



*Approved
SNA
3/12/25*

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION – 2025

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT ON-

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PETITION NO. 65 OF 2023 BY MR CHARLES OCHOLA OSANGO, REGARDING ENACTMENT OF A GEOPHYSICAL PROFESSIONALS BILL.

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 03 DEC 2025	
DAY: <i>Wednesday</i>	
TABLED BY:	<i>Hon. Janet Shireni, MP</i>
CLERK-AT-TABLE:	<i>Getrude Chebet</i>

The Directorate of Audit, Appropriations

& General Purpose Committees

The National Assembly

Parliament Buildings

December, 2025

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECEIVED
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Public Petitions Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, it is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to this House the Report of the Committee on the Public Petition No. 20 of 2024 regarding the enactment of a Geophysical Professionals Bill. The petition was reported to the House pursuant to Standing Order No. 225 (2) (a) by the Speaker on behalf of Mr. Charles Ochola Osango, representing the Kenya Society of Geophysical Professionals.

The petitioners prayed that the National Assembly, through the Public Petitions Committee, recommend that the House enacts the Geophysical Professionals Bill.

In considering the petition, the Committee met with the petitioners and the Vice Chairperson of the Geological Society of Kenya. The Committee also received written submissions from the State Department of Mining.

The Committee observed that the petition seeks the enactment of a Geophysical Professional Bill to regulate and develop the geophysical industry in Kenya. It encompasses provisions related to licensing, training and education, establishment of a professional regulatory body, industry standards, and consumer protection.

In addition, the Committee noted that Geophysics is regulated globally and locally as a subdomain of the Geology profession; therefore, enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline is unnecessary. Instead, the focus should be on amending the Geologists Registration Act No. 10 of 1993 to address any legislative gaps.

Therefore, the Committee observed that enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline would fragment regulation, increase administrative costs and create confusion.

The Committee notes that geoscientists, including geophysicists, are already governed by professional standards set by the Geological Society of Kenya and enforced by the Geology Registration Board under the Geologists Registration Act No. 10 of 1993. In this regard, enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline would fragment regulation, increase administrative costs, and create confusion. Therefore, the Committee rejects the proposed enactment of a Geophysical Professionals Bill.

The Committee appreciates the Offices of the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for providing guidance and necessary technical support. The Chairperson also expresses gratitude to the Committee Members for their devotion and commitment to duty during the consideration of the Petition.

On behalf of the Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 199, I now wish to lay the Report on the Table of the House.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

03/12/2025

THE HON. KAREMBA MUCHANGI, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

ACRONYMS

GSK Geophysical Society of Kenya

GRB Geology Registration Board

PART ONE

1. PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

The Public Petitions Committee is established under the provisions of Standing Order 208A with the following terms of reference:

- a) considering all public petitions tabled in the House;
- b) making such recommendations as may be appropriate with respect to the prayers sought in the petitions;
- c) recommending whether the findings arising from consideration of a petition should be debated; and
- d) advising the House and reporting on all public petitions committed to it.

1.2 Committee Membership

The Public Petitions Committee was first constituted in October 2022 and reconstituted in March 2025, and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS, M.P.
Runyenjes Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Vice Chairperson

Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, M.P.
Turbo Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.
Mavoko Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya (WDM-K)

Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.
Kitui West Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya (WDM-K)

Hon. Ntwiga Patrick Munene, M.P.
Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.
Kuria East Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.
Baringo Central Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, M.P.
Dagoretti North Constituency
Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)

Hon. Bernard Muriuki Nebart, M.P.
Mbeere South Constituency

Independent

Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.
Kangema Constituency

Maendeleo Chap Chap Party (MCCP)

Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.
Taveta Constituency
**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya
(WDM-K)**

Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.
Mwatate Constituency
Jubilee Party (JP)

Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.
Sabatia Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.
Makueni Constituency
**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya
(WDM-K)**

1.3 Committee Secretariat

The secretariat comprises the following:

Mr. Leonard Machira
Principal Clerk Assistant II

Mr. Benard Kipchumba
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Nancy Akinyi
Research Officer III

Ms. Roselyn Njuki
Senior Sergeant at Arms

Ms. Felister Muiya
Public Communications Officer

Mr. Clinton Sindiga
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Arkan Mumin
Research Officer III

Mr. Calvin Karungo
Media Relations Officer

Mr. Peter Mutethia
Audio Officer

PART TWO

2. BACKGROUND OF THE PETITION

2.1 Introduction

1. The Petition was reported to the House by the Honourable Speaker on behalf of Mr. Charles Ochola Osango, representing the Kenya Society of Geophysical Professionals.
2. The petitioners seek the enactment of a Bill to regulate the geophysical profession to ensure competence, accountability, and ethical conduct amongst practitioners.
3. The petitioners proposes legal provisions establishing the Institute of Geophysical Professionals, defining geophysical practice, licensing and registering practitioners, setting ethical standards and disciplinary measures, and establishing continuous professional development requirements.
4. The petitioners averred that the geophysics field plays a crucial role across various sectors, including natural resource exploration, environmental assessment, infrastructure development, and disaster management. They further argued that, given the increased demand for geophysical services, there is a need for a comprehensive legislative framework to ensure competence, accountability, and ethical conduct amongst practitioners.
5. The petitioner avers that the proposed legislation will enhance quality of services and enhance consumer protection.

2.2 Petitioners Prayer

6. The Petitioners prayed that the National Assembly, through the Public Petitions Committee, recommend that the House enacts the Geophysical Professionals Bill.

2.3 Analysis of the draft Bill as set out in the petition

The proposed Geophysical Profession Bill attached to the petition outlined the following key provisions:

7. The proposed Geophysical Professionals Bill outlines proposed legislation to regulate and develop the geophysical industry in Kenya. It encompasses provisions related to licensing, training and education, establishment of a professional regulatory body, industry standards, and consumer protection.
8. **Establishment of the Institute of Geophysical Professionals:** The draft Bill attached to the petition establishes a regulatory body, the Institute of Geophysical Professionals, responsible for overseeing the licensing, registration, and regulation of geophysical professionals in Kenya. The council will consist of qualified and experienced individuals from the geophysical field, ensuring diverse representation and expertise.

9. **Definition of Geophysical Practice:** The proposed Bill defines geophysical practice encompassing various sub-disciplines, such as seismic surveys, gravity and magnetic surveys, electrical and electromagnetic methods, and remote sensing techniques. This definition ensures that individuals offering geophysical services adhere to recognized standards and qualifications.
10. **Professional Licensing and Registration:** The draft Bill outlines the requirements for obtaining a geophysical professional license, including educational qualifications, experience, and adherence to a code of ethics. It also establishes a registration process for geophysical firms and professionals, ensuring that only qualified practitioners operate in the industry.
11. **Continuing Professional Development:** Recognizing the rapid advancements in geophysical technology and methodologies, the bill emphasizes the importance of ongoing professional development. It encourages geophysical professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills through continuous education, training, and participation in relevant conferences and workshops.
12. **Ethical Standards and Disciplinary Measures:** The draft Bill sets forth a code of ethics and professional conduct for geophysical professionals, promoting integrity and transparency.
13. **Financial provisions:** The Draft Bill provides for the funds of the Board, remuneration and allowances for members of the Society.

PART THREE

3. STAKEHOLDERS SUBMISSIONS ON THE PETITION

3.1 The Petitioners

The Petitioners, led by Mr. Charles Ochola Osongo, appeared before the Committee on 11th June 2024, on behalf of the Kenyan Society of Geophysical Professionals, and submitted as follows—

14. The Kenya Society of Geophysical Professionals (KSGP) is a professional body of geophysical professionals in the country, established in 2012 by the professionals across the country and registered under the Society Act, Section 10 of the Laws of Kenya, vide Registration No. 37650. The KSGP is mandated to protect the public from unskilled and unethical practices of the Geophysical profession and other bodies.
15. The geophysical profession is regulated, and the proposal aimed to regulate and advance the geophysical profession in Kenya by ensuring the highest standards of practice, promoting professional development, and safeguarding the interests of both professionals and the public. The need to regulate the profession was evident, as, for instance, several dry groundwater boreholes have sunk due to unprofessionalism in the sector.
16. The field of geophysics plays a crucial role in various sectors, including natural resource exploration, environmental assessment, infrastructure development, and disaster management. As the demand for geophysical services continues to grow, it is essential to establish a comprehensive legislative framework that governs the profession, ensuring ethical conduct, competence, and accountability among geophysical practitioners.
17. Regarding the differences between geologists and geophysicists, and whether the Geologists Registration Act would be sufficient instead of a standalone Act for geophysics, the Petitioners clarified that the practice area was the main distinction. That geologists use their practice of observation and rock identification, while geophysicists use instruments to see and interpret the subsurface. In addition, the Geologists Association was formed 45 years ago, and the law governing the profession came into effect 30 years ago. On the other hand, the geophysicists' association was formed 13 years ago, but it does not yet have a law governing it.
3. Regarding the gap the proposal would address, the petitioners explained that the profession was not recognised and was unregulated under the Geologists Registration Act, which, they said, has led to an upsurge in mishaps in geological works across the country. Further, the enactment of the Geophysical Profession Bill would improve local manpower development, among other benefits.
4. Regarding the qualifications and eligibility criteria for membership of KSGP, the Petitioners clarified that membership was drawn from professionals trained at different levels of

education, including certificates, diplomas, degrees, master's degrees, and even doctorates. There were different cadres in the profession, including geophysical technicians, geophysical technologists and geophysicists, all represented in the KSGP. Further, there were untrained individuals in the profession, but KSGP did not recognise them.

5. Regarding the clients served by geophysical professionals, the petitioners stated that these include the National Museum of Kenya, as well as the geothermal, groundwater, environmental, mining, petroleum, and engineering sectors that use the profession. Notably, geophysical methods are applicable in archaeological geophysical surveys and the geothermal industry, for example, to identify specific minerals in sedimentary rocks.

3.2 Submissions by the State Department for Mining

The State Department for Mining, through written submissions, responded to the issues raised in the petition as follows—

18. The State Department for Mining noted that the petition was introduced at a time when the Geological Society of Kenya (GSK) was consulting with industry professionals to advance a comprehensive revision of the Geologists Registration Act.
19. The revision of the Act is embodied in the draft Geologists Bill currently before Parliament, which seeks to establish a unified regulatory framework for all geoscience disciplines, including geophysics, hydrology, mining, petroleum geoscience, and seismology.
20. The updated Geologists Bill expands the mandate of the Geology Registration Board (GRB) from a mere registration body to full sectoral regulation, including the enforcement of a common code of professional conduct and technical standards. Although the final text may still undergo refinement, it intends to harmonize and oversee the geoscience professions.
21. The proponents of the Geophysical Professionals Bill, 2023, did not consult key stakeholders, including the State Department for Mining, the Geological Society of Kenya, or practising professionals in the mining, oil, gas, water, and environmental sectors during the bill's drafting. As a result, the proposal duplicates existing structures and undermines ongoing national efforts to consolidate geoscience regulation.
22. Currently, all geoscientists, including geophysicists, are already governed by professional standards set by the Geological Society of Kenya and enforced through the Geology Registration Board.
23. Enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline would fragment regulation, increase administrative costs and create confusion contrary to the sector's clear trajectory towards integration under the revised Geologists Bill.
24. It is therefore worth noting again that Geophysics is regulated as a subdomain of the Geology profession globally and locally, and therefore it serves no purpose to have another regulation;

instead, the focus should be on the Geology Bill 202,0, which is before the Senate for consideration.

3.3 Submissions by the Geological Society of Kenya

Eng. Charles Kithome, Vice-Chairperson of the Geological Society of Kenya appeared before the Committee and submitted as follows—

25. Geophysics is part of a broader science and professional practice called ‘Geology’, which is concerned with the composition, structures, dynamics, and development of the solid Earth, the exploitation of its resources, and the mitigation of its hazards.
26. The broad science is divided into specific substantive sciences and investigative techniques practised by specialists, including Petrologists, Hydrogeologists, Geophysicists, Geochemists, Mineralogists, Engineering geologists, Petroleum Geologists, Environmental Geologists, among others.
27. Geophysics is to Geology what Radiology is to Medicine, and Radiologists are medical practitioners who specialize in radiology, the use of physical energy to study, non-invasively, the internal structures and organs of the human body. Analogically, Geophysicists are specialists.
28. Geologists who use physical energy (seismic/sonic, electrical, magnetics, etc.) to study and investigate, non-invasively, the internal structure and physical composition of the Earth. The outcome of geophysics is geological insight into the Earth.
29. The geology profession is vital to the nation’s aspirations for development. It is applied, in complementarity with its specialities, to explore (search, discover, delineate, quantify, evaluate) and develop geothermal, mineral, petroleum and groundwater resources, as well as in the construction industry (geotechnics)
30. Exploration is high-capital, high-risk, and allowing unregulated practice in such investments could expose investors to huge losses.
31. Geology, just like Engineering, Medicine and Law with all of their specialities and sub-specialities, ought to be regulated under one umbrella law.
32. The profession of Geology is already regulated in Kenya by the Geologists Scheme of Service and the Geologists Registration Act No. 10 of 1993.
33. The Geologists Registration Act establishes the Geologists Registration Board (G.R.B.), which registers all Geologists, including geospecialists and regulates the entire profession in accordance with the Act.
34. Section 11 of the Geologists Registration Act sets out the qualifications for registration with the Geologists Registration Board (GRB).

35. The Geologist Bill, 2020, which is before the Senate, proposes to enhance the professional regulation of Geologists and to repeal the Geologists Registration Act of 1993. The creation of a law to regulate a speciality of the Geophysical profession, when there is already a law regulating the umbrella profession, amounts to over-regulation of the profession, which is counter-productive.

PART FOUR

4. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Upon hearing from the petitioners and other stakeholders, the Committee observed that—

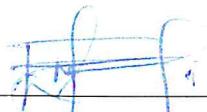
36. The petition seeks the enactment of a Geophysical Professional Bill to regulate and develop the geophysical industry in Kenya. It encompasses provisions related to licensing, training and education, establishment of a professional regulatory body, industry standards, and consumer protection.
37. Geophysics is part of a broader science and professional practice called ‘Geology’, which is concerned with the composition, structures, dynamics, and development of the solid Earth, the exploitation of its resources, and the mitigation of its hazards.
38. Geologists use physical energy (seismic/sonic, electrical, magnetic, etc.) to non-invasively study the Earth's internal structure and physical composition. The outcome of geophysics is therefore geological insight into the Earth. Therefore, Geology, just like Engineering, Medicine and Law with all of their specialities and sub-specialities, ought to be regulated under one umbrella law.
39. Geophysics is regulated globally and locally as a subdomain of the Geology profession; therefore, enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline is unnecessary. Instead, the focus should be on amending the Geologists Registration Act No. 10 of 1993 to address any legislative gaps.
40. The petitioners did not consult key stakeholders, including the State Department for Mining, the Geological Society of Kenya, and other practising professionals in the mining, oil, gas, water, and environmental sectors, during the drafting of the Bill as set out in the petition. As a result, the proposal duplicates existing structures and may undermine efforts to consolidate geoscience regulation.
41. Enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline would fragment regulation, increase administrative costs and create confusion.

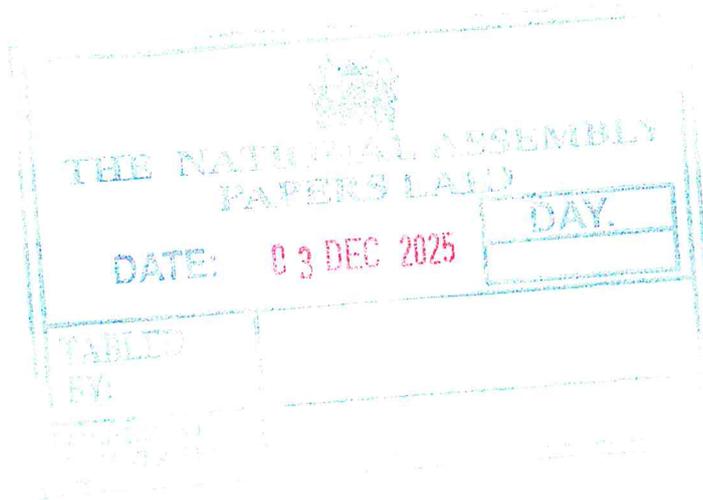
PART FIVE

5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

42. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the petitioners' prayer as follows—

On the prayer that the House enacts the Geophysical Professionals Bill, the Committee notes that geoscientists, including geophysicists, are already governed by professional standards set by the Geological Society of Kenya and enforced by the Geology Registration Board under the Geologists Registration Act No. 10 of 1993. In this regard, enacting a separate statute for one sub-discipline would fragment regulation and increase administrative costs. **Therefore, the Committee rejects the proposed enactment of a Geophysical Professionals Bill.**

Signed:  Date: 03/12/2025
THE HON. KAREMBA MUCHANGI, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE



PART SIX

6. ANNEXURES

Annex 1: The Adoption List

Annex 2: Public Petition No. 65 of 2023 regarding enactment of the Geophysical Professionals Bill.

Annex 3: Minutes. of the 51st sitting of the Public Petitions Committee held on Tuesday 2nd Dec 2025

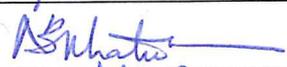
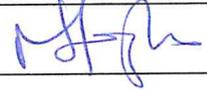
PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

ADOPTION LIST

(i) Consideration and adoption of the report on public petition No.65 of 2023 by Mr Charles Ochola on the enactment of a proposed Geophysical Professionals Bill.

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

DATE: 02/12/2023

	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS, M.P. (Chairperson)	
2.	Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, CBS, M.P. (Vice Chairperson)	
3.	Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.	
4.	Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, CBS, M.P.	
5.	Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.	
6.	Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.	
7.	Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.	
8.	Hon. Patrick Ntwiga Munene, M.P.	
9.	Hon. (Eng.) Bernard Muriuki Nebart, M.P.	
10.	Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.	
11.	Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.	
12.	Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.	
13.	Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.	
14.	Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.	