



The CPST Connect

The Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST)-Connect.

Issue **004** 2024

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Photo 1 Caption 1: The Clerk of the National Assembly Mr. Samuel Njoroge CBS (4th from Left, seated) and the Executive Director CPST, Prof Nyokabi Kamau EBS (5th from Left, seated) pose for a photo with the participants during the training for the Second Cohort of third Clerk Assistants from the National Assembly on Managing Legislative Committees.

Managing Legislative Committees: National Assembly moves to enhance capacity of Committee Clerks

The 28th President of the United States Woodrow Wilson once said, “Congress in session is congress in public exhibition whilst congress in committee rooms is congress at work”.

Cognisant of the role of Committees in helping the House execute its agenda, the National Assembly in May 2024, rolled out a capacity enhancement programme for Committee Clerks to enhance their capacity in managing Committees.

The week-long training rolled out in collaboration with the National Assembly, targeted Third Clerk Assistants from the Directorats of Departmental Committees and that of Audit, Appropriations and General Purpose Committees, also aimed at supporting the officers to enhance their service delivery in their respective committees in May 2024.

The objective of the training was to equip the participants with knowledge on areas relating to the roles and mandates of legislative committees in ensuring effective legislation, oversight of the executive and transparency in the management of public affairs, knowledge on parliamentary practices and procedure and teamwork.

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Upon successfully mounting the programme, the Clerk of the National Assembly, and the, CPST organised for a second cohort of officers to undertake the training. The training brought together 42 third Clerk Assistants who support various Committees in the Assembly and was conducted between the 15th – 20th July, 2024.

During the closing session, the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge challenged the officers to never shy away from proposing alternatives and innovations to enhance service delivery in Committees. He further urged the officers to embrace technology and best practices and further their knowledge of parliamentary practices by taking advantage of learning opportunities at the CPST and elsewhere.

About Parliamentary Committees

Parliamentary Committees are a vital tool or organ in the working processes of legislatures, without which the proceedings of a Legislature could grind to a halt the sheer volume of activities that would have to be considered at Plenary.

They are agents that enable legislatures to organize their work in such a way that they can perform numerous activities simultaneously and expeditiously.

The tasks undertaken by Committees on behalf of the House include reviewing legislation, reviewing and approving budgets and expenditures for the execution of governance, scrutinizing governance activities, policies and programs and assessing whether they meet the intended objectives of the legislation. They also conduct investigations on special issues and also vet and approve appointments by the Executive.

Standing Order, No. 216(1) of the National Assembly establishes Audit committees as one of the categories of select committees in the National Assembly. The Directorate of Audit Committees is

mandated to facilitate the said committees in conducting their constitutional mandate. Further, the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services serves the Table Office and facilitates Chamber proceedings.

It is therefore imperative that the capacity of clerk assistants serving in these directorates be enhanced periodically to enable them effectively facilitate the committees.



The Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge CBS, addressing the participants during the closing ceremony for the training on Managing Legislative Committees for the second Cohort of the Third Clerk Assistants from the National Assembly.



Participants follow a presentation during the training on Managing Legislative Committees

Women Legislators from Kitui County Assembly undertake training to enhance their Legislative Capacity

Empowering women leaders is not just about enhancing their representation; it's about strengthening the foundation of governance, so the adage goes.

In a remarkable step towards enhancing governance, the CPST organized a comprehensive capacity-building training program targeting the women Members of the County Assembly of Kitui. This training was aimed at strengthening their legislation, representation and oversight skills. The training focused on equipping women leaders with the necessary tools to navigate the legislative process.

The training covered women and political leadership, effective communication and presentation, lobbying and negotiation, family and political balance, and gender-responsive budgeting. The Members were also taken through a session on how to perform their duties more efficiently while ensuring accountability and transparency within their county's governance spectrum.

While taking the participants through the topic of Gender and Parliaments, the Executive Director CPST, Prof Nyokabi Kamau EBS emphasized the importance of such training for legislators.

"Enhancing the legislative capacity of our women Members is not only crucial for the success of the Assembly, but also for empowerment of women across the county. This training ensures that our female leaders are better prepared to represent their



Photo 2. Caption 2. The Executive Director CPST, Prof Nyokabi Kamau EBS while facilitating a session on Gender and Parliaments during the training on enhancing the legislative capacity of women Members of the County Assembly of Kitui

constituents, advocate for women's rights, and drive meaningful legislative changes."

The Members expressed their gratitude for the training and made a commitment to apply the skills and knowledge gained during the training. They further acknowledged that the training had given them a deeper understanding of their legislative responsibilities and that they were confident enough to hold the executive to account while allowing their voices to be heard as they contribute to the governance of Kitui County Assembly.

Effective Actualization of Committee Mandates; A training for the County Assembly of Kitui

The County Assembly of Kitui requested the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training to train their Procedure and Rules Committee and their Powers and Privileges Committee on the effective actualization of their respective committees' mandate, the process of reviewing or amending standing orders, the effective and efficient conduct of committee's inquiry into allegations of breach of privileges, the formulation of Speaker's Rules for the orderly conduct of Committees and its Members and an overview of both the County Assemblies Powers

and Privileges Act and Chapter 6 of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity.

The five-day programme was officially opened by Dr. George Wakah, the Director of Administration, Finance, and Corporate Affairs (AFC), on behalf of the CPST Executive Director. He thanked the Assembly for choosing CPST as their preferred institution for legislative studies and assured them of his total support in ensuring that the programme's objectives were fully realized.

On her part, Hon. Munira Mohammed, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Powers and Privileges, on behalf of the Speaker of the Assembly, thanked the CPST for mounting programmes that strengthen the capacity of MCAs in executing their constitutional mandate. She assured him of continuous partnership and collaboration in future programmes.

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For his part, former Leader of the Majority Party in the Senate, Hon. Samuel Poghiso shared his experience and gave the Members a chance to comparatively analyze parliamentary practices and procedures from 1989, when he was first elected to Parliament, in a

bid to have them appreciate the strides that have been made.

As the training came to a close, the Members of the County Assembly, while on a visit to the Senate Chamber, had an interactive sitting with the Chief Serjeant-at-Arms, where they deliberated on contemporary and emerging issues facing Counties.



CCaption 3. Members from the Procedure and Rules Committee and the Powers and Privileges Committee of the County Assembly of Kisumu and the Hon. Samuel Poghiso (Centre, seated) pose for a photo after successfully completing their training at the CPST Town Campus

Technology in the production of the Parliamentary Hansard: CPST mounts training for the County Assemblies of West Pokot and Kisumu.

Parliamentary reporting within the Commonwealth serves as a cornerstone for the legislative system by facilitating the accurate recording, transcription, editing and archival of House proceedings. With the rapid evolution of technology, particularly the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the need for Hansard Officers to remain compliant is indispensable.

At the recently concluded 2024 Hansard Association of Kenya (HAK) conference, significant discussions revolved around pertinent issues such as editing from a point of knowledge, ensuring accuracy and impartiality and harnessing of AI in Hansard Reporting process.

The conference underscored the importance of keeping abreast with the latest developments in order to ensure highest standards of professionalism and efficacy.

In order to address the need arising from the latest technological advancement in transcription and audio recording, the CPST, at the request of the County Assemblies of Kisumu and West-Pokot mounted a capacity building programme for Hansard Officers.

The main goal of this programme, one of its kind, was to enhance the knowledge and skills of these officers in application of the latest technological innovation, particularly the evolution in the field of Artificial Intelligence [AI], in production of the Parliamentary Hansard.

The programme was designed to be interactive thus recognizing the centrality of individual differences. It encouraged more practical sessions and simulations. This was meant to ensure that participants would then subsequently apply what was learned in training at their respective places of work.

On their own admission, the partici-

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Caption 4. Participants undertaking a session on audio production in the advent of Artificial Intelligence.

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Participants found the sessions on leveraging of ICT in production of the Parliamentary Hansard, audio production in the advent of AI, simulations in re-

coding live committee and the plenary sittings, as most relevant to the current underpinning of recording, reporting and editing of Hansard reports in the assemblies.

CPST rolls out training for Delegated Legislation Committee of the National Assembly

In an effort to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the legislative process, the CPST mounted a week-long training for the Members of the Committee on Delegated Legislation of the National Assembly.

The training was aimed at equipping the Members of the Committee on areas such as legal framework of statutory instruments and their purpose, the correlation of statutory instruments and Parent Acts, the general provisions regarding publication, commencement and the exercise of powers of statutory instruments and processing statutory instruments.

This training marked a significant milestone in promoting accountability and improving legislative oversight towards

all-encompassing governance

About Delegated Legislation

Delegated legislation plays an important role in ensuring laws are enacted efficiently while providing flexibility for regulatory frameworks that evolve to represent the ever-changing needs of the society.

The Statutory Instruments ought to comply with the constitution, the Statutory Instruments Act, the Interpretation and General Provisions Act and connected to the Parent Act.

The Instruments should be laid before the National Assembly within seven (7) days before publishing and the Committee should either annul or give comments.

About the Committee

The Committee on Delegated Legislation is constituted under Standing Order 210 of the National Assembly Standing Orders and is mandated, to, consider and scrutinize statutory instruments submitted

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to Parliament to ensure conformity with the Constitution, the Statutory Instruments Act (No. 23 of 2013) the Act under which it is made, or other relevant written laws.



The Executive Director CPST Pr. Nyokabi Kamau (1st from right, seated) leads in training the Committee on Delegated Legislation



**THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE
COMMISSION
CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES
AND TRAINING (CPST)
WEBINAR CALENDAR FY 2024/25**



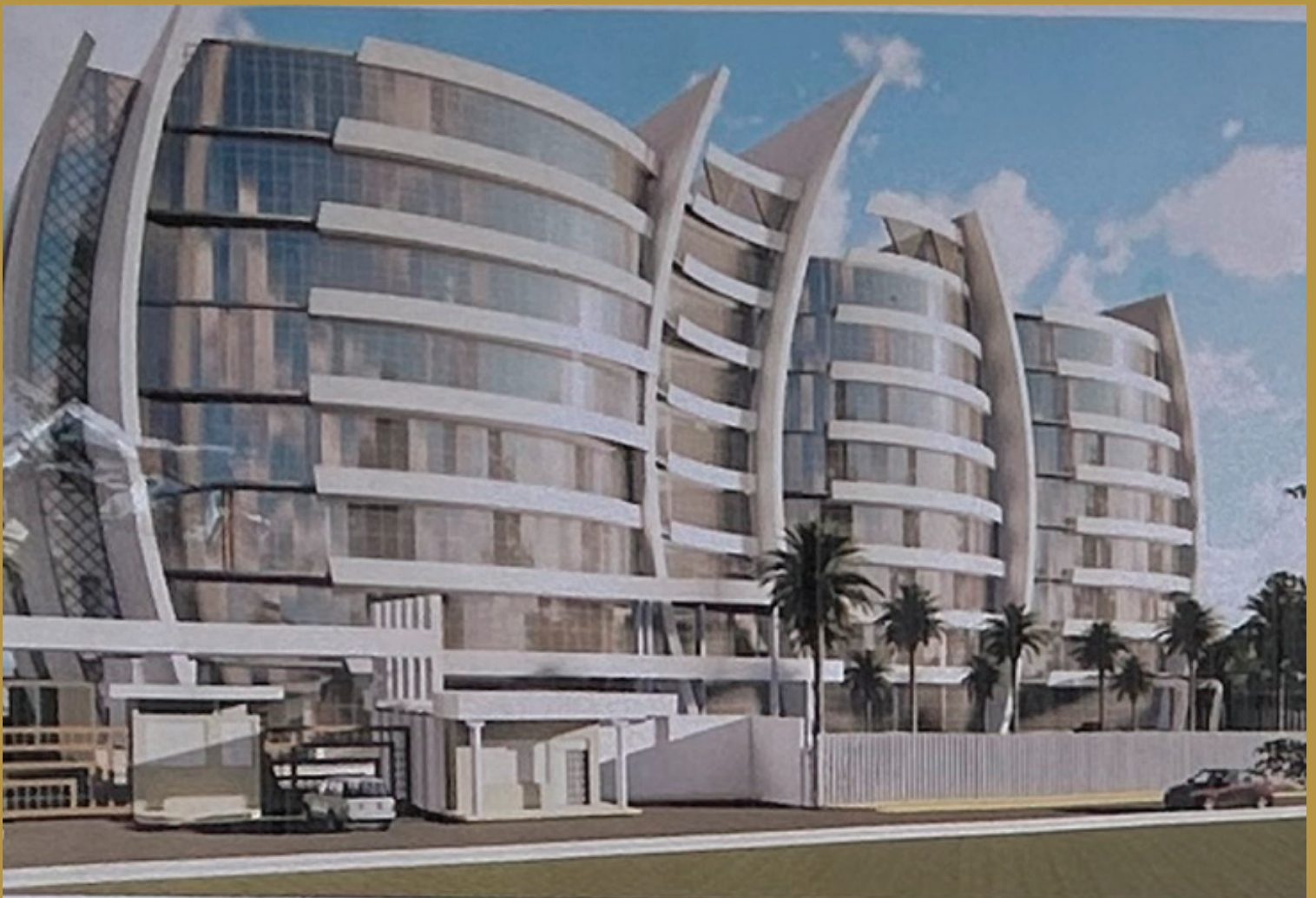
SN	TOPIC	DATE	TARGET
1.	Accelerating Legislative oversight of Artificial Intelligence in Kenya	26 th August 2024	The General Public
2.	Effective framework towards efficient urban areas and cities	December 2024	City managers, Members of County Assemblies and the Public
3.	the role of legislatures in Public Debt Management: local and global perspectives	March 2025	Legislators, staff of legislatures and the Public
4.	Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability - Legislative Intervention	May 2025	Legislators, the public ICT Practitioners



**PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION
CPST TRAINING CALENDAR 2024 / 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR**



CODE	COURSE	DATES	TARGET	VENUE	COORDINATOR
PSC STAFF					
CPST/HRM/P/500/8-9/24	Supervisory Mandatory Course	16 th August to 9 th September, 2024	PSC Staff (Scale 8-10)	TBC	Ms. Pauline Kigera +254720339472
CPST/HRM/P/500/9/24	Training of Trainers (ToT) Master class	9 th to 13 th September, 2024	PSC Staff & External participants	TBC	Dr. Martin Mbewa +254712313215
CPST/HRM/P/500/10/24	CPST Training of Trainers Programme (ToT)	13 th to 18 th October, 2024	PSC Staff & External participants	TBC	Mr. Peter Muchira +254716634667
CPST/HRM/P/500/1-2/25	Legislative Senior Management Course	8 th January to 9 th February, 2025	PSC Staff (Scale 11-13)	TBC	Ms. Linet Misati +254721451199
MEMBERS OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY					
CPST/LPM/CA/200/9/24	Monitoring House Resolutions	10 th to 12 th September, 2024	Members of Assembly Implementation Committees	CPST, Nairobi	Mr. Brian Mwambu +254724684491
CPST/PFM/CA/400/2/25	Budget Scrutiny	10 th to 13 th February, 2025	Chairpersons of Sectoral Committees in County Assemblies.	CPST, Nairobi	Ms. Faith Kibathi +254720909600
CPST/LPM/CA/200/4/25	Legislative Committees Presidium	21 st to 24 th April, 2025	Deputy Speakers and Chairpersons of Liaison Committees.	CPST, Nairobi	Mr. Peter Muchira +254716634667
COUNTY ASSEMBLY STAFF					
CPST/ICCP/CA/300/9-10/24	Evidence Based Report-Writing in Legislatures	30 th September to 4 th October, 2024	Clerk Assistants, Researchers and other Staff in the Legislatures	CPST, County House	Mr. Brian Mwambu +254724684491
CPST/HRM/CA/500/11/24	Coaching and Mentoring in Leadership	25 th to 29 th November, 2024	Directors and heads of departments.	CPST, County House	Ms. Pauline Kigera +254720339472
CPST/LPM/CA/200/12/24	Delegated Legislation Processing	2 nd to 6 th December, 2024	Clerk Assistants and Legal Counsel.	CPST, County House	Mr. Peter Muchira +254716634667
CPST/CCI/CA/600/3/25	Protocol and Events Management in the Legislature	3 rd to 7 th March, 2025	Protocol Officers, Public Relations Personnel, Event Coordinators.	CPST, County House	Ms. Pauline Kigera +254720339472
CPST/LPM/CA/200/3/25	Speakers' Rules and Enforcement	17 th to 21 st March, 2025	Serjeant-at-arms	CPST, County House	Mr. Anthony Ngugi +254720885196
CPST/ LPM /CA/200/5/25	Parliamentary Practices and Procedure for Hansard Officers	5 th to 9 th May, 2025	Hansard Officers	CPST, County House	Mr. Brian Mwambu +254724684491
ON REQUEST					
CPST/ICCP/OR/300	Training on Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement	TBC	staffers involved in Legislative Committees that are involved in stakeholder engagement meetings.	CPST, County House	Mr. Ahmed Muktar +254722168389
CPST/PFM/OR/400	Foundations for Budget Document Analysis, Interpretation & Reporting	TBC in Consultation with PBO	Fiscal Analysts from legislatures (County Assemblies and National Legislatures)	TBC	Dr. Martin Mbewa +254 712313215
Please Take note that Bespoke Programmes are available throughout as long as they meet the minimum number of Participants. All inquiries to be sent cpst@parliament.go.ke or Telephone No +254 20 210 2540					
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