



BUNGE Review

MPs Push For Office of The First Lady to be anchored in The Law

South Africa Legislators Visit Kenya To Benchmark On Labour Migration Policies

Return of Question Time, what is different this time round?

Newly Established Public Petitions Committee off to a Busy Start

Speaker DOCTOR Wetang'ula
Why Kibabii University awarded Speaker an honorary doctrate



MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK



Dear Reader,

Welcome to our 15th issue of the Bunge Review. This is the fourth issue in the 13th Parliament.

We begin with great news on our Speaker being feted with a Honorary Degree of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa) by Kibabii University. The article expounds on the contributions that the National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has made in the last four decades.

In the article Return of Question Time, What is Different this Time Round? You will read about the latest amendments to the National Assembly Standing Orders where Cabinet Secretaries now appear before the House on Wednesday afternoons for a maximum of three hours to respond to Members' questions.

This issue has carried a story on the newly-established Public Petitions Committee that is chaired by Hon. Nimrod Mbai (Kitui East). The Committee, which handles all public petitions transmitted to the House, has considered several petitions which I invite you to read more about.

Different Committees of the National Assembly have been quite busy and in this issue we have highlighted businesses being conducted by them. The Departmental Committee on Lands has considered the National Rating Bill, 2023 which is aligned to the devolved system of governance, among other objects. It will interest you to read about the Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2022, sponsored by Hon. Didmus Barasa, which seeks to provide that pensioners will be paid their pension dues within ninety days after retirement.

If you are a farmer, then the story about the proposed Commodities Fund Bill will interest you. The National Assembly's Agriculture Committee has reviewed the proposed Bill which seeks to provide farmers with enhanced financing options.

And there is more on the approval of the Kenya Fish Marketing Authority Chairperson by the House, the recent visit by South Africa legislators and the Jukwaa la Kiswahili.

Sit back and enjoy.

SAMUEL J. NJOROGE
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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Why Kibabii University Feted Speaker Wetang'ula With a Doctorate Honours.



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula holding his certificate of honorary degree of Doctorate in Humane Letters on March 3, 2023.

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula's outstanding achievements and distinguished contributions to the advancement of humanity and in particular the commitment to promotion of social peace, defense of human rights, community empowerment and advancement of selfless public service saw him being feted with a Honorary Degree of the Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa) by the Kibabii University.

Speaker Wetang'ula's engagement in public service spans across forty years. He began his service in the Judiciary as a Magistrate in 1982 and served in various stations

across the country including Kithimani, Machakos, Kisii and Rongo. The Honourable Speaker began his political career in 1993 when he was nominated to the 7th Parliament (1993 to 1997).

He served for five cumulative terms between 1993 and 2013 as Member of the National Assembly for Sirisia Constituency, and as Senator for Bungoma County for the period (2013 to 2022).

During his first term as Nominated Member, he served as a member of the Speaker's Panel (Temporary Deputy Speaker), the House Business Committee as well as the Committee on Defence

& Foreign Relations. He was also an active Member of the CPA Executive Committee. In the 7th Parliament, he led various reforms to the rules of procedure of the House and was the Leader of Kenya delegation to the African, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union Joint Assembly (ACP-EU, JPA).

During his first term in the Senate (2013 to 2022) and part of his second term as Senator for Bungoma County, the Hon. Wetang'ula served as the Senate Minority Leader, and a member of the Senate Business Committee.

He also served as a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence & Foreign Relations and the Committee on Finance & Budget. Prior to 2013, the Hon. Speaker Wetang'ula held various cabinet portfolios. Between 2011 and 2013, the Hon. Wetang'ula was the Minister for Trade, and also served as the Chairperson of the African Union Peace & Security Council.

Between 2004 and 2007, he served as Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs before being appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, a position he held up to 2011.

Globally, Speaker Wetang'ula seeks to continue building and strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and the long and rich relationship the Parliament of Kenya has had with key players including the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); the Pan African Parliament (PAP); the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU); the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the Organisation

of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

Speaker Wetang'ula is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and an active member of the Law Society of Kenya. He is an astute debater with exceptional grasp of parliamentary practices and procedures.

While awarding Hon. Wetang'ula with the honours during Kibabii's 7th graduation ceremony, Kibabii University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ipara Odeo said that the University Council had recognized the Speaker due to his outstanding work to the community. *"A honorary degree is usually awarded to those with extraordinary achievements in the society just as the Speaker has demonstrated"*.

He observed that Speaker Wetang'ula was the third person to be awarded the prestigious title by the Institution since its inception and praised him as a brave leader who stood with Kenyan soldiers who had been accused of perpetrating the 1980 coup as their legal counsel.

The VC averred that Hon. Wetang'ula rose from a humble background and had assisted many people in various capacities where others have often kept off.

The Vice chancellor said Hon. Wetang'ula's famous phrase that lightning does not strike a tree twice both during the Bungoma Senatorial by election in 2013 and during his controversial ouster as Senate minority leader had made him an extra ordinary leader. *"The phrase has inspired many upcoming leaders and that is why we are going to honour him today,"* said Prof. Odeo.

MPs Want First Lady's Office Anchored in Law



Above: Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo, The Chair of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security. Below: State House Comptroller (Far right in checked shirt) Hon. Katoo ole Meitito and other officers from the Executive Office of the President during the retreat

Members of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security have directed the Executive Office of the President to initiate the process of anchoring the Office of the First Lady in law, thus mainstreaming it in the government structures. The proposal was made in March when the Committee met agencies under the Office of President in a retreat in Mombasa.

A number of Members of the Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo-led Committee observed that it was unfortunate that there is no act of Parliament that supports the programs of the Office, despite the fact that the Office's programs are supported by taxpayers.



"I have been in this Committee for the last 10 years. During that period, we have been allocating funds for programs under the Office of the President and that of the Deputy President. Recently, the Office of the Spouse of the Prime Cabinet Secretary was

established. I think it's time we have this office properly entrenched in the government structure", noted Hon. Kaluma.

The Office of the First Lady was represented at the forum by the Chief of Staff, Ms. Nancy Salamba, who explained to the legislators how the Office of the First Lady complements the government in the achievement of its strategy.

She appraised the Committee on some of the programs the Office is undertaking and which are geared towards promoting women economic empowerment through capacity building, financial inclusion, trade and market linkages.

Ms. Salamba told the Committee that the programs are targeting to reach over one million women across the country. She urged the Committee to consider allocating the Office more funds in the next budget to help mitigate the deficit in its budget. The Office is also running a Prisoners' Reform Program christened the Caracana among other programs aligned with the Bottom-up transformational agenda.

Members were impressed by Ms. Salamba's presentation, but urged the Office to work closely with legislators to promote a buy-in of their projects, as well as accelerate the projects' impact within constituencies.

"Your presentation has brought to light the great job that the Office of the First Lady is undertaking. However, I realise that your target is also the target of Women Representatives. You need to work with them, and indeed all legislators for more impactful results", said Hon. Rosa Buyu.

Committee Member, Hon. Peter Kaluma lauded the Office for its continued support for the family unit. Noting that the Office



Hon. Rachel Ruto EGH, The First Lady of The Republic of Kenya

has a crucial role in the wake of the debate on same sex relationships, he called on the Office to support his proposed Family Protection Bill, 2023, when it is introduced in the House. The proposed law is seeking to outlaw, criminalize and punish homosexuality and other unnatural sexual acts and to further criminalize the promotion of such acts in Kenya.

At the same time, the legislators have asked the Office to ensure continuity of the Beyond Zero Program that was spearheaded by the former First Lady, H.E. Margaret Kenyatta. Committee Members noted that it would be imperative that the Office continues running the program since it was being supported by the taxpayer, and for the general welfare of its targeted beneficiaries.

Speaker Wetang'ula lauds KEWOPA's push in realization of Gender Equality



Speaker Wetang'ula receives a gift from Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Left) and Hon. Irene Kasalu (Right)

Parliament is keen on working together with the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) to uplift female parliamentarians and budding women in leadership, National Assembly Speaker, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has said. During a meeting with the newly elected KEWOPA Executive Committee, Speaker Wetang'ula commended the continued efforts by caucus in pushing for gender equity in and outside Parliament.

The Speaker lauded significant role played by KEWOPA in agitating for the passage of laws and policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment in Kenya. The Speaker committed supporting the initiative of the association noting that he "...supports and believes in women and women in leadership ...(and)... will work together."

During the meeting, the KEWOPA

Executive requested the Speaker, who is also as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), to assist in the transformation of the KEWOPA from a caucus to a gender directorate within the PSC structure. This, it was noted, would enhance the activities of KEWOPA in advancing women's economic empowerment and obtaining administrative support from the Commission. In response, the Speaker noted that indeed, the transformation from a caucus to a directorate would give KEWOPA more influence and resources to advance its agenda. In a raft of recommendations, Speaker Wetang'ula suggested to the KEWOPA Executive members to work cohesively and in harmony especially with political parties to further their agenda. The Speaker stressed the need for KEWOPA to include men in their activities to ensure the inclusivity of the "boychild" to ensure no one is left behind.

The newly elected members of the KEWOPA Executive Committee are:



The Hon. Sankaire Leah Soipato, MP
Chairperson



The Hon. Beatrice Elachi Kadeveresia, MP
Deputy Chair, National Assembly



Sen. Catherine Muyeka Mumma, MP
Deputy Chair, Senate



The Hon. Irene Kasalu Muthoni, MP
Secretary



The Hon. Dr. Phylis Bartoo Jepkemoi, MP
Deputy Secretary



The Hon. Caroline Ngelechei Jeptoo, MP
Treasurer



The Hon. Alice Wambui Ng'ang'a, MP
Chair, Leading Women Caucus



Sen. Beth Kalunda Syengo, MP
Deputy Treasurer



The Hon. Wachira Rahab Mukami, MP
Chair, Caucus 47



Sen. Keroche Tabitha Karanja, MP
Chair, Elected - SENATE



Sen. Maureen Tabitha Mutinda, MP
Chair, Nominated - SENATE



The Hon. Irene Nyakerario Mayaka, MP
Chair, Nominated - National Assembly

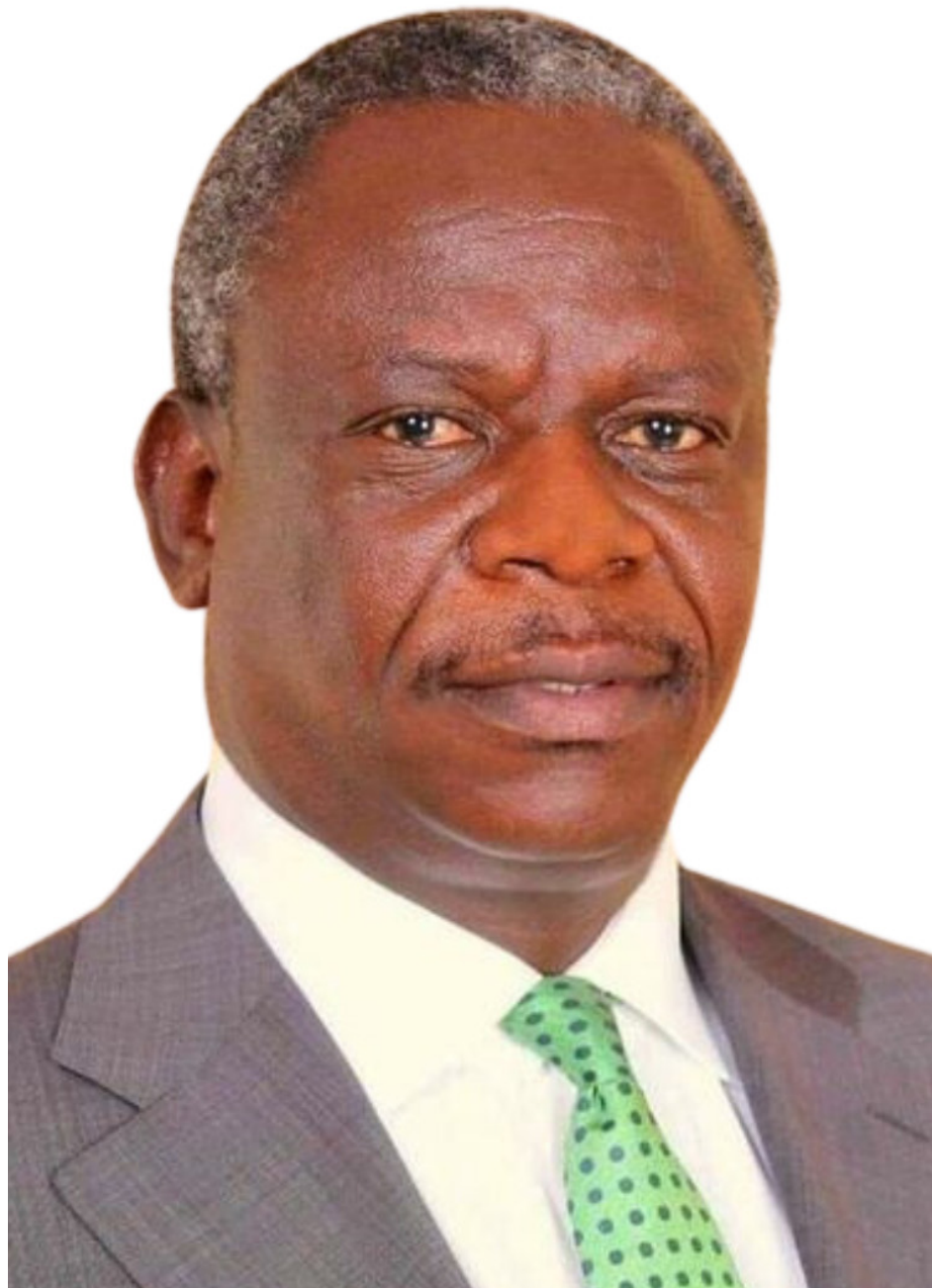


Sen. Crystal Kegehi Asige, MP
PWD Representative



The Hon. Mohamed Umulkher Harun, MP
Youth Representative

House Approves Kenya Fish Marketing Authority Chairperson



In a session held on 18th April 2023, the House approved the appointment of Hon. Martin Otieno Ogindo as the Chairperson of the Kenya Fish Marketing Authority following the consideration of the nominee by the Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water, and Irrigation. The vetting, undertaken pursuant to the Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2016 and the Public Appointment (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011, was conducted on 31st March 2023 by the Committee which is led by the Member for Marakwet East, Hon. Kangogo Bowen.

The Committee assessed the nominee's knowledge of the fishing sub-sector including his understanding of the challenges facing the industry and opportunities available to the country. Notably, the Committee did not receive any memorandum contesting the nominee's suitability for the position.

Hon. Martin Otieno Ogindo is a former Member of Parliament for Rangwe and served in the 10th Parliament (2008-2013).

While moving the Motion of approval, the Committee Chairperson, the Hon. Bowen informed the House that the nominee had committed to engage all key stakeholders and undertake a proper scientific study on the market gaps to ensure increased support to the sector. The nominee noted the unexplored possibilities of the blue economy industry that, if fully exploited, would positively contribute to country's GDP. He pointed out that countries like Namibia in Africa have already witnessed the impact of the Blue Economy sector

accounting for 60% of their GDP.

The Vice-Chair, the Hon Kitayama (Kuria East) gave assurance to the House about Mr. Ogindo's competence and emphasized the importance of reviewing the current laws regulating the blue economy industry. This would be beneficial for the progress of the sector.

During the parliamentary proceedings, legislators engaged in thoughtful discourse and put forth suggestions regarding the existing challenges confronting the fishing industry and which require urgent consideration. Specifically, attention was drawn towards the significant loss of fish at Dunga Beach in Kisumu, where fish farmers encountered an inexplicable event resulting in the loss of considerable fish population in approximately 30 cages resulting in an estimated financial loss of KES 5 Million.

Mr. Ogindo will be at the helm of the Authority for the next three (3) years and will seek to steer the institution to ensure the effective performance of its functions which include developing, implementing and coordinating a national fish marketing strategy; ensuring that fish and fishery products from Kenya enjoy market access at local, national, regional and international levels as premier products; promoting the sustainable use of fish by preventing, deterring and eliminating to the extent possible trade in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; enforcing national fisheries trade laws and international fisheries related trade rules; and identifying fish market needs and trends and advise fisheries stakeholders accordingly, among other functions.

South Africa Legislators Visit Kenya to Benchmark on Labour Migration Policies



The delegation from the Parliament of South Africa pose for a photo with a section of Members from the two Committees that hosted them

A delegation from the South African Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Labour and Employment, led by the Chairperson, Hon. M.L. Dunjwa, held an engagement last month with their counterpart Committees in the National Assembly whose mandates cover labour and migrant workers affairs.

The delegation was hosted by the Departmental Committee on Labour led by Hon. Erick Muchangi (Runyenjes Constituency), and the Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers chaired by Hon. Lydia Haika Mizighi (Taita-Taveta County).

The objective of their study tour was to apprise themselves with Kenya's labour and employment policies, assess the

accountability of immigrants in the Kenyan labour market, and share best practices on labour migration policy oversight.

Hon. Muchangi highlighted the increasing number of Kenyans, both skilled and unskilled, seeking employment opportunities in other countries, including South Africa, due to increased unemployment in Kenya. He also noted that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE are popular labour destinations for Kenya's semi and unskilled migrant workers.

On her part, Hon. Haika observed that while labour migration is viewed positively for its contribution to development through skills transfer and remittances, more needs to be done to ensure protection

of the immigrants' constitutional rights and wellbeing.

During the joint meeting, the Kenyan legislators shared with their counterparts, the existing policies on labour, immigrant workers, and those that govern labour export. These practices include ensuring that all foreign workers attain work permits, certification from the Higher Education Loans Board, Oversight Mechanism and Community Feedback Mechanisms with the International Organization for Migration to monitor and report unethical recruitment practices and illegal activities by private recruitment agencies.

The Members also informed the delegation of the ongoing efforts towards pre-departure trainings, championing for market driven courses in institutions of higher learning, and improving the labour migration policy and governance.

The presentation by the visiting delegation highlighted the challenges the South African Government is grappling with relating to the influx of illegal migrant workers. Hon. Dunjwa acknowledged that the situation had caused some discomfort with South Africans given the high number of their citizens who are out of work. While acknowledging the need for the continent to embrace the African Union Protocol on movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment, she noted that immigration must be streamlined within the established frameworks.

Free movement has been taunted as a means to boost tourism, ease demographic pressure in host countries, and boost cultural exchange. Pundits also believe it would be instrumental in reducing irregular migration, fueled by smugglers and traffickers.

An Aerial Image Of Cape Town South Africa



Return of Question Time, What is Different this Time Round?



The Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi responds to questions during his 'Question Time' session

In most parliamentary jurisdictions, Members of Parliament hold the government to account through Questions directed to government ministers. Question Time provides an opportunity for Members, as the people's representative to question government ministers about matters for which the ministers are responsible.

Prior to the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, Question Time in the National Assembly was used by Members to not only represent their constituents but more importantly to oversight government work. However, with the new dispensation, there were operational and procedural difficulties regarding Question Time. This was based on the fact that unlikely the previous governance system where cabinet ministers were members of the House, the

new presidential system provides for the appointment to the Cabinet of persons who are not Members of Parliament.

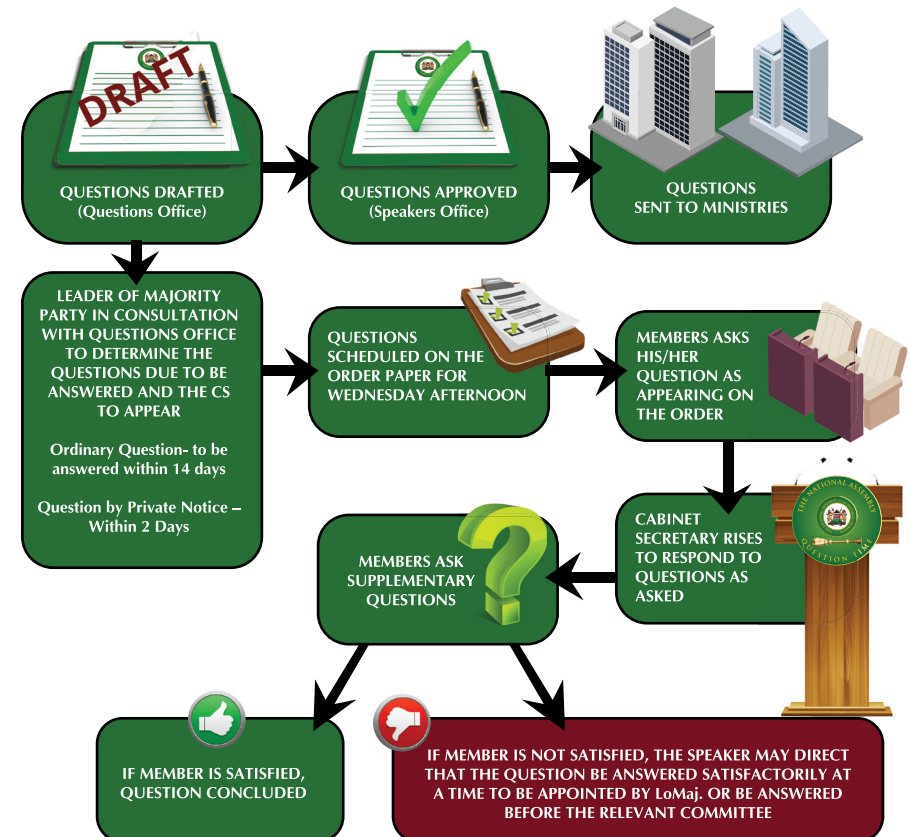
In an attempt to afford the House an avenue for representation and oversight, Requests for Statements, and later Questions through Committees were developed. However, was the general feeling that this was not enough noting that responses from ministries were presented to the House by Chairpersons of the relevant Committees who could only respond according to the response provided with no room for commitment on implementation. With this in mind and following a memorandum received in December 2022 from His Excellency the President, the Procedure and House Rules Committee considered various proposals for enhancing accountability

by the Executive to the House. On 9th March 2023, following the adoption of the Report of the Procedure and House Rules Committee on Amendments to the Standing Orders, the House approved proposed amendments seeking to allow for the appearance of Cabinet Secretaries to answer questions before the House.

The amendments, as approved by the House, vested in the Speaker the power of designating a place within the Chamber from where a Cabinet Secretary shall answer questions by Members. Notably, respective Cabinet Secretaries will now be appearing before the House on Wednesdays afternoon for a total period

not exceeding three (3) hours to respond to questions. The determination on the specific Cabinet Secretary scheduled to appear will be made by the leadership of the House through the Leader of the Majority Party in consultations with the Executive, taking into consideration the number of questions directed to the respective ministries, departments and agencies, and the urgency of the questions.

In order to compensate for the additional activity, the House also approved extended hours of sitting on Wednesday afternoons. In this regard, on the afternoon sittings of Wednesday, the House will now be sitting up to 9.00pm.



NOTE: All Questions relating to Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices shall be referred to and answered before the relevant Committee.

House Committee to Support Restoration of State House Mombasa



Members of Committee on Administration and Internal Affairs after the tour of State House Mombasa.

The Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Affairs has pledged to support Government plans to restore State House, Mombasa. The commitment was made when the Committee conducted an inspection tour of the facility in March, to ascertain its status.

The Committee was received by the Director of Hospitality at State House Mombasa Mr. Julius Chumo. Mr. Chumo took Members through the history of the building and the challenges the staff managing it have experienced.

“Mr. Chairman, this building was constructed in 1897. However, a new wing was established almost 30 years later. We have had a few challenges trying to renovate it because the technology used then, is not in tandem with the current building trends, making the process delicate and ultimately, expensive. We need to do a sea-wall to help prevent the building from adverse effects of corrosion and strong wind”, Mr. Chumo stated.

Members of Committee on Administration and Internal Affairs after the tour of State House Mombasa.



State House Comptroller Hon. Katoo Ole Metito informed the Committee that the State was in the process of acquiring the architectural designs of the building which was built by the colonial government, and which have been traced to a British Museum. He noted that the designs would be crucial for the comprehensive renovation of the House.

Cognizant that the State facility is not only the official residence of the President but also a historical relic, the legislators led by the Chairperson Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo pledged to support the allocation of funds towards this cause as a matter of priority. The lawmakers told the team from the Office of the President that they were keen to have all State Houses and Lodges acquire the state of the art stature.

Public Outcry over Neglected Lang’ata Cemetery Prompts Urgent Action from MP



ABOVE: a neglected section of langata cemetery, BELOW: Hon. Phelix odiwuor (langata mp)

The Kenyan Government has been urged by the National Assembly to take immediate action in response to the ongoing public outcry over the neglected state of the Lang’ata public cemetery. The cemetery, which was declared full close to two decades ago, has become a significant health risk to the public due to overcrowding and double-allocation of burial sites, leading to bodies being buried in shallow graves and frequent uncovering by wild animals from the nearby Nairobi National Park.



Hon. Phelix Odiwuor, MP Lang’ata Constituency highlighted the Nairobi County Government’s Constitutional obligation to ensure sustainable utilization of the environment and natural resources, including land, and called on the Ministry of Health to conduct an urgent assessment of the public health risks posed by the continued use of the cemetery. He also urged the Nairobi City County Government to collaborate with other stakeholders, including the National Government, to identify suitable alternative land for use as a cemetery.

The neglect of the Lang’ata cemetery has caused untold anguish, pain, and suffering to bereaved families, and psychological torment to the neighboring community. The situation has been left unaddressed for too long, despite the Constitutional provision for every person’s right to a clean and healthy environment. The National Assembly’s call for immediate action is a necessary step in ensuring the well-being of Kenyan citizens and the sustainable use of the country’s natural resources.

House Considers The National Rating Bill, 2023; To Align Rating Framework to the 2010 Constitution



The Departmental Committee on Lands, chaired by Hon. Joash Nyamoko, MP, considered the National Rating Bill, 2023. The existing legal framework relating to rating has not been revised to reflect the devolved system of governance.

The revised rating legislation aims to provide a uniform legislative framework and mechanism for county governments to undertake rating and imposition of rates on ratable property. It will also enhance the use of appropriate technology in undertaking valuation for rating and rating-related purposes.

Furthermore, the Bill provides for the role of the Chief Government Valuer in collating all valuation rolls prepared and deposited by any county government, taking into account the effect of tax rates on all public ratable property within the respective county.

The proposed legislation seeks to adopt new forms of property rating approaches to ensure buoyancy in the potential revenue streams and provide for a framework for payment of Contribution in Lieu of Rates (CILOR). The Bill also aims to ensure uniformity in the underlying rating and valuation for rating laws as regards to property tax base, forms of ratings to be adopted, exemptions, waivers, and payment periods.

The process by which each county government would prepare its rating and valuation legislation is time-consuming and cumbersome, especially considering that the limited pool of experts would be overstretched. The National Rating Bill, 2023 seeks to address these challenges and provide a comprehensive and streamlined framework for property rating and valuation across the country.

Good News for Pensioners as Proposed Law Provides to Have Them Paid Within 90 Days



Pensioners will be paid their pension dues within ninety days of their retirement if a Bill in the National Assembly is enacted into law.

The Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (National Assembly Bills No. 44 of 2022) is a Bill sponsored by Hon. Didmus Barasa, Member of Parliament for Kimilili Constituency. The Bill was published on 28th October 2022 and read a First Time on 15th February 2023. It was then submitted to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning for consideration.

The Bill seeks to amend section 6 of the Pensions Act to provide that pension shall be paid within ninety (90) days from the date such pension becomes payable. The Bill seeks to remedy the delays experienced in payment of pension to pensioners upon maturity of pension funds.

A similar Bill, sponsored by the same Member, was considered in the 12th Parliament. The Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (National Assembly Bills No. 26 of 2020) was published on 26th August 2020

and read a First Time on 10th September 2020. It was read a Second Time but was not considered in the Committee of the Whole House in the previous Parliament.

THE BILL IN A SNAPSHOT

Bill's Title:

The Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (National Assembly Bills No. 44 of 2022)

Publication Date:

28th October 2022

First Reading: 15th February 2023

Departmental Committee:

Finance and National Planning

The Bill is available on the Parliament of Kenya website (www.parliament.go.ke). It is accessible on the following [link](#).

It's a Full In-Tray For Newly Established Public Petitions Committee



Members of the Public Petition Committee

The last few months has witnessed a busy in-tray for the National Assembly's Public Petitions Committee which commenced business in the 13th Parliament. The Committee is chaired by Hon. Nimrod Mbai (Kitui East) now almost single handedly handles all public petitions transmitted to the House. The Committee, established during the review of the Standing Orders by the 12th Parliament, is mandated to consider and report on all public petitions under Articles 37 and 119 of the Constitution.

Article 119 of the Constitution gives every person a right to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority, including to enact, amend or repeal any legislation. A petition to the National Assembly maybe submitted to the Clerk by the petitioner and reported to the House by the Speaker or be presented by a Member on behalf of a petitioner, with the consent of the Speaker.

During the period under review, the Committee considered several petitions including a petition on the funds spent by the government allegedly contrary to Article 223 of the Constitution and regarding a potential loss of investments in the Cytonn High Yield Solutions Platform. In the petition on spending under Article 223 of the Constitution, the petitioner, one Mr. Stephen Mutoro, Secretary General of the Consumer Federation of Kenya (COFEK) claims that Kshs. 2.9 billion, being public funds, was irregularly released to the Ministry of Defence for the construction the proposed Level 6 Forces Research Referral Hospital (FRRH) in Kabete, Kiambu County.

As part of the investigation on the matter, the Committee carried out an inspection visit to the facility on 24th March 2023. The committee engaged with various stakeholders including the Principal Secretary for Defence, the Hon. Patrick

Mariru, who reiterated the importance of the facility both for the country and the region.

The Legislators received a comprehensive presentation on the KDF medical system, including the current challenges facing the Defence Forces Military Hospital, the status of the project, and its objectives. The proposed FRRH aims to enhance medical research and once completed, will feature a mental health wing to serve military personnel, UN officials, public servants, and the general population of Kenya.

The petition on the Abonyo probable loss of investments in Cytonn High Yield Solutions platform was presented by the Hon. Samuel Atandi, MP (Alego Usonga) on behalf of Mrs. (Amb.) Josephine Awuor, Mrs. Caroline Atieno, and Mr. Omondi Abonyo. The petitioners claim a potential loss of investment following alleged mismanagement of the funds by the Cytonn Group. The petitioners expressed frustrations and lack of assistance from the

regulator, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

The Committee, in considering the petition, held sitting with the Member for Alego Usonga as well as the CMA and the petitioners. In a sitting with the committee, Mr. Wyckliffe M. Shamiah, CEO of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), observed that the authority's attention had been brought to the existence of Cytonn Investment Management PLC which he noted was not regulated by the CMA. Instructively, he informed the committee that the unit under regulation was the Cytonn Asset Managers Limited. He further informed the committee that appropriate measures had been taken to establish the continued operation of Cytonn Investment Management PLC as an advisory services provider without proper licensing from the CMA.

The Committee is finalizing the consideration of the petitions and will, in line with the Standing Orders, table appropriate reports once concluded.

Hon. David Bowen (Checked Shirt) with members of the Blue Economy Committee inspecting the Liwatoni Complex



Committee Meets Key Defence, Intelligence and Security Agencies



The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations

The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations has in the last one month been undertaking familiarization meetings with key agencies under its domain. The Committee met senior officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Mombasa Ship Yard, and the National Intelligence Service. The meetings were geared towards enlightening the Committee Members on the mandate, roles, programs, policies and challenges of these agencies who the Committee is mandated to oversight and process budgetary allocations for.

The meeting with the Ministry of Defence was attended by among others, Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale; Principal Secretary Hon. Patrick Mariru; Vice-Chief of Defence Forces Lt. Gen. Francis Ogolla; and other senior officials from the Ministry.

The Ministry took the Belgut MP Hon. Nelson Koech-led Committee through its mandate and deliberated on areas of future collaboration. The Committee later toured Mtongwe Navy Base where senior military officials took Members through their routine of work and the challenges that they experience.

The Committee also paid a courtesy call on the Commander of Kenya Navy, Major General Jimson Mutai, who took Members through the pivotal role of the Kenya Navy in provision of maritime security that remains critical in spurring growth of the Blue Economy.

Hon. Koech told the Ministry officials that the Committee will push to for additional budgetary allocation to enable the Ministry meet its obligations.

“Our doors are open and we are ready to deepen our collaboration to help you continue defending our borders on land, sea and in the air,” said Hon. Koech.

Hon. Koech said that enhanced knowledge of Members and Ministry officials on their mandate and deeper collaboration are critical ingredients to proper service delivery to Kenyans.

“We seek to synergize and harmonize our competences and leadership skills to deliver on our mandate and obligations to the Kenyan People,” he said.

Hon. Duale said that the National Assembly is a critical stakeholder in his Ministry’s mandate of keeping Kenya safe. *“The Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign relations is a pivotal player especially in budgetary allocation and financing that has helped in the smooth running of the affairs in the Ministry of Defence,”* said Hon. Duale.

During a tour of the Mombasa Ship Yards, the Agency’s Managing Director, Brigadier Paul Otieno pledged to work

closely with the Committee to enhance operations of the facility. *“The revival of the Kenya Ship Yard Limited has been very instrumental at boosting regional security and the economy,”* said Brigadier Otieno.

The Committee, separately also met senior officials from the National Intelligence Service (NIS) team, led by the Director-General Major General Phillip Kameru. During the meeting, the NIS team took the Committee through its mandate, challenges and other technical issues of concern to the Committee.

The Committee Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Bashir Abdullahi, who presided over the meeting rooted for deeper engagements with the Service for proper facilitation by the Committee, especially on budgetary issues.

“Budgetary allocation to NIS and indeed all Ministries, Departments and Agencies is Constitutionally an integral mandate of this Committee and a patriotic undertaking for us as Members of this Committee in keeping Kenya and Kenyans safe in line with article 242 (1) of the Constitution that establishes this very important discipline civilian service,” he said.

The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations during a tour of Uhuru Gardens



Farmers Set to Benefit as Draft Commodities Bill Lands in the House



The National Assembly's Agriculture Committee has reviewed a proposed Commodities Fund Bill that is expected to provide farmers with enhanced financing options. The proposed legislation aims to establish the Commodities Fund to promote the development of agricultural commodities and better financing options for farmers. The Committee interacted with the Board of Trustees and Management of the Commodities Fund, led by Mr. Duke Mainga, the Chairperson, to discuss the Bill.

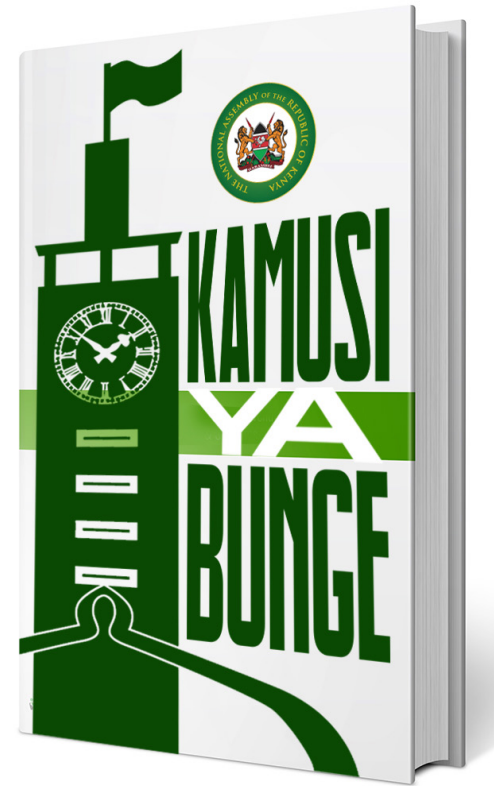
If approved, the Commodities Fund will help farmers access affordable credit and resolve gaps in the existing Crops Act, 2013 particularly concerning overlaps in lending to farmers, corporate status, and sources of funding. The meeting also highlighted the shortcomings of the regulatory framework, including the unclear composition of the Board of Trustees and the recruitment and tenure of the Managing Trustee. Additionally, the Agriculture and Food

Authority Act, 2013 has authority over the fund, leading to lending duplication and over-indebtedness.

Despite these challenges, the committee learned that the Fund has made progress in supporting the agricultural sector by mobilizing seed capital for new strategic commodities such as coconut, cashew nuts, bananas, and miraa. The Fund has also made cumulative disbursements of KSh. 3.8 B for coffee and KSh. 4.8 B for sugar from 2014 to March 2023, with coconut farmers receiving KSh. 12.5 M in 2022.

During the meeting, Hon. Yusuf Farah asked why the Fund had not introduced a Sharia-compliant funding product for Muslim farmers. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees assured the legislators that the Fund is exploring new initiatives to support the agricultural sector, such as developing a Sharia-compliant product for the Muslim market.

JUKWAA LA KISWAHILI



Baadhi za Istilahi zinazotumika bungeni

1. **Parliamentary Caucus**
Kikundi cha Wabunge
2. **Summons**
Hati ya Wito
3. **Broadcasting Rules**
Masharti ya Upeperushaji wa Matangazo ya Shughuli za Bunge
4. **Nomination Paper**
Hati ya Uteuzi
5. **Transitional provisions**
Masharti ya Mpito
6. **Procedure and House Rules Committee**
Kamati ya Utaratibu na Kanuni za Bunge la Taifa
7. **Speaker's Rules**
Kanuni za Spika
8. **Hansard Report**
Taarifa Rasmi
9. **Journals of the House**
Majarida ya Bunge la Taifa
10. **Division of Revenue Bill -**
Mswada wa Kugawa Mapato



Got Views?

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BUNGE HOUSING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY



BACKGROUND

Bunge Housing Co-operative Society Ltd was registered in 2019 by the Ministry of Co-operative Development & Marketing. The main objective is to purchase land and build houses for both members and non-members.

OBJECTIVES

- To buy and or sell land, houses, and other ancillary services to members.
- To provide facilities for physical and cultural recreation and all such other matters as are usual, customary and desirable for building estates, blocks of flats or single dwellings.

MEMBER BENEFIT

- ✓ Dividends on profit realized from Bunge Housing Cooperative (BHC) activities.
- ✓ Preferential terms on the purchase of land and/or houses undertaken by BHC.
- ✓ Priority allocation to members for land and housing developments undertaken by BHC.
- ✓ Discounted rates on our projects.



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