



BUNGE

This Week

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Speaker Wetang'ula roots for revamping of the regional Assembly

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Cabinet Secretaries to appear on the Floor of the House



Cabinet Secretaries to appear before the House after change of rules
Photo: Courtesy/Statehouse

The National Assembly will now allow Cabinet Secretaries to appear before plenary to answer questions raised by Members.

This follows an adoption of the report of the Procedure and House Rules Committee that amended various sections of the Standing Orders to allow the Cabinet Secretaries to appear before the House.

According to the new Standing Orders which officially takes effect on March 23, 2023 the CSs will appear before the House every Wednesday from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm to answer questions, expound on government policy and provide reports concerning matters under their ministries. The CSs will be expected to provide replies before their appearance.

A Cabinet Secretary shall provide physical and electronic copies of the reply to a question at least a day before appearing before the House," reads the new Standing Order 42 (c).

A fortnight ago, MPs adopted amendments to Standing Order 40 to pave the way for the relevant Cabinet Secretaries to appear before the plenary of the National Assembly for at least three hours.

They also agreed to amend house rules to reduce the period within which a Member of the Cabinet is required to answer questions from the current 30 to 14 days, and urgent questions from three days to 48 hours.

National Assembly Standing Orders are the rules and regulations that govern the conduct of House business and provide for the establishment of various offices and their mandates.

"That, Standing Order 25A be amended by deleting paragraph (b) and substituting thereof the following new paragraphs: a Cabinet Secretary to expound on government policy, reply to Questions and provide Reports concerning matters under his or her control; other persons to make submissions or presentations before the House," the amendments read.

Currently, the CSs respond to queries through

committees that then submit their findings or reports to the whole House.

This has often led to complaints by MPs who accuse Committee chairpersons of delaying their responses and shifting blame to the CSs when pushed to expound on answers.

In the new rules, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula shall provide a designated place in the chambers where the CSs will answer the questions.

The Clerk shall prepare and publish on the parliamentary website a tentative list of CSs scheduled to reply to questions. The questions and reports shall have precedence over all other business for a period not exceeding three hours.

Uguya MP David Ochieng', who is a member of the Speaker's Panel while moving the amendments on behalf of the Committee, said the changes will enhance the accountability of CSs to the public, while also making them take their work seriously.

Leader of Majority Kimani Ichung'wa (Kikuyu) said the CSs will start appearing before MPs on March 23.

"This is not the first time there is an attempt to have CSs appear before the House and respond to questions. Even in the 12th Parliament there was an attempt," he said.

CSS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 2.30 PM TO 5.30 PM

IN THE NEW RULES, THE SPEAKER IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A DESIGNATED PLACE IN THE CHAMBERS WHERE THE CSS WILL ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.



National Assembly Approves 2023 Budget Policy Statement

The National Assembly has approved the 2023 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) paving the way for the final leg of the budget-making process for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

The passage of the BPS in the House last week was the climax of an elaborate consultative process between the National Assembly, Treasury, and other stakeholders including the Commission on Revenue Allocation and the County Governments.

Others are the Controller of Budget, the Parliamentary Service Commission, Judicial Service Commission, ministries, departments and agencies as well as the public and many other interested persons or groups.

Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Mr. Ndindi Nyoro, who is MP for Kiharu Constituency, said the team interrogated the 20 departmental committees in regards to their BPS reports, gave consideration to the submissions from public participation and also held a consultative forum with the National Treasury to realign the BPS to the government policy framework.

STORY PAGE 4 ▶



MPs pay glowing tribute to Kenya's first female MP Grace Onyango



A photo of the late Mama Grace Onyango, former President Jomo Kenyatta and other former Members of Parliament. Photo: Courtesy

MPs have paid a glowing tribute to Grace Onyango, who made history in 1969

after she was elected as Kenya's first female legislator. The lawmakers while eulogizing the politician who died aged 98 years old, described her as an astute legislator whose contribution to Parliament was significant.

The legislators hailed the late Hon. Grace Onyango as a woman of many firsts having climbed up the ranks of the political system, defying cultural barriers at a time when very few female leaders dared to make a stab in politics.

Before ascending to the office of MP for Kisumu Town, a position she held from 1969 to 1983, Grace served as Kenya's first female Mayor in 1965.

In Parliament, she served as a Temporary Speaker and a Member of various Parliamentary Committees among them, the parliamentary Select Committee that investigated the murder of J.M Kariuki in 1975 and the House Business Committee.

The House observed a moment of silence in her honor, before the MPs paid their tributes to the former MP.

Led by Deputy Speaker Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu), the legislator's said great woman leader, who shuttered glass ceilings.

"I personally indebted to this woman honorable Grace Onyango, because without her, we would not have even had the opportunity to dream of becoming leaders in this house," she said.

Ms. Boss, who doubles as Uasin Gishu Women representative suggested that the ex-legislator should be given a State Funeral and that her remains be laid in state at Parliament Buildings.

"I just have one request that even though she's not was not a Head of State, we are seeking to ask that she be laid in state here at Parliament Buildings, because she was the head of state of the women of Kenya and even Africa," she held.

Her sentiments were shared by Martha Wangari (Gilgil) who asked President William Ruto to accord the late Grace Onyango a State Funeral, noting that she was a woman who opened many doors not only for

BECAUSE WITHOUT HER, WE WOULD NOT HAVE EVEN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DREAM OF BECOMING LEADERS IN THIS HOUSE."

women, but even for teachers.

Wangari, who serves on the Speaker's panel described Grace as a trailblazer who opened footprint for women leadership in this country. She noted that the former MP was a model to many women leaders.

"Those of us who are sitting here, the women who are elected the constituencies, the 28 of us. There is a time there was only one. Those of us who are sitting in the Speaker's panel. She sat there first, so, I think she's a woman or first and we recognize her and honor her," said Ms Wangari. he added: "I hope we can learn from her that you can actually achieve a lot of what you desire, for the girls, women and leaders. The Late Grace Onyango took a bow on International Women's Day and this continues to show the recognition she deserves. She was a woman of firsts and she deserves to be honored."

Makali Mulu (Kitui Central) described

Grace Onyango as a woman who was a first in everything she did. "And it's just a challenge to our daughters, our mothers at that time she was doing or what she was doing. And the first one, we didn't have the two thirds gender rule but she actually managed," Mulu said. Ndhwa MP Martin Owino asked Kenyans to implement values, principles, integrity issues she upheld as a way of remembrance. Funyula MP Wilberforce Oundo reckoned as a trailblazer she laid the foundation for the achievement of women leadership in the country.

"She did not have she didn't need a two-thirds gender rule for her to be elected," said Oundo posing a challenge to women leaders to contest for higher political seats.

Speaker Hon Moses Wetang'ula delivered a moving tribute urging the House to embrace proposals that would create a more inclusive society that would give women an equal platform in elective politics. Grace, popularly known as Nyabungu (daughter of the bush), was the first Kenyan female Mayor for Kisumu, a position she assumed following the passing of the then incumbent Mathews Ondiek in 65. She was also the first woman to serve as the Secretary General of the Luo Union East Africa. As well as the first Woman Assistant Commissioner of the Girl Guide Association and the Chair of the Child Welfare Society Kisumu District.

IN HISTORY

- 1969 ELECTED AS KENYA'S FIRST FEMALE LEGISLATOR
- 1965 KENYA'S FIRST FEMALE MAYOR.
- 1975 PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE
- PREVIOUSLY CHAIR OF THE CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY KISUMU DISTRICT.
- DIED AGED 98 YEARS OLD

CS Treasury to read the Budget in June



A sitting of the National Assembly at the Main Chamber.

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"I request for approval of the BPS Report for 2023/24 and approval of the Budget ceilings for the FY 2023/24 as contained in the 1st schedule of the Report and make the policy and financial resolutions contained in the report," said Hon. Nyoro as he tabled the Report.

The Budget Policy Statement (BPS) is a Government policy document that sets out the broad strategic priorities and policy goals to guide the National Government and the County Governments in preparing their budgets for the subsequent financial year and over the medium term.

"We have decided as one of the recommendations, that we have to take this exercise of considering Budget Policy Statement (BPS) with the seriousness it deserves because this is one of the main elements that we handle in this House," Nyoro said.

The committee recommended amendment of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act so that we increase the 14

days of consideration of BPS from 14 days to 28 days so that Departmental Committees can get ample time to interrogate the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

The BPS is anchored on five pillars and 12 enablers which include Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Housing and Settlement, Healthcare, Digital and Creative Economy.

The aforementioned pillars and enablers in the BPS are expected to contribute towards six strategic objectives including lowering the cost of living, creating employment opportunities, eradicating hunger, improving fiscal space, increased foreign exchange earnings and promoting inclusive growth.

The preparation of the BPS is a consultative process that involves seeking and taking into account the current Government priorities and challenges in economic management.

The approval of the BPS is a critical green light to set in motion several other budget-making processes which have to be completed before the end of the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

Treasury is now expected to develop and issue guidelines for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Budget, before submitting the Draft Budget estimates and Finance Bill to Parliament for approval.

This will then set the stage for the Treasury's submission of the Appropriations Bill to Parliament on the final Budget estimates.

The release of the Budget Statement, during which the Treasury Cabinet Secretary will address a joint-sitting of Parliament on the first or second week of June will be the climax of the elaborate process.

House rejects SRC's proposal on paycut



Salaries and Remuneration Commission Chairperson Lyn Mengich addresses a past press conference in Nairobi.

Photo: Courtesy

The National Assembly has a rejected a recommendation by the salaries and remuneration commission (SRC) to slash remuneration and benefits for teachers, judicial officers and other civil servants.

The proposals were contained in the draft salaries and remuneration commission (SRC) (remuneration and benefits of state and other public officers), regulations 2022.

A report tabled in the House by the Committee on delegated legislation said that the Commission failed to adhere to the constitution and statutory instruments Act which calls for public participation.

Hon. Samuel Chepkonga (Ainabkoi), who chairs the committee, while moving the motion said SRC had overstepped its mandate by purporting to extend its mandate over other bodies.

"SRC is mandated to advise other commissions on matters to do with salaries but not to set salaries," said Chepkonga.

According to SRC, the purpose of the regulations was to set and review remuneration and benefits for state officers, advising on remuneration and benefits for public officers as well as reviewing remuneration and benefits of other public officers.

The panel rejected the SRC proposals after a meeting with various stakeholders including Teachers Service Commission (TSC), The Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC),

and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

Legislators questioned the extent to which Lyn Mengich-led commission mandate can go in exercising its role over other constitutional commissions.

They concluded that there was no sufficient consultation with the stakeholders and persons likely to be affected by the regulation.

Seconding the motion, Hon. Robert Gichimu (Gichugu) said that SRC must adhere to what the constitution requires of them by practicing transparency and fairness while coming up with such regulations.

"SRC failed in their test of fairness," Gichimu said in support of the motion.

According to him, all the employees are currently facing a hard economic time due to the high cost of living and therefore it would be unfair to scale down their salaries instead of reviewing them upwards.

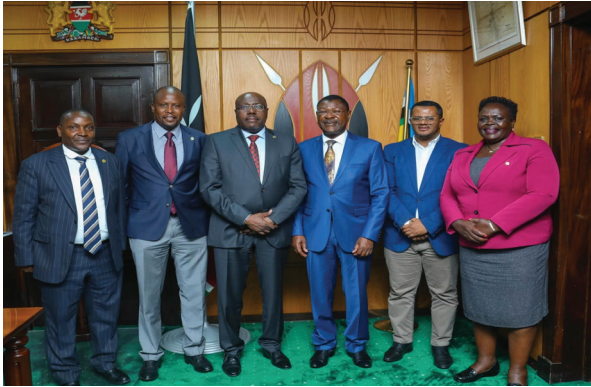
On his part, Kitui Central MP Makali Mulu urged his colleagues to annul the proposed regulations saying SRC cannot pretend to be the prefect to all other commissions handling civil servants in this country.

"It is sad when a commission decides to give benefits to its staff then SRC go ahead to issue directives on how commissions should pay their employees without any consultation," said Makali.



THE PANEL REJECTED SRC PROPOSAL AFTER MEETING VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING PSC, TSC AND JSC.

Speaker Wetang'ula: Revamp, re-energize regional Assembly



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula meets a delegation from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) at his office in the Main Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula is rooting for strategies that will help in revamping the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

Hon Wetang'ula has called for a special summit for the East African Community to discuss ways of revamping the regional Legislative Assembly. The Speaker made the remarks when he hosted the sixth Speaker of EALA, the Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana and his delegation who had paid him a courtesy call.

He noted that EALA was a great concept in the region but had not been natured to grow hence remaining static.

Speaker Wetang'ula congratulated Speaker Ntakirutimana for his election as the sixth EALA Speaker.

He asked the Speaker to ensure that he turns around EALA fortunes by bringing in fresh vigor and energy by offering strategic leadership drawn from his vast and rich experience in Parliament, Executive and diplomatic circles.

The first Speaker of EALA was very visible, active and vibrant and he used to be felt in all member countries. I also ask you Speaker Ntakirutimana to try and maintain that tempo," he said.

He said that he prides in EALA that is usually at the center of his thoughts having served as chair of Foreign Affairs Ministers of East Africa when he was Kenya's Foreign Affairs Minister when he supervised the competition to give East Africa its anthem which he said was pleasing to hear it being played in the region. Speaker Ntakirutimana thanked the host Speaker Wetang'ula for the warm reception and asked him to take the lead role in ensuring Speakers from member state parliaments' help

in addressing the many challenges facing the EALA.

Speaker Hon. Ntakirutimana was accompanied by Hon. Hassan Omar, Hon. Kanini Kega and Hon. Zipporah Kurgat. asked him to take the lead role in ensuring Speakers from member state parliaments' help in addressing the many challenges facing the EALA.

Speaker Ntakirutimana was accompanied by Hon. Hassan, Hassan Omar, and Hon. Kega James Mathenge Kanini and Hon. Kering, Zipporah Jesang Kurgat.

MR. SPEAKER I ASK YOU TO ENSURE THAT YOU TURN AROUND EALA FORTUNES BY BRINGING IN FRESH VIGOR AND ENERGY BY OFFERING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP DRAWN FROM YOUR VAST AND RICH EXPERIENCE IN PARLIAMENT, EXECUTIVE AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES.



Speaker Wetang'ula

House adopts report on Public Debt



Public Debt Committee Chairperson Hon. Abdi Shurie during a past meeting.

The National Assembly has adopted the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) that provides strategies and initiatives that will be undertaken by the National Treasury to meet fiscal deficits.

The document considered for the Financial Year 2023/24, will as well provide strategies and initiatives for the period between 2023 and 2026, as proposed in the 2023 Budget Policy Statement.

The Report was developed after the committee held deliberations with

different stakeholders including the Controller of Budget, the Auditor-General, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya and the National Treasury.

From the engagements, the committee developed different policy and financial recommendations that will inform the country's borrowing strategy in the coming financial year and over the medium term.

With the adoption of this report, any deviation from the approved borrowing strategy will require the approval of the National Assembly.

The report sets a fiscal deficit target for the medium term at 4.4 percent of GDP for FY

2023/24, 3.9 percent of GDP for FY 2024/25 and 3.6 percent of GDP for FY 2025/2026 percent, in line with the fiscal consolidation path.

While moving the motion, the Chair of the Committee Balambala MP Hon. Abdi Shurie noted that the 2023 MTDS report has been prepared at a time when the global economic outlook remains uncertain due to the on-going geo-political tensions, lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, projected global economic slowdown and global inflationary pressures which has led to rising interest rates thereby tightening the international capital markets and reducing the government's access to long-term funding.

Domestically, the Government seeks to revive the economy through the bottom-up economic transformation agenda, which targets investments in key priority programs geared towards economic turnaround even as fiscal consolidation is pursued in order to limit borrowing and debt accumulation.

Seconding the motion, Vice-Chair of the Committee Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu noted that, "This country has 1.179 trillion shillings undisbursed loans. Because we are not using them, we are forced to pay commitment fees. In the first half of this financial year, this country paid 680M in commitment fees. This is money that could have been used to build more roads

and hospitals."

The Leader of Majority Party Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah thanked the committee for moving two reports within a very short time, having also moved a report on the Consolidated Fund Services in February.

He expressed his satisfaction with the resolutions on the report adding he was happy with the recommendation on the National Treasury submitting a report to the House in one month a report with information on terms, status and reasons for non-disbursements and proposals on any loans that can be cancelled to save spending on commitment fees. "It is only fair for the National Treasury once this Report has been passed to embark on a process to ensure that they clean up our books. If a loan is not disbursable, the best thing to do is to do away with that loan and disburse loans that will be beneficial to our economy," said Ichung'wah. The MTDS has considered four alternative funding strategies taking into account inherent costs and risks of the existing public debt portfolio.



Defence Ministry, Departmental Committee vouch for deeper collaboration

The Ministry of Defence and the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations have rooted for deeper collaboration to enhance service delivery to the Kenyans.

Speaking during a joint induction retreat of the Ministry and the Committee, Defence Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale said the institution of Parliament was a critical stakeholder and a critical line of defence for the State.

"The Parliamentary Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, is a pivotal player, especially in the budgetary allocation and financing that has helped in the smooth running of the affairs in the Ministry of Defence (MoD)," said Hon. Duale Committee Chair Hon. Nelson Koech (Belgut) said.

enhanced knowledge of Members and Ministry officials on their mandate and deeper collaboration with Parliament was critical ingredients of service delivery to Kenyans.

"We seek to synergize and harmonize our competence and leadership skills to deliver on our mandate and obligations to the Kenyan people," said Hon. Koech.

Present at the workshop were Vice Chief of Defence Forces (VCDF) Lt. Gen. Francis Ogolla and other senior MoD and KDF officials.

Other Committee Members Present were Vice-Chair Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullah Bashir, (Madera North) Hon. Hassan Yusuf, (Kamukunji) Hon. Martha Wangari, (Gilgil)

Hon. Elijah Memusi, (Kajiado -Central) Hon. Moses Kirima, (Imenti-Central) Hon. Caleb Amisi, (Saboti) Hon. Teresia Mwangi, (Nominated) Hon. Clement Sloya, (Sabatia) Hon. Zakary Thuku, (Kinangop) Hon. Fredrick Ikana (Shinyalu) and Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir. (Lagdera)

WE SEEK TO SYNERGIZE AND HARMONIZE OUR COMPETENCE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO DELIVER ON OUR MANDATE AND OBLIGATIONS TO THE KENYAN PEOPLE

HON. KOECH.



Defence Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale Principal Secretary for Defence Hon. Patrick Mariru and Vice-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces Lt. Gen. Francis Ogolla pose for a photo with Members of the National Assembly Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations during a two day retreat in Mombasa.

House Watchdog Committee: We are committed to prudent use of taxpayers' money by Govt

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has scaled up its watchdog role by holding meetings with Principal Secretaries of State Departments to hold them accountable for exchequer money under their custody.

The Committee led by Hon John Mbadi has so far held meetings with 12 Principal Secretaries and demanded that they account for funds allocated to their Departments for the Financial Year 2020/2021.

Hon Mbadi explained that so far 10 Principal Secretaries of State Departments have appeared before the Committee to respond to audit queries from the audited accounts of the Financial Year 2020/2021.

"The Committee has a long way to go. according to our schedule we expect to be through with probe into financial expenditure by the State Departments by 4th April," said Hon Mbadi.

He noted that their agenda was to ensure prudent financial management adding that they will not protect any government officers found to have misappropriated public funds.



Members of the Public Accounts Committee pose for a photo after a meeting at Parliament Building. The watchdog Committee is chaired by Hon. John Mbadi Deputised by Butere MP Hon. Tindi Mwale.

He added: "We have a lot of work to do in examining audited accounts for the State Departments but I am happy that we are in track as a watchdog Committee and we will ensure that the PSs account for every single cent disbursed to their Departments".

Among the Departments that have appeared before the Committee include the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), National Treasury, State Department for Economic Planning, Mining, Petroleum and Water.

Others are Foreign Affairs, Shipping and Maritime, Public Works, ASALS and Regional Development, Broadcasting and Telecommunication and Blue Economy and Fisheries. The Auditor General report of the Departments pointed at loss of public funds through paying of supply of equipment and services without supportive documents and irregularly paying allowances to staff as Christmas gifts or those performing their duties.

The IEBC was put to task to explain how it lost 125 BVR kits and more than 900 laptops that contained election data belonging to their Kisumu warehouse.

In his response the IEBC CEO Mr Marjan Hussein Marjan said the BVR kits that got lost before the last General Elections did not have sensitive elections data. On the loss of the laptops he explained that the officer who was in charge of the warehouse when the theft took place has been relieved off his duties.

However, the responses given did convince Members of the Committee who added that such incidents were serious and raised questions on the ability by the Electoral body to conduct credible General Elections.

The Committee had to turn away some of the Principal Secretaries who failed to give satisfactory submissions due to poor preparations before appearing before it.

Public Accounts Committee is established pursuant to the provisions of S.O No.205. It consists of a chairperson and not more other 16 members.

STATE DEPARTMENTS THAT HAVE APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

- NATIONAL TREASURY
- ECONOMIC PLANNING
- MINING
- PETROLEUM
- WATER
- FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- SHIPPING AND MARITIME
- BROADCASTING AND TELECOMMUNICATION

Labour Committee probes sex for hire claims in Kericho

The National Assembly's Committee on Labour launched investigations into the sexual exploitation of female employees in firms that supply some of the UK's famous tea brands PG Tips, Lipton, and Sainsbury's Red Label after an expose by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Led by Runyenjes MP Hon. Erick Muchangi, the committee visited Kericho on a fact-finding mission on the tea farms of British-owned companies cited in the report; Unilever and James Finlay & Company.

The Lawmakers held talks with the County security officers who were already investigating the matter, staff of the two tea estates, management and the area Labour office.

The expected Committee Report will help the victims get justice.

The committee also made inquire on measures taken by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse of workers in Kenya.



Hon. Erick Muchangi (right) chairs a session with James Finlay & Company Management in Kericho during a probe into alleged sex harassment of staff by managers and supervisors.

Auditor General: Reduce watchdog committees' audit backlog

The Office of the Auditor General has rooted for speedier conclusion of audit enquiries into public institutions.

Auditor General Ms. Nancy Gathungu, during a familiarization meeting with Key stakeholders from National Assembly Audit Committees, said there was need to fast-track enquiries into queries relating to financial records of State Departments and Agencies.

Ms. Gathungu said there were over 4,000 audit reports awaiting examination by the four Public Investments Committees and the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly; some with reports dating back to 2013.

"These reports must be examined thoroughly before making conclusions. Every Audit Report is submitted to Parliament through relevant committees. This can only be possible if we got Parliament's support by allocating us enough resources to be able to carry out all these audits," said Ms. Gathungu.

She pointed out a number of challenges hampering accountability and also spoke of poorly prepared reports, lack of implementation of the recommendations, violation of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, limited capacities on monitoring and evaluation of projects, scanty reports of evaluated project and lack of data systems at county level among other challenges.

Ms. Gathungu suggested that doing away with these challenges to examine Audit reports on time and proper funding and restructuring of House Audit Committees must be done to avoid reporting to the very people they oversee.

Members of the National Assembly attended the Round Table through their Committee chairs; Hon John Mbadi (Public Accounts Committee), Hon. Emanuel Wangwe (Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture), Hon. Gideon Mulyungi (Decentralised Fund) and Hon. Fatuma Mohamed (Specialised Funds).

Speakers at the event applauded the induction arrangement meant to enhance familiarisation with stakeholders on their functions and constitutional mandates.

Hon. Mbadi and Hon. Wangwe requested the organisers of the round table meeting – the Directorate of Audit, Appropriations and other Select Committees, to



Auditor General Ms. Nancy Gathungu during a past press briefing in Nairobi. Photo: Courtesy

regularly plan for such forums with stakeholders to allow them share their challenges and find better ways to handle raised issues.

Members of specific Committees committed to dedicate much of their time to committee work to help reduce the backlog.

Hon. Otiende Amollo, (Rarieda) and his counterpart Hon. Dr Wilberforce Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula) from PAC, however, questioned the constitutional independence of the stakeholders' offices, pointing out that the Office of the DPP's input had not been adequately manifested.

The legality of NG-CDF was also looped in with a majority of Members of Parliament defending the fund.

They observed removing NG-CDF would be tantamount to punishing the needy.

Also, present at the forum were Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions represented by Deputy Director Emilly Kamau, Director General Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Inspector General state corporations, Chief Executive officer, Institute of certified public accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), National coordinator, Institute of Social Accountability (TISA) and The PS National Treasury and Economic planning. Also, present at the forum were Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions represented by Deputy Director Emilly Kamau, Director General Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Inspector General state corporations, Chief Executive officer, Institute of certified public accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), National coordinator, Institute of Social Accountability (TISA) and The PS National Treasury and Economic planning.

THE OFFICE IS CHARGED WITH THE PRIMARY OVERSIGHT ROLE OF ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN THE THREE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT (THE LEGISLATURE, THE JUDICIARY AND THE EXECUTIVE) AS WELL AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS AND INDEPENDENT OFFICE.

Defence Committee tours Mtongwe Navy Base, Mombasa Ship Yard

The National Assembly Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations toured Mtongwe Navy Base and Mombasa Ship Yard as part of its oversight Mandate. During the tour in the company of Vice Chief of Defence Forces Lt. Gen. Francis Ogolla, the Committee was taken through the History and operations of the Kenyan Navy. Committee Chair Nelson Koech (Belgut) paid a courtesy call on Kenya Navy Commander Major Gen. Jimson Mutai who briefed him on the roles, organization and functions of the Kenya Navy. Kenya Navy Chief of Operations Colonel Michael Atodonyang told the Committee that the Navy has played a pivotal role in the provision of maritime security



Defence Committee Members led by Chairperson Nelson Koech chat with Vice-Chief of the Defence Forces Lt. Gen. Francis Ogolla and other Military officials.

that continues to spur growth in the Blue Economy. Later Members toured the Mombasa Shipping yard where they got the overview and milestones made since its commissioning in December 2021. Kenya Ship Yards Managing Director Brigadier Paul Otieno pledged to work closely with the Committee to enhance operations of the facility. "The revival of the Kenya Shipyard Limited had been very instrumental at boosting the regional security and economy," he said. Hon. Koech said the Committee was open to deeper collaboration with the Department of Defence to ease its work safeguarding the security of the State. "Our doors are open and we are ready to deepen our collaboration with you to help you continue defending our borders on land, at sea and in the air," said Hon. Koech. "The ongoing midlife refit of Kenya Navy Ship Shupavu and construction of MV Uhuru II is evidence of the impact that KSL is bringing to the regions economy," said Brigadier Otieno. In addition The committee undertook a familiarization tour onboard Kenya Navy Ship Jasiri, and also had a sea experience during a short sea ride within Kilindini Harbour.

Health Committee Meets Marie Stopes over Kenya's Reproductive Health



Departmental Committee on Health holds engagement with Marie Stopes Kenya in Mombasa County.

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Health last week held a meeting with Marie Stopes Kenya to deliberate on Kenya's Reproductive Health.

At the meeting held in Mombasa, Endeless MP Hon. Robert Pukose, who chairs Committee pledged his full support for Marie Stopes. Hon. Pukose reckoned that he and his colleagues will seek to streamline laws governing the provision of Healthcare in Kenya. "Public participation is an integral part of the lawmaking process. This is our first engagement with you, but I can assure you, it was very beneficial," said Hon. Dr. Pukose. Marie Stopes Kenya (MSK) is registered in

Kenya as a local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) operating within Kenya.

MSK has been providing access to sexual and reproductive health services including post abortion care, STI testing and contraception in Kenya since 1985.

The Committee was informed that Reproductive Health implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and freedom to decide if, to, when and how often to do so.

In his closing remarks, Hon. Pukose reiterated the need for enactment of policies that encourage girls' equal access to education, health-care services and socio-economic opportunities to reduce prevalence of pregnancy during adolescence.

Other Members present were Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris), Hon. Martin Peters Owino (Ndhiwa), Hon. Martin Wanyonyi (Webuye East), Hon. Anthony Kibagendi (Kitutu Chache), and Hon. Mary Maingi (Mwea)

Agriculture Ministry meets Committee on Miraa regulations

The National Assembly Delegated Legislation Committee has met the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives to discuss an array of issues relating to the Miraa export business.

The meeting followed a requested by the Ainabkoi MP Hon. Samuel Chepkonga-led committee request to seek the Ministry's input into The Crops (Miraa) Regulations 2022 that is already before Parliament.

During the meeting, the Committee asked the Ministry to drop the Ksh. 4,000 levy charged on each Miraa carrying vehicle at the screening gate of JKIA, and the 4.5 USD charged for every kilo of the crop exported to Somalia. While responding to the issue, Director Miraa, Pyrethrum and other Crop Mr. Felix

Mutwiri told the committee that both levies are not provided for under the regulations. On the issue of whether or not Miraa should be classified as a drug, Principal Secretary at the State Department for Crop Development Mr. Kello Harsama told the committee that this had been resolved by the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substances Act.

Mr. Harsama told the committee that the Ministry of Agriculture, had undertaken thorough public participation on the regulations with key stakeholders including ground Men, businessmen and customers.

Kathiani MP Hon. Robbert Mbui proposed the need for keener scrutiny on Miraa Vendors to ensure they do not set shop outside designated areas or anywhere near learning institutions.

It was also noted that despite the markets being lost due to lack of regulations, the current set of rules had provided various provisions to streamline the industry. It was also noted that despite the markets being lost due to lack of regulations, the

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CROPS (MIRAA) REGULATIONS, 2022, WILL ENSURE THE PRODUCTION OF QUALITY MIRAA, BOTH FOR EXPORT AND LOCAL CONSUMPTION. MIRAA SHALL NOT BE STORED OR TRANSPORTED TOGETHER WITH OTHER PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAMINATE IT OR OTHERWISE ADVERSELY AFFECT ITS QUALITY. THE PURPOSE OF THESE REGULATIONS IS TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION, AND REGULATION OF MIRAA FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MIRAA GROWERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE MIRAA INDUSTRY.



Ainabkoi MP Samuel Chepkonga, who chairs the committee on delegated legislation flanked by his deputy Gichugu MP Robert Gichimu during a past meeting at Parliament buildings

MPs intensify grassroots oversight through site visits

National Assembly Committees have in the past week scaled up field visits as Members seek to firsthand account of matters at the grassroots.

In the past one week alone, at least three committees engaged in the excursions aimed at getting more information on the issues they are considering, which in-line with their Constitutional mandate. Last Friday and Saturday, two delegations from the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information, and Innovation conducted inspection visits of Constituency Innovation Hubs (CIH) centres in Coast and Western Kenya / Nyanza region.

The constituency based hubs are one of the channels the government uses to ensure citizens have access to ICTs in all corners of the country.

The offices are the physical centres for access to digitally enabled jobs for Kenyan youth through efficient and reliable internet connectivity.

Last Tuesday, Members of the National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education chaired by Hon. Jack Wamboka (Bumula) were at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

Hon. Wamboka led the house team on an inspection site visit of the stalled Sh4.7 billion Education Resource Centre (ERC). The project was started in 2011 and is yet to be finished.

During the trip, Hon. Wamboka challenged the State to prioritize revival of all stalled projects in the country, even as it initiates new ones.

He explained that it make no sense for the State spend millions of shillings of taxpayer's money to start projects and later abandon them before they are completed.

"It is just fair to finish projects that have been started using taxpayers' money. This is the only way members of the public will get value for their money," Hon. Wamboka said.

Still on ICT hubs, a delegation from the relevant departmental committee on Monday conducted inspection visits of Constituency Innovation Hubs (CIH) centres in Nakuru and Baringo Counties.

A sub-committee led by Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South) made its first inspection at the Kuresoi South NG-CDF CIH Centre, followed by a stopover at the Kipkelion East NG-CDF Offices.

The third inspection tour was of the Rift Valley Innovation Centre in Eldama Ravine, the biggest and most modern of the CIH Centres toured by the Committee.

The Centre was officially launched by Deputy President William Ruto in 2021, and offers a learning and working avenue for hundreds of youths from the region.

A different delegation of the same ICT committee led Geoffery Wandeto (Tetu) last Saturday undertook a series of inspection visits of the hubs in a number of constituencies in Nairobi and

visits of the hubs in a number of constituencies in Nairobi and Central Regions.

Some of the hubs they inspected include California Resource Centre (Kamukunji) Mahiga Community centre (Tetu), Nyeri Central (Nyeri Town).

Another National Assembly house team that has conducted inspection visits in the recent past is that of the Select Committee on the National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

Members of the committee that was led by Vice-chairperson, Hon. (Eng.) Kassim Tandaza (Matuga) inspected projects started by the fund in Nyakach and Kisumu East Constituencies in Kisumu County.



NG-CDF Committee's Vice-chairperson, Hon. Kassim Tandaza (Centre) leads the Committee on inspection tour in Kisumu County.

Committee demands evidence of land ownership from Kenya Railways

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has compelled the Kenya Railways Management to provide evidence for ownership of several land parcels alleged to have been irregularly reallocated.

The Committee Chaired by Pokot South MP Hon. David Pkosing issued the directive, when Kenya Railways Managing Director Phillip Mainga appeared before the team for review of the Corporation's Audited accounts for the 2018/2019 to the 2020/2021 Financial Years.

The directive followed disclosures by the office of the Auditor General that the corporation might have transferred ownership of the contentious land parcels without following due process.

Among these, were nine industrial plots measuring approximately three acres, which the Auditor General said were located on a piece of land piece of land within Kikuyu Railway Station and parcels of land adjacent to Mombasa Railway

Station measuring approximately 0.75 to one acre said to have been irregularly reallocated, some of which have been since developed.

Further, the Auditor General said another 529 parcels of land have been illegally allocated across the country.

Hon. Pkosing told the Kenya Railways management that failure to comply would attract further consequences.

"Without this information there is no way you can prove ownership of this land, and the Auditor general was very clear about this query in the report. You have to comply with this request," he said.

Also raised as an audit query of concern to the committee were revelations by the auditor general that the corporation's was running on negative working capital, as its liabilities exceeded its current asset value.

A state of affairs which the committee said was indicative of material uncertainty on the Corporation's future unless satisfactory measures are taken to reverse the trend.



National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Chairperson Hon. David Pkosing (right) has a word with Ugunja MP Hon. Opiyo Wandaayi when the Kenya Railways MD appeared before the committee.

AUDITOR-GENERAL QUERIES ON KENYA RAILWAYS

- IRREGULAR LAND ALLOCATION
- NEGATIVE OPERATING CAPITAL
- LAND WITHOUT OWNERSHIP DOCUMENT
- COMMITTEE DEMANDS FOR EVIDENCE ON CONTENTIOUS LAND PARCELS IN THREE WEEKS
- AUDIT FOCUSED ON FINANCIAL YEARS 2018/2020 TO 2020/2021

Energy Committee probes government-to-government fuel importation deal

The National Assembly Energy Committee led by Hon. Eng. Vincent

Musau Musyoka convened a meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum to discuss the policy shift on the importation of petroleum products from the current Open Tender System (OTS) to a Government-to-Government arrangement. The Committee also set out to establish the status of petroleum stocks in the country and the measures put in place by the Ministry to ensure adequate supply of the products in the economy. Appearing before the committee was the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Davis Chirchir, Principal Secretary, State Department of Petroleum, Mohammed Liban and the Director General, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) Mr. Daniel Kiptoo Bargariga. According to the Ministry, the Kenyan Government after inviting bidders through the Ministry, settled on oil import suppliers set to supply petroleum products within a 6-month credit basis. This Government-to-Government agreement replaces the current process of Open Tender System (OTS) reported to incur a monthly cost of approximately 500



Cabinet Secretary, Energy and Petroleum Mr. Davis Chirchir, Principal Secretary State Department of Petroleum Mohammed Liban and the Director General, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) Mr. Daniel Kiptoo Bargariga appearing before the National Assembly's committee on Energy.

500 million dollars. Kenya is set to import petroleum products from the first week of April 2023. Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Global Training Limited will supply 170,000 to 200,000 metric tonnes(MT) of automotive Gasoil/Diesel and 80,000 metric tonnes(MT) of Jet A-1/Dual Purpose Kerosene Aramco Trading Fujairah FZE (Saudi Arabia) will supply 160,000 to 180,000 metric tonnes(MT) of Automotive Gasoil/Diesel while Emirates National Oil Company Limited (Singapore) Ltd will supply 250,000 to 350,000 metric

tonnes(MT) of premium motor spirit/super petrol. In the Ministry's submission, Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Davis Chirchir stated that agreement is contained within the Petroleum (Importation) Regulations, 2023 (Legal Notice No. 3 of 2023). He further explained the Agreement is designed to alleviate the increasing demand for the dollar driven by petroleum imports by extending time required to source for dollar liquidity from the current 5 days to 180 days. He further stated, "The Foreign Exchange reserves are under pressure since the dollar requirements by Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) account for 30% of Kenya's

total dollar requirements. The Agreement will increase the country's forex reserves, which will help decrease currency speculation, whilst revamping the country's dormant interbank market." CS David Chirchir. In his response to the committee's inquiry on how the Kenyan interbank market would benefit, the Ministry stated that the issuance of Letter of credit will be syndicated through the Trade Development Bank(TDB), confirmation through local and multi-national Commercial Banks and refinancing through Suppliers' Banks.

THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT REPLACES THE CURRENT PROCESS OF OPEN TENDER SYSTEM (OTS) REPORTED TO INCUR A MONTHLY COST OF APPROXIMATELY 500 MILLION DOLLARS. IN ITS PROBE, COMMITTEE SEEKS TO ESTABLISH THE STATUS OF PETROLEUM STOCKS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE BY THE MINISTRY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF THE PRODUCTS IN THE ECONOMY. THE CS ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE COUNTRY'S PETROLEUM STOCK IS SUFFICIENT INSISTING THE TRANSITION WOULD NOT AFFECT THE STOCK POSITIONS SINCE MORE CARGO IS EXPECTED IN THE COURSE OF THE MONTH.

House team urges Education stakeholders to work together to realise reforms

National Assembly Education Committee chairperson Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet) has appealed to all stakeholders in the education sector to work together

Hon Melly observed that the crucial sector is currently grappling with many challenges locally and undergoing drastic changes globally, a matter he said required all heads to be put together.

"In response to a global crisis in education and to promote equity and inclusion, quality and relevance, the only solution we have is partnership and engagements with key stakeholders in the education sector," said Hon Melly.

"There is need for restructuring and re-examining the vision, mission, practices, structures and strategies in the education sector. Our systems need to adapt to the shifting skills needed professionally, making learning more student-centered and allowing creativity to blossom," he added.

The Education Committee chair made the remarks in a speech read on his behalf by Marakwet West MP Timothy Kipchumba, during a consultative departmental meeting



Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Education pose for a picture after a meeting with stakeholders in the sector in Mombasa last week.

tween the committee and board members of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM). Members of the Senate Education Committee led by the chairperson Joe Nyutu (Murang'a) also attended the two day induction and sensitization workshop that was held at a hotel in Mombasa County. During the meeting, KNATCOM Secretary General/CEO Dr. Evangeline Njoka gave the legislators from both houses a detailed brief of what the commission does, with the two teams exploring areas of co-operation in promoting sustainable development in education.

THERE IS NEED FOR RESTRUCTURING AND RE-EXAMINING THE VISION, MISSION, PRACTICES, STRUCTURES AND STRATEGIES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR. ”

Members of the National Assembly's Education Committee present at the workshop included Hon. Anne Muratha (Kiambu Women Rep) and Hon. Abdul Haro (Mandera South).

Senators were Education Committee Vice Chair Peris Tobiko (Nominated) Hon. Johnes Mwaruma (Taita Taveta), Hon. Lenku Ole Kanar Seki (Kajiado) and Hon. Joseph Githuku (Lamu).

Other Senate Members present at the workshop are Vice Chair Peris Tobiko (Nominated) Sen. Johnes Mwaruma (Taita Taveta), Sen. Lenku Ole Kanar Seki (Kajiado) and Sen. Joseph Githuku (Lamu).

Members of the National Assembly present were Hon. Anne Muratha (Kiambu Women Rep) and Hon. Abdul Haro (Mandera South).

BUNGE MASHINANI

Residents of Gilgil Constituency reap big on CDF projects

GILGIL CONSTITUENCY



Gilgil MP Hon. Martha Wangari inside the newly constructed dormitory at Eburru Secondary School. Photo: Courtesy

Students, parents, teachers, and the administration of Eburru Secondary School in Eburru Mbaruk ward, Gilgil Constituency Nakuru county, have a reason to smile after the completion of a new 150-bed capacity dormitory constructed through the Gilgil Constituency Development Fund (CDF). Gilgil MP Hon. Martha Wangari disclosed that dormitory has been constructed in three phases over a period of four years, at a cost of Ksh 5million, adding that the completion of the project was a major milestone in her quest to eliminate barriers that continue to disenfranchise less fortunate children from convenient access to quality education. "This is in line with my agenda of improving schools' infrastructure and

adopting holistic solutions that address structural barriers that hinder some learners' access to quality education," Hon. Wangari said. Hon. Wangari further disclosed that she is working with her team to identify more uniquely challenged learners to benefit from the Gilgil NG-CDF kitty through bursaries and infrastructural upgrade to give them a better learning environments. The opening of the new facility marks a new chapter for the school, whose students have been residing in a dilapidated colonial-era house – outside the school – constructed in 1949. The previous arrangement had posed a major challenge for the administration in the monitoring of students, especially after class time, and presented a security threat to the students as they moved between the school and the house which was a distance from the learning compound.

Ngoka Ward NG-CDF Project launch

NDIA CONSTITUENCY

It is a relief for residents of Ngoka Ward, Ndia Constituency in Kirinyaga county who have been grappling with acute water shortage after their Member of Parliament, Hon. George Kariuki, launched a solarized borehole in their ward. While handing over the project, Hon. Kariuki acknowledged that the project was financed by



Ndia MP Hon. George Kariuki during launch of the solarized borehole Photo: Courtesy

Ndia National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF). The project coupled up with new technology will see the residents access tap water freely, conveniently and the same time provide renewable power to the boreholes thus reducing the cost of

extracting water. The MP said that he plans to initiate more water projects in the constituency to cushion residents from walking long distances to search for the commodity

Hon. Baya launches project, issues bursaries to needy students

KILIFI NORTH CONSTITUENCY

The locals of Kilifi North Constituency are reaping big from development projects that have been spearheaded by their Member of Parliament, Hon. Owen Baya, since he took office. Infrastructure, tourism industry, sports and environment sectors have seen a tremendous growth under Hon. Baya's administration. In the education sector, the lawmaker has undertaken the construction and renovation of over 60 classrooms and more



Kilifi North MP Owen Baya Yaa during the bursary issuance cheques worth sh 19.2 million to over 1000 students from Mnarani, Sokoni, Kibarani, Tezo and Matsangani ward.

than 10 administrative blocks for primary schools and over 20 classrooms and three 8-story buildings for secondary schools across the constituency. Needy students have not been left out also as they have been

allocated kitties over Kshs 25million for secondary schools, Kshs 8million for tertiary levels and Kshs 8million for special schools bursary kitty. He thanked residents for the support they accorded him

Hon. Bensuda launches County Bursary programme

HOMA BAY COUNTY

Homa Bay Woman Representative, Hon. Joyce 'Bensuda' Atieno, has launched the Mama County Back to School programme, an initiative that would see underprivileged children gain access to education. This program aims to support children from disadvantaged families, orphans, and vulnerable children who may be at risk of dropping out of school due to financial difficulties by providing school fees, uniforms, stationery, and other essential items to facilitate their education. Speaking during the launch, Hon. Bensuda highlighted the significance of education in the progress of the county and the nation as a whole emphasizing that education is a basic right that should be accessible to every child, regardless of their socio-economic status. "I am passionate about education because I believe it is the key to unlocking opportunities and improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities" Hon. Bensuda said. The legislator urged parents and guardians to utilize the program and enroll their children in school.



Homabay Women representative Joyce Osogo alias Bensuda during a presentation of sh 2.5 million National Government affirmative fund Homabay County. She is accompanied by Suba North MP Millie Odhiambo, Kisumu Women representative Ruth Odinga among others. Photo: Courtesy

Tears of joy as Hon. Adagala gives out bursaries to needy students in Vihiga

VIHIGA COUNTY



Vihiga Woman Representative Hon. Beatrice Adagala issues a bursary cheque to an emotional mother of a needy student Photo: Courtesy

A parent in Vihiga County was moved to tears after area Woman Representative Hon. Beatrice Adagala took up funding of education of her son through (NGAAF). The parent was unable to control her tears when the County MP gave her a cheque for school fees of her son who had dropped out of school due to lack of fees. During the function, Hon. Adagala gave out bursaries amounting to Sh3.1 million to 15 students who were lucky to be enrolled on a full scholarship and 94 others who received Sh10,000 each as school fees. Hon. Adagala noted that she will continue to support needy students as she urged parents to work hard and ensure their children access education. "My office is providing bursaries to cushion parents from poor backgrounds from the financial burden they have been facing as they struggle to educate their children," she explained. Said Hon. Adagala: "I advocate for education and believe that providing equal opportunities to all students regardless of their financial background is crucial to building a prosperous and equitable society".

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National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula during a State House meeting between President William Ruto and Trans-Nzoia political leadership. The meeting discussed proposals for infrastructural upgrade of key urban centres in the County. President Ruto said roads within the town would be upgraded and the sewerage lines fixed. Other leaders who attended the meeting included Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, National Assembly and Governor George Nitembeya.



Members of the Hon. Musa Sirma led Select Committee on the National Government Constituency Development Fund on an inspection tour of NG-CDF funded projects



National Assembly Committee on Budget and Appropriations Chairperson Hon. Ndindi Nyoro during a sitting on the 2023 Budget Policy Statement.



Hon. Sabina Chege during a House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock meeting with the Cereal Millers Association and Grain Mill Owners Association to discuss the maize subsidy programme. The Committee was told Sh7.2 billion was spent on the subsidy programme by the last regime.

Members of the National Assembly led by Deputy Minority leader Hon. Robert Mbui (centre), Ugenya MP Hon. David Ochieng', Dagoretti North MP Hon. Beatrice Elachi, and members of the Senate during the launch of Open Government Partnership Caucus (POGPC) at Parliament Buildings. The POGPC Caucus is envisioned to facilitate strategic positioning of parliamentarians, to enable them to discharge their legislative, oversight, and representation roles more robustly in the governance space.



Emuhaya MP Hon. Omboko Milemba (left) and Senate Speaker Hon. Amason Kingi when they received the Italian President Sergio Mattarella who visited the Mausoleum of the founding president the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta recently



Members of the National Assembly Committee on Communication Information and Innovation led by Kuresoi Central MP Hon. Joseph Tanui (centre) during an inspection tour of constituency innovation hubs in Coast and Nyanza region.



Central Imenti MP Hon. Moses Kirima shares a light moment with a senior Kenya Navy officer during the National Assembly Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations cruise aboard Navy Ship Jasiri.



QUESTION TIME

Kibwezi East MP Jessica Mbalu asked the CS for Energy wanting the ministry to provide details of the number of public utilities, including primary and secondary schools in Kibwezi East Constituency that are not connected to electricity. She also asked to be provided a status report on electrification projects for other areas in Kibwezi East Constituency that are not connected to electricity and plans being undertaken to ensure that the areas get connected to the national grid.



Kibwezi East MP Jessica Mbalu

Bahati MP Hon Irene Njoki asked the CS for Interior and National Administration an explanation on the steps that the Government has taken to fight proliferation of illicit brews in Bahati Constituency including steps being taken to eradicate their production and sale. "Could the Cabinet Secretary explain mechanisms put in place to enforce proper disposal of illicit brews nabbed by Police during swoops to ensure that the product does not find its way into circulation," Njoki asked.



Bahati MP Hon Irene Njoki

Teso North MP Oku Kaunya asked the CS for Education to consider incorporating the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) into the 8-4-4 curriculum as a way of addressing the challenges that have affected smooth transitioning from 8-4-4 to the CBC system. State the measures that the Ministry is taking to ensure that all the 1.2 million Grade 7 learners transition to Junior Secondary School. Explain the fate of infrastructure that was earlier established in Secondary Schools using public funds in readiness for Junior Secondary Schools, which are now domiciled in primary schools.



Teso North MP Oku Kaunya

Yatta MP Robert Basil directed a question to the CS for Education wanting an explanation to the criteria applicable in deployment of Principals in Junior Secondary Schools. When will the teachers who have served as Principals or Deputy Principals in acting capacities beyond the statutory six months be substantively appointed in those positions.



Yatta MP Robert Basil



Kathiani MP Hon. Robert Mbui asked the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works Housing and Development to explain the compulsory acquisition of land by the Government in 1985 from eight land owners to accommodate the expansion of Kathiani Level 4 Hospital, and why the Government has compensated only five of them, and neglected the valuation and compensation of the remaining three land owners, namely Mr. Mwilu Mwema Kalondu and Mr. John Musyoka Telela, joint owners of Mitaboni/Kathiani/135, and Mr. Masuva Mweu of Mitaboni/Kathiani/139? Mbui also sought to know whether the Cabinet Secretary intend to pay the long overdue compensation to the distressed land owners?

Kathiani MP Robert Mbui

Mwea MP Mary Maingi asked the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture to provide details on the status of implementation and specify the timelines within which the Ministry intends to revive Mwea Cotton Ginnery following legalization of commercial cultivation of genetically modified pest resistant BT Cotton variety in 2019 after trials at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) Centre in Mwea.



Mwea MP Mary Maingi

She also asked steps the Ministry taken to ensure that when the Ginnery begins active production, locals of Mwea Constituency will directly benefit in terms of employment opportunities and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. variety in 2019 after trials at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research



Homabay Town MP Peter Kaluma

Homabay Town MP Hon. Peter Kaluma asked the Cabinet Secretary for Education to provide details of all primary and secondary school teachers employed during the last recruitment exercise, including the names, ethnicities and counties of origin and confirm whether the recruitment complied with the requirements of Article 232(h) and (i) of the Constitution?

The circumstances under which it failed to undertake the recent recruitment of teachers on "first-to-graduate, first-to-be employed principle?"

Besides, Kaluma has compelled the Commission to consider absorbing all qualified teachers, particularly those in Homa Bay Town Constituency and the larger Homa Bay County who graduated before 2012, in a bid to address the acute understaffing in primary and secondary schools in the said region?

Lastly, he sought to know any affirmative action steps is the TSC is taking to ensure that qualified teachers hailing from Homa Bay Town Constituency and Homa Bay County, generally, whose employment has been unduly delayed, are employed?

Malindi MP Hon. Amina Mnyazi asked the National Land Commission to provide a status report regarding compensation for the land that was acquired for Phases I and II of the expansion of the Malindi International Airport, detailing the expected timeline for conclusion of the compensation?



Malindi MP Amina Mnyazi