## MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK

The current Clerk of the County Assembly is Mr. Charles Wanjala Wafula. He was initially appointed as the first Deputy Clerk in charge of Administration after the position was split into two following the retirement of the first Deputy Clerk Mr. Michael Kimwele.

Mr. Wafula had barely settled in his new role as Deputy Clerk Administration when the former clerk Mr. John Mosongo opted for early retirement. He was subsequently appointed Clerk of the County Assembly in acting capacity before being competitively recruited to the position.

He previously worked in the defunct local authority at the Municipal Council of Bungoma in various capacities before devolution came in 2013. He was posted to the County Assembly among the transition staff as officer in charge of the Finance and Accounts.

Mr. Wafula elaborates that he has a clear vision for the County Assembly, which will see a lot of transformation in both service delivery and infrastructure.

"We have rolled out our approved Strategic Plan which will clearly guide our operations and enable us to set targets that we are all going to work towards achieving," he says.

After going through all the key stages, the County Assembly Strategic Plan (2022-2031) has been rolled out to inform budgets, departmental work plans and enhance service delivery to the people of Bungoma County.

The Clerk stated that the County Assembly had recruited more employees to bring the number to 125 from the previous 70 as a means of improving workmanship and proficiency. He also noted that County Assembly had completed its new administration block which will host offices for all the members of staff and Members of the County Assembly for efficiency and effective service delivery.

On strengthening public participation, the Clerk says he will adhere to Constitutional provision.

Article 118, of the Constitution states that Parliament shall conduct its business in an open manner, its meetings and those of the committees shall be open to the public.

Article 196 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) ,Section 87 of the County Governments Act and County Assembly Standing orders mandates the County Assembly to facilitate public participation and involvement of the public in the legislative and other business of the assembly and its committees. In compliance with these statutes, the County Assembly has:

1. Established a fully operational Public Communications department where members of Public can access all information. The department is a link between the County Assembly and the Public.

- 2. Expanded its Public gallery to accommodate more members of the Public who want to follow debate.
- 3. Set up a Facebook page, "Bungoma County Assembly" where it posts and shares all information with the Public and allows for comments and feedback. The County Assembly is also available on other social media platforms like Twitter and WhatsApp.
- 4. The County Assembly also has a website <u>www.bungomaassembly.go.ke</u> where all information and materials is uploaded for easy downloading by the public.
- 5. The Leadership and staff of the County Assembly are also fully available to respond to inquiries from the Public.
- 6. The top Leadership of the County Assembly is also available for talk shows and other informative programs on media stations where they share information with the Public and are open to interrogation.
- 7. The County Assembly holds regular Public participation forums on all Bills before they are passed.

CHARLES W. WAFULA

**CLERK OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY**