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County Assembly Of Bungoma Approves Financial Year 2026/2027 Budget Estimates With Focus On Equitable Development And Improved Service Delivery

By Rosemary Wachiye | Baraka Babra

During its afternoon sitting on Thursday, 18th June 2026, the County Assembly of Bungoma approved Budget Estimates totalling KSh. 17,189,941,276.00 from the County Exchequer Account for the Financial Year 2026/2027, reaffirming its commitment to equitable development, prudent financial management, improved service delivery, and the settlement of pending bills.

This followed the House's adoption of the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Budget Estimates for the County Government and County Assembly for the Financial Year 2026/2027, which was tabled before the House on Tuesday, 16th June 2026, pursuant to Section 125 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, and Standing Order 232(5) and (6). Members deliberated extensively on the proposed budget before adopting several amendments aimed at addressing priority needs across the County. They emphasised the importance of distributing public resources fairly among all wards while strengthening accountability in the use of County funds.

The approved sectoral allocations include KSh. 591,287,683.15 for Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation, Fisheries and Cooperatives Development; KSh. 772,116,343 for Tourism and Environment; KSh. 715,285,874 for Water and Natural Resources; KSh. 869,750,603 for Roads, Infrastructure and Public Works; KSh. 444,654,415 for Education and Vocational Training; KSh. 2,155,044,864 for Health; KSh. 1,368,943 for Sanitation; KSh. 176,871,024 for Trade, Energy and Industrialisation; KSh. 125,136,952.35 for Lands, Urban



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

Urban and Physical Planning; KSh. 431,949,840 for Housing; KSh. 48,750,090 for Gender and Culture; KSh. 77,434,241 for Youth and Sports; KSh. 585,420,284 for Finance and Economic Planning; KSh. 230,890,398 for Bungoma Municipality; KSh. 236,563,363 for Kimilili Municipality; and KSh. 913,029,393 for Public Administration.

Further allocations were made to the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Deputy Governor, the County Public Service Board, and the County Assembly.

In one of the major resolutions, Hon. Ipara Okasida successfully moved a proposal to reallocate KSh. 62,729,703 from the Office of the County Secretary to facilitate the construction of Kamukuywa Market. The Assembly also approved an additional allocation of KSh. 7 million for the County Public Service Board.

To improve infrastructure, Members approved the transfer of KSh. 4 million from the Trade vote to finance the installation of traffic lights, with a further KSh.

4 million from the same vote redirected towards the settlement of verified pending bills.

During debate, Members maintained that all pending bills must be properly itemised, verified, and supported with relevant documentation before any payments are authorised, emphasising that the settlement process must be guided by transparency and accountability.

The Assembly further underscored the need for equitable development across Bungoma County. Members observed that rural roads continue to receive inadequate funding despite their importance in connecting communities and supporting economic activities, and resolved that future budgets should prioritise road development across all wards to ensure balanced growth. The House also endorsed Early Childhood Development recruitment, while confirming that both Technical Vocational and Education Training institutions and ECD programmes had received adequate budgetary support.

To strengthen education and

agricultural production, the Assembly increased bursary allocations from KSh. 4 million to KSh. 6 million per ward. Members noted, however, that of the KSh. 29 million already disbursed under the First Supplementary Budget, only KSh. 5 million remained available to support the process going forward.

Under agriculture, the Assembly approved an increase in fertiliser support from 500 to 600 bags per ward, as maize procurement was incorporated into the County Fiscal Strategy Paper framework to boost food security.

Health financing also featured prominently in the deliberations. Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Osiulah observed that only KSh. 20 million had been allocated for clinical officers, against a request of KSh. 43 million, raising concerns about adequately addressing staffing and operational needs.

Members further confirmed that the KSh. 45 million allocated to Kimilili Municipality remained intact and properly itemised, alongside a KSh. 12 million housing levy allocation. Concerns were, however, raised over the proposed acquisition of land for Matulo Airstrip after it emerged that title documents had not been submitted despite public participation having already been conducted.

The final motion, moved by the Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Osiulah, and seconded by Hon. Francis Chemion led the County Assembly to approve the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027. Pursuant to Section 125 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, and Standing Order 232(5)

and (6), the House approved a sum of KSh. 17,189,941,276 from the County Exchequer Account to meet the expenditure of the County Executive and County Assembly for the year ending 30th June 2027.

With this approval, the County Assembly of Bungoma reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening service delivery through strategic investments in healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development, while ensuring accountability and prudent management of public resources for the benefit of all residents of Bungoma County.

Co-author. A third-year Language and Communication student at Maseno University.

The National Government, through the Ministry of Health, on Tuesday, 16th June 2026, sensitized Members and staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness, amid growing concern over the risk of cross-border transmission. The session, chaired by the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, brought together Members of the County Assembly, staff, health officials, and stakeholders to deliberate on the potential risks posed by the disease and the importance of sustained vigilance.

The session was facilitated by Dr. Samuel Kadivane, National Head of Integrated Disease Surveillance at the Ministry of Health, who guided participants through a comprehensive presentation on the nature of Ebola Virus Disease, its transmission pathways, prevention measures, and Kenya's current preparedness.

Dr. Kadivane explained that Ebola spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person and outlined the causes, symptoms, and transmission dynamics of the disease, emphasizing the critical importance of early detection and

Ministry Of Health Sensitises Members And Staff Of The County Assembly Of Bungoma On Ebola Preparedness Amid Cross-border Risk

By Rosemary Wachiye | Baraka Babra



Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma (centre) hosts Dr. Samuel Kadivane, National Head of Integrated Disease Surveillance, Ministry of Health (right), and County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Health and Sanitation, Mr. Chrispinus Barasa (left), during the Ebola Preparedness Sensitisation Session held at Paskari Nabwana Hall.

prompt reporting of suspected cases.

Participants were updated on the Ebola situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, countries that have previously experienced outbreaks, providing important regional context for Kenya's preparedness efforts. It was noted that Ebola carries an incubation period of between two and twenty-one days, during which an infected individual may not exhibit symptoms but can nonetheless pose a public health risk once symptoms eventually manifest.

Risk mapping formed a significant part of the discussions, with border counties identified as particularly vulnerable owing to the high volume of cross-border movement. Bungoma County was specifically highlighted as a high-risk requiring heightened surveillance, given its proximity to the Uganda border and the frequent movement of long-distance truck drivers between the two countries.

The Ministry of Health informed participants that, to date, no Ebola case has been reported in Kenya. However, Public health officials urged the public to stay informed and supportive of

proactive Ebola containment measures. The officials stressed that continuous monitoring remains imperative given the frequency of regional movement between Kenya and neighbouring countries. Kenya has already put in place a range of preventive interventions, including the training of rapid response teams, active surveillance activities, public awareness campaigns, and screening procedures at designated points of entry.

These measures are designed to ensure that any suspected case is detected and managed swiftly before widespread transmission can occur. Dr. Kadivane emphasized that community backing for the ongoing construction of containment facilities such as the isolation center in Laikipia County is absolutely vital to safeguarding the nation against any potential outbreak.

On strengthening local preparedness, participants discussed the establishment of a dedicated quarantine and isolation centre to manage suspected Ebola cases should the need arise, with officials noting that adequate and timely funding would be essential for equipping such a facility to the requisite standard.

The forum featured a robust

interactive session during which Members of the County Assembly raised pertinent questions and sought clarification on various aspects of the disease. Hon. Jack Kawa, MCA for Bokoli Ward, sought to understand the specific protective measures being put in place for residents, particularly with the upcoming school half-term break likely to trigger increased movement of students and travellers within the region. He identified Busia, Bungoma, and Kakamega counties as especially prone to infection risk due to population movement patterns.

Hon. Joseph Nyongesa, MCA Tuuti Marakaru Ward sought clarification on the role of animals in Ebola transmission. Health experts responded that certain wild animals can act as carriers of the virus and that human infection can occur through contact with infected animals or their bodily fluids, while noting that no animal-to-human transmission case had been reported in Kenya thus far.

Hon. Sudi Busolo, MCA for South Bukusu Ward, echoed this concern, specifically referencing primates, and called for broader public education on zoonotic transmission risks. Hon. Charles

Nangulu, MCA Namwela Ward questioned why Ebola continues to attract significant public concern despite having been known to science for several decades. Health officials clarified that the disease's persistently high fatality rate and its potential for rapid community spread continue to make it a major public health threat warranting sustained attention.

Hon. Jeremiah Kuloba, MCA for Township Ward, underscored the importance of community-level

preparedness and public awareness as frontline tools in preventing potential outbreaks.

The forum was also attended by County Executive Committee Member in charge of Health, Mr. Chrispinus Barasa, who represented the health sector, and County Director Health Dr. Caleb Wata, who welcomed participants and underscored the imperative of institutional preparedness. Deputy Clerk incharge of Administration at the County Assembly Ms. Josylyne Situmah similarly welcomed

attendees before formally handing over the session to the County Assembly leadership.

The sensitization forum concluded with a collective call for continuous public awareness, enhanced surveillance, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure that Bungoma County remains adequately prepared and capable of responding effectively should any Ebola related threat emerge. Participants departed with a deepened understanding of the disease and a

a renewed appreciation of the critical role each individual and institution must play in safeguarding their communities against potential outbreaks.

Co-author. A third-year Language and communication student at Maseno University.

Kirinyaga County Assembly Service Board Pays Benchmarking Visit To County Assembly of Bungoma

By Rosemary Wachiye

A delegation from the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) of Kirinyaga County Assembly paid a benchmarking visit to the County Assembly of Bungoma on Thursday, 11th June 2026, seeking insights on the design, planning, and development of the Assembly's Administration Block and related administrative infrastructure.

The host institution was represented by the County Assembly Service Board of Bungoma, chaired by Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma Mukhebi, and comprising Vice Chairperson Hon. Joseph Nyongesa Juma (MCA, Tuuti/Marakaru Ward), Commissioners Hon. Ali Machani, Dr. Anthony Mabele, and Ms. Jessica Mayabi, alongside the Secretary to the Board and Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula.

Speaking during the visit, Kirinyaga County Assembly Speaker and CASB Chairperson Hon. Muteti Murimi stated that the delegation sought to draw lessons from Bungoma's infrastructure development journey

to inform Kirinyaga's own institutional development agenda. He disclosed that the institution's Administration Block project had stalled since its inception in 2014, and that the current Board was determined to revive it, a process which has begun by benchmarking against County Assemblies that had made demonstrable progress. The proposed project, he noted, would address a critical shortage of office space by providing dedicated offices for all Members of the County Assembly, staff, and committee rooms to facilitate legislative business. The Kirinyaga delegation also expressed interest in learning how the host Assembly was executing its ongoing new debating chambers project, having recently renovated their old chambers, which dated to the County Council era.

Clerk of the County Assembly of Kirinyaga and Chairperson of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT), Mr. Kamau Aidi, sought to understand the funding model adopted by the host Assembly and the timeline for project implementation, noting

that the delegation required sufficient grounding before embarking on the project.

Responding, Clerk of the County Assembly of Bungoma Mr. Charles Wafula underscored that institutional commitment and a clearly articulated motivation were the critical drivers of successful project completion.

He guided the delegation on the Senate-prescribed expenditure ceilings that govern how much a County Assembly may allocate to such projects, and emphasised the importance of designs that incorporate all legislative requirements from committee rooms and boardrooms to staff amenities, to ensure a conducive working environment. He called upon institutions to engage qualified technocrats to guarantee professional design and implementation to the required standards.

Mr. Wafula noted that Bungoma's Administration Block houses dedicated offices for all MCAs and staff, three boardrooms, committee rooms, a library, registry, restaurant, and

and gymnasium — facilities that have significantly enhanced the Assembly's operational capacity. Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma emphasised that political goodwill is indispensable at every stage of such projects from budget formulation through to construction and urged the delegation to build broad consensus with relevant government bodies from the outset.

He reaffirmed the Assembly's commitment to completing its ultra-modern debating chambers before the next general election, adding that the Administration Block's ample space already enables multiple meetings to run concurrently, a testament to the value of forward-looking infrastructure planning.

The Kirinyaga delegation comprised Hon. Daniel Muriithi Mbungu (Vice Chairperson and Majority Party Whip), Hon. Thomas Mwangi Muriuki, Mr. John Maina Muchiri, Hon. Benson Waweru Ngahu, and Ms. Edith Kangangi, accompanied by the Director of Public Works, the Supply Chain Management Officer, and other technical officers.



Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma Mukhebi, Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula, and Members of the County Assembly Service Board host their counterparts from Kirinyaga County Assembly, Speaker and County Assembly Service Board Chairperson Hon. Muteti Murimi, Clerk Mr. Kamau Aidi, and Members of the Kirinyaga County Assembly Service Board, during a benchmarking visit to the County Assembly of Bungoma.

County Assembly of Bungoma Staff Sensitized on the Branding Manual

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma, through its Public Communications Department, on Monday, June 22nd conducted a sensitization session for all staff on the new Branding Manual. The session was held in Paskari Nabwana Hall.

The session mainly aimed to equip staff with knowledge and practical understanding of the institution's branding guidelines to ensure consistency and professionalism in communication.

The Deputy Clerk in charge of Legislative Services, Dr. Leonard Momos on behalf of the Clerk of County Assembly officially opened the session. He underscored the critical role of brand-

ing in shaping public perception and strengthening institutional identity. He emphasized that a strong and consistent brand enhances credibility, promotes transparency, and fosters public trust in the Assembly's work.

The sensitization emphasized that branding extends to how the Assembly communicates across all platforms, including digital media, publications, and official correspondence. Staff were urged to adhere strictly to the branding manual to ensure uniformity in all communication outputs.

During the sensitization, participants were taken through key components of the branding manual, including guidelines on digital communication, presenta-

tions, photography, and social media usage. The sensitization highlighted the importance of maintaining consistency in fonts, layouts, imagery, and messaging to project a cohesive institutional image.

The manual also outlines standards for digital platforms, emphasizing the need for a uniform website design and professional presentation formats to enhance user experi-

ence and accessibility. Additionally, staff were guided on the proper use of images, stressing the importance of authenticity, professionalism, and ethical considerations in photography.

The sensitization forms part of ongoing efforts by the Assembly to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance the quality of its public engagement through clear, consistent, and professional communication.



Deputy Clerk (Legislative Services), Dr. Leonard Momos, and the Department of Public Communication and Media Relations sensitise members of staff on the County Assembly of Bungoma Brand Manual, in a session also attended by the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Advances Appropriation Bill

By Marsh Misiko | Rosemary Wachiye



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

The County Assembly of Bungoma convened a sitting on 23rd June 2026 to deliberate on the Bungoma County Appropriation Bill, 2026 (County Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2026). The Bill seeks to authorize the withdrawal of funds from the County Revenue Fund to finance county operations and development programmes for the financial year ending 30th June 2027.

The Assembly passed the Bill, authorizing the County Treasury to issue from the County Revenue Fund a total sum of KSh. 17,189,941,276, to be applied towards the supply granted for county services.

Before passage, the Assembly considered the Bill through the

Committee of the Whole House and adopted several technical amendments to align it with approved budget estimates, constitutional requirements, and Public Finance Management regulations. The amendments further addressed drafting inconsistencies, vote head adjustments, and financial schedule refinements, with a view to enhancing clarity and accuracy in budget implementation.

The Assembly also considered a report by the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Co-operative Development on the status of the Sibumba and Kikai Coffee Factories in Namwela Ward. Tabled by the Committee Chairperson, Hon. Waiti Wafula, the report underscored the critical role

coffee farming plays in supporting the livelihoods of local farmers and contributing to the agricultural economy of Bungoma County.

Following oversight visits to the two factories, the Committee identified several challenges undermining their performance. These included delayed payments to farmers, weak management systems, poor governance structures, inadequate record-keeping, irregularities in weighing procedures, alleged mismanagement of funds, and low coffee prices ranging between KSh. 37 and KSh. 39 per kilogramme. The Committee observed that governance deficiencies and a lack of financial accountability had significantly undermined factory operations, eroding farmer confidence and straining relations between management and cooperative members.

To address these concerns, the Committee recommended enhanced accountability and transparency in cooperative management; improved record-keeping systems; stricter monitoring of factory operations; stronger security measures to prevent theft; and active participation of farmers in cooperative affairs. The Committee further urged cooperative societies to ensure that all registered members remain actively engaged in the management of their organizations.

The House additionally addressed several Questions and Statements touching on public finance management and service delivery. Among the issues raised were revenue collection performance, implementation of approved budgets, recruitment and promotion of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers and Vocational Training Centre instructors, and the implementation status of the Bungoma County Child Care Facilities and Protection Act, 2024.

The afternoon sitting reaffirmed the County Assembly's constitutional mandate of legislation, representation, and oversight. Through its consideration of the Appropriation Bill, examination of challenges facing the coffee sector, and scrutiny of county financial management, the Assembly demonstrated its unwavering commitment to strengthening governance, promoting transparency, supporting agricultural development, and ensuring the prudent utilization of public resources for the benefit of the people of Bungoma County.

Unlocking The Untold Pain: Men Trapped Behind Society's Mask Of Strength

By Situma Tabitha | Rosemary Wachiye

June marks Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, bringing a renewed sense of hope and a sigh of relief to men suffering under the heavy blankets of fear, depression, silent struggles, and crushing societal expectations.

For generations, society has conditioned men to be unbreakable vessels, even in moments of profound agony. But the reality is stark. Crucially, gender-based violence is not an issue that affects women alone; hundreds of thousands of men are physically, mentally, psychologically, and emotionally abused. Yet, they suffer in isolation, terrified of being victimized, mocked, or humiliated if they speak out. This reality begs a critical question:

why can't we view men as human beings with an equal right to express stress, anger, and suffering? Embracing this shift is the only way to foster true mental stability among Kenyan men.

It is heartbreaking to count the lives lost to silence and solitude, all in the name of "manning up." The staggering global suicide rate, particularly among men under fifty reveal just how deadly this pressure truly is. When society demands that men bury their anxiety and depression, the trauma of societal ills and severe emotional struggles does not simply vanish. That unspoken burden actively destroys their minds and physically breaks their bodies down, often manifesting as chronic illnesses. Driven by intense stigma, the

vast majority of these struggles go entirely unreported. This is a quiet crisis where trauma, rigid expectations, and a total lack of support combine to cut far too many lives short before a safety net can reach them.

Consider a reality we see every day but choose to overlook in our own neighborhoods. Think about the brother, the uncle, or the neighbor who always waves, but whose eyes look completely empty. How many of us live next door to a man who is being systematically belittled, tortured, and physically or emotionally broken within his own marriage? Media often trivializes this; movies frequently depict a "hen-pecked" husband being slapped or screamed at while a laugh track plays, and audiences laugh along.

Even when relatives notice a man's sudden weight loss, isolation, or nervous flinching, they brush it off. They tell him to "be a man" or ask, "How can you let a woman do that to you?" We have conditioned our nation to ignore a man's cries for help when the abuser is a spouse or close relative. He is silenced by a paralyzing fear that if he reports the matter, he will be branded the perpetrator instead of the victim.

This is a wake-up call to every parent raising a son: let the boy-child know that it is perfectly alright to cry, to mourn, and to express his emotions, whether sadness or joy. Let him know that seeking help is not weakness, and that opening up about his feelings and life's challenges is an act of courage, not defeat.

For too long, men have been conditioned to project bravery

even in the depths of insecurity. Many have paid the ultimate price for that silence and have gone before they could tell their stories, before anyone thought to ask if they were okay. We have buried strength, and called it honor.

It is time we told our men the truth: that you can be strong and fragile at the same time. That you can be brave and still proceed with care. That losing a battle does not make you less of a man, it makes you human. And in that humanity, there is a quiet, unshakeable security that no performance of toughness can ever provide.

This is precisely why Men's Mental Health Awareness Month is a vital lifeline. We must use this time to dismantle malicious, outdated societal norms so that men feel safe enough to reach out before things turn tragic. This month provides a powerful national platform to strip away the shame of vulnerability, proving to men that seeking help is a demonstration of courage, not weakness.

By coming together, we can unlock tangible change: creating safe spaces for honest conversations, connecting men to specialized support networks, and educating families on the hidden warning signs of male distress. Let us use this month as a turning point to break the silence, smash the stigma, and ensure that no man in our nation has to fight his battles alone.

Co-author. A third-year Communication and Public Relations student at Kabianga University.

A Father's Day Tribute

Happy Father's Day to every father who has answered the call, Fwho has stepped up, shown up, sacrificed, and chosen to be there.

We celebrate the fathers who set aside their own comfort so that their children may know warmth, security, and joy. We honor those who refuse to be sidelined by circumstance or silenced by society, men who have made a deliberate, courageous choice to be present, to be engaged, and to be counted in the lives of their children.

To the fathers out there teaching their sons and daughters how to ride a bicycle, how to roast meat over an open fire, how to chase a ball across a field, and most importantly how to chase their biggest dreams with boldness and faith: this day is yours.

You are seen. You are celebrated. You are honored.

Happy Father's Day!

The Bungoma Legislator Digital News Desk



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