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County Assembly Sectoral Committees interrogate the County Annual Development Plan for FY 2025/2026

By County Assembly Communications Team

The County Assembly of Bungoma is reviewing the County Annual Development Plan (ADP) for 2025/2026. Various sectoral committees are interrogating the plan in sessions with representatives from the County Executive.

Monday 23rd September 2024, committees including those for Tourism, Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Youth and Sports, Health Services, Labour Relations, Members' Services and Facilities, and Gender, Culture and Social Welfare engaged with County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) and Chief Officers.

The County Department of Youth and Sports appeared before the Committee on Youth and Sports to interrogate the County Annual Development Plan. The Committee led by the Chairperson Hon. Violet Makhanu inquired from the department about the non-payment of key

projects

Youth and Sports Committee sought to find out why Ksh. 30 million allocated to complete the High Altitude Training Centre at Chemoge and Ksh. 60 Million for the construction of Masinde Muliro Stadium was not utilized as per the approved budget.

In defense, the Department apportioned the blame to the Finance Department for not effecting the payment. The Committee concluded that they would invite the County Executive Committee member and Chief Officer in charge of Finance to clarify the issue.

The Youth and Sports department led by the Chief Officer Mr. Timothy Wafula assured the members of the Committee that the department was committed to offsetting all pending bills that amount to Ksh. 1,184,980 and Ksh. 140,413, and 877 for recurrent expenditure and development respectively.

The Director of Youth and Sports Mr. David Kalamu highlighted key achievements by the department among them the completion of the first and second floor of the Masinde Muliro stadium that was currently being utilized and the ajiri mentorship and training program for the youth that has benefitted youth from Bukembe East, Kaptama and Chwele Kabuchai wards.

The County Gender and Culture Department on the other hand appeared before the County Assembly Committee on Gender and Culture to highlight the ADP for FY 2025/2026. The Chief Officer Mr. David Maling'a was put to task to substantiate the reported 90% completion of Sang'alo multipurpose hall. The Committee revealed that the facility had only two cultural houses instead of six to represent the six families of the Bukusu community.

Gender, Culture and Social Welfare Committee interrogation meeting which was chaired by Vice Chairper-

son Hon John Kennedy Wanyama called upon the department to develop regulations that would fast-track disbursement of funds for women and people living with disability because despite budgetary allocations the process had been hampered due to lack of regulations.

The Gender and Culture Department highlighted its plan to set up a Rehabilitation center to address the reportedly high prevalence of drugs, alcohol, and substance abuse in the County at a cost of Ksh. 15 Million. The Gender and Culture Department has so far developed 5 policies namely: Group Registration Policy, Culture and Heritage Policy, Disability Mainstreaming Policy, Children Protection Policy, and Gender Mainstreaming Policy all of which were done in 2023.

Notably, CECM for Roads, Mr. Bonventure Chengek, and Chief Officer Mr. Edward Makhandia addressed the Roads, Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee. Mr.



The Chief Officer for Gender and Culture David Chemayiek Maling'a appearing before the Gender and Culture Committee



County Executive Committee Member for Health and Sanitation Ms Caroline Makali appearing before the Health Committee

Chengek faced scrutiny regarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with West Kenya Sugar Company concerning Cess payments. This MOU outlines a partnership in which the County provides machinery and labor while the sugar company supplies fuel and compensates workers to maintain roads in designated areas. The Company also pays for materials like murrum required for the rehabilitation.

Chairman Hon. Franklin Simotwo expressed concerns that the County could miss out on Cess revenue unless the MOU is clarified. To address these issues, the Committee agreed to convene a meeting with the Departments of Agriculture, Finance, and Roads and Public Works.

The Roads department highlighted several achievements, including the graveling of roads, construction of bridges and culverts, and effective emergency responses, as well as collaboration with national government agencies.

On September 23, 2024, the Committee on Tourism, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources, led by Hon. Edwin Okwara, alongside the Health Committee chaired by Hon. George Makari MCA Musikoma Ward held interrogation sessions with key executives from their respective departments in Bungoma County.

The Tourism Committee also appeared to clarify pending bills and review the Annual Development Plan (ADP) for FY 2025-2026. They reported significant achievements, including the planting of over 600,000 seedlings to enhance biodiversity and the successful drilling of boreholes in Mihuu, Bukembe East, and Cheptais to improve water accessibility. A notable development was the transition of Nzoia Water Services Company (Nzowasco) into a county government entity, which aims to bolster local governance.

Simultaneously, the Health Committee conducted a detailed session focused on the operational progress of health facilities especially the Bungoma County Refer-



Chief Officer for Youth and Sports Mr Timothy Wafula (centre) and Director for Youth and Sports Mr David Kalamu interrogated by the Youth and Sports Committee

ral Hospital.

The discussions revolved around resource management related to revenue collection and the county's outstanding bills, which total 132.1 million. Positive highlights included the completion of a 60-bed facility at Bumula Sub-County Hospital and the operationalization of an ICU wing at the referral hospital. The establishment of a commodity storage facility and the recruitment of 200 staff members were also significant advancements.

The Health Committee outlined plans in their ADP, which include equipping the 300-bed capacity at the Bungoma County Referral Hospital, improving maternity units, and constructing a new Doctors Plaza. Together, these efforts reflect a clear roadmap to advance healthcare and environmental initiatives in Bungoma County.

All committees emphasized the importance of effective project implementation and their commitment to enhancing service delivery within the respective departments.



Chairperson of the Gender and Culture Committee Hon. Jack Kawa, member of the Committee Hon. Abraham Obama (centre), and Vice Chairperson Hon John Kennedy Wanyama interrogate officials from the County Department of Gender and Culture

Committee on implementation interrogates Department of Health on the implementation of quarterly reports passed by the house under FY 2023/2024

By County Assembly Communications Team

Bungoma County Health officials appeared for interrogation before the County Assembly Committee on Implementation following their response on the status report on the implementation of various projects by the Department of Health and Sanitation for the financial year 2023/2024.

The Health officials led by the County Executive Committee member in charge of Health Ms. Carolyne Khalayi were tasked to shed light on the implementation of quarterly reports adopted by the County Assembly for the period under review.

The Committee led by the Chairperson Hon Aggrey Mulongo, MCA Kibingei Ward, probed the officials to explain why the Department had advertised for recruitment of staff on a contractual basis for a contract of 6 months which contravenes the 1 year period approved by the County Assembly.

They were also tasked to provide information on the status of the

Ward-based project implemented under the Department of Health and Sanitation in the same period and whether the projects were completed and paid for within the stipulated time.

The Committee sought to check the status of the installation of payment through Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) in Sub County health facilities for purposes of accountability since the facilities were allowed to spend at the source.

In her response, Ms. Carolyne Khalayi informed the Committee that the Department was rolling out payment through IFMIS in the Sub-County Hospitals in Bungoma in three phases. Phase one which deals with Webuye and Bungoma Referral Hospital will be complete by 30th September 2024.

Phase two dealing with Kimilili, Cheptais, and Bumula Sub-County Hospitals will be completed by November while Phase Three tackling the remaining 6 Sub-County facilities will be com-

pleted by 15th December 2024.

She added that there was a team tasked to conduct physical verification of projects under the Department, which had started its work a week ago and upon completion of the exercise will provide facts on the current status of projects.

Chief Officer in-charge of Health Dr. Magarina Mayama confirmed the registration of 161 Health facilities out of 173 across Bungoma County and that the process was still ongoing.

The County Director Health Dr. Caleb Wanambisi highlighted the challenges faced in the installation of IFMIS system in the facilities owing to the poor infrastructure and inadequate capacity to facilitate implementation of the system.

The Committee on Implementation is mandated to scrutinize House resolutions including adopted Committee reports, petitions, and the undertakings given by the County Executive Committee Members. The Committee also

examines whether the said decisions and undertakings have been implemented, the extent to which they were implemented, and whether implementation took place within the necessary time. The Committee also checks the operationalization of passed legislation by the House within the stipulated time.

The Vice Chairperson of the Committee Hon Job Mukoyandali cautioned the Department against providing the Committee with false and contradictory information since the information will be relied upon in the final report by the Committee.

On the other hand, the Committee recommended to the Department of Health and Sanitation to ensure 100% payment through IFMIS in the health facilities. The Department was also to furnish the Committee with information on the source of donor funding to specific projects done in various hospitals in FY 2022/2023 AND FY 2023/2024.

Upon receipt of the information, the Committee is set to retreat to compile a report that will be presented in the House.



Committee on Implementation interrogates officials from the County Department of Health and Sanitation at the County Assembly of Bungoma

Committee chairpersons awarded with certificates

By County Assembly Communications Team

The County Assembly Speaker, Hon. Emmanuel Situma, on 12th September, 2024 awarded certificates to 10 Chairpersons of various County Assembly Committees who successfully completed a leader-

ship program organized by the Institute of Certified Secretaries. This institute, a public body, is known for promoting principles of good governance across institutions.

The leadership program targets CEOs, chairpersons, and vice chairpersons of committees, as well as officials from state corporations. The remaining chairpersons are also scheduled to undergo similar training in the near future.

The certificates, issued by the Institute of Certified Secretaries, were presented during a Liaison Committee meeting, which was attended by the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Charles Wafula.



County Assembly Speaker Hon Emmanuel Situma awards Committee Chairpersons with certificates for successful completion of a leadership program organized by Institute of Certified Secretaries

School tour of the County Assembly

By County Assembly Communications Team

Recently the County Assembly had the pleasure of hosting students from Makuselwa Friends Secondary School as part of their academic trip aimed at deepening their understanding of the roles of the County Assembly and the principles of devolution. This visit provided an excellent opportunity for the students to engage directly with the workings of local governance and the area MCA. Hon Alfred Mukhanya

Upon arrival the students were warmly welcomed by the assembly's officials including the communication and sergeant-at-arms team who played a crucial role in guiding the group throughout their visit. They began with an insightful overview of the assembly's functions explaining how it operates within the framework of devolution a key aspect of governance in our country.

Understanding Devolution

The concept of devolution was a

focal point of the visit. The students learned that devolution aims to bring government closer to the people, allowing for better representation and more tailored services. The officials highlighted the importance of local governance in addressing community-specific issues and fostering citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Interactive Sessions with communication officers

Following the informative session, the students had the chance to ask

questions, allowing for a dynamic exchange of ideas. Their curiosity about the legislative process, budget allocation, and community engagement underscored their eagerness to understand how policies are shaped at the county level.

student in the Public Gallery

After the initial discussions, the students attended the afternoon session in the public gallery, where they observed the assembly in action. This experience provided a real-world glimpse into how debates and discussions unfold, illustrating the importance of civic engagement and accountability. Watching elected representatives deliberate on issues that directly impact their community left a profound impression on the students.

the principal

The Principala Mr. Everrent Makabwa said visit to the County Assembly was not just an academic exercise it was an enriching experience that connected theory with practice. For the students of Makuselwa Friends Secondary School it was an eye-opening opportunity to witness democracy in action and understand the significance of their role as future citizens. Such initiatives play a vital role in nurturing informed engaged and responsible members of society ensuring that the ideals of devolution resonate with the next generation.



A section of students and teachers from Makuselwa Friends Secondary School during an educational visit of the County Assembly of Bungoma

Kilifi and Kakamega County Assemblies benchmark in Bungoma County Assembly

By County Assembly Communications Team

Delegations from Kakamega and Kilifi County Assemblies embarked on benchmarking tours of the County Assembly of Bungoma to learn on best practices in County Assembly Committees and in governance, Strategic Planning, and Board operations respectively.

Bungoma County Assembly is one of the few in Kenya that has successfully rolled out performance management initiatives and is currently pursuing ISO certification, setting a high bar for other assemblies across the country.

Upon arrival, the two delegations that visited the County Assembly on different dates, paid courtesy call on the Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Emmanuel Situma, and the Clerk Mr. Charles Wafula. They were also given a tour of Bungoma's ultra-modern office block and the state-of-the-art debating chamber, which is still under construction.

On September 11, 2024, The Secretariat of the Kilifi County Assembly Service Board comprising Mr. Mwangi Kiponda (First Clerk Assistant), Martha Ngugi (Deputy Hansard Editor), and Alfred Mumba (Chief Sergeant-at-Arms), were warmly

welcomed by Mr. Elvis Werunga, the Principal Administrative Officer.

Hon. Situma emphasized Bungoma's commitment to sharing its best practices, describing the County Assembly as a "model" that other assemblies across the nation seek to emulate. Mr. Wafula highlighted the close relationship between Kilifi and Bungoma, noting that Bungoma officials have previously visited Kilifi for similar benchmarking missions. He praised Kilifi's modern chamber, calling it "phenomenal."

The Kilifi delegation also held discussions with key officers from Bungoma, exchanging ideas and gaining insights on improving governance and infrastructure development. They commended Bungoma County Assembly's significant strides in enhancing its operations and establishing robust governance systems.

Following their visit, The Clerk of the County Assembly of Kilifi, Mr. Michael Bidii Ngala also visited Bungoma County Assembly. During his visit, Mr. Ngala followed up on the bench-marking mission by his Board Secretariat and reaffirmed the strong ties and mutual cooperation between the two

county assemblies. He emphasized his commitment to work together with Bungoma to enhance infrastructure development and improve service delivery to the public.

On September 9, 2024 the County Assembly of Bungoma Committee on Roads, Infrastructure Transport, and Public Works hosted a delegation of members of the counterpart Committee from the County Assembly of Kakamega with the aim of benchmarking the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between Bungoma County and West Kenya Sugar Company concerning road maintenance and payment of Cess.

Upon arrival, the Kakamega delegation led by the Chairperson Hon. Brian Mafunga M.C.A Likuyani ward was warmly received by his counterpart for Bungoma County Assembly Hon Franklin Simotwo. This engagement was part of a broader initiative to learn from Bungoma County's experience managing road infrastructure projects under the signed MOU.

During the session, the Kakamega committee was briefed by County Executive Committee Member in charge of Roads and Infrastructure

Mr Bonveture Chengeck on the specifics of the MOU with West Kenya Sugar Company (Naitiri Sugar).

The CECM noted that the agreement outlines a collaborative effort where the company provides fuel while the County Government supplies machinery for road maintenance. Furthermore, he stated that a portion of the funds from the cess is allocated to constructing 15 kilometers of roads in each ward within the Tongaren constituency in the initial phase. Adding that future plans include extending these projects to other sub-counties of Bungoma County.

Hon Johnston Ipara, MCA Tongaren ward highlighted the benefits of charging cess from sugar companies as a source of revenue.

These two visits underscore the importance of inter-county collaboration and the sharing of best practices to enhance infrastructure development across the region.



Clerk of the County Assembly of Kilifi Mr Michael Bidii Ngala pays a courtesy to the Speaker of the County Assembly of Bungoma Hon Emmanuel Situma and the Clerk Mr Charles Wafula



Kakamega County Assembly MCAs attend a briefing session during a benchmarking visit of the County Assembly of Bungoma



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