



BUNGE Weekly

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PLENARY | COMMITTEES | SUMMARY OF BUSINESS | QUOTES | CLIQUE & CLICK



Speaker advocates for legislative reforms to boost business competitiveness and combat corruption

Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has assured private sector players of Parliament's commitment to enacting legislation that enhances the country's business competitiveness while addressing persistent issues such as corruption that undermine national integrity.

During the Speaker's Round Table with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) in Nakuru County on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, the Speaker pointed out that the National Assembly is at the forefront of initiatives aimed at tackling economic challenges while promoting a conducive environment for investment and sustainable economic growth.

"One of the key catalysts for the economic advancement of any country is good governance. In this regard, the House is currently considering the Whistleblower Protection Bill, 2023, which aims to establish procedures for disclosing information on improper conduct in both the public and private sectors, along with provisions to protect whistleblowers," he stated.

He added that once enacted, this law would significantly enhance collaboration between the private sector and the Government in combating corruption, thereby fostering transparent, accountable, and ethical business practices. This, he said, would position Kenya as a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment.

The Speaker also addressed the Conflict of Interest Bill, 2024, currently undergoing mediation. The Bill seeks to provide a robust legal framework for managing conflicts of interest among public officers in the discharge of their official duties.

Furthermore, Hon. Wetang'ula discussed the proposed Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which is currently being reviewed by the Committee on Finance and National Planning. This legislation aims to reduce tendering costs by simplifying and computerizing the evaluation process while professionalizing public procurement practices.

"The proposed amendment will enhance the guiding principles for public procurement and asset disposal by state organs and public entities. This will promote transparency and competitive bidding, creating a better environment for entrepreneurship to thrive," he said.

Discussions focused on possible legislative reforms, including the Public Finance Management Act and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, aimed at improving governance, controlling public debt, and combating corruption.


COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Committee on Implementation calls for expedited operationalization of recommendations to streamline framework for CBC **► ON PAGE 6**



BUNGE MASHINANI

Mombasa County MP provides financial assistance to groups in the county.. **► ON PAGE 9**



FACT FILES; THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On Page 10



SCAN TO READ E-COPY ►

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"If you look at the staffing levels, Moi University opened many campuses. For example, Kabianga and Karatina Universities. During our last... > PAGE 6



CLIQUE & CLICKS

Front row left to right; Deputy Leader of Minority Party, Hon. Robert Mbui, Majority Party Whip, ... > PAGE 9



GENERAL

Members reject plea to lift moratorium on Power Purchase Agreements... > PAGE 3

House resumes sittings after short recess

The National Assembly is set to resume sittings tomorrow, Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for the Third Part of the Third Session following a two week break.

Top on the agenda are several Bills including the Land Control Bill, 2023 sponsored by Hon. (Dr.) Ojiambo Oundo, which seeks to regulate land use.

Also to be considered is the Kenya Roads Board (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which proposes amendments to the Kenya Roads Board Act, to enhance the Board's capacity to manage and maintain road infrastructure.

The Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that proposes amendments to the Universities Act to improve governance and administration within universities and the Higher Education Loans Board (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which seeks to amend the Higher Education Loans Board Act to improve access to higher education financing at the second reading stage.

The Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2022, that seeks to strengthen the regulatory framework for political parties in Kenya and the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022, are scheduled for debate in the Second Reading.

The House is also expected to consider two Senate Bills' the Equalisation Fund (Administration) Bill (Senate Bill No. 14 of 2023) and the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 37 of 2023).



A past sitting of the National Assembly

In addition, the House is also set to undertake a clause by clause consideration of the Kenya Drugs Authority Bill, 2022 sponsored by Endebe MP, Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose and the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2022 by Suba North MP, Hon. Millie Odhiambo.

Debate on a Motion by Dagoretti South MP, Hon John Kiarie on the Establishment of a Science Museums is set to resume.

Other Motions that will be discussed in the House include a Motion by Githunguri MP, Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba, seeking for the Establishment of a National Policy to Combat Disrespectful Childbirth Practices in Kenya, a Motion on the need for Comprehensive Reform of Education Bursary Schemes to Ensure there is Free Basic Education sponsored by Nairobi County MP, Hon. Esther Passaris, and a Motion on the Formulation of a Regulatory Framework on Artificial Intelligence by Aldai MP, Hon. Marianne Kitany.

The second report by the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity on the Employment Diversity Audit in Public Institutions and a Motion by the Departmental Committee of Labour on its Consideration of Sessional Paper No. 5 of 2023 on the National Policy on Labour Migration will also be considered.

Clerk urges Members to insure property in constituency offices

Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge has urged Members of Parliament to insure all property in constituency offices to unlock compensation in the event the equipment gets destroyed through violence or fire.

Mr Njoroge said after the attack on Parliament by youths in June this year, the National Assembly is not taking any chances.

"As Members are aware the, Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) did not spend a single cent for repairs of damages worth millions of shillings caused by protesting youths who invaded Parliament Buildings. The exercise was accomplished by the insurance. The same should happen to equipment at constituency offices," he said.

The Clerk made these remarks on Monday, October 28, 2024 during a House Leadership Retreat at a Naivasha hotel.

In addition, he told Members that going forward, constituency offices will be used as venues for public participation exercises, adding that mechanisms are being put in place to facilitate the plan.

"In an effort to ensure that the public participation is effective and meets the laid down regulations, the National Assembly will use constituency offices for public participation exercises," he said.

On the matter of public participation, Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula added that the exercise would be streamlined once the proposed Public Participation Bill is enacted into law.

"The proposed Bill that is before the Attorney General will seal all the loopholes in the public participation that has been causing confusion in our courts whenever matters challenging the exercise are before the Judiciary," said Speaker Wetang'ula.

He further called on the MPs to fast track the process of enacting the legislation.



Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge making his remarks during the opening session of the House Leadership Retreat on Monday, October 28, 2024

Speaker appointed to the Advisory Panel of Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures

Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has been appointed to serve on the advisory panel of the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL).

The Speaker was unanimously chosen for this position on Saturday, October 26, during the Second General Assembly of the Conference held in Accra, Ghana.

Speaker Wetang'ula who now joins other eminent leaders tasked with guiding CoSPAL on matters of policy and program direction, was represented at the event by the Fifth Chairperson of Committees, Hon. David Ochieng' (Ugenda).

The session, attended by over 10 Speakers from African nations, alongside at least 20 Deputy Speakers and Vice Presidents of Legislatures, was presided over by host Speaker Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin.

During deliberations on the draft Constitution, participants agreed that the CoSPAL Headquarters and Secretariat would be in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Constitution of CoSPAL defines several key organs within the organization, including the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, the Secretariat, and the Advisory Panel.

According to that constitution, the Advisory Panel consists of up to 10 members, including five current Speakers or Presidents of Parliaments and five former Speakers.

Its responsibilities include advising the General Assembly and Executive Committee on policy and programs, sharing experiences, guiding conflict management and resolution, and serving as a standby group for election monitoring and observation.

While accepting the appointment of Speaker Wetang'ula to the Advisory Panel, Hon. Ochieng' said the Speaker is best suited for the post, considering his wealth of experience as a Legislator.

"The Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly has been a Legislator for over three decades. Apart from being a committed and dedicated public servant, he is also a great Pan-Africanist. He is best suited for this role," said Hon. Ochieng'.

CoSPAL membership is open to all African Union member states. Substantive or former Speakers or Presidents of an African legislature, as well as their deputies, are eligible to join the General Assembly.

Its objectives include fostering collaboration and cooperation among Speakers and legislative leaders across Africa. It also aims to establish close ties with the African Union and other international and inter-parliamentary organizations to address shared challenges.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula presiding over a past sitting of the House

Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has urged the House leadership to give priority to pending legislative business for effective delivery as the year comes to an end.

He was speaking on Monday, October 28, 2024 during the official opening of the House Leadership Retreat themed; *re-invigorating synergy in leadership for accelerated discharge of the Mandate of the National Assembly*, in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

The Speaker asked the Party Whips to ensure that House quorum is maintained at all times. In addition, he directed Chairpersons of Committees to tackle pending work within the required time frame.

"I urged the Whips of both Majority and Minority Parties to ensure that quorum is achieved to deliver National Assembly Business," he said.

Further, the Speaker acknowledged that Members are called to perform various tasks on a daily basis but encouraged them to dedicate time for the House and Committee businesses.

"Members of Parliament are the nerve center of the leadership of this country, they are the chosen few privileged to serve the country in different capacities. I therefore encourage Chairpersons of Committees to prioritize pending business before the House and dedicate their time in delivering the legislative instruments on time," he said.

Making remarks, the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu) highlighted recent legislative achievements, including the passage of eight Bills and adoption of 89 Motions, underscoring National Assembly's commitment to addressing Kenyans needs.

"Our role extends beyond enacting laws; we are the custodians of policies that foster an enabling business environment, promote investment, and safeguard the interests of both entrepreneurs and citizens. Let us continue to approach our work with the same diligence that has brought us this far," said Hon. Ichung'wah.

Speaker urges House leadership to prioritize pending legislative business for effective delivery of mandate

On the other hand, the Leader of the Minority Party, Hon. Junet Mohamed (Suna East) called for regular like-minded engagement and capacity building for legislators to deepen knowledge on legislation.

He commended the forum saying that it provided a great opportunity to reflect on the House performance, review shortcomings and formulate effective strategies.

Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge, highlighted statistics on House performance indicating that the House passed 17 Bills, out of which eight had been assented to, three are awaiting assent, six have been forwarded to the Senate for consideration and eight are being considered by in mediation committees. He, however, pointed out that 49 Bills were set to lapse and 67 Motions were awaiting debate



The Departmental Committee on Finance and Planning extended its probe on tax evasion by importers and manufacturers of edible oils to the Port of Mombasa.

During the tour of the port, Members pointed out that there is need to establish independent testing parameters for imported edible oils for the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to curb unscrupulous traders from taking advantage of the current parameters to avoid taxation.

The visit was part of an ongoing probe by the Committee in relation to allegations of loss of tax revenue estimated at Kshs.64 billion through mis-declaration of cargo imported by Ms. Louis Dreyfus Company Asia PTA Ltd. and Ms. Louis Dreyfus Company Kenya Ltd.

During a meeting with KRA officials led by the Chief Manager, Port Operations, Mr. Swalleh Faraj, Members sought to be taken through the clearance process after the arrival of a vessel.

They further sought details on the lab testing process, should KRA suspect or receive intelligence to the effect that a shipment arriving at the port is of a

Committee on Finance and Planning extends probe on tax evasion on edible oils importers to the Port of Mombasa



Members of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning led by the Chairperson, Hon. Kuria Kimani (second left) take a tour of the Mombasa Port to familiarize themselves with the processing of imported edible oils into the country.

different nature to what had been declared through a manifest sent in advance by a shipping line.

Members were informed that there are multiple partner Government agencies that clear and release cargo online based on their standards and parameters. These include: Kenya Bureau of Statistics KEBS, Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) and Port Health.

Chairperson, Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo) noted that while the other agencies test for different reasons such as safety standards, KRA tests to determine the tax category of the product and hence cannot rely on these other tests.

The Members noted that there is a likely loophole since the edible oil testing parameters only categorize edible oil cargo as either crude or refined. Refined imported oil attracts higher taxation than imported crude edible oil.

“We need to develop specific standards for KRA testing so that importers don't take advantage of the existing parameters to import semi-

refined oil while paying taxes for crude oil”, Hon. Kimani asserted.

In addition, the Committee undertook a tour of the East African Storage Ltd. (EASL) one of the four facilities that handles imported edible oil products on behalf of manufacturers and importers.

Committee on Administration and Internal Security undertakes training to enhance skills and competencies

Members of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security undertook a three-day Capstone course organized by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST), in collaboration with the National Defence College (NDC).

The course was aimed at enhancing Members' knowledge, skills, and competencies to better fulfill their roles, particularly in matters of security and national interests.

Commandant of the NDC, Lieut-Gen. Juma Mwinyikai emphasized the importance of the training, highlighting CPST's role in developing strategic leaders in national security and public policy. He cited that the sessions covered strategic leadership, equipping Members with essential skills for national security planning and implementation.

“This knowledge is expected to increase productivity and foster innovation across various government sectors,” said Lieut-Gen. Mwinyikai

During the opening session, Committee's Chairperson, Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West), encouraged Members to actively participate in the training as through this forum they would understand the various roles of different players in the national security environment.

While observing that national security is cross-cutting, he proposed that CPST considers rolling out the training to all Members of Parliament. He further noted the importance of balancing political and national interests without compromising national interests.

The Committee plays a key role in the strategic direction and management of national security and other related areas of foreign policy towards the realization of a secure, stable, prosperous, and peaceful Kenya.

The CPST, Executive Director, Prof. Nyokabi Kamau, in her remarks noted that the training was the first of its kind during the 13th Parliament.

In addition, she underscored the mandates and roles of the CPST in building the capacity of Members of Parliament.



Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security Committee, Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (right) and the Vice Chairperson, (Rtd.) Maj. Dido Rasso (Saku) during the training on security and national interest



Vice Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Brighton Yegon (Konoin), addressing tea farmers at Mogogosiek Tea Factory in Bomet County

Committee on Agriculture and Livestock assures tea farmers of its commitment to finding solutions to low pricing for their produce

The Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock has assured tea farmers that the Committee will provide solutions to the current low prices affecting them.

These remarks were made by Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Brighton Yegon (Konoin) during the public hearing exercise by the Committee in Bomet County.

Reassuring the farmers of the commitment of Legislators to find solutions to their problems, Hon. Yegon said the Committee will summon all the parties involved before it comes up with recommendations.

“For the last 7 years the farmers have been getting deducted an amount towards hydropower that is meant to solve the high electricity cost but this has not been implemented. We have heard that electricity costs go up to Kshs.100 million, which is very high,” he said.

During the exercise which saw Members visit Bomet, Nyamira and Kisii counties, tea farmers called for the adoption of scientific methods in tea quality testing, arguing that the current process is inaccurate and prone to manipulation.

The farmers pointed out that soil conditions cannot be used as an excuse to pay tea farmers poorly.

“They cannot continue using the issue of soil condition as an excuse to pay us poorly yet tea farmers from Central Kenya earn double what we get. We now demand for a shift to a scientific tea testing method that will be accurate as compared to depending on the tongue tasting buds,” said Mr. George Mogire, a tea farmer at Nyasiongo.

Another farmer, Mr. Joel Koech from Kiptenden, attributed the poor payments to manipulation by cartels at the Mombasa auction market. He urged factory Directors to advocate more strongly for farmers and ensure they are not conflicted by outside interests.

“We need thorough audits of all our factories. Farmers are suffering. In addition to the low bonus payments, we have not received dividends since 2022. The Tea board of Kenya (TBK) must remain neutral and perform its duties impartially,” he said

A Board Member at Nyasiongo, Mr. Vincent Arisi, pointed an accusing finger at Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) and TBK for the woes facing the farmers, claiming that they are conflicted. He added that private factories were another factor affecting pricing of produce in the West.

“In the East they only have one private factory, but coming to the West, they licensed 42 private factories,” Mr. Arisi said.

TBK member, Mr. Samuel Njane said that a committee had been formed to come up with a unified tea quality that will see both the private and public factories adhere to the same green leaf quality.

The farmers also complained about being deducted fertilizer fee from their bonus despite the accrued deductions on their monthly pay slips of Kshs.1.50 per kilogramme.

Among the other issues, the farmers called on the Government to step in to improve the road networks and enable direct sales of tea by factories.

The Committee visited Nyasiongo Tea Factory in Nyamira County, Kiamokama Tea Factory in Kisii County and in Mogogosiek and Kapkoros Tea factories in Bomet County.

Committee on Public Debt and Privatization faults PS for shallow details on the JKIA-Adani proposal



Emuhaya MP, Hon. Omboko Milemba (left) and Lagdera MP, Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir (right) following a presentation by PS Mohamed Daghar

The Committee on Public Debt and Privatization has faulted the Principal Secretary for Transport, Mr. Mohamed Daghar, for providing shallow details on the JKIA-Adani deal.

The Principal Secretary was appearing before the Committee chaired by Hon. Abdi Shurie (Balambala) which had invited him alongside Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) to shed more light on the Privately Initiated Proposal from Adani Airports Holdings Limited to KAA.

The responses the PS gave, according Hon. Shurie, were not sufficient and failed to meet Members’ expectations.

“It seems you appeared before us just to tick the box that you honoured the invite. The information you have provided to our enquiries are very shallow and by failing to give us detailed information on the deal you also fail to help the public understand what this deal all is about,” Hon. Shurie said.

Emuhaya MP, Hon. Omboko Milemba told the PS that the Committee expected him to provide in-depth details on the issue of competitiveness and why they settled on single sourcing. He also wanted the PS to explain to the Committee why Adani could not start construction of a new airport instead of taking over the already existing JKIA.

“As the PS Transport you ought to help the Government explain exactly what is happening in all Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The Express Way that all Kenyans now appreciate is a product of a PPP but the contractor did not interfere with other roads under the Express Way. Therefore, you should tell us why Adani wants to take over our existing Airport and not construct one from the start,” he said.

On his part, Wajir East MP, Hon. Aden Daudi (Wajir East), told Mr. Daghar that the information he had provided to the Committee was just a summary of the PPP Act which he said originated from Parliament.

In his response, PS Daghar told the Committee that there was no opaqueness in the process adding that he had provided adequate answers to the questions the Committee had asked his department.

He added that the implementation of the proposal had been halted following three court cases filed and will remain so until the cases are heard and determined.



Chairperson, Public Debt and Privatization Committee, Hon. Abdi Shurie presiding over the meeting with PS Transport, Mr. Mohamed Daghar

Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining visits proposed site for nuclear plant in Kilifi County

Members of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining last week conducted three site visits in the coastal county of Kilifi to establish the facts about several environmental concerns brought to the attention of the Committee by members of the public.

The Committee started by visiting Mzuri Sweets Ltd, a factory located along Mombasa - Malindi highway on allegations that it was constructed on riparian land.

The Managing Director, Mr. Solanki Hiten proved with certified documents that they met all conditions set by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) including the creation of an artificial wetland.

However, Committee Chairperson, Hon. David Gikaria raised several issues with the way NEMA had made some of the approvals to allow the construction of the Kshs.1 billion project on the wetland. As a result, he asked the factory's management to submit all environmental compliance documents to the Committee.

In addition, the Committee visited Kambe-Ribe Community in Rabai Constituency where they had a joint sitting with the Cabinet Secretary for Mining and Blue Economy, Hon. Ali Joho, Principal Secretary for Mining, Mr. Elijah Mwangi and the local residents following public outcry on the operations of Simba Cement Company Ltd, in the area.

Residents raised issues relating to air pollution from the quarry dust, sound pollution from quarry blasts, poor roads from the heavy trucks around their villages and further made allegations over illegal acquisition of their community land.

CS Joho used the opportunity to ask Simba Cement, Head of Administration Mr. Peter Paulo to address all the concerns within a reasonable time, failure to which they risk losing their operation license.

Lastly the Committee visited Uyombo Village in Kilifi North Sub-County following the locals' resistance on establishment of nuclear energy plant in the area.

The residents strongly objected to any attempts to set up a nuclear plant in the area citing various environmental concerns on

both aqua breeding in the ocean and wildlife which they say, is their source of livelihood through local tourism.



Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, Hon. David Gikaria (right) alongside Bura MP, Hon. Yakub Adow (left) arriving for the inspection of an artificial wetland behind Mzuri Sweets Ltd

Committee on Implementation calls for expedited operationalization of recommendations to streamline framework for CBC



Mbeere North legislator Hon. Geoffrey Ruku, the Sponsor of the Motion

The Committee on Implementations wants the Ministry of Education to implement the recommendations of a Motion calling for the development of a comprehensive policy on Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) as well as the implementation of a framework for the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) at JSS level.

The lawmakers made the call during a meeting between the Principal Secretary, State Department for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang' and the Committee. This is even as it emerged that the Government ramped up resources towards schooling programmes, a one-size fits-all approach, which is not wholly applicable.

According to Kajiado Central MP, Hon. Memusi Kanchory who chaired the meeting, the CBC system had exposed hitches in matters such as capitation and the cost of taking learners through school.

"It is expensive and will continue to disadvantage those who do not have access to basic things like electricity. With this we see that those who are from the marginalized communities will continue to be marginalized," Hon. Konchory observed.

Moyale MP, Hon. (Prof.) Guyo Jaldea also pointed out that when learners in marginalized areas of the country were trying to catch up with the 8-4-4 system, suddenly the system was abandoned and CBC introduced.

Dr. Kipsang' earlier informed the Committee that deviation from the original practical intention of the 8.4.4 education system gave rise to a model synonymous with attaining grades at all costs.

"In 1985, the 8.4.4 system was almost like the CBC of today, but we ran away from the spirit of what we wanted to be, and became more of exam-oriented, where the end justifies the means and all you did was get an A, what you did with it was not an issue," Dr. Kipsang' said.

The Committee also learnt that at the moment, there were plans by the Ministry of Education to facilitate the setting up of laboratories in 1,600 senior schools (currently known as high schools) that did not previously have these facilities.

Dr. Kipsang' appeared before the Committee to apprise it on the execution status of a Motion sponsored by Hon. Geoffrey Ruku calling on the Ministry of Education to develop a comprehensive policy on Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) and an implementation framework for the Competency Based curriculum at JSS level.

Members reject plea to lift moratorium on Power Purchase Agreements

Members of Parliament have rejected a proposal from the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum to lift the moratorium on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), citing concerns over inadequate safeguards to protect taxpayers from potential exploitation by private investors.

The Ministry had approached Parliament with a request to lift the moratorium specifically on coal-fired power plants, stressing the urgency of expanding power sources to meet Kenya's increasing energy needs.

According to the Ministry, anticipated growth in power consumption necessitates a diversification of sources, with coal plants positioned as a stable and cost-effective complement to existing hydroelectric power.

However, Members insisted that the Ministry had to first implement stringent measures to prevent projects from disproportionately favoring investors at the expense of public interest.

They maintained that no relaxation of the moratorium should proceed until sufficient protections are established to ensure that any new agreements prioritize taxpayer welfare and national interests.

The Members spoke during the National Assembly leadership retreat where the Cabinet Secretary, Energy and Petroleum, Hon. Opiyo Wandayi made a presentation.



Participants at the recently concluded National Assembly Leadership Retreat applaud a presenter

Led by Chairperson, Committee on Energy, Hon. (Eng.) Vincent Musyoka (Mwala) members expressed concern over the Ministry's inadequate safeguards, saying there is currently no substantial basis for lifting the moratorium on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Hon. Musyoka emphasized that Parliament, as the people's representative, must be fully involved in PPA-related decisions. He cited the recent shifts in indicative tariffs as an example, noting that the indicative tariffs gazetted in 2012 for wind power stood at 12 Kshs/kWh.

However, shortly after, Lake Turkana Wind Power project secured a PPA at 16 Kshs/kWh over a 20-year term—higher than the forecasted tariffs intended to provide long-term savings.

"Recently, tariffs for wind were gazetted at 5.8 Kshs/kWh, illustrating that earlier contracts could have been three times cheaper," Hon. (Eng.) Musyoka said.

Further, he criticized the handling of the Lake Turkana Wind Project, intended as one of Kenya's Vision 2030 flagship projects, revealing that 20 Members' Motions were initially tabled to prevent power shortages through this initiative.

Members proposed that if the moratorium is lifted, Independent Power Producers (IPPs) with existing wind and solar installations should be required to add backup energy storage to harness excess energy produced during the day for peak demand.

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kenya Power, Dr. (Eng.) Joseph Siror told Members that all the new power budget agreements were the cheapest.

Quotes of The Week

Students are complaining that this university has not held a graduation for about three years. It is unfair for a student to go to school, finish the degree and not graduate. The university should facilitate that and ensure that that is done with urgency. Workers, lecturers and non-teaching staff are really suffering in this university. Let us prioritize these people because most of them are even dying of blood pressure and stress related illnesses. Most of them have loans and they cannot survive. This is the situation in many other universities because the National Treasury is not releasing money which this House has appropriated to the universities. As we continue to work together, let us ensure that the student, who is at the centre of all this thing, does not suffer and that lecturers, teaching and non-teaching staff are taken care of,"

Hon. Jack Wamboka (Bumula), reacting to a Statement on Status of Moi University, on Friday, October 18, 2024



One of the biggest challenges in Moi University is not just the salary arrears for the members of staff. The problem is, even for those months that they have been paid, unfortunately they were getting the net pay. All their deductions, like NSSF, NHIF, and their loan repayments were not being submitted. Therefore, many lecturers and staff members will tell you that one time they were driving their car in town when it was repossessed and towed away. When they ask why, they are told that the money has not been remitted by the university yet their pay slips shows that the money is deducted. Some of them had mortgages and now their houses are being auctioned because they have not been paid, although it shows that it has been deducted from their salary. There is a much bigger problem if we need a formula to bring employees back to work so as to re-open the university,"

Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu County) reacting to a Statement on Status of Moi University, on Friday, October 18, 2023



The real problem in Moi University that is also affecting other universities, requires immediate attention. I want to call out the National Treasury. I am aware it is preparing a supplementary budget. I plead with this House to consider Moi University. It should be given priority and adequate resources. The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry took over Rivatex after Moi University had injected a colossal amount of money. There were no discussions as to how that money would be refunded by the Ministry. All of us, including the staff of Moi University, would like to know what they bring on board so as to sort out the issues affecting this university. When the Departmental Committee on Education visits Moi University, I want them to tour the university and its environs, including the students living quarters. They are in a deplorable condition. None of the students would want to go there because of the bad situation they are in. As we look at the salaries, let us also look at the operations so that we can save the university,"

Hon. Julius Rutto (Kesses) reacting to a Statement on Status of Moi University, on Friday, October 18, 2024



If you look at the staffing levels, Moi University opened many campuses. For example, Kabianga and Karatina Universities. During our last Committee meeting, we asked Karatina University what they are doing because their books are very clean. When they opened other campuses, there was a gap in staff rationalization. There is also the issue of staff who are retiring and discontinuation of the parallel programmes. Why has the management been unable to rationalize so that they have staff that matches? For example, if staff are retiring or there is natural attrition, how comes the management is unable to rationalize? The other critical issue is that this university has a lot of assets like land. I asked the Vice-Chancellor why they teach entrepreneurship, but they are unable to come up with projects that will generate income. They also teach livestock management and do not generate money from dairy farming. If they teach entrepreneurship courses, have land, assets and brains, why are they unable to generate income?"

Hon. Bisau Kakai (Kimini) reacting to a Statement on Status of Moi University, on Friday, October 18, 2024



CLIQUE & CLICKS



From right to left, Chairman, KEPSA, Dr. Jaswinder (Jas) Bedi, Speaker, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, Deputy Leader of the Minority Party, Hon. Robert Mbui and First Chairperson of Committees, Hon. Martha Wangari giving a standing ovation at the conclusion of panel discussion during Speaker's Roundtable meeting with KEPSA in Nakuru County



Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (right) shaking hands with Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (right) after the Roundtable meetings with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) in Nakuru County on Tuesday, October 29, 2024



The Fifth Chairperson of Committees, Hon. David Ochieng' (left) making his contribution during the Second General Assembly of the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL). Hon Ochieng' represented Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula at the conference held on October 26, 2024 and October 27, 2024 in Accra, Ghana

Front row left to right; Deputy Leader of Minority Party, Hon. Robert Mbui, Majority Party Whip, Hon. Silvanus Osoro, Chairperson, Regional Integration Committee, Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, and Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, Hon. George Kariuki during the National Assembly Leadership Retreat



BUNGE MASHINANI

Jomvu MP partners with Kenya Railways for construction of perimeter wall in schools

Jomvu MP, Hon. Twalib Bady through the NG-CDF has partnered with Kenya Railways Corporation to construct a perimeter wall in schools in the constituency.

According to the MP plans to improve infrastructure of schools in Jomvu are underway as such developments will enhance security and improve the operational efficiency of the schools in his area.

Hon. Bady also inspected the ongoing construction of the new Meter Gauge Railway (MGR), which he said is crucial for facilitating the movement of passengers, reducing transport costs, enhancing connectivity and supporting local economies.

“I would also like to express my appreciation to Kenya Railways for their upcoming Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to construct additional classrooms at Maganda Primary School. This contribution will greatly enhance the school’s learning environment,” he said



Jomvu MP, Hon. Twalib Bady (centre) inspecting the ongoing construction of MGR

Mombasa County MP provides financial assistance to groups in the county

Mombasa County MP, Hon Zamzam Mohammed has provided financial assistance worth Kshs.40 million to various groups in six sub counties in Mombasa.

The MP through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) also donated equipment which included, sewing machines, tents and chairs, gas cylinders, car wash machines, deep freezers, life saver jackets, fish boxes and waterproof aprons to the groups.

Hon. Zamzam assured the residents that she would continue to support them through the NGAAF.

“Through NGAAF I will continue to support and implement programs that empower groups through tangible resources and financial assistance because it’s through such initiatives, that we can uplift communities, promote self-sufficiency, and create a more prosperous and interconnected society,” she said.



Mombasa County MP, Hon Zamzam Mohammed (right) and Malindi County MP, Hon. Amina Mnyazi (second right) displays a dummy cheque worth Kshs.40 million that she donated to a number of groups in the county

Webuye East MP secures sponsorship for youth empowerment

Webuye East MP, Hon. Martin Wanyonyi secured a Kshs.5 million sponsorship deal with the Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation that will go towards youth empowerment programmes.

The agreement was finalized during a recent meeting with the foundation’s leadership, including Director, Ms. Mendi Njonjo.

The initiative aims to support over 200 students from three wards of Ndivisi, Mihuu and Maraka in Webuye East Constituency.

Speaking during the signing of the deal, Hon. Wanyonyi said that the funds will enable the students to pursue various courses in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

“This initiative focuses on equipping young people with vital skills in key sectors such as construction, information and communication technology (ICT), and agribusiness. This partnership will empower our youth by providing them with the skills necessary to thrive in the job market,” he said.

In addition, he emphasized the importance of vocational training in fostering self-reliance and economic growth within the community



Webuye East MP, Hon. Martin Wanyonyi (left) posing for a photo with the Director, KCB Foundation, Ms. Mendi Njonjo after signing an MoU to secure a sponsorship deal for youth empowerment

Yatta MP, hands over new classrooms to eight primary schools

Yatta MP, Hon. Charles Basil handed over modern classrooms to seven primary schools funded by Yatta NG-CDF.

Speaking at Kisiiki primary school where he handed over a modern classroom and latrine for both boys and girls, Hon Basil said his plan is to improve the status of the schools as a way of uplifting education standards in the area.

“My dedication to uplifting education standards continues to impact the lives of young learners across the constituency,” he said.

Other schools that have benefitted from the modern classrooms project include Nguumo, Katangi, Kikuyuni, Kauukuni, Kilango and Vota Junior primary schools.

The MP also donated 100 seats and a tent to the Makondo self-help group in Kyua ward.



Yatta MP, Hon Robert Basil joined by pupils and teachers of Kisiiki primary school as he cuts a ribbon to commission a new classroom built by Yatta NG-CDF

Overview of Committees

1



The Constitution of Kenya empowers Parliament to establish committees to enable it to perform its functions.

2



A committee is a small group of Members appointed and empowered by the House to perform one or more specific tasks

3



Membership typically includes all Parliamentary political parties. It examines issues in more detail than is possible if the matter were to be considered in the House.

4



Committees draw their powers from the House and are required to report their findings to the House for consideration.



5



Committees facilitate divisions of labour. As a result, they offer the House an opportunity to deal with several matters simultaneously.

6



By their nature and expertise, committees are able to consider matters in greater detail than the House. Committees can perform functions which a House may not be well placed to perform.

7



Committees may carry out investigations, hear evidence from witnesses, travel for inquiries, seek advice from experts, and deliberate on matters under inquiry before reporting their findings to the House.

8



Committee proceedings are more intimate and bipartisan than proceedings in the House. Party politics are often less prominent in a committee than in the House. This approach enables a committee to review contentious matters more effectively, and to assist parliamentary debate by clarifying issues and establishing common ground between members of different parties.

9

Committees are a good avenue of communication between Parliament and the public. They offer a platform for the public to participate in law making and policy review by submission or representation of their views.



The Leader of the Majority, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah and Leader of the Minority Party, Hon. Junet Muhammed have underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between Parliament and the private sector to drive essential policy reforms.

Recognizing the critical role that effective legislation plays in fostering a conducive business environment, both leaders advocated for a partnership that prioritizes economic growth, investment, and sustainable development.

Speaking on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, during the Speaker's Round Table with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) the leaders said collaborative approach will address pressing challenges and create a framework that supports innovation and entrepreneurship across various sectors of the economy.

Hon. Ichung'wah acknowledged KEPSA's valuable contributions across various policy areas, including trade, finance, manufacturing, and agriculture. He affirmed that these efforts have been instrumental in shaping policies that enhance the country's competitiveness within the region and beyond.

"As we engage today, I am confident that our joint efforts will yield actionable outcomes impacting all sectors of our economy, from large corporations to the vital

Leaders of the Majority and Minority parties urge collaborative efforts for policy reforms between parliament and the private sector.



Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah making remarks during Speaker's Round Table with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)



Leader of Minority Party, Hon. Junet Mohamed delivering his speech during Speaker's Round Table with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)

small and medium enterprises that sustain millions of livelihoods," said Hon. Ichung'wah.

He further noted the importance of addressing Kenya's economic realities, characterized by high youth unemployment and the urgent need for job creation.

"KEPSA has a pivotal role in addressing these challenges through strategic partnerships and legislative advocacy, supporting government efforts to create employment opportunities for our youth," he said.

On his part, Hon. Junet, expressed concern over what he described as high tax rates, inadequate infrastructure, and the escalating cost of power, all of which have led to widespread business closures,

downsizing, and significant job losses.

He asserted that sound monetary and fiscal policies are essential for creating a conducive environment for investment and business growth.

"As Members of Parliament, we must strive to craft fiscal and monetary policies that promote stability, encourage investment, and support entrepreneurship. It is also crucial to implement prudent management strategies to prevent unsustainable debt levels and ensure efficiency in public spending," he stated.

In addition, he emphasized the importance of exercising the oversight role of Parliament to keep the Government accountable in terms of debt management and public investment efficiency.

KEWOPA Members join Kenyans in marking Mombasa Women Summit, 2024

Members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) joined Kenyans in marking the Mombasa Women Summit, 2024 in an effort to empower more women in leadership positions and strengthen their livelihood base.

Led by the Chairperson, Hon. Leah Sankaire (Kajiado County), the lawmakers acknowledged the contributions made by Mombasa County MP, Hon. Zamzam Mohammed through her initiative, dubbed "second chance programme".

"This programme has given an opportunity to the less fortunate to access education, find jobs and even set up Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises," said Hon. Sankaire.

The Women MPs equally praised Hon. Zamzam for her proper utilization of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), which they said has seen her ranked the second best out of the 47 county MPs.

The Mombasa County MP's prowess was noted following her immense contribution to the women caucus, KEWOPA and also on the floor of the House.

Speaking during the event, Hon. Zamzam shared the milestones that she has achieved through NGAAF which she said has brought substantial resources to communities making a difference in the lives of women, youth and vulnerable children across the county.

"In the financial year 2022/2023, we allocated Kshs. 34,570,730.49 to 205 affirmative action groups



Chairperson, Kenya Women Parliamentarians (KEWOPA), Hon. Leah Sankaire addressing participants at the Mombasa Women Summit, 2024 held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 in Mombasa County

focused on value addition, women economic empowerment and the provision of essential business equipment. These funds are transforming lives, enabling women to establish businesses, generate income and create jobs within their communities," said Hon. Zamzam.

The Summit attracted women from six sub counties and created a platform for women to showcase their talents and businesses through various exhibitions.

Other leaders who attended the event included the Cabinet Secretary for Mining and Blue Economy, Hon. Ali Joho, the Permanent Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action, Ms. Anne Wang'odu, Court of Appeal Judge, Justice Agnes Murgor who represented the Chief Justice, several Members of the Mombasa County Assembly among others.



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