



BUNGE **This Week**

Issue No. 021

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PLENARY

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MASHINANI IN BRIEF

Nyaribari Masaba MP Releases NG-CDF Funds For Infrastructural Development Of Primary And Secondary Schools ▶ PAGE 9

Speaker Wetang'ula announces measures to address Members' Bills and Legislative Proposals backlog



The Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has called on the Majority and Minority Leaders to reconstitute the Public Petitions Committee following the continuous absenteeism of its chairperson, Hon. Nimrod Mbai (Kitui East) during House plenary sessions.

Speaker Wetang'ula emphasized that the absence of the Committee's chair has hindered the Committee's work and led to a backlog of pending petitions, which is detrimental to the House's and the public interests.

"We have a significant number of pending petitions before this Committee, and if this situation persists, I ask the Majority or Mi-

nority Leaders to take the necessary steps to reconstitute the Committee for the better service of the public," said Speaker Wetang'ula.

Speaker Wetang'ula expressed concern that the public is not receiving proper service, as numerous petitions are submitted to the Committee without any resolution or response from the House.

The Speaker stressed that people turn to the House with hope, believing that MPs can address their concerns.

However, when petitions accumulate and remain unresolved, he said, it disappoints the public and undermines the trust they have in the legislative process.

Leader of Minority, Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, echoed Dr.

Wetang'ula's sentiments, noting that it was not the first time the House Leadership has expressed concern about the chronic absence of the Public Petitions Committee's Leadership.

Hon. Wandayi observed that the situation has worsened, with even Committee Members becoming absent.

He emphasized that the Committee's Leadership should be consistently present in the House, and its Members should proactively address the many petitions that are of great importance to the public.

To address the issue comprehensively, Hon. Wandayi proposed convening the Selection

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Committee to assess not only the Public Petitions Committee but also other Committees facing similar challenges.

“I will be suggesting to Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah that we move with speed and convene the Selection Committee to not only look at this Committee but also others so that we can deal with these issues more comprehensively going forward,” said Hon. Wandayi.

The Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah, also expressed displeasure with the continued absence of the Public Petitions Committee’s chair.

He urged Committee Members to take action on lack of service delivery and asserted that they have the right to impeach the chair and elect a new Leader who will fulfill the Committee’s re-

sponsibilities and that of the House.

“I will be available to ensure that the Committee is reconstituted because that is the only way to make sure that when you take up a responsibility as a Chair or vice Chair of a Committee, you are available in the House and in your Committee to show the way,” said Hon. Ichung’wah.

He emphasized that all Committee Chairs, not just the Public Petitions Committee, should be present in the House and their respective Committees to carry out their duties effectively.

In his response to the matter, Hon. Ichung’wah further highlighted that Ministries had also raised concerns about certain Motions and Bills passing through the House without their input, which he attributed to the failure of Committees’ Chairs and Vice- Chairs.



Member of Parliament for Manyatta Constituency Seeks Statement on World-Coin Activities in Kenya



Manyatta MP, Hon. Gitonga Mukunji seeks a statement from ICT and Interior ministers on the activities of a blockchain company, WorldCoin.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta) sort a Statement from the Cabinet Secretary Interior and Coordination of National Government as well as the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy regarding the activities of Worldcoin. WorldCoin is a block chain company engaging in data mining in Kenya.

Hon. Munjuku sort to know from the two CSs how the Government ensures that the data collected will only be used for intended purposes and will not cause harm to Kenyan citizens.

Last week long queues were witnessed at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) grounds as Kenyans waited for their turn for the iris scan which came with a payment of about Kshs7,000.

The request for Statement stirred debate in the House, with the Leader of Minority Party Hon. Opiyo Wandayi questioning the contradictory statements issued some Government officials on the matter. He urged the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to take resolute action and conduct thorough investigations in order to ensure

the safety of members of the public. The Leader of the Majority Party Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah emphasized the Government’s commitment to ensuring data security adding that he would promptly deliver a report addressing all the concerns raised.

Meanwhile, the Government suspended the activities of Worldcoin in the country and initiated investigations to the legitimacy of the activities, safeguard the data already harvested and ascertain the intentions behind the collection of the said data.

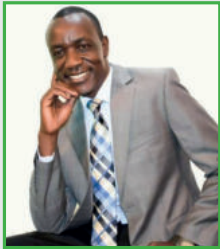


LAST WEEK LONG QUEUES WERE WITNESSED AT THE KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (KICC) GROUNDS AS KENYANS WAITED FOR THEIR TURN FOR THE IRIS SCAN WHICH CAME WITH A PAYMENT OF ABOUT KSHS7,000.

Notices of Motion

► Expansion of drug and substance abuse rehabilitation centres

Kanduyi MP Hon. John Makali



THAT, aware that according to the National Protocol for Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Kenya by the Ministry of Health, drug abuse has been increasing in Kenya especially among the youth with statistics indicating that more than half of drug users are aged between 10 and 19 years;

Further aware that research released by the National Authority for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA) in December 2022 placed western region as the leading region in alcohol and substance abuse at 23.8%, followed by the coast region at 13.9% and the central region at 11.9%;

Recognizing that the high level of drug abuse in the western region is attributable to illegal entry points from neighbouring countries and unlicensed establishments especially in Bungoma and Busia counties with statistics indicating two out of every five establishments in Bungoma operate illegally;.

Further recognizing that a Majority of the consumers of illegal substances are school-going children who end up dropping out of school; cognizant of the fact that the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2010 established the Alcoholic Drinks Control Fund whose purpose is to, among other things, facilitate the dissemination of information on alcoholic drinks, and promote rehabilitation programmes in the country;

This House urges the Government to institute intensive programmes for the dissemination of information on alcohol and substance abuse in line with the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2010 and to increase the number of rehabilitation centres across the counties.

► Regulation of sugar industry to discourage branding of sugar by non-millers

Mumias East MP Hon. Peter Salasya



THAT, aware that the importation and exportation of sugar is regulated by various laws including the Crops Act and the Agriculture and Food Authority Act, 2013;

Further aware that the Agriculture and Food Authority is charged with the responsibility of regulating the importation and exportation of sugar in the country in accordance with the law; noting that the importation of sugar is also negotiated within the regional trade blocs' frameworks and agreements to enable the country to meet the demand for sugar; further noting that individuals or entities are allowed to import sugar provided they obtain the necessary permits and meet the required standards; concerned that despite these regulations, there have been instances of illegal importation of low quality sugar or adulterated sugar;

Further concerned that unscrupulous traders have been found to rebrand the sugar which does not meet the standards of the Kenya Bureau of Standards specifications; deeply concerned that this poses significant health risk to consumers as well as undermining the efforts to regulate and strengthen the sugar industry to protect local millers; Acknowledging that the country has the potential to produce enough sugar to meet its domestic demand as the sector has been a key driver of economic growth; further acknowledging that there is need for concerted efforts by stakeholders to discourage the branding of sugar by non-millers and promote the development of the local sugar industry;

Now therefore, this House resolves that the Government through the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry ensures strict operationalization of the regulatory frameworks governing sugar importation into the country.

Quotes of The Week: Debate on World Coin

Hon. Speaker Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula



"How on earth would a foreigner walk into a country, and start mining data from our citizens without licenses, recourse to any law or authority?"

Hon. Wandayi Opiyo, Leader of Minority



"This is a matter that cannot be wished away, because it has the capacity to not only endanger the security of this country, but also the future of young Kenyans. As a House we just have to undertake a very thorough and expeditious investigation and summon everyone responsible in this activity. The Interior CC and ICT CS have both fundamentally differed on this matter, so who do we believe? Who can Kenyans trust?"

Hon. Edward Wakili Muriu, MP Gatanga



"The fact that there is a foreign company coming to this country to harvest data for young people, with a promise for monetary support to us, is us exposing ourselves so much in terms of data harvesting because we don't even know what they intend to do with the information."

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wa, Leader of Majority



"It's sad that this matter came to light while the process was already underway. How does a foreigner not just come to collect data from the middle of our CBD, but from a government Premise like KICC. In this day and age of Artificial Intelligence, it is possible that some Kenyans will be barred from walking through some places."

Hon. Jane Njeri Maina, MP, Kirinyaga County



"I do not understand how a foreign company, a private entity; entered our sovereign soil, started harvesting the data of our young people, exploiting the economic situation, promising them heaven. We must be told by the two CS' how much data has been harvested, and why. Before the Company leaves this nation as we do not know what they will do with that information."

Committee Reports

Education Committee Questions Interior CS on Teachers' Insecurity In Northern Kenya

The recurrent attacks on non-local teachers in North Eastern Kenya has been a cause for concern for stakeholders in the education fraternity, with a record 37 lives of teachers lost in the last ten years. This, The background of the meeting between the Departmental Committee on Education chaired by Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet Constituency) and the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Government Administration Professor Kithure Kindiki.

The legislators sought to know among others: the long-term measures that government has put in place to curb the menace, the motivation of the local communities



Education Committee chairperson hon Julius Melly chairing the session

to attack non-local teachers, as well as to assure the Committee of the teachers' current safety in the region.

"We are very concerned that despite reports that targeted teachers were safely Housed in police camps, the attacks never stopped, begging the question of who these reported locals are, and what gives them motivation and confidence to attack even the most secured places," posed Hon. Melly.

According to the Cabinet Secretary, there is need to establish a more specialized police unit to deal with the matter, and this is something that the Interior Ministry is working towards attaining. He gave a firm assurance that the long-term plan is to ensure that Kenyans of Ethnicity are free to work in any part of the country without fear of losing their lives. However, the CS stated that the Teachers' Service Commission has been advised to avoid keeping non-local teachers in specific regions for too long, to minimize their risk exposure.

"We cannot direct TSC on what to do as its an independent Commission, we can only recommend to them what to do. But when the threat reaches a certain threshold, we can impose mandatory regulations to ensure the safety of teachers, and we shall do so without hesitation."



Interior and National Government Administration Cabinet Secretary Hon. Prof. Kithure Kindiki appearing before the education Committee

Decentralised Funds Committee interrogates NGAAF's Audited Statements

The Decentralised Funds Accounts Committee of the National Assembly recently held a crucial meeting with Ms. Veronica Nduva, the Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action, along with the board of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

The purpose of this meeting was to thoroughly examine the Financial Statements of the NGAAF board for the period spanning from the financial year 2016/17 to 21/22, as detailed in the Auditor General's reports. Led by Hon. Gideon Mulyungi.

During the initial meeting, the Committee had to suspend the proceedings temporarily to seek clarification due to confusion surrounding the rightful accounting manager of the funds.

Mr. Roy Sasaka, the board C.E.O, had appeared instead of the PS, which was in violation of Section 67 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFM) 2012.

The Committee Members addressed concerns about expenditure records being stored at the sub-county level, but the Principal Secretary assured them that record-keeping had been centralized at the headquarters to rectify this. Legislators stressed the importance of implementing Auditor General's recommendations to optimize the utilization of public resources.

Additionally, Hon. Dorothy Ikiara MP highlighted the significance of continuous improvement, while Hon. Joyce 'Bensouda' Osogo urged the NGAAF board to ensure affirmative action's impact on a broader scale. "Affirmative action is done to make sure that there is social empowerment in all societies.

The mandate should not only be enable a select few but to support all causes that are meant to go to the needy," expressed Hon. Osogo. The Committee is also planning to conduct inspection visits to counties to assess the progress of projects funded by the NGAAF.

Energy Committee warns Independent Power Producers against punitive Power Purchase Agreements



The Chairperson of Energy Committee, Hon. Vincent Musyoka during a meeting with Independent Power Producers last week

In an effort to cushion Kenyans against the high cost of electricity in the country, the departmental Committee on Energy chaired by Mwala MP Hon. Vincent Musyoka last week warned Independent Power Producers (IPPs) against entering into unstructured Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Kenya Power (KPLC).

The Committee established that the *Take or Pay* Power Purchase Agreements entered into between IPPs and KPLC demand that KPLC MUST pay the full amount for the power produced by IPPs even when it is partially consumed.

Members of the Energy Committee noted with concern that the PPAs to be entered into going forward will only allow the IPPs to be paid for the power consumed as opposed to the initial agreement.

“We can’t get into other “Take or Pay” agreements. This Committee will not allow purchase of expensive power from some IPPs when we have affordable power,” said Hon. Vincent Musyoka.

The Committee observed that there are variations in the tariffs charged by IPPs and KenGen therefore resulting to a huge burden to Kenyan citizens.

It was revealed that it costs Kenya Power and Lighting Company an average of Ksh. 11.87 cents per Kilowatt-Hour for power purchased from IPPs and about Ksh. 3.93 per Kilowatt-Hour from KenGen.

In a meeting with various IPPs; Selenkei Investment Limited, Kopere Solar Park Limited, Chania Green Limited and REGen - Terem SHPP Limited, Members of Energy Committee were concerned on the willingness of the IPPs to engage on tariff and contract re-negotiations in an effort to ease Kenyans from the burden of high electricity cost.

The Independent Power Producers asked for good will from Parliament on sustainability of their foreign secured loans, and urged the Energy Committee to consider a conversation to pay off the loans owed by IPPs.

PIC Governance and Education launches inquiry into financial impropriety at KIST



Hon. Jack Wamboka (Bumula) Chairperson, Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education during the meeting with KIST Management

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, led by Hon. Jack Wamboka, has taken decisive action against the Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) over allegations of financial impropriety and land mismanagement. The Committee, following a no-show from the institution in a previously scheduled meeting, conducted an urgent session where KIST’s Board of Trustees and Management were required to testify under oath.

During the inquiry, it was established that KIST had secured loans amounting to Ksh. 100 million, with an additional 58 million from the Co-operative Bank specifically for infrastructure development. Equally concerning was the revelation that the Board of Trustees obtained a 20 million loan with no clear explanation for its purpose.

In addition to the financial discrepancies, the Board of Trustees was accused of operating the institution in violation of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act, 2013, even after its enactment. The issue of land

management also surfaced, as the Board still retains 230 acres out of the 300 acres originally donated by the community for the construction of a university.

The Committee launched an official inquiry involving key stakeholders; Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Ministry of Lands, Public, Directorate of Criminal Investigations, and the Ministry of Education with an aim to conduct a thorough investigation.

Former KIST Principal, Nicholas Murithi, faced scrutiny for his alleged involvement in dubious payments and questionable project variations. The Committee invoked section 27 of the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act against him, after he presented false evidence to the Committee while under oath. The matter has now been forwarded to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations for further examination.

To gain firsthand insights into the projects and ascertain the validity of the allegations, the Committee has planned on-site inspections and has also called for a meeting with the contractors implicated in the irregularities.



Justice and Legal Affairs Committee to joins hands with Partners to Develop Electoral Reforms Roadmap for 2027 Polls



Chairperson of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) Hon. George Gitonga Murugara while addressing the workshop between ELGIA and Members of JLAC.

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) in Kenya has teamed up with the Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA) to work on comprehensive electoral reforms ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Chaired by Hon. George Gitonga Murugara (Tharaka), JLAC recently held a workshop organized by ELGIA to discuss key electoral legislations, establish a road map, and set timelines for the completion of electoral reforms.

The workshop also explored the possibility of multi-sectoral participation to enhance inclusivity in the reform's agenda.

At the meeting, Hon. Murugara, expressed gratitude to ELGIA for organizing the timely workshop. He highlighted the significance of good governance and the Committee's role in upholding the rule of law in the country.

"Let us team up so that we are able to look

at our electoral laws extensively," Hon. Murugara urged.

Dadaab MP Hon. Farah Maalim, also a member of JLAC, stressed the Committee's commitment to ensuring smooth, free, and fair elections in the future.

"Let us walk this talk and see how JLAC can work with you to help strengthen our electoral systems," said Hon. Maalim.

Mr. Felix Odhiambo, the Executive Director of ELGIA, emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two factions in creating strong electoral systems for the country's future.

"We are privileged to partner with JLAC on the electoral reform's agenda in Kenya. We are in a new electoral cycle running up to 2027, and the responsibility of this Committee will be enormous," said Mr. Odhiambo.

Regional Integration Committee meets with Cabinet Secretaries Murkomen and Mutua; discuss avenues for Partnerships on Regional Integration

The Regional Integration Committee, chaired by Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri), recently held a stakeholders' engagement retreat with various Ministries in Mombasa County. The objective was to seek collaboration and coordination to promote regional integration in the East Africa Community (EAC).

The Ministry of Roads and Transport, led by Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen accompanied by Principal Secretaries Eng. Joseph Mbugua and Mohamed Daghar shared their plans for boosting trade between Kenya and the rest of the EAC region.

CS Murkomen revealed that there are plans to expand the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to the Malaba border to facilitate economic growth and employment opportunities along trade corridors from Mombasa to other Kenyan cities and towns.

"Our Country's economy depends on Regional integration touching on trade corridors that create employment and business opportunities from the port city of Mombasa to other cities and small towns across Kenya," Said Murkomen.

The Committee Members inquired about increasing the efficiency of cross-border transport to reduce trade costs along the Northern and Central corridors. Eng. Mbugua highlighted the importance of joint regional approaches and resource mobilization for the development of multinational highways between partner states. Mr Daghar explained their efforts to reduce congestion at weighbridges by automating payment of overload fees and penalties for non-compliant vehicles using RTGS and Mobile Money Payment.

Later, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Alfred Mutua, appeared before the Committee and emphasized the significance of regional integration in the Country's foreign policy and bottom-up economic transformation agenda.

CS Mutua stated that Kenya's role in regional integration, particularly in the EAC, contributes to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"The Bottom Economic transformation agenda which is the Government plan, recognizes Kenya's significance as an anchor state in Regional integration particularly in the EAC which is one of the Regional blocks that ultimately builds up to the African Continental free trade area," said Mutua.

Committee reports Tabled on the Floor of the House week ending 6th August 2023 Thursday 3rd Aug. 2023

The following reports were tabled on the Floor of the House on Thursday 3rd August, 2023;

- i. **Report of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock on its Consideration of the Food and Feed Safety Control Co-ordination (National Assembly Bill No. 21 of 2023)**
(The Hon. Mutunga John Kanyuithia, Chairperson Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock)
- ii. **Report of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock on the attendance to the 171st session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) council held from 5th to 9th December 2022 in Rome, Italy.**
(The Hon. Mutunga John Kanyuithia, Chairperson Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock)
- iii. **Schedule of Budget Ceilings for Constituencies for the Financial Year 2023/2024**
(The Hon. Sirma Musa Cherutich, Chairperson Select Committee on National Government Constituencies Development Fund)
- iv. **Report of the Departmental Committee on Health on Its consideration of the cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) (No.2) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 45 of 2022)**
(The Hon. (Dr.) Pukose Robert, Chairperson Departmental Committee on Health)

Wednesday 2nd August, 2023

The following reports were tabled on the Floor of the House on Wednesday 2nd August, 2023;

- i. **Report on Public Petition No. 1 of 2022 by the Hon. Julius Kipletting Ruto, MP regarding Safeguarding the Economic and Social Welfare of communities living next to forests**
(The Hon. Mbithuka Mwai, Chairperson Public Petitions Committee)
- ii. **Report on Public Petition No. 8 of 2022 by Pastor Ochieng' Odindo regarding EACC investigation of West Kano Irrigation scheme.**
(The Hon. Mbithuka Mwai, Chairperson Public Petitions Committee)

Tuesday 1st August, 2023

The following reports were tabled on the Floor of the House on Tuesday 1st August, 2023;

- iii. **Report of the Committee on delegated legislation on its consideration of the excise duty (amendment) Regulations, 2023 (legal notice no. 40 of 2023)**
(The Hon. Samuel Chepkonga, Chairperson Committee on Delegated Legislation)

BUNGE MASHINANI

LURAMBI SUB-COUNTY, KAKAMEGA COUNTY

LURAMBI SCHOOL GIRLS RECEIVE SANITARY PADS COURTESY OF HONELSIE MUHANDA



Kakamega County MP Hon. Elsie Muhanda giving sanitary towels to school girls

School-going girls in Lurambi Sub-County, Kakamega County are all smiles after the area woman rep Hon. Elsie Muhanda distributed sanitary towels to them. Students from Ikonyero Secondary and pupils from Primary schools in the sub-county benefited from the initiative this week.

The initiative, funded by the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), aims to support the girls' menstrual hygiene needs and promote education by reducing school absenteeism.

During the distribution, Hon. Muhanda urged the young girls to avoid early relationships, which she noted can negatively impact their future.

The MP committed to continue empowering and safeguarding the well-being of the girl child in the region

NYARIBARI MASABA

NYARIBARI MASABA MP RELEASES SH50 MILLION FROM NG-CDF FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Nyaribari Masaba MP, Hon. (Dr. Arch.) Daniel Manduku addressing students at one of the schools in his Constituency.

Hon. (Dr. Arch.) Daniel Manduku, the Nyaribari Masaba MP, distributed cheques amounting to Sh 50 million to thirty-nine schools in his constituency.

The allocated funds will aid the learning institutions in completing ongoing projects.

Phase two is also in the pipeline, benefiting twenty-two schools with NG-CDF funds for the infrastructural development of both primary and secondary institutions, according to the lawmaker.

Hon. Manduku stressed the importance of education as an equalizer and devoted four days to disbursing the NG-CDF funds to support the growth and improvement of these educational institutions.

In his words, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" - a sentiment echoed as "Tokore egasi amo."

BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA

NEEDY STUDENTS IN BUSIA COUNTY GET BOOST FROM NGAAF BURSARY PROGRAM



Busia County MP, Hon. Catherine Omanyo (Second Left) receives handshakes of appreciation from parents whose children were beneficiaries of the Busia County NGAAF Bursary programme.

Hon. Catherine Omanyo, the Busia County Women Representative, has brought relief to hundreds of students from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds by distributing bursaries to cover their school fees.

The initiative is part of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) bursary program, which aims to provide much-needed financial assistance to underprivileged students, enabling them to pursue their educational aspirations without worry.

The NGAAF program is a significant

government undertaking, addressing the financial hardships faced by students in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. It seeks to create equal educational opportunities for all, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances.

"This program will go a long way in promoting gender equality and empowering the women of Busia County. Education is a big factor in reducing poverty and is vital in enhancing social and economic development." Stated Hon. Omanyo as she presided over the handing over of the cheques.

GARISSA COUNTY

GARISSA COUNTY MP, LAUNCHES 7.6M BURSARY PROGRAMME



Garissa County MP, Hon. Amina Siyad Kuno presenting a cheque to students from Saka Girls Secondary School

Garissa County MP, Hon. Amina Siyad Kuno, has unveiled a Kshs. 7.6 million bursary program under the National Government Affirmative Action Fund at Saka Girls Secondary School.

"My commitment to these young minds does not end with financial support alone. I recognize the importance of providing comprehensive educational resources that facilitate their learning and growth. That is why, in addition to the bursary program, I have also donated revision books to further enhance their educational experience, said the MP.

At the launch, Hon. Siyad Kuno emphasized the significance of education as the foundation for progress. The bursary program aims to provide vital financial support to school-going children, enabling them to pursue their dreams and aspirations through education.

Hon. Siyad Kuno extended gratitude to the Garissa County NGAAF Committee, Members of Garissa County Assembly, Chairman of Education Committee, Regional Director for Education, the Board of Management of Saka Girls Secondary school, and National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) for their support.



CLIQUE & CLICKS



Konoin MP, Hon. Brighton Yegon Vice Chair Agriculture and Livestock Committee (Left) and Endeless MP, Hon. Dr. Robert Pukose, Chair Health Committee during a Joint Meeting with Stakeholders on the Food and Feed Safety Co- Ordination Control Bill, 2023



Chair Labour Hon. Erick Muchangi witnesses the signing of the performance contract by CS Aisha Jumwa of the Public Service



Hon. George Kariuki (Ndia, M.P) addressing students of Kahiro Primary School, after a successful handover site, for the construction of two modern classrooms for Junior Secondary School.



The Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Administration and Internal Security Hon. Dido Rasso, MP Saku, poses with pupils from Arabal Primary and Secondary School in Baringo County, during a Security Assessment visit by the Committee in the region



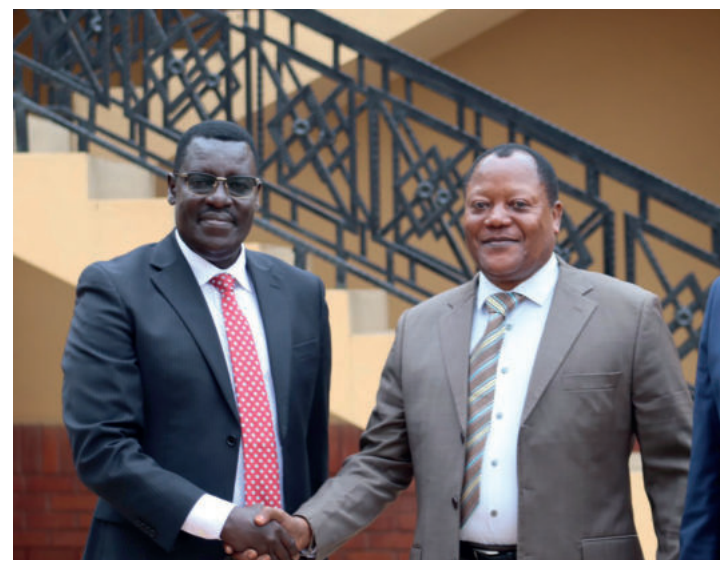
Mukurwe-ini MP Hon. John Kaguchia (3rd right) poses for a photo alongside the Attorney-General Hon. Justin Muturi (right) and the Registrar of Political Parties Ms. Anne Nderitu (2nd right), among other guests who had attended the launch of the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) post-election evaluation report of the 2022 General Elections.



From left: Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee Chairperson, Hon. Nelson Koech (Belgut), Major (Rtd) Bashir Abdullah (Mandera North) who is the Committee Vice Chair and Aden Duale the CS for Defence, share a light moment after a meeting they had with other Committee Members in Parliament buildings.



South Mugirango MP, Hon. Silvanus Osoro giving a tour of Parliament Buildings to students of Nyamondo Secondary School.



Hon. Raphael Wanjala, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Implementation, with the Principal Secretary for Sports and the Arts Eng. Peter Tum; shake hands after a meeting regarding implementation status of the report of the Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture & Tourism on inquiry into the status of stadiums in Kenya.

Speaker of the National Assembly Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula shares a light moment with Members of parliament at MKU pavilion during a graduation ceremony of the university



Members of Regional Integration Committee in a group photo with Alfred Mutua, the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs CS, after their engagement meeting in Mombasa County.

QUESTION TIME

Farmers benefit from 3 Million Bags of Subsidised Fertiliser; MPs told



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Mithika Linturi responding to MPs Questions

Hon. Mithika Linturi, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development has informed Lawmakers that 500,436 farmers in 40 counties have accessed 3,302,683 bags of subsidised fertiliser.

In an appearance before the Members of the National Assembly to respond to Questions, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Mithika Linturi was put to task by Legislators.

Keiyo South MP, Hon. Gideon Kimaiyo raised concerns regarding the cost of top-dressing CAN fertilizer and its distribution, prompting insightful responses from government officials.

“Explain why the cost of top-dressing CAN fertilizer prices remains relatively high despite the Government Subsidy Programme on fertilizers?” asked the Keiyo South Legislator.

Addressing the question, Agriculture CS Hon. Linturi acknowledged the relatively high cost of CAN fertilizer, which is currently retailing at Kshs. 5400 per 50kg bag, down from Kshs. 5900 the previous year. He explained that the price is influenced by factors like international FOB price, freight charges, handling, and exchange rate fluctuations. However, he noted that global prices have been decreasing.

“Only registered farmers in the e-voucher system can access subsidised fertilizers through National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) and Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) selling centers,” added Agriculture CS Hon. Linturi.

Lawmakers’ raised concern on the distribution mechanism of the subsidised fertilizer with a farmers in their constituencies are unable to get to far way distribution centers.

“Why can’t the Ministry use the existing Government offices like the District Commissioner offices. They have been used to distribute relief food previously and they are accessible by citizens at the ward level, “ asked Hon. Eric Karemba.

In response the Hon. Linturi assured MPs that the Government is making strides to improve access to fertilizers. Collaborating with county governments, MPs learnt that the NCPB is working to open more selling centers to facilitate the distribution of subsidy fertilizers.

In terms of availability of subsidised fertiliser, CS Linturi reported that during the ongoing long rains season, a significant quantity of fertilizers had been accessed by farmers across 40 counties. Notably, 16,289 farmers in Elgeyo Marakwet have received fertilizers for various crops.

“The Government currently holds a stock of 700,000 bags of fertilizer, accessible to registered farmers through the e-voucher system. Plans are underway to procure an extra 115,500 MT of assorted fertilizers to bolster existing stocks,” CS Linturi added.

Labour CS Bore renders apology to Members for skipping key House Appearances



Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Hon. Florence Bore when she appeared before the House to respond to Members’ Questions, last week.

The Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary (CS) was last week forced to apologize to the National Assembly for skipping two crucial House appearances.

During the session, Hon. Bore responded to a Question by Konoin lawmaker, Hon. Brighton Yegon who had sought to know the number of domestic migrant workers residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

“Hon. Speaker, Kenya has approximately 200,000 documented migrant workers based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with 151,687 among them, engaged in the domestic work section,” the CS she Informed the House.

Various lawmakers also raised crucial Questions to the Minister regarding the status, conditions, and welfare of Kenyan migrant workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The lawmakers further sought supplementary information on the workers’ status of residency, the type of employment they are engaged in and working stations as well as the number of reported cases of deaths, torture, and inhuman treatment of Kenyans working in the Gulf States particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the last three (3) years.

According to responses tabled by Hon. Florence Bore, over the last three years, a total of 283 reported deaths have occurred among Kenyan migrant workers in the Gulf States particularly in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE. 185 Kenyan migrant workers lost their lives in Saudi Arabia, 45 in the UAE, and 53 in Qatar with causes of death ranging from illness to homicide. She told lawmakers that families of the victims had however been informed of the incidents through proper channels.

MPs further sought details on the measures the Ministry has put in place

to secure the welfare of Kenyans working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including the agreements that the Government has with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to address the reported cases of mistreatment.

In response, the Labour CS informed the Members that the Kenyan government, in partnership with Saudi Arabia, has taken vital steps to ensure the welfare of Kenyan migrant workers. She cited the establishment of a Bilateral Labor Agreement in 2017, which is aimed at protecting workers' terms and conditions and enhancing their overall well-being.

She further told the House that a dedicated Labour Attaché's office had been set up in Riyadh, alongside other such offices in Qatar and the UAE, focusing on sourcing job opportunities and addressing workers' concerns.

The House was also informed that the Government is actively implementing a range of measures to safeguard its migrant workers.

"A National Policy on Labor Migration has been developed, emphasizing

safe and productive migration. Additionally, a Labor Migration Management Bill is in the works to hold recruitment agencies accountable. We are also in the process of developing a comprehensive curriculum to prepare migrants with essential skills and knowledge before they embark on their journeys," Hon. Bore told MPs..



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Kenya Set To Host The Sixth Annual African Network of Parliamentary Budget Offices (AN-PBO) Conference

The Parliament of Kenya is set to host the Sixth Annual Conference in Mombasa later this month. The forum which is held in conjunction with the African Network of Parliamentary Budget Offices (AN-PBO) between August 27 and September 1, will be coordinated by the Parliamentary Budget Office and is expected to focus on experience sharing on how the power of the purse can be used effectively to tackle Africa's development challenges and the future of Parliamentary Budget Offices (PBOs).

Delegates expected to attend the event which is scheduled to be opened by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, come from countries in Africa and across the world, including those with PBOs and representatives of international organisations supporting legislatures' oversight of public funds.

Top of the conference's agenda will be deliberations on the global economic outlook.

This discussion is informed by the fact that the global economy is grappling with a web of complex challenges as countries attempt to rebuild and recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, Geopolitical conflicts have surged from the ongoing war in Ukraine to the conflict in Sudan.

This session will discuss how fiscal policy can respond to the economic vulnerabilities exposed by the crises and the role of fiscal oversight in ensuring transparent and responsible financial management as the call for greater accountability and fiscal prudence continues.

Given that the knowledge of Members of the Legislatures varies

across the world and that the PBOs have a crucial role to play in enhancing the fiscal oversight and technical capacity of legislative Members in processes involving Budget or Money Bills, the Conference has scheduled a session on 'The role of PBOs in supporting Parliament processes with Budget or Money Bills Amendments'. During this session, Speakers will lead presentations on how they have supported their Parliaments in this regard.

The conference is also scheduled to hold discussions on Managing public debt and fiscal sustainability in times of uncertainty. This discussion comes in the wake of countries witnessing a decline in the state of public finances over the past few years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic instabilities. The session is set to cast a spotlight on



Dr. Martin Masinde, the Director Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO). The PBO will host the 6th AN- PBO in Mombasa county. Between August 27 and September 1, 2023

effective public debt management, including balancing borrowing for growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability and how this is pivotal in determining a country's financial health and resilience in uncertain times.

The conference will also focus on the nexus between Public participation by country citizens acting as individuals or represented through civic societies in national budget processes and its crucial place in upholding democratic principles and promoting transparency, accountability, equitable public resource allocation and trust in government processes.

The AN-PBO is a platform for African Parliamentary Budget Offices and similar institutions to share ideas and experiences about strengthening support for parliamentary fiscal oversight.



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