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County Assembly Of Bungoma Hosts Governor Lusaka For The Annual State Of The County Address

By Rosemary Wachiye

Bungoma County Governor H.E Kenneth Lusaka, on Thursday, 26th March, 2026, delivered the annual State of the County Address at the County Assembly plenary. This was pursuant to Section 30(2)(k) of the County Governments Act.

Presiding over the sitting, the Speaker, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, welcomed the Governor and underscored the significance of the Address as a constitutional mechanism for the annual reporting of the performance of County Executive Committee Members and the Public Service to the people's elected representatives.

In his opening remarks, Governor Lusaka affirmed his administration's unwavering commitment to its public service mandate and expressed gratitude to the County Assembly, the legislative arm of the County Government, for the diligent discharge of its constitutional mandate. He paid tribute to all Honourable Members of the County Assembly for the support extended to his administration during the previous financial year.

The Governor anchored his address in the philosophy that good governance lies not in the making of promises, but in the tangible delivery of services to the people. He invoked this principle as the guiding ethic of his administration.

Governor Lusaka paid special tribute to the late Right Honourable Raila Amollo Odinga, whom he described as an undisputed champion of devolution, recognising his enduring contribution to the principles of patriotism,

, national unity, equitable sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy, human dignity, human rights, non-discrimination, and meaningful public participation in governance.

The Governor also extended warm congratulations to Hon. Erick Wekesa, the newly elected Member of the County Assembly representing Chwele-Kabuchai Ward, and wished him well as he embarked on his service to the people of his ward.

Governor Lusaka highlighted the fruits of the cordial working relationship between his administration, national government agencies, and the Presidency. Key outcomes of this partnership include the Affordable Housing Programme, construction of modern market infrastructure, upgrading of institutions, construction of student hostels, and the Kanduyi Smart City development on the grounds of the former Kiwanja Ndege airstrip.

Addressing the tragic road accidents at Malaha Junction along the Webuye Road, which claimed several lives, the Governor assured residents that his administration was actively engaging with the National Government through the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) to explore lasting structural and design solutions for the affected road section, with a view to preventing recurrence of such incidents.

Among the notable infrastructure projects undertaken across the county, the Governor highlighted the following: construction of modern market stalls at Kamukuywa; development of a modern bus park in Kanduyi,

now at 90% completion; Masinde Muliro Stadium, which is nearing completion; and the Naitiri-Brigadier Road, which is expected to unlock trade opportunities and stimulate economic growth across the county.

In the education sector, the Governor reported the following achievements: Supply of plastic chairs to various Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) learning centres across the county; Equipping of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) with tools and equipment valued at Ksh. 21 million; procurement of educational learning materials worth Ksh. 15 million for 823 ECDE schools; and onboarding of 45 ECDE schools onto the Digital Literacy Programme, benefitting an estimated 50,000 pupils in Bungoma County.

The Governor further highlighted the sustained impact of the School Feeding Programme, particularly the Uji (porridge) initiative, which has recorded a positive effect on pupil enrolment in ECDE centres.

On human resource, the County has advertised vacancies for the positions of Director of Education and VTC, Assistant Directors, 135 ECDE teachers, and 590 Assistant VTC Tutors, as the department addresses a critical shortage of high-level and quality assurance personnel.

The Governor reported that two urban areas namely the Mjini Slums and the Land Matope Slum in Chwele Town which had been upgraded through the installation of streetlights and rehabilitation of high-mast floodlights, which is expected to improve security, sanitation, and

business activity in those towns.

On the status of key construction works, the Governor provided the following updates: County Executive Office Block: 25% completion; Governor's Residence: 65% completion; and Deputy Governor's Residence: 50% completion, with all works progressing well.

The County has also developed the Bungoma County Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy 2024–2034. Additional slum settlements identified for future upgrading include Mjini in Musikoma Ward, Bondeni in Khalaba Ward, Sango in Maraka Ward, Soweto in Kimilili Ward, Mandizini in Cheptais Ward, and Myanga Matopeni in Kimaeti Ward, Bumula Sub-County.

On the matter of municipalities, the Governor announced that following a court ruling declaring that conservatory orders do not apply to Webuye Municipality, the necessary legal and procedural steps are being pursued. He further confirmed that the Department of Finance has transferred funds to urban area and municipality accounts in accordance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, affirming the financial autonomy of municipalities.

Looking ahead, Governor Lusaka announced that in the next financial year, his administration proposes to increase the number of fertilizer beneficiaries per ward from 500 to 800, utilising the Government-to-Government procurement framework, subject to the availability of funds.

In the health sector, the Governor highlighted the following

achievements during the period under review: equipping of Bungoma County Referral Hospital (BCRH) with medical equipment valued at Ksh. 50 million; construction and completion of a sewer line at Webuye County Hospital at a cost of Ksh. 31,221,600; erection and completion of the Radiology Department at BCRH at a cost of Ksh. 24,798,532, now at 95% completion; upgrading of 44 high-volume dispensaries to health centres; opening of new dispensaries to improve geographical access to healthcare; and ensuring that all 358 Community Health Units are fully operational, strengthening community-facility linkages and improving antenatal clinic attendance.

The Governor reported that the County had recently employed 1,840 officers on permanent and pensionable terms, 782 County-contracted staff whom the administration is actively working to confirm to permanent and pensionable terms, 240 partner-supported staff, and 243 Universal Health Coverage staff. The County also has 3,510 Community Health Promoters, whose stipends are co-funded by the national government.

The Governor further reported that the County's fiscal performance for the first half of Financial Year 2025/26 reflects a stable revenue position. Following the First Supplementary Budget, total revenue was revised upward to Ksh. 17.43 billion from the initially approved Ksh. 15.93 billion.

National Government transfers remained the primary source of funding, accounting for Ksh. 12.52 billion, representing 71.8% of total revenue.

The turnaround time for the release of funds from the Exchequer had been reduced to under one week, ensuring timely disbursement to County departments. The County had also set aside Ksh. 1.585 billion to address pending bills, and had adopted a revised figure of Ksh. 611 million in line with the approved County Fiscal Strategy Paper.

Governor Lusaka took a moment to acknowledge the significant milestones achieved by the County Assembly of Bungoma, including: hosting of the five-day Jitume Digital Training Programme from 4th to 8th August 2025 at the County Assembly Digital Library; the rollout of the Quality Management System (QMS), a milestone in the Assembly's drive to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery; and being crowned the Overall Best County Assembly at the County Assemblies Sports Association (CASA) Games 2025, held in Meru County, where the Assembly claimed 11 trophies and certificates following an outstanding performance.

The Address will be tabled for deliberation by the House in the subsequent sittings of the County Assembly.



The leadership of the County Assembly of Bungoma comprising the Speaker, Hon. Emmanuel Situma; Deputy Speaker, Hon. Stephen Wamalwa; Leader of Majority, Hon. Joseph Nyongesa; Leader of Minority, Hon. Vitalis Wangila; and the Clerk, Mr. Charles Wafula, formally receive Bungoma Governor H.E. Kenneth Lusaka and a delegation from the County Executive during the State of the County Address, which was delivered at the County Assembly Plenary Chamber.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Staff Attend Annual Conference Retreat

By Rosemary Wachiye

Staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma kicked off the Annual Staff Conference Retreat on Friday,

March 20, 2026, a strategic platform designed to equip employees with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to

excel in their respective roles.

The conference focused on promoting culture and attitude

transformation, enhancing strategic risk management capabilities, strengthening financial



Staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma attended the Annual Staff Conference, which was officially opened by the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, and facilitated by Mr. Stephen Mukhwana, among other facilitators.

discipline, and building capacity in scenario planning and change management. Participants were also taken through compliance with data protection regulations, anti-corruption measures, conflict of interest prevention, and strategies for fostering team cohesion.

The conference was held under the theme: "Culture Transformation through Risk Management and Ethical Governance."

The Annual Conference was officially opened by the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, who set the tone for a productive and purpose-driven retreat. The staff bonding and team-building exercise formed a key part of the programme, aimed at nurturing team spirit and fostering a culture of collaboration. The Clerk described the exercise as a strategic investment in human capital designed to build trust, improve communication, and enhance the institution's collective capacity to deliver on its mandate.

In his speech, Mr. Wafula commended all members of staff for their commitment and professionalism, acknowledging that their collective dedication had enabled the County Assembly to effectively deliver on its institutional mandate. He described the retreat as a testament to the spirit of teamwork and unity that defines the County Assembly.

He highlighted the ongoing implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS), noting the significant progress made towards attaining ISO Certification. He urged staff to remain focused and committed so that the certification journey would be brought to successful completion.

On the matter of integrity, Mr. Wafula emphasized the need to strengthen the institution's ethical standing through deliberate efforts to tackle corruption. He noted that Integrity Assurance Officers had been trained across all departments to spearhead this initiative.

"This can be achieved through above-board procedures that will ensure County Assembly staff uphold the values of this institution," he said.

He further called upon staff to remain alert to the ever-changing environment, particularly with regard to political activities, urging them to uphold impartiality and nonpartisanship at all times.

He cautioned against engaging in political activities while serving in public office and advised those with political ambitions to make the necessary arrangements to exit public service before February 2027, as stipulated by law, while acknowledging the staff's civic and electoral rights.

Mr. Wafula reminded staff of the County Assembly's core values — Professionalism, Transparency and Accountability, Integrity, Inclusiveness, and Teamwork — and encouraged a culture of mutual support rather than internal competition.

"Learn to support one another and not compete against one another. I wish to thank you all for always supporting one another in times of challenges," he said.

He also called upon staff to embrace innovation, noting that the County Assembly was working towards the full automation of its operations and would leverage technology to enhance efficiency and service delivery.

The Principal Human Resource Officer, Dr. Abraham Simiyu, stated that the conference focused on work-life balance, organisational culture, and financial hygiene, with additional sessions addressing risk management, compliance, and institutional resilience.

On the first day, staff were taken through a Personal Financial Management Skills session facilitated by Mr. Stephen Mukhwana, who emphasized the importance of financial planning and the need to eliminate common financial mistakes.

This was followed by a session on Culture and Attitude Change, facilitated by Mr. Asher Ojiambo, which focused on unlocking the potential of staff, addressing workplace interferences, and navigating the challenges of cultural change in the workplace.

Staff Of The County Assembly Of Bungoma Trained On Data Protection Act, 2019, Emotional Intelligence, And Emerging Workplace Issues

By Rosemary Wachiye

On the second day of the Annual Staff Conference Retreat, staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma were sensitized on key matters affecting service delivery

at the workplace, covering emotional intelligence, data protection, and the effects of emerging technological issues.

The first session, on Emotional

Intelligence, was facilitated by Mr. Asher Ojiambo, who challenged participants to reprogram their mindset and take deliberate steps towards personal and professional growth. He urged

staff to work on their attitude and cultivate resilience as the ultimate driver of performance. Mr. Ojiambo called for improved rational thinking and the exercise

of emotional intelligence through the five core competencies of self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, empathy, and interpersonal skills.

Ms. Sylvia Talaam from the Kenya School of Government facilitated an engaging and interactive session on the Data Protection Act, 2019. The session aimed to enlighten staff on the legal framework governing the processing of personal data in Kenya, including the guiding principles of data protection as set out in Section 25 of the Act, and the legal and institutional mechanisms established to safeguard the rights of data subjects.

The session placed particular emphasis on the importance of institutions registering for data protection compliance, to ensure accountability, transparency, and regulatory oversight of all those who handle personal data.

Ms. Talaam urged staff to observe the principle of data minimization, ensuring that data no longer required for the purpose for which it was collected is promptly deleted. She further advised against transferring personal data outside Kenya unless there is adequate proof of sufficient data protection measures in the receiving jurisdiction.

She called upon staff to under-



Staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma keenly follow a training session on Data Protection, facilitated by Ms. Sylvia Talaam from the Kenya School of Government, during the Annual Staff Conference held in Kisumu.

take regular Data Protection Impact Assessments and to comply with the core principles governing data sharing. All offices involved in handling personal data were reminded to uphold the rights of data subjects, which include the right to

information, access, rectification, erasure (commonly referred to as the "right to be forgotten"), data portability, restriction of processing, and the absolute right to object to the processing of personal data.

The day concluded with a session on the effects of critical emerging issues at the workplace, facilitated by Mr. Stephen Mukhwana. The session explored the impact of technology on the day-to-day running of organizational operations, with particular focus on the rise of Artificial Intelligence, its implications for the workplace, and the automation of processes. Participants further deliberated on practical strategies for navigating disruption, including the development of clear institutional policies, training, and continuous staff education.

The conference was held under the theme: "Culture Transformation through Risk Management and Ethical Governance."

aging staff to fully utilise their entitled leave days — including annual, maternity, paternity, sick, medical, and compassionate leave — noting that rest is essential for personal wellbeing, family bonding, and ultimately, improved productivity upon resumption of duty.

Reinforcing key institutional priorities, the Speaker reiterated the directive on non-partisanship, urging staff to remain neutral and refrain from involvement in political activities, particularly as the election period approaches. He stressed that

County Assembly Of Bungoma Staff Conference Concludes With Renewed Commitment To Excellence, Integrity, And Service Delivery

By Marsh Misko

The County Assembly of Bungoma Annual Staff Conference and Retreat successfully concluded on Sunday, 22nd March, 2026, leaving participants inspired, re-energised, and equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to elevate institutional performance. Held under the theme "Culture Transformation through Risk Management and Ethical Governance," the conference brought together staff, leadership, and facilitators in a shared pursuit of excellence, integrity, and effective service delivery.

The conference was carefully designed to equip staff with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to excel in their respective roles. Key areas of focus included promoting culture and attitude transformation, enhancing strategic risk management capabilities, strengthening financial discipline, and building capacity in scenario planning and change management. The programme further emphasised

compliance with data protection regulations, anti-corruption measures, conflict of interest prevention, and team cohesion through structured activities and engagement.

The final day of the conference culminated in sessions on mental health and wellness, underscoring the importance of personal wellbeing as a foundation for professional productivity and organisational success. The sessions served as a timely reminder that a high-performing institution is built not only on systems and structures but, fundamentally, on the wellness and resilience of its people.

The Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, challenged staff to translate the knowledge and skills acquired during the retreat into tangible improvements in workplace performance, teamwork, collaboration, and interdepartmental communication. He urged all staff to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and account-

ability, and to continuously strive for better results.

Acknowledging the high level of professionalism and dedication exhibited by staff especially during times of intense workload, the Speaker commended their commitment, discipline, and enthusiasm. He expressed gratitude for their unwavering support to Honourable Members in enabling them to discharge their constitutional mandate. Hon. Situma further noted that the strong and cordial working relationship between the County Assembly Service Board, leadership, and staff has been instrumental in driving the Assembly's strong performance and effective service delivery.

On staff welfare, the Speaker informed participants that the medical insurance cover had been successfully procured and urged staff to ensure that all medical forms are filled accurately to facilitate quality healthcare access. He further emphasised the importance of leave, encour-



The Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, addresses staff of the County Assembly at the Annual Staff Conference in Kisumu, following a session on Emotional Intelligence facilitated by Mr. Asher Ojiambo

professionalism and impartiality are essential to safeguarding the credibility and integrity of the institution.

The Speaker also highlighted the importance of work-life balance, noting that effective time management and personal wellbeing directly contribute to improved performance. He stressed the need for financial discipline and prudent use of public resources in adherence to public finance management principles, and emphasised strict compliance with data protection laws and responsible handling of institutional information.

Looking ahead, the Speaker informed staff of the upcoming State of the County Address by the Governor, scheduled for Thursday, 26th March, 2026, and urged staff to adequately prepare and demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism in hosting the event. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and coordination in the successful delivery of such high-level engagements.

The Speaker also commended the leadership of Clerk Charles Wafula for providing effective direction and steering the institution towards excellence. He recognized the Clerk's role in championing key institutional initiatives, including the implementation of the Quality Management System, the promotion

of integrity and accountability, and the strengthening of institutional systems and processes.

In his closing address, Hon. Situma expressed deep appreciation to the Clerk, facilitators, and all staff for the successful organization and active participation in the retreat. He offered an apology for the delay in convening the staff retreat, attributing it to a congested Assembly calendar and competing institutional priorities. He appreciated the patience and understanding shown by staff, and assured them that going forward, the bonding retreat and staff conference will be institutionalized as an annual event, reaffirming that continuous staff development, motivation, and team cohesion remain key priorities for the Assembly.

In his remarks, Clerk Charles Wafula expressed sincere appreciation to the leadership and all participants, noting that the conference had reaffirmed the critical importance of investing in human capital. He emphasized that training and team-building initiatives are essential in building a cohesive, motivated, and high-performing workforce, and highlighted that such forums provide a valuable opportunity for staff to step away from routine responsibilities, reflect on their work processes, and strengthen relationships that enable effective service delivery.

Mr. Wafula extended gratitude to the County Assembly Service Board for granting staff the time and support to participate in the programme, describing it as a clear demonstration of the Board's commitment to staff welfare, capacity development, and institutional excellence.

Addressing the leadership, the Clerk underscored that the cordial collaboration within the institution has enabled the Assembly to maintain high standards of professionalism, evidenced by the numerous awards and recognitions the Assembly has received. He reaffirmed staff's unwavering commitment to supporting leadership and upholding the vision and strategic direction of the County Assembly of Bungoma.

The Clerk cautioned staff against engaging in partisan politics especially as the election period approaches, emphasizing the need to uphold neutrality, professionalism, and integrity as required of public officers. He noted that any staff member wishing to actively participate in politics must first resign in accordance with the law.

Mr. Wafula further encouraged staff to prioritize their health and wellbeing by taking their annual leave as required and engaging in regular physical exercise. He revealed plans for equipping the gym facility expected to be opera-

tional in the coming year. On capacity building, he assured staff of continued training opportunities and expressed the intention to increase the training budget to enable more staff to benefit from external training programmes, noting that such investments benefit both the individual and the institution.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma, County Assembly Service Board member Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka, Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa, Minority Leader Hon. Vitalis Wangila, Chief Whip Hon. Aggrey Mulongo, Deputy Chief Whip Hon. Allan Nyongesa, and Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula. Their collective presence reaffirmed the importance that the Assembly's leadership places on staff development, welfare, and institutional growth. CASB Board Member Hon. Machani affirmed the Board's commitment to equitable support and the protection of staff welfare, urging staff to uphold mutual respect in their interactions with one another and with Members of the County Assembly.

Minority Leader Hon. Wangila commended the facilitators and staff for their dedication, acknowledging the critical role they play in enabling Members to effectively deliver development and services to the people of Bungoma County.

Deputy Speaker Hon. Wamalwa thanked both leadership and staff for their collective efforts in making the conference a success, emphasizing that while all departments are equal in value, their collective effectiveness depends on strong leadership and a shared culture of working together towards institutional success.

Members of staff expressed great enthusiasm for the conference, particularly noting that the programme was well planned and facilitated, making it one of the most engaging and successful retreats held by the Assembly. The conference ended on a powerful note of renewed commitment, unity, and shared purpose, with all participants inspired to translate the lessons learned into tangible improvements in service delivery — ensuring that the County Assembly of Bungoma continues to stand as a model institution of excellence, integrity, and democratic service.

Bungoma County Assembly Advances Accrual Accounting Transition Ahead Of 2027 Deadline

By Karen Wanyama | Julia Naliaka

The County Assembly of Bungoma has completed a major milestone in Kenya's nationwide transition to accrual-based accounting, concluding a comprehensive asset valuation exercise across all its locations in February 2026. County Assembly officials are now awaiting a final comprehensive report and feedback from the State Department for Public Works before the verified figures are entered into the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) through its asset and liability module.

The shift to accrual accounting — which records revenues and expenditures when they are earned or incurred rather than

when cash changes hands — is part of a national reform programme aligned with international public sector standards. Full compliance across government entities is targeted for June 2027.

“These focused actions will position the County Assembly of Bungoma for credible FY 2026/2027 financial statements, stronger controls, and full compliance with the national accrual roadmap.”

With the valuation phase complete, the Assembly has outlined three priority institutional steps required to consolidate its progress and prepare for credible financial reporting in the 2026/2027 financial year.

Management (NALM) guidelines. The policy will define asset useful lives, applicable rates, and periodic review procedures based on the forthcoming valuation report, with proper disclosure required in financial statement notes.

Target: draft and approval within 30 days of receiving the valuation report

3. Amendment of the Asset and Liability Management Policy

The existing policy will be updated to fully align with NALM 2020 requirements and Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB) directives. Amendments will incorporate committee governance, valuation onboarding procedures, depreciation and impairment rules, regular verification protocols, IFMIS integration steps, and risk management provisions.

Target: amendments drafted within 30 days for Steering Committee endorsement and adoption

Assembly officials noted that training sessions and departmental support programmes will be rolled out once the final valuation report is received from the State Department for Public Works. The report is expected to anchor the depreciation policy and guide the onboarding of verified asset values into IFMIS.

The reforms are designed to strengthen the Assembly's internal financial controls and ensure its financial statements meet the credibility standards expected under the national accrual accounting framework ahead of the June 2027 compliance deadline.



Officials from the State Department of Public Works conduct an Asset Valuation Exercise at the County Assembly of Bungoma.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTION PLAN

1. Formation of the Assets and Liabilities Management Committee

A Standing Committee will be constituted as required under the National Policy on Asset and Liability Management (June 2020). Membership will include heads of Administration, Accounting, Finance, and Procurement, alongside representatives from ICT, legal, and internal audit, with one Member of the County Assembly providing oversight linkage. The committee will oversee valuation onboarding, maintain asset registers, monitor performance, and conduct quarterly verifications.

Target: constituted within 30 days; first meeting within 60 days

2. Adoption of a Depreciation Policy

The Assembly will formalize a straight-line depreciation policy aligned with IPSAS 45 and National Asset and Liability



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