

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

4th Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

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

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members during our combined long and short recesses we lose one of our Honourable Member the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo, who served this Assembly since 2013 till he passed away on 4th of August, 2025. Let's be upstanding for a minute of silence before we proceed.

(Members upstanding)

Thank you. Let's be sitted Honourable Members.

MESSAGES

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE IN THE SELECTION PANEL TO RECRUIT MEMBERS OF THE
COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members the message from His Excellency the Governor. Nomination of members to serve in the selection panel to recruit members of the County Public

Version 00

Revision 00

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Service Board. Honourable Members, pursuant to the provision of Standing Order number 45. 1, I wish to report to the House that I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor regarding the nomination of members to serve in the selection panel to recruit members of the county public service board.

In the message Honourable Members, His Excellency the Governor conveys that in the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 31 (d) and Section 58 (a) 1 of the County Governments Act number 17 of 2012, amended 2020 he has nominated C.S. Elizabeth Wanyonyi as the chairperson, Advocate Saul Wasilwa - member, C.P.A. Rita Navalayo Manyonge - member, Chemunge Steven - member and Julias Bakasa as members of the selection panel to recruit members of the County Public Service Board. His Excellency the Governor now therefore, seeks the approval of the House of the nominees for appointment to the selection panel.

Honourable Members conscious of the fact that Standing Order 45(3) provides that when a message from the Governor is read, the message shall be deemed to have been laid before the House. I therefore direct the Leader of Majority to give a notice of motion to approve the nominees to enable the House to consider the same at appropriate time on the Order Paper. Thank you. Honourable Members, resume your seats, please.

(Members resume their seats)

PAPERS

- I. The Bungoma County Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2026-2027.
- II. The Bungoma County Government Receiver of Revenue, fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2025.
- III. The Bungoma County Executive and County Assembly, fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2025.
- IV. The Bungoma County Revenue Fund quarter report and financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2025.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Honourable Leader of Majority, you can proceed to commit the said reports accordingly.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you, Speaker. Allow me to table the following papers.

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute, please. Honourable, what is the problem?

Hon. Alfred Mukhanya: Mr. Speaker, I have seen on your communication and from what we are seeing on the gadgets, there is this lady called CPA Rita Navalayo from your message, I can see it is missing and we have this message here. I don't know. That was a request, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: If you look at the Order Paper under number six, it is there and it is going to come up as a motion, so we will wait for that time.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you, Speaker. Allow me to read the following papers.

- I. The Bungoma County Annual Revenue Plan for the financial year 2026 to 2027
- II. The Bungoma County Government Receiver of Revenue, fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2025
- III. The Bungoma County Executive and County Assembly, fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2025, and lastly
- IV. The Bungoma County Revenue Fund quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2025.

Version 00

Revision 00

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(Papers laid by Hon. Joseph Nyongesa the Leader of Majority)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, I will read the following documents;

- I. The Bungoma County Annual Revenue Plan for the financial year 2025, 2026 to 2027. I will commit the same to all the Executive Committees to extract what concerns the Committee, compile the report for the same to the Committee of Finance for compilation of the individual respective committees so that they are able to bring it as a single report.
- II. The Bungoma County Receiver of Revenue, fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2025. The said document, I do commit the same to the Committee of Finance and Committee Planning for preparation of the same and reporting back to the House accordingly.
- III. The Bungoma County Executive and County Assembly, fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2025. The same is committed to the individual sector committees to extract what concerns the Department and report back to the House after the same is combined by the Committee of Finance and Committee Planning accordingly. Kindly take up your positions, Honourable members.
- IV. Honourable members, the Bungoma County Revenue Fund quarterly reports and financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2025. The said document is committed to the Committee of Finance and Committee Planning for processing and reporting back to the House. Next.

2. REPORT BY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Christine.

Hon. Christine Mukhongo: Thank you, Speaker. I rise to table the report by Liaison Committee on consideration and approval of the Bungoma County Revenue Fund and adoption of the report

Version 00

Revision 00

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of the Auditor General on the County Government of Bungoma, financial year 2023-2024. I table.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members the report by the Liaison Committee on the consideration and adoption of the report of the Auditor General on the County Government of Bungoma for the financial year 2023-2024 is hereby tabled by the Committee of Liaison and the same becomes the property of the House accordingly.

3. REPORT OF THE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS.

Mr. Speaker: Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Violet I am seeing... Sorry, sorry, Hon. Caleb. No, no, you are in the same committee or what's not happening. The Chairperson is available, the Chair proceeds. You ought to be reconciling the domestic affairs of the committee so that we are able to know. Kindly proceed, Chair.

Hon. Violet Makhanu (Chairperson, Youth and Sports): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am on my feet to table a report by Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on completion status of Chemoge High Altitude Training Centre. Thank you, I table.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members the report by the Sector Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on the completion status of Chemoge High Altitude Training Centre, is hereby tabled and the same becomes the property of the House.

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. PURSUANT TO SECTION 58 (A) (1) OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S ACT 2012

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, Leader of Majority.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you, Speaker. I stand to give a notice that pursuant to Section 58A of the County Government's Act 2012, revised 2020, this House approves the following nominees to serve in the selection panel for the recruitment of members of the County Public Service Board.

Version 00

Revision 00

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1. C.S. Elizabeth Wanyonyi, Chairperson.
2. Advocate Saul Wasirwa, representing LSK,
3. CPA Rita Navalayo Manyonge, Member of the ICPAK.
4. Chemonge Stephen, representing Workers' Association and lastly
5. Julius Bakasa, representing the Private Sector. Thank you, Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa. Hon. Jack...

Hon. Jack Wambulwa (*On a point of information*): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Just on a point of information, Hon. Speaker, I want to appreciate the new renovation that has happened in the House. Even though those of us who are slightly tall these seats might be very uncomfortable if we are going to sit for long. I request if the contractor can just come and raise them a bit, so that when we are sitting for long sessions, we cannot be getting tired. That's all I wanted to inform, Hon. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you for the feedback. Now, I am imagining Hon. Allan with his height...Lets proceed.

2. NOTICE BY LIAISON COMMITTEE.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Christine.

Hon. Christine Mukhongo (Vice Chairperson, Liaison Committee): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to issue a notice of motion by the Liaison Committee on consideration and adoption of the Report of the Auditor General on the County Government of Bungoma Financial Year 2023-2024.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, a notice has been issued by the Committee on Liaison on its report on consideration and adoption of the Report of the Auditor General on the County Government of Bungoma Financial Year 2023-2024. I urge the Clerks-At-the-Table to have the same shared with the Honourable Members on their gadgets. It is going to form part of our discussions in the course of this week as scheduled by the HBC.

Version 00

Revision 00

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3. NOTICE BY THE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Violet.

Hon. Violet Makahanu (Chairperson, Youth and Sports): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to move a notice of motion on behalf of the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on the Completion and Status of Chemoge High Attitude Training Centre. I move.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, a notice of motion has been issued by the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports on the Completion and Status of Chemoge High Attitude Training Centre. I urge the Clerks-At-the-Table to have the said report shared with the Honourable Members on their gadgets. The same is going to form part of our discussions in the course of this week once scheduled by the HBC.

Yes, Hon. Sudi I am seeing you online. What is the issue?

Hon. Sudi: Busolo (*On a point of information*) Hon. Speaker, I am also standing on a point of information equally concerned like Hon. Jack has said that the tall people. I want the Honourable Member here, Nyongesa also to confirm whether he is comfortable or uncomfortable because he is equally tall.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Member, we will proceed. We will proceed.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A STATEMENT FROM HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ipara you have the honor of sharing the weekly Order Paper of the House.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker, let me also start by lauding the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk for the refurbishment that has been carried out in the House. These are modern seats. I want to say congrats. Let me proceed.

This is the tentative weekly program of the Business of the County Assembly for the week commencing Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th September, 2025. Hon. Speaker with your permission, most of the items on this particular Tuesday 9th has been done. Allow me to proceed to the second one statement by a member of the House Business Committee pursuant to that provision which I am doing.

2. A question by a member for Khalaba Ward, Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, MCA to get a response from the Chairperson, Sector Committee on Education and Vocational Training in relation to Muteremko Vocational Training Centre, VTC Perimeter Ward.

Motion

Exceptional Motion. A Resolution of the County Assembly paying tribute to the late Hon. James Barasa Muhongo, which has already been done by the Majority Leader.

Wednesday 10th September, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Questions and Statements

Statement by a member from Mbakalu Ward, Hon. Bernard Kikechi, MCA, to get a response from the Chairperson, Secretary of the Committee on Education and Vocational Training in respect to the budgetary implementation on the program of teaching and learning materials for early child development, ECDE and equipping of vocational training centers in the department.

Motion

Nomination and appointment of members to the County Public Service Board Selection (Section 58A of the County Government Act 2012) Leader of the Majority Party will carry it out.

On Wednesday 10th September, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Questions and Statements

A statement by a nominated member, Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama, MCA to get a response from the Chairperson, Sector Committee on Labour Relations, Member Services and Facilities in relation to the state of casual workers in the County Government of Bungoma after the Court ruling in the dispute between them and the County Government.

Motion

A report by the Sectoral Committee on Health Services on the status of functionality and management of the health management information system in Bungoma County to be done by the Chairperson, the Sectoral Committee.

On Thursday 11th September, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

Questions and Statements

A statement by the member of the House Business Committee, pursuant to provisions of the Standing Order 47(2) (A) will inform the House of the tentative weekly programme for that week to follow.

Motion

THAT, this House adopts the report by the Sector Committee on Lands, Urban, Fiscal Planning and Housing on the implementation of House resolutions for the year 2025 and 2023. It will be done by the Chairperson, the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Urban and Fiscal Planning and Housing.

That is the end of the tentative programme I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members from Hon. Ipara's presentation that is our tentative Order Paper of the week. Any adjustments due to be informed. Next?

2. A MEMBER FOR KHALABA WARD TO GET A RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN RELATION TO MUTEREMKO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE PARAMETER WARD.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Hon. Aggrey what is the issue?

Hon. Aggrey Mulongo: *(On a point of information)* Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have looked around I have not seen our wall clock there, so I don't know what is happening. Where is the wall clock?

Mr. Speaker: You expect me to tell you that it has gone for service?

(Laughter)

You will have feedback tomorrow when you come back, ask me it has come from which garage for service but you will find it there. Honourable Otsiula?

(Loud Consultations)

What people are confused of I don't understand. Hon. Otsiula sorry, sorry. Now, I have discovered that you are...

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula (Chairperson, Education): Thank you, Hon. Speaker on behalf of the Committee on Education and Vocational Training, I rise to furnish the House with a response pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order Number 54 of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders.

The Committee on Education and Vocational Training hereby submits its report on the statement sought by Hon. Cornelius Makhanu concerning the information on the construction of the perimeter wall fence at Mteremko Vocational Training Centre in Khalaba Ward.

Following the directive of the Committee, the County Executive Committee Member, that is the CCM, Education and Vocational Training was formally requested to respond to issues raised in the said statement, by letter reference CAB-CC-CECT-4, Volume 4, 15, dated 25 June 2025. The CECM, Education and Vocational Training submitted the response by a letter reference CG-BGM-EDU-CECM-CA, Volume 3, 93.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee convened a consultative meeting with the statement of Hon. Cornelius Makhanu on 7 July, 2025.

Version 00

Revision 00

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During the Committee's session, it was established that certain issues raised in the statement were inadequately responded to in as per the written response. Consequently, the Committee resolved to hold an interrogation with the Department of Education and Vocational Training, together with the Director of the Department of Public Works, on Monday 14 July, 2025, to seek more clarification on issues raised. After deliberations, the Committee made the following observations.

2. That the contractor had been paid 99% of the total contract sum from the payment certificates raised by the Department of Public Works after the inspection and acceptance Committee verified the works done.

2. That the surface area that was to be fenced was not specified in the bills of quantities provided to the Committee for verification. 3. That there is a conflict between the Vocational Training Centre and a neighbor who has encroached on the riparian land that is on Riverside Way, was left out during fencing.

The Department responded to the issues raised by letter referenced CG-BGM-AEDUC-CA Vol. 2-07 and were invited for interrogation together with the owner of the statement, who requested for a site visit together with the Committee and the Department. As a result, the Committee with the owner of the statement, Hon. Cornelius Makhanu, and the Department conducted a site visit to Muteremuko Vocational Training Centre in Khalaba Ward on Friday 25 July, 2025.

All the issues that had arisen were clarified, and the owner of the statement was satisfied. The attached document confirms that Muteremuko Vocational Training Centre was allocated one hectare of land at the request of the statement's owner.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee on Education and Vocational Training reaffirms its commitment to protecting the interests of vocational training centers and promoting integrity and accountability in the vocational training sector.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Cornelius that is the feedback from the committee. Hon. Cornelius, you were able to accompany the Committee?

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I am satisfied with the response. Thank you

Mr. Speaker: Were you able to accompany the committee?

Hon. Cornelius Makhanu: Yes

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Thank you. We proceed.

EXCEPTIONAL MOTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON. JAMES BARASA
MUKHONGO

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, move the motion.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Thank you, Speaker. I stand to move the Exceptional Motion. A resolution of this county Assembly paying tribute to the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo. Whereas the County Assembly mourns the passing and burial of the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo, a distinguished leader, devoted public servant and steadfast advocate for the people of Bungoma County.

Whereas Hon. James Barasa Mohongo served with honour and distinction across three county Assemblies, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, diligence and visionary leadership. Whereas in the first County Assembly, he served as the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Vice-Chairperson of the Finance and Economic Planning Committee and a member of the Recorded County Registration and Land Committee and the Physical Planning Committee.

And whereas during his tenure as the Chief Whip, Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo exemplifies discipline and unity, ensuring that members of the Majority Party, Consistently attended plenary sittings and actively participated in committee retreats. He fostered the culture of punctuality and accountability with 90% attendance in the committee he chaired and was instrumental in marshaling government agenda with legal timelines.

Version 00

Revision 00

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He was skilled mediator swiftly uniting divided groups and resolving internal conflicts to enhance service delivery and uphold dignity of the Assembly. The second county assembly he held the position of the Chair Finance and Economic Planning committee and he was a member of the committees on Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources; Lands, Urban and Physical Planning and the Selection Committee.

In the third County Assembly he continued his service as Chairperson of the Finance and Economic Planning committee and as a member of the Lands, Urban and Physical Planning; Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources; Gender, Culture and Social Welfare committee. His contribution to the Fiscal policy, Urban Planning and Environment Stewardship and Social Equity have left a mark on the County Policy and Governance.

Now therefore this assembly resolves to solemnly pay tribute to the late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo for his outstanding service, leadership and dedication of the public duty to extend a heartfelt condolence to his family, friends and constituency and to stand in solidarity with all those who mourn his passing.

To honour his dreams by upholding the values he championed and by continuing the work he so passionately pursued. To observe a moment of silence in his honour during this sitting of the County Assembly as we reflect on his life, let us remember the words of Nelson Mandela “what counts in life is not the fact that you have lived it, it is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determined the significance of the life we lead”.

May his soul rest in eternal peace

Mr. Speaker: You invite the Leader of Minority.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa (Leader of Majority): Mr. Speaker having reached there let me call upon the Leader of Minority to second.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Vitalis you proceed

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Vitalis Wangila (Leader of Minority): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to appreciate the Leader of Majority for this exceptional motion of the resolution of the County Assembly to pay tribute to the late James Barasa Mukhongo. Indeed this is one Member who was wise among all the Members I have come across in this House.

He was one of the Members I went for advice the first time we met, we have lost him and as we have heard from the Leader of Majority naming the position he held in this Assembly was a vital person and we are going to miss him indeed. I second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members this motion is an exceptional motion. At the end of the debate there is no vote so I cannot be able to propose a motion to allow members to debate because when we propose a motion for debate you end up having to vote. This is a motion of tribute so allow Members to talk of how they knew him so we are able to finish the closure and do something else. I will allow Members starting with Hon. Meshack. We will all speak because from home, we are fresh and we are not in a hurry to go back. Hon. Meshack you are the first one to go.

Hon. Meshack Museveni: Asanti Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipia nafasi. Kwanza nasema pole kwa mwenzangu Mheshimiwa Barasa Mukhongo. Kifo ni kawaida hata sisi ambao tuko hapa tuko na siku zetu lakini sisi kama watu wa eneo Bunge la Kabuchai tukiwa na Wadi nne tumepoteza msimamizi wetu.

Yeye ndiye alikua Mwenyekiti wa chama cha *Ford Kenya*, Kabuchai na yeye ndiye alikua anatupea sisi mwelekeo. Tulikua tunatembea pamoja na yeye. Yale yenye saa zingine tumeenda kando kidogo alikuwa mtu wa kutuita na anatumkalisha chini anatumambia twende hivi ili chama chetu cha Ford Kenya kiwe imara. Katika *Assembly* yetu ya Bungoma Mheshimiwa Barasa Mukhongo amefanya kazi vile umeskia kutoka kwa Kiongozi wa walio wengi. Mheshimiwa Barasa Mukhongo wakati tumekosea alituita kando na kutueleza hii ni serikali na tulikuwa tunamfuata kwa sababu ya maongezi mazuri na tukijadiliana tunapata ya kwamba yale amesema ni ya ukweli.

Kwa hivyo kama County Assembly ya Bungoma tumepoteza lakini tunaomba Mungu amweke Mheshimiwa Barasa mahali pema. Kwa hayo machache Mheshimiwa Spika ninaomba tumwombe njia yake ifunguke. Asanteni.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Sudi

I will follow the order sorry. Whoever is requesting is Hon. Sudi, so we will leave him out. Hon. Kimeta proceed. We will continue with you later.

Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi: Thank you Honourable Speaker before maybe I eulogize the late Honourable Member I was requesting that you allow the communication team to take photos for remembrance and also during the time maybe we shall be observing a moment of silence maybe they take the photos. Kindly it is a special motion and I make a special request to you...

Mr. Speaker: Communication team comes in when we are having a function. We will proceed as other members come in and ask them to come around. HANSARD is on record we can have a copy after this presentation.

Hon. Polycarp Wandabusi: Thank you. I wish to take this time to say as Kabuchai people as the community of Bungoma County, we lost Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo who was a man who I have no clear words to describe. I want to say he was an honest man who was dedicated to serve the good people of Chwele/Kabuchai and beyond. A man who was there to represent all of us and who was there as a custodian. A man who was clear to the vision of the people and may God rest the soul of Hon. Barasa Mukhongo in internal peace. I want to say as Kabuchai, we have really lost a person who was supportive to the party. I remember when I joined Ford Kenya party, we went through nomination, we walked together and when I was given the nomination certificate to be officially the candidate for West Nalondo Ward, he was the one heading the campaign team for all of us MCA's and even the M.P. I want to take this special time to pray to the the almighty God that may He rest his soul in eternal peace. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari. Members once you have pressed your request leave it there. When you continue pressing you will come down the line. Hon. Makari proceed...

Hon. George Makari: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a very astute politician called Hon. Mukhongo Barasa. He was popularly known in this House as *Biashara mbalimbali*. What that means I don't know. Now if God would have descended in this Assembly and asked me Hon. Makari, whom can you give instead of Hon. Mukhongo? You know whom I could give straightaway.

(Laughter)

Version 00

Revision 00

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Instead of Hon. Mukhongo I would pick on some member here and you know him. I wish Hon. Mukhongo would not have died but now he died. We pay a lot of tribute to him and his family.

I want to say one or two things about Hon. Mukhongo. We shared with him the committee on Lands, but then he was also my chairperson Finance Committee. As a party, Ford Kenya, we really lost an astute politician, we lost a mobiliser, and we lost an orator.

Mr. Speaker: Let me hear Hon. Ali Machani. We will all die at one point. Whether he is wishing Honourable so-and-so to die, it's okay. Let's proceed, Hon. Ali Machani let's hear you. Hon. Ali Machani.

Hon. Ali Machani: Honourable Speaker, I would wish his comments to be expunged. Is it in order for a senior member, whom I respect, to point out and we are really threatened as a House because we don't know whom he is pointing fingers at? His reservation is directed to you, that you know the person he would have pointed. So kindly...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari, I don't know anybody who was supposed to have died. That one is wrong. Number two, we may have jokes on other occasions, but where death is concerned, we don't wish that the young man or the old man here dies. In law, there is a presumption of death.

(Loud consultations)

Members, generally in law there is a presumption of death. Suppose you have an accident of two people. They say the elder one must have died but here everybody has his own day. Hon. Makari, insinuating that I know who was supposed to have died is wrong. I think that one is right. I didn't hear that one. Some members are behaving as if they are seeing some elder. Kindly withdraw that one, Hon. Makari. I'm looking at everybody but not him.

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker, I said if God would have asked. But you know he didn't come and ask me. If he would have come and asked, I said I would have given Him someone from this House but He didn't ask. Why should I withdraw when God actually did not ask?

Mr. Speaker: Let's go back to the main issue. Hon...

Hon. George Makari: Why is Hon. Mulongo very worried?

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, did you want Hon. Makari to look behind while he is contributing? He is supposed to look this side. The same way Ali Machani is looking at Hon. Nyongesa. Allow us to proceed.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: I'm not aware. I have indicated that I'm not aware.

(Laughter)

Hon. Makari let me hear Hon. Sheila...

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Mr. Speaker, I think I joined Hon. Machani because now the Speaker is making us think about who we can give away. So it is very...

Mr. Speaker: No, Hon. Makari. Kindly verify your submission. Even Hon. Sheila at her young age is worried.

(Laughter)

Hon. George Makari: Honourable Speaker, God did not ask me so I cannot divulge who the person is, so I will proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Makari, if God had proposed that you are the one to go you could have gone, so there is nothing else. Proceed, please.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for saving me. I wish to say that this is a serious tribute to Hon. Mukhongo.

This was a sharp person with a sharp memory. There was a day in fact I think it was his last contribution in this House, we had argued about something... I can't actually pinpoint what it was, but then lastly he stood up and said Members, why are you arguing? This thing we passed here ourselves and that issue died there because actually we began remembering. It was the issue of retention and he told us here he stood as the last person and he spoke very slowly and he said, this issue Members we passed it here ourselves and that issue died and no one contributed on it again because he had solved the problem. That was a very sharp memory when most of us had forgotten.

Version 00

Revision 00

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He was a good mobiliser for the party-Ford Kenya- and an orator. If Hon. Mukhongo was given a mic before you, be sure people will congratulate him and the person coming next will not have anything to say. That is how good Mukhongo was.

In the last assembly, I remember a coup had just taken place in Ford Kenya and there were Members who had aligned themselves with the coup plotters and Hon. Mukhongo was one of them, and my good friend Hon. Lusenaka. I hope he is here but the Hon. Mukhongo could read the signs. When we came here as a party and sat down, I remember the Leader of Majority was here also and other Ford Kenya members. We began debating and asking them, why they have done this? Why they were leaving us going on the other side? We informed them about the repercussions of what they had done. Mukhongo was clever. He aligned himself with us but those who remained on the other side you remember we gave them one committee for the remainder of the term. I think Hon. Mulongo could have been one of them. I pay my tribute to Hon. Mukhongo we remember him. He is now six feet under.

I wish that we can emulate his stance. He was wise, and he was always an arbitrator. He could come in a matter and stand in the middle and give direction. Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to speak.

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also wish to join the House and my colleagues in remembering our departed senior Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo. He was my neighbor.

I used to call him my desk mate. When we came to this House as new members, and we were not sure where to sit, Hon. James Mukhongo and Hon. Jack Wambulwa, they are the ones who told me to sit in between them.

At that time, I did not know what was happening. But later on, I came to learn that one was to become the Chairperson of Finance and the other was to become the Chairperson of Budget. I know most Members here will not believe but some Members of Ford Kenya Party will agree with me that despite being in Ford Kenya, as the Chairperson of Finance and the Chairperson of Budget, they used to have heated exchanges whenever things used to come from the other side.

Version 00

Revision 00

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At the end of the day, it was surprising that all of them would rise and support the document and the report of the motion would go through. As a first-time Member in this House, I owe a lot to him. Because even contributing to motions in this House Hon. Barasa was keen.

He will ask you, what do you want to say? You whisper to him and he tells you put that microphone off. You feel offended, but at the end of the day, he will come back to tell you that what you are going to say was going to ignite fire in the House.

He will always remind you of your position. You will sit on the Speaker's panel. You want to contradict the Speaker. Wait. Go and deal with your issues after the session. For us Members, Hon. Opwora is here you can bear witness. The Honourable Member for Chwele/Kabuchai, was a neutral arbiter, and he always whipped us young Members in the party to toe the line and always reminded us to respect one Hon. Joseph Nyongesa.

I think if there is a Member in our party who gave Hon. Joseph Nyongesa a hundred plus one support, it is the gentleman who has now been laid to rest, Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo and a friend in need is a friend indeed. Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, you stood with Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo all the journeys in hospital, carrying him in your car and even the last time we went to visit him at Hopkins Hospital when he was now being discharged in the morning a few of our Members were there.

You were taking everything in your stride hoping that our senior Member will get well and come back. I want to appreciate you as a leader and as a friend to my neighbor that you did your best. I don't want to speak so much, but I want us to remember Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo.

To me, I used to call him my father in the House because he taught me many things and how to survive in politics. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Opwora. Then I'll have Hon. Ali Machani, followed by Cheseto.

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance also to pay tribute to a leader who not only taught us but was also a mentor to most of us.

Hon. Mukhongo was our Chairperson in Ford Kenya in Kabuchai and as my colleague Hon. Wandabusi alluded, he led our campaigns. Therefore we owe him a lot for who we are here in

Version 00

Revision 00

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this Assembly. Hon. Mukhongo was a friend who stood for justice and a friend whose kindness and integrity were unmatched. I remember the few occasions that we were with him.

He was also in my committee of tourism and we worked with him in the committee of Lands and in every debate actually in most of the decision-making, Hon. Mukhongo remained steadfast in a belief that politics is about service, not about self-interest. He stood for justice and he was a political figure who was a symbol of dedication, a champion of progress, and a tireless advocate of the values that most of us hold today.

He led us to believe that when you have undivided dedication there are always fruits. By virtue of him spearheading our campaigns and also standing firm in the values that he believed were right, he stood firm in defending our party leader Hon. Moses Masika Wetangula and also this Assembly.

Therefore, while we grieve we also celebrate the legacy of a colleague who helped to shape the future, a friend who showed us what it means to serve with integrity and a mentor who brought out the power of unity.

There's a lot that we learnt. There's a lot that we shall still carry on. It's unfortunate that I was still learning from Hon. Mukhongo and even at family level you saw the way he managed his family and also the many wives he had. That is an attribute that I would have really loved him to teach me. But unfortunately, we always believe that the good things that he did, we shall continue carrying them. Rest in peace, Hon. Mukhongo.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Opwora, Hon. Hentry told me that he is equal to the task to teach you. Because he's not a...

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Unfortunately, I have not visited his home and he stays away. I know the skills that Hon. Mukhongo had. They cannot be matched.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Ali Machani, then Cheseto, then I'll be able to have Hon. Orize.

Hon. Ali Machani: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for allowing me also to add a voice to what has been said by the Honourable Members in this House.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Allow me to thank you Mr. Speaker, the Clerk, the leadership of this House, the leader of Majority and Minority for providing leadership when one of us was taken ill. He needed support from his colleagues. I've served with Hon. Mukhongo, despite the fact that we are not in the same party.

He respected me because he's someone we started working together in the defunct local authorities. I can remember Hon. Mukhongo was one of the key persons in the Ford Kenya team. I'm not a member of Ford Kenya but I liked the way he used to behave when serious challenges came to their team.

As leaders when they wanted to give their opinion, he could be one of the persons whom the leader could consult on the way forward. I sit with the Leader of Majority on the County Assembly Service Board. One day, when we were discussing something critical, Hon. Speaker, we were forced not to continue with the meeting because Hon. Henry Nyongesa came in and the son to the late had raised a concern that the father was not okay. He was at Hopkins Hospital and the medics were not paying attention to him. Hon. Mukhongo is a person whom Ford Kenya team had respected.

This is a clear indication that loyalty pays. Hon. Mukhongo was not a politician, he was a youth assisting to Hon. Dr. Moses Masika Wetangula by then he was seeking to be MP for the larger Sirisia Constituency. As a young man, he decided to support his ambition and it reminds me that those who have remained loyal to the party leader are now somewhere.

Those who are not loyal to the party leadership do not finish well. I say so because I have seen people in this House when they come they are loyal to their party leadership but when they begin to get some stipends they change tune.

This one is an eye opener to remember the party that brought you here and serve it diligently and never betray your appointing authority. Whether you are given a ticket to vie, whether you are nominated, whether you have more resources than the person who appointed you, never rubbish him because you'll be cursing yourself.

So the living testimony that I have on the table is that Hon. Mukhongo, come rain, come sunshine, he will always mention something about National Speaker Dr. Moses Masika

Version 00

Revision 00

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Wetangula. In his speech anywhere, whether he's taking a cup of tea, whether he's taking his breakfast, whether he's taking his supper, he will always remember where he came from.

One day I remember something he taught me. We had changes in leadership in this House and he was a victim. We wanted to remove Hon. Majimbo and Hon. Musakali from leadership, I called him. My brother changes are here and how I see things happening you are not left out. It's like you're also going to be de-whipped and you're going to lose your position. He said, let it be. I'm still an MCA. I'll serve this House. What God has planned for me, I' will remain Barasa Mukhongo and I'm in Ford Kenya. That's what he told me. By then we were in CORD Coalition under Moses Masika Wetangula and Raila. When we did changes, I communicated to the National Speaker by then he was a Minister and one of the co-principals. The following day, Hon. Mukhongo came and greeted me something that cannot happen in this House.

He was one man who could accept changes when they came. He was one man who could also join others to work on any position given. In that assembly he served us, therefore, we sat down and decided that he's one of the senior most Members together with Hon. Majimbo. We decided to give them more committees to cushion them. Not to feel that they have been disadvantaged and we worked well when we were with Hon. Juma Nyongesa during the First Assembly.

The Second Assembly, Hon. Mukhongo came in as a leader again in charge of finance and he served with many members. What am I saying is when we are in this House, Honourable Members, let us respect each other. The seniors to respect the juniors and juniors to respect the seniors because at the end of the day you will become a senior and you deserve to be respected. Those who are seniors you have an obligation to respect the juniors because we all began there. Above all, leadership comes from God. That today we are deliberating in this House minus one of us, a person who was key to us and supportive of his party.

I remember we were also together with him in Assembly football team. Hon. Nyongesa asked us to join him in the tug of war team. We joined the tug of war team; Hon. Mukhongo, myself and Hon. Museveni.

When Hon. Museveni witnessed a tug of war player collapse in the field, he decided to run away but Hon. Mukhongo remained in the team but not as an active player. Hon. Museveni tried to discourage us but we decided to remain in the tug of war team. Last time when we were going to

Version 00

Revision 00

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Nakuru for the games Hon. Museveni gave us his son as a replacement and that we should now never mention to him about the tug of war team.

What I am saying is that Hon. Mukhongo worked regardless of being in a party that is or not affiliated with him. He could always give you advice.

Something very funny Honourable Members, let us agree that one day we will not be in this Assembly. What I have learnt from Hon. Mukhongo's death is that let us love our families; let us take our children to school. How do you work with others, how do you respect the juniors who are members of staff serving in this House. Hon. Mukhongo has left this House and no staff can point a finger at him.

Hon. Mukhongo has been one of the Members who have been encouraging the members of staff to go back to school and improve their academics. I have learnt something from Hon. Mukhongo that as much as some of us we have one or two families and that is where we belong but Hon. Mukhongo had 5 families put together. Despite having a large family when you go to him, he could give you some money if you are missing some coins in your pocket. What does it indicate to us that try and manage yourself. Do not be crying as much as you have challenges. In this House we are not permanent. One day we will leave but the respect we leave in this House will follow us. I want to thank the National Speaker for demonstrating leadership to support the family.

We are all in parties but a party leader to come and support the family is rare. All of us belong to parties. I am not rubbishing my party. I know they do a lot for me and to other Members but let us emulate what was done at that burial. Hon. Speaker Moses Masika Wetangula has given us a picture as Members of this House, when you pass away and nobody can be with you, you will be in quagmire. I remember when we lost Hon. Zaina I can also remember when we lost the wife to Hon. Fwaro. I can also remember when we lost Hon. Makhandia. This burial has put us on the map and this one has made me thank the leadership and including the Clerk.

Today we have done what we did to Hon. Mukhongo, he has served this House three times but remember he is not on pension. If he could be having pension whether they are five families they could be sharing something but whatever you did as an Assembly is what they have benefitted from us.

Version 00

Revision 00

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I want to thank you Hon. Speaker and the leadership. Continue doing that. We never know about tomorrow. We may say Mukhongo was given a decent burial but you don't know about yourself tomorrow.

I am one of your Members when I pass away in the morning remember at 1:00 p.m. you will not be with me. If it is in the evening the following day. Remember I will not give you a lot of stress. I am not praying to go but I am saying let us get prepared because the burial that I saw under Hon. Mukhongo, Honourable Members you made us proud. Thank you and we want to say let us keep it up.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cheseto.

(Applause)

Now I have been able to extract the order of appearance so you don't have to worry this time. After Cheseto I will have Orize then Kuloba. Please proceed.

Hon. Martin Cheseto: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want also to join Members to pay tribute to the departed hero, the guy I respected. The man who had various attributes that were worth emulating. If I do remember, I served with Hon. Mukhongo in tourism and he was somebody who kept time. He was actually keen. He was in the committee room earlier than the officials, or the chairman or the vice chair.

He respected even the small people. Whenever I was standing in when the chairman was not around, you know chairing a committee where Mukhongo was you ought to have that intelligence that could match his because this is a person who was sharp. Sharp in contributing, sharp in criticizing and he could even stay there until the meeting ended. This is a man I will miss, a man who was a voice of reason. I admired him whenever he was speaking on the floor of the House. I don't even remember when even the Hon. Speaker contradicted him on the floor of the House. Whenever he spoke, Hon. Speaker was actually in agreement with him. This is a guy who had everything to do with what is honest to the people of Bungoma.

This is a guy who was not looking at his own constituents, the ward. He was actually looking at the issues that were affecting the entire county. What was affecting Chwele, what was affecting Cheptais, he couldn't even contribute. He was not selfish. He meant well for the people of Bungoma. As he exits the stage, I believe the Ford Kenya fraternity and the entire coalition and even the entire assembly, we've lost him.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Of course in honor of his soul, definitely I will call upon the Ford Kenya fraternity to ensure that seat is secured in the loving memory of the departed. Finally, I want to say, let his soul continue resting in eternal peace. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Orize Kundu

Hon. Orize Kundu: Asante sana Bwana Spika. Kwangu mimi ningependa kwanza kabisa kushukuru viongozi wetu wa hii *Assembly* kwa kazi ambayo mlifanya wakati Mweshimiwa Mukhongo alipokuwa mgonjwa hadi kifo chake. Tena kwa kazi ambayo mlifanya kwa mazishi ya Mheshimiwa Mukhongo. Mazishi ya Mheshimiwa Mukhongo yalionesha wazi kwamba viongozi wa Bungoma wanajua ya kufanya kwa watu wao.

Mimi kwangu binafsi namjua Mukhongo mwaka wa elfu mbili, nikiwa diwani wa Malakisi County Council kama Naibu wa Mwenyekiti na nilikuwa nafanya biashara Chwele. Nikajuana na Mukhongo akiwa mchuuzi wa kuuza ng'ombe pale kwa mnanda pamoja na Mheshimiwa Meshack Museveni. Wakati huo nilikuwa *Councillor* na hao walikuwa wachuuzi. Tulikuwa tunakutana kwenye kichinjio cha ng'ombe pale Chwele nikinunua nyama kwenda kuuza kwenye hoteli. Urafiki wangu na Mukhongo ulianza wakati huo.

Mimi nikiwa diwani yeye hakuwa ameanza siasa, na alikuwa mtu wa KANU kabisa, na mimi nilikuwa mtu wa FORD KENYA. Tulikuwa tunakaa kwa Hoteli yangu, tukiongea. Naweza kujivunia ya kwamba hata mimi nilimtia moyo Barasa Mukhongo kupenda siasa. Na baada ya mwaka elfu mbili na mbili, yeye aliteuliwa diwani, na mimi nikaacha udiwani nikaanza biashara zangu.

Sikujua ya kwamba kuna wakati nitachaguliwa Siboti nije kwenye Bunge nikutane na Mukhongo hapa tena. Lakini kwa uwezo wa Mwenyezi Mungu, nilikuja nikakutana na Mweshimiwa Mukhongo hapa tena. Na la ajabu kabisa, kamati ambayo nilipewa, nikampata Mukhongo akisisimamia kama Mwenyekiti. Tumefanya kazi naye vizuri, ameendesha kamati vizuri, mpaka wakati wa kifo chake. Mimi kwa hili Bunge hata wengine wamepoteza lakini kuna wengine tumepoteza sana kwa ushauri wa Mukhongo kuelekeza kuleta uongozi katika Bunge.

Mimi mtu ambaye amepoteza kabisa siezi kosa kumtaja kabisa; kusema tu ukweli Mheshimiwa Joseph Nyongesa amepoteza rafiki. Kazi ambayo alikuwa anafanya, hata kama tumenyamaza

Version 00

Revision 00

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lakini tunajua, na mimi katika kamati ya Fedha alikuwa ashaweka mwelekeo. Ukiangalia mwelekeo ambao ameweka, unaona mbali kabisa ambao kweli ameona, na ameelekeza mwelekeo ambao utasaidia sio binafsi ni ya kusaidia Kaunti ya Bungoma. Kwangu mimi namuombea kwamba Mwenyezi Mungu aweke Mukhongo mahali pema kule ahera hata sisi wengine njia yetu ni hiyo hiyo.

Na mwisho kabisa, nikiongea na Mukhongo, alisema mimi nimeona nimekuwa mdhaifu, lakini kamati yangu ya Fedha, Orize nimekuwachia uiendeshe kwa njia nzuri. Asante sana hayo ni yangu.

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba, then Hon. Johnstone Ipara, you wait for microphone you're only talking. Proceed.

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba: Thank you Mr. Speaker, First, I'm also in solidarity for having lost a friend, somebody I knew before anybody else in this House. Because I knew Mukhongo when we were in school; he was in Form 1, when I was in Form 2. So I've lost this man who inspired me from the *Juakali* sector, because we used to meet out there and he could always encourage me to try politics.

I have learned a lot from Mukhongo; one is loyalty, and loyalty pays from what Mukhongo used to do. Very loyal to his party, though we have never been in the same party ut from the look of things, he was loyal and that's why he was awarded that nomination.

Two, he was a principled man; when he says no, it remains no and when he says yes, it remains yes. He was an honest man who could tell you what could happen from your behavior.

Lastly, is just to say he was also my age set; we were circumcised in the same year. We were in the same church where we used to raise one finger when we go to Church. Otherwise, I wish him well where he has gone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Johnston Ipara.

Hon. Johnstone Ipara: Asante Bwana Spika. Kifo hakina huruma, kifo hakina heshima na kifo hakina rafiki, na wakati Mheshimiwa Makari alikuwa anaongea, akasema Mungu angemuuliza ni nani anatakikana aende nikaona akanichunguza na nikasema nani ametuma huyu mungwana. Nikasema huyu kweli si rafiki lakini ameogopa kusema ni nani. Lakini kifo ni chetu sisi wote.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Tukikaa hivi pengine kesho ni Ipara, kesho kutwa na mwingine kwa hivyo tukae tayari. Huyu tunayeonea juu yake, ni shujaa hodari, mtumishi wa haki, na alitambulika na watu wake alio waakilisha katika Wadi yake ya Chwele/Kabuchai.

Mheshimiwa Spika, wakati tulipokuwa tuna mwomboleza siku ile, pale kwao kijijini watu elfu tano waliweza kufuatilia maombi ya Mwenda zake katika mtandao, kuonesha ya kwamba alikuwa ameguza roho za watu wengi. Na kwa hivyo swali tunalo weza kujiuliza ni kwamba sisi wakati huu ambao tumebakishiwa na Mwenyezi Mungu, ambapo hatujui tutaenda lini, wewe utafuata njia gani? Ya kutenda haki au ya kufanya vitu vya uongo. Nimejifunza kitu kimoja kutoka kwake huyu, ukiangalia yeye katika Kabuchai, yeye ndiye alikuwa sauti ya viongozi wa kutoka Kabuchai, na ukiangalia yeye kutoka chama ya *Ford Kenya*, kila wakati ukitaka kujua msimamo wa chama cha *Ford Kenya*, unasikiza maneno yanayo tamukwa na kusemwa na Mweshimiwa marehemu ndugu yetu James Mukhongo.

Huyo alikuwa sauti, kuonesha kwamba ameaminika na watu wake, wenzake na viongozi wengine wa Kitaifa. Na sisi pia kwa mda mfupi huu tumepewa na Mwenyezi Mungu, tuwe tunafikiria kila wakati, wakati unataka kufanya uamuzi wako, kwa sababu Maisha ni mafupi sana na Mungu alificha ni lini utaenda. Fikiria yale unatendea wenzako ni haki na kama sio haki jua barabara kwa sisi wote ni moja. Mimi wakati wote nimemjua bwana Mukhongo, hakuna siku Mweshimiwa Spika ameniita na jina kwamba Okasida, kila wakati alikuwa ananiita baba, na wakati tulienda kwake nikajua kwa nini alikuwa ananiita baba. Kumbema huyu, mungwana, shujaa hodari alikuwa amepata mke wake kutoka jamii ambayo mimi natoka. Ni ambaye anatambua mahali ukoo wake uko, pale marafiki wako. Kwa hivyo leo tukimwombea yeye, tumwombea Mwenyezi Mungu, amufungulie njia, amuweke penye watendaji wema wanakaa. Na mimi namuombea Mwenyezi Mungu. Asante Bwana Spika.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Isaiah Sudi, then Hon. Sheila Sifuma. Sudi Proceed!

Hon. Isaiah Sudi: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I also stand to eulogize Hon. James Mukhongo who was Chair - Finance, 2017/2022. He really did well. Mr. Speaker, Hon. George Makari has put it, we were together in Finance, our welfare was good. He knew how to navigate and make Members happy. My leader former Minority Leader can attest to that. Hon. Speaker. We cannot understand Gods' decision and Gods' ways of doing things, and because we are not able to advice God and to know his mind, that is Romans 11: 33-35 all the power belongs to God. That's

Version 00

Revision 00

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why I stand to wish him well wherever he is, because all of us will go there. A common saying in Bukusu ‘God harvests the ripe and unripe, the harvest that is ready and even one that is not ready, all belongs to him.’ I just wish him well, I wish his family well and I want to request the Kenya Kwanza fraternity that we join hands to make sure that the Mukhongo seat gets a good person, just like him. Traditionally, I’m *Omukhone* by clan, I don’t see how *Omulonja* can now inherit my wife, because that is purely a Ford Kenya seat.

I want to urge my members in UDA that we support them. We join hands and support because that seat belongs to Ford Kenya an affiliate of Kenya Kwanza Coalition.

As Members, I’ve seen everybody eulogizing Mukhongo as a good person, but I want to remind us that this by-election is going to be hot. Let us support that cause and recapture the seat back so that Mukhongo’s successor can sit next to Hon. Benjamin Otsiula.

It is a joint effort, Honourable Speaker, and I request that as Members, we remember what happened when Hon. Mukwe died. As an Assembly, we spoke one language and Ford Kenya got that seat back. I would be surprised to see a Member of my party campaigning against the broad-based government.

It will be abnormal, because where a party is predominant, we have to respect. I don’t see why we should waste resources fighting for that seat. We must support our Leader of Majority if you want to heal, then the seat left by Mukhongo must be won by Ford Kenya. Once a new Member for Chwele/Kabuchai comes here on Ford Kenya Party, I think we shall heal, because death is there for all of us. Hon. Speaker, I can rest, my tributes, and let us also prepare. As we walk, we must know that we shall die. Don’t be afraid when Hon. George Makari mentions and looks at you. Don’t imagine that you will not die, we shall all die. Let us treat it as normal.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sheila Sifuma, then after Sheila, I’ll have Aggrey Bosire, then Hon. Francis Chemion, in that order.

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to join my colleagues in eulogizing the late Hon. Mukhongo. I think having interacted with him on the floor of this House, I think he was a brilliant legislator.

Version 00

Revision 00

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I think even the time that we had an issue with the budget just a few weeks ago, most of us would agree if he was here, such challenges would not have arisen, because he used to really follow up before any issue is brought on the floor of the House. So for those who sit, Mr. Speaker, Sir, please protect me from a noisemaker here...

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members order, order Hon. Isaiah Sudi. Hon Sheila, proceed. He's not a noisemaker rather consulting loudly.

Hon. Sheila Sifuma: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that protection. It is appreciated. As we continue to eulogize the departed Honorable Member, I think it's a reflection of how we serve also in this House. We saw diligence and follow through and commitment in the way that Hon. Mukhongo served in the Finance Committee. I think for anyone else who serves, for all of us who serve in different committees, may we put our best foot forward, because at the end of the day, people will remember how best you serve them, not how best you frustrated them or how best you are a nuisance. People will remember the good that you do in any time of life.

As my other colleagues have mentioned, I think our time on this planet is limited, just like our time in this House is limited. As we serve, I pledge and beseech all of us to be able to serve with humility and honor for the positions that we hold.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, from what my fellow colleagues have said, and I've just learned on this floor, that at a point in time in this House, there are MCAs who held one committee because of challenges they had in the leadership back then.

I want to beseech all of us and remind us that one committee never killed a man. So never be worried by having one or no committee. The most important thing should be what stand or what voice or what you stand for as a person.

So may one committee never worry you, some of us have lived there and we are still alive by God's grace. What is more important is the little service and commitment that you have to the House.

I think on that, I want to just pay my sincere condolences to the family because I know they are the most affected. They are the ones who will miss a father, a husband, and a brother. For us, we are already planning on how to replace him the best way we know. I just pray that with the time

Version 00

Revision 00

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that we have to serve in this House, we shall do so diligently and to the honor of the people who brought us here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Bosire. It is ok Hon. Francis Chemion

Hon. Francis Chemion: Mwashimiwa Spika, kwa niaba yangu mwenyewe na watu wangu wa Kaptama, nachukuwa fursa hii kusema pole kwa familia ya ndugu yetu aliyetuacha. Mwashimiwa Spika, kwanza nishukuru Mwenyezi Mungu kwa kumpea uhai na Maisha marefu ndugu yetu ambaye tuna mhenzi hapa na pia kwa kumpea nguvu ya kufanya kazi ya mwananchi kwa huo mda wote. Si rahisi, Mwashimiwa Spika, najua ndugu yetu tuliwahi mtembelea huko nyumbani mara kadhaa; tulienda kwa boma tofauti tofauti. Mara ya kwanza tulipoenda tulienda kwa mama mwingine, ambaye mama yake alikuwa anakaa hapa. Siku ambayo tena alikuwa mgonjwa tukamtembelea tena kama kamati ya fedha, akatupeleka tena kwa mke mwingine mdogo. Tuliona mambo mazuri kupitia kwa ndugu yetu Mukhongo.

Mwashimiwa Spika, mimi nakumbuka kazi ambayo imefanya hapa na ndugu yetu, na hata alipokuwa anatoka tulimtembelea mara nyingi. Mimi nakumbuka kuna wakati tulienda na Mwashimiwa Sudi Nairobi, na tulipotoka Nairobi tukafululiza moja kwa moja mpaka hospitalini. Ilikuwa siku ya Jumamosi na tukasema lazima tumuone kwa sababu tulikuwa na siku kadhaa na kweli ndugu yetu alikuwa anaumia. Tukamwongelesha alikuwa anasikia tu kile tulikuwa tunamwongelesha lakini hangeweza kuyajibu.

Mimi kwanza nataka kuwashukuru sana nyinyi Waheshimiwa kama kuna wakati tumesimama kama nyumba moja na kuja pamoja kusaidia mwenzetu ambaye ako na shida ni wakati Mwashimiwa amekuwa na shida. Kumbuka tulibaki nyuma hapa na Kiongozi wa walio wengi akasema tuongee kidogo, akasema tukusanye kitu kidogo kidogo, kusaidia ndugu yetu. Kama ingekuwa rahisi kurudisha Maisha ya ndugu yetu kwa kile ambacho tulikusanya, maisha ya ndugu yetu ingerejea. Kwa sababu hakuna hata mmoja wetu alirudi nyuma wakati tulikuwa tunasema tusaaidiane mambo ya hospitali, kupelekwa Nairobi, kupelekwa Eldoret na kwingine. Tulishirikiana kama nyumba na Kiongozi wetu Bwana Spika, na hata wafanyikazi wa jumba hili wale tunafanya na hao pia walifanya kazi kubwa zaidi.

Mwashimiwa Spika hapa nimeskia kutoka kwa ndugu yetu Ozire kwamba hata waliongea akamwambia mambo yakienda namna gani endelea na maneno, na pia Mwashimiwa Spika hata mambo yaliyokuwa yanajiri katika jumba letu, alitoa msimamo wake, aliongea akasema mambo

Version 00

Revision 00

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yakae hivi. Hata ukiangalia ile ripoti ambayo ililetwa kwenye Jumba ama kuna ripoti inatajikana iletwe yeye alikuwa na msimamo na akasema ikae hivi. Sio mtu angeweza kusukumwa hivi, alikuwa na msimamo wa kusaidia hili Jumba. Kwa hivyo tumepoteza kiongozi maarafu na yeye alikuwa na tajiriba kubwa kisiasa. Hakusomea siasa lakini aliishi kwenye siasa mpaka akakuwa mwalimu wa siasa.

Nakumbuka alikuja kwangu na nilisema hayo wakati wa mazishi, na wenzetu ambao mko hapa mlikuwa kwangu, mkiongozwa na Bwana Wamalwa Stephen, na ile timu ambayo tulikuwa tunaita MMAE. Ilikuwa miaka mingi sana kabula kura ya elfu mbili ishirini na mbili, na ndugu Mukhongo kwa sababu ya weledi na tajiriba ya kisiasa, akasema jambo kule mlimani, akasema ikifika ile mwaka nwingine yule ambaye anaenda kuongoza hii inchi uongozi unatoka hapa hapa tu. Ikaja kufanyika jinsi alivyotabiri kumaanisha kwa ule weledi na tajiriba yake angeweza kuona mbali. Unajua ukifanya kitu mara nyingi unaweza kuangalia mbele kuna nini, unaeza tazama kule mbele, kwa hivyo ni mtu angetazama mbele na aseme mambo ambayo yatafanyika.

Kwa hivyo viongozi wetu, Spika wakiongoza, *Leader of Majority* na *Leader of Minority* na sisi wote kwa kazi ambayo mlifanya. Tuko na yule ambaye alichaguliwa tulipoenda kwenye boma huko awe mwenyekiti Bwana Nyongesa Hentry, alisimama imara na akiwa na Mheshimiwa Christine hapa na viongozi wengine ambao walichaguliwa kwa kamati; Wandabusi, Opwora; walifanya kazi ya ziada.

Mwisho siwezi, siwezi kukaa chini bila kumtaja kiongozi wa inchi ambaye ni Rais William Arap Samoe Ruto, kwa sababu ya ule uhusiano aliyokuwa nayo na Mukhongo, Spika wetu alimjuza, mimi pia nilimjuza nikwambia yule jamaa ambaye alisema uongozi inatoka hapa hapa ametuacha na lazima tuje pamoja. Na Spika wale mlikuwa pale. Bwana Wetangula, Raisi wa Jamhuri ya Kenya amesema pole kwa familia na alikuwa ametuzaidia msaada wa shilingi milioni moja ambazo alimkabidhi kiongozi wa walio wengi, na ilifikia familia. Kwa hivvo huo ndio uhusiano. Ukiwa na uhusiano na watu inakuwa ivo.

Spika wetu pia alifanya kazi nyingi. Wakati ndugu yetu alikuwa mgonjwa alitumia pesa nyingi sana. Wengi wetu labda hatukuwa na nafasi ya kuongea na Mheshimiwa Mukhongo zaidi. Mimi niliongea naye sana kwa mambo ya magonjwa na alinieleza kile ambacho Spika alimfanyia. Kwanza alipopeleka Nairobi mara ya kwanza. Spika ndiye aliyempeleka kule, na alipochukuwa sambuli ya damu, Spika alilipia hiyo sambuli ya damu ipeleke Afrika Kusini kwa ukaguzi wa mahabara ya kisasa, na iligharimu pesa nyingi. Wakati wowote alikuwa anarudi

Version 00

Revision 00

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kule alishugulikiwa na Spika. Kwa hivyo ni vizuri kushukuru wale ambao wamesimama pamoja na sisi wakati tuko na shida kama jamii. Kwa hivyo sitaki kupita hapo, mimi namuombea, na kuombea familia yake, heri njema waendeleo na Mungu awasaidie. Asante Spika.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Aggrey Mulongo, then I have Hon. Caleb Wanjala, Hon. Steve Kaiser, then Hon. Christine Mukhongo

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you Hon. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity also to say my tribute to late Hon. James Mukhongo. First of all, I would like to appreciate the Committee that stood in the gap to make sure that the sendoff was done in a good way. That is; Hon. Jack Kawa, Hon. Edwin Opwora, Hon. Meshack Museveni, the Majority Leader. Some of them left even their Wards just to make sure that things went well for our fallen hero.

Just like my colleagues have said Hon. Speaker, all of us will die but the question we need to ask ourselves, when people come to our funeral what will they say, what will they learn or what would be the legacy left behind. That teaches us as long as we are alive, we need to make sure that any opportunity we have been given may be to serve, we serve well. Above all what we have learned is that we take care of our family. If we have our family, children, we need to make sure that we educate them, we need to make sure that any opportunity we have we use it well because at the end of the day, we are writing a story about ourselves.

Mine is just to appreciate him. When I came here as a first timer, I remember my party leader telling him that I am handing over these Honourable Member to you to help him and teach him. That was Hon. James Mukhongo, Hon. Meshack Museveni and the Leader of Majority. For me one of my teacher is gone, now I have remained with the two. Mine is just to pray, that God will protect his family and guide his family. As a House we will never get a Member like Hon. James Mukhongo. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Steve Kaiser

Hon. Steve Kaiser: Asante sana Bwana Spika kunipa hii nafasi pia nijumuike na wenzangu kwa sababu ya mwenzetu aliyetuacha. Hon. James Mukhongo alikuwa mtu mwenye heshima kubwa sana. Mimi kibinafsi hakuwai niita jina langu, alikuwa ananiita mjomba kwa sababu mamake alitoka kwenye ukoo wangu. Kitu kimefanya niamke siku ya leo niongee kuhusu Hon. James Mukhongo, hata kabla anijue, alikuwa ni mtu ambaye anaamini katika sera za chama chake.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Mimi nikisimama katika chama cha *Ford Kenya*, hakuwa ananijua, lakini wakati nilipeleka karatasi zangu pale kwa *IEBC* yeye ndiye alikuwa wa kwanza kuja. Ijapokuwa alikuwa na mwenzake aliokuwa amefanya kazi na yeye katika hili Jumba, hakuangalia hilo, lakini alikuja pale Matulo *Ward* akanipeleka hadi afisi za *IEBC* na akaenda nyumbani kwangu akatangaza kwamba huyu ndiye ambaye tuko na yeye katika Chama cha *Ford Kenya*. Kupata mwanaume ambaye ako na msimamo kama huyo sio rahisi. Nimeona Waheshimiwa wengi, hakuna Mheshimiwa amesimama hapa akaongea ubaya wa Mheshimiwa Mukhongo, ni sifa tu ambazo wanammimimia.

Lakini leo nataka niulize jumba hili kwa ujumla kama sisi sote tulikuwa tunapenda Mheshimiwa Mukhongo, familia yake tunaingalia namna gani? Kuna watoto ambao walikuwa na azima ya kumridhi baba yao katika Jumba hili. Sisi kama Jumba tutafanya jambo gani? Tume kuwa na *by-election* nyingi sana hapa, kama ya Kabuchai, Mheshimiwa Majimbo akienda kuwa mbunge wa Kabuchai, Jumba hili la Bungoma ndio lilipitisha Mheshimiwa Majimbo Kalasinga. Tulikuwa na upinzani mwingi kutoka kwa Sirikali, hata Raisi wa Kenya, pesa zikamwagwa lakini wananchi walisikiza Jumba hili. Kwa hivyo nataka nikikaa chini kama Jumba hili kama kweli tunasema tulimpa Mheshimiwa Mukhongo wacha tutafakari, heshima ipi tutakayo mpa Mheshimiwa Mukhongo na jamii yake kwa hii *by-election* yenye inakuja. Asante

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Christine Mukhongo, then I will have Hon. Wafula Waiti then Hon. Charles Nangulu.

Hon. Christine Mukhongo: Thank you Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to join colleagues to eulogize Hon. James Mukhongo who was a senior Member of this House. It was a sad moment and it still is but we appreciate that it was God's plan that he be with us for the moment that he gave him to us and even to be in this House and to lead the people of Bungoma.

I want to thank this House and especially the honourable Members, the unity that you showed during the funeral of Hon. Mukhongo was one of its kind. I want to say thank you and let us keep that spirit of standing with each other. Even in times of sickness, we saw that happen, in times of death, we were all there throughout, till the end.

Version 00

Revision 00

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I will not say much about Hon. Mukhongo because much has already been said and if I were to be given a chance maybe to eulogize in my mother tongue, I think I could have done much. Crying in English does not give it that big touch, I don't know what...

Mr. Speaker: No, don't cry, just mourn, because crying will be very difficult for all of us to understand, just mourn.

(Laughter)

Hon. Christine Mukhongo: I don't know what I would say but Hon. Mukhongo used to say that '*anano biasara bionekhe*'...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Christine, you are out of order

Hon. Christine Mukhongo: In quotes Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing like quoting, the language is not parliamentary as per the Standing Orders

Hon. Christine Mukhongo: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I think as we revise the Standing Orders in such moments we should be given chance to eulogize our leaders in our own language. It will look sweet and good.

Mr. Speaker: Now that you are a member of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedure amend and include the local language known as Sabaot, Kibukusu or Kitachoni that will be used here. Proceed.

Hon. Christine Mukhongo: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I want to appreciate again the members of staff of this County Assembly for the unity also that they showed during the period we were mourning Hon. Mukhongo. I know the times were hard, even for honourable Members, but the contribution we got assisted much. Even to all the leaders, including our Speaker, National Assembly, Governor, MPs and all other members across the country including our President Ruto, we really appreciate that.

The last thing I'm going to appreciate is the committee, led by our Chairperson, Hon. Hentry. It was a struggle but we thank God that Hon. Mukhongo had united his family, despite the fact that it was a large one. For those men who cannot manage more than one, it is not easy. They showed a lot of unity, meaning that Hon. Mukhongo had really worked on it. It gave us easy time to do the planning until we reached the end.

Version 00

Revision 00

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We want also to take this opportunity to appreciate our Leader of Majority who was the patron of that committee and really gave direction in every corner. He was there in the morning, afternoon and all night. Honourable Leader of Majority, thank you. We made things to go straight, and I think everybody appreciates how the function was since Hon. Mukhongo passed on until we laid him to rest.

We did not rest as a committee after the burial, on Sunday we went back to that home, met the family and talked. We had to remit whatever we had used, gave them a report on how we used the contribution and what remained we gave back to the family, including the Kshs. 1 Million from the President to the family.

As we continue mourning, I want to urge all of us to pray for his family that they keep their unity. Let us pray for this House and also pray for Chwele/Kabuchai Ward, that they get a great leader, maybe better than Hon. Mukhongo, so that he/she can lead the people of Chwele/Kabuchai in a proper way.

As we go to the by-election, I can see our brothers and sisters from Ford Kenya, you are convening meetings, you have plans on what you are going to do, but you've not included us, the Kenya Kwanza. Now we don't know if we should come in to assist or not. We are just so hanging on the pavement. If you need us, we are ready, because we want Chwele/Kabchai to get the best candidate, the best leader to lead the Ward. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Waiti

Hon. Waiti Wafula: Thank you Honourable Speaker for allowing me to mourn my late brother and our friend, Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo. Honourable Speaker, I met Hon. Barasa in this Assembly in the year 2003 after having been elected as a Councilor representing a Ward called Naitiri comprising of the current Milima Ward. By that time, Hon. Barasa had been nominated. We met here and we worked together and by that time we were earning KShs.9,000 monthly and the youngest Councilor in this Assembly, a very young boy, was Hon. Nyongesa Hentry. He was the youngest by that time.

(Loud consultation)

I said then Honourable Speaker, when I was murmuring to Hon. Nyongesa, over our times...

Mr. Speaker: I thought you were whispering not murmuring.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Waiti Wafula: I was whispering about our times and Hon. Iddi overheard that, and he asked me, you mean you were a Councilor? I said yes, and I asked him, what were you doing by that time? He told me quietly that by that time he was in Standard 2, in Maeni Primary School. From our talk, he has now realized how old I am.

We have just remembered our times with Hon. Nyongesa here in 2004 when we wanted to change the leadership of this House and Hon. Nyongesa here with Hon. Mukhongo were the ambassadors of our opposite camp. We had just decided to carry out our meetings in Engo Resort Club near Kitale Town, so these two people were tough ambassadors who were sent to come and convince some members from our camp. It happened that by then, I was like the spokesman of the other camp, so I got out and with me I had some soldiers who were manning me. When we approached the vehicle they were using, this man, Hon. Nyongesa managed to run away and leave Hon. Mukhongo behind.

When I approached him, he said, wait you know, this is war, the only person who convinced me was Nyongesa and he has run away, just leave me alone, I am an old man and then I told the other people that he has told me that he is coming to join us. That is how I saved Hon. Barasa.

When we came back, after now things had worked and we had won the seat, you know we were campaigning for the late Hon. James Mukwe and he took it from Hon. Bisakaya, the late Bisakaya, who was a brother-in-law to Hon. Mildred. After that, we came here and when Hon. Barasa got salary, he gave me KShs. 200 to take it to the church fundraising. Remember those days Kshs. 200 was like KShs.10,000 today. Those are the memories we hold for that time.

Hon. Barasa stood with almost every member, then, we were Ford Kenya members, majority of us including Hon. Nyongesa who is a UDA man today. He could say that I was nominated to serve the party so he could give this month KShs. 200 to this member, next month he could give Kshs. 200 to another member across the county and I learned something from there.

Hon. Speaker, as I finish, I have seen every member, like Honourable Kaiser has said, praising the good things from Hon. Barasa Mukhongo. Including the Honourable neighbor, the lawyer, Hon. Benjamin. He learned a lot from him and every person here, including Hon. Okasida has mentioned the good things from our brother, senior Barasa Mukhongo. Now that we have learned all these from him, Hon. Makari said that when things were tough here, he spoke last and his word was final. Many times, he could raise and say, let us not destroy our government. Honourable Speaker, how I wish that now that we have learned good things from him, why can't we emulate, pick something from what he was doing, calming down the situations so that we can

Version 00

Revision 00

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reduce the pressure in this Assembly for the betterment of our County. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nangulu then I will also have Hon. Zedi then the chair for the committee on burial is going to speak then Deputy Speaker and we wind up. Hon. Nangulu

Hon. Charles Nangulu: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I think I will not take a lot of time, because much has been said and I will just go and talk about Hon. Mukhongo, the late.

To me, he was a good friend, he has been a friend, a neighbor here. As we sit in the Assembly and we were also neighbors in our Wards and he usually called me '*jirani*' not Nangulu.

Hon. Speaker, much has been said. I don't want to repeat many things but what I wish and what I want to propose is 3rd of August next year, we can form a kitty, we could raise some small money so that come next year around this time, on 3rd of August, we celebrate Hon. Mukhongo in a good way. We sit down, we roast *mbuzis*, we go dance, we celebrate him, and we can talk everything about Mukhongo at that particular time and I propose Hon. Polycarp to be the Chair and I need a seconder so that this goes like that. Hon. Wandabusi will be the Chair of the committee, I need a seconder.

Mr. Speaker: We can have a motion within a motion; it will be done at the tail end.

(Laughter)

Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in eulogizing Hon. Mukhongo. Mr. Speaker, I came to know Hon. Mukhongo in 2017 after we were sworn in. Hon. Mukhongo was key on matters placing Members to committees, he approached me, Mr. Speaker, and he told me, we are going to give you a committee of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports. By that time, we only had one committee, it was not two, Youth and Sports and Gender and Culture. Mr. Speaker, he meant his words. At the end of the day, I was the Vice Chair of Gender, Culture, Youth and Sports. The only thing, Mr. Speaker, I got to have is my able chair by that time, Hon. Violet. She really managed me during that time because I was her vice.

She was my chair that time. We worked with her for 5 years, that is 2017 to 2022. By the time we were finishing 2022, Mr. Speaker, Hon. Mukhongo made sure that I became the chair of the Committee on Gender, Youth and Sports. Mr. Speaker, Hon. Mukhongo was a man of his words, he meant his words; when he says yes, it's yes. When he tells you no, it's no.

Version 00

Revision 00

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He used to be friendly to each and every Member and that's why, Mr. Speaker, you've seen we've discussed, we've talked, all the Members have been around and we made sure that Hon. Mukhongo was laid to rest well.

On the proposal by Hon. Nangulu, it is a good idea and I support it. We just need to plan and I think the person you appointed, Hon. Wandabusi is equal to the task. Mr. Speaker, I want to finish and request that may his soul rest in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Hentry Nyongesa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will have very few words in terms of giving tribute to the late Hon. Mukhongo whom I've known for the last almost 25 years. Hon. Speaker, as Members have indicated, I also joined politics when I was a bit young, but I've realized that learning is a continuous process and you have to learn from the seniors. I have grown up in the hands of Hon. Mukhongo from that time he was a nominated Member of the County Council of Bungoma and I've worked with him for a very long time.

I have a very serious story, this time I am not dot.com but those days Hon. Speaker when I was working with Hon. Mukhongo that was the hash tag of the day. I was using that name to grow the Ford Kenya Party which I grew up in.

As you have said, I was the chair of the funeral of Hon. Mukhongo. I want to take this opportunity in that capacity to thank you and the Leader of Majority and the entire Assembly including the staffs of this institution; they stood with that family trying to help. I thank you and the Leader of Majority; you were waking up early and leaving late during the arrangement of our brother's funeral.

I was in this Assembly at the start of devolution Hon. Speaker and I found Hon. Mukhongo here; he liked sitting this side Hon. Speaker; and I can call it a blessed side and that's why we have the Leader of Majority that side. After this, I beg that you allow me to start warming up the seat for whoever will be coming to replace Hon. Mukhongo. In other words I will be crossing...not crossing the side but I will be moving from where I sit to sit next to Hon. Otsiula hopefully he will not disturb me because I do not have the attributes of the Hon. Mukhongo but he has remained with Hon. Jack Wambulwa so he will continue consulting. I wish to continue warming that seat and if you will allow me I will continue sitting there for the rest of my time here Hon. Speaker.

Much has been said about Hon. Mukhongo having a united family of 5 wives and we have just been sharing with Hon. Mulongo that if today he is told something has happened at home he will be thrown into wailing because he only has one but for me I will ask which one.

Version 00

Revision 00

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Hon. Mukhongo has taught us to be loyal and that is where we are and that is why I carry the tag of Nyongesa in and out. As we eulogize this hero, he has left a tag, just like King Solomon who had a lot of wives and left them united. Hon. Mukhongo has left the family united but we have learnt something as an institution that we have to prepare for life eventualities whether alive or dead because it is written that all of us will die.

As a chair of the welfare committee, I would like to propose a few things; when Hon. Mukhongo was sick, there were a lot of things happening and you and the entire Assembly stepped in for contribution towards his treatment which was done and everybody was praying that Hon. Mukhongo will not die. When I was given a call that day by Hon. Leader of Majority to go to the hospital, I thought I was going to be asked how much I was remaining with so that we can continue facilitating his medical bill; I didn't know that he had died.

I take this opportunity also to say that wherever Hon. Mukhongo is going, let him have eternal peace because we have a song that is sang in Bukusu which I will not sing but it only reminds us '*Kifo kama kingekuwa kinalipwa kaka Spika tungelipa ili ndugu yetu Mukhongo asife, huo ndio wimbo ambao tunaimba*' I request to speak you may want me to speak in Kiswahili or English but if allowed I can sing...

Mr. Speaker: You are not allowed.

Hon. Hentry Nyongesa: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rest my case, may the soul of Hon. Mukhongo rest in peace. Thank you

Hon. Stephen Wamalwa: Ahsante Muhesmiwa Spika kwa kunipa fursa hii vilevile niweze kuchangia kwenye mjadala huu, mjadala ambao ni wa kutoa wasifu pamoja na heshima kutokana na kifo cha mwendazake ndugu yetu Mheshmiwa James Barasa Mukhongo.

Spika sitakuwa na mambo mengi nikitoa wasifu wangu kutokana na kifo cha mwenzetu kwa sababu tulikuwa tunajuana na kifo ni kibaya kwa sababu kilitunyang'anya ndugu ambaye alikuwa mucheshi, ambaye alikuwa na musimamo mukali, ndugu ambaye alikuwa mwingi wa ishara.

Muheshmiwa Spika, mimi nilimfahamu muheshmiwa Mukhongo 2017, tulikuwa kwenye muchakato wa kampeni ili niweze kujiunga na bunge hili na tukawa na mukutano mkubwa kwa soko iliyo hapa ng'ambo inaitwa Ndengelwa na nikamuona kwa mara ya kwanza kwa usemi wenye ufasaha sana haswaa katika lugha ya kibukusu. Alikuwa mucheshi, mwenye muvuto

Version 00

Revision 00

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kama sumaku na ikiwa ulitaka kutokubaliana na Mheshmiwa Mukhongo basi ilikuwa ni afadhali usimusikilize lakini ukimusikiliza hatimaye utakubaliana na yeye.

Mheshmiwa Mukhongo alikuwa rafiki wa dhati, nakumbuka tuliondoka hapa mheshmiwa akiwa pamoja na Mheshmiwa Majimbo tukaenda kule Kampala, tulipofika kule tulikuwa pamoja na kijana yetu afisa wa Bunge hili anaitwa Robert Mumbwani na Mheshmiwa Mukhongo alikuwa amepata muke wake yule wa tano. Na ninafikiri walipokuwa wametoka huku nyumbani walikuwa wamekosana katika maongezi na kabula wakosane nashuku alikuwa amemupa nambari yangu ya simu kwa hivyo tulipofika kule kwenye mukahawa wa mmoja anayelitwa Jose, tulitembea na Mheshmiwa Mukhongo kwa karibu sana na kuna picha ambazo hata yule afisa alinitumia akisema hapa mlikuwa mnatembea pamoja sana na hata tukienda kulala vyumba vyetu vilifuatana. Yule muke wake walikuwa wamekosana lakini alikuwa amempa nambari yangu ya simu akapiga simu na akaniambia kwamba tafadhali nataka uongee na mzee wangu haongei na mimi na ndio maana kiongozi wa walio wengi hata mimi nilikuwa mpatanishi. Nikaongea na Mheshmiwa Mukhongo na akaanza kuongea na muke wake na ninatumai walikubaliana wakarudi pamoja katika maongezi na ninatumai waliendelea kuishi vyema baada ya hapo.

Huyu ni muungwana ambaye hungeweza kuketi naye na ukahisi upweke ama hali isiyo nzuri. Ungeketi naye angekuchekesha mfululizo, alikuwa na hadithi nyingi, mahali ambapo unaona hakuna cha kusema angeanzisha hadithi ambayo ingebadilisha kikao kiwe ni kikao cha kucheka. Tutamkosa mwenzetu tukitazama kile kiti ambacho alikuwa akikalia kwa sasa kwamba hakina mwenyewe na inanikumbusha kwamba hii dunia sisi ni wapiti njia.

Hata hivyo nataka nishukuru uongozi wako pamoja na kiongozi wa wengi na waheshmiwa wote kwa kujitolea na kuhakikisha kwamba mazishi ya mwenzetu yalikuwa ya kufana. Namushukuru sana mwenye kiti wa kamati hiyo Muheshmiwa Nyongesa kwa kuwa pale wakati wote kuhakikisha kwamba kila kitu kimeenda kulingana na mipangilio ambayo ilikuwepo. Maafisa wote wa taasisi wa Bunge ya Bungoma wakiongozwa na karani mkuu ndugu Charles, manaibu wake na wadogo wao wote kwa kuhakikisha kwamba wamesimama na waheshmiwa ili tukampa mwenzetu mazishi ya heshima. Mungu akawabariki sana tunapoendelea kukumbuka siku njema zote ambazo tuliketi na Mheshmiwa Mukhongo. Naomba ya kwamba Mungu amjalie roho yake iwekwe mahali pema paradisoni hadi siku ya kiama tutakpokutana tena. Mbarikiwe sana.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you our Deputy Speaker, Honourable members the motion before us has been dully moved and seconded and overwhelmingly supported. The late Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo served this Assembly and the people of Bungoma County with unwavering dedication, discipline and grace. His legacy is not only edged in the records of this House but in

Version 00

Revision 00

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the hearts of those he served. Let this resolution stand as testament to his exemplary leadership and the values he upheld.

As we conclude, this tribute, I now invite the House to rise and observe a moment of silence in his honor.

(Members rise for a moment of silence)

May his soul rest in eternal peace and may his memory continue to guide our deliberations and inspire our service to the people. Thank you.

(Members sit)

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members looking at our Order Paper, item 8 was the only motion, we now adjourn and resume our sitting on Wednesday 10th September, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

The House rose at 5.00 p.m.

Version 00

Revision 00

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