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Bungoma County Assembly Committees Interrogate Executive Over Staffing Irregularities

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly Committees on Public Administration and ICT, and Labour Relations, Member Services and Facilities, held a joint sitting to interrogate the County Executive over the recruitment, promotion, and deployment of directors and other officers within the public service.

The session was marked by intense deliberations, with Members of the County Assembly demanding accountability and strict adherence to the law in staffing processes.

Joint Committee Chairpersons, Hon. Tonny Barasa and Hon. Martin Cheseto, faced a challenging task managing Members who pressed the Executive to acknowledge shortcomings and ensure compliance with established legal frameworks.

Hon. Jack Kawa, MCA for Bokoli Ward, who had raised the matter, expressed dissatisfaction with the responses provided by the County Executive. He alleged that several officers were “masquerading” as directors and deputies without proper authorization, calling into question the legitimacy of appointments to senior positions.

Committee members raised



County Assembly Committees on Public Administration and ICT, and Labour Relations, Member Services and Facilities, hold a joint sitting at the County Assembly Plenary to interrogate the County Executive over the staffing irregularities.

concerns over the transparency and legality of staffing decisions, particularly the apparent mix of substantive and non-substantive directors within the county administration.

Responding to the concerns, County Secretary Mr. William Nasong'o and Chief Officer for Public Administration Ms. Everlyne Wekesa stated that the County Executive has 17 directors holding substantive appointments. They dismissed claims of officers serving in acting capacities, clarifying that performing the functions of a director does not automatically imply formal appointment to the position.

“For one to be considered as acting in a role, there must be a formal letter assigning that responsibility. None of those alleged to be acting have such documentation,” said Mr. Nasong'o.

The Chairperson of the Bungoma

County Public Service Board, Mr. Fredric Wanyonyi, informed the committees that the Board is newly constituted and had not yet received a comprehensive handover, limiting its ability to fully respond to some of the issues raised. He further revealed that the county currently lacks key human resource tools, including operational manuals and a staff establishment framework, which are critical in guiding personnel management.

Mr. Wanyonyi noted that the Board is in the process of developing these frameworks and emphasized that conversion of officers from contract to permanent terms must be conducted through a competitive process. He added that no officer should serve on contract for more than five years without renewal, and any renewal undertaken without a formal application to the Board is null and void.

Members of the Assembly

demanded immediate tabling of official documentation, including appointment letters and deployment records, to verify the status of officers serving in senior roles. Hon. Jack Kawa reiterated his call for evidence indicating when such officers assumed office.

Labour practices emerged as a key issue during the deliberations, with Members emphasizing the direct link between proper human resource management and effective service delivery. Concerns were also raised over leadership gaps in critical departments such as Finance and Agriculture, which were said to hinder efficient service delivery to residents.

The County Assembly urged the County Public Service Board and the Executive to adhere strictly to legal and procedural requirements in all staffing matters.

Bungoma County Assembly Hosts Registrar Of Political Parties

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma on June 4th, 2026 hosted the Registrar of Political Parties, Mr. John Lorionokou, in a consultative meeting aimed at

strengthening collaboration between the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) and County Assembly.

Mr. Lorionokou was accompa-

nied by a delegation of senior officials from his office, including Assistant Registrar Ms. Agatha Wahome, Deputy Director of Administration Ms. Jane Kamau, Deputy Director Mr. Andia

Khaseke, Director of Compliance Mr. Daniel Kinuthia, Head of Human Resource Ms. Damaris Mwendwa, Head of ICT Mr.

Robert Waithaka, Mr. Ouma Ngala, and Mr. Willy Sigei, the Western Region Coordinator.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Lorionokou noted that his office is currently undertaking a nationwide grassroots familiarization tour aimed at gathering views from citizens and enhancing public understanding of the role of political parties in governance.

He revealed that the ORPP has already established a presence in several counties and is working towards opening offices in all counties across the country to improve accessibility and service delivery.

“We will continue conducting civic education and sensitizing voters on our mandate while appealing for support from all stakeholders,” said Mr. Lorionokou.

He emphasized the critical role of Hon. Members of County Assembly (MCAs) as key links between the electorate and governance structures, noting that the ORPP is keen on building meaningful partnerships with them.

“MCAs, as elected leaders, are the first point of contact for the electorate. We shall continue engaging them to strengthen collaboration,” he added. Mr. Lorionokou further highlighted the role of his office in resolving disputes within political parties, commending the County Assembly of Bungoma for promoting amicable resolution of internal disagreements.

The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, welcomed the delegation and raised concerns over gender imbalance in political leadership. He noted that the low number of

women in leadership positions remains a significant challenge, calling for deliberate efforts to achieve gender parity.

“There is a need to advocate for a 50:50 representation in leadership to increase the number of women elected into office,” said the Speaker.

Hon. Situma also called for an end to political violence, which he said discourages women from participating in political processes. He urged political parties to conduct free, fair, and inclusive nominations that provide equal opportunities for women candidates.

“I urge the ORPP to intensify civic education so that citizens can better understand how political parties are formed, funded, and managed,” he added.



Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma, Hon. Emmanuel Situma Mukhebi, welcomes a delegation from the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties for discussions held at the County Assembly of Bungoma.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Set For Busy Week As Key Bills, Motions And Oversight Matters Take Centre Stage

By Erick Ngobilo

The County Assembly of Bungoma is set for a busy legislative week from Tuesday, 9th to Thursday, 11th June 2026, with a packed programme of business

focusing on legislative and oversight matters.

According to the Weekly Programme prepared by the House Business Committee chaired by

the Speaker Hon. Emmanuel Situma, the House will deliberate on reports, motions and Bills aimed at strengthening service delivery and enhancing accountability across county departments.

On Tuesday, 9th June 2026, the Assembly will consider and debate the Report of the Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the Bungoma County Revenue Enhancement Action Plan (REAP). The report is expected to guide the county in improving its own-source revenue collection and sealing existing leakages.

Members will also seek statements on pending bills relating to Makutano Health Centre and Misanga Dispensary. The members focus will be on payment

status, budget allocations, and measures being undertaken to ensure timely settlement of obligations within the current financial year.

On Wednesday, 10th June 2026, the House will focus on legislation, with the Bungoma County Agriculture Institutions Development Bill, 2025 scheduled for Second Reading. Additionally, the Assembly will interrogate governance and administrative matters, including the status, legality and performance of substantive and acting Directors across county departments.

In the afternoon sitting, Hon. Members will debate the Report of the Sectoral Committee on Trade, Energy and Industrialization on the status of completion of the Bungoma



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

County Aggregation Industrial Park, a flagship project aimed at promoting industrial growth and value addition.

The Assembly will also process statements on infrastructure and development projects, including the implementation of Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) road projects, the Salmond Namuyemba–River Khalaba Road project, and the acquisition of land for the establishment of Bondeni ECDE Centre.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Staff Sensitized On Risk Management

By Marsh Misiko



Staff of the County Assembly of Bungoma attend a sensitization forum on Risk Management at Paskari Nabwana Hall, where Principal Human Resource Officer Dr. Abraham Simiyu and Hansard Officer Stella Wanjala addressed participants on the Assembly's risk management framework.

The County Assembly of Bungoma on June 3rd, 2026 undertook a risk sensitization forum aimed at strengthening institutional governance and accountability at the Paskari Nabwana Auditorium.

The session, which brought together all members of staff and was focused on equipping participants with practical knowledge and tools to enhance risk identification, assessment, and mitigation within the Assembly's operations.

The Principal Human Resource Officer Dr. Abraham Simiyu underscored the importance of adopting structured risk management approaches to support sound decision making and curb vulnerabilities that may expose the institution to inefficiencies and corruption.

Participants were taken through various critical aspects of risk management. Ms. Linda Nanjala Wanyama and Mr. Evans Mang'ara elaborated on risk management as a continuous and proactive process, calling for sustained capacity building

among staff to ensure effective implementation. The presentations emphasized that managing risks is not a one-time activity, but an ongoing responsibility embedded in daily operations.

The discussion on risk appetite, led by Ms. Stella Wanjala, provided clarity on how the County Assembly determines the level of risk it is willing to undertake in pursuit of its strategic goals. She stressed the need for clearly defined risk thresholds to guide consistent and informed decision making.

Linking risk management to citizen outcomes, Mr. Eric Ngobilo emphasized the role of the service delivery charter in ensuring that governance reforms translate into tangible benefits for residents. He called on staff to remain committed to delivering quality services that reflect accountability and responsiveness to public needs.

County Assembly Of Bungoma Conducts 2026 Corporate Social Responsibility Blood Donation Drive

By Rosemary Wachiye | Marsh Misiko

The County Assembly of Bungoma leadership, led by Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa and

Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula, on 29th May, 2026 gave back to the

community through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative—a blood donation drive held at the County Assembly precincts.

The initiative, held under the

theme "One Pint. Two Lives. Give Blood, Save Mother and Child," aimed at supporting Bungoma County Referral Hospital in strengthening its blood supply, reducing dependence on neighbouring counties, and

promoting voluntary blood donation as a lifesaving civic duty.

The exercise culminated in the



The County Assembly of Bungoma, in collaboration with the Blood Satellite Unit of Bungoma County Referral Hospital, conducts a blood donation drive at the Assembly precincts as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, aimed at addressing the prevailing blood shortage in Bungoma County.

collection of 98 units of blood, that was the highest turnout recorded so far this year. The activity brought together County Assembly staff, Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) students, healthcare professionals, sponsors, dignitaries, and members of the public in a collective effort to save lives.

The program began with a colourful procession from the County Assembly through the Town Co-operative Bank Junction, creating public awareness and engaging the wider community. The procession featured lively entertainment and messaging that encouraged participation and highlighted the importance of blood donation.

Participants, sponsors, and dignitaries then assembled at the

the County Assembly grounds for the main donation event. Medical teams conducted comprehensive health screening and supervised the donation process to ensure safety and efficiency. Donors were encouraged to take light meals before donating, and refreshments were provided afterwards as a token of appreciation.

The Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula officially welcomed guests and appreciated all partners and participants. He emphasized the critical importance of regular voluntary blood donation in saving lives, especially for mothers and children.

The Deputy Clerk for Admin-

tration, Ms. Josylyne Situmah and Deputy Clerk for Legislative Services, Dr. Leonard Momos highlighted how blood donation strengthens healthcare services within the county and supports vulnerable populations.

Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa officially launched the exercise, urging residents to embrace a culture of voluntary blood donation as an act of compassion and social responsibility.

Representatives from sponsoring organizations demonstrated their commitment to community health: Amaray Dental and Eye Care, Zion Medical Centre, Hopkins Crescent Hospital, Salama Bakery, Rudra Enterprises, and Khetias Supermark. All reaffirmed their commitment to

supporting community health programmes and pledged continued collaboration on health initiatives.

Mr. Wekesa Thomas, Medical Laboratory Technologist at Bungoma County Referral Hospital Blood Satellite Unit, commended the initiative and encouraged continued public awareness campaigns to sustain momentum in blood donation drives.

He noted that the 98 units collected represent a significant contribution to the hospital's blood bank, directly supporting life-saving medical interventions for mothers, children, and other vulnerable patients.

The successful exercise reaffirmed the County Assembly of Bungoma's commitment to community welfare and healthcare support through its CSR initiatives. The response demonstrates the potential for sustained voluntary blood donation when leadership and community stakeholders work together toward a common goal.

The County Assembly has committed to making blood donation drives a regular feature of its CSR calendar, with plans for similar initiatives in partnership with the health sector and community organizations.

FEATURE STORY

Beyond Politics: How Bungoma County Assembly Leaders And Citizens United To Save Lives

By Situma Tabitha | Rosemary Wachiye

The halls of the Bungoma County Assembly are more accustomed to the sharp exchange of ideas, motions, and policy debates. Yet on the morning of Friday May 29 2026, the atmosphere was strikingly different. Away from the normal political discussions, the Assembly ground buzzed with

quiet determination as members of staff, medical officers, Honorable Members of the County Assembly, men and women walked shoulder to shoulder with residents, from the Assembly premises through crowded streets of Bungoma Town.

The traders, bystanders, boda boda riders and pedestrians briefly stopped to take in the sight of officials championing a cause that touched countless lives transforming an ordinary morning into a powerful display of community solidarity. The procession, which began at the Assembly and stretched to the

Co-operative Bank junction, had drawn a colorful mix of county assembly staff, health professionals, KMTC students, patients' relatives, and curious members of the public.



Outside, the sun cast a warm glow over the Assembly grounds as participants returned from an awareness walk. Their mission was simple but urgent, to encourage blood donation and help save lives and tackle a critical concern of blood shortage in the County.

According to Medical Officer from the Blood Satellite at Bungoma County Referral Hospital Mr. Thomas Wekesa the demand for blood at the hospital remains high throughout the year. He added that children living with sickle cell disease account for nearly 30 percent of the blood used in the region. When supplies run low, the families of the sick are often left anxiously waiting, hoping that a donor will come forward before it is too late.

"Blood shortage has remained a painful reality in Bungoma County, out of a total population of approximately 1.7 Million residents, there is need for 1,700 units of blood per month yet the County currently collects 800 units of blood," said Mr. Wekesa.

While the County Assembly of Bungoma has a history of community initiatives from donations to prisons and children's homes, this drive marked a deliberate shift in approach: moving beyond material giving towards actions that touch human life directly. Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula said the need for blood in the County was what necessitated the drive. He confirmed the County Assembly's intention to continue supporting

Deputy Speaker Hon. Stephen Wamalwa and Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Charles Wafula lead a vibrant procession of staff and partners through the streets of Bungoma town, heralding the County Assembly of Bungoma's blood donation drive at the Assembly precincts.

similar initiatives as part of its community outreach efforts, recognizing that leadership extends beyond legislation and governance.

"This blood donation drive has mobilized blood donors from within and around the County Assembly in order to address the chronic blood shortage in the County," said Mr. Wafula.

Among those who answered the call was *Mary Maina (not her real name) a student at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC). Standing patiently in line, the young student carried a motivation that went beyond civic responsibility. "I have seen what happens when a patient urgently needs blood and there is none available, those moments are heartbreaking. Donating blood may seem like a small act, but to someone fighting for their life, it means everything," Said Mary.

For many people gathered at the event, blood donation was not just an act of charity, it was a personal commitment. Accident victims, mothers experiencing complications during childbirth, children battling sickle cell disease, and patients undergoing major surgeries all rely on a

steady supply of donated blood.

One of the people who understood that reality better than most was one of the donors, who had come from Bungoma County Referral Hospital to donate blood not once, not twice but for the third time in two consecutive months. As he watched donors move from one station to another, his thoughts drifted to his daughter lying in a hospital bed urgently needing blood transfusion. The man emotionally chose to prioritize the life of his daughter forgetting the harm it might bring to him.

"When a patient requires blood urgently, every minute counts, families often become desperate when they are told there is insufficient blood. Seeing people voluntarily donate blood today gives hope to many patients who may never know the names of those who have volunteered to help them," he said. His words reflected a reality that every unit of blood collected is a mother who survives childbirth, a child who receives treatment, or an accident victim given another chance at life.

The campaign, held under the theme "One Pint. Two lives. Give Blood, Save Mother and Child!" transformed the County Assem-

bly grounds into a place of compassion and solidarity. It was a collaborative effort between the County Assembly with healthcare providers from Blood Satellite Unit at Bungoma County Referral Hospital, Hopkins Crescent Hospital, Zion medical centre, Amaray Dental and Eye care and other well wishers such as Khetias supermarket, Adatia wholesalers, Rudra Enterprises and Salama Bakery.

Medical personnel moved efficiently between donation stations while volunteers guided participants through the process. Some donors appeared nervous at first, while others chatted casually with friends, sharing stories and encouraging one another. As the day progressed, the donation bags steadily filled one after another. By the end of the exercise, 98 units of blood had been collected, making it one of the most successful blood donation drives conducted in the County since the beginning of the year.

"While people often see a bag of blood, we see lives. We see a mother who will safely hold her newborn child, a patient recovering from surgery, and a child receiving treatment. That is what these donations mean," a medical officer explained.

The success of the drive revealed something deeper than numbers; it showed the power of community action. When County Assembly staff, students, health professionals,

and ordinary residents stood in the same queue, job titles, social status, and political affiliations quietly faded away. What remained, for a few hours, was something rare and simple: a shared commitment to helping strangers.

As the event drew to a close, donors left carrying bottles of soda, bread, milk, donation cards and words of appreciation. Walking away from the Assembly grounds, donors paused for a moment and reflected on the day's significance. Yet perhaps

the greatest reward was invisible, the knowledge that their simple act of kindness could save lives.

"Donating blood only takes a few minutes," they said. "But for someone waiting in a hospital

bed, those few minutes can mean the difference between life and death." And in that simple truth lay the heart of the day: a community coming together, not to debate or legislate, but to give something priceless, which is hope.

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

OPINION

Performance At Workplace Is Sustained By Humanity

By Stella Wanjala

There is a dangerous philosophy slowly creeping into some Kenyan workplaces, disguised as professionalism, five words that sound efficient, even admirable: "Do your work and go home." At face value, it is a reasonable expectation. In reality, it promotes emotional detachment, weakens workplace culture, and ignores a simple truth: employees are human beings carrying different realities every single day such as grief, caregiving burdens, illness, anxiety, financial pressures, and personal struggles that do not disappear simply because one has clocked in.

I hold this opinion not from theory, but from lived experience.

For over two years, I cared for my mother while she was in critical condition — one of the most difficult periods of my life, emotionally, mentally, and physically. Yet throughout that season, the understanding and compassion extended to me at my workplace made it possible for me to remain functional, mentally stable, and productive. Simply put, what sustained me was not pressure, it was humanity. The flexibility, encouragement, patience, and emotional

support I received from colleagues and supervisors gave me the strength to remain mentally grounded while carrying enormous personal pain. When my mother eventually passed away, that same workplace support became even more important in helping me preserve my dignity and remain sane at my most vulnerable moment. That could never happen in a workplace where people are conditioned only to "deliver and go home."

That experience fundamentally changed how I view workplace culture.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in Eldoret, where discussions centered on ensuring a healthy psychosocial working environment. The conversations there reinforced an important message that needs to be appreciated by all organizations: supporting workers psychologically and emotionally is not optional, it is necessary.

That global conversation reaffirmed something many employees already know from lived experience: support systems at work are not acts of charity but rather strategic investments in



human sustainability.

When workplaces embrace empathy and psychological safety, the benefits are enormous. Employees become more loyal and committed, and teams collaborate more effectively. Mental wellness improves, burn-out reduces significantly, and productivity becomes sustainable rather than forced. Creativity and innovation flourish. Workers feel valued beyond their output, and institutions retain experienced and motivated talent.

On the other hand, emotionally cold workplaces create silent suffering. Employees show up physically but disconnect mentally. Some burn out quietly while some lose motivation completely. Eventually, organizations begin wondering why productivity declines, teamwork weakens and morale disappears yet the answer often lies in the absence of humanity. There is nothing progressive about reduc-

ing workers to targets and timelines alone.

We must stop glorifying emotionally detached workplaces as symbols of professionalism. True professionalism is not the absence of humanity; it is the ability to pursue excellence while recognizing the human condition. The future of work cannot merely be about performance metrics and quarterly targets; it must also be about preserving the dignity, mental wellness and humanity of the people behind the work because at some point in life, every worker will face something bigger than a deadline: illness, loss, caregiving, grief or emotional struggle.

Critically, humanity is not separate from performance, as a strong foundation of sustainability; it is the very foundation that makes sustainable performance possible.

(Contributing author is a Hansard Officer, Hansard Department, County Assembly of Bungoma.)



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