



BUNGE

This Week

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MASHINANI

"The only way to empower our kids is to impart them with adequate knowledge and skills for them to survive and progress in the current society," Hon. Oscar Sudi

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COMMITTEE

We won't allow EPRA to make baseless adjustments on electricity pricing structure that affect Kenyans and attribute it to some complicated formula," Hon. Vincent Kawayia

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House's push for release of NG-CDF monies yields fruits as the Government disburses Kshs.47B to Constituencies

NG-CDF Committee chairperson Hon. Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine) said highest allocation in the current disbursement will be Kshs.162 million which will go to constituencies with eight wards. However, Constituencies with two wards, he said, will receive the least allocation of Kshs. 139 million. Hon. Sirma also revealed that the NG-CDF will receive a further Kshs.10 billion in the current Financial Year from which constituencies will receive between Kshs. 30 to Kshs. 35 million more. He warned that projects which have not been approved or are devolved will not be funded.

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The state of the art Awendo KMITC financed by funds from the area NG-CDF kitty under the patronage of Hon. Walter Owino.

Quote of The Week



~Homabay County MP Hon. Joyce Osogo alias Bensouda

“The Competency Based Curriculum was an excellent concept, but it was not timely implemented for this country. There was too much rush without consideration of the basic needs and requirements and without doing a thorough needs analysis to know the status of this country in terms of education. Even the 8-4-4 education system that we had was equally a system that was grounded in specialization.

“Teachers must undergo continuous training to effectively assist children in identifying their talents, enabling them to be guided towards areas where they excel as they progress. Those with an interest in engineering should be directed to engineering schools, while those passionate about music should be encouraged to attend music schools. Similarly, individuals aspiring to become architects or pursue other specialized fields should be supported in realizing their dreams.



~Kipkelion West MP Hon. Hilary Kosgei

Speaker Wetang'ula leads a fundraising drive for St. Alexander Catholic Church in Butula Constituency

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, spearheaded a fundraising drive for St. Alexander Catholic Church in Burinda, Butula Constituency, Busia County recently.

The event drew the participation of more than 25 Members of the National Assembly and several MCAs who joined forces to support the important course.

Addressing the gathering, the Speaker expressed hope for a thriving economy and a drop in commodity prices within the next two years.

Hon. Wetang'ula spoke of his desire to witness individuals from humble backgrounds overcoming adversity and achieving remarkable success.

Hon. Wetang'ula also spoke of the importance of responsible appropriation of public funds and thorough auditing of corresponding expenditures.

The Speaker urged Legislators to exercise due diligence in ensuring that government resources are utilized effectively to bring about tangible change in the lives of Kenyan citizens.

The Speaker asserted, that the government was committed to make a lasting impact and positively transform the nation.



National Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula addressing faithful of St. Alexander Catholic Church in Burinda, Butula constituency, Busia County recently. He was accompanied by 25 MPs from Western region led by the host Hon Joseph Oyula.



Legislators who accompanied Speaker Hon Moses Wetang'ula for a Harambee for completion of St. Alexander Catholic Church in Butula constituency recently

"Honourable Members you have a very unique responsibility, you appropriate funds and audit," said Hon. Speaker.

Key Speakers said the role played by the Speaker as the chief guest for St. Alexander Catholic Church fundraiser served as a testament to the power of unity and the commitment of leaders to the welfare of their Country.

This event not only raised funds for a worthy cause but also reinforced the spirit of collaboration and shared aspirations for a better Kenya.

Exclusion of some communities in Public Service jobs hurting cohesion efforts, House Committee

A Committee of the House has warned that the continued exclusion and marginalization of some communities is hurting efforts to enhance cohesion in the country.

The National Assembly Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities tabled its Report on Diversity Audit of Employment in Public Institutions last week.

This is the first report of the Committee of such nature in the 13th Parliament. The objective of the report which covers only 14 public institutions; 13 parastatals out of 263 and 1 commission out of 25, was to assess the ethnic and diversity representation

within public institutions across the country. Apart from ethnic diversity, the report also revealed that the institutions fell short of considerations such as gender, youth representation and that of those living with disability.

Now the Committee wants public institutions to develop policies that have clear strategies on how to ensure that under-represented groups will be recruited into the institutions, going forward. Article 54 (2) of the Constitution requires that Persons with Disability should make up at least five per cent of the workforce, a provision none of the institutions examined had met.

Among the recommendations the Committee has made to the House, although the Report is yet to be debated, is the use of vernacular stations to advertise for positions.

“To enable a wider reach to communities when making job advertisements, public institutions should consider using local vernacular stations in addition to newspaper advertisements,” reads a section of the recommendations in the report signed by Committee Chairperson, Hon. Yussuf Aden Haji.

The Committee has further called on institutions to use the opportunity of exiting staff to recruit staff from underrepresented communities and groups

“To enable a wider reach to communities when making job advertisements, public institutions should consider using local vernacular stations in addition to newspaper advertisement.”

through affirmative action.

To enforce this, the lawmakers have proposed an amendment of the National Cohesion and Integrity Act, 2008.



Hon. Yussuf Aden Haji (Manderla West) the Chairperson, Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity.

House to debate Kenya-Seychelles Defence Agreement

The House is set to debate a report on Kenya Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with the Government of Seychelles after recess.

The Report from the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations which is at the second reading stage, recommends that the House approves the DCA signed between the two Governments on July, 18, 2022.

Committee Vice Chair Hon. Major (Rtd.) Bashir Abdullah, who moved the Motion on adoption of the Report, said the DCA would help entrench the already existing Cooperation between the two Countries, and open new frontier to enhance Kenya's Defence capabilities

especially for the Kenya Navy.

“Seychelles and Kenya share a common border at sea. Therefore, being neighbours, it is imperative that they maintain structured defence cooperation for their mutual benefit,” said Hon. Bashir.

The Committee observed that globally, bilateral DCAs have emerged as the most common practice of institutionalized defence cooperation.

DCAs establish broad defence-oriented legal frameworks between parties thus facilitating cooperation in defense policy coordination, research and development, joint military exercises, education and training, arms procurement, and exchange of classified information.

Kajiado Central Legislator



National Assembly Defence Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee led by Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech (second right) during a past engagement with a team of the Kenyan Military led by current Chief of the Kenya Defence Gen Francis Ogolla (far left).

Hon. Elijah Memusi, who seconded the Motion on approval of the DCA, said both Countries were obligated to safeguard discipline and adherence to law and order for troops deployed to joint training exercises

The DCA will also allow for strategic sharing of intelligence for individual and mutual-defence benefits.

Government accelerates constituency development with Ksh. 47 Billion, settling outstanding balances

The government has disbursed over Ksh. 47 billion to the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), paving way for accelerated development programs in Constituencies across the Country.

This was the balance for 2022/23 that was yet to be released to the 290 CDF accounts at the close of the Financial Year on June 30.

The release is contained in the report by the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Board on status of receipts of disbursement as at July 7th, 2023; which indicates that the Government has released 100 percent NG-CDF cash to the Constituencies for the FY 2022/2023.

This is coming as good news to the MPs as the Government, through the Board, has cleared all the outstanding balances owed to the Constituency NG-CDF boards.

“The NG-CDF was allocated a total of Ksh. 47,189,900,000 in the FY 2022/2023, Ksh. 44,289,900,000 initial allocation and an additional Ksh. 2,900,000,000 through 2022/2023 FY Supplementary budget,” the report reads in part.

According to the report, 87 Constituencies have received full allocation with respect to funds allocated in the FY 2022/2023 amounting to Ksh.12,547,023,214.

“Two hundred and three constituencies have received between 37



The Ken Chonga Education Centre project set up by funds from the NG-CDF kitty in Kilifi South constituency.

percent and 99.9 percent, with respect to funds allocated in the 2022/2023 FY amounting to Ksh. 26,348,427,437 leaving a balance of Ksh. 3,179,954,319,” Read the report.

The NG-CDF Board Secretariat received Ksh. 2,214,495,000 for administrative purposes.

It is indicated in the report that Ksh. 1,819,668,308 has been disbursed to the Constituencies with respect to funds allocated in previous Financial Years.

The Board has to date received and deliberated proposals

from 286 Constituencies for the FY 2023/2024, according to the report.

The chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on NG-CDF Hon. Musa Sirma said that the Government’s decision to disburse all the funds owed to the Constituency NG-CDF was a move in the right direction.

“This is the first time the Government is releasing full amounts of money allocated to NG-CDF.

The move is good as it helps the Constituency Board to plan better,” said the Eldama

Ravine MP.

He noted that delay in releasing the funds slowed down development programmes at the grassroots level.

“The aim of those who conceived the CDF idea was to ensure that funds allocated to the Fund are geared towards community driven development projects in every Constituency to alleviate poverty, but delays in releasing the money stood in the way of achieving this goal,” said Hon. Sirma.

MPs' reaction

The Government's decision to disburse 100 percent of funds allocated to NG-CDF was a move in the right direction.

“This is the first time the Government is releasing full amounts of money allocated to NG-CDF in a Financial Year.

~Hon. Musa Sirma, Chairperson NG-CDF Committee

We appreciate the government's efforts to ensure that it releases NG-CDF funds to constituencies on time.

Such a move enables the Constituency Boards to effectively plan and implement development programmes. Stalled projects in the Constituency will now be completed.

~Hon Charity Gathambi, MP Njoro Constituency



Majority, Minority Leaders vouch for more public participation and accountability in NG-CDF projects

The Leader of the Majority Party in the National Assembly, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, and his Minority counterpart, Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, have jointly called upon National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) Constituency Committees to propose projects that genuinely address the concerns of the electorate.

The leaders emphasized that the projects submitted to the national board should not solely reflect the desires of a select few committee members.

“At the beginning of each Financial Year, NG-CDF Constituency Committees are required to submit new proposals. According to the Constitution, these proposals must undergo meaningful and active public participation,” stated Hon. Ichung'wah.

He further emphasized that meaningful public participation necessitates the active involvement and guidance of Members of Parliament (MPs) in order to effectively represent the public's interests.

Hon. Ichung'wah encouraged his Parliamentary colleagues to uti-



National Assembly Leader of Majority Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah.



National Assembly Leader of Minority Hon. Opiyo Wandai.

lize the short recess to oversee and ensure the proper implementation of projects funded through NG-CDF and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF). By doing so, they would fulfill their role in providing meaningful oversight.

Meanwhile, Hon. Wandayi urged fellow MPs to assist their constituents in prioritizing new projects and underscored the significance of NG-CDF and

NGAAF.

He cautioned that misappropriation of these funds could have severe consequences for political careers, as the success of many MPs in getting re-elected has been tied to the effective management of NG-CDF Constituency Committees.

“In their capacity as overseers and representatives, MPs have a responsibility to ensure the proper utili-

zation of these funds,” added the Ugunja Legislator.

He highlighted the substantial impact that NG-CDF has had at the grassroots level and called for the empowerment of Constituency Oversight Committees, which play a crucial role in overseeing NG-CDF.

Furthermore, he advocated for the ring-fencing of the National Government

Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF).

What MPs Said



Hamisi is one of the constituencies that have received 100 percent of the NG-CDF funds. This is a welcome move as it will help the Constituency NG-CDF board to fund projects that have stalled. We will be able to pay debts that we owe contractors and suppliers.

~Hon. Charles Gimose, MP, Hamisi Constituency

The NG-CDF is not a Member's kitty. The NG-CDF is a community fund. It has been a very helpful and far-reaching fund in this country. Many countries have come to benchmark on it and implemented the programmes that we run in this country. A majority of the projects we see completed across every corner of this country are NG-CDF sponsored. Moiben residents have benefitted a lot from the NG-CDF fund. Release of funds on time is good for effective implementation of projects.



~Hon. Phylis Bartoo MP Moiben Constituency

Speaker Wetang'ula lauds cordial relations between Kenya and Kuwait, pledges Parliament's support

The Speaker of the National Assembly the Rt. Hon. (Dr) Moses Wetang'ula has lauded the contribution of the State of Kuwait for its continued support to Kenya especially on humanitarian programs. He expressed his sentiments when he hosted His Excellency Qusai Al-Farhan the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Kenya in his office at Parliament Buildings.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker Wetang'ula noted that Kenya and Kuwait have enjoyed a long cordial relationship built



The Rt. Hon. (Dr) Moses Wetang'ula receiving a gift from Kuwait's envoy to Kenya H.E Al-Farhan at his office in Parliament Buildings.

on mutual respect. In the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen the long cordial relationship cherished by both countries and how to establish collaborations between their respective Parliaments through Member exchange programmes.

Speaker Wetang'ula cited some charity programs such as the recent one carried out in Malindi where several children benefited from free eye surgeries sponsored by the Embassy.

He encouraged the Ambassador to continue rolling out such initiatives which have a lasting impact on beneficiaries.

“Your Excellency, there are several other causes like the one you supported in Malindi. I recently visited the North Rift part of Kenya and I was shocked to find a class of about 40 to 50 pupils aged between 5 and 12 years who suffer from partial

blindness. I was truly touched, I told myself that I must do something about it and this is an area where we can collaborate and help these children”, the Speaker told the envoy.

Expressing gratitude to Ambassador Al-Farhan for calling on him, the Speaker extended an invitation to his counterpart from the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait.

The Speaker and the Ambassador explored various avenues for collaboration, particularly between their respective parliaments.

“The collaboration will provide opportunities for lawmakers from both countries to have frequent engagements and learn the best practices from each other's experiences”, Speaker Wetang'ula noted.

Education Committee urges State Agencies to prioritise the safeguarding of Kenya's academic integrity

The Education Committee of the National Assembly chaired by Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet), has called on state agencies responsible for examinations management to prioritize the safeguarding of Kenya's academic qualifications and preserve their credibility.

Hon. Melly who spoke after meeting officials from the Communication Authority of Kenya (CA) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), emphasized the criticality of upholding the integrity of national examinations.

“It is crucial that all agencies involved in exam administration and management, including the DCI and CA, fulfill their duties diligently and take every necessary measure to combat cheating in exams,” stated Hon. Melly.

During the meeting, Vincent Ngudi, Assistant Director of Cybersecurity and Head of the National Cybersecurity Centre at CA, and DCI Director David Birech presented their findings regarding the allegations of cheating in last year's KCSE exams.

The two officials appealed to the parliament to enact stringent laws that would deter individuals from participating in exam malpractices, noting that the current penalties were insufficient.

“As a committee, we will draft laws, develop programs and policies, and allocate additional resources to the agencies under our oversight to eradicate this issue. With your cooperation, we have already implemented several reforms and will continue to do so,” reassured Hon. Melly.



Education Committee chairperson Hon Julius Melly during a meeting with officials from the DCI and CA Kenya on Wednesday, July 12.

Tackle passport application mess, enhance Diaspora civil registration, Committee urges Principal Secretary

Lawmakers now want the State Department for Immigration and Citizen management to scale up efforts in fixing the current challenges surrounding the acquisition of passports and civil registration documents, which have disenfranchised Kenyans in the Diaspora especially migrant workers whose documents have expired.

Following concerns among Kenyan migrant workers and others in the Diaspora, that they risk losing out on employment opportunities and deportation due to expired immigration documents, the Hon. Haika Mizighi-led Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers resolved to invite the Principal Secretary Amb. (Prof.) Juliuk. K. Bitok to appear before it last week.

The appearance of the PS before the Committee comes in the wake of an announcement by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs that the government had reached a deal with several countries to export migrant workers, as a remedy to the growing rate of unemployment in the country.

The Committee wanted PS Bitok to apprise them on the measures they have put in place to ease the facilitation of Kenyan migrant workers with passports. The Committee had also sought to know the plans by the State Department to ensure Kenyans in the Diaspora are facilitated with passports and civil



The Chairperson of the Committee on Diaspora and Migrant Workers Hon. Haika Mizighi (left) and the Vice Chair, Hon. Samuel King'ara (Center) chat with the PS for Immigration and Citizen Services Amb.(Prof.) Julius Bitok (right) after the meeting last week.

registration documents efficiently and timely.

In response, PS Bitok told the Committee that the untold suffering that Kenyans among them migrant workers have been going through due to delays in processing passport applications, would soon be a thing of the past after the Department receives new printers, due in two months' time. He further told the legislators that starting October, passport applications will take a maximum of seven days to process.

"Our printers broke down a while ago but we are happy that the National Assembly approved a budgetary allocation for

new printers. Currently, we're only able to print 1,500 passports against a daily demand of 4,500 passports", he told the Members.

"We have now made an order for two printers which should be here in two months' time. Once we receive them, together with the current two which are operational, we shall boost our capacity to print 6,000 passports. It should therefore not take more than seven days to process any application", he assured the legislators.

Energy Committee begins inquiry into the high cost of electricity in a bid to ease burden on consumers

Energy Committee led by Mwala MP, Hon. Vincent Musyoka, has embarked on an inquiry on the high cost of electricity in a bid to ease the burden on consumers and improve the country's economy.

The inquiry follows the increase on the cost of power by the Independent Power Producers (IPP's) by a range of between 19 to 25 per cent.

While addressing the Committee, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum Mr. David Chirchir attributed the discrepancies in unit costing and the increased cost of electricity to the high cost of fuel and the Dollar price.

Mr. Chirchir assured the Committee that his Ministry had struck a deal with the

three major Gulf oil major companies; Saudi Aramco, Emirates National Oil Corporation (ENOC) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Corporation Global Trading (ADNOC) to lower the charges on freight & premium and also remove confirmation charge on the letters of credit.

The documents submitted to the Committee revealed that Lake Turkana Wind Power Ltd (LTWP) the biggest IPP with a 300MW capacity has so far increased the cost to Kshs. 13.1 per unit from Ksh. 10.5 per unit as at July 2022 excluding the forex adjustments that IPPs charge. Orpower4 at Ksh. 14.7 per unit of power generated, Muhoroni GT at Ksh. 58.8, Gulf Power at Kshs. 25.5, Triumph at Ksh. 28.4 among others.

The Energy Committee established that some IPPs who do not necessarily rely on thermal generation also opted to increase their wholesale prices by wider margins.

"We won't allow EPRA to make baseless adjustments on pricing structure that affect Kenyans in the name of some complicated formula that I have seen in this document," said Hon. Musyoka.

In defense of the approved charge that took effect on 1st April, 2023, Mr. Daniel Kiptoo, the EPRA Director General noted that the regulator carried out a country-wide public participation and that the hike went into covering costs of power generation, transmission & distribution, amortization of transmission & distribution of assets, to keep KPLC profitable.

BUNGE MASHINANI

TETU - NYERI COUNTY

Education Manager's Conference in Tetu Constituency

The Tetu constituency Member of Parliament Hon Geoffrey Wandeto last week convened a meeting that brought together significant education stakeholders in his constituency to chart the way forward on how to improve the state of the area's learning institutions, as well as the well-being of school-going children.

Dubbed 'Tetu Education Managers' forum', the theme of the convention was "Changing course, transforming education in Tetu, the forum sought for all education stakeholders to work together to improve Tetu's education standards

"We are here to discuss how to improve learning outcomes in our educational institutions. The focus is on how to improve access, retention, and transition. We are also consulting



Host Hon. Geoffrey Wandeto, MP Tetu (4th right) and Hon. John Kiarie, MP Dagoretti South (3rd right), and education leaders from Nyeri.

on ways of rolling out successful school feeding programmes so that all our learners have access to balanced diet in their schools." Said Hon Wandeto.

The two-day consultative forum brought along heads of primary and secondary schools, Directors of Education, PTA, Board, and Alumni chairpersons from various schools in the region.

EMUHAYA CONSTITUENCY

Emuhaya NG-CDF pays fees for needy students



Emuhaya MP Hon Omboko Milemba displays a cheque he issued to Esirulo secondary school accompanied by institution's students and other stakeholders.

Bright and needy students from Emuhaya constituency, whose education is fully sponsored by NG-CDF, have a reason to smile after their fee balances were cleared.

Emuhaya MP Hon. Omboko Milemba has released NG-CDF cheques to six Secondary Schools to clear pending fees for the students.

Under the programme, Mwituha Secondary School has received Kshs. 265,00.00, Ebusiloli Secondary School Kshs. 307,000.00, Emanyinya Secondary School Kshs. 657,000.00, Ebukanga Secondary School Kshs. 178,000.00 and Esibila secondary school Kshs. 358,000.00 for the stu-

dents' fees.

"I promised parents of the students who were picked to benefit from the education support programme that the Fund will fully sponsor their education at all levels," said Hon Milemba.

The MP said his attention is to ensure that the new Ebukanga Technical Training Institute and Bunyore Teachers Training College receives enrolment.

He expressed his commitment to delivering on his promises which includes; bursary increase, bus projects for secondary schools and subsequent construction of storeyed classroom buildings in schools.

KAPSERET COUNSTITUENCY

Hon. Sudi vows to ensure all learners are in school, as he issues NG-CDF bursaries worth Sh47.5 million



Hon. Oscar Sudi (centre holding dummy cheque) poses for a photo with students and members of the public after issuing bursary cheques worth Sh47.5 million at the Wareng District headquarters in Kapsaret Constituency.

Hon. Oscar Sudi (Kapsaret), has made a firm commitment to ensuring that no student within his jurisdiction is deprived of education as a result of financial constraints.

The lawmaker, who spoke at the Wareng District headquarters while issuing bursary cheques to needy learners, said he will work with all partners to make sure all learners are in school.

"The only way to empower our kids is to impart them with adequate knowledge and skills for them to survive and progress in the current society," said Hon. Sudi.

During the event, Hon Sudi presided over the disbursement of Sh47.5 million worth of bursaries from the National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) to support needy students from the five wards in the constituency.

The lawmaker expressed his satisfaction with the positive impact education has on the future generation.

"Many families have tremendously benefited from the fruits of Education. The only way to empower our kids is to impart them with adequate knowledge and skills for them to survive and progress in the current society," he observed.

CLIQUE & CLICKS



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1 Hon. Daniel Wanyama, Chairperson of the Sports and Culture Committee does a jig during the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Sustainable development programme held at the Bomas of Kenya Cultural Centre in Langata, Nairobi.

2 The Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. (Dr.) Hon. Moses Wetang'ula receives H.E. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Republic of Iran, when he visited the Mausoleum of Kenya's founding Father, the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta at Parliament grounds to pay his respects.

3 Dagoreti South Member of Parliament Hon. John 'Kj' Kiarie receives the i-change Nations Civility Award from Dr. Clyde Rivers, founder and president of iChange Nations.

4 Members of the Education Committee of the National Assembly led by Vice Chairperson Hon Malulu Injendi (Malava) pose for a photo with Tamezawa Hiroshi and Vishal Karamchandani from Yamaha Corporation after an engagement at Parliament buildings.

House clears in-tray before proceeding on short recess



MPs, listen to President Dr. William Ruto as he delivers his address to the House.

The National Assembly posted an impressive score card before breaking for a short recess.

Statistics show that the House managed to pass seven (7) Bills, transact forty three (43) new Motions, process twenty (20) Parliamentary Questions and commence the consideration of six (6) new pieces of Statutory Instruments, during the Second Part of the Second Session of the House Business.

During the period between 6th June 2023 and 6th July 2023, the House held eighteen (18) sittings and various businesses were transacted before Members proceeded on the short recess which will run up to 24th July 2023.

Out of the seven (7) Bills passed, three (3) were assented to Law by the President on 26th June 2023; while four (4) were transmitted to the Senate for consideration.

Notably, the President assented to the Finance Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 14 of 2023), which provides a framework

for taxation and revenue raising measures to finance the 2023/2024 Budget.

Further, the President also assented to the Appropriation Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 27 of 2023), which provides for the appropriation of monies for the 2023/2024 Financial Year, with respect to the National Government.

Additionally, the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 31 of 2023), was also assented to Law. The Bill sought to make provision for giving statutory sanction for public expenditure for the year ending on the 30th June, 2023, on the basis of the Supplementary II Estimates of Recurrent and Development Expenditure for the Financial Year 2022/23 and for the appropriation of those amounts.

Further, two (2) Bills were passed on 27th June 2023, and forwarded to the Senate on 30th June 2023 for consideration. The Bills include the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 of 2023)

and the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 23 of 2023).

Two more Bills including the County Allocation of Revenue Bill (Senate Bill No. 16 of 2022) and the Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill (Senate Bill No. 3 of 2022), were passed by the House on 22nd June 2023, and transmitted to the Senate for consideration pursuant to Article 110 of the Constitution.

Some of the key Motions that the National Assembly debated include seven (7) special Motions for consideration of nominees for appointment to state or public offices, all of which were concluded within the period under review.

These persons included the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, the Director-General of the National Intelligence Service, two Principal Secretaries, the Chairperson of the Commission on Revenue Allocation, and two Members who had been nominated to the Judicial Service Commission.

Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education Summons KIST management over bank loan

The Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, chaired by Bumula MP, Hon. Jack Wanami Wamboka, convened a meeting with Gatundu South Technical College to address concerns raised in the Auditor General's reports regarding audit queries. As part of their inquiry, the Committee had requested the presence of Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) for a follow-up appearance.

However, KIST management did not show-up forcing the Committee to summon them to appear on Wednesday, 26th July 2023, under oath.

The forthcoming meeting will involve the

participation of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

During KIST's expected appearance, the Committee intends to address several significant issues, including the justification for borrowing Ksh. 20 Million from a bank and subsequently on-lending it to the board of trustees. Members of the Committee are determined to delve into this matter and seek clarification regarding the utilization of these funds.

Furthermore, the Committee's investigation unveiled unauthorized changes in the contract cost of the tuition block and the delayed implementation of the Library

and ICT Resource Centre at KIST. These findings raised concerns regarding financial management and accountability within the institute.

"This Committee remains resolute in its pursuit of truth, accountability, and the welfare of the public interest. We must create and maintain a strong foundation for good governance and responsible resource management within Kenya's Education sector," said Chairperson Hon. Wamboka.

The legislators aim to hold KIST accountable for the identified irregularities, ensuring transparency and adherence to proper procedures.

KEWOPA leadership meets CS Jumwa, discusses gender equality and women empowerment programmes

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) led by the Chairperson, Kajiado County MP, Hon. Leah Sankaire last week paid a courtesy call on the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Public Service, Affirmative Action and Gender Hon. Aisha Jumwa, to exchange ideas on various matters pertaining to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

Key among the issues the meeting addressed was access of sanitary towels especially by girls in primary and secondary schools, which previously under the purview of the Ministry of Education but has now been moved to the State Department of Gender which CS Jumwa oversees. The Legislators and the CS agreed to fast track the roll out of the national free sanitary towels programme, which will help keep girls in school.

They further discussed the allocation and distribution of the National Government Affirmative Fund (NGAAF) which is managed by the State Department for Gender; the Women Enterprise Fund and the Youth Fund and the need to sensitize women and youth on how the fund can impact their empowerment.



Hon. Aisha Jumwa, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action (Centre) pose for a photograph with leadership of KEWOPA led by Hon Leah Sankare (Second left) who paid her a courtesy call in her office recently.

The meeting also addressed strategies to eliminate the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as well as the rising teenage pregnancies in the society. They resolved to liaise with MPs whose counties are affected so as to run remedial campaigns at county level.

Hon. Aisha Jumwa expressed her delight for the insightful and extensive engagement with the KEWOPA Members.

The Chairperson of the Association, Hon. Sankaire undertook to work with the State Department of Gender in all its programmes to ensure there is inclusion of youth, women and Persons Living With Disability (PLWD).

“We have requested the CS to launch a Country wide campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other programs with inclusion of PLWD”, noted Hon. Sankaire.

Delegated Legislation Committee holds a meeting with CS Mvurya to discuss the Mining Regulations, 2023

National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation, led by Hon. Samuel Chekponga (Ainabkoi), met Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Hon Salim Mvurya who provided an overview of the Mining (Gemstone Identification and Value Addition) (Fees) Regulations, 2023.

During the session, ministry officials informed the committee that the process of developing the Mining Regulations started in 2021 and despite advertising for public participation on the proposed rates chargeable at the Gemstone Identification and Value Addition Centre in Voi on 9th June, 2021, no comments were received by the deadline.

Mr. Elijah Mwangi, the Principal Secretary of the State Department of Mining, submitted to the committee that the regulations aim to establish the fees applicable for various categories of services offered at the Gemstone Value Addition Centre in Voi upon request.

Furthermore, the regulations lay out guidelines indicating that individuals interested in utilizing or benefiting from these services will be required to pay the fees specified within the regulations.

As the governing body for the mining industry, the state department for mining is tasked with overseeing the standards of mining operations and related activities throughout Kenya.

During the session, lawmakers sought clarification on the potential impact of these regulations and inquired whether the ministry intends to decentralize the Gemstone Identification and Value Addition Centres.

In response, the Cabinet Secretary informed the committee that the regulations do not infringe upon fundamental rights and freedoms. He encouraged the private sector to take advantage of the services provided at the Voi Gemstone Centre, highlighting the lower charges compared to neighbouring countries. Additionally, he outlined the ministry's plans to establish multiple gemstone centres across the country, subject to the availability of stones.



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