



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
PARLIAMENT

Sen. Wakili Hillary K. Sigei, M.P

Bomet County

Speaker's Panel

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**The Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly of Bomet,
Hon. Leader of Majority,
Hon. Leader of Minority,
Distinguished Hon. Members.**

Good morning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

It gives me great pleasure to address this august house of the third assembly today. I do this pursuant to provisions of the **Senate Standing Orders, standing order no. 253 and Part V, Section 24** of the County Assembly of Bomet Standing Orders on attendance before the County Assembly and address thereof.

Allow me from the onset to appreciate and congratulate you on the assumption and execution of your various mandates bestowed upon you. What you have achieved thus far is not a mean feat and worth celebrating. I celebrate you.

Address by Sen. Wakili Hillary K. Sigei to the Bomet County Assembly on Tuesday 26th August 2025.

This august house, being an arm of the county government, and the senate is a creation of the Constitution.

Articles 176 and 177 of the Constitution establishes the county governments whereas Article 96 creates the Senate where I am honored to serve.

The law sets out the roles of the Assembly as Representation, Oversight and Legislation. The assembly also participates in budget making & approval, vetting and approval of state officers and ensures public participation in its processes.

The roles of the senate on the other hand includes representation of counties, and protection of devolution and the county governments, legislation, revenue sharing and oversight.

Hon. Members,

From that legal foundation, allow me to state the obvious; that the senate and the county assembly play similar roles but at different levels. These levels as per the design serves the same person who more often than not is not bothered and some unaware about the constitutional separation of roles, rather on service delivery irrespective of the level of government.

This realization mandates us to work hand in hand to ensure the aspirations, dreams and vision of our people are met without unnecessary bureaucracies.

This need is ably captured by our parliamentary prayer that,

“Almighty God, we beseech you to behold with your abundant favor and blessings, as your servants whom you have been pleased to call to leadership in this Republic. We seek guidance to treat and consider all matters that shall come unto our deliberation, in so just and faithful a manner, as to advance the peace, prosperity and welfare of our country and of those whose interests You have committed to our charge.” Amen

Hon members, this prayer urges us to be patriotic, just and faithful in the administration of the society whose progress is bestowed upon us.

Therefore Mr. Speaker,

My address to this honorable house will be on five thematic areas of common interest to both the senate and the assembly and our areas of possible collaboration towards the just administration of society.

Honourable Members,

Allow me to go on record in congratulating this Honourable Assembly, under its able leadership, for a job well done on the legislative front.

Among the notable highlights are the passage of key bills, including the:

- County Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Bill,
- Bomet County Solid Waste Management Bill,
- Bomet County Livestock Sales Yard Bill, and
- Bomet County Control of Stray Dogs Bill among others.

The enactment of these bills, alongside this Assembly's robust engagement with national legislation such as the Facility Improvement Funds Act and the Climate Change Act, clearly demonstrates your unwavering commitment to the noble call of duty.

These legislative efforts will go a long way in enhancing accountability, improving public service delivery, and fulfilling the aspirations of devolution for the people of Bomet County.

Honourable Members, the County Assembly holds a uniquely powerful position in the architecture of county governance. Its role goes far beyond merely enacting laws. This House must ensure that every piece of legislation it enacts is not only sound in principle, but also fully operationalized.

Laws must not be left to gather dust on the shelves while the people intended to be served continue to suffer due to inaction. Every Act, every regulation, and every motion passed must be followed through, monitored, and implemented with resolve. That is how we ensure that the aspirations of devolution are fulfilled—and that the dignity of our citizens is upheld.

A case in point is the **Bomet County Enterprise Development Fund Act, 2019**, which was passed six years ago. **To date, our people are yet to experience its intended impact.** This is deeply concerning.

The object of this Act was noble: to promote entrepreneurship, create jobs, support self-employment for our youth, women, vulnerable groups, and persons with disabilities, and to facilitate the growth of micro and small enterprises across the county.

Yet, in the absence of implementation, **these aspirations remain a mirage**—even as our young people continue to bear the brunt of rising unemployment and economic hardship.

This must serve as a call to action. **Legislation without implementation is a betrayal of public trust.**

Legislation is not merely a procedural formality; it is an essential enabler in the execution of our constitutional responsibilities. It provides the **legal foundation**, the **mechanism**, and the **action plan** through which this Assembly can **hold the Executive to account** and ensure effective service delivery to the people.

Through well-crafted laws, this House translates policy into action and aspirations into results.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

On its part, the Senate—through its legislative mandate—has taken a significant step in strengthening devolution by enacting the **County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2023**. This transformative law establishes a **County Assembly Fund (CAF)** for each county, thereby granting County Assemblies **direct control over their operational finances**.

This move ends the long-standing **budgetary dependence on the Executive**, a situation that has compromised the effectiveness and independence of County Assemblies across the country. It is, quite frankly, ill-conceived to expect a legislative body to independently oversight or question the very entity from which it draws its operational resources. With this law now assented to by His Excellency the President, Members of County Assemblies are finally being released from the firm grip and arm-twisting by the Executive—who, in some cases, have treated assemblies as mere extensions of their offices.

Let us be clear: County Assemblies are **not appendages** of the Executive. They are **independent institutions** with **distinct constitutional mandates**. To perform effectively, they must be **adequately and independently facilitated**. That is how we build **robust, accountable, and truly independent** devolved legislatures—as envisioned under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Honourable Members,

As your Senator, I carry not only the mandate to represent you at the national level, but also a solemn duty to remain cognizant of legislation that uplifts and improves the lives of our people.

It is my responsibility to ensure that the policies and laws debated and enacted in the Senate are not abstract or detached from the realities on the ground—but rather, that they respond directly to the needs of our people, support livelihoods, and advance the spirit of devolution.

Every Bill I support or sponsor is guided by one key principle: how it will positively impact the ordinary citizen in Bomet County. That remains the heart of my legislative agenda.

In this regard, allow me to highlight an important legislative initiative I have pursued at the national level—one that directly touches on the livelihoods of our people here in Bomet County. As you are well aware, tea is one of our county's most significant cash crops, sustaining thousands of households across our wards. It is with this in mind that I took keen interest in sponsoring the Tea (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was passed by the Senate on 8th October, 2024. Following its passage in the Senate, the Bill proceeded to the National Assembly, where it underwent its First Reading and is now under consideration by the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

Honourable Members, once enacted, this legislation will mark a turning point in the tea sub-sector. The Bill seeks to:

- Allow for direct export sales, enabling farmers and cooperatives to access better-paying markets;
- Promote value addition, thereby increasing local employment and export earnings; and
- Exempt value-added tea from the tea levy, creating real incentives for innovation and investment in tea processing.

These provisions are aimed at ensuring that farmers reap maximum benefit from their labour and are no longer trapped in a cycle of low returns and poor market access.

Mr. Speaker,

The **Tea Amendment Act, 2023** was introduced to address the **implementation challenges** that arose following the enactment of the **Tea Act, 2020**. Despite the well-intentioned provisions of the 2020 legislation—which aimed to **restructure the tea value chain** and **protect farmers from exploitation**—certain sections of the Act were **suspended by the courts**.

The **intent behind these legal challenges** was clear: to **frustrate reforms** that threatened entrenched interests and sought to **liberate the farmer** from the grip of exploitative cartels that have long dominated the tea sector.

The **2023 Amendment**, therefore, is not just a legislative fix—it is a **renewed commitment to agricultural justice**, ensuring that our hardworking tea farmers, from the highlands of Bomet and beyond, are shielded from unfair practices and are able to **reap the full benefits of their labor**.

Apart from the Tea Amendment Act 2023, I am currently **sponsoring other two critical bills**, each designed to strengthen our governance and improve service delivery. These are: the **Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill** and the **Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill**. In addition, I have had the privilege of **co-sponsoring the Social Risk Management Bill**, which is currently before the **Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare**. Each of these legislative efforts seeks to modernise our laws, enhance accountability, and safeguard livelihoods.

Hon Members,

The role of the Senate in the formulation of the revenue-sharing formula through the Division of Revenue Act cannot be overemphasized. This critical and often complex discourse has been instrumental in ensuring a progressive increase in equitable share allocations to counties.

Indeed, this sustained effort has seen Bomet County's shareable revenue grow from KSh 7.8 billion in 2017 to KSh 9.1 billion currently. This marked improvement is not merely a statistic—it represents a constitutional promise to devolved governance and a mandate to better the lives of our people.

However, Honorable Members, increased allocations must correspond to improved service delivery, enhanced infrastructure, and measurable uplift in the quality of life for our citizens. It is not enough to celebrate figures—we must demand visible and tangible impact.

At this juncture, I urge you to see things as they are—not as they ought to be.

Hon Members, I stand here to reaffirm my commitment to working closely with this Assembly to ensure that national legislation aligns with the development priorities of our county.

I take this opportunity to implore this Honourable House to continue working closely with the Senate in advancing a progressive legislative agenda that directly responds to the needs of our people.

Through enhanced collaboration and shared commitment, we can strengthen our oversight roles, align our priorities, and ensure that the laws we enact—whether at the county or national level—truly serve the purpose for which devolution was established.

Mr. Speaker,

One of the core responsibilities entrusted to us as elected leaders is representation. It is through this function that we give voice to the aspirations, concerns, and priorities of our constituents.

Representation is not symbolic—it is a delegated constitutional responsibility. It is perhaps the most important and most cross-cutting of all our roles. The Constitution under Article 1 gives power to the people. The people on the other hand donates this power to us, their representatives through democratic processes. This opportunity is noble and it behooves us to always think of what our bosses, the *wenyenchi* would want in every matter under our deliberation.

Hon. Members,

It should never cross our mind and/or our imaginations that we are representing a naïve, clueless and unbothered voter but we should always bear in mind that they are always alert and aware. They know what is expected of us and every time we fail they take note. The electorate in donating to us this power never expected us to enrich ourselves at the expense of the service delivery. They never expected us to be silent when their plight is not addressed by those they elected to office.

- When their taps run dry months on end, **they expect us to speak out.**
- When roads are dilapidated and in sorry state and they can't access markets **they expect our voice.**
- When they fail to find drugs and emergency care in our hospitals and health facilities, they expect our **empathy and rage.**
- When they lose their children and loved ones to glaring medical negligence and systemic failures like the case of Baby Diana from Kembu Ward, they expect us to hold government and those responsible to account.
- Remember to paraphrase the words of Martin Luther King Junior, the electorate in the end will remember not the words of their enemies but the silence of their friends- we their representatives.

Hon Members,

When we, the people's representatives, speak out, we do so not for political expediency, but as a solemn duty entrusted to us by the Constitution and by the very people who sent us here.

Speaking truth to power is not rebellion—it is representation. No one should condemn or intimidate you for raising the concerns of your people. On the contrary, you should be applauded and supported for discharging your mandate with courage, integrity, and fidelity to the people.

Let it be known that advocating for accountability, fairness, and justice is not political mileage—it is public service.

Honourable Members, I have always remained vigilant in ensuring that the voice of Bomet is heard in Parliament. Pursuant to **Standing Order 53 (1)**, I have sought several statements that touch directly on the welfare of our people.

1. Discrimination of Locals in Employment at Bomet University (24th November 2022)

I questioned the unfair recruitment practices where locals were sidelined in favour of outsiders during hiring exercises.

2. Non-Payment of Tutorial Fellows at Bomet University (24th November 2022)

I raised concerns before the **Standing Committee on Education** regarding tutorial fellows who had gone unpaid for months, despite rendering services. This statement pressed for accountability and respect of labour rights in our higher institutions of learning.

3. Welfare and Status of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) Teachers (27th February 2024)

I called on the Senate to address the plight of ECDE teachers in Bomet who face poor terms, irregular pay, and lack of recognition. My intervention was to ensure that those entrusted with shaping the future of our children are treated with dignity.

4. Safety, Security, and Freedom of Journalists in Bomet

Citing the constitutional guarantees under **Articles 33 and 34**, I raised concerns over harassment and intimidation of journalists in our county.

5. Composition and Compliance of Boards and Committees in Bomet

I flagged the irregular constitution of statutory boards and committees within the county, some of which were operating in breach of constitutional and statutory requirements.

6. Procurement of Road Construction Machinery

Roads remain central to our economic growth, yet procurement of machinery in Bomet has been marred by opacity and suspicion. I called for investigations before the **Standing Committee on Roads and Transportation**, demanding transparency and value for money in the use of public resources.

7. Prolonged Water Shortage in Bomet County

8. Utilization of Voided Payments by the County Government of Bomet

In the statement, I sought to know the legal basis and justification for each voided payment, including whether the Controller of Budget was notified in each case and how funds from voided payments were subsequently reallocated and utilized.

Through it, this Honourable House is empowered to scrutinize and approve county budgets, policies, and development plans on behalf of the people we serve.

Indeed, county planning and the budget-making process form the pivotal fulcrum upon which the entire development agenda rests.

It is through this process that we define our development trajectory, align our priorities, and ensure that public resources are allocated and spent transparently, accountably, and with meaningful impact.

A well-structured planning and budgeting framework not only guides sound expenditure, but also strengthens financial monitoring and controls, and ultimately promotes prudence in the management of public resources.

Mr. Speaker, let us never lose sight of the fact that the decisions we make in this House today determine the reality our people live tomorrow.

The Public Finance Management Regulations clearly provide ceilings for county expenditure, allocating minimum of 30% to Development, maximum of 35% to Personnel Emoluments, and maximum of 35% to Operations and Maintenance.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is on public record that in the 2023/2024 Financial Year, the Bomet County Executive spent approximately 50% of the total budget on personnel compensation—far exceeding the legal ceiling of 35%. This bloated wage bill directly translates to less resources available for critical development projects and essential public services, ultimately denying the people of Bomet the progress they deserve.

Honourable Members, the oversight of budget implementation rests squarely on the shoulders of this august House. It is not enough to approve budgets—we must ensure they are implemented efficiently, equitably, and within the law.

Proper planning, monitoring, and tracking of expenditure not only enhances accountability, but also minimizes the incidence of pending bills, stalled or abandoned projects, incomplete works, and service delivery gaps. Moreover, it helps to reduce the frequent tabling of supplementary budgets—many of which, regrettably, do not substantively incorporate public participation or input.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to highlight some few areas requiring your attention and focus for improvement.

First, Hon. Members, it is disheartening to note that several projects and programmes across various departments have suffered immensely due to the budgetary and implementation monitoring shortcomings. This must be a wake-up call for this House to assert its oversight mandate more robustly, and ensure that the County Executive adheres strictly to the principles of fiscal discipline, transparency, and responsible governance.

The construction and operationalization of Ward Administrative Offices is not a luxury—it is the most basic foundation for effective and responsive service delivery, particularly at the grassroots level. It is with this reasoning that the first county administration prioritized their establishment.

Regrettably, in many of our wards, the story has been that of incomplete, stalled, or abandoned administrative offices. This has forced county officers to move around with ‘briefcase offices’, or operate from distant sub-county headquarters, far removed from the people they are meant to serve.

Among the offices that are either not operational or incomplete include—but are not limited to the following wards:-

- Chemagel Ward
- Ndanai Ward
- Longisa Ward
- Nyangores Ward
- Mogogosiek Ward
- Chesoen Ward
- Mutarakwa Ward, among others.

Mr. Speaker, the absence of these critical administrative facilities in our wards undermines access to devolved services, denies the public their constitutional right to information, limits public participation, and frustrates the establishment of proper complaints handling mechanisms at the ward level.

Additionally, wards like Embomos, which lack such infrastructure, have forced the county to incur unsustainable rental costs—a burden to the taxpayer that only escalates over time. Moreover, the Boito Ward Office, despite having been budgeted for in previous financial years, remains **non-existent beyond paper**.

I therefore beseech this Honourable House to urgently look into this matter and prioritize the completion and operationalization of these ward offices, alongside other key facilities such as the Governor’s residence and sub-county offices.

Hon. Members, This is the point where when all else has failed, you surely cannot fail to represent yourselves to have good offices within your areas of jurisdiction where you attend to **wenye***enchi*.

Let us, as a House, ensure that the physical infrastructure necessary for delivering on the promises of devolution is not just planned—but completed, functional, and serving the people on the ground.

Secondly, Hon. Members, The healthcare sector is sadly not exempt from the growing list of stalled, abandoned, and poorly implemented projects in our county. During my recent oversight visits to several health facilities, I encountered a worrying pattern of neglected infrastructure, incomplete buildings, and dysfunctional service delivery systems.

Facilities such as:

- Kuriot Dispensary,
- Labotiet Dispensary,
- Umoja Dispensary,
- Chepkalwal Dispensary, and
- Tuiyobei Dispensary in Boito—which has remained incomplete for nearly half a decade and sits on private land—are just a few examples of public health investments left in limbo.

The incompleteness of these facilities, compounded by a lack of reliable ambulance services, chronic drug shortages, and understaffing in existing centres, has made the lives of our people unbearable—especially those in remote rural areas who rely solely on these public facilities.

As duty bearers, we have both a moral and constitutional obligation to call the Executive to order and demand accountability on why these critical projects remain non-operational. This is further worsened by the unrealized program to construct two new dispensaries per ward, which despite being budgeted for, was never implemented.

On the legislative front, on health sector, this House must ensure full implementation of the Facility Improvement Financing (FIF) Act. Funds raised by health facilities must be utilized transparently and strictly for their intended purposes—not redirected or diverted. It is unlawful and unethical to coerce health facilities to remit 25% portion of their SHA (Social Health Authority) reimbursements to the county treasury/department of Health Services outside the legal framework as my office has been made aware of such incidences.

Section 5 (4) of the FIF Act, 2023 states that, *“The income and other receivables retained by the public health facilities shall be considered as **a supplement to the budgets and resources appropriated** to the public health facilities by respective county government and **not a substitute**”*

Hon Members,

It is the solemn responsibility of this House to ensure that **Facility Improvement Fund (FIF)** resources are not misused or substituted as a means to **offset or replace funds already appropriated** to our health facilities through the normal budgetary process.

FIF collections must remain supplementary, intended to enhance service delivery—not to plug budgetary gaps created by poor planning or misallocation. The **resources already allocated** to our facilities through this Assembly's approval **must be expended strictly as budgeted**.

Let us uphold this principle to protect the integrity of the budgeting process and ensure that **our health facilities are adequately and sustainably funded**, as intended by both law and public expectation.

Mr. Speaker, it behoves us as this Honourable House to closely examine the operations and governance of our health facilities, ensure that laws are followed to the letter, and that appropriated resources reach the facility level and are properly accounted for.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, Bomet County is, without question, an agricultural county. Over 70% of our population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods and income. It is, therefore, imperative that this Honourable House continues to prioritize and allocate sufficient resources to the agriculture department, and more importantly, ensures that those resources are used effectively and accountably.

Mr. Speaker, I recall a time—long before the advent of devolution—when agricultural extension officers were active on the ground, traversing villages with artificial insemination boxes, organizing field days, farmer trainings, and exhibitions. These were meaningful, results-driven engagements that empowered our farmers and elevated rural economies.

Now that resources are devolved, and governance is closer to the people, the question we must ask ourselves is: what changed?

- Is it a lack of patriotism to serve?
- Is it bad governance, inefficiency, or greed that has stifled progress in this vital sector?

These are difficult but necessary questions that must compel us to re-evaluate our commitment to agriculture—a sector that holds the potential to create thousands of jobs and power the manufacturing industry through provision of raw materials.

Mr. Speaker, one painful example of lost opportunity is the Chebole Chicken Slaughterhouse—a project that was meant to empower women and youth in the poultry value chain. Today, the structure lies incomplete and rotting, representing not only a loss of public funds, but also a betrayal of economic hopes and opportunities.

Beyond the dominant tea sector, Bomet County holds enormous potential in several emerging agricultural value chains—notably avocado farming, mango production, coffee cultivation, and dairy farming. These are new frontiers with the capacity to transform rural economies, enhance household incomes, and create sustainable employment opportunities for our youth and women.

I wish to acknowledge and commend our development partners and the Ministry of Agriculture, for their role in seedling support programs under FLLoCA and the promotion of diversification within the agricultural sector. It is also encouraging to see the County Government supplement these efforts through collaboration on seedling distribution, and the construction of storage and aggregation facilities—which are crucial steps towards strengthening value addition and improving market access for our farmers.

Hon. Members, with the right investment, policy focus, and coordinated action, these high-potential value chains can become economic pillars for Bomet, offering alternatives to traditional crops and driving inclusive growth across all wards.

However, Mr. Speaker, we must speak plainly. The dream of 'Boma Fresh' milk, is quickly fading due to a lack of political will and administrative commitment. The Mengwet Hay Store in Kong'asis Ward—despite public resources already committed—stands as another abandoned promise to our livestock farmers.

Likewise, the Fresh Produce Packhouse for youth farmers in Bomet East could have been a game changer for onion producers, particularly during price drops—but today it stands incomplete and underutilized.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the regulations provide that: farm produce such as potatoes and onions must be packaged in 50-kg bags. Yet, on the ground, cartels continue to exploit farmers, using 90-kg bags with additional top-ups of up to 20kg—a clear violation of the law and a gross injustice to the very people who feed this county.

Honourable Members, these are not isolated incidents. They represent a systemic failure to implement, protect, and promote agricultural development. We must take time to reflect on our collective performance, and ask ourselves—two years from now, when our term ends, what legacy in agriculture will we leave behind?

I urge this Honourable House to invoke its constitutional oversight mandate to ensure that the above programs and many others in the agricultural sector are revived, completed, and fully operationalized.

Let us go down in history as a House that stood firmly for the farmer, defended the rural economy, and restored the rightful dignity of agriculture in Bomet County.

Fourthly, Hon. Members,

Water is a critical natural resource—fundamental not only for drinking and domestic use, but also as a key enabler of public health, agriculture, and economic productivity. The **Constitution of Kenya, under Article 43(1)(d)**, clearly guarantees every citizen the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.

Honourable Members, allow me to commend this House for consistently recognizing the importance of this right. Over the past three financial years, this Assembly has appropriated more than KSh 2 billion to the Department of Water—a strong and commendable demonstration of our commitment to alleviating the burden borne daily by our women and mothers in search of water for domestic use. You have fulfilled your constitutional duty.

However, Mr. Speaker, while this House has done its part, the burden of delivery lies squarely with the Executive. It is deeply concerning that perennial water shortages persist—even at the County Headquarters—with dry taps becoming the norm rather than the exception. This not only undermines the efforts of this House but also calls for urgent and collective accountability.

Several projects—including the Aonet Water Project, Chebangang Water Project, Bondet-Tendonok-Menet Water Pipeline, and the Kabisimba Water Pan, among others—have absorbed substantial public resources, yet have yielded minimal, if any, tangible outcomes.

Additionally, Bomet Water and Sanitation Company (BOMWASCO)—our designated water service provider—continues to face serious audit queries that threaten its operational efficiency and credibility. These concerns, if unaddressed, will cripple service delivery and frustrate our development goals in the water sector.

During the recent oversight visit by the Senate County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC), the Chief Officer in charge of Water and the Chief Executive Officer of BOMWASCO made significant admissions before the committee.

They acknowledged the presence of systemic failures and persistent challenges within the water sector and BOMWASCO operations.

Mr. Speaker, the solution to dry taps and failed water systems lies in our collective hands as leaders. With honest, diligent execution of responsibilities, and a renewed commitment to accountability, the people of Bomet can and should enjoy the continuous flow of water in their homes.

Let us not allow a basic necessity to become a daily struggle. Let us end the shame of water scarcity in our urban centres—starting right here at the County Headquarters—and restore public confidence by ensuring that every shilling appropriated delivers real, measurable impact.

Having highlighted several key sectors of concern, I must remind this House that the burden of duty and delegated responsibility squarely rests upon our shoulders. We were elected not just to speak—but to act, to oversee, and to ensure accountability in the management of public resources.

Fifth Mr. Speaker, is on Public Assets. The people of Bomet have placed their trust in us. They expect us to be the custodians of public interest and to safeguard all assets acquired using public funds.

For Example:

- They expect us to have in our possession the **registration documents for road construction equipment and earth movers** purchased with taxpayer money in 2022/2023 FY at a cost of Kenya Shillings over 300 million.
- They expect clarity on the **ownership status of the proposed Kyogong Stadium land**, including the availability of the **title deed**.
- They seek answers on the **expenditure of Kshs 3.8 million** allocated for the **rehabilitation of the Zero-Two Steel Footbridge in Ndaraweta**—a matter that must not be allowed to fade into obscurity.

Mr. Speaker, our people remain hopeful that the **Chebunyo Milk Processing Plant**, will sometimes become operational, after an investment of over **Kshs 52 million**. Of this amount, the **County Government** contributed **Kshs 39 million**, while **World Vision Kenya** invested **Kshs 13.25 million**.

They are **apprehensive**, yet expectant, that they will finally enjoy a **mud-free Christmas** once the **Chemobei-Sibaiyan Road** is completed.

And they remain **optimistic** that soon, **the Kipkoibet public toilets**—a seemingly simple but essential project—will be functional and serving the people with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, **ours is a solemn responsibility**—to ensure delivery; not to speak in good faith only, but to **act in the public interest as well**.

Let us rise to the occasion, for in the end, it is not how loud we speak that matters, but how diligently we serve.

Sixth Hon Members is on Education.

This Honorable House deserves appreciation for its steadfast commitment to prioritizing education in Bomet County. The approval of budgets for the school feeding program, the employment of ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms, bursaries, and the development of vocational training centers all demonstrate your unwavering dedication to ensuring access to quality education.

However, there remain critical areas that require our attention and urgent action:

- Are the **teaching and learning materials** for our ECDE learners sufficient, appropriate, and aligned with the demands of the new curriculum?
- Are these materials **delivered on time** to maximize learning outcomes?

-When a class register is supplied at the end of the term, when teaching and learning materials—already inadequate in quantity—are delivered merely three days to the school closing date- **Does it serve the intended purpose?**

and when milk for the school feeding program, originally planned for delivery twice a week, arrives irregularly and inconsistently, **what do we, Honorable Members, make of it?**

Does this reflect a system that honors its commitments to our children?

Does this portray us, as their representatives, as people ready and willing to **effectively oversight government and speak boldly for those without a voice?**

These are not just administrative delays. They are **symptoms of deeper systemic negligence**, and unless we act decisively, we **become complicit by silence.**

Let us remind ourselves: **oversight is not an option—it is our constitutional duty.** And where children's education and well-being are concerned, **we cannot afford to blink.**

- Is there a **continuous professional development program** for our teachers to keep pace with evolving educational standards?

On vocational training centers, I raise these questions:

- Why do we observe **different fee structures** across our VTCs?
- Do we have a **uniform curriculum** that guides all VTCs, or is there a need to harmonize it?
- What are the **roles and responsibilities of the Board members** in our VTCs?

- How are the **procurement and financial processes** handled in these centers, and do they comply with the law?

Regarding our ECDE centers, I ask:

- What is the **current status of these centers**?
- Do they meet the standards required to be officially recognized as ECDE centers?
- The Executive has claimed to have constructed **400 ECDE classrooms**—where are these located? Are they **evenly distributed** across our wards, at an average of 16 classrooms per ward?
- What is the condition of specific centers such as **Tegat ECDE** and **Chemelet ECDE**?
- Where exactly is **Itibet ECDE** in Boito situated? Is it on public or private land?

Honourable Members, I leave these questions for you to investigate deeply and to ensure that education in our county is not only prioritized but also **effectively improved and held to the highest standards**.

Hon Members,

Still on education, on another perspective, Technical institutes are critical engines of local development. They play an essential role in skills development, job creation, and economic stimulation across our county. In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to Sot Technical Training Institute (TTI)—a promising institution whose potential can be fully harnessed through its upgrade to a National Polytechnic.

Upgrading Sot TTI would not only expand courses to be offered and attract more students from across the region, but also catalyze wider socioeconomic development in its environs. This upgrade would trigger significant population growth, increased demand for services, and the need for improved infrastructure.

Therefore, I strongly urge the County Government to prioritize the expansion and upgrading of Merigi Health Centre, alongside enhancing basic amenities within Merigi Town, in anticipation of the pressures brought by institutions such as Sot TTI, Stegro Tea Factory, and other emerging developments.

Similarly, Bomet Town is experiencing rapid population growth, primarily driven by the steady expansion of Bomet University, especially as the institution moves closer to attaining its charter. In this light, it is imperative that Bomet Health Centre be upgraded to Sub-County Hospital status to effectively meet the rising healthcare demands of the town's residents and university community.

Honourable Members, investment in education must be matched with strategic planning in infrastructure, healthcare, and urban amenities. This is the only way to ensure that development is holistic, inclusive, and sustainable.

Seventh, Hon Members, is on the County Public Service.

The County Governments Act, 2012 establishes the County Public Service and provides the framework for its organization, staffing, and operations. At its heart lies a clear objective—to ensure the delivery of efficient, quality, and productive services to the people. This legal framework further emphasizes the need for institutional mechanisms and systems that promote the optimal utilization and development of human resources, in a manner that enhances service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, human resource is the engine of service delivery. For the County Public Service to be effective, staffing must be professional, merit-based, and transparent. Recruitment and appointments should not only be competitive, but also reflect integrity, fairness, and alignment with the Constitution. Sadly, irregular appointments, unfair promotions, and skewed remuneration erode public trust and demoralize the very staff we expect to serve our people diligently.

Honourable Members,

The Special Audit Report of the Auditor General on payroll management for the County Executive of Bomet—covering the financial years 2021/2022, 2022/2023, and 2023/2024—was tabled in the Senate last month.

Its findings are not only alarming but also pose serious compliance and fiscal risks to our county.

Among the key issues unearthed were:

- Irregular and overpayment of allowances, including responsibility allowance, extraneous allowance, special salary allowance, and non-practicing allowance, amounting to over KSh 56 million.
- Absence of Annual Recruitment Plans, which facilitated irregular appointments, dubious re-designations, and improper salary adjustments.
- A general lack of internal controls throughout the payroll management process—from budgeting, recruitment, and approvals to payment execution.

The implications of this are profound—not only in terms of wastage of public funds but also in undermining the legitimacy and sustainability of our county’s workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendations contained in this report must be taken seriously by this Honourable House. We have a duty to establish mechanisms that ensure compliance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, the Public Service Commission regulations, and the principles of responsible financial management.

On the matter of appointments, allow me to recognize and commend this House for its consistent and responsible execution of its vetting and approval mandate. Vetting ensures that appointees to senior public offices meet **the constitutional thresholds**, particularly under **Chapter Six on Leadership and Integrity** and the **Principles of Public Service**.

However, Mr. Speaker, this important process has, at times, been undermined or manipulated. We have witnessed instances where the Executive uses **weekend interviews, night-time swearing-in ceremonies, rushes appointments to evade court injunctions, or cancels recruitment processes** whenever their **preferred candidates are unlikely to succeed**. In other cases, **qualifications are lowered, and the vetting process reduced to a formality**—all in pursuit of **political rewards over competence and experience**.

So I ask this House—Shall we continue to allow meritocracy to be replaced by favoritism? Will we stand idle as standards are lowered and systems abused?

Mr. Speaker, this House holds delegated sovereign power. We are the custodians of fairness, transparency, and integrity in public appointments. It is time we reviewed the timelines, processes, and mechanisms around appointments. It is time we developed frameworks that arrest politically motivated staffing trends, and hold both individuals and institutions accountable.

Let us use our constitutional tools—oversight, legislation, and approval—to restore dignity, professionalism, and trust in our County Public Service.

Eighth, Mr. Speaker, is on Land and Land Use.

Land remains one of the most critical factors of production and a foundational pillar for sustainable economic development. As such, its availability and strategic use significantly determine the success of government investments and public service delivery.

Regrettably, Bomet County faces a growing scarcity of public interest land, which continues to hinder the establishment of key public infrastructure. Facilities such as industrial parks, recreational spaces, arboretums, affordable housing projects, libraries, resource and ICT centers, youth empowerment hubs, craft centers, museums and social halls require adequate, well-located land—yet such land is increasingly unavailable.

I call upon you, Hon Members, to consider strategic acquisition of public interest lands, now—not when it's too late. Let us align our spatial planning and budgeting processes to ensure timely identification, acquisition, and securing of land for future public use. This is how we safeguard the dreams of tomorrow, today.

Honourable Members, if we are to future-proof the development of this county, then land banking must become a deliberate and urgent policy intervention. Without forward-thinking action, we risk a scenario where land becomes congested, inaccessible, or exorbitantly priced—thereby frustrating public development agendas and choking our growth potential.

Ninth, Hon Members, is on the fidelity to the Rule of Law.

Adherence to the rule of law is the foundational fulcrum of order, justice, and tranquility in any functioning society. When the law ceases to be a neutral guide—when it bends to favor the high and mighty, and the voices of the vulnerable are drowned out—then terror, impunity, and disorder take root.

Mr. Speaker, over the past five years, the County Government of Bomet has found itself entangled in numerous litigations—ranging from labour-related cases, to disputes with contractors, suppliers, and landowners. These are not isolated incidents, but symptoms of systemic failure to act within the legal frameworks that govern procurement, employment, land acquisition, and service delivery.

This is not just a legal issue—it is a governance crisis. Every fine paid, every penalty imposed, and every outsourced legal service paid for with public funds is a development opportunity lost. Thus stifling our county’s ability to fund core services such as building dispensaries, supplying clean water, improving roads, or investment in agriculture and education.

Honourable Members, I raise this matter not to indict but to provoke collective reflection and action. How long shall we watch as taxpayer resources are poured into lawsuits, fines, and legal fees that could have been avoided through simple adherence to the law?

It is important to note that the Office of the Auditor General has consistently flagged the rising cost of legal fees, fines, and damages incurred by the County Government of Bomet—many of which are avoidable. These are not isolated observations, but recurring audit concerns that have now become a pattern, demanding urgent corrective action.

It is time, Honourable Members, that we move beyond reading audit reports and begin to act decisively on them.

Public money must not continue to be used to clean up administrative carelessness or non-compliance with the law.

Tenth, Mr. Speaker, is on People’s Participation in Governance.

Recognizing the constitutional right of our people to manage their own affairs, **full implementation of the Bomet County Public Participation Act, 2019** must be treated as a priority. This Assembly has a central role to play in ensuring that this law is not just a document on paper, but a living, breathing framework that anchors inclusive and meaningful engagement with our people.

Honourable Members, we must go beyond token consultation. Capacity-building initiatives, targeted especially at the grassroots, are essential to enable the public to engage constructively in the planning, budgeting, and oversight processes. Public participation must be institutionalized, resourced, and continuously nurtured, so that every citizen in Bomet—not just the loudest voices—has a genuine say in shaping the priorities and direction of this County.

Hon Members,

Bomet County Public Participation Act, 2019 clearly stipulates that the department responsible shall prepare **quarterly and annual reports** on the status and effectiveness of public participation. **Has this been done as required by law?**

Furthermore, the appointment of a Public Participation Council and an Advisory Committee is not optional. Has this House received any confirmation that these bodies have been constituted and operationalized?

Honorable Members, we must ask ourselves:

Are we being **genuinely fair and transparent** in the way we conduct public participation?

Do we provide the **public with adequate notice**, relevant documents, and sufficient time for them to **digest information and give meaningful input**, especially on planning and budgeting matters?

We must not allow public participation to become a **mere formality or checkbox exercise**. As **Justice Mumbi Ngugi rightly ruled**, "*Public participation is not a cosmetic exercise.*" It must be **real, inclusive, and impactful**.

By **REAL**, we mean that public participation must be **anchored on regular auditing and reporting**. It must not be a symbolic exercise, but one that is **evidence-based**, with clear documentation of what was proposed, what was taken into account, and what action followed. This Assembly should insist on **quarterly and annual reports**, as required by law, to track the progress and effectiveness of participatory processes.

By **IMPACTFUL**, we refer to the importance of **stakeholder engagement** that leads to tangible outcomes. Public input must not end at the consultation table—it must be **acknowledged, responded to, and reflected in county decisions and policies**. A **robust feedback mechanism** is necessary to close the loop, so that citizens know how their voices have influenced the decisions made.

And by **INCLUSIVE**, we are required to emphasize the need to involve **marginalized, minority, and underrepresented groups** in all public participation forums. This includes **women, youth and persons with disabilities** whose voices are often drowned out in elite spaces. Participation must reflect the **full demographic of our County**, not just the well-connected or well-informed.

I am encouraged that the **Senate, through its report on Sessional Paper No. 3, of 2023** sets in motion development of a **comprehensive legal framework on public participation** to standardize and guide engagement across all counties.

Until then, we must **uphold both the letter and spirit of the law**, and ensure that public participation in Bomet County is not just legally compliant, but **morally and ethically sound**—a process that respects the voice of the people as central to our governance.

Hon. Members,

We seem to have all that is required for our prosperity, but what is holding us back? In my view it is **CORRUPTION**.

Corruption is a venomous serpent—and unfortunately, one that has found its way into the veins of devolved governance. As we celebrate the gains of devolution, we must also be bold enough to confront its shadows. Corruption is one such shadow, and if left unchecked, it will poison the very promise of county government: service to the people.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, **Dr. William Samoei Ruto**, has consistently reiterated:

“It shall not be business as usual. We must be resolute in our fight against corruption.”

Corruption-related malpractices have quietly but devastatingly crept into the core of our county departments and institutions. The impact is real, the consequences dire.

Take for instance the case of Bomet Water Services Company (BOMWASCO)—a once-promising public utility now declared no longer a going concern by the Auditor General, burdened by a staggering debt of over Ksh 200 million.

Even more alarming is the report that 69.7% of water produced by BOMWASCO cannot be accounted for. That is more than double the allowable non-revenue water loss of 25% set by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB). This represents inefficiency and unforgivable negligence if not outright theft.

Mr. Speaker, as we echo the President's famous "Mambo ni Matatu" declaration, let us remember that the corrupt only understand firm language backed by enforceable action. Let this House stand for integrity, demand accountability, and protect the county resources.

Honourable Members,

In our collective pursuit of ethical and accountable governance, allow me to bring to your attention a significant legislative milestone. On **19th August 2025**, His Excellency the President assented to the **Conflict of Interest Act**, marking a critical step towards deepening integrity in public service.

This new law, which **repeals the Public Officer Ethics Act**, aims to ensure that **public servants focus squarely on service delivery**. It provides a firm legal framework to prevent the misuse of office for personal gain. No public officer should take advantage of their position or influence to benefit themselves, their relatives, or associates.

The Act:

- Prohibits public officers from offering preferential treatment, **whether in procurement, appointments, or access to government resources.**
- Discourages public officers from engaging in other gainful employment or business activities **that may conflict with their official duties.**
- Curb the abuse of power, and the misuse or **misappropriation of public resources.**

- Strengthens reporting mechanisms for corruption and unethical conduct, **placing the** Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) **at the center of** supervision, enforcement, and oversight.

Honourable Members, this law is not merely punitive; it is preventive. It seeks to **foster a culture of integrity, transparency, and professionalism** in public service. It is now incumbent upon this House to **champion compliance**—through legislation, oversight, and accountability mechanisms—so that the people of Bomet receive honest, efficient, and ethical service delivery.

As relevant investigative authorities pursue corruption related cases in the county, let us support these institutions by sharing our reports and findings where public resources have been lost.

Mr. Speaker,

Remember with power comes great responsibility, as the Good Book says in Luke 12:48 *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

The **pendulum is now firmly on your side**. And with it, comes a critical moment of **introspection and self-reflection**. Allow me to pose a few interrogations that strike at the heart of our constitutional mandate:

- What have we done to guarantee prudence and proper utilization of county funds?
- Are we truly getting value for money from government investments, programs, and projects?

- How have we utilized the instruments of governance entrusted to us by our people, as their legitimate representatives?
- And perhaps most fundamentally—what does the Constitution and the law demand of us?

Honourable Members, these are not rhetorical questions. They are urgent calls to reaffirm our role as custodians of public trust. The empowerment of County Assemblies to fully execute their oversight mandate is critical to the protection and advancement of devolution.

As enshrined in law, the Senate stands as a protector of devolution. It is our duty to ensure that county governments not only enjoy autonomy, but are also equipped with sufficient resources, institutional support, and legislative backing—all while upholding the values of transparency, accountability, and equitable distribution of resources.

It is in this spirit, Honourable Members, that I emphasize the need for closer collaboration between this Assembly and the Office of the Senator. We must not allow the gains of devolution—so hard-won—to be diluted or reversed. My office remains open and available to fast-track any recommendations, and to act on any reports or resolutions emerging from your committees, where my intervention is necessary.

This Assembly holds a pivotal position in safeguarding county assets and ensuring that they are managed responsibly, without room for misuse or abuse by unscrupulous entities or individuals. You have the full backing of the Constitution and the law to ventilate on any matter, and to scrutinize any report, on the affairs of the County Government.

Honourable Members, our responsibilities go beyond passing budgets. We are called upon to monitor progress, to evaluate implementation, and to hold duty bearers accountable for how public resources are spent. While we support the Executive in approving sound policies and development plans, our role in safeguarding fiscal responsibility and governance ethics remains non-negotiable.

Let us also recognize that as we move forward, it is vital that the laws we enact are constitutionally sound. That means embracing comprehensive legal reviews, encouraging cross-committee collaborations, and ensuring we do not pass legislation that falls short of constitutional or statutory thresholds.

As your Senator, I reaffirm my unwavering commitment to walk this journey with you. I am ready to offer technical support, legal guidance, and political backing wherever needed, so that together, we ensure our legislative and oversight efforts meet the highest standards of governance and service delivery.

Let us do our work diligently, boldly, and with utmost fidelity to the Constitution—for the people of Bomet are watching, and they expect nothing less.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker & Honorable Members, for your time and this opportunity to deliver my inaugural address.

God bless you and God bless Bomet County.



SEN. WAKILI HILLARY K. SIGEL, MP, CBS.
SENATOR, BOMET COUNTY

Dated 26th August 2025