



# BUNGE

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*This Week*

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PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

**3<sup>rd</sup>** ANNUAL NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SYMPOSIUM





# MPs to consider new debt management framework

The period preceding June, 6 2022 witnessed a sustained campaign from the Executive for Parliament to raise the public debt ceiling to the current Kshs. 10 trillion shillings.

Former Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani, had at the time sought to amend the Public Finance Management Act to change the upper limit to a percentage of GDP from the current numerical capping.

In 2019 the House had raised the ceiling to Kshs. 9 trillion from Kshs. 6 trillion.

The National Treasury is once again seeking the nod of the House to institute changes to Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012 and the attendant regulations, to replace the current numerical debt ceiling of Kshs. 10 trillion with a debt ratio of 55 percent present value of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The House has been scrutinizing the Medium Term Debt Management Strategy to ensure that it is aligned to the Budget Policy Statement. The strategy is meant to guide prudent public debt management.



The Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u (second left) confers with legislators Hon. Aden Daud (Wajir East), Hon. Makali Mulu (Kitui Central) and Hon. Benjamin Langat (Ainamoi) on the sidelines of a brainstorming forum.

Last week, the Cabinet Secretary (CS) National Treasury Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u met the Committees on Budget and Appropriations, Public Debt and Privatization, and the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning over the matter.

In the forum moderated by the respective chairs; Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, Hon. Abdi Shurie and Hon. Benjamin Langat (sitting in for Kimani Kuria) the CS told the lawmakers that the forum was geared towards helping them understand the current public debt situation in the country and the proposed new framework.

But even as he made his case, the legislators led by Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga) and Peter Masara (Suna West) took the CS to task to explain how the Ministry of National Treasury and Economic Planning is managing Kenya's public debt.

During the meeting, the lawmakers further sought to understand the projected impact of the proposed new policy to the economy.

A section of the lawmakers suggested that it were better if the National Treasury were to explore the calculation of the debt ceiling based on the revenue collected.

In his response, Prof. Ndung'u told the legislators that with a borrowing headroom of only Kshs. 610Billion against a projected fiscal deficit of Kshs. 720Billion for the FY 2023/24, the country has to adopt a practical debt management policy.

# House team wants Treasury to improve diaspora facilitation to enhance their participation in economic development



Members of the Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers during a capacity building forum held in Mombasa county last weekend.

The Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers now wants the government to improve facilitation to the Diaspora community to promote their participation in the economic development of the country.

Speaking recently when they met the Cabinet Secretary National Treasury, Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, the MPs noted that there is need to create incentives to attract Kenyans living in the Diaspora to invest in the country along other foreign investors that the government is inviting to do the same.

Members cited a number of constraints that the community faces in their bid to invest locally ranging from lack of information on investment opportunities and government policies, to difficulties in money transfer.

Others are lack of safeguards that guarantee their investments, diplomatic assistance to replace passports and harassment by customs officials at the airport.

On his part, Prof. Njuguna informed the Committee that his ministry had put in place policies and programs to attract diaspora remittances over the years.

He noted that the ministry had developed wide ranging banking and financial sector reforms to help lower the cost of money transfer. He held that the transformation of the payments ecosystem had been a game changer in enabling Kenyans send money home.

The CS said the M-Pesa service beyond Kenya's borders and the partnership between the Diaspora Association and banks to allow them handle larger volumes of inflows at lower cost and within a much shorter time frame were some of the measures to attract Kenyans living abroad to invest back home.

He revealed that as a result, remittance inflows to Kenya had increased significantly over the past decade reaching a record of USD 4.028 Billion in 2022.

According to the documents tabled before the Committee, the US remains the largest source of remittances into Kenya accounting for 58 percent.

Remittances are an important source of foreign exchange to the country. The inflows have a positive impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable households.

During the meeting, the CS further disclosed

that the Central Bank conducted Kenya's first Diaspora Remittances Survey between 19th March and 17th May 2021 to collect valuable information to improve quality of remittance statistics. He further revealed that the Central Bank had developed a range of financial products targeting the diaspora including successful infrastructure bonds.

The MPs however noted the need to expand focus beyond Kenyans living in the United States to allow more Kenyans living elsewhere across the globe benefit from the facilitation already in place for the diaspora.

The Committee which was established at the beginning of the 13th Parliamentary has in the last few weeks been engaging relevant stakeholders in a bid to brainstorm on legislative interventions required to improve the welfare of Kenyans in the Diaspora and Migrant Worker.

In a bid to brainstorm on legislation interventions crucial to mainstream diaspora and migration issues, the Committee this last weekend engaged Dr. Luchetu Likaka, an expert on matters Labour migration and Diaspora Affairs.

## WHAT THEY SAID



We want to ask EACC to ensure that our education system and cultural systems eradicate corruption in the country. Our biggest threat today as a country is corruption, It is a fight for the soul of the nation.

**Hon. David Ochieng'**  
Ugenya MP

Even in political spaces, women have suffered sexual harassment the most, especially those who dare to vie for political seats in Kenya. They face very many forms of discrimination and very many bad things are said about them. How I wish that if men and women are to compete in any space, let the competition be very fair and let everyone be given an opportunity without using terrible words against women.



**Hon. Bartoo Phyllis Jepkemoi**  
Moiben MP

# Legislators want Junior Secondary introduced in all Primary Schools



Mbeere North MP Hon. Geoffrey Kiringa Ruku poses for a photo with teachers and students of Kamarandi Secondary School after their tour of Parliament last week. The school is one of the many community-built schools in Evurore Ward, Mbeere North constituency.

Members of Parliament have backed a proposal requiring the Ministry of Education to establish and operate Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) in every primary school in the country.

This was after Hon. Geoffery Ruku, MP (Mbeere North) moved a motion on the floor of the House seeking the development of a comprehensive policy and funding plan for the establishment of JSS.

Hon. Ruku noted that the recent guidelines by the government that JSS be established in some select primary schools have led to confusion and rendered classrooms that were utilized by pupils of classes seven and eight, redundant.

“This arrangement compels students to travel for longer distance to access institutions where Junior Secondary Schools are based, which is straining to learners,” said Hon. Ruku.

He added: “Communities have over the years continuously established learning institutions within their localities to address the shortage of physical facilities. It is unfair to negate that by having JSS’s domiciled in a few schools.”

Hon. Hassan Yusuf, (Kamukunji), Shakeel Shabbir (Kisumu East) and Kibet Komingoi (Bureti) while contributing to the motion, opined that the whole roll-out of the new



The current arrangement compels students to travel for longer distance to access institutions where Junior Secondary Schools are based, which is straining to learners.

~Hon. Ruku

Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) system of education was rushed.

“JSSs in my constituency and across the country are grappling with challenges of inadequate facilities and acute shortage of teachers. It will be important to come up with a clear policy and funding plan so that our level of education does not deteriorate,” said Hon. Yusuf, who also seconded the motion.

Hon Shabbir on his part observed that the new system of education that was rolled out by the government is good, but pointed out that the idea of having JSSs in primary schools was not well-thought out.

“I am shocked by the callous way the stakeholders have been looking at the future of our Education. You cannot have JSS in a primary school. The learners need to be in a secondary school,” maintained Hon Shabbir, who also wondered who JSS teachers in primary schools are supposed to report to.

“Should the secondary school teachers report to the Primary school headteacher? We should not have knee-jerk decisions in matters as important as the education of our children,” added Hon Shabbir.

Hon Komingoi said it will be important for the policy to address the distance learners need to cover so as to access JSS schools, noting that it is one factor that has the potential of critically affecting students’ academic performance.



## Committee invites Solicitor General over CBK audit query

The Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy (PIC CA&E) has resolved to invite the office of the Solicitor General to shed more light, on delayed winding up of the Kenya Schools of Monetary Studies, despite an earlier proposal for the same from Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

The Chair, Hon. David Pkosing (Pokot South) issued the directive, when CBK Governor Dr. Patrick Njoroge appeared before Members to respond to queries raised by the Auditor General on CBK's audited accounts between Financial Years 2018/2019 to 2020/2021.

The Auditor General revealed that the Kenya Schools of Monetary Studies (KSMS), which is a subsidiary of the CBK, had not been wound up despite a proposal from the board for its dissolution in an effort to address concerns regarding governance and internal controls.



National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Chairperson Hon. David Pkosing and Vice-Chair Hon Lilian Gogo during the meeting when Members resolved to invite the Solicitor General over KRA audit queries.

Members noted that the Office of the Solicitor General had raised reservations about the proposed winding up of KSMS, and therefore resolved to give him and the school management an audience before the Committee and to later recall the CBK Governor for more clarifications.

Hon. Pkosing said the actual date of the meeting would be announced after the Committee had received all correspondences regarding the issue of the CBK team.

"We will critically examine all these documents, before we meet the Solicitor General and the CBK team. This is very important before we retreat to write the report," said Hon. Pkosing.

Other audit queries raised by the Committee, include the continued running of the CBK without full composition of Non-Executive directors. The Auditor General noted that out of the legally prescribed composition of 8, only 4 non-executive directors were in office during the financial years under review.

Dr. Njoroge, also clarified that a deputy governor for the CBK had been recently hired. This was in relation to a separate query in which the Auditor General had faulted the CBK over a vacuum in the office of one of the two deputy governors.

**We will critically examine all these documents, before we meet the Solicitor General and the CBK team.**

Hon. Pkosing.

## Speaker Wetang'ula presides over the Annual Journalism Excellence Awards



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula poses for a photograph with leadership of the Media Council of Kenya during the Annual Journalism Excellency Awards ceremony at Serena hotel.

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula is advocating for the freedom of the Media saying it is a cornerstone of democracy.

Hon Wetang'ula urged journalists across the country not to fear to act and not to act in fear while on duty adding that they were key to the fight for a democratic space in Kenya.

Speaking as a Chief guest on Thursday during the Annual Journalism Excellence Awards 2023 Ceremony held at Safari Park in Nairobi, the Speaker observed that media freedom plays a dynamic role in the economic transformation of the society.

"Some countries have benefited from such freedom by attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI's).," he said.

Hon Wetang'ula encouraged the media fraternity to adhere to professional ethics by avoiding adversarial journalism that he said usually leads to the undermining of their freedoms.

He said that Journalists have on many occasion highlighted pivotal issues of interest to communities and the government has often responded through various interventions.

"A case in point is the rather disturbing incident of the Shakahola forest massacre in Kilifi County, where a self-styled Pastor Paul Mackenzie misled a congregation to starve to death to meet Jesus, I have also asked our security agents to allow media to cover the happenings," he said.

The Speaker further urged the media to fight fake news that has always found itself in newsrooms.

He noted that the more people can access reliable and credible information, the more they are equipped to make informed choices and hold their leaders and governments to account.

The Speaker said that there is need for the three arms of government to reconnect and build relationships and ties that will bind them inextricably with the media fraternity.

"I recognize and deeply appreciate that journalists are professionals who put their country and community above themselves, often risking their lives to bring us stories that spur change in different sectors of our society," he said.

He said that true journalism will always seek to expose injustices, clarify murky situations, give voice to the voiceless, empower people, change minds for the better and even offer the promise of a better world.

He congratulated the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) for holding the awards for the last ten years adding that it provides a good platform to highlight the lengths they go to, to serve the country in this fundamental way.

"The Annual Journalism Excellence Awards enables deeper self-evaluation, as journalists review their work, select their best pieces for peer evaluation; helping them gauge both their effectiveness and their professionalism," he said.

He asked MCK to keep the awards going since they aim to inspire the newly employed journalists, who will aspire to walk up the stage, to be celebrated one day for their excellence in the pursuit of journalistic exploits.

"I would also like to celebrate this men and women who do a sterling job despite the difficult circumstances and remain independent and credible," he said.

"Tonight we honor them because of their excellence. We honor them because of their courage. We honor them because of their perseverance.

They are heroes. To paraphrase one American journalist, Jonah Goldberg, "those we honor tonight understand that their mission is not to defend "their" side, or to avoid reporting as a comfort to the "other" side. The focus is, and must be, on the truth". Tonight, we have a reason to hope for change. We will see in the reporting of those we honor this evening, the commitment to fight back, even against great odds; to make a difference for all the people of Kenya," he said.

The speaker further said "To the brave journalists here tonight, I know that it is difficult to stand up in the face of concerted efforts to silence you."



# Regional Integration Committee moots strategies to realise East African Community dream

The National Assembly's Committee on Regional Integration last weekend held a consultative forum with stakeholders to discuss strategies for enhancing the free movement of people and goods within the East African Community.

During the forum held at Serena Hotel in Mombasa, the Committee led by its Chairperson, Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri) was taken through the issues affecting East African Community (EAC) region and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) bloc.

The Stakeholders: Ministry of EAC, the ASALs and Regional Development, the State Department for Immigration & Citizen Services and IGAD Secretariat,



Members of Regional Integration Committee in a group photo with Rebecca Miano (seated center) the CS for EAC, ASALs and Regional Development during a familiarization retreat held at Serena Hotel, Mombasa

tabled before the Committee the strategies to support the free movement of goods and people within the bloc and other regional bodies

Through the Chair, Members wanted to know why there is still a challenge in movement of people and goods across the EAC border despite the free movement protocol which is in place. In her response, Hon. Rebecca Miano, the Cabinet Secretary for EAC, ASALs and Regional Development, told the Members that talks were in place to ensure roads connecting the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) are up to the required standards so as to accommodate cargo and people moving across the border.

"Conversation with other relevant stakeholders is ongoing to ensure roads connecting the OSBPs are up to the standard and the environment around these posts improved in order to accommodate cargo and people moving across the border," she said.

Hon. Miano also disclosed that measures were in place to reduce and eventually eliminate non-tariff barriers within the Northern corridor that have made potential transit countries shy away.

In his presentation, the Director General, Directorate of Immigration Services, Alexander Muteshi, requested the committee to engage with the treasury on their behalf and convince it to allocate and release adequate funds to them on time.

"We have a backlog of 60,000 passports awaiting printing. This is a result of lack of booklets and a printer. Every day we get 3,000 passports applications," Mr. Muteshi said.

The IGAD Secretariat led by Dr. Fatuma Adan who is the IGAD head of mission to Kenya, explained to the members the IGAD transhumance protocol.

Dr. Adan revealed that, among the objectives for the protocol is to ensure free, safe and orderly cross border mobility for pasture and water.

"Other objectives of transhumance protocol is harmonization of national laws and policies and to ensure access to social services like education and health by pastoralists," Dr. Adan disclosed.

After the familiarization retreat, Members are now expected to be well conversant with issues touching on EAC and other regional blocs and their mandate as a committee on solving them.

# PIC Governance and Education prevails in securing funding for public universities

The Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education chaired by Hon. Jack Wamboka (Bumula) convened a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Ezekiel Machogu to discuss university funding by government.

The Committee sought to understand the rationale behind the decision by the Ministry to send government-sponsored students to private universities.

The legislators also asked for an explanation regarding the laws that necessitated this action, the funding system used to allocate funds to public universities, the concerns about capitation in universities, and how the tracking of funds disbursed to private universities is carried out.

During the meeting, Education CS, Ezekiel Machogu disclosed of a new Government policy that will have all students placed in public universities.



Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education Chairperson, Hon. Jack Wamboka (Bumula) and Vice-chair, Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West) at a recent Committee meeting.

This is scheduled to take effect from the upcoming placement in September 2023. He also revealed that this decision was influenced by H.E. Dr. William Ruto's proposal to channel all funds back to public universities to ensure their financial sustainability.

The Committee has been undertaking

a review of the audit reports of public universities and TVET institutions.

However, the Members raised concerns after revelations that these institutions have become insolvent, a challenge ministry officials present during the meeting attributed to underfunding. The officials confirmed that they

**We as a Committee, how to protect the longevity of our public universities and commit to overseeing the enforcement of the recent directive. Non-compliance will not be tolerated and those responsible will be held answerable. Let us endeavor to revive the prestige of our public universities," declared.**

**Hon. Wamboka, the Chairperson.**

had the capacity to accommodate students placed in private universities.

The university funding board records indicate that KES 13.7 billion has been disbursed to private universities so far.

Hon. Wamboka, the Committee's chairperson, pledged to safeguard the sustainability of public universities and promised to monitor the implementation of the new directive closely. He also warned that anyone who fails to comply with the new policy would be held accountable.

He thanked the President for his recommendations and notified the Education CS that the Committee's focus is to ensure that all private universities funded by the government undergo an audit conducted by the Auditor General's office. Hon. Wamboka indicated that the Committee would present this proposal to the House soon.



## Pan-African Parliament urged to develop laws facilitating African Free Trade zone to spur growth and prosperity in the continent



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula in a meeting with a delegation from Pan-African Parliament led by President of the Pan-African Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira.

Members of the National Assembly have asked the Pan-African Parliament to develop laws that will facilitate the Africa Free Trade Zone to enable the Continent to trade internally without overreliance on external trade.

According to the lawmakers, a Free Trade Zone is one of the many tools that African countries could use to spur growth.

They emphasized the need for resources to be allocated to the Pan-African Parliament so that they could achieve their mandate to legislate and harmonize growth and prosperity not only within respective countries and regions but across the continent.

The lawmakers were speaking on Thursday during a visit by President of the Pan-African Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira.

The President is in the country to enhance collaboration between the regional Parliament, the Kenyan Parliament, and the National Executive.

"We also want to push for resources for the Pan-African Parliament so that we can achieve our mandate to legislate and harmonize growth and prosperity not only in our countries and regions but in the continent," said Eldama Ravine MP Hon. Musa Sirma.

Hon. Sirma, said that the Pan-African Parliament was the only house where legislators discussed the African continent and the Free Trade Zone that would enable internal trade without going out of Africa.

Hon. Rahab Mukami, (Nyeri County), a member of the Pan-African Parliament, pledged support to President Charumbira in building democracy within Africa and addressing economic challenges.

She promised to rally behind calls for the Free Trade Area and Equal System Africa to promote trade and African integration.

Kimilili MP Hon. Didmus Barasa emphasized the need for a seamless Africa where people could travel across the African continent without visa requirements.

"We want to see the Kenyan people crossing

over to South Africa or Zimbabwe for employment without any hindrance because Africa is one," said Hon. Barasa.

Lugari MP Hon. Nabii Nabwera expressed his desire for a united African continent with a common language of business.

He urged the Pan-African Parliament to lead the continent in rediscovering itself to compete with the Asian Tigers, the West, and the Eastern Bloc.

"We would like the Pan-African Parliament to lead the continent in rediscovering itself where Kwame Nkrumah and Abdel Nasser wished it to be," said Hon. Nabwera.

Endebess MP Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose rooted on the need to exploit the power of Inga Dams in the Congo River to generate electricity to feed the entire continent.

"Africa is rich; we are not poor and have resources that are exported to other countries for value addition. We can also do value addition in the African region," said Hon. Pukose.

Kitui Central MP Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu challenged Parliament to focus on Africa's main challenges, including the language barrier, to enable communication and facilitate trade.

## Deputy Speaker lauds IPPFoRB for promoting freedom of religion and belief

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Gladys Boss has underscored the importance of religion as a part of an individual's identity.

Hon. Boss noted that religion has played a significant role in the political sphere since post-independence, with faith-based organizations being critical in the development of socio-economic rights.

She was speaking when she represented the Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, at the International Parliamentarians Panel for Freedom of Religion, or Belief (IPPFoRB) Conference held at Serena Hotel in Nairobi early this week.

The Uasin Gishu County lawmaker also told the participants that the thematic workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would assist in developing better legislative and policy frameworks. She hailed IPPFoRB as a crucial forum for promotion of religion as a feature of civilization and contribution to human development.

The Conference whose overarching theme is "Leave No One Behind" is geared towards promoting freedom of religion



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Gladys Boss speaking at the Inter-Parliamentarians Panel for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB).

or belief in the advancement of human flourishing and just societies. This initiative is in line with the central transformative promise of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Hon. Boss also emphasized on the importance of religion as a part of an individual's identity, stating that the thematic workshop on SDG would assist in developing better legislative and policy frameworks.

She further emphasized the role of religion in promoting social cohesion as well as in addressing socio-economic issues within the government.

She acknowledged that the appointment of government officials includes members from the Inter-Religious Council is a step towards enhancing inclusivity.

"I hope that the conference will enable leaders to learn from each other as religion is a multifaceted concept that plays a crucial role in steering the country forward," she said.

Commenting on Kenya's efforts in promoting liberties with regard to the right to choose religion, Hon. Boss noted that the country has made strides in protecting religious freedoms, and the education system allows for the teaching of various religious subjects, which is not a common practice worldwide.

At the same time, the Deputy Speaker hailed the government's effort in promoting inclusivity by granting licenses to faith-based radio stations to cater for diverse groups.

“

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Hon. Boss

She was also quick to note that Kenya is among the few nations where law students are required to study not only Christian customary law, but also Islamic and Hindu marriage laws, thus promoting religious tolerance among Kenyans.

## MPs put Education CS to task over operations of Junior Secondary Schools

The Cabinet Secretary for Education Hon. Ezekiel Machogu has revealed that the government has spent Ksh 7.6 billion to construct 9,721 classrooms in secondary schools across the country.

He says the move aims at reducing congestion in these institutions, which has been a significant challenge in the education sector.

He was responding to a question by Hon. Oku Kaunya (Teso North) Wednesday during Question Time.

The lawmaker had asked the Cabinet Secretary to provide information on the amount of public funds channeled towards the construction of classrooms in junior secondary schools countrywide.

According to Hon. Machogu, the classrooms were built to address a deficit of classrooms in secondary schools which stood at 2,633, as at December 2022.

The CS further informed the lawmakers that by December 2022, enrollment in secondary schools had increased from



Teso North MP Hon. Oku Kaunya during a past Committee meeting at Parliament buildings

3,523,428 learners to 3,526,197 from the previous year.

"Presently, the enrollment stands at 3,690,376 learners. As a result, an additional 9,028 classrooms are required to meet the ever-growing demand", noted Education Cabinet Secretary.

Lawmakers' raised alarm regarding the current domiciling of Junior

The government has spent Ksh 7.6 billion to construct 9,721 classrooms in secondary schools across the country.

secondary schools (JSS) in primary schools as a temporary measure. They sought to know when learners would be relocated to the premises of secondary schools.

The MPs also asked further supplementary questions regarding the timelines the Ministry of Education has set to ensure pupils get to use the facilities, the lack of JSS classrooms in various constituencies and the status of employment of JSS teachers across the country.

However, the Cabinet Secretary did not provide an immediate response, but assured the House that the matter was being addressed.

## Committee faults KBC over irregular contracts and mismanagement of assets

The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation chaired by Dagoretti South MP, Hon. John Kiarie, has faulted the management of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) over alleged assets' mismanagement and irregular contract deals.

The concerns were raised during a two-day consultative forum with KBC, Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK), Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK), and the National Treasury. In attendance was Prof. Edward Kisiang'ani, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications.

The forum was intended to provide a platform for the agencies to apprise the Committee on their mandate, functions, challenges, and legislative gaps as well as possible turnaround strategies to revive the underperforming agencies. They were also expected to inform the Committee of the measures put in place to settle the existing debts and pending bills.

Among the issues that attracted in-depth deliberations was the Kshs 7 Billion debt KBC owes a United Kingdom Company, after the broadcaster entered into an irregular contract deal without the involvement of the office of the Attorney General and the National Treasury, who are critical players in any financial deals with foreign companies, and County TV investment.

The CEO noted that a review of the KBC Act CAP 221 (1989) is crucial for enabling the Corporation's operations to be in tandem with the current media trend, and sought the Committee's support in attaining this goal.

The Committee highlighted the critical need for a reform agenda of KBC in order to deal with reported historical debts, some of which need to be regularized by Treasury through a sessional paper.



Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South) during a meeting with stakeholders; KBC, CAK, PCK and the National Treasury.

On his part, the Principal Secretary Prof Kisiang'ani emphasized the need for KBC and PCK to have full disclosure on their issues if they need Parliament's intervention in solving their challenges.

In his presentation, the Director General of CAK, Mr. Ezra Chiloba told the lawmakers that the Authority has already aligned itself with the digital transformation agenda, and is keen on rolling out new CA and Universal Service fund strategic plans. He also proposed the formulation of regulatory practices for the future.

Speaking during the forum, Post-Master General Mr. John Tanui shed light on the turnaround strategies that PCK is looking to adopt especially with regard to modernization of logistics and e-commerce, while working on leveraging on technology to improve on its service delivery.

# MASHINANI IN BRIEF

## KERICHO COUNTY

### Kericho County MP eradicating jiggers through decent housing programme



Kericho County MP. Hon. Beatrice Kemei (in green), donates iron sheets to a beneficiary of Usawa Kwa Wote housing project.

Over 30 needy families in Kericho County have benefited from a housing project dubbed “Usawa kwa Wote”, that is aimed at promoting decent living and eradicating jigger infestation in the community.

Speaking while donating building materials to the affected residents, Kericho County MP Hon. Beatrice Kemei pledged to support those affected to ensure that they live decent lives free of jiggers.

“Housing for the most vulnerable families is among our NG-AAF signature projects for the entire County of Kericho. This project is set to ensure that the jigger menace is eradicated once and for all.” said Hon. Kemei.

## KILIFI COUNTY



Kilifi County MP. Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu shows how it is done during the launch of a Maendeleo ya Wanaweke women empowerment programme in Kaloleni Town, Kilifi County.

## KITUI COUNTY

### Needy students from Kitui County benefit from Mama Care Foundation Programme by Hon. Kasalu

Students and families from Kitui County were overwhelmed by emotions as they expressed their joy after benefiting from the full scholarships awarded to them by the County MP.

The initiative is a full sponsored scholarship from Form one to university level. Speaking during the awarding event, Hon. Kasalu promised to ensure children from disadvantaged families are not locked out from getting an opportunity to acquire education.

“It’s my desire to ensure bright and needy children from Kitui County actualize their dreams,” She Said.

She also affirmed her commitment to ensure the scholarship program remains as a legacy project in Kitui County and be a point of reference for the leaders to come in efforts to eradicate poverty across the County.



Hon. Irene Kasalu Kitui County MP presents a cheque to beneficiaries of Mama Care Foundation Programme.

## IJARA CONSITUENCY

### Ijara MP launches ward level constituency office

In the quest to advance his willingness to engage with his constituents and address their concerns, Ijara legislator Hon. Abdi Ali Abdi has launched ward level constituency offices in all the four wards.

The offices located at Hulugho, Sangailu, Ijara and Masalani wards are set to provide direct and accessible representation to the great people of Ijara constituency.

In line with his campaign pledges, Hon. Abdi noted that the offices will see services get closer to the people and act as a channel to address the community needs.

“The considerate decision to establish an office in every ward in Ijara constituency was my campaign promise that I’m proud to actualize and fulfill” Hon. Abdi Said while launching the office at the border town of Hulugho.



Ijara MP. Hon. Abdi Ali, ( second right ), unveiling the Ijara ward level constituency office

## Dagoretti South



### Hon Kiarie supports education of needy students

The academic future of 1,027 bright and needy students from Dagoretti South constituency got a boost after area MP, Hon John Kiarie disbursed NG-CDF bursaries to support their education in various secondary schools in the area.

Hon. Kiarie said he would put more emphasis on supporting needy and bright children to ensure no student is denied an education due to their underprivileged background .





# Clique & Clicks ▶ Get sighted by the lens



Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri) the Chairperson of Regional Integration Committee, shares a light moment with EAC, ASALs and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Rebecca Miano, after a retreat held at Serena Hotel, Mombasa.

A delegation from the National Assembly drawn from the Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers, and the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations pose with the Kenyan Ambassador to the US, H.E. Lazarus Amayo (3rd right) and the Consul General, Los Angeles, Mr. Thomas Kwaka (back row-right) after a meeting at the Kenyan Mission in Washington DC. The delegation was in the US on invitation to attend the One Voice Consortium Forum and engaged the Kenyan Diaspora over several issues.



Members of the Public Debt and Privatization Committee on a site visit to the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) to review the status of the Mombasa Port Development Project. The Phase I and II project is funded by the Japanese Government through the Japanese International Corporation Agencies (JICA) and guaranteed by the Kenya Government and therefore part of the Public Stock of Debt.

Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Members Services and Facilities pose for a photograph after an extensive tour of the proposed Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) Institute in Karen. The Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) will spend Ksh4.2 billion to set up the project that is earmarked for a regional training institute on Parliamentary matters.



Group Photo; The Delegation attending the Inter-Parliamentarians Panel for Freedom of Religion, or Belief (IPPFoRB) Conference, held at Serena Hotel, Nairobi.

Members of the Committee on Administration and Internal Affairs at a media briefing in Kilifi County following a meeting with County Commissioner and the County Security team regarding the mass graves discovered in Shakahola village



A section of Members of the National Assembly's Social Protection Committee, led by the Committee Chairperson Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a (Thika Town), consulting with the PS State Department of Youth Affairs and Arts, Ismael Maalim (left) after they expressed their dissatisfaction with Sports CS, Hon. Ababu Namwamba's failure to show up to their consultative meeting held at a Mombasa hotel.

# Speaker Wetang'ula calls for enhanced efforts to strengthen political parties

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has urged the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) to step up their efforts to strengthen political parties so as to open up the democratic space in the country.

Hon Wetang'ula noted that he values and recognizes the role played by the CMD in the growth and stability of political parties but added that there is still more that needs to be done.

Speaking when he hosted CMD Chairperson Hon. Priscilla Nyokabi and other officials, Hon Wetang'ula said since the introduction of Multiparty in the country, Kenya has made great strides in the improvement of democratic space.

"I challenge the CMD to engage political parties to understand that they are not only vehicles for elections," said Hon Wetang'ula who doubles as the CMD's Patron.

The Speaker observed that the country is currently going through tough economic challenges adding that political parties had a critical role in ensuring Kenya's economic recovery.

"Kenya should borrow a leaf from Malaysia and Vietnam that recovered from serious economic woes occasioned by political instability to be among top economic giants in the world," said the Speaker.



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula being honoured by Chairperson of Centre for Multiparty Democracy Hon. Priscilla Nyokabi who had paid him a courtesy call in his office at Parliament Buildings alongside other officials of the organization.

He added: "Vietnam picked one of coffee species in Kenya, developed it and now it has become the third largest coffee producers after Brazil and Colombia".

He added that political parties should now shift their focus to economic transformation of the country adding that they can effectively undertake this role because of their influence in the society and to citizens.

“There is need for us to have meetings on quarterly basis to discuss gains we have achieved, challenges and chat way forward

Hon. Wetang'ula

The Speaker thanked the leadership of CMD for the courtesy call and assured them of his support through enhanced good working relationship.

"There is need for us to have meetings on quarterly basis to discuss gains we have achieved, challenges and chat way forward," he added.

Hon Nyokabi thanked the Speaker for hosting them adding that such meetings will go along way in helping CMD run its activities effectively.

# South Mugirango MP decries closure of Nduru Level Five Hospital by County government



Hon. Sylvanus Osoro (South Mugirango) during a past meeting at the Mini-Chamber.

A legislator has decried the indefinite closure of Nduru level 5 hospital in Kisii county over safety concerns, disclosing that the move has subjected the residents to a lot of distress as they cannot access health services.

The closure of the hospital was revealed by Hon. Sylvanus Osoro, MP (South Mugirango), while addressing the National Assembly. He decried to the House that the hospital which was built by the government in partnership with the World Bank had to be shut down due to safety

concerns following an incident that occurred on April 12th, 2023.

The closure was initiated by the County government's attempt to transfer medical equipment from the hospital to another healthcare facility. Unfortunately, the locals protested, resulting in some medical personnel getting injured. This incident forced the hospital's indefinite closure, causing immense suffering to the residents who rely on it for essential healthcare services.

Now the MP is calling on the County government to work closely with the national government to reopen the hospital and ensure the resumption of medical services as soon as possible. Members of Parliament, while making contributions, noted that the hospital's prolonged closure has had severe effects on the residents of Kisii County.

They stressed the need for the county government to prioritize the health of its citizens by taking prompt action to address the hospital's closure.

"This closure underscores the need for stronger measures to protect healthcare facilities and personnel, especially in areas where residents depend on them for essential services. It is hoped that the necessary measures will be taken to ensure that the medical facility is reopened and fully operational to serve the people of Kisii County," held Hon. Caleb Hamisi .

The hospital which was built by the government in partnership with the World Bank had to be shut down due to safety concerns following an incident that occurred on April 12th, 2023.



## MP calls for tough regulations to discourage rebranding of imported sugar by non-millers

Mumias East Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon. Peter Salasya, has called for stricter regulations on the branding of sugar by non-millers.

Hon. Salasya who sits on the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, expressed concern over the illegal importation of low-quality and adulterated sugar into the country.

"Despite existing regulations, unscrupulous traders have been found to rebrand substandard sugar, which poses a significant health risk to consumers and undermines efforts to regulate and strengthen the sugar industry to protect local millers," said the Mumias East Legislator while addressing the House.

While moving his notice of motion, Hon. Salasya emphasized that the country has the potential to produce enough sugar to meet its domestic demand, and called for concerted efforts by stakeholders to discourage the branding of sugar by non-millers and promote the development of the local sugar industry.

The motion seeks to ensure the strict operationalization of the regulatory frameworks governing sugar importation into the country through the Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Industry. Hon. Salasya's efforts are aimed at safeguarding the health of consumers and protecting the local sugar industry from unfair competition by unscrupulous traders.



Mumias East Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon. Peter Salasya, who called for stricter regulations on the branding of sugar by non-millers



The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Labour, Hon. Eric Muchangi.

Isaac Kipkemboi Melly, has been unanimously approved as a Salaries and Remuneration Commissioner (SRC) by the National Assembly.

This follows a Report by the Committee on Labour chaired by Hon. Eric Muchangi on vetting of the nominee.

## House unanimously approves Mr. Melly's appointment as SRC Commissioner

The Committee on Labour based its findings on Article 230(2)(b)(1) and 250(2)(b) of the constitution, section 5 of the SRC Act, 2015, and section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act 2011.

The Report revealed that Melly is eligible for the appointment to the state office as he is a Kenyan citizen born in Uasin Gishu County, holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, a Bachelor of Business Management, and a Diploma in Business Management.

Members of the National Assembly learnt that Mr. Isaac Melly had previously served as a Senator of Uasin Gishu County and was a member of the Parliament of Kenya from 2013 to 2017.

This experience, coupled with his qualifications, makes him well-suited to serve on behalf of Parliament in the SRC.

Lawmakers' who reviewed the Committee's report agreed that Melly has a strong understanding of administrative and technical issues affecting the SRC and the Parliamentary Service Commission. Legislators affirmed that Mr Melly's appointment will bring a new voice of reason to the commission and ensure that members' welfare is prioritized.

Report revealed that Melly is eligible for the appointment to the State Office.

## Hon. Wamuchomba defends Bill to protect the elderly persons as she appears before Social Protection Committee

Githunguri Member of Parliament Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba last week appeared before the National Assembly's Social Protection Committee where she took committee members through her Geriatric Bill 2022 which seeks to invoke Article 57 of the Constitution of Kenya with the aim of establishing The National Council for the elderly.

During her appearance, Hon. Wamuchomba stated that the proposed Bill is meant put in place mechanisms to protect the elderly persons in the country physically, emotionally and maintenance of their well-being, Safety and Security.

"These are people who fought for Independence, nurtured our land and taken care of us. The Bill is before you for consideration and make necessary recommendations," Hon Wamuchomba told the Alice Nganga (Thika Town) led committee.



Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba, MP, Githunguri Constituency when she appeared before the Social Protection Committee to give views on the Geriatrics Bill.

She said this would provide the legal framework that promotes the rights of the elderly as enshrined under Article 57 of the Constitution. She further told the committee Members that the Bill would provide a framework for the registration of the elderly persons, establishment and management of residential facilities for the elderly, further prohibiting abuse of elderly persons.

"These are people who fought for our Independence, nurtured our land and took care of us. The Bill is before your committee for you to consider and make the necessary recommendations."

Hon. Wamuchomba notified the committee that she developed the Bill from an Amendment Proposal she made in 2018, when the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee advised that she comes up with a unanimous law and not only an amendment.

Hon. Wamuchomba further says upon approval and assent, the law will provide for the establishment of the

National Council of the Elderly charged with the mandate and responsibility of improving the living conditions of elder members of society by providing their rights to human dignity, safety, education, equality and non-discrimination.

The Bill concerns County Governments in terms of Article 109 of the constitution, as it contains provisions that effect the functions and powers of County Government set out in the Fourth Schedule.



## BUNGE THIS WEEK

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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