



BUNGE OUTLOOK



Highlights

- EACC conducts corruption Risk Management
- Resumption of Assembly Business after long recess
- South Gem MCA takes Oath of Office
- Assembly and Executive in a joint workshop aimed at enhancing service delivery
- Public Participation
- Impeachment of CEC member for Water, Sanitation, Environment Climate

FOREWORD



Welcome to our second issue of the Bunge Outlook where we connect with our various stakeholders by sharing through this platform, the happenings of the Assembly during this second session of the third Assembly.

It gives me immense pleasure to see our new Members working towards fulfilling their mandates of representation, Oversight and legislation. Admissibly the results are pleasing, and our Members have hit the ground running. This is eminent in the various activities they have been involved in during this period.

I am pleased to share with you the notable progress of this third Assembly as they execute their mandates in their various committees.

It is worth noting that public participation being an integral part of our operations has fully resumed since covid-19 restrictions was rescinded and our Members are in full support of involving the public at all time in their businesses.

The essence of this publication therefore is to put together the entire Members' activities for ease of read and reference.

ERICK OGENGA

A.G CLERK

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA

EACC CONDUCTS CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT EXERCISE IN SIAYA

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has kicked off a Corruption Risk Assessment Exercise for the County Government of Siaya.

The exercise that involves both the Assembly and Executive arms of the County Government is set to end on 22 February 2023.

Speaking at the County Government Headquarters during the launch of the exercise, EACC Commissioner, Cecilia Mutuku, said the team would interrogate County Officials to examine how they conduct their functions.

The Commissioner noted that the exercise is meant to review established policies and procedures in order to detect corrupt practices and, at the same time, make recommendations on where and how to seal corruption loopholes.

“The overall objective of this review is to make appropriate recommendations to the County Executive and the County Assembly on ways and means of promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity through application of systems of work that offer no room for corrupt practices,” she stated.

In his remarks Speaker George Okode divulged that the County Assembly will ensure the assessment is successful by providing all the support necessary. He assured the EACC team of maximum cooperation and committed to ensure that all the necessary documents needed from the Assembly during the exercise are availed.

He further affirmed his commitment in ensuring the implementation of the recommendations brought forth to enhance good governance and accountability.

Also present at the launch was Governor James Orengo, Deputy Governor William Oduol, the County Executive Committee Members and the entire membership of the County Assembly Services Board.

RESUMPTION OF ASSEMBLY BUSINESS AFTER LONG RECESS

The House formally reconvened for the 2nd Session of the Third Assembly Tuesday, 7th February, 2023 in line with Standing Order No. 24 (1) of the Siaya County Assembly Standing Orders.

Key issues pending before the committees that will be considered by the House in the course of this Session include:-

1. Amendments to the Siaya County Bursary Fund Act which will be sponsored by the Committee on Education with the view to align the Act to the expectations of the beneficiaries.
2. Amendments to the Siaya County Equitable Development Act, 2019, which will be sponsored by the Committee on Budget and Appropriations with the aim to enhance allocation towards Ward based projects.
3. Report of the Committee on Lands and Physical Planning on the Siaya County Spatial Plan.
4. The Committee on Public Accounts is also expected to table its reports on the Siaya County Bursary Fund and the Siaya County Alcoholic Fund.
5. The Committee on Budget and Appropriations is also expected to table its reports on the County Annual Development Plan (ADP) in line with Section 126 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and The County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBROP) as contemplated in Section 118 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.
6. During this Session, the County Executive is expected to send to the County Assembly the following Budget Documents:
 - i. County Debt Management Strategy Statement (CDMSP) which should be submitted by 28th February pursuant to Sec. 123 of the Public Finance Management Act.
 - ii. County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), which should be submitted by 28th February in line with Sec 117 of the Public Finance Management Act.
 - iii. Proposed/Draft Budget Estimates - County Executive which should be submitted by 30th April pursuant to Sec. 129 of the Public Finance Management Act.

Further, with a view to improve its oversight function as envisaged in Article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and Section 39 (2) of the County Governments Act, 2012, during this Session, the House shall invite CEC Members to appear before its Committee on General Oversight every Wednesday to share their departmental work plans, programs and respond to issues of concern raised by Members.



Hon. Speaker George Okode, presiding over the business of the House after a long recess.



Hon. Members and the Clergy during the resumption of House business after a long recess.



The Clerks at the table led by A.g Clerk, Mr. Erick Ogenga (left) following the proceedings of the House.

SOUTH GEM MCA TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

The newly elected South Gem Ward Member of County Assembly, Hon. Brian Chieng' Anyango Obiero, was sworn into office on the morning of Wednesday 8th February, 2023 by Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. George Okode.

Hon. Obiero, an independent candidate, was elected to represent the interests of the people of South Gem Ward in a by-election that was held on 8th December, 2022.

He was escorted to take his oath of office by North Gem MCA Hon. Philip Oluoch Abuba and nominated MCA Hon. Dorah Abonyo.

“Congratulations to Hon. Brian Chieng' Anyango Obiero on the occasion of your swearing in as a Member of the County Assembly of Siaya representing South Gem Ward.

I wish you well as you serve the people of South Gem. Serve them with honour, diligence, zeal and utmost dedication.

Welcome to the House, Mheshimiwa. I have confidence that you will deliver on your mandate,” remarked House Speaker George Okode.



Hon. Brian Chieng Anyango Obiero taking Oath of office. Looking on is Assembly Speaker Hon. George Okode (left) and the Ag. Clerk. Mr. Erick Ogenga (Right).



Hon. Brian Chieng Anyango Obiero signing oath of office documents



Hon. Brian Chieng Anyango Obiero (centre) escorted by Hon. Philip Abuba (left) and Hon. Dorah Abonyo to the Assembly Chambers to take the Oath of office.



The Ag. Clerk, Mr. Erick Ogenga assisting Hon. Brian Chieng Anyango

ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE IN A JOINT WORKSHOP AIMED AT ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVER

Under the auspices of the House Committee on General Oversight, Members of the County Assembly and Members of the County Executive Committee, on Tuesday, 21st February held a joint working retreat.

The meeting aimed at deepening and strengthening the working relationship between the two arms of government focused on a wide range of issues geared towards accelerating the socio-economic development of our great county.

Key among the discussions held was the need for greater synergy between the two arms of the County Government and possible strategies of attracting key development partners.

Members of the County Assembly and Members of the County Executive Committee engaged robustly on the below listed development documents that will influence the County's development trajectory:-

1. The Siaya County Spatial Plan 2023 - 2033
2. Ugunja and Bondo Municipality Charters
3. Annual Development Plan 2023/2024
4. The Siaya County Finance Bill 2022

In his remarks, House Speaker George Okode reiterated the Assembly's steadfast commitment in fostering an enabling working relationship aimed at enhancing better service delivery to the county's citizenry.



Hon. Oduor Odongo, Deputy Speaker putting across a point during the meeting.



Hon. Speaker George Okode addressing Hon. Members and the team from the executive during the retreat.



Hon. Booker Bonyo and Hon. Francis Otiato sharing a light moment during the joint meeting.



H.E Hon. Governor James Orenge addressing Members during the joint retreat.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Citizens' participation is a requirement in all the management of the businesses of public institutions both at the National and County level. Article 196(1b) of the constitution of Kenya 2010 states that a county Assembly shall facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the Assembly and its committees.

It is against this backdrop that the County Assembly of Siaya engages in public participation to get the views of Siaya populace.

A number of documents and a bill have gone through the public participation process during this quarter.

Pursuant to Article 196(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 read together with Section 9(3) of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 and Section 110(3) of the County Governments Act, 2012, the Sectoral Committee on Lands, Physical Planning, Surveying and Housing in the County Assembly on Thursday, 16th February, 2023 kicked off a series of coordinated visits to collect views from members of the public on the Bondo Municipal Charter, Ugunja Municipal Charter and Siaya County Spatial Plan.

The Committee chaired by Hon. James Obiero Otare engaged members of the public from Bondo and Ugunja towns where they took them through the eligibility criteria for conferment of a municipal status on a town.

Friday, 17th February, 2023, the Hon. Otare led Committee converged at St. Peter's ACK Hall –Siaya where they conducted public participation on the Siaya County Spatial Plan.

The purpose of the Siaya County Spatial Plan is to guide development for a period of ten years and facilitate the transformation of the lives of the citizens of the county through interpreting national and regional policies, guiding use of land, integrating sectoral policies and providing policies on which to anchor lower level plans.

The Siaya County Finance Bill, 2022 also went through public participation. The Bill seek to set rates and taxes for revenue raising purposes. Article 28 highlights on the tax exemption on the person living with disabilities (PWDS).



Hon. Obiero Otare, Chairperson Sectoral Committee on lands, physical planning, Surveying and Housing taking reading through the Spatial plan to the public during a recent public participation.



Members of the public following proceedings in a recent public participation exercise of the Siaya County Spatial plan and municipal Charters.



Hon. CPA. Mark Okeyo, Chair Finance Committee addressing the public during a public participation exercise on the Siaya County Finance Bill, 2022.

IMPEACHMENT OF THE CEC MEMBER FOR WATER, SANITATION, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The County Assembly of Siaya, during its afternoon sitting held on Tuesday, 28th March, 2023, guided by the provisions of Section 40 of the County Governments Act, 2012, read together with Standing Order 73 of the County Assembly of Siaya Standing Orders, considered the Report of the Select Committee investigating the grounds for removal from office of the CEC Member for the Department of Water, Sanitation, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources - Dr. Julie Caroline Phoebe Adhiambo Akinyi Onyango, and unanimously resolved that the CEC Member be DISMISSED from office.

Through a Motion moved by Yimbo East Ward MCA, Hon. Francis Otiato, the House resolved to impeach the Water Executive on the grounds of;

1. Gross violation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and other laws;
2. Abuse of office; and,
3. Gross misconduct

In the report by the Assembly Select Committee, the CECM was found to have failed to honour invitations and summons by a House Committee thus being in violation of the provisions of Articles 185(3) and 195(1) and (2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Section 39(2)(a) and (b) of the County Governments Act, 2012; Section 10(b) of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 and Section 22(1)(2) and (3) of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act, 2017.

On the allegation of harassment, mistreatment and intimidation of junior officers, the Committee found the allegations to be substantiated. The CEC Member violated the provisions of Article 73(1) (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; and Sections 11(a), (b) and 34(1) of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012.

On the allegation on assault on a female member of the public, the actions of the CEC Member were found to be ultra vires and in breach of the provisions of Articles 73(1)(a)(iii) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Section 144(1) and (2) of the Water Act, 2016 and Sections 7, 8, 9, 11(b) and 13(1) (b) of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012

Subsequently, in line with the provisions of Section 40 (6) (a) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Standing Order Number 73 of the County Assembly of Siaya Standing Orders, House Speaker, George Okode shall forthwith deliver the resolution on Impeachment of the CEC Member to H.E the Governor.



Hon. Dr. Jullie Caroline phoebe Adhiambo CECM water, appearing before the committee of the whole House to rebuttal the allegations made against her.

KNOW YOUR MCA



Hon. Susan Okwirry popularly known as Nyamawira or Min Jii was born in Uyoma, Rarieda Constituency, Siaya County She started early school at Got Okola Primary, and later St. Gabriel's Gagra Secondary School. Hon. Okwirry later joined the University of Nairobi

for a diploma course in Procurement. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce – Procurement at KCA University. Hon. Okwirry is married in Gem sub county, she is a wife, mother, politician and mentor.

Her stint in politics began as an ODM Youth and Young Women league member in Nairobi. It is here that she got passionate about political activism and leadership. The two party leagues acted as a stepping stone towards active elective politics in 2016.

In 2016, Hon. Okwirry retreated back in Gem where consolidated efforts to vie for West Gem Ward party ticket. She won the primaries though did not get the opportunity to fly the ODM party flag. She went back to the drawing board, together with her campaign strategists she vied for the seat as an independent candidate, which she won by a landslide. She managed to defend her seat as an ODM candidate, she now serves a second term in the 3rd Assembly.

Challenges

From suffragettes to modern day feminists, women and men have fought long and hard for women's right to vote and hold office. But progress is slow and uneven. Women are still underrepresented in politics, parliaments and public life. Attitudes towards women candidates are still largely characterized by deeply ingrained stereotypes, and political opponents will often use those stereotypes to question women's capabilities.

Why is this still an issue in 2022?

The legislator pointed out that women candidates are sometimes forced to withdraw their candidature as a result of physical and psychological violence meted against them. Consequently, this leads to under representation of elected female leaders at the Assembly level.

The legislator added that family is very important for women's political participation. She adds that it is true that women aspirants often hesitate to run in politics owing to the heavy workload at home and at work. She added that before venturing into active politics she felt torn between her family responsibilities and political journey. For instance, on many occasions she is forced to attend late night ward meetings, political parties meeting, committee meetings and even travel



Hon. Susan Okwirry is sworn in as MCA elect West Gem Ward on 20th September, 2022 at the Assembly Chambers

Traditions and norms

Hon. Okwirry noted that while women have made tremendous steps in the corporate world their progress in political representation is less dramatic. She argues that culture and traditional norms continue to hinder their quest towards political leadership.

Another challenge she noted is getting into the party and understanding how it works. It's rather challenging as women to be able to attain enough influence so that the party appreciates your strength.

Furthermore, female candidates have to raise enough funds to drive campaigns. In most cases they are always outmatched by their male counterparts. Hon. Okwirry remarked that it is challenging to outmatch spending power which sometimes have a significant influence on the electorates.

Leadership

Hon. Susan Okwirry's stint at leadership was nurtured way from childhood, the school environment as well as college. She held leadership positions in primary school as monitor, headgirl in high school and class representative in college. She says these platforms acted as stepping stone towards moulding her leadership skills.

At the Assembly, Hon. Okwirry has served in different leadership capacities. In the 2nd Assembly, she served as the Vice Chairperson of the Public Investment and Public Accounts Committee PIC/PAC. She currently serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Budget & Appropriations committee. Hon. Okwirry is also the Organizing Secretary in the County Assembly Forum. Through her serious lobbying skills, she transversed 47 counties to clinch the coveted seat.

She said her next agenda is to sponsor the following bills in the County Assembly; Gender Based Violence bill, Women Empowerment Bill and Vulnerable Bill.

KNOW YOUR MCA



Hon. Susan Okwirry is sworn in as Organizing Secretary County Assemblies Forum (CAF) on 18th November, 2022 at the Kenyatta International Conference Center KICC.

Women, Youth and Education

The legislator remarked that she centers her work around the plight of women, and the youth through economic and education empowerment. As such, she engages widows and students from West Gem ward from time to time, give them a listening platform to air their views, present business ideas and self-help projects. She believes that the West Gem youth need to have the same educational opportunities in order to contribute to the development of the community. Hon. Okwirry has further sponsored the provision of school uniforms to 300 pupils and 100 youth fee sponsorship to Seme Technical Training Institute. She says her aim is to have pupils stay in school uninterrupted. She also helps widows to pursue groundbreaking projects in order to help them live a decent and sustainable life.



Hon. Susan Okwirry with a section of students from various school in West Gem during the school uniform donation at the Ward office.



Hon. Susan Okwirry (center in pink skirt) is flanked by students from Seme TTI that received school fee bursaries.

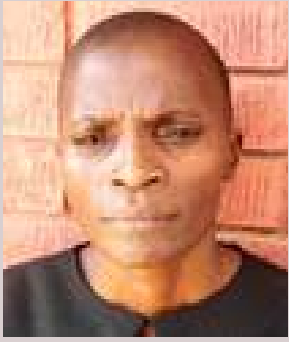


Hon. Susan Okwirry (holding water pump) with a resident of West Gem during the launch of borehole project.

Parting shot

To fully realize the gender equality, Hon. Okwirry urged the women members of the County Assembly to caucus and support grassroots women groups, sponsor bills in parliament that will enable support for future women aspirants. She further noted that it is important for women leaders at the County and National level to lobby political institutions to adopt gender-sensitive and family friendly internal rules and procedures. The fact that more women are willing to run for office is a positive step towards fair representation.

KNOW YOUR MCA



Education and childhood

Hon. Dora Abonyo Ochieng was born in Seme Kolunje. As fate would have it she lost her dad in 1989 and had to move in with her mother's sister in South Gem. She studied hard and sat her KCPE exams in 1995. She then joined Bishop Okoth Miranga School in Kisumu County and sat for her KCSE in 1999.

A year later in 2000 she met her husband who would later rise to become the MCA for South Gem in 2017. In 2004, after a lot of ups and downs in her marital home, her brother-in-law offered her a job at his Agrovet Shop in Akala Market, Gem. He also offered her a single room house from his rentals. In the shop she was earning Kshs. 1,500 per month. She worked for 5 years and in her hard working nature soon started her own.

Political Journey

In 2017 when her husband showed interest in politics, she put all her efforts and resources and supported him to victory. In the midst of politics their marriage faced a huge setback and the support she had expected didn't happen. She decided to join the race in 2022 with her biggest motivation to vie being the street kids and the madmen in the market she had been feeding coupled with the words from the madman she met on her way from praying in the mountains who said that she was the future leader of their ward and an approach made to her by an elder who told her that she would lead the people well.

On the party primaries she lost to another candidate who unfortunately passed away right before the General Election forcing the people of South Gem Ward into a by-election. Her steadfast and strong standing with the ODM Party even after losing in the Party Primaries landed her a spot among the 12 nominated Members of County Assembly.

She said that her main challenge during campaigns was funding, abuses around her marriage; lack of a proper home and worst was abuses from her fellow women she thought would support her.

Journey as legislator

Since joining the Assembly she has been a dedicated legislator and as a Member of the Committee on Agriculture. She hopes to use her knowledge from the Agrovet business to impact the community on matters of Agriculture where her greatest passion lies. "I urge my fellow women to come out and go for these seats. Women know how to share resources equally and are very good listeners." Said the down to earth legislator.



Hon. Dora Abonyo right together with Hon. Philip Abuba left escorting Hon. Brian Ochieng to the Chambers for his swearing in



Hon. Dora Abonyo Ochieng

TERMS USED IN A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

“Recess” means a period during which the County Assembly stands adjourned to a day other than the next normal sitting day;;

“Session” means the sittings of the County Assembly commencing when it first meets after a General Election or on a day provided for in Standing Order 24 (Regular Sessions of the County Assembly) and terminating when the County Assembly adjourns at the end of a calendar year or at the expiry of the term of County Assembly.

“Sitting” means a period during which the County Assembly is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any period during which the County Assembly is in Committee; but two or more periods of sitting within the normal period of one sitting, or within an equivalent period, shall not rank as more than one sitting;

“Sitting day” means any day on which the County Assembly sits;

Act: It is a form of legislation that is passed by the Assembly intended to create a new law or change an existing law (Amendment). A bill must pass and win the Governor's assent in order to become law/act.

Committee: This is a group of Member of County Assembly designated to do the detailed work of the County Assembly. The Members are expected to work together towards a common goal and may work without the restrictions of formality.

Point of order: It is a question as to whether proceedings in a meeting are in accord with the rules or in the correct form.

Session: This is the sittings of the County Assembly commencing when it first meets after a General Election or on a day provided for in the Standing Order (Regular Sessions of the County Assembly) and terminating when the County Assembly adjourns at the end of the calendar Year or at the expiry of the term of County Assembly.

Paper Laid: It refers to the procedure through which certain documents are presented for the first time to Parliament when they are ready for publication. These include most statutory instruments, Assembly papers as well as the reports of certain statutory bodies. The papers are received in the journal office and reported to the Assembly in the daily Votes of Proceedings, after which they are said to have been 'Laid on the Table of the Assembly,' though they are not actually placed on the Table.

Hansard Report: This is the Official Report of debates in the County Assembly. It is a common name for printed record of verbatim Parliamentary debates and committee meetings, capturing the contributions of every member-questions, responses and debates in the Assembly. Hansard is published each sitting day.

Hansard: It is a word-for-word account of the daily proceedings of the House and its Committee.

Mace: It is once a weapon of war, shaped like a club, and the symbol of authority of Assembly House and its Speaker

Sergeant-at Arms: This is a Parliamentary official responsible for security matters concerning the House; the Sergeant, whilst in the Chamber overseeing proceedings, can also escort legislators out of the chamber or parliamentary precincts by order of the Speaker. The post dates back to 1415 in the United Kingdom (UK) and was traditionally held by retired military or police figures.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Mary Sadia

Tom Brian Oduor

Stella Ahenda

Saline Migaya

Vincent Ochieng

Linda Odinga

Mercy Obiero

Our Contacts

Postal Address


SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
P.O. Box 7- 40600,
SIAYA

Email: clerk@siayaassembly.go.ke


Phone:

057-5321 021 057-5321 020 0708745148

Complaints: complaints@siayaassembly.go.ke

 <https://www.facebook.com/siayaassembly>

 https://twitter.com/siaya_Assembly

 <https://siayaassembly.go.ke>