finance ups its socks to ensure that they move now from 400 and something that they collected the previous year and now move to 600. The difference is not as big as what has been happening. The target is almost realistic.

That is the way to go, even if a project is not done within a financial year, there will be resources that will be rolled over to the next financial year to do the same project because the money will be available. Members, this is a realistic target that has been set.

Mandela said if you want to dine with the kings, the child of a peasant farmer can only dine with the kings and queens if they are educated. We have found out that Members here will agree with me. We have discovered and seen that we have a shortage of ECD teachers, which is a core mandate for County Government. In some schools, we only have one ECD teacher. Others, there are no ECD teachers completely, and parents are still employing teachers and paying them. Yet, it is a core mandate of these devolved units. In this budget Members, it is proposed. When the document came before this committee, there was no money allocated for employment of ECD teachers. The committee looked at all the other areas and came up with an allocation that is now going to employ 225 ECD teachers. This is a caveat we want to put, Members, because we are talking of equity. When we talk of equity, it should be equity.

When we talk of equity of this employment, we divide the 225 by 45 Wards so that every Ward has its number, so that every Ward has some people to employ. Even if they can be deployed in other areas, let them first be employed from there, so that we talk of equity, 225 ECD teachers, our core mandate of VTC is 62 tutors.

We always have problems with our VTCs. We have very many learners, and we need the tutors. So in our subsequent budgets, let us continue recruiting the VTC tutors also. Let us increase the number, because that is where the world is headed. The world of skills and the world of using our hands. So we must put a lot of resources in the near future if we are in recruitment of the VTC teachers.

So it is a budget that has looked at that area of education. All of us are now very happy that our children will get to be educated because of the availability of the teachers in their classrooms, if this recruitment will be done as fast as possible.

Members, in our Wards we have issues, challenges. We have had challenges, and the Chair of Trade is here with us, Members. We have had challenges of streetlights going out, and there was no manner to maintain these streetlights.

Members, you get phone calls from the public, the streetlights in my market are not functional, and the money is not there for repair and maintenance. So Members, this time 21 million has been allocated for the maintenance of streetlights in our Wards, and in the whole County. And it has been removed from where it had been put, because we know Trade is the one who are in charge of issue of streetlights.

On the issue of contracted staff in the County Executive, the committee combed through all of them; those with the IPPDs, those without IPPDs, and made provision for all of them. And, we have asked the department to expedite those ones without IPPD numbers, so that they get the IPPD numbers, so that all of them get salaries on the same platform.

Members, 1% of the personnel budget, which amounts to over Kshs. 50 million is provided for promotion of staff in those departments. Most of them have been in one job category or a job group for many years. Some of them are demoralized. We want them to have morale, vigor and energy as they work in those offices.

We also looked at their basic salaries and all the other components attached to basic salary like housing levy, NSSF, Pension contributions among other components. We have calculated all the requirements and provided enough funds so that nobody in between the financial year will request for additional funds to cater for salaries. They gave us all the lists of staff and those earmarked for promotion and funds provided. Those who will exit the service, their money has been provided. We calculated up to when they will retire and removed the surplus allocated to them for the entire financial year. We cannot anticipate death, but we have worked to ensure enough funds are provided towards personnel emoluments.

There was a deficit of Kshs. 46 million which we have provided in this budget so that our staffs are well catered for including allocation for employment of technical staffs in some departments. We have been recruiting at entry level forgetting about experienced technical staff at directorship levels with requisite skills and knowledge to run these departments.

Equally, we also looked at the pension allocation. Members, it is discouraging for our staffs to work, retire and go die because of stress because their pension has not been paid. We have burned the midnight oil to ensure that there is money that is going to pay pension. When you retire, you get your pension. You don't die. Why should you die out of stress yet you worked for the County Government of Bungoma? We have ensured that money deducted is remitted to the

relevant pension scheme and anyone who will not remit will face the wrath of this County Assembly. You don't deduct and put it somewhere; you deduct and remit immediately.

On the issue of pending bills and retention; there was the issue of Kshs. 150 million that was borrowed from the retention fund. Records were providing amounting to Kshs. 143 million indicating they did not spent the entire Kshs. 150 million. In this budget, they have provided Kshs. 100 million as refund to the retention fund and the balance maybe will be provided in subsequent supplementary budget estimates. This provision is important because it will ensure that once a contractor completes works and hands over the project, retention fee is paid. It is their money and there can never be a reason to continue holding someone's money when they have completed the works and handed over the projects.

On the issue of pending bills, Members, there is a provision for pending bills per department. We have not provided the entire amount because the much talked about pending bills amounts have not been verified. For this reason, the County Assembly leadership through the Office of the Clerk gave a notice that we verify pending bills in our wards. The process is going on and after verification is done, additional funds towards pending bills can be provided in subsequent supplementary budget estimates.

We could not provide much Members, the reason is that the pending bills that we have been told all along is not verified. And that is why Members, the County Assembly, through the Office of the Clerk and the leadership, gave a notice that we verify the pending bills. Equally, we will have a book to refer from going forward because there is a danger for paying for the same project more than once. There are projects that had already been paid yet they are still appearing under pending bills.

Maybe before I move to the next area; the issue of ward based projects; they will now be centrally managed and this was a decision that was taken by this House. Members wanted this done centrally so that procurement is done effectively and our projects also done effectively. We have also said that the Director should be an AIE holder and once we pass this budget that will become law Mr. Speaker. If a Member has issues with CEF projects, you just walk to his office and resolve.

If you look at the programme that has been given, there will be quarterly meetings of the Assembly and that team to review what would have happened in that quarter. Members that is where all of us will be involved. We will be assisted by our technical people who are the nominated Members. They will assist us to ensure that whatever we are doing, whenever we have issues, they will be helping us. Because they are very important people Members and also all of us will be involved both elected and the nominated.

Hon. Linda Kharakha (On a point of information): I am sorry to interrupt, thank you. You know, I don't like sitting in rooms where things are said and you sit silent. I am not that kind of a person. Members you will excuse me if I point out an issue I feel uncomfortable with. First of all, Chairman, I want to be informed. Are we a technical team or are we Members like any other person? We are all Members and not technicians. If we are technicians, it means we are all technicians. You cannot single out us, nominated as technicians. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker: Your point of information is well taken.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Members, we are all the same; we are equal. And if I may have used words that may have brought that issue, I withdraw. We are Members first, but we also have people who are technical in other fields. We are not the same. Like myself, if you ask me the issue of education, I will advise. I will be a Member, yes, but I can say something on education. If I want the issue of business, I can ask Hon. Meshack Museveni, he will be a Member, but he will tell me more about business, he knows how to run. We have the CPAs here. I don't know accounts. That is what I was saying Members and I didn't intend to disparage other Members.

In Agriculture, we have the issue of our farm inputs Members. You remember this time under the leadership of Hon. Waiti Wafula; we had issues with the distribution of our fertilizers and the seeds because we had not provided a budget for distribution. The committee has provided Kshs. 20 million that will be used for the launch, committees for vetting of beneficiaries at ward level and transportation of the farm inputs.

On NAFCDP, all of us were in Busia for sensitization on this program. There is a provision of Kshs. 151 million for NAFCDP which will be shared among the 45 wards. We are encouraging that the funds should be utilized well on the intended purposes.

Under the department of Cooperative Development, Kshs. 3 million has been allocated to deal with issues on cooperative movement. Another Kshs. 3 million has been allocated for county cooperative development and regulations.

We also have Kshs 5.8 million under Livestock and Fisheries for vaccines and AI services, because we want to improve our breeds in our Wards. There is also another Kshs.10 million allocated for extension services in Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, because extension services are critical. We cannot achieve good yields unless we invest in extension services from skilled manpower in the departments.

In Education, we have the school feeding programme where the committee gave additional allocation of Kshs. 10 million. The county Executive had proposed Kshs. 30 million for this programme but we have increased by Kshs. 10 million. This additional funding has a rider that

the concerned department should focus on making the programme sustainable by looking for partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the education sector. For instance, we have public land owned by the County Government of Bungoma. They can plough and get raw materials which will reduce the cost.

For VTC, there is an increment on capitation; Kshs. 10 million has been proposed but the committee has enhanced the allocation by Kshs. 15 million giving a total of Kshs. 25 million with regards to capitation. The import is that each student in our CTCs will get at least Kshs. 5,000. The capitation a VTC will receive will dependant on the enrolment to enable them run effectively.

On completion of Bumula Hospital which had no allocation, there is an allocation Kshs. 10 million to complete that hospital, so that it is functional and serve the people in that region.

We have Kshs. 50 million for purchase of medical drugs at the headquarters. There is also a provision of Kshs. 107 million co-funding for the Community Health Promoters. The National Government is giving us Kshs. 107 million towards the same. The entire amount will be used to pay the Community Health Promoters.

Members, this committee also considered the issue of the blood bank. We don't have a blood bank in Bungoma. If a person has a problem we must to look for blood from elsewhere. So we said let there be a blood bank at our BCRH which is now level 6 and there is a provision of Kshs. 8 million for the blood bank.

(Applause)

There is a provision of Kshs. 10 million for radiology unit at the same facility. This is our referral facility. We said that let us have these major issues undertaken so that if you are referred to BCRH, if you have an issue with blood, you will get blood and if you have an issue that requires radiology, it will be done. There is also some Kshs. 20 million for Webuye Hospital for the completion of a project that is on-going.

Another critical area that we considered as a committee is provision of Kshs. 200 million for primary health care for level 1, 2 and 3 and some county hospitals.

Now members, before I come to Roads, members of the public were tough on the County Assembly on the issue of neglected tropical diseases. That we have not been providing funds for those neglected tropical diseases and the diseases are prevalent in Bungoma. We are among the counties that are suffering from those diseases. Hence we provided Kshs. 5 million for a start so that we can address the issue of neglected tropical diseases.

On Roads members, the court made a ruling and in that ruling, it ruled that RMLF Kshs. 10 billion is supposed to be brought back to counties. If you work out the sums it was around Kshs.

184 million for Bungoma. We are saying the Kshs. 184 million for RMLF should be shared amongst all the 45 wards.

It should not be put somewhere where if I see you are short, I give you this amount, if you are tall, I give you...

(Applause)

No, every ward should get an equal amount. That one should be captured and we have put it on record and HANSARD. I know you will support it and we will follow up to ensure that now we will have an addition of not less than 4 million per ward so that it checks on those RMLF roads.

On Trade, there is 20 million for trade loan; an increment because what we gave out is already with the people they are repaying but at a very slow rate. We have made an addition of Kshs. 20 million to that many can benefit.

Under same Trade, Members you remember we entered and MOU with REREC for co-funding of Kshs. 45 million and REREC gives a similar amount. When they gave Kshs. 45 million and we equally gave Kshs. 45 million it was used to install 21 transformers in our wards. We have 24 wards that have not benefited from the programme and in the wisdom of the committee we gave another co-funding of Kshs. 45 million.

(Applause)

We will get another Kshs. 45 million from REREC as co-funding to give a total of Kshs. 90 million to cover the remaining 24 wards because we are all equal the way it has been said. We must ensure that everybody if it is one transformer, everybody gets a transformer.

Then on Lands, the National Government is preparing to upgrade Matulo Air Strip but our part as a county was to purchase the land. Survey works are being undertaken and valuation and if they complete paper work, money will be required for purchase of land.

In the meantime, we have allocated Kshs. 40 million towards the purchase of land for the air strip. If they complete and the value required for the parcel of land is established, we will enhance the allocation towards purchase of land so that the National Government can complete its part.

Under the same Lands, we have ensured that every component of the GIS is domiciled at the headquarters and we have set aside Kshs. 30 million for GIS. Members, GIS is a critical component in revenue collection, management and information. Already some tools have been procured but we require more. That is why the committee saw the need to add Kshs. 30 million.

Members, the valuation role that we are using is out-dated and if we continue collecting land rates using the old one, will receive peanuts. We need to revise of the valuation role hence Kshs. 1 million to facilitate public participation countywide to get the views before we pass the bill that is before this House.

On dump site; Hon. Sudi my whip is here and he has been critical on this issue; this time the committee has heed what you proposed in a motion that you moved last time. You wanted every sub-county to have a dump site but because of scarce resources we have provided funds for one dumpsite in Kimilili Municipality with an allocation of Kshs. 10 million for purchase of land. This will help reduce the cost of collecting garbage from Tongaren to Bumula. After Kimilili, the focus will shift to Chwele if it will be operationalized before we consider Kanduyi and Webuye.

On Tourism, FLLoCA funds are going to cover all the wards. On the magnitude and what it will cover, they are still working on it. By the time we completed coming up with this report, they had not completed the project specification and the costing but we assure that everyone will benefit from the FLLoCA funds.

Still under Water, we have BWASCO which has issues and if you check on the social media, Members, you will realize that people are making noise because BWASCO itself is unable to pay for electricity bills. They are not able because it is a new baby. So through the Department of Water, we are going to jump-start it. As such we have given them Kshs. 30 million from which Kshs. 20 million is for power bills and the balance of Kshs. 10 million for purchase of chemicals used for water treatment. This allocation will ensure that water is supplied to their customers and they collect revenue and from there they should sustain themselves.

Still under Water, we have KOICA III where the committee enhanced what had been allocated. There was an allocation of Kshs. 5 million. The committee enhanced it by Kshs. 15 million to make it Kshs. 20 million as co-funding before Kshs. 1.8 billion is released by our development partners. The total cost of KOICA project is 1.95 billion and our total funding is Kshs. 150 million by the end of the project. There are critical elements required to be undertaken before the project starts thus the need for additional allocation of Kshs. 20 million. As you have heard from the report, this project will cover many sub-counties including Mt. Elgon, Kimilili, Tongaren and Webuye. These areas will be covered by KOICA Phase III.

Under Water, again members, we looked at the department programs on drilling of boreholes. There was a provision for drilling 22 boreholes in the county, so that at least every ward has a borehole. We increased this allocation by Kshs. 15 million. Honourable Members will have the liberty to choose where they want a borehole sunk. Equally, you will be required for equipping and upgrading so that many residents access clean water in your respective regions.

Under Gender, which had a big issue. When you look at this department and what had been provided was minimal and as a committee we have provided funds to finance gender related initiatives because a society that cannot embrace women and gender related concerns is on its death bed.

(Applause)

We don't want our women, children and those living with disability to be disappointed. All of us give birth to these children. You are aware some of my colleagues lied but they are fathers...

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Chemion you are father; you don't give birth to children.

(Laughter)

Hon. Francis Chemion: You give birth through your wife, Members. So they participate. We are all conjoined at the hip. There is a provision for international day for the child.

There is a provision for loans for our women. Although this money is not adequate but it was not initially in the proposed budget, therefore, we allocated Kshs. 5 million for loans to our women.

(Applause)

We have also allocated Kshs. 5 million for people living with disability.

(Applause)

So that our people who have those challenges can also enjoy.

On Youth; the youth that came to our public participation meeting; I wish all of us were there; we gave 3 youths to speak on behalf of the youth and what they said Members, was tough on our side and they had a right. They had a right because they looked at the document that was before them and there was no provision for youth fund. There was nothing. So they said, so you have been cheating us all along that you are waiting for the Youth Bill. There was a bill that was passed by this House. Now you passed it and still in the budget there is nothing.

As a committee we thought it wise to allocate Kshs. 30 million for Youth Fund so that the youth in this county can benefit.

(Applause)

This we need to tell our youth in our wards the Kshs. 30 million is meant for LPO financing. If you have applied and won a contract and you don't have money you can be advanced from the fund which will be deducted during payment. They should know that this is a revolving fund. Other than that, we have also provided Kshs 4.5 million for Talanta Hela. Talanta Hela will now be very active in Bungoma.

There is also Kshs. 2.2 million for marathon. An international marathon that will happen in Bungoma. International athletes will come there. There will be prizes. They have given us a program where number one will get this much; number two will get this much. A registration fee is this amount; 10 kilometres, 15 kilometres and 42 kilometres.

Honourable Members, this financial year we had an issue. The youth participated in Homa Bay KEYSA (Kenya Youth Sports Association) games. The youth from Bungoma did not participate despite the talents we have in this county. They did not participate for the reason that there was no provision in the budget for this activity. This time we have allocated Kshs. 4.7 million for the youth to participate in the KEYSA games.

Equally, we have allocated Kshs. 3.6 million towards the Youth Week Celebrations. Additionally the committee set aside Kshs. 1.4 to train the youth on the tendering processes.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, before I sit down, KIKOSCA having been giving us problems every year and the Members of Gender Committee are aware, we have been experiencing war and pressure during preparation for these games because we have been providing insufficient funds for these games. In this budget, the Executive had allocated Kshs. 13 million towards KIKOSCA which is not sufficient to cater for purchase of uniforms and allowances for participants. In this regard, the committee has allocated Kshs. 4 million for purchase of uniforms, Kshs. 18 million for allowances and Kshs. 8 million for ELASKA games

(Applause)

Therefore, those who qualify for ELASKA games will not suffer because we have given an allocation. Bungoma is not a small county and we must support our people.

(Applause)

As I come to the end, I want to talk about the KDSP. Members listen to this; KDSP (Kenya Devolution Support Program) is a program that does not bring small money. What is going to come to Bungoma is 352 million and Members, the program has not been completed which is supposed to be approved by this House through sector committee reports. Therefore, there are projects that will be funded under this program maybe at sub-county or ward level. All wards might not benefit but we have said that those projects should be spread across the county in the interest of equity. We call upon the Sector Committee for Public Administration and ICT to remain alert and ensure all regions benefit from the KDSP funding.

On the County Public Service Board, we have provided Kshs. 13 million for completion of the Administration Block. We have also allocated Kshs. 7 million to facilitate recruitment exercises.

Finally, on the County Assembly, Members we have development projects that are happening here and there is a provision for that. For the new debating Chamber we have given a provision of Kshs 177 million towards completion of the same. We anticipate that God willing we will be able to conduct business from the new Chamber before we go for 2027 elections.

(Applause)

Then we have phase 2 of the Speaker's residence. I know Members, some of us may not know, construction of the Speakers residence is on-going which is almost complete. Therefore, phase 2 we have provided Kshs. 51 million for the Speakers residence.

Then for us, we are paying a lot of money for electricity bills. There is a provision of Kshs. 15 million for solarisation of Assembly buildings to reduce on electricity bills.

Other than that, we have had an issue with medical cover; our own medical cover, the Star Discovery service provider. We have suffered as Members because the allocation to this vote is

not sufficient. We have increased the allocation from Kshs. 33 million to Kshs. 40 million to attract credible insurance firms that will give us proper medical cover.

(Applause)

It will help us now to do away with this Star Discovery thing that has really messed with us.

There is also money provided for legislative summit and devolution conference which will be held in Homabay this August. There is money provided for CASA games. We have money for our bills that we normally generate. We have money for research. We have money for training. We have money for committee services and others. I have not mentioned all of them including our basic salaries and etc. Funds have been provided.

Members, as I sit down, I would implore and beseech the County Assembly of Bungoma that we have brought this document before you. The resources could have not allowed that we do everything to everyone, to a village or to an individual but we have done what we call fair distribution of resources across the county. With that, I second the report and request that you also support it. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Members. Let me also take this opportunity to appreciate the seconder for his expansive, emotional and elaborate remarks. He has taken his time to open up the report well. I think I can also confirm that whoever served him lunch did him good. Hon. Makari, I doubt if you are the one who served the lunch. I will now proceed and propose the motion for debate;

(Question proposed)

Yes our Chief Whip

Hon. Meshack Simiyu: Asanti sana Spika kunipa nafasi niongee juu ya bajeti ya mwaka huu. Kabla sijasema lolote, ningependa nishukuru sana Mwenyekitti wa kamati ya Liason na kamati kwa jumla kwa kazi mzuri wamefanya...

(Applause)

...Mheshimiwa Spika, ukweli lazima usemwe na kitu kizuri ni lazima tuseme.

(Applause)

Mheshimiwa Spika, vile nimekaa hapa nimeangalia kwa makini wakati *Chairman* alikuwa akisoma bajeti ya mwaka ujao wa kifedha. Pili, vile Mheshimiwa Chemion amesisimama hapa mbele nafikiria yale yenye ameongea kuwa kwa kila *Department* kama ni Njia, Maji kwangu

nimeona niko na nafuu kwa sababu ile pesa zenyenye tulikuwa tunafinyana ndio twende kwa Gavana tukilia kwamba tuongezee ifike ishirini, tuongezee iwe thelathini mara hii niko kwa Million 35 kwa Wadi yangu ya Mukuyuni. Ukiangalia tena haijawkisha, tuko na pesa zingine hapo ndani. Ukifanya hesabu utapata niko na zaidi ya Million 50, vile nimekaa hapa chini nikiangalia bajeti ya mwaka huu.

(Applause)

Mheshimiwa Spika, nataka nimalize kwa kushukuru kazi mzuri yenyenye waheshmiwa wenzangu wamefanya na kuja na ripoti kama hii. Hata ikienda huko chini, tunaomba Gavana asiangalie ndani, aweke tu mkono ili hii bajeti ipite haraka.

Nataka nimalizie nikisema ahsanteni sana na uwezo ungekuwa wangu Mheshimiwa Spika tungesema tu Aye! Halafu tumalize. Ahsante Mheshimiwa Spika

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Meshack Simiyu. I think that is wise counsel. Thank you for your wisdom and encouragement to the Committee of Liaison. Hon. Anthony Luseneka?

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Honourable Speaker, allow me also to appreciate the work that has been done by the Liaison Committee. Indeed, to start with all my fears and desires have been answered. Hon. Speaker, I am talking as a former member of the Budget Committee and we really tried but we could not get to this level. So I just want to take the opportunity to appreciate the work this team has done.

(Applause)

It is commendable, and I can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Hon. Speaker, comparing the last Assembly, we went as low as Kshs.10 million for Ward Development Fund in fact, Kshs.7 million. Looking at this one of Kshs.35Million, as Hon. Museveni is putting it, which is a lot of money which can really do some good work in our Wards. How I wish that we could ring fence it with maybe a regulation or something so that we do not go back below Kshs.35 million. If there is a way we can protect this figure so that we only go up, or retain, but we do not go below Kshs.35 million.

Hon. Speaker, my second point, if you open page 18, about SPCU and it has been illustrated properly on page 43. I think, special program coordination unit. The last meeting we had here as a Whole House plus the Executive, we agreed on time limits and this report has come out clearly stating what is supposed to be done in the first quarter, what is supposed to be done in the second quarter, third quarter, and fourth quarter. For the last period, Honourable Speaker, we have been lagging behind whereby you find that our projects are being advertised in February during third quarter. This report has clearly stated when the process is supposed to start and more importantly, a report should be given jointly between the Assembly and the Executive on every quarter. This one, I think, is a nice thing. It has never happened...

Mr. Speaker: Order Members, Hon. Catherine order.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: It has never happened and it is now happening and following this program as illustrated on page 43, I don't think we will have things like pending bills anymore. If projects are done in good time and paid in good time, I think the issue of pending bills will have been solved.

Let me move to Roads. Two weeks ago, I was with our Leader of Majority and he was requesting for a grader I think to do some emergency works in his Ward and the CECM was asking for fuel which sounds funny. How can you fuel a government vehicle or machinery? In the wisdom of this committee, you've provided KShs.200, 000 per Ward. Some of us have been having emergencies, but if you are given a crater, you can't even fuel it so this Kshs.200, 000 will go a long way in sorting out some of those small issues in our Wards. I just want to appreciate the committee and request the chair of Roads to come up with a program and even if I am number 30 or 35, I won't mind. I know at the end of the day, they'll at least reach my Ward. Same to this program of RMLF. If you can come up with a program and you've clearly stated that this amount will be shared equally in all our Wards unlike previously, it used to depend on how good or how tough you are to the Executive but here, you've tried to see that each Ward gets an equal amount as per the budget. That is very commendable.

The only challenge I saw in this report is of these youth programs and you know every December we hold tournaments. I was expecting at least we allocate some money for the tournaments that run in December.

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Waiti and Hon. Meshack Simiyu, consult in low tones.

Hon. Anthony Luseneka: Even if it's just a small amount to start with, it will reduce pressure because we are going to elections the next two years. Looking at what the youth are doing right now, we may be affected but if we can set aside maybe some little money to engage them during December holidays, even if it is KShs.300, 000 per Ward or Kshs.500, 000, I think it will go a long way to cool these guys down. So in the wisdom of maybe the Liaison Committee and maybe the Committee on Youth and Sports, you can see how we can help our youths and occupy them during these long holidays because they sit at home almost one full month doing nothing and it's very expensive to sponsor a tournament because a good tournament will need at least KShs.400, 000 and above. If we can provide for it in the budget, then even if you are not a sportsperson and you start something like that in your Ward, it will give you a mileage and it will ease pressure on you during that December holiday because we will all be I think on long recess. You can look into that so that we help our youth.

Otherwise, the document is perfect though they say there is no perfect document. It's a good start and the Liaison Committee, I appreciate you. I appreciate the good work you've done. I think if we continue that way, we will move this County forward. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Temporary Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Minority, Hon. Anthony Lusenaka, Hon. Vitalis

Hon. Vitalis Wangila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, allow me to applaud the mover of this motion. This is history to me and looking at what I have heard from the last two speakers who are the members of the Budget Committee congratulating the good job done by the Liaison Committee, I believe whoever said that change is better than rest...

(Applause)

That is why I am urging my fellow Members, any time you see change come, just accept it because it might be good news.

Yes, this is the budget I have never come across since I was elected in this particular House. This is the first budget where I have not seen Hon. Chemion go in the corridors lobbying for changes because they knew exactly what they were doing. I was just about to say that this should be the way to go so that the Liaison Committee in the future will be the Budget Committee, but let's wait for another day, Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

This is the only budget that is going to cover every Ward. Somebody like Vitalis who is hardly known by these offices nowadays he is going to use this KShs.200,000 that is going to fuel for every Ward and in case they will fail, I will bring here a statement requesting how the Kshs. 200,000 was used in my Ward.

I want to believe that we are on the right channel and I want to urge honourable Members just as we have started with this budget, let's follow it and make sure that it is implemented as we are passing it. This is a wonderful budget; I'm so excited that I'm lacking words to add. This is a report that we cannot dwell on, let Members pass it. I rest my case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Vitalis, Member for Kabula. I will give it to Hon. Chikati.

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Temporary Speaker: Before you proceed, I'm informed that Hon. Catherine Kitui, I thought it was a joke. They say she was excited or she was celebrating and the pressure immediately went up. All those who are taking care of her, please ensure that she is safe and sound. Hon. Meshack, you can follow up and see. It is a communication emanating from the orderlies that she is taken ill. Proceed, Hon. Chikati.

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I wish her quick recovery. Honourable Speaker, today I walk home a very excited and happy man. Finally, Honourable Speaker, we have seen the light at the end of the tunnel. For the first time, this House has seen the white

smoke. The previous two and a half years we have been seeing black smoke but today, Honourable Speaker, this House has seen the white smoke.

(Laughter)

To add on what my colleagues have said, on page 18, Honorable Speaker, on page 19 sorry, when the mover gets up to respond, we need to know who approved the borrowing and who authorized the spending and what measures have been taken by the department to ensure that this money is going to be recovered because as per the report, it was supposed to be returned during the FY 2023/2024 and up to now nothing has happened.

On page 30, we are happy about the KShs.200,000 for the roads but the report has not highlighted how many kilometers because I know well that Members, especially elected members, have to start coming up with the choice of their roads and how many kilometers so that we can start preparing ourselves on that, Honourable Speaker.

Finally on page 38 under Tourism about the drilling of the boreholes, for some of the Wards that did not get that chance if the mover stands up to respond, we need to know if it's just the drilling or is it included with the casing and the solarization and the tanks.

Otherwise, Hon. Speaker, this is a wonderful report. How I wish the Liaison Committee could continue with the rest of the...

(Applause)

Yes, because each and every department is represented fairly, equally, money is distributed evenly. There's nowhere where money has been hid in this report and this now is what we need as a House to move forward. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Chikati, we have Hon. Everton.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me a chance also to contribute towards this motion that has been moved by the Deputy Speaker who is the Chairperson of the Liaison Committee. I rise to support this budget. This is a wonderful budget; it's a budget that has zero skewness meaning that the budget is not positively skewed or negatively skewed. This is a budget, where the mean is equal to the median and is equal to the mode. It is a budget that I am giving 99% confidence level, with a 2.576 set score. It is a budget that has baptized some Honourable Members here to change from Saul to Paul. I want to congratulate the Liaison Committee, the mover, who is a teacher, and the seconder, who is also a teacher, and the way he summarized everything in a nutshell for every person to understand.

Every Member who is standing is applauding the committee and I think that is the way to go. However, we have to be keen; we have to be keen because I have looked at the allocation of money for recruitment of 225 ECDE teachers. We have to upscale our oversight role. I

remember when monies were allocated to employ ECDE teachers and those monies were later dropped in the last supplementary budget, we have to be keen.

We need to make sure that actually we do budget tracking for every activity that has been mentioned here so that money is not dropped especially money meant for employment of ECDE teachers or VCTC instructors. Let us be keen and let us have timely advertisement and we make sure that this money is absorbed. As an accountant, I would be much worried if we delay the advertisement so that at the time of the supplementary budget someone would feel that this money cannot be absorbed and then it may be dropped. That is very bad.

I also saw something in the recommendations on the delayed procurement processes. We are happy as honourable Members that projects are supposed to be done but at the end of everything, somebody intentionally can decide to delay the process and this may lead to under-absorption. I am citing an example in this current financial year. There are some projects that were advertised, contracts were awarded and up to this time, some contractors in my Ward have not come on site.

We must also inform the Executive on the timely submission of supplementary budgets. Yesterday, imagine the second supplementary budget was tabled. Look at that and then committed to Liaison committee. It means Liaison has a very short period. You know, if this supplementary budget is submitted within the correct timelines, the committee that will be tasked will have enough time to go through like the way they have gone through this one. They will be able to identify and drop demy activities then allocate money to relevant, important and beneficial projects the way they have done with this one. The first supplementary budget can come in the month of maybe August or maybe November. Imagine the second supplementary budget was submitted yesterday and it is supposed to be prepared then be uploaded into the system before June 30th. Look at that! It cannot work. Let us be keen.

Hon. Speaker, I am giving this budget 99 per cent confidence level but some areas like framework, in the current financial year, monies were allocated but how are they implementing it? It's a problem. When you ask from the department, they say that contractors are just going to the site when they have not advertised but monies have been allocated. They need to work.

We also have to be keen that those projects dropped by Liaison committee in the 2025/26 budget should not be sneaked back into this budget. You have done it very well, but because of their intentions, those activities may be sneaked back with the excuse that this money is just lying here pending and not absorbed. Those items should not be sneaked back into the budget.

Trade loan is a noble idea; I have seen you have increased it by KShs.20Million. What about those citizens who were vetted, those businessmen who were vetted in March and April, in this financial year? They have not been given those monies to use and we have to be keen. These are some of the vote heads that may be used to sneak in other projects because those monies are just there. We will need to look at the second supplementary budget and check and monitor.

Hon. Speaker, I am coming to an end. The issue of the blood bank in Bungoma Referral is okay. Imagine, we normally go to Eldoret for blood purification. It is better to have those machines here so that we can also have our own blood bank.

Lastly, look at the issue of Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB). For those Honourable Members that were here in our last Assembly, there was a motion that was moved by an Honourable Member, was it for Mbakalo? I don't know. Actually, we moved away from LREB and we are not members. Therefore this money should be removed. We voted unanimously that we should not be members. The Kshs. 3.5 million for membership to LREB should be allocated to another activity

I support this Report and would like to thank the entire former budget Honourable Members because they have all been baptized in River Jordan and have changed.

(Laughter)

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Nganga that is a powerful submission. Members, allow me to break the protocol a little bit, let us have some gender balance. We allow Hon. Moureen Khanjila then we shall come back to Hon. Kennedy and the commissioner.

Hon. Moureen Wafula: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the document. Indeed, it is a clean document and looking at the mood of the House, it means the work that has been done on this document is good. I want to applaud the mover of the motion and the seconder of the motion who elaborated and we understood. I also want to applaud the Committee on Liaison. Our Chairpersons have done good work, and indeed I want to propose that they continue being on the Budget Committee for we have seen equitable distribution of resources.

(Applause)

Looking at the committee where I am serving, which is Gender and Culture, there is an increment from 44 million to 59 million which means they have done good work. Looking at Youths and Sports, it has moved from 58 million to 71 million. There is also an increment and I applaud that. Looking at the Education Committee, there is an increment of 100 million from 179 million to 279. That is good work that our committee has done, and I want to appreciate everyone who took part in the making of this document. I do not have much to say, but I rise to support the document. Thank you.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Moureen Khanjila. Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama.

Hon. Kennedy Wanyama: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the report on Annual Budget Estimates for FY 2025/2026. First, I want to appreciate the mover of the motion for it is not easy to be upstanding for 3 hours. He did a good job. I also want to appreciate the seconder of the motion; he did a lot of justice to the report by turning it upside down, inside out, and touching on most of my points. So I will only touch on the areas that he did not go through.

First and foremost, I think for the last two financial years, this is actually the first time that I am witnessing sentiments of quality members being taken into consideration in the review and approval of budgets. One of our main functions here is to represent our people, and so when we sit in interrogation meetings through our sectoral committees and give views, we are actually representing our people. It is discouraging when we give views and they are not taken into consideration while reviewing and approving the budget. I want to applaud the Committee of Liaison for looking at all the sector recommendations and considering most of the recommendations made by the sectors. I want to say from the onset that I support this report and want to look at a few areas.

The first area is local revenue. There is a considerable drop of 43.8 per cent. This is a huge drop in local revenue generation and like I have always said, local revenue is a game changer. I want to quickly highlight some of the observations and recommendations by the committee; the Executive must intentionally designate specific projects to be financed by local revenue as an incentive for departments to use own source revenue. More often while doing our budgeting, we have assumed that most of the projects will be financed by the disbursements from the National Government and then based on that, we actually close the Financial Year without most of the projects being implemented. I like this recommendation that we need to change tact so that we can intentionally ensure that some of the projects are financed by the local revenue.

Still on local revenue, there is a recommendation that the CECM Finance should develop and implement a revenue focusing system that is accurate and credible. I really like this recommendation and I will tell you why. I want to draw this Houses' attention to the fact that the PFM Act Section 25 outlines that the budget preparation process must include projections. Section 132 goes further and says that while doing that, we must ensure that these measures are credible and justifiable. The recommendation to implement a revenue focusing system is quite in order and will ensure that whatever projections we use in our budget focusing are met.

Lastly, the Executive needs to look into inactive revenue streams. I want to briefly talk about the alcoholic drinks because I am a Member of the Gender Committee and we have been talking over these streams for a long time. Most of us know that the alcoholic drinks sector is one that is lucrative, and in most counties, this is a committee where members fight to get on because it is busy, and there is a lot of work. This county, however, is not keen on it, and some of the reasons

we have been told through our interrogation are that there is even no director provided for this sector, despite the department making a request to the Public Service Board. I want to urge the Executive to fast track the appointment of a Director in charge of this docket so that we can start realizing revenue from the alcoholic drinks.

My second issue is on the retention funds that were borrowed, that is Kshs150, 000,000 borrowed in the financial year 2023/24 which was supposed to be repaid in 24/25 but was not. Now, in the current financial budget statements which we are looking at, there is an allocation of Kshs. 100,000,000. Retention is supposed to be treated as trust money. It is held by an employer or a client on behalf of a contractor and is supposed to be paid immediately the contract is finalized. It is also supposed to add as any defects that may emanate from contracts. When you look at the legal and some of the regulatory guidelines which I want to share, the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act 2015 says that retention money is treated similarly to a performance security strictly earmarked and must be returned upon final acceptance. The Public Finance Management Act 2012; that is, Section 90 (1) (h), requires timely payment of approved bills including retention whenever it's due. Then lastly the IPSAS, that is Accounting Standards, says that retention money is a liability. It's not an income or revenue. As much as the approval of this borrowing may have been done through this House, I think we need to move away from this practice because this money is not meant to be used for the purpose of which the borrowing was done. Maybe just as an advisory to the Executive, retention money funds should always be kept in a dedicated account.

This money should only be released upon meeting contractual obligations and lastly to ensure the budget includes provision for retention payments when they become due. Therefore, whenever in every budget cycle we must make provision for payment of retention.

I will go to pending bills. It's sad that pending bills we are being told is 3,832,047,287. It's sad because they say it's unverified. This has been a problem across all departments.

I think there's no single department without pending bills and in the spirit of the Eldoret Declaration, I think there's a need for a thorough verification to ascertain how much is our pending bill so that going forward, even as we plan, then we will be sure that we are making correct payments and not fictitious payments.

I see an appropriation that has been done already of 1,362,781,179 and a breakdown has been given in the financial year 2024-25, 411 million and the description is pension arrears. 2024-25 again, 447 million, description is first supplementary 2025-2026, that is in the current budget estimates, is an allocation of 504 million and the narration says including pension arrears. On this, I want when the mover of the motion comes to reply, a little clarification, for example 2024-25, when we say 411 million was for pension arrears, does it mean no contractors were paid for

pending bills? Otherwise, it's encouraging to see that we are allocating funds towards payment of pending bills.

I will quickly look at two or three departments. The first is the Department of Education. Under Education, we had a budgetary allocation towards ECD materials. That is in the current financial period, Kshs. 15.5 million and equipping of VTCs, Kshs. 6,250,000 million. In the current budget estimates, the Liaison Committee has actually re-allocated these amounts towards VTC capitation, which is quite encouraging and I'll tell you the reason and they've clearly indicated. In the current financial year, we appropriated Kshs. 21 million for learning materials and 20 million for equipping.

According to the report, it seems that the department didn't provide enough evidence on how they spent this money and so it's quite in order to reallocate these funds towards capitation. Because all of us know that most of these VTCs, the enrollment has been low, not by choice, because most of these students cannot afford capitation. I think this is quite encouraging because as per Schedule 4 of the Constitution, this is our core mandate.

There's also an allocation of Kshs.143 million for recruitment of ECD teachers and VTC trainers. The teacher-student ratio for ECDs, I think, is 1 to 25. Current status in Bungoma County has been so bad and so as you know that actually has an effect on the quality of learning. I really want to applaud the Liaison Committee for ensuring that there's a budget to employ teachers so that then our kids can have quality education.

Under the Department of Roads, I see supply credit for the dual carriageway reduced by Kshs. 60 million from Kshs. 113 million. On this one, also, as the mover of the motion comes to reply, maybe a small clarification, there was talk of handing this entire road to the National Government. What is the status? Maybe if you could kindly clarify that and also share what is the total pending bill on the dual carriageway.

Under Roads, I also noted that there is no allocation for land for trailers parking. I remember we had allocated, I think, Kshs. 10 million in the first supplementary which was removed. As all of us know, these trucks are actually a menace especially in Bukembe, Sikata, and Kanduyi areas. I want to urge the chairperson of the Roads Committee and Lands, let's try and ensure that we get land so that we can move these trucks off our roads.

Under the Department of Trade, Mr. Speaker, I really want to appreciate the Liaison Committee for reallocating Kshs. 21 million for lighting maintenance. It didn't make sense at all. A function is domiciled in Trade. They are the ones who are doing the installations and then you put maintenance into a different department. We appreciate that you moved this money back to Trade. It will make work more efficient and faster.

I want to talk about Trade loans; I see an addition of Kshs. 20 million, which is encouraging. It's going to assist people to be able to do business. That increases the revolving fund to Kshs. 165 million. But, this Kshs.165 million, my worry is this money may not be there. There is a lot of money that was given out and has not been paid to date. We've been pushing the department to do a verification exercise so that they can be able to tell us how much is payable, how much is bad debts, so that then we can know for real how much is available to give out to our people. The other sad thing is as much as most of this money has stayed uncollected, there is no provision for bad debts for it.

So, we really need to clean up so that we know how much is collectible and how much is not collectible. Maybe just to share with this House, we've given the department up to 31st of August to provide this data so that we can clean up the books.

The allocation of Kshs. 45 million towards REREC is also quite encouraging. This is a co-funding project with the National Government because only 21 wards had been covered. This project is for last mile connectivity and I think it's encouraging that now all the wards will be covered and more people will be connected.

Under Lands, specifically Bungoma Municipality, there is a UDG grant of Kshs. 55 million for storm water drainage channels in Bungoma CBD. This is also exciting. If you've been in CBD when it's raining, it's a mess. The drainage works are clogged up with garbage. It's a mess and the biggest problem is along the dual carriageway from Kanduyi to Musikoma, along the feeder roads to the dual carriageway. I'm glad that you deemed it fit to allocate this money to storm water drainage so that then it can assist in channeling storm water properly.

This thing we are calling Special Programme Coordination Unit. This is a game changer in terms of planning, monitoring and evaluating ward projects. I can assure you that if well managed, it will address Hon. Nganga's concern of low absorption rate. If we strictly follow what you've indicated on page 43, it should be able to address that problem.

Under Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports, as much as the law has set aside 30% of procurement opportunities for marginalized persons in our society, this has actually not been achieved due to lack of financial capability. The introduction of LPO financing model to me is quite encouraging and I'm sure it's going to ensure that now more young people and women and people with disability will participate in the tender opportunities and also change their lives. I support.

Temporary Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Hon. Kennedy Wanyama. I think he has been elaborative. Members, remember we have several people online. Hon. Makhanu is not going; he

will use the dispatch, but will come after Hon. Ali Machani. So try to sharpen your points so that you hit the nail on the head.

After Hon. Ali Machani, Hon. Linda Kharakha I will come to you, don't worry. Be patient, I see you are not very happy. Hon. Ali Machani.

Hon. Ali Machani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First of all, I want to appreciate the efforts before this House from the Committee on Liaison led by the able chairperson who is the Deputy Speaker in this House. Secondly, I want to thank you and equally to say with an open heart that as a Speaker the way you are moderating compared with National Assembly is almost similar.

I have been watching very keenly when Dr. Moses Wetangula is moderating, where those from minority are throwing some stones. You always give time. And that's what you are doing. This is a House of debate. Members should be given enough time, minus being criticized or provoked, because some of them may miss a point and I want to thank you.

Several times you and the deputy were able to present the document. You are really encouraging people to debate. A majority of members who are here, they are serious debaters. If you cannot analyze and give them space, sometimes they can just keep quiet.

First, I want to thank the Members on Liaison. I've been in this Assembly for some time. I, Hon. Majority Leader, Hon. Kawa and Hon. Violet we are serving the third term. We have gone through budget process making all these years. I want to thank those who were there before us. When you test food organized by others, you can also understand where to correct.

Those who are on the Budget Committee currently now are the Liaison Committee members. I want to thank you because you are drawn from different sectors and these proposals came from the Executive. I've been checking on percentages. As the first speaker said, I saw 68% against 32% which is within 70% against 30% requirement by law.

I want to thank you for observing the percentage in terms of the recurrent against development. I want to thank the membership of the committee for their concentration during the processing of the budget estimates. It is also important to point out that this time the Executive submitted the estimates early to the Assembly hence the committee had ample time to process and bring to the floor of the House also early enough.

Previously, we have been tabling to the House the budget estimates 2 days to closure of the financial year giving pressure to Members to process the documents within the set deadline.

Secondly, I want to thank the Chairperson of Liaison Committee for being keen during presentation of the report to the House. Equally, I thank the seconder of the motion who unparked the estimates to the Members well. Further, I thank the members of the secretariat for assisting the committee come up with this report. I think the committee handled them well in the discharge of their duties to the committee. I say so because three officers who served on the former Budget Committee also serve on the Liaison Committee; that is; Fiscal Analyst, Committee Clerk and the Legal Counsel.

Mr. Speaker, there is need to look at our Standing Order. You can see what the Membership of 18 has brought to this House. We can adjust our Standing Orders and increase the membership to this committee a basis that can be used by even those who will come after us.

On page 24 of this report item 3.2 on Education and Vocational Training on operations and maintenance at the headquarter an allocation of Kshs 22,811,330 and Kshs. 1,625,000 specifically for domestic travels. This is something that we have been looking into. Teams are going to the field to work. They should be motivated. When we reduce on a particular vote, we must know where it is being directed or even when it is increased. We must see value for money for the allocations to the people of this county.

I have seen where they have indicated construction of 9 ECDE centres. I am happy because in subsequent budgets other regions will also benefit. Because a development project meant for a constituency is basically undertaken in a specific ward. For instance if this project will be implemented in Ndivisi Ward, next time it will go to Mihu and finally to Maraka. This approach brings balanced allocation of resources and you will hear people complain.

We are aware that C.E.F might not be enough, but when we utilize resources the way Implementation Committee has tried to balance; it will make each and every Ward to fill part of the government.

I want to point out an area in Health where I am a beneficiary indirectly. I have seen that Sitiko Sub-County health facility is going to benefit. This project has been talked about many times since devolution began in 2013. I'm a beneficiary, whether it's not in my Ward, I've seen an area where they've pointed out that Sinoko as a sub-county health facility is going to benefit. This is a project that started before. When the mover of this report mentioned about Sinoko in his report, I saw Hon. Mukhanya the area MCA scratch his head.

This is how we are going to support each other because there is no meaning you put up a project without completing it. This is a serious ongoing project that when complete, it will assist the residents of Webuye East to access health care closer home.

On Agriculture, I have an issue on page 21 which is clear on what is supposed to be done. When the Governor was here, I tried to raise a concern because this county spent funds to put up a milk

plant and I have not seen any allocation for milk coolers across the county. When the chairperson will come to respond, I request that he clarifies on this project which has been neglected close to 4 years without being operationalized to serve the intended purpose.

And I think when the chairman will be coming up to respond, he can also advise that we had a project that has taken serious money from this county. But it's about three or four years. It has just been dumped there. Nothing is happening. Even the maintenance is not there. And remember, in this county, we have a very serious challenge on scrap metals. This is not a ward project, it is a project meant to benefit the entire county like the Slaughterhouse project in Chwele.

I wish the committee allocated some funds towards maintenance of this project as we seek a partner to take over and run it. There is danger of this project being vandalized by scrap metal dealers. In my opinion this project is in danger.

In Lands, we are struggling to make municipalities to be independent. Equally we are also trying our level best to ensure the other new municipalities; Chwele and Webuye are jump-started. I did hear neither the mover nor the seconder mention anything with regards to the municipalities. The committee has not set aside funds for public participation and feasibility studies. Because we cannot say that municipalities are coming yet we have not allocated funds for facilitate the required processes. They have only mentioned about the existing 2 municipalities but we are equally worried about the upcoming ones.

On page 40 and Sports, on item 3.9, I am sorry to indicate that I am not convinced. This piece of land was purchased under CEF in my Ward but it is going to serve the entire constituency because I have not seen any Ward that has allocated funds for purchase of land for a stadium. Previously, we used to rely on Pan Paper which is not available after it was privatized. Hence when we have serious activities, we have been going to schools and when schools are closed locals cannot enjoy sporting activities.

It is with that thinking that we purchased a piece of land almost 5 acres for a stadium. As a result of scarce resources, money was provided only for fencing of this land. In this country if land remains idle for long, it can easily be grabbed

The committee should be clear because in the report, it is indicated that the department has an allocation of five million for construction of Maraka Stadium. The committee notes that five million is not sufficient to construct a sub-county stadium. There was no clarity on what component of stadium works will five million cater for. A feasibility study should be conducted on the stadium for proper costing to be done to allow sufficient funding. This statement is hanging because no funds have been allocated for feasibility study as pointed out by the

committee. Equally, they are alleging that the Kshs. 5 million provided is not enough but they are not providing additional funding towards this project.

The chairperson for Sports Committee comes from my constituency. I don't know if she missed a point. She could have stepped in and advised the committee to do the needful.

I have a concern on devolution; we are now in 2025. When we started devolution, we began by employing Sub-County Administrators, then Ward Administrators and last time we employed Village Administrators. For us to actualize devolution, we need to put in place the Village Councils because currently we are relying on Village Elders to coordinate our activities. They are currently struggling to push agendas for both levels of government, the County Government and the National Government.

How I wish that we could also look into it and allocate some money for recruitment of village council to actualize devolution. We are supposed to employ about 5 members in every village unit to champion the county development agenda in the villages.

Otherwise, the document is okay and this committee has done what we have not been doing. I support. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ali Machani for your contribution. Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, who gave you permission to move to the dispatch? It is Hon. Linda Kharakha then Cornelius Makhanu.

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you Mr. Speaker for keeping in mind gender balance. That is why I stand to talk today with regards to the budget presented by Liaison Committee FY 2025/2026.

This budget demonstrates significant efforts in aligning development and priorities with our county Strategic objectives. However, I wish to bring out a different trajectory. I hear so many people have talked about things in different departments, percentages. I am not good at numbers but I will try. The gender and youth inclusivity. First of all, it's the Gender Committee that has actively outlined the allocation to the youth and women and just the youth not the women. It does not mention anything regarding women.

The department of Health and Education where you seat, Agriculture where Hon. Waiti sits is silent on how women and youth would specifically benefit on the budgeted projects.

I seem comfortable finding out that as much as we have mentioned women across the budget or the youth, we have not specifically outlined to say we are budgeting this for women and all that.

I still recognize the county's effort to empower the youth and targeting activities like *talanta hela*. He said about KEYSA games and youth training programs. They are good programs but still there is no specific allocation for women empowerment and lack of dedicated budget line for the same. It is vague. We all sit here knowing that the PFM Act Section 12 (e) and the Controller of Budget have always emphasized on inclusivity but as we speak, our women and the youth are still left out as much as the budget is being read for the year 2025/2026.

Article 27 in the same breath asks for equitable allocation for marginalized groups but as we sit today, none of that is being included in our budget. However, as we continue, when I was perusing through the budget report by the Liaison Committee, no evidence of gender responsive or budgeting framework or tracking of the same. There is no mechanism. How I wish that as we pass this report we think how we will include this so that in our supplementary budget, there is change and inclusivity. I have a few recommendations;

One, that each budget department include gender and youth specific budget lines and the County Treasury adopts a Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) framework in the next supplementary budget.

As a County Assembly, as we sit here, I ask all of us that we should adopt performance tracking that includes age, sex and vulnerability in implementation reports. In that regard, if you put this into consideration then the budget will transition from being merely a gender aware to a gender responsive budget.

My fellow Members have said that the Liaison Committee continues with the beautiful work. I support the same. However, on the same breath, I look at the Members of the Liaison Committee, how well were issues of women represented on a committee that has only two women?

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Linda Kharakha, your final concern can be addressed well through your coalition arrangement. It cannot be addressed through the Liaison Committee. It lacks the requisite powers to handle that particular issue but we appreciate your sentiments, concerns and contributions. Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, you have a burning desire to contribute. You can now use the dispatch!

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like also to thank the Liaison Committee for this year's budget especially the mover, Hon. Stephen and even the seconder who simplified this budget. This is the third budget of this Third Assembly that does not have the amendments that we are used to. Looking at the Members, they have been excited about this budget. We used to say maybe we should convert the Budget Committee into a Whole House but now we have gotten the cure.

My first concern is about the retention funds. Some of the Members have spoken about it. I remember when we had a meeting with the Executive, they said they took this Kshs. 150 million to pay for the pending bill but when you look at what they listed in the table on page 19, most of them are about mobile phones. I wonder how did mobile phones become pending bills? If what they told us when we met them in a Kamkunji is something to believe. When the mover will be coming to reply, I hope I have a concern with this item they have put here.

About the pending bills, it's worrying. It's about Kshs. 3.8 billion. Recently, we had a meeting with KDSP officials and they said whenever these grants come, they peg on the intakes of your pending bill. You have the little you have, get more grant and they gave even an example of a county that has no pending bills, that is Vihiga.

When we inquired on how they managed, they told us they stopped starting new projects. They concentrated on the existing ones and they cleared so they do not have any pending bills. They are now getting more grants than us. Going forward, we should also concentrate on the existing projects so that we clear and reduce these pending bills.

Another issue is on municipality of Bungoma. This is where I fall. We have relied on grants from the Urban Development Funds and it's about construction of urban strong water drainage channels. The allocation is about Kshs. 15,000,000 only and I was wondering if we can also budget from the main budget and have enough money because Kshs. 15 million is a drop in the ocean. The priority area on that allocation of Kshs. 15,000,000 is talking about Khalaba ward but when you look at the areas of concern, the roads that have been put there are not in Khalaba and you know all the water on dual from Kanduyi to Musikoma is ending in Khalaba. As we speak today, there are some roads which are being washed away. I would have wished that we had an allocation from the main budget to cater for the storm waters across the county not even only Khalaba.

When it comes to ward based projects, I applaud Liaison Committee. It has come to 35,000,000 but as Hon. Nganga talked about it, the issue is about absorption. As we speak today, my projects for last FY 2023/2024 have not been paid up to now. This year's projects are yet to be paid. Now, when it comes to absorption, we have been given 35 but you will find that maybe we are only absorbing 10million and the others go to pending bills. I hope that these projects are going to be done on time so that we do not cross over to a new year without completing these projects.

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Bernard Kikechi, what is your point of information?

Hon. Bernard Kikechi (*On a point of information*): Hon. Speaker, I would like to be informed by Hon. Cornelius from his submission...

Temporary Speaker: Do you want to be informed or you want to inform him?

Hon. Bernard Kikechi: I am seeking for clarification because from the presentation he is making here, he is insinuating that we should reduce our CEF money or what is he insinuating? I am not getting him.

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, come clear.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Hon. Speaker, I would like even the CEF to go up. What I mean is, these projects have to be done timely so that we absorb all the money because when you look at the previous years, we were even allocated Kshs. 25 million. What was absorbed was not even 25 for some of us. It was less because of slow implementation of these projects from the time of advertisement to implementation. If you can fast-track procurement of service providers and implementation of these projects, it will be okay.

Next is Health. When the seconder was simplifying this budget, he talked about us as a county to establish that blood bank. As we speak today, a house that was meant to host the blood bank stalled. I expected an allocation for completion of blood bank house. That blood bank needs even to be refrigerated. I do not know if there are enough funds to do that. I hope they will touch on that during reply.

Another one is about RMLF funds. We are going to get Kshs.184, 000,000 but we should not applaud that before because the National Parliament has to amend some Road Acts to allow these funds to come to the counties. Remember that it's the same Parliament that had denied us those funds. I hope Parliament is going to amend those Acts so that the funds can go down.

Lastly is about the equitable share....

Temporary Speaker: Are you saying that the Liaison Committee should not budget for Kshs.184, 000,000 until the legislations are in place or what is your point?

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: It's okay. I am saying we should not applaud before because parliament has to enact that law.

(Loud Consultation)

About the equitable share revenue, we are getting Kshs. 11 billion from the National Government. I know it's about the 380 that was coming to counties but as we speak today...

Temporary Speaker: Members, allow him to sum up his contribution.

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: But as I speak today...You had your time!

Temporary Speaker: Proceed, Hon. Makhanu!

(Loud Consultation)

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: I know the equitable revenue that we are getting from National Government was pegged on 380 billion but I know as we speak now, it has gone up. The Senate and Parliament has now agreed the counties are going to get 415 billion, so more money is coming and we are happy we are going to do more. I know it is going to come, Honourable members. We are now at Kshs.415 billion, so we shall get more.

Temporary Speaker: 415 billion?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Yes, breaking news.

Temporary Speaker: Hon. Makhanu, that is hearsay. You need to substantiate. Thank you for your contribution Hon. Cornelius. We have two Honourable members, that is Hon. Okasida and Jeremiah Kuloba then I invite the mover of the motion. Hon. Okasida!

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker, sitting next to Hon. Chikati is always trouble. Let me begin by lauding the Liaison Committee and today they have proven beyond reasonable doubt they are really honest and true sons and daughters of our County. The membership of Liaison, you have made us proud and we shall walk home shoulder high because we believe we still have in our midst people who can do justice to the rest. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

Today, I am persuaded to accept everything in totality without referring any figures. So, the mover of the report do not waste your time thinking that I am coming up with hard issues. Today you have made me proud and we had hatched a plan, if you messed up, we the people from Tongaren were planning to evict you from Tongaren this evening.

(Applause)

You have proven that you are leaders who can be depended upon and can lead others. That is why you heard from other Members who are previously the Members of the Budget Committee saying; you have used the same manpower. What secret was behind the success of this great and wonderful report? It lies on effective leadership and being honest with other Members of the team. You never betrayed or underrated the team nor the clerks that is why today we have been presented with an honest and just report.

I have been persuaded to say the following; this budget is people centered, its evidence driven. The evidence I am referring here is the evidence where we did pay Kshs.97, 000,000 and people are still demanding some money and on the ground there is nothing that is happening. That is what informed you to move the rest of the money that was being requested to other essential areas and that is why I am not ashamed that I am supporting this report in totality.

You know people are worried about the Liaison Committee, that you are Chairs of chairs and moving to the Liaison you will not be fair, just and will not give what is transparent, but you have ashamed the devils.

Temporary Speaker: How many devils Hon. Okasida?

Hon. Johnston Okasida: Hon. Speaker, normally you are not able to count the devils but they are always there in the wilderness and from the world of my brothers and sisters in law, they normally remind people and I quote "*Bandu baparanga bali mayi wabwe niye omanyile khutekha lakini nowicha ewefwe, nonyola mayi wase amanyile khutekha sana*" loosely translated as 'those who don't walk will always believe their mothers are best cooks.'

(*Laughter*)

Temporary Speaker: That is unparliamentarily Hon. Okasida!

Hon. Johnston Okasida: Hon. Speaker, I said it is a quote. Through the confession as a lawyer you know when I say confession, you understand it deeply where people admit of most of the facts in question that actually that is the way to go. My Chief Whip confessed that this has never happened for the period that he has been in the Assembly. Hon. Leader of Minority Lusenaka confirmed that this is a great thing that has happened at this time when he is a Member of this Assembly and my *Basakawa* Hon. Balala has also confirmed that. Where were we all this time?

(*Applause*)

Temporarily Speaker: Who is Hon. Balala?

Hon. Johnston Okasida: Hon. Speaker, he is called Hon. Ali Machani alias Balala. Hard decisions are made by dedicated and committed Members of the society and Liaison Committee has proven that they are dedicated, they are risk takers. That is why they have made those hard decisions for the benefit of our people in Bungoma County. There is nothing that is sweeping from Kimaeti to the highlands of Tongaren, from the hills of Chetambe to Mt. Elgon. If anybody stands on the way of the changes that we are bringing in, they will be swept down to river Nile.

(*Applause*)

They will be swept and to come to the end... You are worried about it, don't be worried. I am persuaded to support this because one, it has addressed the needs of the people. Two, it gives priority the first phase. Three, you can see equity and equality and maybe Hon. Machani is worried about equity and equality. These are totally different. Equality is where we are taken on the face value but equity is on the basis of necessity and this budget has addressed the necessity which focuses on service delivery.

Hon. Majority, as you are sitted next to the mover of the report, persuade and advise him that we are with him, shall stand with him and we are there for the service of the people of Bungoma County. I move and support.

(*Applause*)

Temporary Speaker: Very strong from Hon. Johnston Okasida. We have Hon. Kuloba Jeremiah!

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Asante Bwana Spika. Nimeamua kubadilisha lugha. Sio eti kimombo sikelewi. Nakielewa lakini ile hali ya kuzungumza lugha moja pekee yake inachosha.

Kwanza nakushukuru kunipa nafasi hii kuelezea machache kuhusu hii bajeti. Bajeti hii mimi nikiwa mwakilishi wa awamu ya kwanza, hii ndio bajeti nimeona kuwa nimehusika na kila sehemu zimetajwa.

Tulikuwa na wana Thomaso hasa wakati ule tulikuwa tunasema kuwa wale wasimamizi wakiwa wenyeviti waende wasimamie hii bajeti. Tukawa na wana Thomaso ambao walikuwa hawaamni kuwa hiki kikundi ambacho kilikuwa kimechaguliwa kuenda kufanya kazi kingefanya kazi mufti kama ile ambayo imefanya leo. Kwa hivyo heko kwa kufanya kazi nzuri.

(Applause)

Yule ambaye hatembe ihudhania mama yake tu ndiye mpishi lakini akisha tembea akaingia kwenye majumba mengine, atajua kuwa wapishi wengine wapo. Kamati hii imetufanya sisi kuonekana kuwa mashujaa katika Jumba hili. Avumae baharini, papa lakini wengine wapo. Kwa hivyo, lile kundi ambalo lilienda likatengeneza hiyo, nyinyi ndio mpo. Wachana na wale mapapa.

(Applause)

Bajeti hii ilisawazishwa kila sehemu. Changa moto pekee ambaye naiona yaeza tokea katika utekelezaji wa hii bajeti ni kuwa mda unaochukuliwa katika kile kitengo kingine cha kuja kutekeleza hii bajeti jinsi tumeitengeneza ikiwa safi hivi. Sijajua ni kwa nini tutekeleze bajeti mwezi wa sita tuipitishe katika hili Jumba iwe sawa jinsi tumelesema na ianze kushugulikiwa mwezi wa kumi, kumi na moja na kumi na mbili. Hili ndilo jambo ambalo hili Jumba la watungaji sheria mnatakiwa mliangalie sana.

Mimi naona kuna mtu analalia kazi kuonyesha kuwa sisi hatujafanya kazi. Kuna mtu ambaye hili Jumba latakiwa limwambie kazi ya kufanya tukimaliza bajeti. Mwezi wa saba, wa nane tekeleza yale ambayo Jumba hili la waheshimiwa limepitisha.

Pesa zetu za hapa nyumbani naona changamoto iliyopo hata kama hatuwezi sema. Zile fedha za hapa kwetu zile za ushuru wa nyumbani, tujaribu sisi kama wanasheria tuone ni jinsi gani tutatumia ili hizi fedha ziweze kuongezeka na zitusaidie sisi katika utekelezaji wa miradi hizi.

Jambo lingine ni kuwa zile milioni mia moja ambazo ziko hapa ambazo inasemekana ziliombwa zikiwa milioni hamsini, sijajua ikiwa sehemu nyingine iliomba ruhusa hili Jumba ndipo ikatumia hizo fedha. Nataka wakati mwingine wakitaka kutumia fedha zile za wanakandarasi kama zile ambazo ziliwa zimelewika milioni mia moja hamsini, waje katika hili jumba watuombe ruhusa tuwape ndio watumie bure tusipofanya hivyo, watakuwa wanaharibu na kutumia hizo fedha kwa njia mbaya.

Katika upande wa manispaa, nimeone kuna miradi mizuri imewekwa. Hapo ndipo najiskia kuwa sisi wote safari hii tumekumbukwa. Mimi lile napenda kusema ni kwamba zile fedha za miradi zetu za CEF zitasimamiwa hapa na tutampa uhuru wa kufanya kazi yule anayesimamia lakini katika upande wa manispaa hata kama tumeweka kule fedha kwa mfano mwaka wa ishirini na tatu, ishirini na nne, sisi kama tulio katika manispaa, fedha zetu zote tulisukuma huko lakini hizo fedha hazikufanya kazi wakati unaohitajika mpaka saa hizi vile nasungumuza, kuna watu bado wanadai fedha zao.

Kwa hivyo hili ni Jumba la sheria, Jumba liwezalo kutoa mwelekeo. Je, kuna usimamizi mzuri katika manispaa? Ikiwa haupo, mnong'ono unatokea wapi? Ikiwa ni waziri wa fedha anayeingilia maswala ya manispaa, aambewe ampe nafasi yule asimamiaye ambaye ni Meneja afanye kazi. Asiingilie, apewe mkono huru wa kufanya kazi.

Siwezi nikaongea mengi, yangu ni kuwapa heko. Hongera mara dufu kwa kazi nzuri ambayo mumefanya. Najiskia kuwa Mkenya, najiskia kuwa mwana sheria katika jumba hili. Asante sana Bwana Spika.

Temporary Speaker: *Asante sana Mheshimiwa* Jeremiah Kuloba. Members as Hon. Kuloba was contributing, the Leader of Majority of the House, also decided to join the queue. We will now allow him thereafter we shall have a response from the Chairperson - Liaison Committee.

Hon. Joseph Juma: Thank you, Speaker for this chance. I also stand to applaud the mover of the motion who is the Chairperson - Liaison Committee and Deputy Speaker of this House. We equally appreciate the seconder of the motion Hon. Chemion. We were satisfied with the explanations given by the Hon. Chemion.

As much as we appreciate and feel happy for the friendly budget estimates, some quarters may not be happy. Therefore, I urge that as a House, we should stand firm and protect what we have done.

(Applause)

For the last two financial years, we have had a friendly move. Most of the issues were not done in the right way. So it's high time that we make a follow up.

Mr. Speaker as we approve this budget, I want also to caution the chairpersons of sectoral committees now that CEF will be handled at one center to ensure that by mid-August, procurement processes should be on. So that by mid of September, all the projects have been advertised. This will ensure that our projects are implemented and paid so that our allocation is absorbed fully.

Lastly, I also urge that the committee meant well to increase the CEF allocation. Sadly, there are some Members who are misleading the county boss that the increment should have been done...

(Applause)

As we speak, some quarters are imagining that they can advise the county boss not to sign. I want these people to know that CEF allocation will not benefit the Governor. This allocation is not meant for MCAs. It is meant to benefit the people of this county.

Members should not think that I am bitter because I have to walk the talk because what we say in this House, let us say it when sitted with the county boss.

(Applause)

This will ensure that we are moving in the right direction.

Now that we have the Liaison Officer, he should inform the county boss that the Assembly has done its part and he should sign and ensure the budget is uploaded in order to have peace and harmony in this county. I support this budget Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Leader of Majority for that powerful and wise counsel. The directions are clear. Hon. Members allow me now invite the Chairperson – Liaison, our Deputy Speaker to give his response.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa (Chairperson, Liaison): (*Mover to reply*) Thank you, Hon. Speaker. May I take this opportunity Members...

Temporary Speaker: Order Members.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa (Chairperson, Liaison): To say this just before I make my replies. You know at one point we were taken for training in Naivasha and we were told how we should behave as Honourable members in Committees, in the Assembly and everywhere. So I want to congratulate Honourable members who went because actually I can see they are adhering to what we were taught. So let us keep it up. Those chairpersons who went...

(Applause)

I pray that the remaining chairpersons should also go for the same training. It will help us so much. Let us stick to what we are trained to do and behave like so. Back to my replies,

(Laughter)

I want to thank the debaters who have been on the floor of the House for their invaluable contributions, insightful information, observations, and their views that can move this county

forward if adhered to by all of us. Let me start with the sentiments and pronouncements and contribution of the Leader of Majority.

Hon. Kikechi I want you to listen also. He is my good friend and I want him to listen so that he takes everything home. We are just finishing. After the Governor of this County was sworn in and took over the leadership of the county for the second time, at Kibabii University, I remember well, he said that his flagship projects will be at the Ward level.

(Applause)

If I am mistaken and I am saying something out of context and outside maybe I am dreaming, maybe I am speaking something that was never said and I am on HANSARD then I need to be corrected. If I remember well, Members, the Governor whom we love said, contrary to other happenings is going to turn the wards to be his level of flagship projects.

I am riding on what the Leader of Majority has said. If we have Members in this Assembly who are either the cause of their own personal interests, they are trying to plant certain seeds; we want to tell them the vehicle has taken off.

(Applause)

We support our Governor, through his own pronouncement that the wards will be the center of flagship projects. Any project done at the ward level is not the MCA doing it. It is the Governor's project too; he takes credit. The only thing that the MCA does Hon. Speaker, is to identify the projects at that level because he lives and stays there. The Governor may not know the exact need of that respective Ward and therefore the MCAs should identify the project so that now we achieve what devolution was meant to achieve. Devolution is about equitable distribution of resources and that is the essence that the Ward Based Projects want to achieve. Moving the allocation for Ward Based Projects to KShs.35Million for each Ward means every Ward will feel as part of this County. Other projects can be done in Kanduyi, Tongaren or Sirisia but Ward Based Projects are the equalizer and they actualize the purpose of Devolution.

Hon. Speaker, it is unfortunate that some Members in their contributions pose questions and they leave the House making them miss out on the response. I am taking issue with Hon Kharakha. I wish she was inside here because what she has been saying here in as much as we accept and take it, I think she didn't concentrate properly to internalize this Budget. I wanted to take her through a certain journey so that she can understand but because she is outside we will leave it. Next time Hon. Speaker, guide these Honourable Members who contribute and leave to sit and wait to be informed of what they were saying if indeed they were in line or outside the line.

Temporary speaker: The concern is noted Hon. Chairperson.

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa (Chairperson, Liaison): Members because of time, I have a lot of issues to respond to here and I feel we can go up to 9.00 p.m. tonight but allow me just say this; you have debated after going through the document, you have internalized the document. You have seen the observations of this document and you have seen the recommendations. I want to beseech you to take note of it and after taking note of the document, let us remain united and as a solid unit so that our voice can be heard. Even if we have said this document is good, if we can leave here and start doing other things, you understand what I am talking about. When you leave here let us be a unit, an Assembly of Bungoma for the good of our People.

This Document is not about the Liaison Committee or Chairperson, it is not about the Kenya Kwanza Government, it's about the Assembly of Bungoma comprising of the Azimio and Kenya Kwanza for our people. Therefore members, I want to pray and beseech we remain united. When fire is lit you will not melt, you will stick together and stand to defend the rights of your people in your respective Wards. For the specially elected members, this budget is addressing issues of the People that you come from, you reside with and you represent in this Assembly because every Specially Elected member actually represent the entire Bungoma.

Issues about the rig, Hon. Chikati, it is about just drilling but upgrading is upon the honourable member to organize himself or herself so that you can now supply water to various points that you want. We have other issues of LREB. The Governor is the Vice Chairperson of LREB and sometimes because he attends those meetings, this can be towards making sure that he is also there, he is our boss, he is the County CEO and we have benefits that are also coming with that LREB. We are informed that they were to come here but because of Madaraka last year, they postponed the same. We have other programs that are coming along because of LREB and we want to see those fruits then we can agree and align appropriately with them.

There is this issue of dual carriage. Before we hand over to KENHA which is an agency of the National Government, we still have to settle the pending bill of Kshs.465Million so we still have an obligation, and we are not yet done. Members we have to take note of that.

The issue of Pension was clarified by the CECM Finance and that is when we realized that what we were worrying about is not actually the case. The County has a plan up to 2027 when they will have to clear all the arrears and then we will be in good books with the pension schemes.

Thank you Hon. Speaker, I make my replies and pray that at the level of passage and enactment, let us do it without any amendments. Thank you and I urge you to support the document.

(Applause)

Temporary Speaker: Thank you the Chairperson – Liaison, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa. I think I also want to appreciate you for being passionate and also for your advisory note to the Members of the House. Indeed our key role is oversight and for us to oversight the County Government, we must remain united and committed to whatever is passed in the House.

Otherwise the Liaison team, I also wish to appreciate you for a job well executed. I think Honourable Members in the House, all the Members who have contributed today have alluded to the fact that together with your team leader you have delivered a wonderful document. Continue working like that for the benefit of the County of Bungoma. Now Honourable members, the contents of the report have been noted as well as your contributions. Remember this is a motion that we were not supposed to put a question.

ADJOURNMENT

Members, there being no other business, we adjourn and convene tomorrow on Thursday 19th June, 2025 at 2:30 p.m in the Committee of the Whole House. Enjoy your evening.

The House rose 5.54 p.m.