

NEWS GENERAL

UNSUSTAINABLE

Shock of Homa Bay's Sh1bn wage bill rise in one year

JULIUS OTIENO / A Senate oversight committee has heard how wage bill in Homa Bay county rose by a Sh1 billion in one financial year.

This emerged during the questioning of Governor Gladys Wanga by the Senate County Public Accounts Committee.

Wanga appeared before the panel to respond to audit queries for the 2021-22 financial year.

A report by Auditor General Nancy Gathungu says the county is grappling with an unsustainable wage bill of Sh4.09 billion.

This is an increase of Sh1.05 billion from Sh3.04 billion spent in the 2020-21 financial year when Cyprian Awiti was the governor.

It represents 53 per cent of the county's Sh7.7 billion total revenue. "Governor, this is just an indicator of a fiscally sick financial position, growing from 37 per cent to 53 per cent in a year when revenue did not grow," chairman Moses Kajwang said. "Are we as Senate appropriating monies to go to salaries? Or is the Senate appropriating money to go to development? And I know this is a situation that you have inherited."

In her response, Wanga described the issue as dicey.

"There was a sharp rise in the number of staff as we approached elections but we are dealing with the situation. We have conducted an audit of our personnel and 759 people are affected," she said.

Homa Bay county has 7,720 employees. Wanga said the wage bill rose sharply due to exchequer delays that saw salaries for May and June 2021, amounting to Sh608 million, paid in the next financial year.

"For the year in question, there was an explanation that due to delay in the exchequer, there was payment of salaries that then went into the next financial year," she said.

The county government is also on the spot over the unexplained voiding of transactions of Sh529 million. "You cannot go through approvals then void a transaction without any other due process. This Sh529 million is not just a reconciliation issue but a case of altered beneficiaries and approvals where people get paid for what they did not do," Kisii Senator Richard Onyonika said.

The previous administration left behind Sh1.2 billion worth of pending bills which according to the current administration, only Sh272 million was valid, Sh534.2 million was invalid and Sh419.9 million required confirmation.

"Having seen decisions being made during your swearing-in, it could also mean pending bills were also being done at that time," Kajwang said.

Wanga said some contractors could not present proof of contract with the county government during the pending bills verification process.

"People brought a lot of documents but could not provide a contract between themselves and the county government," she said.

MERGER IN MOTION

Gachagua lead agent as UDA set to swallow Mudavadi's ANC party

Officials have endorsed move at a meeting with President Ruto



ALLAN KISIA AND MOSES ODHIAMBO
@TheStarKenya

The stage has been set for merger of ANC with ruling party UDA.

ANC officials and former party leader Musalia Mudavadi on Wednesday endorsed the move at a meeting with President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi.

ANC party leader Issa Timamy told the meeting that the merger was an idea whose time had come.

"The constitution of our party permits us to merge. When we

work together we become stronger and succeed in enabling an effective and stronger government and better governance ecosystem in Kenya," he said.

Timamy said ANC wants the merger to be by an amalgamation and not absorption.

"By this, ANC and UDA will form a new political party which we shall all join as members," he said.

This will form a necessary legal cushion to our respective membership and more critically to our respectable elected members at

the county assemblies and Parliament."

In this regard, a team of experts was formed to steer the merger process, which the President promised to expedite.

The team is expected to work on the political and legal instruments that will solidify the pact.

UDA fronted Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah and former URP secretary general Fred Muteti to handle legal affairs.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi President William Ruto and ANC party leader Issa Timamy at State House, Nairobi, yesterday /PCS

ANC appointed chairman Kelvin Lunani, secretary general Ombedko Milemba, Nick Biketi, Kennedy Omulo, Nathaniel Mong'are and Timamy.

"The merger plan was agreed to formally. It has been a long conversation between the Prime CS and the President. We expect our team to conclude this task by end of this month," Mong'are said.

The team is expected to delve into issues including a new brand identity for the party.

"We will also discuss how to merge the membership. ANC has four million while UDA has about eight million members, bringing the new team to a membership of 12 million strong," Mong'are said.

The team will discuss how to treat the party structures and how to deal with the slogans.

"We will strike a common ground on the slogan, like decide on a uniform one like 'pesa mfunoni' - currently common to all the entities," he said.

Omulo said a national delegates conference will be convened to ratify the process even as each party resolved to engage their membership.

"The ultimate goal should not just be about merging parties but merging visions aspirations and futures. Together, we can build a stronger more inclusive and prosperous nation," Timamy said.

The Lamu governor said the party will manage the anxiety that such a change can spark.

Ruto said he is keen to consolidate and solidify the place of democracy in Kenya.

"Kenya's want a country run by them, not the deep state. I will make sure that as a democratic country, all institutions work for Kenyans. It is the way to take Kenya into the future," he said.

KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION

INVITATION TO THE KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY OPEN-DAY

In fulfillment of the principle of proactive disclosure pursuant to the Access to Information Act, 2016;

The County Assembly of Kisumu welcomes the general public to its Open Day scheduled to take place on 28th June, 2024. The Assembly has scheduled to run an event series to promote public understanding of its work, increase transparency and engage the public in discussions with their elected representatives.

The public is therefore invited to participate in this information packed day full of sessions on important topics, discussions, and the chance to meet your elected officials!

Date: 28th June, 2024
Venue: Kisumu County Assembly Precincts
Time: 9.00am

The members of the Civil Society/interested groups, professionals and other relevant stakeholders are also invited to join us in the Open-day event. For more information, contact;

Clerk
County Assembly of Kisumu
P.O Box 86-40100
Kisumu
Email: kisumuasembly@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES
P. O. BOX 30016 - 00100
NAIROBI

TENDER NOTICE

PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AT A FIXED FEE FOR SERVICE (FFS) IN PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES -TENDER NO: MOH/SDMS/HI/OT/001/2023-2024.

PROVISION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ON LEASE IN PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES-TENDER NO: MOH/SDMS/HI/OT/002/2023-2024.

- The State Department for Medical Services invites tenders from eligible bidders for the above tenders.
- Tendering will be conducted under Open Tendering and tenderers will be allowed to tender for one or more lots
- Interested eligible candidates may obtain a complete set of tender documents at the Public Procurement Information Portal www.tenders.go.ke and at the Ministry of Health website: www.health.go.ke free of charge.
- Interested eligible candidates may obtain further information and inspect the tender documents during office hours at the Supply Chain Management Office, State Department for Medical Services, Afya House, Cathedral Road 5th floor, Room 514. Tenderers downloading documents from the designated websites should forward their particulars including email addresses and telephone numbers immediately to the email address procurement@health.go.ke to facilitate any further clarifications or addenda
- Tenders shall be quoted in Kenya Shillings inclusive of all taxes and shall remain valid for 210 days from the date of opening of tenders.
- Completed tender documents shall be delivered to Tender Box located at Afya House, 1st Floor on or before **Tuesday 2nd July, 2024 at 11.00 am. ELECTRONIC TENDERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.**
- Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the candidates or their representatives who choose to attend at State Department for Medical Services GTZ Board Room Afya House Nairobi, Cathedral Road.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a **tender security as provided in the tender documents.**
- Any late tenders will be rejected and returned unopened.

HARRY KIMTAL, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY