



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THIRD ASSEMBLY

BUNGE DIGEST

Vol. III

The Official Digital
Publication of the County
Assembly of Nakuru

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House**

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A Word from The Speaker



Dear Stakeholders,

Welcome to the third edition of the County Assembly of Nakuru Bunge Digest. This edition provides an overview of the Assembly's core constitutional mandate in legislation, representation and oversight, highlighting key milestones achieved in advancing service delivery to the people of Nakuru County.

During this period, the Assembly deliberated on and processed key legislative business touching on priority sectors including healthcare, education, infrastructure and other areas of public interest. These interventions continue to shape policies aimed at improving the quality of life for residents across the County.

In strengthening representation, the Assembly has continued to enhance public engagement mechanisms to ensure that citizens' views are effectively captured and reflected in decision-making processes.

In addition, Committees have remained active in exercising oversight over county programmes and policies, promoting accountability and ensuring effective implementation of development initiatives.

The Assembly remains committed to upholding transparency, accountability and people-centred governance in line with the principles of devolution. We value your continued engagement and support as we work to serve the people of Nakuru County.

With sincere appreciation,

Hon. Joel Karuri Maina

Speaker, County Assembly of Nakuru



A Word from The Clerk

As part of our institutional commitment to efficient service delivery and open governance, we are pleased to present the third edition of the County Assembly of Nakuru Bunge Digest. This publication provides updates on key administrative and operational developments within the Assembly aimed at strengthening efficiency, improving internal systems and enhancing access to public information.

During the reporting period, the Assembly undertook targeted improvements in its administrative processes to support timely service delivery and institutional effectiveness. Efforts were also made to enhance information management systems to ensure that citizens can more easily access Assembly records and services.

Further, the Assembly continues to strengthen its communication and public engagement platforms to support meaningful interaction with stakeholders and improve responsiveness to public concerns.

We remain committed to building a professional, efficient and responsive institution that supports the legislative and oversight functions of the Assembly.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of all stakeholders in advancing the objectives of devolution and public service delivery.

CS Joseph Malinda

Clerk, County Assembly of Nakuru



County Assembly of
Nakuru

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DISCLAIMER

The Nakuru Bunge Digest is a publication of the County Assembly of Nakuru. It aims to share information on legislative, oversight, and representative practices within the framework of devolution. Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official position of the County Assembly of Nakuru.

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From

The Editor's Note

Welcome to the third edition of the County
Assembly of Nakuru Bunge Digest

This edition presents a curated collection of stories that reflect the work, progress and transformation within the Assembly and its impact on governance and service delivery across Nakuru County.

The publication highlights key institutional developments, leadership journeys and community-focused initiatives that demonstrate how the Assembly continues to evolve in fulfilling its mandate under devolution.

Beyond formal processes of legislation and oversight, this edition places emphasis on the people and experiences behind the institution bringing to light the efforts, challenges and achievements that shape public service at the grassroots level.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors and readers whose support continues to make this publication possible. We hope this edition offers both insight and engagement as you explore the work of your County Assembly.

Editor

County Assembly of Nakuru Bunge Digest

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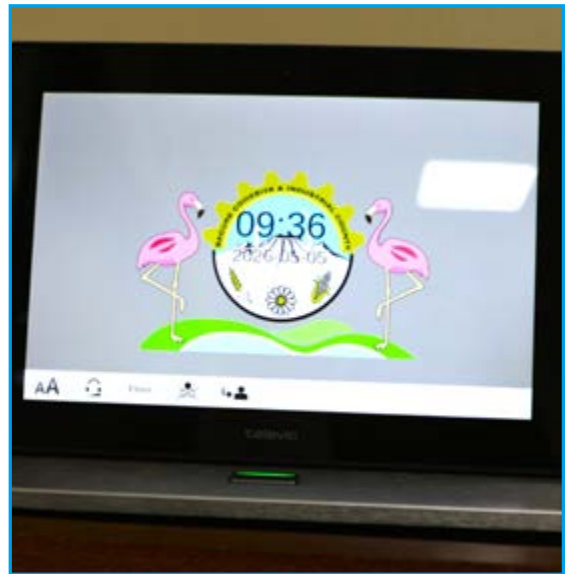
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Assembly in Pictures

Highlights from site visits, sports activities, Assembly events and institutional engagements

Inside Nakuru's Paperless House

By Rita Damary



The County Assembly of Nakuru is steadily phasing out paper-based processes, marking a decisive shift toward a fully digital legislative environment that is improving efficiency, strengthening access to information and reducing operational costs.

The Assembly is now among a small number of County legislatures in Kenya operating a paperless system where House documents are delivered and accessed digitally, transforming how legislative business is prepared, debated and processed.

Inside the Chamber, Order Papers, committee reports and motions that once arrived in bulky printed bundles are now instantly available on tablets issued to Hon. Members. The shift has accelerated access to information, allowing debates to begin with Hon. Members already fully briefed and reducing delays associated with document circulation.

Leadership perspective

Hon. Joel Karuri Maina, Speaker of the County Assembly of Nakuru, says the reform reflects an institution aligning itself with modern governance realities.

"We are living in a digital era and institutions must evolve. Going paperless is not just about technology, it is about efficiency, accountability and responsible use of public resources."

Hon. William Mutai, Majority Leader, notes that the system has improved the quality and pace of legislative work.

"Access to documents is instant, debates are more informed and we are saving time. It is a clear win for Members and the public we serve."

Administrative drive behind the reform

Mr. Joseph Malinda, the Clerk of the County Assembly of Nakuru says the transition was driven by the need to modernize operations, improve efficiency and reduce the high cost of printing and document handling.

"Previously, we managed large volumes of printed documents every sitting, which required significant resources in printing, storage and distribution. Moving to a digital system has improved speed, accuracy and accountability while significantly reducing operational costs. We are now managing information in real time rather than physical files."

He adds that while the transition required investment in infrastructure, training and systems, the long-term savings in printing, logistics and storage have been substantial, alongside improved document security and workflow efficiency.

Mr. Stephen Gatimu, Deputy Clerk, says the shift has redefined internal operations.

"We have moved from managing files to managing information in real time. It is faster, cleaner and more accountable. This is what a modern legislative institution should look like."

Technical and Institutional Support

Mr. Leonard Opiyo, Director of Legislative Services, says the reform is part of a broader institutional push toward efficiency and modernization.

"This is a structured transition to a smarter legislative system. We are improving access to information, strengthening workflow and significantly reducing dependence on paper."

Mr. David Gitene, Assistant Director Information and Communication Technology, notes that the success of the system has been supported by improved digital infrastructure and user adaptation.

"At the beginning there was adjustment, but Members and staff have embraced the system. It is now fully integrated into daily legislative operations and continues to improve service delivery."

A shift beyond technology

Beyond the Chamber, the transition is already reflected in reduced printing costs, improved resource management and enhanced environmental sustainability through lower paper consumption.

Mr Malinda says that what is emerging in Nakuru is not a pilot project, but a fully operational governance model where legislative work is faster, cleaner and more responsive.

"For other County Assemblies, Nakuru is quietly positioning itself as a reference point for digital legislative transformation, demonstrating that a paperless legislature is not only possible, but already delivering measurable results," he notes.

Where County Decisions Are Made Behind the Scenes of Oversight

By Simon Siele and Elizabeth Gitonga

Across the work of the County Assembly, a lot of what the public sees as decisions and service delivery is actually shaped long before anything reaches the House. It happens in committees.

These committees are where the real detailed work of oversight takes place. This is where reports are broken down, budgets are examined line by line and County programs are questioned to make sure they match what residents actually need on the ground. From

roads and hospitals to farming, education and finance, every sector goes through this process.

It is also here that gaps in service delivery are picked out early and departments are pushed to account for delays, weak implementation or missing targets. In many ways, the committees act as the “working rooms” of the Assembly, where issues are not just debated but followed through in detail.

The chairpersons of these committees play a key role in keeping this process moving. They guide discussions, keep the committees focused and ensure that what is agreed in meetings does not end there but is pushed forward for action at the plenary sessions.

While much of this work does not always attract public attention, it is a key part of how devolution functions on a day-to-day basis, linking the Assembly’s oversight role directly to service delivery for residents.

Meet the Committee Chairs



Hon. Anthony Kanyere
Liaison Committee; Nakuru East



Hon. Simon Kamau
Public Accounts and Investments
Committee; Kihingo



Hon. John Mwangi
Committee on Implementation; Turi



Hon. Alex Mbugua
Budget and Appropriations Committee
Lake View



Hon. Doreen Korir
Members’ Welfare, Catering and Library
Committee; Special Elect



Hon. Francis Kuria
Transport and Public Works Committee;
Malewa West



Hon. Nixon Morogo
Assembly Rules and Delegated
Legislation Committee; Solai



Hon. Isabella Makori
Agriculture Committee; Subukia



Hon. Moses Koros
Disaster Management Committee;
Mauche

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Hon. Wilson Mwangi
“Wajeff”
 Powers and Privileges Committee;
 Menengai East Ward



Hon. Njuguna Mwaura
 Health Services Committee; Elburgon



Hon. Ali Hassan Abdi
 Security and Governance Committee;
 Special Elect



Hon. Alex Bor
 Culture, Sports and Community Services
 Committee; Kiptororo



Hon. John Maritim
 Finance Committee; Kamara



Hon. Grace Mwathi
 Labour and Social Welfare Committee;
 Bahati



Hon. Hezzy Kariuki
 ICT and E-Government Committee;
 Njoro



Hon. Peter Maina Njoroge
 Early Childhood, Education and
 Vocational Training Committee;
 Murindat



Hon. Rose Chepkoech
 Energy, Environment and Natural
 Resources Committee; Kiptagich



Hon. Peter Palang'a
 Lands, Housing and Physical Planning
 Committee; Olkaria



Hon. Neto Sakwa
 House Business Committee; Kivumbini



Hon. Stanley Karanja
 Planning, Trade, Tourism and
 Cooperatives Committee;
 Naivasha East



Hon. Elijah Murage
 Justice and Legal Affairs Committee;
 Waseges

Ward Offices Bring County Assembly Closer to the People

By Rita Damary

In Maai Mahiu, a short walk is now enough to reach a Member of the County Assembly's office. For residents who previously had to travel long distances or wait for public meetings, this change has quietly reshaped how they engage with their leaders.

So far across several wards in Nakuru County, similar offices have been built and are beginning to change the way electorates interact with their Members of County Assembly, bringing leadership physically and functionally closer to the people.

Through the County Assembly Service Board (CASB), the Assembly has rolled out ward offices as part of its broader push to deepen devolution and improve public participation at the grassroots level.

So far, offices have been established in Maai Mahiu, Keringet, Mau Narok, Waseges and Dundori wards, with more expected to follow in a phased rollout.

Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Joel Karuri Maina, says the initiative is aimed at making the MCAs more accessible and responsive.

"This is about bringing services closer to wananchi and removing barriers between the people and their leaders," he says.

He adds that the offices are meant to strengthen day-to-day engagement between MCAs and residents, beyond formal meetings and public forums.

"We want an Assembly that is reachable, where citizens can easily raise issues and receive feedback," he says

Closer leadership, faster response

In the beneficiary wards, MCAs say the impact is already visible in how they interact with residents.

Maai Mahiu MCA Hon. Eliud Chege says the office has made him more accessible.

"People now have a place they can walk into without difficulty. It has made follow-up on issues much easier," he says.

Keringet MCA Hon. William Mutai says the office has improved regular engagement with residents.

"We are now engaging communities more consistently, not only during meetings but throughout," he says.

Mau Narok MCA Hon. Cyrus Dida notes that the offices have made it easier to track development issues.

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Main block of the Dundori Ward Office



Speaker Hon. Joel Karuri Maina shares a light moment with Dundori MCA Hon. James Gathuita during the official opening of the Dundori Ward Office.

“Residents can follow up on projects locally instead of waiting for formal sittings,” he says.

In Waseges, MCA Hon. Elijah Murage says communication has improved significantly.

“There is now a direct channel for feedback and response,” he says.

Dundori MCA Hon. James Gathuita adds that coordination at ward level has become more structured.

“It has improved how we prioritise and address community needs,” he says.

Residents feel the difference

For residents, the changes are practical and immediate.

In Maai Mahiu, David Kamau says access to leadership has improved.

“Before, you had to travel far or wait for meetings. Now it is easier to reach our MCA,” he says.

Jane Chebii from Keringet says it has encouraged more participation.

“People are now more willing to raise issues because there is a local office,” she says.

In Mau Narok, Joseph Kimani says follow-up on

development issues is now more straightforward.

“You can actually check ward progress without much struggle,” he says.

Mary Wainaina in Waseges appreciates the convenience.

“It has made leadership feel closer to the people,” she says.

Stephen Chege in Dundori believes accountability has improved because there is more openness now. “You know where to go when you need answers,” he says.

A phased rollout continues

The County Assembly says the ward office program will continue in phases, depending on availability of resources.

Speaker Karuri says the initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen devolution and improve service delivery.

“Devolution is not just about structures in the County headquarters. It must be felt at the ward level,” he says.

As more offices are rolled out, the expectation is that engagement between leaders and residents will become even more direct, consistent and responsive.

For many residents, however, the change is already visible, not in speeches or policies, but in the simple ability to walk into an office and be heard.



Main block, Keringet Ward office



Interior of the Keringet Ward Office

Hon. Anthony Kanyere's Persistence, Service and a Leadership Journey

By Simon Siele

When Hon. Anthony Charles Kamau Kanyere speaks about leadership, he does so with the calm confidence of someone who has walked a long and patient journey.



Deputy Speaker Hon. Anthony Kanyere, MCA, Nakuru East Ward.

Today, as the Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly of Nakuru, he is seen as a reliable and approachable leader; both by fellow MCAs and the residents of Nakuru East. But his story did not begin with victory; it began nearly three decades ago with determination and resilience.

"I started this journey many years ago," he reflects. "It has not always been easy, but I believed in serving people."

His first attempt at elective leadership was 29 years ago, when he vied for the Kivumbini civic seat in the then Municipal Council of Nakuru. Like many young leaders, he faced setbacks. In fact, he made several attempts over the years without success. Yet, he did not walk away.

I started this journey many years ago...
It has not always been easy, but I believed in serving people.

It was in 2022, after years of persistence, that his breakthrough finally came when he was elected as the Member of County Assembly for Nakuru East.

Between those attempts, Hon. Kanyere remained actively involved in community service. From 2013 to 2022, he served as the CDF Project Manager for Nakuru Town East Constituency, a role he says shaped his leadership deeply.

"That period allowed me to work closely with the community and understand their needs," he says. "It built trust, and when the time came, the people believed in me."

Now serving as Deputy Speaker, his role involves working closely with the Speaker, Hon. Joel Maina Karuri, and coordinating with various Assembly committees. He describes the position not as a personal achievement, but as a responsibility built on teamwork.

"You cannot work alone in this position. It requires patience, listening, and working together," he explains.

Those who interact with him often note his willingness to listen. Whether in the Assembly or in his ward, he takes time to hear people out, sometimes stepping in to mediate and resolve conflicts.

"I try to listen first before making decisions. Many issues can be solved when people feel heard," he adds.

Like many leaders, he faces the challenge of managing expectations. Residents often look to elected leaders for quick results, especially on development projects. However, he is quick to point out that processes within government can take time.

"People want to see change immediately and that is understandable," he says. "But there are procedures, especially in budgeting and implementation, that we must follow."

Instead of making promises he cannot keep, he chooses honesty.

"I always explain the situation as it is. People appreciate the truth, even when things take longer than expected."

Despite these challenges, his work has delivered visible results. In Nakuru East, several stalled projects have been revived and completed, including the Free Area Social Hall and Free Area Polytechnic. The Mzee wa Nyama TVET is now ready and awaiting student intake.

In Muguga, a local dispensary is now operational, bringing healthcare services closer to residents. Meanwhile, a water project in Mwariki B is nearing completion and is expected to serve around 10,000 people.

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But beyond infrastructure, what stands out most to him is empowering people directly.

“I am proud of the support we have given to youth and women groups,” he says. “When you give someone tools or support to start a business, you change their life.”

At 47, Hon. Kanyere balances leadership with family life as a husband and father of three. He remains passionate about inclusive governance, ensuring that no one, especially marginalized groups, is left behind.

Looking ahead, he is focused on serving his constituents and is seeking to continue in his current role. However, he does not rule out the possibility of aiming higher if given the opportunity.

“For now, my focus is to serve effectively. The future will depend on the people,” he says.

His journey is a reminder that leadership is not always about quick wins, but about persistence, patience and staying committed even when the path is uncertain.

”

I try to listen first before making decisions. Many issues can be solved when people feel heard

Uncertainty in Land Ownership Puts Nakuru Health Services at Risk

By Simon Siele

Patients seeking treatment in several health facilities across Nakuru County may be unaware of a silent crisis unfolding beneath their feet. Many of the hospitals they rely on stand on land with no legal ownership.

A recent consultative meeting between the County Assembly and the County Executive has revealed that out of 227 health facilities in the county, only 34 have valid title deeds. The remaining 193 either rely on allotment letters or have no documentation at all, raising fears over the land tenure of critical public health infrastructure.

The findings, presented by Lands CECM Hon. John Kihagi, exposed a widespread problem that cuts across nearly all sub-counties. From small dispensaries to major hospitals such as Naivasha, Molo, Njoro and Olenguruone Sub-County Hospitals, key facilities are operating on legally uncertain ground.

For residents, this could have far-reaching consequences.

Any land dispute, encroachment or ownership claim could disrupt services, stall development or even lead to loss of public investments, ultimately affecting access to healthcare.



Olenguruone Sub-County Hospital

“We are building and equipping facilities without first securing the land, and this puts our investments at risk,” one MCA warned during plenary discussions that followed the report.

Health Committee Chair Hon. Njuguna Mwaura, drawing from field visits, said the issue is already complicating service delivery and long-term planning.

“One of the biggest challenges facing the department is that many facilities are operating on properties with no title deeds,” he noted.

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Molo Sub-County Hospital

The problem is widespread. Rongai Sub-County leads with 30 facilities lacking title deeds, followed by Gilgil (24), Kuresoi North (22), Naivasha (21) and several others across the county.

In a decisive move, the Assembly has tasked Lands Committee Chair Hon. Peter Palang'a with compiling a comprehensive report on the status of all health facility land and recommending urgent solutions.

The crisis extends beyond health facilities. The report also revealed that several public cemeteries across the county remain undocumented, further exposing public land to potential disputes.

To address the situation, the County Assembly has called for a dedicated budget to support land surveying, planning and the issuance of title deeds.

Hon. Kihagi emphasized that fast-tracking the conveyancing process will be key to resolving disputes and safeguarding critical public utilities, including cemeteries in Maai Mahiu and Longonot.

Meanwhile, the risks are already visible. In Lanet/Umoja Ward, an undeveloped health facility has been encroached upon, prompting urgent intervention by both the Lands and Health departments.

As pressure mounts, the county faces a critical task: securing land ownership for its public facilities to protect investments and guarantee uninterrupted healthcare services.

For now, the question remains: how secure are the foundations of Nakuru's healthcare system?



Naivasha Sub-County Hospital

A Life of Service

Hon. Ezekiah Kung'u reflects on faith, leadership and serving the people of Njoro

By Simon Siele

From the days of the former County Council of Nakuru to the devolved system of government, Hon. Ezekiah Kung'u has spent much of his life in public service. It is a journey marked by changing political seasons, personal challenges and an enduring commitment to the people of Njoro.

Before devolution, Hon. Kung'u served as Chairman of the defunct County Council of Nakuru. In 2013, he became the pioneer Member of County Assembly for Njoro Ward following the introduction of county governments under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Looking back, he says leadership has taught him that public trust is earned through service rather than words."

"Leadership is about serving people with honesty and commitment. When you remain focused on the needs of the people, they will always judge you by your service," he says.

Like many leaders, Hon. Kung'u has faced his share of setbacks. During his first term as MCA, health challenges forced him to take a break from active politics. Rather than weakening his resolve, he says the experience strengthened his faith and gave him a renewed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

"There are moments in life that test your strength and your faith. Those experiences reminded me that every opportunity to serve is a blessing that should never be taken for granted," he says.

After sitting out the 2017 General Election, Hon. Kung'u says many residents visited his home, urging him to seek another term as their MCA. Their confidence convinced him that he still had more to offer the people of Njoro.

That encouragement inspired him to contest the 2022 General Election as an independent candidate, a decision many considered risky at a time when political parties dominated the electoral landscape.

He recalls facing pressure to reconsider his decision but remained firm.

"I prayed for wisdom and trusted that if it was God's will and the people still believed in me, the outcome would speak for itself," he recalls.

He went on to win the election and returned to the County Assembly.



Hon. Ezekiah 'Hezzy' Kung'u, MCA, Njoro Ward

Today, Hon. Kung'u says his greatest satisfaction comes from representing the people of Njoro and ensuring their concerns are heard in the Assembly. Through legislation, oversight and public participation, he believes leaders have a responsibility to remain accessible and responsive to the communities they serve.

"Devolution has brought leadership closer to the people. Wananchi now have a greater opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives, and as leaders, we have a responsibility to listen and act on their concerns," he says.

Having served under both the former local authority system and the devolved system of government, Hon. Kung'u says he has witnessed significant changes in governance, particularly in public participation and accountability.

While conversations about the 2027 General Election have already begun, he prefers to keep his attention on the work at hand.

"Politics has its seasons. My responsibility today is to serve the people who entrusted me with this mandate and ensure their voices continue to be heard," he says.

For Hon. Kung'u, public service is not measured by the number of years spent in office but by the positive impact made in people's lives. It is a lesson that has guided him throughout his leadership journey and one he hopes will continue to shape the future of service in Njoro.

Manufacturing the missing link to County growth



By Whitney Maina
KAM South Rift Chair

As counties search for sustainable ways to create jobs and expand their revenue base, attention is increasingly turning to a sector that has long been recognised as a driver of economic transformation; manufacturing.

For Nakuru, the opportunity is particularly compelling. Positioned along major transport corridors and supported by a strong agricultural economy, the County has the potential to attract industries that can process local produce, create employment and stimulate growth across multiple sectors.

Yet industry leaders argue that manufacturing can only flourish where the right policies, infrastructure and partnerships exist.

“Counties have become critical players in shaping Kenya’s industrial future. The decisions made at the County level today will determine how much investment we attract and how many jobs we create tomorrow,” says Susan Njuguna, South Rift Regional Assistant Coordinator at the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM).

According to KAM, devolution has created new opportunities for counties to influence economic development through legislation, planning and investment promotion. County Assemblies, in particular, have an important role in establishing policy frameworks that support enterprise growth while ensuring a predictable business environment.

For Nakuru, manufacturing presents opportunities beyond factory production. The sector supports farmers through value addition, creates markets for local suppliers and generates employment across supply chains.

“When agricultural produce is processed locally, more value remains within the County. That translates into jobs, business opportunities and increased incomes for residents,” says Njuguna.



Through its South Rift office, KAM works with County Governments and other stakeholders to address regulatory challenges, promote investment and support local industries. The association also champions skills development, sustainability initiatives and programmes that strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises.

As competition for investment intensifies, counties are increasingly being judged by their ability to provide efficient services, reliable infrastructure and investor-friendly policies.

“Industry thrives where there is collaboration. Strong partnerships between County Assemblies, County Governments, and the private sector are essential if counties are to unlock their full economic potential,” Njuguna notes.

For Nakuru, the challenge is no longer whether manufacturing can drive development, but how quickly the County can position itself to seize the opportunities that industrial growth presents.

Land and water disputes continue to challenge livelihoods in Maiella

By Simon Siele



Fencing and Solarization Works at Nkampani Water Project, Maiella Ward

Land and ownership disputes and water challenges continue to shape life in Maiella Ward, slowing development and affecting the livelihoods of many families. Despite efforts to address the issues over the years, many cases remain unresolved, with some dating back several decades.

According to Maiella MCA Hon. Jane Wanjiru Gituku, finding lasting solutions to these challenges has remained one of her key priorities since taking office in 2022. She says historical land claims, disputed allocations and wrangles involving land-buying companies continue to fuel conflicts, making it difficult for many residents to develop their land and invest with confidence.

“Land is one of the most pressing issues facing our residents. We continue to encourage peaceful and lawful resolution of disputes while working closely with the relevant government agencies to ensure lasting solutions,” she says.

Hon. Gituku says some of the disputes stem from alleged irregular land transactions involving former officials of land-buying companies, resulting in competing ownership claims over the same parcels of land. In some cases, one family occupies a piece of land while another holds a title deed for the same property, leading to prolonged court battles that have delayed development and left many families living in uncertainty.

The MCA notes that before she was elected in 2022, some residents were arrested over disputes that were essentially civil in nature. She says many of those cases have since

been referred to the courts for determination, allowing the affected parties to seek legal redress through the proper legal channels.

To help address the problem, Hon. Gituku says she has intensified civic education and public engagement forums to encourage residents to embrace lawful avenues for resolving disputes and to seek guidance from the relevant government offices before purchasing land.



Destroyed homes in Maiella Ward, Naivasha, following a land dispute

Cont. Pg. 17



Destroyed homes in Maiella Ward, Naivasha, following a land dispute

ADC land ownership remains contentious

Another issue attracting public attention is the Ndabibi ADC lands, where Hon. Gituku cautions residents against purchasing land without first verifying ownership and following the required legal procedures.

She says the transfer of government land to private ownership must follow the law and urges members of the public to seek guidance from the relevant government offices before committing their savings to any land transaction.

“People should verify ownership documents and seek guidance from the relevant government offices before purchasing land,” she advises.

She adds that protecting vulnerable families from unlawful displacement remains a priority as efforts continue to find fair and lasting solutions to the longstanding land disputes.



Water pipeline installation to individual homesteads in Kipkonyo, Maiella Ward

Championing improved access to water

While land remains a major concern, improving access to clean and reliable water has also been one of Hon. Gituku’s key development priorities.

Hon. Gituku says she has consistently championed increased budget allocations for water projects in Maiella Ward through the County Assembly’s budget process, helping secure funding for the drilling of boreholes, installation of elevated water storage tanks and expansion of water distribution networks.

Since 2023, eight boreholes have been commissioned, while the solarisation of water projects has significantly reduced operational costs, making water supply more sustainable and affordable.

She says the investments have enabled more than 20,000 households to access piped water, significantly improving the availability of safe water for domestic and agricultural use.

However, she notes that management disputes affecting some community-managed water projects, including the **Moonandi** sow water projects, continue to slow service delivery. She has called on the Naivasha Water and Sanitation Company (NAIVAWASS) and other stakeholders to work together to resolve the disputes and ensure residents continue receiving reliable and uninterrupted water services.

Hon. Gituku says addressing the ward’s land and water challenges will require continued collaboration between the County Government, national government agencies, water service providers and local communities.

“Our goal is to ensure every resident has access to reliable water services and that land-related challenges are addressed through lawful and sustainable solutions,” she says.

As Maiella continues to address its longstanding land and water challenges, Hon. Gituku says sustained investment, effective oversight and collaboration among all stakeholders will be key to unlocking the ward’s development potential and improving the livelihoods of residents.

The Quiet Power of Mental Wellness

By Ann Muchemi

Mental wellness in the workplace is often invisible, yet it quietly shapes how people show up every day.

Behind office doors, many employees carry more than just files and deadlines. They carry pressure, personal worries, silent fatigue and the constant effort to stay composed while delivering results. In such moments, the workplace becomes more than a place of work, it becomes a space that can either ease or deepen that burden.

“Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes their own abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to contribute to their community.”— World Health Organization (WHO)

This reminds us that mental wellness is not about being free from stress, but about having the strength and support to keep going despite it.



In many workplaces, a simple gesture, a kind word, a listening ear, or a moment of understanding, can make a difference more powerful than formal policies.

”
Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes their own abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to contribute to their community.

~
World Health Organization (WHO)



People do not always need solutions; sometimes they just need to feel seen.

“A mentally healthy workplace is not one without stress, but one where people feel supported to manage it.”— Occupational Psychology Principle (Workplace Mental Health)

This truth speaks to something deeply human; that support, not perfection, is what helps people stay steady in demanding environments.

When employees feel safe enough to speak, when they are not afraid to show they are overwhelmed and when they know their well-being matters, work changes. It becomes lighter, more meaningful and more sustainable.

Mental wellness is therefore not an abstract concept. It is the colleague who checks on you. It is the supervisor who listens before responding. It is the culture that allows people to be human while still being professional.

As workplaces continue to evolve, the real strength of any institution will not only be in its systems or outputs, but in how it cares for the people who make those systems work.



Inside the County Assembly Library, the Quiet Engine of Good Governance

By Viola Jebiwot



The County Assembly Library

Tucked away from the noise of debate chambers and committee meetings is one of the most important yet least noticed parts of the County Assembly: the library.

At first glance, it may look like a quiet room lined with books and documents. But in reality, it is one of the strongest support systems behind the decisions that shape county laws and policies.

Here, information is not just stored, it is used to guide legislation, strengthen oversight and support representation. For Hon. Members of the County Assembly, staff and researchers, the library is often the starting point of serious decision-making.

Inside this space, the work of governance begins long before a Bill is debated on the floor of the House.

Where legislation begins

Before a law is drafted or discussed, Hon. Members often turn to the library to understand what already exists. They review past statutes, policy documents and reports to avoid duplication and ensure new laws respond to real gaps.

In many ways, the library acts as a quiet advisor, offering facts, history

and comparisons that help shape stronger legislation.

Without it, debates would rely heavily on opinion. With it, decisions are grounded in evidence.

Supporting leaders to represent better

The library also plays a key role in helping Hon. Members understand the communities they represent.

An Hon. Member looking into healthcare issues, for example, can access data on disease trends, public health reports and relevant national policies. This allows them to speak with confidence and push for solutions that reflect real community needs.

It becomes easier to connect what is happening in their wards to what is being discussed in the Assembly.

The backbone of oversight

Perhaps one of its most critical roles is supporting oversight.

When the County Assembly examines how public resources are being used or how government programs are implemented, the library provides background documents, audit reports and historical records that help build a full picture.

It is this information that strengthens accountability and ensures leaders ask the right questions.

How it works for users

Accessing the library is simple and open to authorized users. The borrowing process is straightforward:

- Identify the material you need from the shelves
- Present your identification at the library desk
- Borrow up to two books for 30 days
- Return on time or request a renewal if needed

The system is designed to support continuous learning and easy access to information.

More than a library

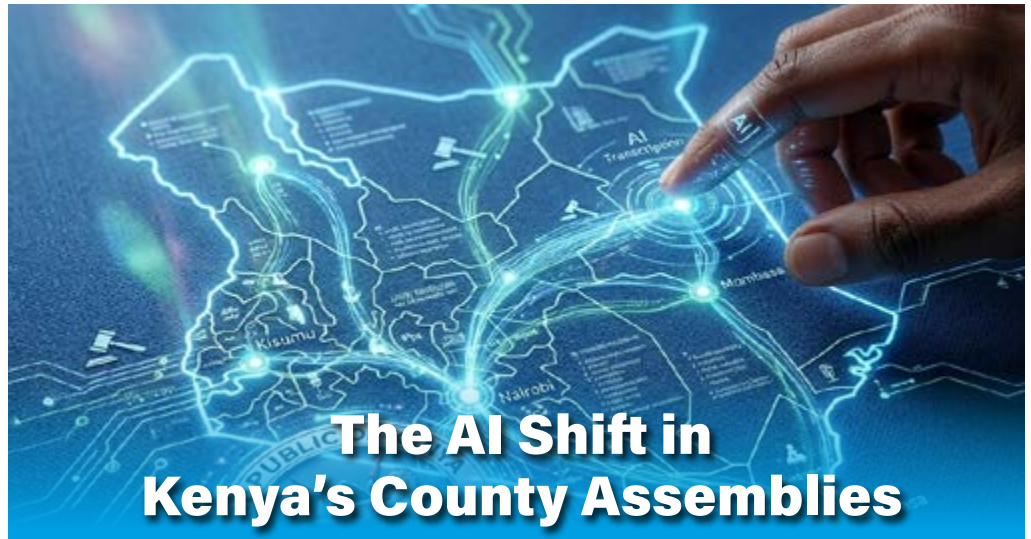
While it may not always be in the spotlight, the County Assembly library remains one of the most important pillars of governance.

It shapes debates before they happen, strengthens decisions before they are made and supports accountability long after laws are passed.

In many ways, it is the quiet engine that keeps the work of the Assembly informed, balanced and effective.



By CHRP Jane Wakanyi Karanja
Director, Human Resource and
Administration



The AI Shift in Kenya's County Assemblies

Across Kenya's County Assemblies, committee rooms filled with thick files and last-minute report reviews by committee clerks have remained a familiar scene for decades.

However, this slow and tedious way of conducting parliamentary business will soon be a thing of the past; thanks to Artificial Intelligence (AI), once seen as a distant concept tied to global tech giants.

AI is now quietly finding its way into public service spaces, including County Assemblies working under the devolved system of governance.

But beneath this technological innovation, AI is not a replacement for manpower, as widely feared, but a tool to enhance efficiency mostly in the Legislative and Hansard Departments.

The documents keep coming

"We deal with bulky documents almost on a daily basis which is quite tedious and time-consuming," said Joshua Ngatia, a Committee Services clerk. "Sometimes you just need more time than the system can allow," he added.

This workload pressure is exactly where AI is being explored to streamline routine documentation, automate scheduling and support report generation.

For Erick Kibari, a Hansard Reporter, the new AI technology can now summarise bulky Hansard reports and House proceedings while detecting inconsistencies in real time.

Work that previously took hours or even days of transcribing and editing manuscripts can now be completed

within a short period.

"The technology is also being explored for real-time transcription of proceedings, making debates easier to document and archive," said Winnie Ngaluma, Assistant Director Hansard Reporting.

A shift that goes beyond technology

Kenya School of Government governance expert Mr Caleb Sunguti says that as AI begins to enter public institutions across counties, the shift is not only technical but also human.

He says staff will need new digital skills, from using AI tools to interpreting the information they produce. Leadership will also have to guide this transition carefully, ensuring inclusion and fairness across all levels of staff.

"There is interest but also caution as people need to understand how these changes affect their roles, not just the system," Mr Sunguti, a governance trainer working with public institutions observed.

AI could begin to close that gap

Across different counties, digital tools are being explored to allow citizens to ask questions on budget processes, project implementation and parliamentary proceedings and receive real-time feedback.

Beyond that, AI can help analyse public feedback from forums and digital platforms, giving leaders a clearer sense of what residents are consistently concerned about across Wards and Counties.

Behind the scenes, a quieter transformation

Much of the Assembly's work happens away from public attention; scheduling meetings, drafting reports, preparing briefs and tracking committee progress, tasks which are essential but often repetitive.

"This is where efficiency matters most," says Ngatia. "If routine work moves faster, people can focus on decisions that actually need human judgment."

The challenges remain real

Despite the promise that AI holds, the terrain ahead remains uneven considering most County Assemblies still face infrastructure gaps, limited internet connectivity, outdated systems and unreliable access to digital innovation.

Without addressing these challenges, adoption of AI may not be fully embraced by institutions that may need it most.

As AI systems begin handling public records and sensitive information, strong safeguards on data protection will be essential to win public trust.

A gradual shift across counties

AI is unlikely to transform County Assemblies overnight. Instead, its impact will likely be gradual; changing how documents are handled, how citizens access information and how staff manage time and workload.

What remains constant, however, is the human role at the centre of it all. Across County Assemblies, the possibility of embracing AI is slowly beginning to take shape. Nevertheless, the human role cannot be overemphasized.

"We are still doing the same work. The difference is speed and efficiency offered by this new technology."

From Koige to Molo

Hon. Ngware's Leadership Journey

A story of grassroots leadership and political growth

By Rita Damary

Hon. Joseph Ngware's political journey has moved through different wards, challenges and lessons, shaped by years of service at the grassroots level.

When Hon. Ngware talks about his political journey, he does not make it sound complicated.

For him, it has simply been years of serving different communities, learning on the job and growing through experience.

He started his leadership journey in Koige Ward, where he served as a councillor from 2007 to 2012. At the time, he says he was mainly focused on understanding what people needed and how local government works.

"I could see the gaps in the community and I just wanted to be part of the solution," he says.

After his time in Koige, he moved on to serve as MCA for Kamara Ward in Kuresoi North from 2013 to 2017. He is now serving as MCA for Molo Ward.

He says each stage came with new responsibilities and a better understanding of what people expect from their leaders.

"Every time people elected me, it reminded me that leadership is about trust. You have to keep earning it," he says.

But his journey has also had difficult moments. He recalls the 2007 post-election violence as one of the hardest periods, especially in Kuresoi sub-county.

"It was a painful time. People were displaced, families were

struggling. As a leader, you had to be present and help where you could," he says.

He also points out that lack of resources has often made it difficult to fully implement development projects. Even so, he says he focused on doing what was possible at each stage.

"You work with what is available. What matters is not giving up on the people," he says.

Over the years, several projects have been implemented under his leadership. These include Mau Summit Polytechnic, Kiptenden Polytechnic, Jogoo Health Centre, ECDE classrooms and street lighting in various trading centres. He also supported the construction of a police post in 2007 that helped improve security in parts of Kuresoi.

Currently, he is focusing on water projects in Molo, including Kaloleni, Mukinyai-Migaa and Sachangwan, which are serving thousands of residents.

He describes leadership in the County Assembly as broader and more demanding in terms of representation, legislation and oversight.

"The responsibilities are more because you are dealing with an expansive area with various ethnic communities and systems of governance," he says.

For him, good leadership is simple: listening to people, being accountable and following through on what you promise.

"People may not remember everything you say, but they remember what you do," he says.

Looking back, he says his journey has been gradual, shaped by experience rather than shortcuts.

"It has been step by step. You learn, you adjust and you keep going," he says.

He adds that his focus remains on service and completing ongoing projects for the communities he represents.

"As long as I am still in leadership, my work is to keep serving," he says.

Community members say his leadership has been consistent over the years.



Hon. Ngware engages residents and teachers during an inspection visit to the Sachangwan Primary School water project.

Cont. Pg. 22

Daniel Kamau, a resident of Molo, says water projects have made a noticeable difference in the area.

“People now have easier access to water. That has really helped households,” he says.

Gladys Moraa, a community leader, describes him as a leader who stays close to the people.

“He listens and tries to respond to issues raised by the community,” she says.

Faith Korir, a youth representative, says young people have also benefited from education and development projects.

“He has supported schools and youth initiatives and that has encouraged many young people,” she says.

For Hon. Ngware, the journey is still ongoing and he sees his role as continuing to serve whenever he is needed.



Hon. Ngware interacts with residents of Molo during a site visit to the ongoing construction of the Munyu-Upendo Bridge

From Truck Driver to MCA

Hon. Francis Kuria's leadership journey shaped by community service and development

By Simon Siele

For Hon. Francis Kuria, his political journey was nothing short of a miracle, as he had not anticipated becoming an MCA any time soon.

However, his philanthropic efforts and generosity in uplifting the livelihoods of Malewa West (Gilgil) constituents led to him being encouraged to vie for the area MCA seat in the 2022 General Election, which he won with a landslide victory after garnering 15,052 votes.

In an interview, Hon. Kuria, famously known as K5, attributes his successful political journey to his long-standing commitment to serve the community using his personal resources without expecting any return.

“Because I worked in the transport industry for more than 20 years, I would ferry stones to help repair impassable roads. That is when local elders approached me and encouraged me to vie for the MCA seat, despite not having any political ambitions,” he said.

During his induction to the County Assembly of Nakuru, he recalls that he had not worn a tie since leaving



Hon. Francis Kuria
Malewa West

high school many years ago. This is in line with the County Assembly protocols that require honourable members to adhere to a formal dress code that includes wearing a tie for men.

The elders and opinion leaders strongly supported his candidature after noting that previous leaders had failed to deliver on their promises and expressed the need for a leader with a proven track record of service.

Upon joining the Assembly, Hon. Kuria lobbied and was elected

Chairperson of the Committee on Roads and Infrastructure, a position he holds to date. In this role, he has overseen and influenced the rehabilitation of most roads in his ward.

He further notes that he aims to fulfil all his campaign pledges by the end of his five-year term. So far, he has facilitated the drilling of boreholes and the opening of new roads linking various locations within Malewa West.

Among the challenges he faces are existing ward boundary disputes between Kasarani and Karati-Gatamayu, where questions of representation continue to arise. He continues to engage in CSR activities within his ward as he did before his election.

“I am not mean. I have learned to balance politics, personal life and business. I continue to contribute to the development agenda of my ward at any given time,” he noted, adding that he is not quitting politics “until I deliver and transform my ward.”

The youthful leader remains optimistic that his legacy will endure, noting that he has mentored youth through skills development programmes supported by the County Government.

Hon. Ruth Kamau: A New Voice in the House

By Simon Siele



Hon. Ruth Kamau is sworn into office by Legal Counsel Ann Kahunga

When Hon. Ruth Kamau walked into the County Assembly of Nakuru for the first time after her swearing-in in August last year, she was stepping into more than just a vacant seat. She was stepping into a space where expectations are high and every voice matters.

Since joining the Assembly as a nominated Member, Hon. Kamau has gradually settled into her role, emerging as one of the newer faces in the House, still building her mark but already keen on making her presence felt.

Her nomination filled a position that had remained vacant, adding to efforts aimed at strengthening representation within the County Assembly.

Hon. Kamau's role has been both an opportunity and a responsibility. She says her focus is to ensure that key groups in society, women, youth, persons with disabilities and other

marginalized communities are not left out of decision-making.

"I see this as a responsibility to speak for those who are often not heard and to make sure their concerns are reflected in this House," she says.

Within the Assembly, she has been received as a fresh voice in legislative discussions. Leaders have described her as a welcome addition, bringing new energy and perspectives into debates on county development.

The Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. William Mutai, has noted that her input is expected to strengthen the Assembly's work in representation, legislation and oversight. The Leader of the Minority Party, Hon. Philip Wanjohi, also welcomed her, saying her presence broadens representation, especially for Njoro.

Other Hon. Members have similarly described her as a grounded leader with close links to the community,

saying this background is likely to shape how she contributes to debates in the House.

Beyond formal introductions, her entry has also been seen as part of a broader push to improve gender representation in a largely male-dominated Assembly. Her presence adds to the growing number of women leaders participating in county governance.

As one of the newer Members of the House, Hon. Kamau is still defining her legislative style and priorities, but colleagues say she has shown willingness to engage and learn quickly.

For now, she remains focused on finding her footing, building relationships within the Assembly and ensuring that her contribution reflects the communities she represents.

Hon. Isabella Makori

From Struggle to Hope

By Rita Damary and Elizabeth Gitonga



Hon. Isabella Makori

For many women in Subukia Ward, life once began in hardship, waking before dawn to walk long distances, sometimes up to 14 kilometres, in search of water, often carrying heavy containers balanced on donkeys.

It is from this lived reality that Hon. Isabella Makori's leadership story is shaped, one rooted not in politics alone, but in the daily struggles of the people she serves.

After serving as a nominated Member of the County Assembly (MCA) from 2017 to 2022, she earned the trust of residents and was elected MCA in 2022. Today, she serves as Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee, with her eyes set on continuing her development agenda beyond 2027.

Her shift into elective leadership was driven by urgency rather than ambition.

"That situation pushed me to act. I could not ignore what women and families were going through. I wanted their voices to finally lead the change," she says.

One of the most visible changes has been roads that once isolated villages now opening up entire communities. Over 15 kilometres of roads have been improved, connecting areas such as Arash, Gatongu, Meloleni, Kwale and Muthaiga.

For residents, the difference is deeply felt.

"We used to suffer so much. Sometimes you could stay home for days because roads were impassable. Now we can move, sell our farm produce and even access town," says Mary Mureithi, her voice heavy with relief.

In Ejud village, where roads were once neglected, rehabilitation works have restored movement and dignity to daily life.

Education has also brought quiet but powerful transformation. Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Tetu and Kamemo are now equipped, while Githaiga has been fenced for safety. In Ejud, children now learn with improved facilities such as furniture and toilets.

For parents, the change is emotional.

"Our children now go to school with confidence. Before, we felt forgotten. Now we feel seen," says Hellen Nyambura, a parent from Ejud.

Healthcare has followed a similar path. Subukia Hospital has been upgraded to a Level 4 facility, Sidai Dispensary

refurbished, and a staff house for nurses on night duty is under construction, offering relief to both patients and health workers.

Water, however, remains the most powerful symbol of change. Four new boreholes have been drilled and old ones revived, reducing the long, exhausting journeys women once endured.

"Those days of suffering for water are slowly becoming a memory. We are grateful," says Mary Mureithi.

As Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee, Hon. Makori has also supported farmers with over 30,000 avocado seedlings and pyrethrum inputs, helping families rebuild livelihoods from the soil.

Despite challenges such as limited funding and project delays, her message remains consistent: progress must reach every home, not just verbal rhetoric.

Looking toward 2027, she hopes to be remembered simply as a leader who listened, showed up and stayed closer to the people of Subukia.



Hon. Isabella Makori during the official opening of the Morro ECDE classroom

Nakuru on the Move Through Devolution

By Rita Damary



Aerial view of Nakuru City Center



Front view of the new Bondeni Modern Market

Early morning in Nakuru town, the day begins quietly, but not for long.

At the markets, traders are already arranging vegetables, calling out prices and negotiating with buyers who move quickly between stalls. A few kilometres away, farmers are loading produce onto motorcycles and small trucks headed into town. It is a routine that has become more organised over the years and for many, more rewarding than before.

This is Nakuru today, moving, growing and slowly reshaping itself under devolution.

Since 2013, when Kenya introduced the devolved governance system, Nakuru County has been on a gradual path of change.



Traders at Wakulima Market

Farming still leads, but things are shifting

While agriculture remains the backbone of Nakuru County, farmers have since experienced better returns and easier access to markets.

“We used to depend on middlemen to dictate the market dynamics and I can now reach buyers directly which has reduced costs for me,” says Peter

Kamau, a farmer.

For many households, that small shift has made a real difference in daily survival.

A town growing in front of its people

In Nakuru, small businesses have transitioned into bigger enterprises and informal traders are now part of a busy commercial system that runs a 24-hour economy.

“I started with just a small table, now I have a fully stocked shop. It has taken time, but things are moving in the right direction,” says Jane Macharia, a trader in town.

Roads that changed more than travel

For many residents, the biggest change has been roads.

Areas that once felt far away are now easier to reach. Transport costs have reduced in some places and movement of goods has become faster.

“We used to spend a lot of time just getting produce to town,” says Daniel Mesocho, a vegetable farmer. “Now things move faster and less is wasted.”

It is a simple change but one that has steadily reshaped livelihoods.

The Cosmopolitan Nakuru

Nakuru is home to diverse communities among them Kikuyus, Kalenjins, Maasais, Kisiis, Kambas, Luos and Luhyas sharing local resources.

The communities co-exist harmoniously in markets, neighbourhoods and public spaces while culture remains a unifying factor in music, gatherings and everyday interactions.

“People here mix freely, you don’t feel isolated; everyone is part of the social fabric,” says Simon Chelanga, a youth entrepreneur.

That sense of coexistence has also supported small trade and local tourism in subtle ways.

Not everything has changed but change is visible

County Assembly Speaker Joel Karuri Maina says the progress reflects what devolution was meant to achieve, even if the journey is not complete.

“We have made progress since 2013, but we must continue focusing on fairness, accountability and development that reaches every resident,” he says.

Still becoming

Even with visible improvements, residents agree that Nakuru is still a work in progress. There are still gaps and many other areas waiting for improvement.

“Things are better than before, but not perfect yet,” says Samuel Nzioka, a boda boda rider. “At least now we can see progress.”

And perhaps that is what defines Nakuru today, not sudden transformation but steady movement.

A County not finished, not fixed but on the move.

Where attachments become careers, patience pays off

By Simon Siele

In the corridors of the County Assembly of Nakuru, success is not always loud.

Success does not always arrive with celebration or certainty. For many of the staff who now serve in professional and leadership roles, it began quietly, with uncertainty, long waiting periods and days when giving up almost felt easier.

Yet within those same walls, those beginnings slowly turned into stories of growth, stability and transformation.

Since its establishment in 2013 following the transition from local authorities under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the County Assembly of Nakuru (CAN) has grown not only as a governance institution but also as a place where ordinary beginnings are reshaped into meaningful careers.

From attachment student to Assistant Director: CPAK Daniel Nduati

In 2009, CPAK Daniel Nduati walked into the then County Council of Nakuru as an attaché in the Accounts Department.

At the time, he was simply trying to complete his training. There were no guarantees, no promises of employment, only hope and a willingness to learn.

However, something changed along the way. His consistency and attention to detail stood out. When his attachment ended, he was given an opportunity to remain on a contract basis.

“That opportunity changed everything for me,” he reflects.

From his contract, he was absorbed into permanent and pensionable

employment during the County transition period in 2013. Along the way, Mr Nduati continued pursuing his dream in accountancy, refusing to let circumstances define his ceiling.

Today, he serves as an Assistant Director in the Finance Department, a journey that began with uncertainty but was shaped by persistence.

Chege's patience paid off

For Peter Chege, the journey to a permanent position demanded patience and determination. After joining the County Assembly as an attaché, he continued gaining experience and building his skills while waiting for an opportunity to advance. There were moments when the wait felt long, but he remained focused on his goal.

Cont. Pg. 27



From left: Mr Daniel Nduati, Peter Chege, Winnie Kosgey and Samuel Macharia

“I believed that if I kept learning and giving my best, an opportunity would eventually come,” he says.

His perseverance paid off when he joined the Finance Department as an intern in 2017 before securing a permanent position in 2019.

For Peter, success is rarely instant. He believes patience, consistency and a willingness to keep learning can open doors that once seemed out of reach.

Samuel Macharia; the electrician who never left

To many in the Assembly, Samuel Macharia is simply known as “Sammy wa thitima.”

But behind the familiar nickname is a story of steady persistence.

His journey began as a casual electrician in 2013, though his connection to the former County Council goes further back, where he often worked on a part-time basis whenever called upon.

He was not new to the system. He was simply waiting for a moment to be fully recognised within it.

When the Assembly needed an electrician, his name came naturally. His work had already spoken for him.

After a probation period, he was confirmed to permanent employment in 2017.

For Sammy, it was never about rushing. It was about being ready when opportunity finally turned his way.

From attachment desk to professional growth, Winnie narrates

In the Procurement Department, Winnie Koske remembers her attachment in 2016 as a defining moment, though it came with no guarantee of what was to follow.

It lasted only three months and was not a permanent opportunity.

After graduating with a diploma, she applied for a position at CAN, unsure whether her earlier attachment would count. It did.

In 2019, she was among those absorbed by the County Assembly Service Board.

She has since advanced her studies, pursuing a degree while building her career, determined never to stop growing.

The quiet journey of consistency: Erick Kibari

In the Hansard Department, Erick Kibari’s story is one of gradual progress rather than sudden change.

He began as an attachment student in 2018. A year later, he was retained on a contract extension as a casual employee before securing permanent employment in 2022.

“I learned that every stage matters. You just keep showing up and improving,” he says.

Waiting, working and becoming; common thread at the County Assembly

Across these stories, the paths are different but the emotions are familiar. Uncertainty, patience, doubt, hope and eventually growth.

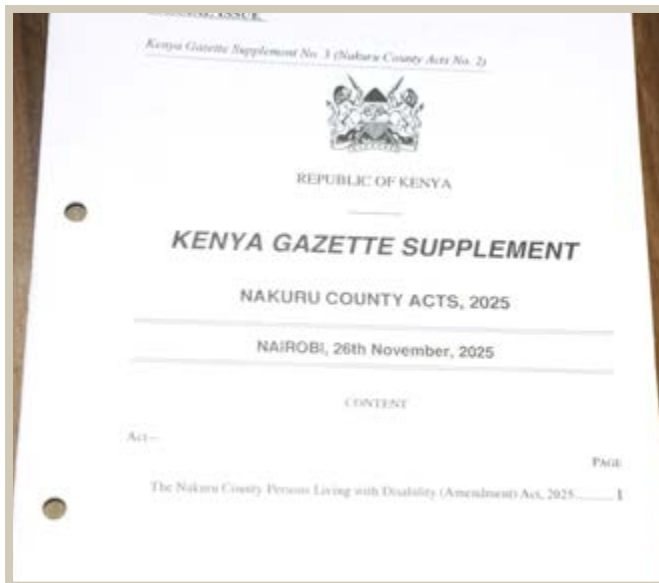
Others, including Irene Wire (Public Communication), Beatrice Mwaniki (Procurement), David Gitene (Information and Communication Technology) and Moses Mbugua (Budget and Fiscal Planning), have walked similar paths, each demonstrating that perseverance often precedes opportunity.

For many, the County Assembly has become more than a workplace. It is a place where fragile beginnings are nurtured into stable careers. And within those corridors, the next story of patience, resilience and success is likely already unfolding.



County Assembly clears way for Persons with Disabilities Fund

By Francis Wanja



Persons with disabilities in Nakuru County are set to benefit from a dedicated county fund after the County Assembly approved regulations to operationalise the Nakuru County Persons with Disabilities Act.

The regulations, considered by the Assembly's Committee on Rules and Delegated Legislation, provide the legal framework required to implement the fund and pave the way for eligible beneficiaries to access support aimed at improving livelihoods, promoting economic empowerment and enhancing social inclusion.

The Committee worked closely with the relevant County Executive Department to facilitate the review of the regulations and ensure they aligned with the intent of the Act, enabling the fund to become operational.

Once implemented, the fund is expected to support programmes that promote entrepreneurship, education, skills development and other initiatives designed to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities across Nakuru County.

Speaker of the County Assembly Hon. Joel Karuri Maina said the Assembly remains committed to ensuring that legislation delivers meaningful benefits to residents.

“Effective legislation is not measured by its passage alone, but by its impact on residents through implementation,” he said.



Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Nixon Morogo said the Committee would continue prioritising the review of subsidiary legislation to ensure county laws are fully implemented.

“The Committee remains committed to ensuring that all Acts requiring subsidiary legislation are fully operationalised through the timely submission and review of the necessary regulations,” he said.

The approval of the regulations marks an important milestone in promoting inclusion and expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities in Nakuru County.

It also demonstrates the County Assembly's commitment to ensuring that laws passed by the House are supported by the legal frameworks needed to deliver meaningful services to residents.

Surviving the Economic Squeeze

How households are adapting to economic pressures and rising living costs

By CPA Daniel Nduati, Financial Analyst



Households are increasingly adjusting to a tightening economic environment characterized by rising taxation, elevated inflation, unpredictable weather patterns and a steadily rising cost of living.

These pressures continue to strain disposable income and make financial stability more difficult for salaried employees and small business operators. The central question is how households can remain financially resilient in an environment defined by persistent cost increases and uncertainty.

At the core of this challenge is not only income but the ability to adjust behaviour in response to changing conditions.

Spending and budget adjustments

Households are rethinking consumption as part of everyday survival. Price sensitivity has increased with more comparison shopping and a stronger preference for essential goods. Spending decisions are now guided more by need than preference.

Budgets are being restructured with greater focus on food, housing, education and utilities while non-essential expenditure continues to be reduced or delayed.

There is also increased caution in the use of credit as households seek to avoid long term repayment pressure that could deepen financial strain.

Income shifts and adaptation

Many individuals are seeking additional income streams to manage uncertainty. Side activities such as digital work, freelance services and small enterprises are becoming more common as reliance on a single income source decline.

This marks a gradual shift towards income resilience where stability is built through multiple earning avenues rather than one primary source.

At the same time small scale entrepreneurship is growing as individuals convert skills into income and use digital platforms to reach wider markets. This reflects a more adaptive and opportunity driven economic response.

Building resilience

Financial resilience is increasingly shaped by adaptability rather than income level alone. Households that adjust spending diversify income and respond quickly to price changes are better placed to withstand economic pressure.

Kenya continues to face significant economic strain but households are also showing strong adaptive capacity. Long term stability will depend on disciplined budgeting, income diversification and timely financial decision-making in an uncertain environment.

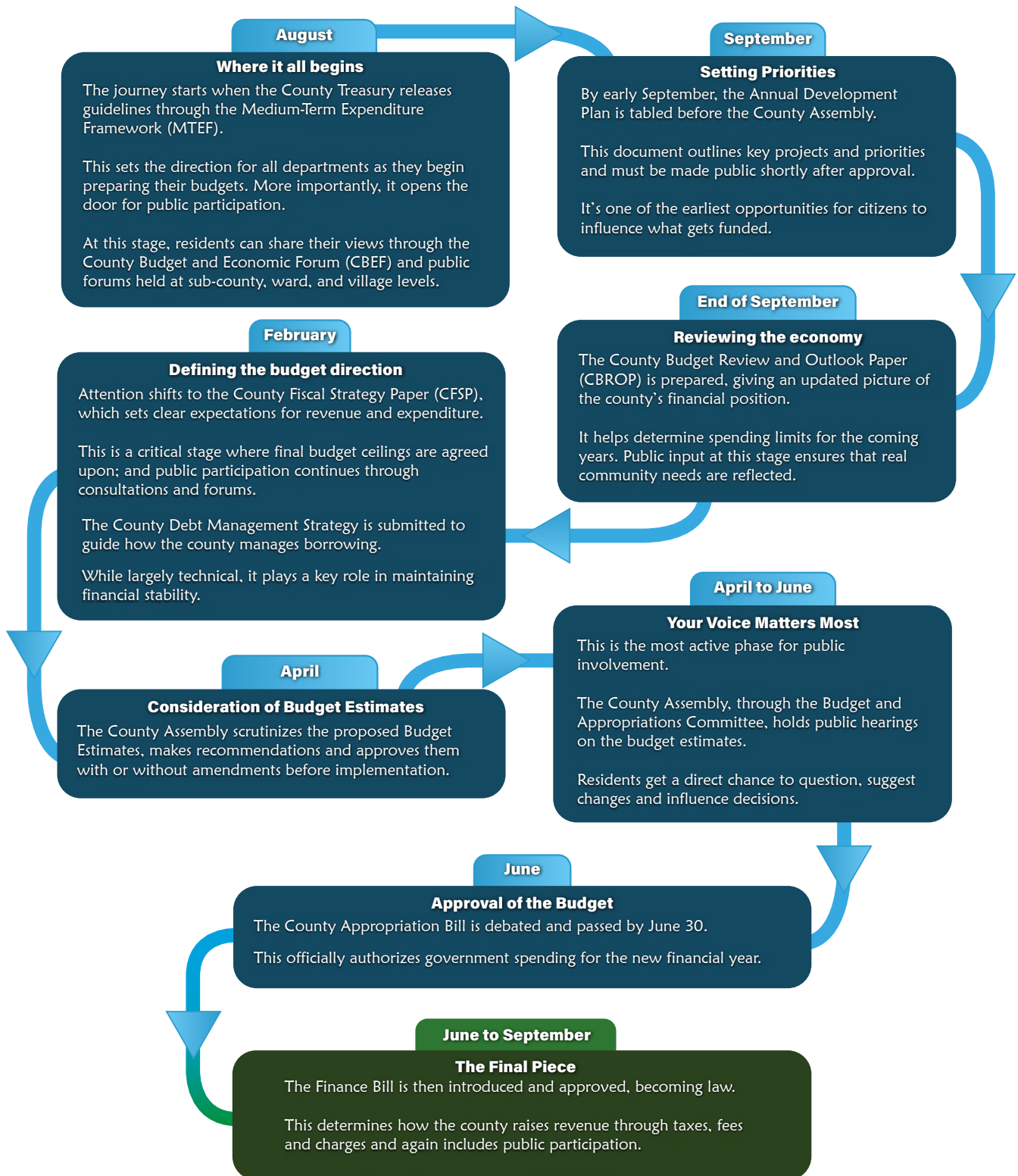
Inside the County Budget Process

By Moses Mbugua

Ever wondered who decides how county money is spent and how you can have a say?

Behind every road built, hospital equipped, or project launched lies a structured budget process that runs almost the entire year.

Here's a simple breakdown of how it all happens and where you come in.



Why This Process Matters

The county budget is not just a government document, it is your roadmap to development.

From start to finish, public participation remains at the heart of the process. Through forums, hearings and engagement with MCAs, every resident has a role to play.

Because in the end, a better budget means better services, stronger accountability and a county that works for everyone.

Residents' priorities shape Nakuru's approved Sh23.56 billion budget

By Rita Damary



Better roads, quality healthcare, improved schools and reliable water supply are among the areas set to benefit after the County Assembly approved a Sh 23.56 billion budget for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

The budget reflects the priorities raised by residents during public participation forums held across the county. From urban centres to rural wards, wananchi called for greater investment in services that have the greatest impact on their daily lives, and those priorities are evident in the approved allocations.

Health remains the county's biggest investment, with Sh 8.15 billion set aside to improve healthcare services, strengthen medical facilities, equip hospitals and support the delivery of quality care. The allocation accounts for 34.6 per cent of the total county budget.

Education has been allocated Sh 1.99 billion to support Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), improve learning facilities and expand access to quality education for children across the county.

Residents' calls for better roads are also reflected in the budget, with Sh 1.16 billion allocated to infrastructure. The funds will go towards improving roads, bridges and transport networks to enhance connectivity, ease movement and support economic activities.

Access to clean and safe water remains a key concern for many communities. To address this, the Water, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change sector has been allocated Sh 866.35 million to expand water supply, protect the environment and strengthen climate resilience programmes.

Agriculture, a key driver of Nakuru's economy, will receive Sh 899.82 million. The funding will support crop

and livestock production, extension services, fisheries and programmes aimed at improving food security and farmers' livelihoods.

Young people will also benefit from the approved budget, with Sh 812.29 million allocated to Youth, Sports, Gender, Social Services and Inclusivity. The funds will support youth empowerment, sports development and programmes targeting vulnerable groups.

The budget further allocates Sh 432.47 million to Trade, Cooperatives, Tourism and Culture to promote enterprise development and strengthen cooperatives, while Sh 301.97 million has been set aside for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development to support orderly growth and improve land management.

The approval of the budget clears the way for county departments to begin implementing programmes and projects during the 2026/2027 financial year. The County Assembly will continue to monitor implementation to ensure public funds are used as approved and that residents receive the services and development they prioritised during public participation.

The approval of the budget marks the end of months of planning, public engagement and scrutiny by the County Assembly. More importantly, it signals the beginning of implementation, with County Departments now expected to roll out projects and programmes that reflect the priorities identified by wananchi.

As implementation begins, the County Assembly will continue to play its oversight role to ensure every shilling is spent prudently and that residents receive value for money through improved services and tangible development across all 55 wards.

County Assembly calls for stronger disaster preparedness

By Simon Siele

The County Assembly of Nakuru has called for increased investment in disaster preparedness, urging the County Government to strengthen emergency response systems following the recent rise in fire incidents in learning institutions across the country.

Debating a Matter of County Importance, Members said the incidents had highlighted the need to improve the county's capacity to respond to emergencies and protect lives. They called for increased funding for the Department of Disaster Management and urged the County Government to enhance firefighting infrastructure across Nakuru.

Moving the Motion, Gilgil MCA Hon. Rose Gathoni Njoroge said the matter was urgent because it touched on the safety and welfare of learners.

"The matter is definite, urgent and of county importance because it directly concerns the safety and welfare of our children and the education sector in Nakuru County," she said.

The Assembly resolved to examine the county's level of disaster preparedness, including the availability of firefighting equipment, emergency response mechanisms and fire safety measures in schools and other public institutions.

Members observed that despite Nakuru County having a city and

several municipalities, emergency response remains constrained by inadequate firefighting equipment, leaving some areas dependent on neighbouring towns whenever major fires occur.

Kiptororo MCA Hon. Alex Bor urged the County Government to strengthen the Disaster Management Department and ensure every sub-county has the capacity to respond quickly to emergencies.

"We need to ensure that every sub-county has access to a fire engine and that the Disaster Management Department is adequately equipped to respond swiftly whenever emergencies occur," he said.

He also emphasised that preventing school fires requires a collective effort by parents, teachers, school administrators and government agencies through guidance, counselling and continuous engagement with learners.

The Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee, Hon. Moses Koros, said the committee was developing legislative measures aimed at strengthening the county's disaster management framework. He urged the County Government to enhance budget allocations to the department to improve emergency response and acquire additional firefighting equipment.

Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Hon. Alex Mbugua said the Assembly would continue supporting measures that strengthen the county's emergency response capacity through the budget process.

"We need to look at the bigger picture and ensure the Disaster Management Department is adequately funded to respond effectively whenever disasters occur," he said.

Members also called for regular fire safety inspections, emergency drills and public awareness programmes in schools to improve preparedness and reduce the risk of future tragedies.

The House further tasked the Committee on Disaster Management with assessing the county's level of preparedness, including the status of firefighting equipment, emergency response systems and resource distribution across all sub-counties, with a view to informing future policy and budget decisions.

The debate concluded with a united call for increased investment in disaster preparedness, with Members urging the County Government to prioritise emergency response, strengthen fire safety measures and build a more resilient disaster management system to better protect lives and property across Nakuru County.



Photos: Courtesy

Inside The Assembly Explained

Making county governance simple, practical and easy to understand.

Who Does What?

Understanding the County Assembly and the County Executive.

Many people use the terms County Assembly and County Government interchangeably. It is common to hear someone say, “The County Assembly is building roads” or “The Assembly has constructed a health centre.” In reality, these are two separate institutions with different responsibilities, although they work closely together to serve the people.

Understanding the difference helps wananchi know where decisions are made, who implements them and who is responsible for ensuring public resources are used properly.

The County Assembly

The County Assembly is the legislative arm of the county government. It is made up of elected and nominated Members of the County Assembly (MCAs), the Speaker and is supported by the Clerk and Assembly staff.

Its work revolves around **four key responsibilities**.

1. Making laws

The Assembly debates and passes county laws that guide governance and the delivery of services across different sectors.

2. Representing the people

Every MCA represents a ward and brings the views, concerns and priorities of residents to the Assembly for debate and decision-making.

3. Providing oversight

The Assembly monitors how county resources are used and holds the County Executive accountable for implementing programmes and delivering services as approved.

4. Approving the budget

Before any public money can be spent, the County Assembly scrutinises, debates and approves the county budget and development plans. This ensures public resources are allocated in line with the law and the needs of residents.

Simply put, the County Assembly makes laws, approves the budget, represents wananchi and keeps the Executive accountable.

The County Executive

The County Executive is the implementing arm of the county government. It is led by the **Governor** and includes the **Deputy Governor**, County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), Chief Officers and county departments.

Its role is to put into action the laws, policies and budgets approved by the County Assembly.

Among its responsibilities are:

1. Delivering services such as healthcare, roads, water, agriculture and urban development.
2. Implementing county laws and policies.
3. Managing the day-to-day operations of county departments.
4. Executing development projects and programmes.
5. Managing county resources in line with the approved budget.

In simple terms, once the Assembly approves a law or budget, it is the County Executive that takes responsibility for implementing it and delivering services to residents.



Facts about the County Assembly:

- Makes and passes county laws.
- Approves the county budget and expenditure.
- Oversees the use of public funds and implementation of county programmes.
- Represents wananchi through elected and nominated MCAs.
- Facilitates public participation in county governance.

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How the two Arms work together

Although they have different responsibilities, the County Assembly and the County Executive depend on each other to ensure effective county governance.

The Assembly makes laws, approves budgets and provides oversight. The Executive implements those laws, spends the approved budget and delivers services to the people.

A simple way to remember the difference is:

The County Assembly decides what should be done. The County Executive carries it out.

This separation of roles promotes transparency, accountability and good governance while ensuring checks and balances within the devolved system.

Why It Matters

Knowing the difference between the two institutions helps citizens participate more effectively in county governance. It enables residents to know where to take their concerns, engage meaningfully during public participation and hold the right institution accountable.

When wananchi understand who is responsible for what, they are better placed to follow development projects, monitor service delivery and take part in decisions that affect their communities.

At a Glance

The County Assembly and the County Executive have different responsibilities, but they share one goal; to improve the lives of the people of Nakuru.

The Assembly provides the laws, approves the budget and keeps watch over the use of public resources. The Executive implements programmes, delivers services and turns approved plans into action. Together, the two institutions form the foundation of effective county governance and ensure that devolution works for the benefit of every resident.



“Inside the Assembly Explained” continues in the next edition as we take a closer look at the work of the County Assembly and how it serves the people of Nakuru.

A Year That Changed Everything

A reflection on growth and mentorship during internship at the County Assembly.

By Mercy Nduta Ng'ang'a



Mercy Nduta Ng'ang'a



For many graduates, the shift from classroom theory to the realities of the workplace can feel overwhelming. For me, it became a turning point.

When I reported to the County Assembly of Nakuru on October 1, 2024, as a Human Resource intern, I carried more than just my training from the National Youth Service – Institute of Business Studies (NYS–IBS); I carried hope, curiosity and a strong desire to prove myself. I remember telling myself, “This is my chance to grow, learn and become better.” One year later, I can confidently say that decision changed me.

Stepping into a modern workplace

From the very beginning, I found myself in an institution that embraces professionalism and modern systems. The County Assembly of Nakuru stood out through its use of digital tools in managing staff records, communication and workflow.

This exposure was eye-opening. It helped me understand how technology is transforming public service by improving efficiency, accuracy and transparency.

Learning by doing

My internship was not about observing from the sidelines. I became part of the system.

I assisted with some human resource responsibilities, including organising personnel records, supporting payroll processes, assisting in recruitment, drafting official

correspondence and coordinating staff welfare activities. Each task sharpened my skills and built my confidence.

I learned that even the smallest task plays an important role in keeping an organisation running smoothly.

A defining experience

One of the most memorable moments during my internship was serving in the secretariat of an ad hoc committee tasked with organising the Assembly’s annual staff retreat.

This experience exposed me to the strategic side of Human Resource Management (HRM), where planning, teamwork and employee engagement come together. It taught me that strong teams do not just happen; they are built with intention.

The power of mentorship

My journey would not have been the same without the support of my supervisors and colleagues. Their guidance, patience and encouragement created an environment where I could learn, grow and gain confidence.

Looking ahead

As I completed my internship, I left with valuable experience, practical skills and a renewed passion for HRM.

What started as an internship has become a life-changing journey, one that has prepared me for the next chapter of my career and strengthened my commitment to professional growth and service.



Assembly in Pictures

Highlights from site visits, sports activities, Assembly events and institutional engagements.



H.E. Governor Susan Kihika, E.G.H., Speaker Joel Karuri, County Government officials, and Members of the County Assembly pose for a photo at the County Assembly after the 2025 State of the County address.



H.E. Deputy Governor David Kones engages Assembly staff during the 2025 Devolution Conference



A plenary sitting at the County Assembly of Nakuru Chamber



Public participation forum at the County Assembly in June 2026



Health Committee Members, led by Vice Chair Hon. John Macharia, during a site visit with staff at Nakuru Specialist Hospital.



Finance Committee, led by Chair Hon. John Maritim, during a site visit to Annex Hospital.



Mr. Titus Kipkori distinguishes fire during staff training on Fire Safety Measures within the Assembly



Education Committee members at Milimani Comprehensive School to check the effective of feeding program initiated by H.E. Governor Susan Kihika



MCAs together with staff march during official opening of CASA games at Kinoru Stadium, Meru County



County Assembly of Nakuru Netball team playing against Garissa County Assembly





County Assembly of Nakuru Volleyball team during the CASA Games



Hon. Abdi Hassan strikes the ball during a football match against the Bomet County Assembly at the CASA Games



County Assembly of Nakuru Chess Team during the CASA Games



County Assembly of Nakuru Ajua Team during the CASA Games



County Assembly of Nakuru Pool table team



The County Assembly Clerk Mr. Joseph Malinda (seated at the center) poses with the staff during a recent team building exercise



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU
THIRD ASSEMBLY

BUNGE DIGEST Vol. III

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU
UGATUZI PLAZA
OFF - GEORGE MURARA ROAD
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