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Speaker Wetang'ula urges Commonwealth legislatures to take lead in Climate Action, remain vigilant on use of Artificial Intelligence



The Speaker of the National Assembly addresses delegates at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference on Saturday 11th October, 2025, at Bridgetown, Barbados.

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has called for locally tailored solutions to empower citizens and institutions to conserve the environment, and urged vigilance in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

He was speaking during his address at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Saturday, October 11, 2024.

Addressing colleague Speakers and lawmakers, Speaker Wetang'ula stressed the need for concrete action, from robust environmental safeguards to innovative, locally tailored solutions, to address global climate change.

"We need programs that empower both citizens and institutions to conserve the environment for years to come like the Kenyan dream to plant 15 billion trees in 10 years," noted Wetang'ula.

He also expressed the desire for a shared responsibility among Commonwealth nations to safeguard the planet for future generations, stating, "We have to partner in the push for climate justice, for a renewable energy revolution, eliminate trade barriers among Commonwealth countries and promote investment opportunities."

Focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) ►

Speaker Wetang'ula also highlighted that AI has reshaped industries, governance, and daily life, bringing opportunities for improved decision-making, efficiency, and new avenues for inclusive participation.

However, he cautioned legislatures to be vigilant on the use of Artificial Intelligence, underscoring the need for capacity building on its use.

"There is need to enhance vigilance on the misuse of artificial intelligence while ensuring that fact-checking online remains our collective obligation."

The Speaker stressed the importance of vigorous



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COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP



Finance Committee faults Retirement Benefits Authority for delayed pensions payout, presses Authority

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Capitation delays necessitated by verification of ghost schools, Education CS Informs the House



The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Mr. Julius Ogamba, has informed the National Assembly that delays in the release of school capitation funds have been

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Speaker Wetang'ula urges Commonwealth legislatures to lead on Climate Action, remain vigilant on use of Artificial Intelligence (Continued)

▶ FROM PG 1 verification, credible sourcing, and media literacy so that citizens can separate truth from misinformation.

He also underscored the importance of building stronger networks that promote inclusion, integrity, and accountability.

"By promoting cross-sector collaboration, we can amplify diverse voices, safeguard democratic processes and advance policies that reflect our shared values," guided Dr. Wetang'ula.

Emphasis on the Role of Parliament in promoting democracy ▶

He reminded participating lawmakers to uphold their cardinal roles of legislative, oversight, and representation, noting that while Governments propose, Parliaments debate, amend, and decide.

"You scrutinise budgets, ratify treaties, pass laws that give life to our commitments, and hold the executive to account," noted Speaker Wetang'ula.

During the forum, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, Baroness of Asthal, called on the gathering to reaffirm shared values, exchange ideas and innovations, and strengthen their bonds.

"Let us leave Bridgetown with renewed energy, not only to debate the future, but to shape it. Because the world needs hope, cooperation, and solutions." She stated, noting that the Commonwealth – through its Parliaments, its governments, and its people, can provide all three.



The Speaker of the National Assembly Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (second right) presents a gift to the Speaker of the Barbados Parliament, His Honourable Arthur Holder, SC, MP (second left) on the sidelines of the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) conference held in Bridgetown, Barbados. Accompanying him were Hon. Jhanda Zaheer (Nyaribari Chache-left) and Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga-right).

PLENARY ▶

Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, calls for prosecution of ex-NHIF officials over 337% cost inflation in Car Park Project

National Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah has called for swift prosecution of former officials of the defunct National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) over what he termed as blatant theft of public resources. His outrage follows findings that the agency's car park project in Community was executed at 337 per cent above its initial budget, despite remaining largely incomplete and underutilised.

Speaking during debate on the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture Report, Hon. Ichung'wah commended the Committee, led by Navakholo MP Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe for exposing long-running financial irregularities at NHIF dating back to 2013.

"A car park cannot be varied by 337 per cent without consequences," he declared. "That is not mismanagement, it is criminality."

He condemned the growing trend where public officers implicated in graft resurface in politics to sanitise their reputations.

"Some of those characters, like the former NHIF CEO, are now pretending to run for governor on stolen funds. Elective office must not become a laundromat for corrupt officials," he warned.

Hon. Ichung'wah tasked the Committee on Implementation, chaired by Hon. Raphael Wanjala, to ensure enforcement of the report's recommendations.

"EACC and DCI must take action. Otherwise, we

normalise theft and let criminals walk free."

The report highlights that the controversial car park, despite consuming billions, remains only 20 per cent operational, with faulty lifts, limited access, and little public use.

"You cannot inflate costs by over 300 per cent, fail to finish the project, and expect no accountability. Billions have gone down the drain," Ichung'wah lamented.

He further raised concern over fake medical claims and inflated bills inherited by the newly formed Social Health Authority (SHA), which replaced NHIF under the Universal Health Coverage reforms. He urged SHA and health oversight committees to conduct a forensic audit to separate genuine claims from fraudulent ones.

"We have heard of cases where someone supposedly had their leg amputated three times on paper. That is theft from the sick," he remarked.

Referencing the recent dispute involving St. Mary's Mission Hospital in Kakamega, he clarified that



File photo: National Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah

contrary to claims that SHA owed billions, the facility had already received close to KES 90 million.

"I urge religious leaders to verify information before issuing public statements. Some of these debts belong to the defunct NHIF," he said.

Ichung'wah concluded by urging Parliament to adopt the report in full.

"Those who looted NHIF must refund every shilling and face prosecution. Public sympathy must never shield corruption."

National Assembly receives petition on strengthening Stem and Computer Science Education



The National Assembly has received a petition from the Computer Science Teachers Association of Kenya (CSTAK) calling for policy and legislative interventions to reverse the decline in the uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Presenting the petition to the House, Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss read,

“Honourable Members, my office has received a petition from the Computer Science Teachers Association of Kenya, highlighting a concerning decline in student participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) at a critical juncture marked by the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI).”

“Without timely intervention, the nation risks falling behind in global competitiveness, innovation, and its ability to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” she added.

Lack of adequate support ▶

The petitioner while commending the Teachers Service Commission for prioritizing STEM subject teachers in the ongoing recruitment of 24,000 intern teachers for junior secondary schools, cautioned the Competency Based Curriculum's reliance on single introductory tools that limits learners' preparedness for advanced areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, and Data Science.

The petitioner further noted that the robotics component in the Grade 7–9 curriculum lacks

meaningful hands-on training due to inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of trained teachers and high implementation costs.

“The lack of formal financial and policy support for STEM activities, unlike music, drama, and sports, creates inequality in access, particularly for marginalized communities,” the petition notes.

Calls on Parliament ▶

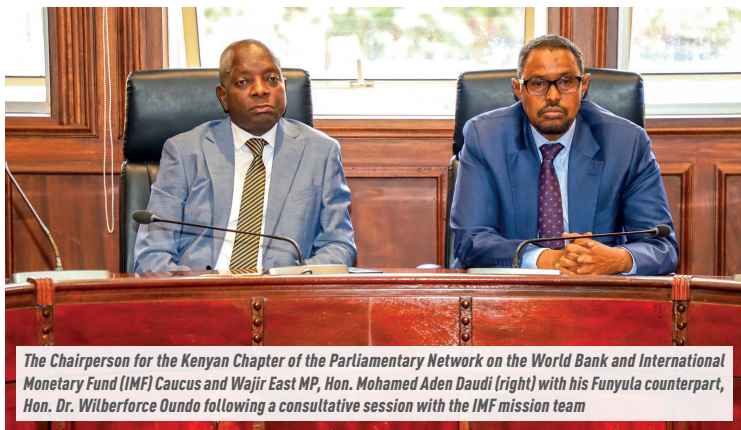
The petitioners prays that Parliament engages the Ministry of Education in developing a National Policy and Funding Framework for STEM and Robotics, and to direct the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to incorporate practical, hands-on learning modules in AI, Robotics, Data Science, and Cybersecurity within the curriculum.

Gilgil MP, Hon. Martha Wangari in supporting the petition cited the case of John Tongoi, a Chuka University student who came third out of 80,000 participants at the 2025 International Quant Championship in Singapore, after receiving financial backing from the Gilgil NGCDF.

“This is a live example of the kind of support we can give young men and women to enjoy STEM,” noted Hon. Wangari. “It shows how much potential we have as a country if we fully support STEM,”

The petition was committed to the Public Petitions Committee for consideration. The Committee will examine the issues raised before tabling its report in the House in accordance with Standing order 227(2).

Parliamentary Caucus on World Bank–IMF engages IMF mission in high-level consultative meeting on critical policy reforms



The Chairperson for the Kenyan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Caucus and Wajir East MP, Hon. Mohamed Aden Daudi (right) with his Funyula counterpart, Hon. Dr. Wilberforce Dundo following a consultative session with the IMF mission team

Members of the Kenyan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) caucus last week held a meeting with the IMF mission team to deliberate on key policy reforms that would accelerate the country's economy.

The caucus chaired by Hon. Mohamed Aden Daud (Wajir East) underscored Parliament's commitment to safeguarding the country from policies that could lead to fiscal distress.

“Parliament upholds the national values and principles of governance provided under Chapter 10 (2) of the constitution of Kenya 2010,” Hon. Daud said.

Speaking during the meeting, the IMF Mission Chief, Ms. Haimanot Teferra urged the MPs to focus on enhancing fiscal sustainability and strengthening the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

Ms. Teferra highlighted that IMF expects the country to focus on governance of key policy reforms especially on preventing the misuse of Article 223 of the Constitution on Supplementary Budgets, strengthening revenue mobilization that is equitable with the aim of reducing the debt burden.

“IMF has high expectations on Kenya's governance, legal frameworks, implementation of audit recommendations, full compliance of the PFM Act, sealing of corruption loop holes and modalities of addressing pending bills,” Ms. Teferra said.

Hon. Joseph Makilap (Baringo North) decried the unpredictability of the

National Budget, which he said has hugely affected funding of government programs.

Hon. (Dr.) Wilberforce Oundo emphasized on transparency of public debt and the need to carry out an impact assessment before taking new loans.

Hon. David Mboni (Kitui Rural) lauded IMF's role in stabilizing the economy but reiterated that intolerance to corruption is the effective path to financial stability.

“In as much as people want to blame the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, there are loopholes in revenue mobilization in many sectors including border posts which are still using manual scanners. The truth is that if we can reduce corruption by 50%, the country won't be requesting for an IMF program,” Hon. Mboni said.

The MPs and IMF mission team also deliberated on PFM reforms geared towards achieving the public debt target, application of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) investments, privatization strategy implementation and securitization.

In his closing remarks, Hon. Daud urged the IMF mission team to share their recommendations on the best policy reforms that will not burden Kenyans nor hurt the country's economy.

“Share with us your thoughts on the legislative reforms on the Public Finance Management Act for this caucus to review,” Hon. Daud remarked.

Other members of the caucus present during the deliberations were Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South) and Hon. Robert Gichimu (Gichugu).



Members of the Kenyan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a meeting with the IMF mission team at Parliament Buildings

Speaker Wetang'ula roots for democracy and collaboration at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary meeting

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon.(Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has called for renewed unity and commitment to democracy within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), urging member states to build stronger, more inclusive institutions.

Speaking while leading the Kenyan delegation to the ongoing 68th CPA Conference in Barbados, hosted by the Parliament of Barbados and the CPA Barbados Branch, Speaker Wetang'ula emphasized the need for solidarity and shared purpose among Commonwealth nations.

"Solidarity must be our guiding principle. We must not drop the ball not just as leaders, but as a people. Integrity is discipline. We must be honest with our citizens, listen to them, and truly feel their concerns, for only those who feel the people can know them," said Wetang'ula.

The Speaker further noted that leadership requires humility and inclusivity, saying,

"Sometimes, when you hold power, you must take a step back to bring others on board."

Talks with Twigg ▶

On the sidelines of the conference, Speaker Wetang'ula held talks with Hon. Stephen Twigg, Secretary-General of the CPA, where he reaffirmed Kenya's unwavering commitment to the association's values and applauded the Secretariat for organizing a successful conference.

"Our discussions focused on strengthening Kenya's participation in CPA programmes and deepening cooperation in areas such as good governance, gender equality, youth engagement, climate action, and inclusion of persons with disabilities," he said.

The CPA Secretary-General praised Kenya for its active role in advancing parliamentary democracy within the Commonwealth, noting its leadership within the CPA Africa Region.

Wetang'ula was accompanied by MPs Beatrice Adagala (Vice-Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee), Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, Hon. Naisula Lesuuda and Hon. Tim Wanyonyi.

3rd Emilia Monjowa Lecture ▶

The delegation later attended the 3rd Emilia Monjowa Lecture, held in honour of the late Deputy



Speaker Wetang'ula looks on as the opening ceremony of the 68th CPA Conference commences

Speaker of Cameroon and former CPA International Executive Committee Chairperson.

The lecture, presided over by The Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Mia Mottley, SC, MP, emphasized the importance of integrity and citizen engagement in governance.

CPA Vice-Patron Dame Sandra Mason commended the association's 114-year legacy in promoting parliamentary democracy and highlighted the importance of youth participation in shaping the Commonwealth's future.

The Barbados Parliament last hosted the CPA Conference in 1989. This year's 68th edition brings together parliamentarians from over 180 Commonwealth legislatures to deliberate on key global political and governance issues.



Members of the Kenyan delegation pose for a picture with CPA Secretary General Mr. Stephen Twigg



Delegates at the CPA conference in Barbados

Nominated MP seeks government action to decongest Changamwe–Port Reitz and Jomvu–Miritini Roads

A nominated Member of Parliament has raised concern over the worsening traffic congestion on major roads in Mombasa County, urging the Government to implement urgent and long-term measures to ease movement of goods and services in the coastal city.

Rising on the floor of the National Assembly on Tuesday last week, under Standing Order 44(2)(c), Hon. Abubakar Talib noted that the situation has become untenable, the persistent gridlock along the Changamwe–Port Reitz and Changamwe–Jomvu–Miritini roads, particularly for motorists and transporters operating near container depots in the area.

"There has been a significant increase in traffic congestion along the Changamwe Roundabout–Port Reitz Road and the Changamwe–Jomvu–Miritini Road in recent months. This is largely due to trucks heading to and from the container depots, which are currently operating at an approximate capacity of over 90 per cent," said Talib.

The legislator pointed out that the depots are functioning far above the internationally accepted

operational capacity of 70 per cent, a situation that has led to long queues of trucks stretching for several kilometres.

The resultant traffic snarl-ups have caused delays in the movement of goods, disrupted access to the Miritini Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Station, and impeded flow along the busy Mombasa–Nairobi Highway.

"This congestion is not only affecting logistics efficiency but also the livelihoods of ordinary motorists and residents who rely on these roads daily. Urgent government intervention is needed to restore normalcy," he added.

Hon. Talib's statement seeks clarification from the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on three key areas.

First, he wants to know the immediate measures the Government is undertaking to ease congestion and ensure smooth traffic flow along the affected roads.

Secondly, he seeks an explanation of the long-term strategies in place, including whether there are plans to relocate some of the container depots to alternative sites to reduce pressure on Mombasa's transport network.



Nominated MP Hon. Abubakar Talib during a meeting with the Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife at Parliament Buildings.

Lastly, he requests information on the technological innovations being adopted by the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) to enhance operational efficiency and align with global standards in the rapidly expanding shipping industry.

The Speaker of the National Assembly directed the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure to respond to the matter and provide a detailed report outlining both immediate and long-term actions to decongest the roads.

National Assembly Publishes 7th Edition of Standing Orders to enhance clarity on House procedures

The National Assembly has published and circulated the 7th Edition of its Standing Orders, marking a significant step in harmonising parliamentary procedure and strengthening Executive accountability to Parliament.

In a statement delivered on the Floor of the House, Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss informed Members that the new edition consolidates all approved amendments made to the 6th Edition and its addendum. The publication resolves confusion that had arisen over conflicting references to the previous editions.

"The 7th Edition of the Standing Orders does not introduce any new provisions," Hon. Boss, clarified. "It is simply a merger of the 6th Edition Standing Orders approved on 7th June 2022 and the addendum adopted on 9th March 2023."

She explained that the review was initiated following President William Ruto's address during the official opening of the 13th Parliament on 29th September 2022, when he urged lawmakers to establish a framework allowing Cabinet Secretaries (CSs) to appear before the House.

The move aimed to enhance transparency, articulate government policies, and enable the

Executive to respond directly to issues raised by elected representatives.

Subsequently, the President submitted a formal memorandum on 9th December 2022 to the National Assembly, which was referred to the Procedure and House Rules Committee, chaired by the Speaker.

After deliberation, the Committee proposed and tabled amendments that were adopted by the House on 9th March 2023.

The amendments paved the way for Cabinet Secretaries to appear before the House to respond to parliamentary questions and provide policy reports in accordance with Article 153 of the Constitution.

Initially, these provisions were published separately as an addendum to the 6th Edition of the Standing Orders, but the coexistence of the two documents caused uncertainty among Members and the public.

"To address this, the Committee authorised the Clerk of the National Assembly to consolidate the addendum into the 6th Edition, producing a seamless 7th Edition," Hon. Boss, who is also Woman representative for Uasin Gishu County said.

She further announced that the new Standing Orders have been published in three versions English,



A file photo of the National Assembly Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu)

Kiswahili, and a bilingual edition, all available both in print and on the Parliament of Kenya website.

Hon. Boss encouraged Members to collect copies of both the Standing Orders and the Constitution, underscoring their importance as guiding tools in legislative conduct and oversight.

MPs seek formation of Ad-hoc Committee to investigate low bonus pay to West of Rift tea farmers by KTDA

MPs drawn from the West of Rift tea growing region are now calling for formation of an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) operations which they have accused of being corrupt following the discrepancies in 2025 tea bonuses payment.

Farmers short-changed, MPs say ►

In a press conference on Wednesday 8th October, 2025, the Members led by Hon. Brighton Yegon (Konoin) who is the Agriculture and Livestock Committee Vice-Chairperson, condemned the low bonus paid to farmers from the region saying that over 700,000 farmers have been short-changed yet again despite their relentless effort in producing the world's best tea.

They blamed KTDA management services for failing to control rising costs of production and management, including inflated firewood procurement and staff expenses and manipulation of weighing scales by some field clerks, under pressure from factory managers.

"In Kenya, tea is second foreign exchange earner. Last year alone tea exports were worth KES. 215billion and 68 percent of national tea production is from West of Rift while 32 percent is from East of Rift. However, tea prices from west of rift are dismal and worth concern," Hon. Yegon said.

MPs demand scientific tea testing ►

The legislators are now demanding the introduction of blind or scientific tea testing at the auction to eliminate bias and guarantee fairness and a balanced representation model at KTDA holdings claiming that the current one is imbalanced in favor of East of Rift farmers.

"In 2025, we cannot have mouth being the single tasting instrument of products we must move to scientific tasting and to KTDA management, once



The MPs led by Hon. Yegon (seated 2nd from L) when they gave the presser last week on Wednesday 8th October, 2025 at Media Center

this Ad-hoc Committee is formed, we will tackle the cartels once and for all," Hon. Clive Gisario (Kitutu Masaba) said.

'Out of 13 brokerage firms serving Kenya's tea auction, only one originates from the West of Rift, yet this region contributes 68 percent of the national tea production. We demand fair representation in brokerage licensing to ensure equitable participation and regional inclusivity in tea marketing. We also demand immediate disbandment of tea trade association and a transparent exercise involving the farmer be put in place,' part of their press statement read.

Push for the Tea Amendment Bill ►

At the same time, they called upon the House Business Committee to prioritize the Tea Amendment Bill that is currently tabled for second reading in the National Assembly.

Hon. Benard Kitur (Nandi Hills) stated that the tea from West of Rift is the best worldwide however, it's awkward that it receives the worst ratings in Mombasa auction.

The Members were drawn from Bomet, Kericho, Kisii, Nandi and Nyamira Counties.

The Executive Committee of the CPA, Africa region conducts a consultative meeting chaired by Kenya's Hon. Beatrice Adagala



Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the CPA, Africa Region, Beatrice Adagala (Women MP, Vihiga), chairing a consultative meeting of the Executive Committee of the CPA, Africa Region, at the sidelines of the ongoing 68th CPC 2025, Bridgetown, Barbados on Friday, 10th October, 2025.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the CPA, Africa Region, Beatrice Adagala (Women MP, Vihiga), chaired her first consultative meeting of the Executive Committee of the CPA, Africa Region since her election to the post, at the sidelines of the ongoing 68th CPC 2025, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Hon. Adagala, who recently got elected to the position, said the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) will continue to exist to develop, promote, and support Parliamentarians and their staff in legislative work and beyond.

"We will identify benchmarks of good governance and implement the enduring values of the Commonwealth," noted Hon. Adagala.

She underscored the need for high-level collaboration among CPA Member States, noting that through such efforts, various battle necks will be resolved.

"Stakeholders must work together to deepen the Commonwealth's commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance," she encouraged.

During the engagement, National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula called for unity of purpose amongst the Africa Region CPA Branch Members.

"We need to have proper representation and championing the interests of the Region," said Speaker Wetang'ula.

Hon. Wetangula applauded the House of Commons for voting to approve the change of the CPA Status from a UK charity institution to an international status.

"In solidarity, we emphasized the need for the 'CPA Africa Region' to get the rightful recognition as the largest contributor to the CPA," affirmed Speaker Wetang'ula.

"CPA addresses global political issues and developments in the parliamentary system through conference workshops and sessions for leading Parliamentarians representing Parliaments and Legislatures throughout the Commonwealth."

The conference period also includes meetings of the CPA's General Assembly, the CPA Executive Committee, CPA Small Branches Conference, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference, meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities network, and the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) meeting for Parliamentary Clerks and Secretaries.

A summary of the main views expressed in conference debates will be sent to Members, Commonwealth governments, and international agencies.



Stakeholders must work together to deepen the Commonwealth's commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance,"

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP ▶

Budget Committee Reviews legislative proposals from legislators

The Committee on Budget and Appropriations chaired by Hon. Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga) last week examined three legislative proposals pursuant to the National Assembly Standing Order 114 (4).

The Committee deliberated on the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 by Hon. Paul Abuor (Rongo), the Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri) and the Agriculture and Livestock Extension Service Bill, 2024 by Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyutha Mutunga (Tigania West).

Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 t ▶

Presenting the Bill, Hon. Paul Abuor proposed to make amendments to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, Cap 412A, which provides that the funds disbursed by the National Treasury for approved projects in the annual budget must be deposited into designated specific bank accounts.

"This Bill has better intentions, to track and monitor specific projects and avoid usage of funds meant for specific projects to others," said Hon. Abuor.

Hon. Atandi urged the proposer of the Bill to look at both the positive and negative aspects of the Bill.

Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2024 ▶

Advocating for the Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri) said the Bill aims to ease transition of students to adulthood by allowing them to register for identification cards while in school upon turning eighteen (18) years.

"This Bill will reduce bureaucracy and will bring services closer to the people," Hon. Muhia said.

Agriculture and Livestock Extension Service Bill, 2024 ▶

The Committee also heard from Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga regarding his Agriculture and Livestock Extension Service Bill, 2024. This Bill seeks to provide a legal framework for the provision and regulation of agriculture and livestock extension services in the country to achieve effective, efficient, cost effective, and sustainable agricultural extension and advisory services for increased agricultural productivity and improved welfare of farmers.

If enacted, the Bill will establish the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Service and the Repository Centre which will lead to employment of extension officers by Counties and thereby improving agricultural productivity.

The Committee is expected to submit a report to the Speaker within thirty (30) days of receipt of the legislative proposals to be tabled before the House for debate.



1. The chairperson for Budget & Appropriations Committee and Alego Usonga MP. Hon. Samuel Atandi chairing a meeting to consider legislative proposals from Hon. Members of Parliament
2. Hon. Paul Abuor (Rongo) appearing before Budget & Appropriations Committee regarding Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3. Hon. Dr. John Mutunga (Tigania West) defending his Agriculture and Livestock Extension Service Bill, 2024 to the Members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee
4. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri) presenting her Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to the Members of Budget & Appropriations Committee

Finance Committee faults Retirement Benefits Authority for delayed pensions payout, presses Authority to take action on errant agencies

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning has faulted the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) for the delayed payout of retirement benefits to former employees of several state agencies, years after they transitioned from service.

Speaking during a meeting with officials from the National Treasury and the RBA, the lawmakers called out the officials for slacking on their regulatory role.

They criticized the lack of action against agencies that have for years failed to pay out benefits, leaving their former employees to languish in poverty, which the Members noted was grossly unfair.

The officials were appearing on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning, Hon. John Mbadi, to respond to a request for Statement by Kilifi South lawmaker, Hon. Ken Chonga.

Lawmakers express concern over inaction ▶

Committee Members expressed concern that the RBA had failed to take action against the Chief Executives of a number of state agencies that had failed to meet their obligations to pay out retirement benefits to their retired staff.

"We share the same pain as legislators of people whose pension payouts are stuck. What this Committee needs to know is, if these former employees contributed towards their pension and the agencies made their part of contribution, where is the money?" Session Chair, Hon. David Mboni, asked.

Hon. Chonga's Statement relates to the delayed payment of pensions to retired staff under the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation (NWCP) Staff Superannuation Scheme.

Regarding the Statement, the Authority's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Charles Machira, told the Committee that the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation did not remit pension contributions for their employees when they fell due, even as the



Kilifi South MP, Hon. Richard Ken Chonga during the meeting. The lawmaker had raised the Statement on delayed pension payout to the retirees of water agencies on the floor of the House.

Actuarial Deficit continued to increase, breaching the minimum statutory funding level of 100 per cent.

"Hon. Chairman, the Water Agency bodies who were formed after water sector reforms neglected their obligations in terms of remitting pension contributions to National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation Superannuation Scheme for employees they took over," Mr. Machira stated.

Asked by Hon. Mboni what steps the Authority had taken to remedy the situation across all retirement benefits schemes, Mr. Machira told the lawmakers that the RBA had made proposals in the current Financial Year to amend the Retirement Benefits Act.

"Hon. Chair, the goal is to penalize employers who fail to remit pension contributions and to empower the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) under Section 53 of the Act, to recover unremitted pension contributions from Employers.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the Authority's response, Hon. Chonga demanded to know when the remaining 60 per cent owed to NWCP staff would be paid.

"Hon. Chair, the matters I raised in my Statement on the Floor of the House have not been responded to. The former employees had been informed that there is no money for their payout yet they were deducted monies towards their pension. The National Treasury and the Authority have an obligation to ensure the affected people are paid," Hon. Chonga held.

Committee's way forward on the matter ▶

Providing the way forward on the matter, Hon. Mboni directed that the Ministry Officials, led by CS Mbadi, re-appear before the Committee on October 23. They are to be accompanied by all the current and former executives of the water agencies concerned.

The officials are expected to provide a comprehensive report on the amount deducted from the employees and the employers, as well as provide a justification why the payout has taken too long to be remitted.

Education Committee Inspects Assistive Devices Factory urges KISE to expand access to Special Needs Resources to Counties



Members of the Committee on Education during an oversight visit to the Assisted Devices Factory in Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE), Kasarani, Nairobi County.

The National Assembly Committee on Education, chaired by Hon. Julius Melly, conducted an oversight visit to the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE).

The Committee engaged with KISE's Director and Secretary to the Council, Dr. Norman Kiogora, on several matters including teacher training, early identification of disabilities, and the status of key development projects like the Assistive Devices Factory.

Members questioned KISE on its plan to decentralize its essential services to reach learners in rural regions. "What will happen to kids in Busia, Malindi, where those kids need these facilities? What strategies do you guys have to support people in far places?" questioned Hon. Dick Maungu. He further emphasized the legislative requirement: "We have the Persons with Disabilities Act that mandates KISE to have a center in every county, what is the progress."

Dr. Kiogora in his submissions highlighted current efforts, stating, "We have a mobile assessment track that goes to these areas."

The Director also noted that the institute has aligned its structure to operationalize 10 regional Education Assessment and Resource Centres (EARCs) in the immediate future, but emphasized the need for funding: "We are seeking the funds to facilitate decentralization of this critical function. The proposed Budget for this to be actualized is KES. 210 million."

Lawmakers inspected the status of two major projects the Parental Empowerment Centre and the National Assistive Devices Production Unit (NADPU), referred to as the Assistive Devices Factory.

Dr. Kiogora confirmed the factory is nearing completion. "The facility that manufactures equipment for disabilities is 90% complete," he told the Committee.

However, the factory project, established following a Presidential declaration, faces financial hurdles. KISE reported a KES. 350 million

lapse in funding during the last financial year and a current funding gap of KES. 250 million needed to purchase essential equipment for various workshops (aluminium, leather, glass, etc.).

The institute warned, "The funding gap for immediate equipping... will greatly hamper the launch of the Factory within this financial year despite completion of construction works."

Hon. Julius Melly questioned the operational model for the new facility, "How do you intend to manufacture, distribute and sell these assistive devices even regionally. How will it work?" The factory's primary goal is to address the shortage of learning materials and assistive devices to ensure equitable access to education.

KISE also flagged a shortfall of KES. 185 million for the Parental Empowerment Centre and requested an intervention of KES. 86 million in the Supplementary Budget to purchase specialized equipment for the nearly complete facility.

On teacher training, Committee Members questioned KISE's role and the transition of educators to the Junior Secondary School (JSS) level.

Hon. Julius Taitum asked, "How are teachers transitioning to JSS. Have you worked with TSC to ensure teachers are transitioning?"

The KISE Director clarified its mandate, stating, "KISE they don't do degrees for teachers but diploma and certificates. KISE it's a training center for teachers."

On the JSS curriculum, the institute noted that "learners with serious disabilities can't do some curriculum but learners with few challenges can transit easily to the new curriculum." KISE reported having capacity built over 37,439 teachers and personnel since 1986.

The Committee was briefed on the challenges of land ownership and encroachment facing the institution's planned expansion. KISE confirmed that its 12.74 hectares of land in Mavoko, earmarked for training facilities, have been encroached upon as well as KISE's 19 hectares in Kasarani.



Retirement Benefit Authority (RBA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Charles Machira during the meeting with Finance Committee faults Retirement. He's expected to re-appear before the Committee on October 23, 2025 with a comprehensive response on when the ex-workers of the water agencies will be compensated.

QUESTION TIME ▶

Capitation delays necessitated by verification of ghost schools, Education CS Informs the House (Continued)

▶ FROM PG 1



The Cabinet Secretary for Education Mr. Julius Ogamba CBS, when he appeared before the National Assembly for question time on Wednesday 8th October, 2025

occasioned by an ongoing audit that uncovered serious irregularities, including the disbursement of funds to non-existent schools.

Appearing before the House to respond to Members' Questions pursuant to Standing Order 42A (6B), the CS to respond to a question by Emuhaya MP, Hon. Omboko Milemba.

"Could the Cabinet Secretary state the plans that the Ministry of Education has in place to ensure that all schools receive capitation to facilitate their operations during the third term, given that national examinations are about to commence?" read Hon Milemba's question

The CS Ogamba informed the House that an audit by the Office of the Auditor-General had revealed that some schools receiving capitation from the Ministry did not actually exist.

"Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor-General recently reported that some of the schools that received capitation from the Ministry of Education were non-existent," said the CS.

"Following this report, the Ministry decided to undertake a comprehensive verification exercise to determine the actual number of schools and learners in the country."

He explained that the verification was aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, ensuring that only verified schools benefit from capitation funds.

As of October 7, 2025, the Ministry had verified and released capitation to 752 primary, junior,

senior, and special needs education institutions across the country, catering to 9,430,139 learners.

CS Ogamba reported that for secondary schools, KES 10 billion out of an allocation of KES 10.3 billion had been released, representing 96 percent of the total. For junior schools, the Ministry had disbursed KES 4.1 billion out of KES 5.7 billion (73 percent), while for primary schools, KES 821 million had been released out of KES 1.7 billion (48 percent).

The CS assured Members that the verification exercise was nearing completion and that a comprehensive report would be ready within a week.

"By Wednesday next week the exercise will be done and once the report of the analysis is released we will then determine which and where the ghost schools are located. Retrospective action will then be taken by the investigative agencies," added the CS

Nyeri County MP, Hon. Rahab Mukami, however questioned the timing of the verification exercise, saying it was disadvantaging candidates preparing for their national examinations.

"Why have Form Four students been sent home while we know very well that they should be preparing for their exams?" she asked.

Hon. Mukami urged the CS to direct school principals to recall candidates to ensure they complete their preparation and sit for their final exams without disruption.

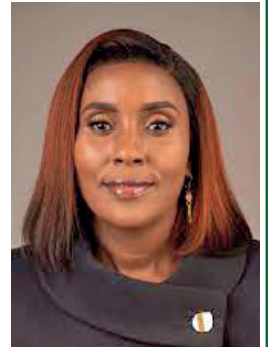
Quotes of The Week



We support every effort to empower women, but we cannot sit back and watch a policy roll out that risks weakening institutions already delivering results. If something is working, don't create a parallel system; strengthen it."

Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a (Thika Town)
Chairperson, Social Protection Committee

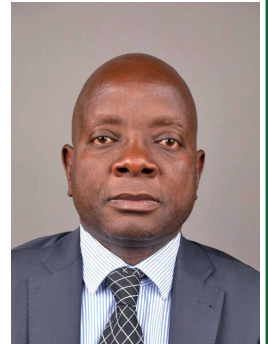
Speaking during a meeting with the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) on the proposed National Policy for Women's Economic Empowerment.



The issues raised in this petition are very pertinent. However, it is surprising because, historically, the religious community has resisted regulation in order to safeguard their freedom to express doctrines."

Hon. Wilberforce Oundo (Funyula)

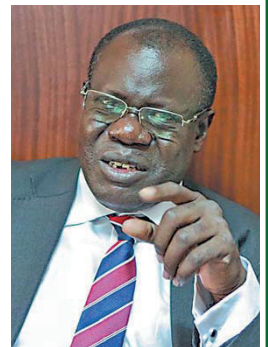
Contributing to a petition presented before the House on the regulation of theological colleges by the Association of Pentecostal Vocational Training Institutes of Kenya.



We cannot leave religion to the mercies of mediocre pastors with minimal training. How can the blind lead the blind?"

Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris MP)

Contributing to a Petition presented before the House on the Regulation of Theological Colleges by the Association of Pentecostal Vocational Training Institute of Kenya.



This Petition is timely because we have seen how religion has been abused to mislead people, as witnessed in tragedies like Shakahola."

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti)

Contributing to a Petition presented before the House on the Regulation of Theological Colleges by the Association of Pentecostal Vocational Training Institute of Kenya.



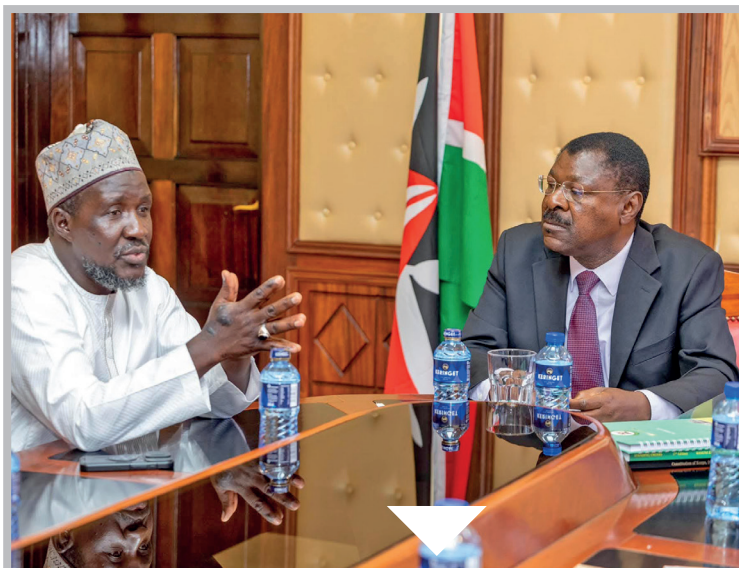


CLIQUE & CLICKS ▶

Members of the Kenyan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) caucus pose for a photo with the IMF mission team after a consultative meeting on addressing policy reforms.



Hon. Joseph Makilap (Baringo North) engaging an official from IMF mission team after a consultative meeting in Parliament Buildings



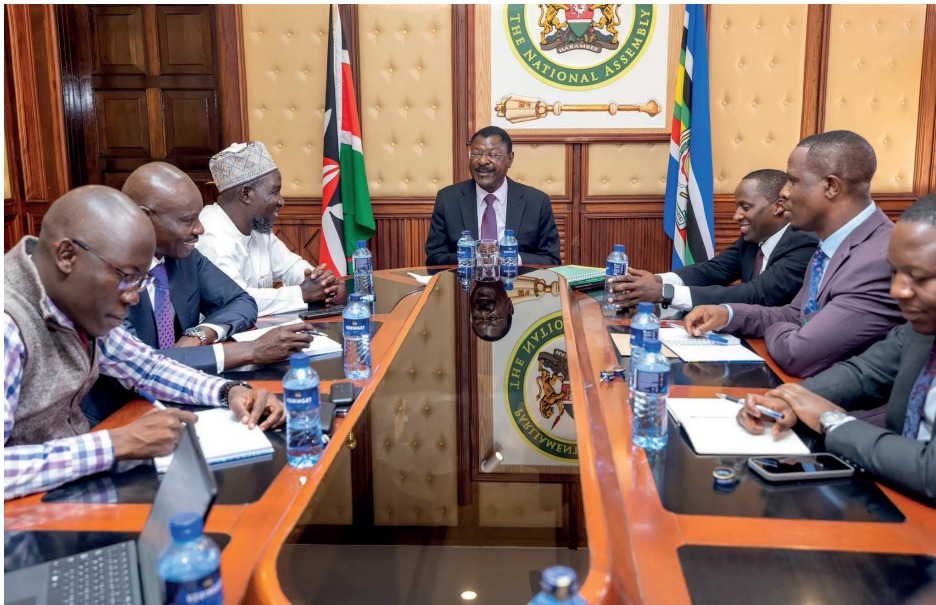
National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula engages Hon. Basalirwa Asuman in his office. Hon. Asuman led the Ugandan committee organising this year's EAC Games in their country on a benchmarking visit to Kenya.

Hon. (Dr.) Wilberforce Oundo (Funyula) engaging an official from IMF mission team after a consultative meeting in Parliament Buildings



Sports ▶

Passing the Baton: Uganda benchmarks with Kenya as they prepare to host regional tourney



A delegation from the Ugandan Parliament visited Kenya last week to benchmark on how to effectively host the East African Community inter-parliamentary games in December.

The team led by Uganda Parliamentary Sports Club led by its Chairperson, Hon. Basalirwa Asuman held meetings with their Kenyan counterparts to get tips on how to effectively stage the Sports bonanza.

Uganda offered to host the championship that brings together legislators drawn from eight member's countries after Burundi, the initial hosts, withdrew citing challenges beyond their control.

Hon Asuman-led team also paid a courtesy call on Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr) Moses Wetang'ula in his office

where they updated him on the progress made in preparations for the annual competitions.

"Kenya successfully hosted the EAC games last year in Mombasa and we are here to borrow best ideas from the organising Committee on how best we can stage yhe games," said Hon Asuman.

He added: "It is not an easy task to host games of such magnitude but we are certain that our benchmarking exercise will equip us with the best strategies that will make Uganda meet standards set by Kenya".

Noting the importance of the games and participants of top ranking status in the society, Hon Asuman said they have put adequate measures in place to ensure

safety of honourable Members and meet the expectations of every participant.

Speaker Wetang'ula expressed his gratitude to Uganda for agreeing to host the games while at the same time preparing for elections.

He asked the Kenyan organising Committee to provide adequate support to their Ugandan counterpart, for the success of the games.

"We look forward to coming to Uganda," he said while restating his previous call to the EAC nations to use the games to build cohesion.

"Sports bring people together; it breaks barriers, whether race or tribe. We must encourage unity of purpose," noted Speaker Wetang'ula.

He at the same time reiterated his call for the utilization of parliamentary diplomacy to enhance regional integration, saying the games offered a platform for the deepening of co-operation.

"We are going to compete on neutral grounds. It is about bringing people together. We should mean business when we talk about integration; we need to have free movement of people, goods, and services," Hon. Wetang'ula affirmed.

While noting that bottlenecks were hindering the effectiveness of the integration push, he noted steps had been taken to counter the emerging issues.

"We should be big on the question of economics and how to grow our people; we must keep the spirit of the East African Community," he added.

The hosting of the EAC games in Uganda was announced last month in Munyonyo, Kampala, during an all-Speaker and Presiding Officers of the National Legislatures of EAC Member States to mark the 11th UNESCO Africa Week and 9th Engineering Conference.

The meeting was attended by, amongst others, the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge, the Ugandan delegation, including Mr. Waiswa Henry, Solomon Kirunda, Charles Bukuwa, Waddimba David and Matovu Moses.



Photos: Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula meets members of the EAC Organising Committee from Kenya and Uganda to plan for the championship set to take place in December in Kampala.



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