



# BUNGE

Issue No. 003

This Week



**Transition**  
Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Wetang'ula leads Legislators in mourning late Banissa MP Hon. Kulow Maalim Hassan

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**Film Regulator CEO quizzed by Committee over minors' access to inappropriate content**

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## MASHINANI



Njoro MP, Hon. Charity Kathambi's passion for Education is reflected in her attire as she consistently wears a school uniform when presiding over educational visits in her constituency. This unique choice of clothing has endeared her to many of her constituents, who eagerly attend her functions to witness her donning a new school uniform. **PAGE 10**

## HALT FUNDING OF RONALD NGALA UTALII COLLEGE, MINISTRY DIRECTED

A parliamentary Committee has directed the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to stop payment towards completion of the multi-billion Ronald Ngala Utalii College until a probe the Committee has initiated is concluded.

Tourism and Wildlife Committee chaired by Hon. Kareke Mbiuki (Maara) wants the National Treasury to provide a clear road map on how it will finance the project and clear all pending bills which include penalties arising from delayed payments.

The first phase of the project, funded by the State through the Tourism Fund, includes administration and tuition blocks, hostels, staff quarters, and a dining hall.

The Fund is seeking Kshs3.3 billion to complete the construction of the facility. These funds are intended to be used for clearing pending works, operation of the project and settlement of pending bills.

Speaking to journalists after touring the facility in Kilifi County, Hon. Mbiuki said the National Government has to decide whether the project remains stalled and continues to accrue interest and penalties, or money is allocated to complete the project.

Hon. Mbiuki asked the Ministry not to allocate any monies for purposes of the completion of the project or settlement of pending bills and penalties until such a time the Committee tables a report

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Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife led by Chairperson Hon. Kareke Mbiuki (Maara) at Ronald Ngala Utalii College in Kilifi County during an inspection visit.



Committee Chairperson Julius Melly sharing a word with Nairobi Regional Director of Education Margaret Lesuoda

## Education Committee Concludes probe into Exam Cheating in Nairobi

National Assembly Education Committee chaired by Julius Melly (Tinderet) which is conducting a probe on allegations of cheating in the 2022 KCSE examinations on Friday held a final public hearing with stakeholders drawn from the Nairobi region.

Various stakeholders from the Education sector led by Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) Secretary General Akello Misoru, while making their submissions before the House team, admitted that there were malpractices in last year's national exams.

Friday's meeting held at the Mini Chamber; County Hall in Parliament Buildings is the 11th public hearing conducted by the Hon Melly-led committee. The team has held similar public engagements in 10 counties in different parts of the country.

Other select counties that members of House team visited in their probe include; Embu, Nakuru, Nyeri, Uasin Gishu, Machakos, Kakamega, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nyamira.

# Regional Integration Committee Completes Its Inspection Visits in Mombasa and Neighboring Regions

The National Assembly Regional Integration Committee last week undertook inspection visits in Mombasa County and neighboring regions.

The delegation led by, Hon. David Ochieng, (Ugenya) visited Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) in Mombasa County, Mariakani Weighbridge in Kilifi County and Holili One Stop Border Post in Taita Taveta County.

At KPA the Members had a consultative meeting with KPA MD, Capt. William Ruto. During the meeting the Committee sought to know the challenges the Ports were experiencing, measures put in place by the management to solve them and how they can step in to help solve the issues.

Capt. Ruto told the team that despite having a capacity of handling 45million tons of cargo per year they were currently handling 34million tons, disclosing that they were on course of ensuring they reach its full capacity of cargo handling.

The delegation established that the presence of many non-tariff barriers in the



Regional Integration Committee Members led by Leader of delegation Hon. David Ochieng being taken through operations at the Port of Mombasa.

Northern corridor was hindering the smooth operation of the Ports.

“In the Northern corridor, from Mombasa to Goma in DRC, we have close to six weighbridges which is time consuming. This should be reduced to only two; one at the entry point and the other one at the exit point. This will save a lot of time and also attract more transit countries to our corridor.”

Over time most transit countries have preferred to use the Central corridor which has only two weighbridges,” Cpt. Ruto told the Committee.

”  
In the Northern corridor, from Mombasa to Goma in DRC, we have close to six weighbridges which is time consuming. This should be reduced to only two; one at the entry point and the other one at the exit point. This will save a lot of time and also attract more transit countries to our corridor  
**Capt. Ruto**

The next stop for the delegation was Marikani weighbridge where they were taken through the weighbridge operations by Eng. Michael Ngala who is the Assistant Director of Axle Load Control at KENHA.

At Mariakani, the Committee was taken through the by Eng. Ngala and his team informing Members that the only way to protect the roads across the

According to Eng. Ngala roads are designed to handle loads within some limits. He also called on the Committee to allocate budget towards installation of virtual weighbridges, saying that they minimize interactions on border points.

“There is need to have uniform Axle Load control measures across all regions. This will help ease our work and ensure that

all transit trucks adhere to them,” Eng. Ngala said.

At Holili One Stop Border Post, John Kiilu who manages the Post called on the Committee to push for the tarmacking of Taita-Oloitotok road. He said that this will help open up Holili - Taveta as an alternative transit route to the neighboring countries.

“Tarmacking Tave-ta-Oloitotok road will open up this border post which is in the middle of no where and will make it an alternative route to neighboring countries thus creating more revenue,” he said.

The Committee is now expected to write a report which will be tabled in the House for debate.

## Committee on Implementation Questions KPA on idle land as it Tour Parcels occupied by squatters



Capt William K Rutto, the Managing Director of KPA, leads the Implementation Committee members, headed by Hon. Raphael Wanjala, on a tour of land that is purportedly occupied by squatters.

The National Assembly’s Committee on Implementation chaired by Hon Raphael Wanjala (Budalangi) undertook an inspection visit of the Kenya Ports Authority’s (KPA) multiple idle parcels of land, now occupied by squatters.

The Committee, embarked on the tour of select pieces of land following recommendations in a Report by the Public Investments Committee (PIC) in the 12th Parliament that KPA repossess the land and puts it into good use.

In a meeting held by the Committee with the KPA Board Chairperson Hon. Benjamin Tayari and a team of managers led by the Managing Director Capt. William K Rutto in Mombasa after the inspection tour, the Committee heard that out of the reported 14 parcels of land, measuring about 263.47 hectares and valued Kshs. 660,932,445 which are not utilized for the purpose the Authority procured them for, KPA has so far re-possessed seven parcels.

According to KPA , they have the title deeds to the pieces of land, but squatters

have occupied the idle land for years, some of them have constructed permanent structures on them as witnessed by the legislators during the inspection.

The Committee raised concerns with the authorities that gave the squatters permits to build permanent structures including residential homes and commercial premises on the land, as well as the criteria Kenya Power Company used to connect electricity to the grabbed land.

KPA Management complained to the MPs that some of the Squatters have constructed permanent structures on pieces of land legally owned by KPA and asked for their intervention

## Quotes of the Week



“Because you know tourism is extremely sensitive in terms of security of the tourists and operators, it is extremely unfortunate that out of whatever is arising in the country or the tension we have lost the cruise ship. We urge political leaders to tone down, work together to revive the sector which was on its deathbed during the pandemic,” Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, the Chairperson of National Assembly Departmental committee on Tourism and Wildlife



“Hon. Kulow was a dedicated Member of PAC who never missed a single sitting of the Committees. He was thorough in scrutinising financial statements and asked relevant questions to witnesses during meetings. We have lost a dedicated lawmaker as a Committee and Parliament as a whole, said Hon. Mbadi, PAC Chairperson

## KFCB CEO Questioned over Child access to perverse content



Hon. Dan Wanyama chairing a meeting with stakeholders from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sport and the Arts.

The Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) CEO has been put to task by Members of the National Assembly's Sports and Culture Committee over the rate at which unregulated content was finding its way onto our screens.

The Ag CEO Mr Christopher Wambua appeared before the Hon. Daniel Wanyama led Committee for a familiarisation meeting with stakeholders from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Arts held in Naivasha, Nakuru County. Mr Wambua who is in office on an acting capacity has replaced the former tough talking CEO Dr Ezekiel Mutua who had moved to the Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) in 2021 to take up a similar role.

Members of the Committee demanded to know why immoral content that is easily accessible to children is not regulated.

There is currently no censorship of internet pornography or virtual private networks in the country.

“What is the Ministry doing to put up minimum basic controls that would ensure that children are not lost to digital corruption” asked Busia Legislator Hon Catherine Omany.

According to a recent UNICEF funded report dubbed Disrupting Harmony over 55% of children between the ages of 12 to 17 years had access to pornography. This also comes at a time when there is growing concern that Video on Demand streaming sites from the West such as Netflix were pushing content promoting LGBTQ perversions which was allowed to officially register as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). The Supreme court recently made a ruling that the National Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission

(NGLHRC) was allowed to officially register as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) A ruling that has drawn massive criticism with lawmakers extensively debating issues surrounding same sex orientation taking place on the floor of the House.

While making his submissions, Mr Wambua informed the lawmakers that the task of regulating such content was not part of the agency's mandate but that of the Communication Authority of Kenya (CA).

The Kenya Film Classification Board CEO further notified the Committee that legislation was needed as attempts to negotiate with Netflix over the classification of immoral content was unsuccessful due to lack of written policies and laws to refer to. The provisions of the Computer Misuse and Cyber-crimes Act of 2018, criminalises the publishing, production, or distribution of child pornography, but says nothing about the distribution of LGBTQ content. The Committee on its part pledged to step in and formulate policies and legislations that would assist all concerned agencies in saving children from digital predators.

“This Committee has all the powers and purviews of impacting you through legislation. I therefore urge you to provide the committee with your submissions within 14 days, so we can hit the ground running.” Said Hon Stephen Mule MP for Matungulu.



Busia Woman Representative Hon. Catherine Omany posing a question to Kenya Film Classification Board Acting CEO Mr. Christopher Wambua.

## Departmental Committee on Regional Development holds a Familiarization retreat with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

National Assembly Committee on Regional Development Chaired by Hon. Lochakapong Peter (Sigor) recently held a familiarization retreat with relevant government agencies under the Committee's oversight purview, in efforts to create good working relations that will ensure timely and effective delivery of services to Kenyans.

Attending the function was Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS), and Regional Development, Ms. Rebecca Miano, PS State department for Devolution- Ms. Teresia Malokwe, Chairperson- Nairobi River Commission-Dr. Pamela Olet, CEO National Drought Management Authority- Mr. Hared Adah and Representatives from Regional Development Authorities (RDAs).

In his opening remarks, Hon. Lochakapong emphasized that implementation of projects and programs remains the cornerstone of citizen support including the RDAs and ASAL strategic measures, specially during the ongoing drought crisis.

He pointed out that the Committee has plans to build on the existing framework for parliamentary



Members of the National Assembly Committee on Regional Development during a meeting with government agencies in Naivasha recently.

"My department commits to cooperate and provide a seamless link between the Ministry and this Committee in formulation of policies to ensure there is good governance," Ms. Malokwe.

engagement in executing its mandate.

Ms. Rebecca on her part applauded the Ministry saying it has achieved several milestones such as building the resilience of communities through community-based micro/high impact resilience and drought preparedness projects,

extension of relief and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households as well as rehabilitation of rangelands and early warning information among others.

She however indicated that the Country is currently facing its worst drought in four decades. According to the CS, approximately 4.35 million people in ASALs regions face acute food insecurity and require immediate relief assistance, while 942,000 children below five years and 135,000 pregnant and lactating women require treatment for acute malnutrition.

Her words were echoed by PS Devolution Ms. Teresia Malokwe who committed to work closely with the Committee. She noted that the success of devolution is in continuous engagement, resource allocation and creation of synergy between the ministry and other key players.

She added that the success of devolution is in the devolved system and anchored in consultation and coordination.

"My department commits to cooperate and provide a seamless link between the Ministry and this Committee in formulation of policies to ensure there is good governance," said Ms. Malokwe.

In support of deliberations made during the retreat, Members of the Committee urged all stakeholders to support each other and offer support when called upon. They called for such meetings to be conducted often so as to monitor progress and identify gaps in order to ensure the

successful execution of their mandates.

## Budget Office Apprise Public Debt Committee on Loans Borrowed by Government



Public Debt and Privatization Committee Chairperson Hon. Abdi Shurie during the appraisal meeting Photo/Courtesy.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) appeared before the Public Debt and Privatization Committee chaired by Hon. Abdi Shurie (Bambala), to brief the Committee on their Report analyzing loans contracted by the National Government between 1st May

2022 and 31st August 2022.

According to the Report, a total of six new loans totaling Kshs.105.06 billion were contracted between the Government and bilateral, multilateral, and commercial creditors. This total sum is made up of multilateral loans worth Kshs. 65.3 billion, commercial loans worth Kshs. 36.18 billion and bilateral loans worth Kshs. 3.62 billion.

The Committee was informed that the period in which the loans were contracted crossed over to two financial years of 2021/22. The loans were intended to finance initiatives under the Agricultural sector and Economic Empowerment through financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

In addition, the Committee was told that, out of the six loans contracted; only the commercial loan had been partly disbursed at a sum of Kshs. 36.18 billion by the time the Report was submitted to Parliament. This indicates a possibility of incurring commitment fees on non-disbursed loans. Furthermore, this low rate of loan

disbursement risks slowing down project completion rates and stopping the implementation of the programs that the loans were sought for.

The committee will be inviting different stakeholders to gather more information on the matter and prepare a report which will be tabled in the House for debate.

### IN NUMBERS

**Ksh. 105.06 Billion**

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proposing a funding formula and implementation of the project in the National Assembly for debate.

“For the time being, don’t appropriate or allocate any amount to this project. Let the pending bills stay as they are,” he said.

According to Hon. Mbiuki, the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and its State agencies cannot be left to finance the remainder of the project because they have other obligations to meet.

“We don’t want the project to be left to the Tourism Fund and Tourism Promotion Fund because they cannot raise the monies owned to the contractor, consultants, and charges as well as penalties that have already been accrued due to defaulting by the State,” he added.

Further, Hon. Mbiuki promised that the Committee will be engaging the National Treasury to ensure that the



The stalled Ronald Ngala Utalii College building in Kilifi County. Tourism Committee has halted its construction over questionable funding formula.

project is allocated funds for its completion.

Making his contribution, Tourism Principal Secretary John Ololtuaa requested the Committee to allow the completion of the project. He asked the Committee to reconsider its decision saying that money has already been put into it and the only solution is to for it to be completed.

“I think the objective should be one; how this project can be completed,” said Mr. Ololtuaa.

**The new Ronald Ngala Utalii College in Kilifi County was earmarked to be training students in Tourism and Hospitality Industry.**

## Names of applicants for top vacant Electoral Commission jobs to be made Public

**N**ames of persons who applied for the vacant IEBC positions will be published in the local dailies, a recruiting Panel has announced.

The Chairperson of the IEBC Selection Panel Dr. Nelson Makanda said the names of people who applied for the position of IEBC Chairperson and six Commissioners will be made public through an advertisement in the dailies. “The Panel is through with preparation of the long listing of the applications and crosschecking for applicants with multiple applications through both physical and electronic submissions,” he said.

Dr. Makanda explained that a short list of applicants will be published in the local dailies, the Kenya Gazette and on the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) website to give members of the public an opportunity to submit memoranda to the Panel on any information of interest concerning the suitability of the shortlisted nominees as part of the public participation process, as required by the law.

In addition, the Panel shall notify the shortlisted applicants through the local dailies, of the date, time and venue of the scheduled psychometric and oral interviews that will be conducted in public.

Dr. Makanda pointed out that they targeted to end the interviews by end of May then retreat to identify two names of successful candidates for the position of Chairperson and other nine for the six Commissioners that they will present to the President in early June.

Names of successful candidates will be presented to Parliament for approval

before being returned to the Head of State for appointment.

“Once the President appoints the new Chairperson and six Commissioners to fill the vacant positions, the Panel will be disbanded,” said Dr. Makanda. The Chairperson added that they have received applications from Kenyans with high levels of education, experience and admirable credentials.



IEBC Selection Panel Chairperson Dr. Makanda addressing the Media outside KICC.

## Public Investment Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture Questions Nzoia Sugar Management on Accrued Loans

The National Assembly Committee on Public Investment, Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture Chaired by Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe, (Nabakholo) has learnt that Nzoia Sugar Company has an accumulative bank loan of 44 Billion. This was revealed to the Committee when the management of the Bungoma-based Sugar company appeared before it to respond to audit questions raised by the Auditor General in the Financial Statements of the company (2018/2029 and 2019/2020).

Speaking before the committee, the Acting Managing Director of Nzoia Sugar Mr. Chrispine Omondi told the Committee that this was a historical loan borrowed in the 1990s. He added that some of the loans were taken without following the procedures and laid supply rules. "From an initial amount of Kshs1.4 billion, the loan has accrued interest and is now Kshs44 billion", he said.

Further, Members questioned Mr. Omondi and his team on the reason the Company continues to operate at a loss

despite receiving funding from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Caleb Amisi (Saboti) proposed that the Company should consider privatizing or leasing the factory to save it from the valley of debts it is in.

However, Mr. Omondi in his response told the Committee that Sugarcane farmers supporting Nzoia

Sugar and the community were in support leasing as opposed to privatization.

Other matters that came up during the meeting were revelation that goods worth Kshs.142,712,554 were imported but left to expire at the port of Mombasa for lack of clearance fees and a sugar milling machine which was purchased in 2012 for white sugar production but has

not been used to date. The review also revealed gaps and huge financial challenges facing the Company, lack of supporting documentation, breach of various procurement laws, and the company's internal policies and manuals.

Mr. Omondi was a company chairman Hon. Alfred Khang'ati, and the Head of Finance Hezron Kotut.



Chairperson Public and Investment Committee Hon. Emanuel Wangwe.

From an initial amount of Kshs1.4 billion, the loan has accrued interest and is now Kshs. 44 billion

Managing Director  
Mr. Chrispine Omondi

## House Committee Probes KRA on Audit Queries

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has given the Kenya Revenue Authority three weeks to provide detailed answers on queries relating to a Multi-billion shillings Contract.

The Committee chaired by Hon. David Pkosing ( Pokot South) is probing the process leading to the award of a Contract for Electronic Goods Management System to Swiss Company SICPA SA Security Solutions (SICPA) without sufficient evidence of competitive bidding.

The system was meant to help KRA track and trace all goods that attract exercise duty.

Queries on the Contract emerged during a meeting of the Committee to examine



National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Committee Chairperson Hon. David Pkosing (centre) during a meeting with KRA officials led by acting Commissioner General Ms. Risper Simiyu.

KRA's audited accounts for Financial Years 2015/2016 to 2020/2021.

KRA officials led by Acting Commissioner General Ms. Risper Simiyu, had sought the three weeks to provide comprehensive responses to several questions raised by Members on the Contract issued in April 2013.

The initial Contract was signed on 18th April, 2013 for a period of five years. This Contract was terminated on 30th October, 2015 when a new five year term Contract was entered into between KRA and SICPA.

There were subsequently two addendums to the 2015 Contract on May, 4 2021 and another in December, 23 2022.

The Committee sought to know from the KRA team on who were the local subsidiaries of the Swiss Company, and why the

Contract payment was entered in Euros.

Hon. Pkosing said there was need for the Committee to dispense with the Contract matter to deal with more pressing audit concerns on KRA books.

"We need a detailed explanation on this Contract so that we can move to other audit queries. There is so much confusion and we need clarifications on all the questions asked by members within three weeks," directed Hon. Pkosing.

Other Committee Members present were Vice-Chair Hon. Lilian Gogo (Rangwe), Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai), Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga County), Hon. Sarah Korere (Laikipia North), Hon. Adan Keynan (Eldas), Hon. Mohamed Yusuf (Wajir-West), Hon. Peter Kihungi (Kangema), Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri (Laikipia East) and Hon. Machua Waithaka (Kiambu).

# Lawmakers pay glowing tribute to their late Banissa colleague Hon. Kulow Maalim Hassan

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula led lawmakers in eulogizing the late Banissa MP Hon. Kulow Maalim Hassan, who succumbed to injuries following a motorcycle accident in Nairobi's South B estate.

The Late Hon. Kulow passed away the morning of Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at the Aga Khan Hospital. He was buried on Wednesday at the Muslim cemetery in Lang'ata, an exercise that was preceded by Janaza prayers at Masjid Noor Mosque in South C.

The Speaker in a communication officially announced the demise of the esteemed leader from Mandera County. He extolled him as a hardworking Member of Parliament both in the House and in the committees. "The late Hon. Kulow will be remembered as a dedicated legislator both in the House and in the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Co-operatives and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), where he was a member," said Rt Hon Wetang'ula in the special notice.

The Speaker added: "the people of Banissa and the country has lost a dedicated, conciliatory, affable and non-confrontational servant leader who cherished and always pursued peace." He noted that the soft-spoken leader had a high reverence for God and prayerfulness. "Indeed, at the time of the occurrence of the accident that resulted in his untimely death, the Late Hon. Kulow was headed to the mosque to say prayers," said Hon. Wetang'ula, who also constituted an ad hoc funeral committee led by Hon. Bashir Abdullahi (Mandera North) to liaise with the bereaved family and coordinate support from the National Assembly.

Colleagues of the late MP who eulogized him paid a glowing tribute to the fallen leader, describing him as a dedicated public servant and a key pillar in the leadership of the North Eastern region.

"Hon. Kulow was a dedicated and committed public servant. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and constituents. God grant his family and constituents the strength and comfort," said National Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichungwa (Kikuyu).

Hon. Adan Keynan (Eldas) said Hon. Kulow was a devoted public servant who discharged his duties with Honour.

"I share my deepest condolences with the family, friends and people of Banissa following this unfortunate loss and pray that Allah (SWT) will grant them sabr and comfort during this lowest moment. May Allah grant his soul Jannatul Firdaws," said Hon. Keynan.

Hon. Kulow, a UDM Party MP, was first elected to Parliament in 2017. He successfully defended his position in the last polls.

PAC chairman John Mbadi (Nominated) described the legislator as a dedicated member who never missed a single sitting of the committee's meetings. "He was a very dedicated member and he never missed a single committee meeting. We have lost a dedicated lawmaker as a committee and Parliament as a whole," said Hon. Mbadi

Hon. Otiende Amollo (Rarieda), a member of the same committee echoed similar sentiments. "Really shocked at the death of my Colleague Hon. Kulow, with whom we've been serving in the Public Accounts Committee! Life Is Truly Fleeting! Fare Thee Well My Brother!" said Hon Amollo.

"Our hearts are grieved by the demise of our fellow brother Hon. Kulow . My sincere condolences to his immediate family, relatives and the people of Banissa for losing a humble and great leader," said Hon Mohamed Ali( Nyali).



## Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation Engages State Agencies and key Stakeholders on the digital Economy

The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information, and Innovation has in the last few days held a series of meetings with State Agencies under its purview, as well as key players in the communication and information sector to forge a way forward to ensure effective collaboration among all relevant entities in efficient service delivery to Kenyans.

The Committee chaired by Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South) earlier in the week met with the ICT Sector Board of KEPSA, Director of Kenya School of Law, Ag CEO Kenya Film Classification Board, Google Government Affairs, the Head of Production and Technology at Switch Media, Broadcasting Regulations Officer at the Communications Authority (CA), and the student leadership of Kenya School of Law(KSL).

Among the key issues discussed in the consultative forum include the industry's very dynamic nature that calls for progressive reviews of the existing laws which the players who sought the committee's indulgence to amend, believe are comparatively greatly outdated.



Members of the Communication, Information and Innovation Committee pose for a photograph after an engagement with State Agencies on the digital economy.

"I wish to emphasize the Committee's commitment to support the ICT sector players through ensuring the introduction and adoption of necessary legislation and policies that will help grow this sector," said Hon. Kiarie. till on a trajectory's to bring all on board, the Kiarie-led Committee met with State Agencies under its purview namely KONZA Technopolis, ICT Authority,

This engagements are vital as they accord the Committee Members a platform to understand the Agencies' programs and projects' implementation status

”  
Hon. Kiarie

and officers from the agencies who made submissions to the MPs, highlighting their areas of success as well as the challenges they have faced in attaining their goal; with underfunding and delays in exchequer releases being the major inhibitors to smooth operations. The Ag. CEO KONZA Technopolis, indicated that the agency is established under a Legal Notice and emphasized the need for the agency's existence to be anchored under an Act of Parliament.

In his remarks, Hon. Kiarie, stated the importance of such engagements that accord the Committee Members a platform to understand the Agencies' programs and projects' implementation status, and he assured the meeting of the Committee's support in ensuring that KONZA Technopolis is adequately funded, and committed to help in fast-tracking the Bill to anchor KONZA under an Act of Parliament.

The chairperson said such visits were important to the Committee promising that the Committee will undertake more visits.

## Educate Universities, TVETS on financial audit processes; PIC on Governance and Education directs Treasury, Auditor General

Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education chaired by Hon Jack Wanami Wamboka of Bumula Constituency has urged the Office of the Auditor General, and the Ministry of Finance and National planning to undertake sensitization workshops with Higher Education Learning Institutions on Government Audit Processes.



Hon. Eng Thuddeus Nzambia (Kilome) chairing the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education.

The Committee made this pronouncement in Nyeri County where a delegation led by Hon. Eng Thuddeus Nzambia MP, (Kilome) had convened a forum with Universities and Technical Vocational Training Institutes from the Central region to address audit queries raised by the reports of the office of the Auditor General for the Institutions' financial statements for the last three financial years dating from 2018/2019 to 2020/2021.

The legislators were shocked by the realization that despite the queries having been raised several years back, most of the institutions had not made any attempts to address or resolve the issues raised by the auditor general.

"It is quite unfortunate that these principals and their teams do not know when to submit responses to questions asked, and that some are even unaware of the contents of an Auditor General's report.

We urge the Treasury and Auditor General to organize sensitization and capacity building sessions with these institutions to enable them understand this critical process of accountability on their expenditures," Said the session chairperson, Hon Nzambia.

In spite of having received the Communication of the committee's intentions to undertake the meetings with the principals and finance departments, only the Principal of Nyeri National Polytechnic David M. Mwangi had prepared responses for the Committee, out of the fifteen (15) institutions whose audit issues were to be discussed.

We urge the Treasury and Auditor General to organize sensitization and capacity building sessions with these institutions to enable them understand this critical process of accountability on their expenditures.

Hon Nzambia



# BUNGE MASHINANI

## MP Launches CDF Project in Sikhendu FYM Primary School

The administration, teachers, parents and pupils in Sikhendu FYM Primary School are delighted after their area MP, Hon. Didmus Barasa commenced the construction of eight classrooms, through the Kimilili National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The building housing the classes which is now in its completion stage is yet another milestone in the MP's quest to provide students with a more favourable learning environment.

Hon. Barasa said the project is “NGCDF is changing in line with his agenda, to allow every student in the Constituency accesses education under a decent environment.

“We are determined to have the construction completed soon to enable both teachers and students access conducive learning environment so as to boost their performance in school,” said Hon. Barasa.

The MP said the Kimilili NG-CDF kitty has played a huge role in seeing the construction get to the current status.

lives. We promised and we are delivering. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change a society,” he said.

Hon Barasa has invested more resources in infrastructure development of primary and secondary schools in the constituency. He has used NG -CDF money to construct modern classrooms.



Eight modern classrooms constructed by NG-CDF money in Kimilili Constituency.

## Deep love for Education inspires MP to don Uniforms

Njoro MP, Hon. Charity Kathambi has come out as an affable leader who exudes warmth and compassion. Her constituents say her unwavering commitment to transforming the education sector in her constituency is truly touching. This is in her quest to ensure that, education becomes the key to leveling the playing field for everyone in society, as she works to eliminate any barriers to effective learning for students in her constituency

In a touching display of inspiration, Hon. Kathambi has been donning school uniform during her visits to launch programs in schools. She notes that this is geared towards sending a powerful message to the students, that their leader was once a student just like them, and that with hard work and dedication, they too can achieve their dreams. As a second-term Member of Parliament, Hon. Kathambi's journey is a testament to the power of education and serves as a beacon of hope for the young minds she interacts with.

“By putting on school uniform as an MP I intend to remind parents and children that education sometimes is a gruesome journey and life always entails making personal choices. However, education will get you through doors and open up



Njoro MP Hon Charity Kathambi, in a school uniform, as she flags off a school bus she bought for one of the schools in her constituency using NG-CDF money recently.

opportunities that are unimaginable. I hope to inspire you, and show you that your dreams are within your reach, and it starts with education,” Hon. Kathambi told students.

A strong advocate of education, Hon. Kathambi says she understands the challenges that students from humble backgrounds face. Through her own experiences, she is able to relate to these students and encourage them to persevere and strive for success. Her commitment to education is evident in her

various projects, which are all aimed at improving access to quality education and empowering the youth.

Hon. Kathambi says that her school-bus buying projects are meant to ensure that students in her constituency have access to transportation to and from school. She adds that she is taking steps to improve the quality of education by constructing schools, training teachers, and initiating technical short courses.

Additionally, she holds that her bursary program will help ensure that students from disadvantaged

backgrounds continue to pursue their education without financial barriers.

The second-term legislator's focus on education however goes beyond the classroom, as seen in her efforts to improve access to clean water in schools, and in addressing 'period poverty' through her girl child 'pads initiative'. She is also promoting environmental sustainability through the greening of schools campaigns. Overall, her constituents hold that her dedication to education is commendable and her various projects are making a significant impact in the lives of students in her constituency.

As the National Assembly Climate Change Caucus Chair, Hon. Kathambi has taken the message back home with a campaign to “Green the schools”, through an initiative where she visits the home of the student who plants the highest number of trees in their home. This campaign not only motivates students to take an active role in preserving the environment, but also promotes the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action.

Her efforts in this endeavour have paid off. The lawmaker was recognized as the “2021 Peace Champion of the year” for the National Cohesion and Integration Commission Peace Ambassadors award. Given that her constituency is a hot spot for community conflict, she has found a way to integrate the communities into working together and embracing each other.

“I chose to be the bridge of peace and put education on top,” Hon. Kathambi said.

# Clique & Clicks

Committee on Land chaired by Hon. Joash Nyamoko witnessed issuance of certificate of title to 1,300 residents of Maweni Settlement Scheme as part of their mandate in Budget Implementation and Oversight in line with Standing Orders 216(5) and 245A(2). In attendance was the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Planning Mr. Zachariah Mwangi Njeru, Hon. Nixon Korir, PS State Department for Land and Physical Planning and Chairperson Land Commission, Mr. Gershom Bw'omanwa.



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (seated in a green shirt) poses for a photograph with Members of the Powers and Privileges Committee after officially opening a retreat for the Legislators in Mombasa recently.

Members of Regional Integration Committee led by Hon. David Ochieng, pose for a group photo with Holili One Stop Border Post staff after being taken through the functions of different departments within the facility.



Members of the Hon Farah Salah Yakub-led Regional and Integration Committee taken round the Malaba border post in Busia County while on an inspection visit of the facility.



Hon. Millie Mabona Odhiambo raising her point during Budget and Appropriation Committee meeting.



Visiting South African legislators from Labour Committee engage their Kenyan counterparts led by Chairperson Hon. Eric Muchangi (middle) on best practices on Labour Migration Policies at Parliament Building.



## QUESTION TIME



**Dagoretti North MP Hon. Beatrice Elachi** asked the Cabinet Secretary for Education to give a report on the state of preparedness for implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) in junior secondary schools located in informal settlements, particularly those in Nairobi County.

Hon. Elachi also asked to be provided with information on the measures that have been put in place to address the inadequacy of facilities such as laboratories and recreation facilities in junior secondary schools, especially those located in informal settlements in Nairobi County. In addition, she asked the CS to provide her with details of the number of teachers who have been trained and deployed to teach in junior secondary schools nationally, specify the number that has been deployed to junior secondary schools in informal settlements in Nairobi County, and state whether the teacher allocation meets the recommended student-teacher ratio.

**Baringo Central MP Hon. Joshua Kandie** asked the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration to provide details of the total number of foreigners issued with work permits in Kenya and the duration granted for such work permits. Hon. Kandie also asked to be provided with details of the number and status of foreigners whose work permits expired as of January 2023 and the actions being taken by the Ministry to mop out foreigners who could be working in the country illegally following the expiry of their work permits.

He also sought the CS to explain the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure foreigners are not issued with work permits for skills that are available in the local labour force in order to reduce the unemployment rate among Kenyans.



**Masinga MP Hon. Joshua Mwalyo** asked the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning to explain the reasons for the failure of the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) Superannuation Scheme (DB Scheme) to settle pension benefits owed to retirees and its noncompliance with updated and applicable calculations of such pension benefits and state whether the miscalculation results from a misinterpretation of the binding Trust Deed and Regulations (TDR) of 2001 and 2012.

Hon. Mwalyo also asked the CS to provide details on the status of the implementation of a decision of the Retirement Benefits Authority of 18th April 2019 on a pension dispute and a subsequent ruling by the Retirement Benefits Authority Appeals Tribunal (RBAT) dated 21st April 2021. Lastly, he sought to be provided a definite date when the affected retirees shall be paid their dues which have been pending for years and continue to attract interest to date.

**Kinango MP Hon. Gonzi Rai** asked the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development to provide details of the ownership of Taru Ranch and confirm whether the parcel of land is validly registered.

Hon. Rai also asked the CS to explain why there was a grant of extension of the lease of Taru Ranch without the necessary stakeholder approvals required before such a grant is given. He also asked the CS to consider taking appropriate interventions through the Lands Registrar, Kwale County to undertake investigations into the new title number CR66309 provided to Taru Ranch and order revocation of the title deed to its rightful owners.



# Budget & Appropriations Committee Receives Submissions on Money Bills



Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu) the Chairperson Budget & Appropriations Committee, with his Vice Chair Hon. Mary Emase ( Teso South) during the retreat.

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**ONEDESIGRAPHICS**

The Budget & Appropriations Committee of the National Assembly chaired by Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, (Kiharu) recently invited sponsors of various Bills to present their proposals pursuant to National Assembly Standing Order 114 which provides that the Committee shall consider all financial aspects of any legislative proposals and report to the Speaker within thirty days.

Among the Bills discussed during the engagement were the Health (Amendment) Bill by Hon. Njeri Maina,( Kirinyaga) which seeks to prohibit hospitals from detaining patients or dead bodies over unpaid medical bills, and MP, Hon. Didimus Barasa (Kimili-li) proposed amendments to Commission on Revenue Allocation Act No. 16 of 2011 that will see the Chairperson and members of the Commission on Revenue Allocation serve on a part time basis and their offices move to Controller-of-Budget (COB) offices and set a maximum number of meetings per financial year.

Hon. Barasa also sought to amend the Parliamentary Pensions Act, Cap. 196, in order to increase the amount of pension due to former Members of Parliament who served in the August House between July, 1984 and January 2001; earning a monthly pension of less than Ksh100,000 the Commission on Revenue Allocation (Amendment) Bill, which proposes that the commission's chairperson and members serve on a part-time basis and hold their meetings at the Controller-of-Budget offices.

Additionally, Hon. Beatrice Adagala ( Vihiga) sought to amend Section 5 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2012 to grant consumers the right to reject goods and obtain refunds and re

refunds and repair or replacement of goods to be done within 14 days.

On her part, Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West) sought to amend the Kenya Roads Act 2007 to insert a new section 47A which will require all public roads to have lanes or tracks for exclusive use by non motorized transport users to minimize vehicle congestion as well as noise pollution.

Other bills discussed include the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to establish Sub County Boards, the National Government Co-ordination (Amendment) Bill, which proposes recognition of village elders as National Government Administration Officers, and the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Act (Amendment) Bill, which proposes specific governance structures for each Constituents Training Centre.

If passed, these bills will have a significant impact on various aspects of Kenyan life, including healthcare, education, governance, consumer rights, and transportation.

The committee will make its decision on the bills after concluding deliberations on other proposed legislation.

Members of the Budget and Appropriation Committee are expected to conclude deliberations on the Capital Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the Laws Registration (Amendment) Bill 2023, Political Parties (Amendment) Bill 2022, Coconut & Cashew Nut Bill and the Poverty Eradication (Amendment) Bill 2022 after which the Committee will prepare a report to be tabled in the coming weeks.