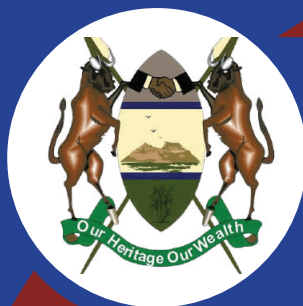


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# BUNGOMA LEGISLATOR

## DIGITAL

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# 6th Legislative Summit Highlights Progress Of Devolution And Efforts Towards Strengthening County Assemblies

By Rosemary Wachiye

Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi, who graced this year's 6th Legislative Summit held in Mombasa, commended County Assemblies for their role in ensuring transparency and the fulfillment of devolution in line with the Constitution. The summit, taking place from April 13–17, 2026, brings together Members of County Assemblies, Senators, Governors, and development partners under the theme, "Resilient County Assemblies: Reinforcing Representation, Legislation and Oversight."

In his speech, Hon. Mudavadi acknowledged issues raised during the 19th February Annual General Meeting held at KICC and outlined his office's interventions on several critical matters.

On the review of remuneration for Members of County Assembly to reflect the constitutional weight of their mandate, he reported that his office has expedited the Bill at the National Assembly and granted the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) the opportunity to appear before the Gender Committee to make submissions on the Bill.

Hon. Mudavadi called for commitment and timely remittance

of members' contributions to the pension scheme to ensure its sustainability.

"When institutions function well, governance improves, leading to credible oversight that builds people's confidence in devolution," said Hon. Mudavadi. He urged participants to have fruitful deliberations at the summit that would lead to a better future for oversight at the county level.

"I am a die-hard supporter of devolution. As Minister of Foreign Affairs, I put in place laws that enabled devolution," said Hon. Mudavadi. He urged the forum to adopt a more impact-centered outlook on devolution with performance indicators that directly affect Kenyan citizens rather than becoming a "trade movement."

He called for the strengthening and resilience of county assemblies, which in turn would lead to strengthened devolution.

Hon. Mudavadi reported on the expedition and fast-tracking of the Intergovernmental Relations Bill, 2024, which seeks to anchor the CAF forum in law. The Bill, which supports County Assemblies, has been passed by the Senate and is currently being

processed by the National Assembly.

On the importance of public finance management leading to financial autonomy for effective legislation and credible oversight, he disclosed that he had written to the Controller of Budget, whose office has since issued guidelines on procedures and requirements for the withdrawal of funds from the County Assembly Fund. The office is also monitoring the operationalization of the County Assembly Fund.

As Chair of the National Government Steering Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, Hon. Mudavadi reported that the committee had developed regulations and submitted them to the Senate.

The Chief Whip of the Senate and Bungoma Senator, Hon. David Wakoli, who represented the Speaker of the Senate Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffa Kingi, EGH, stated that devolution was delivering tangible results. He urged County Assemblies to continue undertaking their oversight role to ensure prudent financial management at the county level.

He called for the building of

strong institutions and public trust, noting that external support can not substitute these foundational elements and emphasized the need for joint efforts towards the success of devolution.

Senator Wakoli highlighted the Senate's role in the Fourth Basis for equitable sharing of resources and called on County Assemblies to continue utilizing the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) to enhance the skills needed to effectively undertake their mandate.

"County Assemblies and the Senate play distinct and complementary legislative roles that enhance transparency in governance," said Senator Wakoli.

He identified a significant legislative gap in the area of impeachment at the county level, noting that recent experiences have exposed procedural weaknesses. He called for amendments to strengthen the law and provide clearer frameworks for such processes.

The Group Managing Director of the County Pension Fund (CPF), Dr. Hosea Kili pointed out the critical issue of non-remittance of statutory deductions for MCAs



Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi (Left) graces this year's 6th Legislative Summit held in Mombasa, attended by the Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma (Centre), a delegation of Members of the County Assembly of Bungoma (Right), and Staff.

and staff by most counties. He revealed that counties owe pension fund service providers a total of Ksh. 80 billion.

Dr. Kili added that gratuity payments are not subject to taxation, enabling beneficiaries to receive the full benefit of their entitlements.

The Chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum and Speaker of Kwale County Assembly, Hon. Seth Kamanza called for a brave interrogation and review of the role played by County Assemblies in Kenya. He appreciated the Senate of Kenya for passing the Intergovernmental Relations Bill, 2024, and the Autonomy Bill for the benefit of County Assemblies.

He highlighted key achievements, including progress on members' pension schemes, the proposed Ward Development Fund, and the anchoring of CAF into law to avoid surcharges imposed on County Assemblies for subscriptions to CAF.

Hon. Kamanza noted that the Salaries and Remuneration Commission has committed to grading salaries for MCAs as promised by the President, with a

circular expected by the end of the month for implementation from 1st July 2026. The Bill is currently at the second reading stage in Parliament and is following due process.

He expressed satisfaction that there was now a green light for County Assemblies to become independent, with Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) accounts being opened to facilitate the autonomy of County Assemblies. Through the intervention of the Chief Guest, hitches faced by some County Assemblies have been addressed.

"We can not fix the top while leaving out the bottom. Let the national government focus on strengthening County Assemblies so we can have better laws," said H.E. Josephat Chirema Kombo, Deputy Governor of Kwale County.

Hon. Kamanza emphasized CAF's commitment to ensuring enhanced devolution and legislation. He urged County Assemblies to continue exercising their legislation, representation, and oversight mandates while preparing for the next election in 2027.

**T**he County Assembly of Bungoma, on Thursday, 9th April 2026, tabled and moved three special motions for the removal from office of three senior officers of the County Executive arm of the Bungoma County Government, namely: Mr. Edward Oringe Waswa from the Office of County Attorney, Ms. Carolyn Makali Khalayi from the Office of County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance and Economic Planning, and Mr. Wekesa Douglas Sasita from the Office of County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Energy, and Industrialisation. The three special motions were moved by Hon. Johnston Okasida Ipara, MCA for Tongaren Ward.

In the tabled motion, Mr. Oringe Waswa is accused of breaching

his constitutional and statutory duties on eight grounds. First, he is accused of fraudulent misrepresentation on official vetting documents, having provided false and misleading information to the Committee on Appointments during the vetting process by denying any past criminal charges. This conduct constitutes a serious breach of the leadership and integrity standards required of a County Chief Legal Adviser.

Contrary to his declaration, official records indicate that Mr. Oringe Waswa was involved in multiple criminal proceedings within the stated three-year period, including Malicious Damage to Property, Abducting with Intent to Confine, and Assault Causing Actual Bodily Harm. The County Attorney failed to disclose the existence

## County Assembly Of Bungoma Tables Motions For The Removal Of County Attorney And Two Executive Committee Members From Office And Appoints Select Committees To Investigate The Matters

By Rosemary Wachiye



**FILE PHOTO:** Members of the County Assembly of Bungoma attend a plenary session.

and status of these proceedings as required by law during the vetting process.

Furthermore, the motion states that the County Attorney has consistently failed to provide sound legal counsel, citing incorrect statutory provisions and offering misleading guidance to various departments. A case in point is the Attorney's erroneous advice to the Governor on matters concerning the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2026, in which he incorrectly cited Section 24 of the County Governments Act. Additionally, the Attorney wrongly cited Section 131(2) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act in an attempt to limit the County Assembly's oversight authority during the CFSP stage — a misinterpretation described in the motion as a deliberate attempt to mislead both the Executive and the public, and to unlawfully strip the Assembly of its constitutional power to set fiscal ceilings and align the budget with the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

The motion was seconded by Hon. Benjamin Otsiula, MCA for Khasoko Ward, who described it as being in the best interest of the restructuring of the County

Government of Bungoma for the general well-being of the people of the county.

The House subsequently tabled and moved the motion for the removal from office of Ms. Carolyn Makali Khalayi, County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning.

The motion outlines grounds of gross misconduct and financial impropriety, with particular focus on the mismanagement of pending bills. Ms. Khalayi is accused of submitting a report to the County Assembly and the Controller of Budget detailing pending bills worth KSh 4.9 billion without prior verification by her office. This negligence is alleged to have facilitated payments for ghost works and fictitious projects, providing irregular legal cover for the disbursement of public funds in violation of Section 104(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, which mandates the establishment of effective and transparent financial management systems.

Ms. Khalayi is further accused of concurring with, or failing to object to, the diversion of KSh 943.6 million in May and June

2024 exchequer funds, originally designated for the payment of salaries, toward development projects, many of which remain unverified or incomplete. Her failure to ensure the department's statutory obligations were met is alleged to have resulted in the non-remittance of Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) deductions, Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) contributions, and pension contributions to the Local Authorities Pension Trust (LAPFUND) and the County Pension Fund (CPF).

The House also tabled and moved the motion for the removal from office of Mr. Wekesa Douglas Sasita, who currently serves as County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Energy, and Industrialisation. Mr. Sasita previously served as CECM for Lands, Urban Planning, Physical Planning, and Housing until his redeployment on 22nd August 2025, during which period he held primary executive and professional responsibility for the initiation, design approval, and foundation-

al management of the County Executive Administration Block.

The motion accuses Mr. Sasita of failing to maintain high professional ethics by approving and signing off on questionable structural designs in his capacity as County Architect. Following concerns raised by a National Government Engineer from the Ministry of Public Works, it was determined that the approved design was not physically viable and posed a serious threat to occupational safety, necessitating a complete redesign of the structure.

The motion further reveals that Mr. Sasita oversaw the demolition of the old Kanduyi Market and the subsequent burial of asbestos-containing waste on-site at a depth of 15 metres without the involvement of a NEMA-licensed waste handler. This conduct is alleged to constitute a breach of Section 89 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) and the Waste Management Regulations (2006), which categorise

asbestos as hazardous waste requiring strict and licensed disposal protocols.

The motion was seconded by Hon. Edwin Opwora, MCA for Luuya Bwake Ward, who noted that Mr. Sasita had failed to maintain professionalism in the approval of the administrative offices project, having reportedly indicated that the project was at 70% completion when a Committee visit to the site found it was still at the foundation stage.

Following the moving of the three motions, the Leader of Majority presented to the House the names of Members of the County Assembly appointed to form Select Committees tasked with investigating the respective motions.

**The House approved the proposed membership as follows:**

**Select Committee - County Attorney (Mr. Edward Oringe Waswa):** Hon. Caleb Wanjala, Hon. Everlyne Mutiembu, Hon. Jack Wambulwa, Hon.

Franklin Simotwo, and Hon. Everlyne Anyango.

**Select Committee -CECM for Finance and Economic Planning (Ms. Carolyne Makali Khalayi):** Hon. Francis Chemion, Hon. Jack Kawa, Hon. Jacob Psero, Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba, and Hon. Eunice Kirui.

**Select Committee - CECM for Trade, Energy, and Industrialisation (Mr. Wekesa Douglas Sasita):** Hon. Timothy Chikati, Hon. George Kwemoui, Hon. Aggrey Mulongo, Hon. Erick Wekesa, and Hon. Christine Mukhongo.

The three Select Committees have been duly constituted and tasked with carrying out thorough investigations into the respective matters and presenting their reports to the House within ten (10) days, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Bungoma. ENDS.

# County Assembly Of Bungoma Signs Landmark MoU With ICPAK

By Marsh Misiko

**T**he County Assembly of Bungoma has taken a significant step towards strengthening financial governance and professional standards through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).

The partnership, signed on Friday, April 10, 2026, aims to advance the accountancy profession within the County Assembly while enhancing institutional capacity, accountability, and transparency in public financial management.

At the core of this agreement is a commitment to enhance relevant skills among Members and staff of the County Assembly. The MoU creates a framework for continuous professional development through capacity building, awareness of professional qualifications, and structured engagement in policy, advocacy, and research.

Through this partnership, members from both institutions will benefit from reciprocal Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points, ensuring that professional growth remains consistent and aligned with

global standards. Both parties will also share best practices in monitoring, governance models, and member engagement strategies, thereby strengthening institutional effectiveness.

The Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula expressed appreciation to the ICPAK team for their commitment to strengthening financial systems. He emphasized the importance of creating awareness to ensure that accountants are adequately safeguarded and highlighted the need for targeted training for Members of the County Assembly and staff,

particularly in financial reporting, tax management, and compliance with treasury regulations.

Mr. Wafula noted that the MoU will provide an opportunity to customize training programs for key County Assembly Committees, including the Public Accounts and Investments Committee (PAIC), Budget and Appropriations Committee, Finance and Economic Planning Committee, and the County Assembly Service Board (CASB), to foster better understanding of oversight roles and responsibilities.

"We have previously entered into similar partnerships, including an MoU with Kibabii University on data management, demonstrating our commitment to broad-based capacity building and knowledge exchange," said Mr. Wafula.

The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma reiterated the importance of effective implementation of the MoU, noting that a designated team would be constituted to oversee follow-up activities. He emphasized that adequate resources must be allocated to ensure the success of the partnership and that continuous monitoring would be essential in achieving the intended outcomes.

This proactive approach demonstrates the Assembly's commitment to translating the agreement into tangible results that will benefit both the institution and the public.

The ICPAK delegation, led by Chairperson Elizabeth Kalunda Muvui, commended the County Assembly for its progress in financial management. She noted that a review of financial reports indicated significant improvements, including the achievement of an unqualified audit opinion in FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24, as well as recognition through the Financial Reporting (FiRe) Award in 2024.

She attributed this progress to the Assembly's commitment to sound financial practices and implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS). Ms. Muvui assured the Assembly of ICPAK's full support in implementing the MoU, emphasizing that professionals from the institute would play a key role in enhancing compliance in financial management.

#### Technical Support and Capacity Building

ICPAK has committed to providing technical expertise during critical processes such as budget preparation and monitoring. The institute will support the development of practical and effective budget programs tailored to the needs of Bungoma County, including specialized training, professional guidance on auditing and oversight, and ensuring the production of comprehensive and accurate financial reports. Such interventions are expected to strengthen fiscal discipline and improve the credibility of the Assembly's financial processes.

The MoU will also facilitate the creation of awareness programs aimed at promoting sound accounting practices and safeguarding public resources. Training sessions will be extended to Members of the County Assembly, staff, the board, and committees, ensuring a holistic approach to capacity building. The initiative recognizes that effective



*The leadership of the County Assembly of Bungoma, led by the Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma (Centre), Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) delegation, led by Chairperson Ms. Elizabeth Kalunda*

financial management requires collaboration across all levels of governance and seeks to empower stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to perform their roles effectively.

Hon. CPA Everton Nganga, MCA for Sang'alo East Ward, contributed to the discussion by proposing legislative reforms that would require key positions within accounting offices to be held by ICPAK-certified profes-

sionals. Such a move, he noted, would enhance professionalism, accountability, and adherence to established standards within public institutions.

This recommendation underscores the broader vision of the MoU: to institutionalize excellence in financial management and align county practices with national and international benchmarks.

## Speaker Calls For Constructive Oversight And Legalization Of County Assemblies Forum

By Rosemary Wachiye

**T**he Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, has called upon County Assemblies to shift from punitive legislation and focus on the quality of service delivery for the people.

Speaking at the 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa, Hon. Situma emphasized that oversight should assess the value of services received, not merely whether services were rendered. "Oversight must be proactive and result in better healthcare, educa-

tion, roads, and the addressing of people's needs. This is more effective than focusing solely on punitive oversight," said Hon. Situma.

He stressed that the goal of legislative oversight should be

tangible improvements in the lives of citizens, rather than simply catching the executive in compliance failures.

The Speaker outlined several critical interventions needed to



*Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma among the panelists for a session at the 6th Legislative Summit 2026, as he addressed issues on legislative oversight*

enhance the effectiveness of County Assemblies. Hon. Situma called for the improvement of salaries for Members of County Assembly to enable them to effectively execute oversight on governors and county executives. He noted that the implementation of County Assembly autonomy will help address previous challenges where assemblies had to seek approval from County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) for payments—a situation that compromised their independence.

The Speaker emphasized the need for dedicated funding for field and fact-finding visits to enable MCAs to monitor and oversee projects in their wards. Currently, many oversight activities are hampered by lack of resources.

He highlighted the challenge of raising quorum to transact House business in County Assemblies, attributing this partly to inadequate sitting allowances for Hon. Members. Enhanced allowances, he argued, would improve attendance and the effectiveness of legislative sessions.

Hon. Situma called for MCAs to receive continuous training and capacity building similar to what is accorded to Members of Parliament. He urged Speakers to

ensure that their members are regularly equipped with the skills needed to perform their legislative, oversight, and representation roles effectively.

The Speaker stressed that public participation forums should be given priority to ensure citizens have meaningful opportunities to give their views on legislation and county development matters.

On the issue of pending bills affecting many counties, Hon. Situma noted that this problem is largely brought about by the failure to meet county own-source revenue targets. He pointed out that cleaning up the payroll at county government executives is key to properly accounting for wage bills and freeing up resources for development.

The Speaker called on the Senate and the Controller of Budget to review specific recommendations on surcharges imposed on County Assemblies for subscriptions to the County Assemblies Forum (CAF). He argued that these surcharges undermine the financial sustainability of assemblies and should be addressed through the legal anchoring of CAF.

## County Assembly Of Bungoma Hosts 10-point Agenda Delegation To Assess Local Impact And Development Concerns

*By Marsh Misiko*

A delegation tasked with advancing Kenya's 10-Point Agenda paid a courtesy call to the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, on Monday, March 30, 2026. The engagement was aimed at assessing public perception and the local implementation of the national political framework.

The COIN-10 delegation, led by Chairperson and former nominated Senator Hon. Agnes Zani, alongside Vice Chairperson Mr. Javas Bigambo, was received at the County Assembly by the Speaker and Bungoma Deputy Governor Janepher Mbatiany.

The visit forms part of ongoing nationwide consultations to evaluate the progress and public reception of the 10-Point Agenda that is a political cooperation agreement between the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM). This framework, widely associated with the broader political understanding between President Dr. William Samoei Ruto and the late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, seeks to address key national challenges including the rising cost of living, governance inclusivity, electoral reforms, and the strengthening of devolution.

The agenda centers on implementing the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report, which outlines reforms to promote national unity and improve institutional efficiency. Other pillars include youth empowerment through job creation initiatives, strengthening of anti-corruption mechanisms, prudent debt management, protection of the right to peaceful assembly, and safeguarding the sovereignty of the people through adherence to constitutional principles. The



*Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma hosts the COIN-10 delegation, led by Chairperson and former nominated Senator Hon. Agnes Zani, alongside Vice Chairperson Mr. Javas Bigambo, at the County Assembly also present is the Bungoma Deputy Governor, Pst. Janepher Mbatiany*

joint bipartisan committee's mandate was recently extended by President Ruto to allow continued monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress.

During the Bungoma engagement, several pressing concerns were deliberated from the county's perspective. Hon. Situma emphasized the need for the national government to ensure that development projects are completed within stipulated timelines, noting that Bungoma continues to grapple with numerous stalled projects, particularly in infrastructure such as roads, markets, and stadiums. He also raised concerns regarding youth empowerment funds, pointing out that while access to loans has improved, loan repayment remain a significant challenge. He cited the county's trade loan scheme as an example,

where beneficiaries frequently default, thereby threatening the programme's long-term sustainability.

The Speaker further underscored the importance of supporting farmers through government programmes such as the National Government Farm Inputs Subsidy Programme. He emphasised that proper registration — encompassing identification and verification of beneficiaries — is essential to ensuring that subsidies reach genuine farmers and ultimately boost agricultural productivity across the county.

On governance and inclusivity, Hon. Situma commended the County Assembly for maintaining equality between elected and nominated Members of County Assembly (MCAs), noting that both groups enjoy equal opportunities in committee allocations, leadership roles, and access to office space. He acknowledged ongoing efforts to meet the 30% employment inclusivity threshold for non-locals, while noting that more work remains to fully achieve the required target.

The Speaker also addressed financial challenges affecting county operations, with particular concern over delays in the disbursement of funds from the National Treasury. He warned that such delays frequently result in penalties from agencies such as the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and the Social Health Authority (SHA), ultimately disrupting service delivery. He urged the Treasury to adopt more realistic benchmarks when setting own-source revenue targets for counties and to ensure the timely release of allocated funds.

Deputy Governor Janepher Mbatiany, in her remarks, called for the faster implementation of national government commitments, including the establishment of Technical Training Institutes (TTIs) at the constituency level and ICT centres at the ward level, both of which she described as critical for youth empowerment and digital inclusion. She also raised concerns about the absence of clearly defined roles for Deputy Governors across the country, advocat-

ing for a structured legal framework to outline their responsibilities.

Drawing from her experience in Bungoma, Hon. Mbatiany expressed appreciation for the cooperative working relationship with the Governor, noting that political balance and mutual respect have helped avert the conflicts witnessed in other regions due to political rivalry. On education, she proposed the harmonization of bursary schemes across various offices which include those of Members of Parliament, Women Representatives, MCAs, and the county government to streamline funding and advance the goal of making education more accessible and affordable. She also commended the national government for improvements in payments to farmers, particularly those associated with Nzoia Sugar Company, noting that timely remittances have had a positive impact on rural livelihoods.

The Deputy Governor further stressed the importance of estab-

lishing clear regulations for managing pending bills at the county level, to ensure continuity and ease of transition between administrations. She noted that the absence of such frameworks often makes it difficult for incoming governments to effectively address inherited financial obligations.

In his closing remarks, Vice Chairperson Javas Bigambo thanked the Speaker, the Deputy Governor, and the entire County Assembly leadership for their candid and constructive feedback. He affirmed that the broad-based government remains fully committed to the implementation of the 10-Point Agenda in line with its core objective of improving the lives of all Kenyans.

## Bungoma Senator Engages County Assembly Members at 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa

By Rosemary Wachiye

Senator for Bungoma County, Hon. David Wafula Wakoli, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, held a productive engagement with Members of the County Assembly of Bungoma on the sidelines of the 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa.

At the heart of the discussions was the critical oversight role played by the County Assembly in ensuring accountability and good governance. Senator Wafula called on the Hon. MCAs to remain objective and steadfast in discharging their constitutional mandate, emphasizing the importance of impartiality in

legislative duties.

Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma commended the Members for the team spirit they have demonstrated, noting that cohesion among legislators is key to effective service delivery to the people of Bungoma.

The delegation of Hon. MCAs, led by the Leader of Majority Hon. Joseph Nyongesa reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the county's legislative agenda and pledged to work collaboratively in fulfilling their mandate.



Bungoma County Senator Hon. David Wafula Wakoli joins County Assembly Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma and Members of the County Assembly for a photo on the sidelines of the 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa.



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