



BUNGE Weekly

Issue No. 058

Monday, June 3rd, 2024 to Monday, June 10th, 2024

PLENARY | COMMITTEES | BUNGE MASHINANI | REPORTS | CLIQUE & CLICK

Leaders preach hope during this year's Annual National Prayer Breakfast



H.E President, Dr. William Ruto (centre), Deputy President, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua (left) and Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (right) arrive for the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 30, 2024

Calls for the Country to remain hopeful amid challenging times took centre stage during this year's National Prayer Breakfast that took place last week on Thursday, May 30, 2024.

President (Dr.) William Ruto in his address said hope has always been the light that has shone brightest in the darkest times, calling on Kenyans to embrace one another as a nation united by hope and laboring collectively in hope.

The President added that the Government's Bottom up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) is purposely designed to provide sustainable solutions to the challenges Kenyans face thus giving hope to Kenyans.

According to President Ruto, the Government has subsidized food production over the past one year with the objective of stabilizing food prices as well as managing the runaway cost of living. He added that affordable housing projects are going on well all over the country and it has provided job opportunities to many young people.

"We are still contending with a burgeoning national debt, a recovering economy and unemployment among other challenges. We must all work together to reduce and eliminate all these challenges

that hold our country and people back. The challenges of poverty and underdevelopment, coupled with geopolitical crises, regional conflicts and economic shocks will continue to require collective action and global collaboration," President Ruto said.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula stated that despite the challenging times, hope is a powerful force that can drive the country towards a brighter future.

The Speaker called on Kenyans to have a shared endeavor towards the well-being and progress of the nation regardless of their political and religious differences.

"Since our first Prayer Breakfast in 1986, we have transformed our nation. This gathering is more than just an annual event; it is a testament to our collective faith and determination. If we want to see a change in the future, we must look at the next generation. Their hope and potential are the true barometers of our nation's strength and resilience. All that is done in the world is done through hope," the Speaker said.

The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual event meant for leaders and Kenyans from all walks of life to meet, engage, interact and pray together for the nation. This year's even was themed; Hope.



BUNGE MASHINANI
Tongaren MP opens new classrooms at Mukomari ... **ON PAGE 8**



17th Meeting of EAC Speakers' Bureau held in Nairobi... **ON PAGE 3**



COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP
Committee on Education asks BAC to consider proposing reinstatement of ... **ON PAGE 6**

Aldai MP questions reduction in Women Enterprise Fund borrowing limit

Aldai MP, Hon. Marianne Kitany has questioned the rationale behind the reduction of the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) borrowing limit from Kshs.750,000 to Kshs.50,000 per group.

Hon. Kitany said that despite the Government re-launching the Fund in 2023 to enhance accessibility through increased resources and digitization, the reduction severely impacts women groups, the primary users of the fund. She noted that Ksh50,000 may not adequately meet their financial needs for enterprise development.

While seeking a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection regarding the reduction, Hon. Kitany said it will hold back the Fund from achieving its mandate.

"The reduction will stifle the very mandate that the Fund was established to accomplish, which is to support and strengthen women entrepreneurs," Hon. Kitany said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Igembe Central MP seeks a statement on exploitation of miraa farmers at JKIA

Igembe Central MP, Hon. Daniel Karitho has raised concerns over the exploitation of miraa farmers at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and sought a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock regarding the matter.

Hon. Karitho is calling upon the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to elucidate the government's measures aimed at preventing the exploitation of miraa farmers by business entities.

He specifically wants to know the issues surrounding transportation and pricing of the commodity.

Furthermore, the Igembe Central lawmaker is keen to understand the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these business entities adhere to the existing regulatory framework, including the frequency of inspections, to ensure compliance and appropriate measures against non-compliant entities.

Questioning the transportation of the



Igembe Central MP, Hon. Daniel Karitho. Hon. Karitho has raised concerns over the exploitation of miraa farmers at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)

commodity, Hon. Karitho sought to know the plans in place to ensure that all approved airlines, including Kenya Airways, transport Miraa to all Government-approved market destinations.

Additionally, he raised concerns about cartels hindering business operations at JKIA and sought clarification on the Government's strategies to address the issue effectively.

"Miraa is one of the most profitable

cash crops in Kenya that feeds international as well as national markets. Notably, in 2015 Parliament amended the Crops Act to ensure recognition of miraa as a cash crop and to obligate the national Government to establish mechanisms for its promotion, production, distribution and marketing," said Hon. Karitho.

He, however, pointed out that it has been reported that miraa farmers are being exploited by cartels who manipulate the prepressing and distribution of the product in the market.

According to the MP, transportation of miraa to Mogadishu where the product's biggest customers are, is approximately one and a half times more costly compared to other products to the same destination.

He added that the said cartels dictate the kind of airline that transports the product, the quantity to be transported, and the specific market destination. This he said is exploitative, unjust and impoverishes farmers who toil in the farm.

PSC secretary roots for proactive approach to occupational hazards

Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye has challenged staff to be proactive in handling occupational hazards and risks to help minimize accidents, injuries, and other health related issues.

Mr. Nyegenye who was delivering the keynote address during a special talk organized by the PSC Occupational Health and Safety Services (OSH) Committee on Monday, May 27, 2024 said the a proactive approach would help staff think through, imagine and prepare appropriately to prevent such hazards from occurring.

"We have periodic inspection of the work place every three months for compliance. We do this to identify occupational hazards as well as cases of ill health among workers and to take appropriate action," Mr. Nyegenye said.

External facilitators who trained staff included the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) secretary, Dr. Musa Nyangusi, Deputy Director, Dr. Mwanahawa Ali, Head of Research and Training, Dr. Dennis Ochillo and Kenyatta University Lecturer, Dr. Peterson Warutere.

Dr. Nyangusi noted that there is a need for individual staff to understand their role in promoting occupational safety and to familiarize themselves with the relevant legal framework guiding the same.

On his part, Dr. Warutere asked staff to undertake early screening for life-threatening conditions such as cancer to reduce the health risks and corresponding financial burdens to that come with late discovery of



Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye delivering the key note address during the special talk on occupational health and safety services held on Monday, May 27, 2024



Nyaribari Chache MP seeks statement regarding ban on consumption of shisha and vape products



Nyaribari Chache MP, Hon. Zaheer Jhanda who is seeking a Statement from the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Health regarding the ban on the consumption of shisha and vape in the country

Nyaribari Chache MP, Hon. Zaheer Jhanda is advocating for punitive measures against anyone found importing, selling, consuming, or distributing shisha and vape products.

While seeking a Statement from the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Health regarding the ban on the consumption of shisha and vape in the country, Hon. Jhanda argued that despite Kenya implementing a comprehensive ban on the use, importation, manufacture, sale, promotion, distribution, and facilitation of shisha in 2017, little success has been registered in curbing the vice.

“Despite this ban, shisha and vape smoking has slowly but steadily entrenched itself as a habit among the youth in this country,” he said.

He explained that the vice has become so widespread that it is being sold illegally in major entertainment joints across the country.

“Sadly, it has found its way deep into rural towns, where young people are puffing their way to the grave,” he added.

Hon. Jhanda now wants the Ministry of Health to explain the regulatory frameworks that have allowed shisha and vape smoking to persist in the country.

He sought to know the steps the Ministry is taking to ensure that shisha and vape are not readily available to young people.

“What steps is the Ministry of Health taking, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to ensure that shisha and vape are not readily available, especially to young people?” he asked.

In addition, the legislator wants to know the measures the Government has put in place to ensure that anyone selling shisha and vape, among other narcotic drugs, especially to people under 18 years, is prosecuted.

He emphasized that as a nation, Kenya must not become a smoking and drinking nation but a healthy and productive one.

“We must make hard and unpopular decisions to save the future of the young generation by enacting laws that criminalize the consumption, sale, and distribution of shisha and vape, among other illegal narcotic drugs,” he said.

17th Meeting of EAC Speakers' Bureau held in Nairobi

The 17th Meeting of the Bureau of East African Community (EAC) Speakers convened in Nairobi on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

The gathering brought together regional Speakers, united in their pursuit of integration, cooperation, and shared prosperity.

Extending a warm welcome, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula expressed Kenya's pride in being part of the EAC; a union that stands as a beacon of regional integration.

In his remark, Speaker Wetang'ula commended the success of the 13th Edition of the Inter-Parliamentary Games held in Rwanda for a progressive, peaceful, and all-inclusive EAC.

Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi, addressed issues of conflict and climate change faced by the region. He emphasized the crucial role of Parliamentary diplomacy in restoring peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“We must continue to deploy Parliamentary diplomacy as one of the tools in our quest to restore normalcy in DRC,” he said.

On behalf of the Rt. Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of the IPU, the Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Tanzania, Rt. Hon. Mussa Zungu extended condolences to those affected by the devastating floods and storms in various parts of East Africa.

In his speech, Hon. Zungu acknowledged the region's resilience in the face of natural disasters, stating, “Our region has been recently struck by devastating floods and storms that have caused untold loss of lives and damage to properties. I wish to sincerely express my heartfelt condolences to the dozens of people who died in the wake of tragic floods in various parts of East Africa. We pray to our Heavenly Father to shower his mercy to our lost ones.”

The regional Speakers called for a united and forward-looking East Africa while advocating for modalities of implementing borderless engagements within the region.

The meeting was graced by the presence of Parliamentary leaders, including Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana, Speaker of Parliament of Burundi, Rt. Hon. (DR.) Emmanuel Sinzohagera, Hon. Mussa Harelimana, Deputy Speaker representing the Rt. Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda; the Hon. Asuman Basalirwa, MP, representing the Rt. Hon. Anita Among, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; and the Rt. Hon. Adan Nur (Madobe), Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Somali.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (centre) in a group photo with regional Speakers and their representatives who attended the 17th meeting of EAC Speakers Bureau in Nairobi on Wednesday, May 29, 2024



Committee on Defence holds public hearings on the conduct of British Army Training Unit in Kenya

The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations last week undertook public hearings in relation to the inquiry into the conduct of the British Army Training Unit in Kenya (BATUK).

During the exercise, residents of Samburu, Isiolo and Laikipia counties spoke out about the negative impacts of the BATUK. Hundreds of residents attended the public hearings held in Jua Kali Centre in Laikipia East Constituency, Nanyuki Town Social Hall in Nanyuki, Archers Post in Isiolo County and Doldol in Samburu County.

The hearings were meant for members of the public to shed light on a number of issues, including unexploded ordnance on grazing land which has led to a number of injuries and deaths of locals.

Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Abdullahi Bashir told the residents that the Committee came to listen to them.

"We are here to listen to you. We have received your petitions on this matter and we want to hear what you have to say," Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Bashir said.

On negative effects to the environment, residents of Laikipia County said that the activities of British military caused environmental pollution which resulted into loss of livestock and property.



Members of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations follow a presentation during the public hearings at Archers Post, Isiolo County. From left to right; Hon. Abdikadir Mohamed (Lagdera), Hon. Fred Ikana (Shinyalu), Chairperson, Hon. Nelson Koech (Belgut), Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Abdullahi Bashir (Mandera North), Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti) and Hon. Yusuf Hassan Kamukunji

In addition, they said the military exercises resulted to health problems, including breathing difficulties, eye defects, and birth disabilities.

Mr. Setuk Kaparo from Kimgadura raised concerns about harmful substances that contaminate the local water sources.

In Doldol, residents reported being assigned dangerous tasks including handling explosives, without proper safety equipment.

In Laikipia, residents complained about the lack of employment opportunities by BATUK, despite the disruption caused by their training exercises.

Community leaders from Segera

Sub-County stated that abuses have been committed against residents with the victims still seeking help. Women leaders recounted instances of sexual assault and encounters between local women and British soldiers that resulted in children who are ostracized by the community.

Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Nelson Koech (Belgut) assured residents that their concerns would be addressed.

"We have heard your pleas for justice. This Committee will work to ensure those affected are fairly compensated, and that measures are put into place to protect the lives and livelihoods of all Kenyans," Hon. Koech said

Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to engage Ministry over high prices of cooking oil

The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives has resolved to engage the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry and other key stakeholders in the edible oils sub-sector in an effort to address the escalating prices of cooking oil.

This decision was arrived at by the Committee during a meeting with a group of edible oil manufacturers in the country. The said meeting was chaired by Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai).

The manufacturers led by Mr. Vimal Shah, the Chairman of Bidco Africa Ltd. in their submission warned that the price of this essential commodity is expected to rise further due to the high cost of production.

Mr. Shah emphasized the lack of Government incentives for local manufacturers, noting that the state has only focused on giving incentives to international firms. He observed that this imbalance forces local manufacturers to pass the high production costs onto consumers.

He was accompanied by CEO of KAPA Oil, Mr. Nitin Shah, Director



Vice-Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Marianne Kitany (left) consults with Hon. Joshua Mwalayo (right) during a meeting with representatives of the edible oil manufacturers

of Pwani Oil Products, Rajan Malde, and Managing Director of Golden Africa Kenya, Mr. Fathi Saeed, all of whom raised concerns about the high taxes contributing to the increased costs of production.

Hon. Kitany acknowledged the concerns raised by the manufacturers and stressed the importance of supporting home-grown industries within the multi-billion-shilling sector.

"We have noted with concern the plight of the manufacturers of edible oil in the country, a key sub-sector that employs over 10,000 people," she said.

She added that the Committee had established that there is a disconnect between the manufacturers and the Government.

"We have established that there is a serious disconnect between the manufacturers of edible oil and the Government. As a result, we will convene a round-table with Ministry officials and other stakeholders to find ways of reducing the cost of production of cooking oil," Hon. Kitany said.

Committee on Housing conducts inspection visit of Shimo la Tewa Housing Project, observes progress

The Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works conducted an inspection visit of Shimo la Tewa Housing Project on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 where it noted notable progress.

While inspecting the Project, the Committee led by Hon. Johana Ngeno (Emurua Dikiir) observed that the project was 95 per cent complete and that the recommendations made by the Committee a year ago had been implemented.

“The Committee was here a year ago, it engaged the State Department for a solution and now we see a significant difference. The corrections have been done and we have affirmed that the tax payers’ money has been put to good use,” Hon. Ngeno said.

However, Hon. Ngeno challenged the Permanent Secretary for the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Charles Hinga to ensure due diligence in identifying contractors to undertake the State Department’s projects and edge out those who

had undertaken the collapsed buildings’ projects and those whose projects had stalled.

In addition, the lawmakers underscored the importance of carrying out public participation on projects with a huge impact on the Kenyans.

The Committee also stressed the need for the State Department to streamline its procurement process so as to ensure a win-win situation with contractors receiving timely payments, for timely and proper completion of projects.

Further, Members urged the State Department to see to it that project managers take responsibility in relation to indemnity.

The Deputy Officer in charge of Shimo La Tewa Prisons, Mr. Eric Ochieng told legislators



Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works, Hon. Johana Ngeno (left) shaking hands with the Deputy Officer in charge of Shimo la Tewa Prison when the Committee carried out an inspection visit of the facility on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. Looking on are Subukia MP, Hon. Samuel Gachobe (third left) and Manyatta MP, Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (in a cap)

that the new houses shall enable Prison Officers to respond swiftly to emergencies as some will now reside from within the Prisons premises.

Regional Development Committee told budgetary cuts and non-funding hindering implementation of projects



The Departmental Committee on Regional Development has heard that budgetary cuts and non-funding has hindered implementation of development projects under the State Department of Devolution.

This is according to the Principal Secretary (PS), State Department of Devolution, Mrs. Teresa Mbaika who appeared before the Committee chaired by Hon. Peter Lochakapong (Sigor) for the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates II for the Financial Year 2023/24 and Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2024/25.

Regarding Supplementary Estimates II for the Financial Year 2023/24, PS Mbaika tabled a total additional estimates of Kshs.78 million

Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Regional Development, Hon. Peter Lochakapong (Sigor) seeking clarification during a meeting to deliberate on the Supplementary Estimates II for the Financial Year 2023/24 and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/25

under development expenditure Supplementary II Estimate which included an amount of Kshs.89 million to be utilized for the Kenya Devolution Support Programme II (KDSP II) as well as a reduction of Kshs.11 million under development expenditure.

Members raised concern over stalled projects and particularly the Multi- Million Kisumu Convention Centre which had been envisioned to be an ultra-modern center for the Nyanza and Western regions.

In her response, the PS confirmed that the Kisumu project stalled adding that this was caused by budget cuts.

“I can confirm that the project halted due to budget cuts and also inform this Committee that the Department has pending bills amounting to Kshs.2.9 billion,” stated PS Mbaika.

The Committee also met with officials from the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services in particular the Department of Refugee Services.

According to Mr. John Burugu who appeared on behalf of the PS, the approved estimate for FY 2023/2024 was Kshs.131 million against the expenditure of Kshs.115 million which he equated to 87.98 percent.

He however indicated that the government is working on the Shirika Plan for refugees and host communities; a project aiming at transitioning refugees from camps to integrated settlements and socio-economic inclusion.

In the Financial Year 2024/2025, Mr. John Burugu told the Committee that the approved budget was Kshs. 152 million which he said was inadequate to fund activities including the establishment of a government owned refugee database.



The Departmental Committee on Education chaired by Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet), has called on the Budget and Appropriations Committee to consider proposing the reinstatement of the Kshs.4.9 billion for School Feeding Programme, which was not factored in, in the FY 2024/25 Budget Estimates.

According to Hon. Melly the Committee on Education had reinstated Kshs.2 billion under National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) for the programme.

“The Committee on Education has reinstated Kshs.2 billion under NACONEK for the School Feeding Programme. However, the amount reduced from the programme was Kshs.4.9 billion. The Committee recommends that the Budget and Appropriations Committee considers allocating the additional Kshs.2 billion so that the entire amount is fully reinstated.” Hon. Melly said.

He made these remarks when he was presenting the Education Committee’s Budget Estimates for FY 2024/25 and the FY 2023/24 Supplementary II, before the Budget and Appropriations Committee led by Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu).

Further, Hon. Melly recommended that the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) converts the terms of service for the 26,000 intern Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers from the current contracts into permanent and pensionable employment beginning July 2024, and not

Committee on Education asks BAC to consider proposing reinstatement of funding for School Feeding Programme



Chairperson Committee on Education, Hon. Julius Melly, explaining a point during the meeting with the Budget and Appropriations Committee

January 2025 as proposed. According to Hon. Melly this would boost the teachers’ morale.

“The conversion of the terms of service for intern teachers will boost their morale and is also an assurance of the Government commitment in ensuring that all future intern teachers are converted to permanent employment after successfully completing the internship period,” he said.

Hon. Nyoro sought to know what the financial effect of backdating the confirmation to July 2024 would have.

“Assuming there is no supplementary budget, I would like you to clarify how much it would cost to hire all the JSS teachers on permanent terms?” he asked.

In his response, Hon. Melly said the Government would require Kshs.14.6 billion.

“To employ 46,000 teachers, we need Kshs.28.6 billion yet the Commission has been allocated Kshs.4.7 billion to recruit 20,000 interns and Kshs.8.3 billion to convert 26,000 intern teachers into permanent employment. This therefore means the Government is required to top up the deficit which is Kshs.14.6 billion,” he said.

Members concluded on all the proposed considerations from the 20 Departmental Committees and will be tabling the report once the Second Part of the session resumes.

Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation seeks additional funding for key projects

The Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation is asking for additional funding for projects key in the actualization of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Chairperson of the Committee, Hon.



Chairperson Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation, Hon. Kangogo Bowen, making his presentation on the Budget Estimates for FY 2024/25, and the Supplementary Estimates II for FY 2023/24, on Friday, May 24, 2024

Kangogo Bowen (Marakwet East), while presenting the Budget Estimates for FY 2024/25, and the Supplementary Estimates II for FY 2023/24, before the Budget and Appropriations Committee, noted that the reductions will negatively affect implementation of projects.

“The reductions include Kshs.2.2 billion to the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Kshs.329 million to the State Department for Irrigation and Kshs.17.58 billion to the State Department for Water and Sanitation from the BPS ceiling,” he said.

Further, the Marakwet East lawmaker took the Budget and Appropriations Committee through the projects in the pipeline during the next financial year for the different State Departments.

“In the State Department for Water and Sanitation, there will be 99 projects being implemented in the Financial Year 2024/25. Out of these, 11 projects are new while the rest are ongoing,” Hon. Bowen said.

He pointed out that the Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation noted

that the State Department was allocating huge resources for projects at the headquarters, yet the implementing agencies are the nine Water Works Development Agencies (WWDAs).

According to Hon. Bowen, this makes project implementation unnecessarily bureaucratic, leading to frequent delays. He proposed that all projects currently being implemented at headquarters be transferred to the WWDAs.

In the State Department for Irrigation, the Committee noted that the department has made strides in addressing the challenges of delays in project completion and budget absorption which had belaboured it in the past. Its prioritization of projects and equity in distribution across the country was also applauded by the Committee.

The Committee further proposed some amendments to the State Departments of Water and Sanitation, and Blue Economy and Fisheries, while calling on the Budget Committee to approve the allocation of Kshs.20 billion to the State Department for Irrigation, without amendments.

National Assembly opposed to release of robbery with violence convicts

The National Assembly will file responses in a High Court case where a petitioner is challenging the legality of sections of the Penal Code relating to some capital offences.

In a notice filed before court, the National Assembly has appointed a counsel to represent it in the petition filed by Katiba Institute which has listed Parliament of Kenya as the sixth respondent.

The Petition challenges the continued application of the Penal Code for the arrest, detention, arraignment, prosecution and conviction of suspects of robbery with violence and those of attempted robbery with violence.

According to the petitioner, the sections of the Penal Code relating to prosecution have been unconstitutional since March, 15, 2018.

The Petition dates back to a Judgement on September, 15, 2016, when the High Court declared as unconstitutional the sections of the penal code relating to the two offences, and subsequently suspended the said verdict for 18 months to allow for amendment of the contentious Law.

The said period lapsed on March 15, 2018, which the petitioner argues was the date when continued application of the contentious provisions of the Penal Code became unconstitutional.

The contention is specifically on application of Sections 295, 296 (1), 296 (2), 297(1) and 297(2) of the Penal Code.

During a virtual mention on Friday, May 30, 2024, High Court Judge Justice Lawrence Mugambi gave the parties 10 days to file and serve submissions, relating to an application by the Petitioner for the empanelment of a three judges Bench to handle the petition.

The National Assembly in a notice to the court indicated that it would enter its appearance through Counsel Henry Atingo.

“Take further notice that all future correspondence relating to this Petition should henceforth be addressed and served upon the said advocate,” read the National Assembly notice of appointment of advocate.

In the subsequent sitting on the case, the Court is expected to give directions regarding the application for empanelment of the Bench.

Katiba Institute has listed all persons charged with the offences of robbery with violence or attempted robbery with violence since 15th March 2018 as co-petitioners.

The case will be mentioned on July 4, 2024.

Mediation Committee agrees to increase allocation to counties



The Mediation Committee co-chaired by Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu) and Sen. Kathuri Murungi (Meru) has reached an agreement to allocate more funds to counties.

Mediation Committee co-chairpersons, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (left) and Sen. Kathuri Murungi (right) during one of the sittings

The co-chairpersons of the Committee said Members unanimously agreed to allocate additional resources to counties, bringing the total revenue allocation to Kshs.400.1 billion, up from the earlier figure of Kshs.391.117 billion proposed by the National Assembly.

The legislators expressed their trust in devolution, calling it an equalizer that ensures all citizens across the country receive services and development projects regardless of their political affiliation. They emphasized that devolution allows counties to identify and address the unique challenges and needs of local communities.

According to Hon. Nyoro, this year's allocation is the highest to counties since the inception of devolution many years ago.

“We all support devolution, and that is why, as leaders, we have unanimously decided to source more resources for the counties despite having a very tight resource envelope as a country,” he said.

The same sentiments were echoed by Sen. Kathuri, who applauded Senators for fighting to strengthen devolution by ensuring counties receive more resources to fund key functions that are now devolved. He, however, cautioned county bosses to ensure proper utilization of the funds so that grassroots citizens feel the impact of devolution through improved service delivery.

The two leaders committed to continue reviewing county allocation upwards in the subsequent financial years to address the resource gap in most counties. This came after concerns that many devolved functions continue to be underfunded making counties unable to operate as expected.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT NAIROBI
CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION
CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION NO E 036 OF 2024

KATIBA INSTITUTE (ON ITS OWN BEHALF
AND ON BEHALF OF ALL INDIVIDUALS
ARRESTED, CHARGED, OR CONVICTED OF
ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE OR ATTEMPTED ROBBERY
WITH VIOLENCE SINCE 15 MARCH 2018)..... PETITIONER

VERSUS

THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS1ST RESPONDENT
ATTORNEY-GENERAL 2ND RESPONDENT
JUDICIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA 3RD RESPONDENT
PARLIAMENT 4TH RESPONDENT
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 5TH RESPONDENT
KENYA LAW REFORM COMMISSION 6TH RESPONDENT
AND
KENYA NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 1ST INTERESTED PARTY
KENYA PRISONS SERVICE 2ND INTERESTED PARTY
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE 3RD INTERESTED PARTY
ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO, FROM 15 MARCH
2018, HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF A
CRIME FOR WHICH AN ACCUSED HAS BEEN
CHARGED WITH ROBBERY WITH

Aldai MP questions reduction in women enterprise fund borrowing limit (Continued)

► **FROM PAGE 1** Established in 2007, the Women Enterprise Fund aims to provide accessible and affordable credit and business support services to women entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses.

Kitany stated that the fund plays a crucial role in strengthening women-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), a sector that significantly drives the country's economy.

“What measures are being put in place to ensure that the Women Enterprise Fund remains an effective tool for supporting women entrepreneurs?” she posed.



Aldai MP Hon. Marianne Kitany, in a past Committee meeting at Parliament Buildings. Hon. Kitany is seeking a Statement regarding the reduction of borrowing limit for the Women Enterprise Fund



Tongaren MP opens new classrooms at Mukomari



Tongaren MP, Hon. (Dr.) John Chikati (right) welcome a guest during the official opening of a new block of classroom

Tongaren MP, Hon. (Dr.) John Chikati, on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 officially opened a new block of eight classrooms at Mukomari Primary School.

The construction of the classrooms was made possible through funding from Core Health and Wealth International.

Dr. Chikati thanked the organization for its contribution to improving educational facilities in the constituency.

"Today is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together with our partners. These new classrooms will provide a conducive learning environment for our children and set a foundation for their academic success," Dr. Chikati said.

In addition, Dr. Chikati announced plans to enhance the school's infrastructure.

"The National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) will purchase additional land to expand the school's extracurricular activities. Moreover, new toilets will be constructed to ensure that schools meet the Ministry of Health regulations, promoting a healthier environment for students and staff," he said.

Kitui County MP commemorates Menstrual Hygiene Day with distribution of sanitary pads

Kitui County MP, Hon. Irene Kasalu commemorated the Menstrual Hygiene Day on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 with distribution of sanitary towels in Yatta Primary School

Hon. Kasalu distributed over 641,000 sanitary towel packets to 1,292 schools.

According to the Member, approximately 146,589 girls are set to benefit from the project.

"I will undertake the distribution of sanitary pads across all the schools in Kitui County and make sure every girl child has access to sanitary towels so as to end the shame and stigma that surround periods," Hon. Kasalu said.



Kitui County MP, Hon. Irene Kasalu (centre) posing with students and teachers at Yatta Primary School

Kitutu Chache South MP distributes UWEZO Fund cheques to youth and women groups

Kitutu Chache South MP, Hon. Antony Kibagendi last week distributed UWEZO Fund cheques worth Kshs. 1,100,000 to 16 groups across five wards in the constituency.

According to Hon. Kibagendi, the initiative is aimed at empowering local groups by providing them with financial support to enhance their economic activities and improve their livelihoods.

The UWEZO Fund, a Government initiative designed to provide affordable credit to youth, women, and persons with disabilities, is crucial in fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth at the grassroots level.

By accessing these funds, he said, the beneficiaries can start or expand their businesses, thereby contributing to the overall development of the community.

"I urge the beneficiaries to make sure that they repay their loans on time, to ease revolving of funds," Hon. Kibagendi said.

He emphasized the importance of timely loan repayment saying prompt repayment is essential for maintaining the fund's revolving nature, ensuring that more groups can benefit from the financial support in the future."



Kitutu Chache South MP, Hon. Antony Kibagendi (holding a microphone) pose for a photo with a section of the beneficiaries of the funds he distributed to groups across the constituency

Kirinyaga MP launches programme to empower the youth

Kirinyaga MP, Hon. Njeri Maina recently launched a four-month programme dubbed INEET, that is aimed at transforming 250 youths from being job seekers to job creators.

The programme is set to benefit at least 20 youth in every ward. The focus on ensuring the youth are job creators and not job seekers aligns with broader efforts to harness the potential of young people as drivers of innovation and progress.

"The INEET programme is solely investing in the youth by providing them with training in entrepreneurship, E-Commerce and Financial Management. The young people form the productive working age group and therefore it is important to harness the requisite skills to be self-sufficient," Hon. Maina said.

The initiative is being implemented in partnership with Equity Bank, MasterCard Foundation, State Department of Gender and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).



Hon. Njeri Maina (in white cap) addresses the youth in Kirinyaga County after the launch of the INEET initiative

CLIQUE & CLICKS ▶



A section of Members of Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning pose for a photo with students of Moi Girls High School, Eldoret who attended a meeting of the Committee on Thursday, May 23, 2024 to learn how committees in the National Assembly work. From left to right: Hon. Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), Chairperson, Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo), Vice Chairperson, Hon. Benjamin Langat (Ainamoi) and Hon. Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo)



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Gladys Boss (left) accompanied by other women leaders arrive for the National Prayer Breakfast last week



Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (right) and Speaker of the Senate, Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi, singing along to songs by Bunge Fellowship Choir during the National Prayer Breakfast held on Thursday, May 30, 2024

Majority Party Whip, Hon. Silvanus Osoro (holding a microphone) leading Bunge Fellowship Choir in singing uplifting songs during the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 30, 2024



Quotes of The Week



I rise under Standing Order 90 as read together with 107(1)(e) in terms of the conflict of interest. As a Member of this House and as a lawyer, I have spoken and interacted with some of the Members of the Select Committee. A disclosure has been made to me that questions and alleges impropriety and misconduct by some Members of the Committee. I am not talking about anything out there, but things disclosed to me as a lawyer and a Member of this House. In that event, it is necessary, legally and procedurally, that such an issue is referred to the Powers and Privileges Committee first. In the event that there is any truth, it vitiates the entire Report. It would result in the Report being a nullity, thus this House restarting the process. I need your direction, Hon. Speaker because in that event, it would not even be right to discuss the Report. It is a preliminary matter to dispel any such suspicions as required by the Constitution and our Standing Orders,”

Hon. (Dr.) Otiende Amollo (Rarieda), rising on a point of order during the tabling of the Report of Select Committee on the proposed dismissal of Hon. Frankline Mithika Linturi as Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development



This is a House of debate and procedure. This is a granary of wisdom where every profession is represented. We have experienced advocates of the high court, doctors, accountants, bishops, and aspiring men of the cloth. I think Hon. Junet qualifies to be a sheikh. This House draws people from different professions with vast experience in different fields. This is a House where, after a debate, the majority will have their way, and the minority will have their say. When this Motion was brought before this House, the majority had their way, but thereafter, the procedures took centre stage. Procedures were followed, and both the minority and majority proposed their names, and an ad hoc committee was formed,”

Hon. Silvanus Osoro (South Mugirango), making remarks during the tabling of the Report of Select Committee on the proposed dismissal of Hon. Frankline Mithika Linturi as Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development



I stand under Standing Order 184 regarding the adverse mention of a Member. When the Proceedings of this particular Motion were going on, I was adversely mentioned by the Hon. Cabinet Secretary, to the effect that I was even the sponsor of this Motion. I requested to appear before the Committee so that I could explain myself. I was adversely mentioned in almost all proceedings when the Hon. Cabinet Secretary gave out his defense, but I was not given the opportunity to defend myself. Therefore, I request that anything that was mentioned in regard to me be expunged from the Report,”

Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai), rising on a point of order during the tabling of the Report of Select Committee on the proposed dismissal of Hon. Frankline Mithika Linturi as Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development



Kenyan farmers were duped into purchasing fake fertilizer through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) under the full glare and watch of the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development. A Motion was brought to this House to dismiss that Cabinet Secretary, and Hon. Members voted overwhelmingly to impeach him. A Committee of the House was put together to confirm the report and the vote of the Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, seven of the Hon. Members appointed to the Committee turned the verdict of 149 Members of Parliament. Only four gave a dissenting opinion. For the record, Hon. TJ Kajwang, Hon. Yusuf Farah, Hon. Catherine Omanyoo, and Hon. Robert Mbui stood with the Kenyan Farmers to say enough is enough, and that the Cabinet Secretary must go. The reality is that the Committee, instead of investigating, as this House was told, turned itself into a Supreme Court of Parliament of Kenya, presided over by Lady Justice Naomi Waqo. The rest of us became judges. Our question is, is a Committee of the House supposed to operate like a court, or are we supposed to continue operating like a Committee of the House?”

Hon. Robert Mbui (Kathiani), making remarks during the tabling of the Report of Select Committee on the proposed dismissal of Hon. Frankline Mithika Linturi as Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development 13, 2024

House to resume sittings after short recess

The National Assembly is set to resume sittings tomorrow, Tuesday, June 4, 2024, for the Second Part of the Third Session following the short recess.

A packed agenda awaits lawmakers, with consideration of key Bills including the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 and the Finance Bill 2024. Members will prioritize consideration of the mediated version of the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 which outlines an increased equitable share to counties in the Financial Year 2024/25. This follows successful negotiations by the Mediation Committee, co-chaired by Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu) and Sen. Kathuri Murungi (Meru).

The Supplementary Estimates II and the 2024/2025 Budget Estimates, along with their Appropriation Bills, will also be reviewed by the House. Several other important bills are on the docket, including consideration of the County Allocation of Revenue Bill and the Kenya Drugs Authority Bill.

The County Boundaries Bill which seeks to establish a framework for resolving county boundary disputes will also undergo the First Reading. In addition, the House is expected to prioritize the Land Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which seeks to allow Kenyans access to land records and perform land related transactions across the country. The Bill also seeks to amend the Registration of Documents Act by decentralizing land registries for registration of documents across the country.

Lawmakers will also consider reports from various Committees. Reports on the National Government Constituencies Development Fund for nine constituencies in Bungoma County and the Financial Statements of specified state corporations will be debated.

The Second Report of the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture on its consideration of the Reports of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements of the Kenya Medical Training College, the Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital and the Kenya Medical Research Institute Legislators is also scheduled for debate.

Also scheduled for consideration are the Public Petitions Committee Report on its consideration of a public petition regarding funds spent by the National Government contrary to the Provisions of Article 223 of the Constitution and a Report of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives on the Inquiry into Alleged Unfair Trade Practices by Foreign Investors in Kenya.



A past sitting of the National Assembly, the House is set to resume sittings on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, after the short recess



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
13TH PARLIAMENT- THIRD SESSION (2024)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLE 118(1) (b) OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND

IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF:

1. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT BILL [NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 17 OF 2024];
2. THE BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS BILL [NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 8 OF 2024];
3. THE UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL [NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 16 OF 2024]

INVITATION TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA

WHEREAS, Article 118(1) (b) of the Constitution requires Parliament to facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its Committees and National Assembly Standing Order 127(3) requires House Committees considering Bills to facilitate public participation;

AND WHEREAS, the Public Relations and Communication Management Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 17 of 2024); the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 8 of 2024); the Universities (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 of 2024); were Read a First Time on 25th April 2024 and 2nd May 2024 respectively and thereafter referred to the relevant Departmental Committees for consideration and reporting back to the House;

IT IS NOTIFIED THAT:

1. **The Public Relations and Communication Management Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 17 of 2024)** is a Bill sponsored by the **Leader of Majority, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, EGH, MP** that seeks to provide a legal framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the public relations and communication management profession. The Bill seeks to promote professionalism within the public relations and communication management sector and to provide mechanisms for training, registration and licensing.
2. **The Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 8 of 2024)** is a Bill sponsored by the **Hon. Sabina Chege, MP** that seeks to provide a legal framework for mothers who may wish to breastfeed their children at their work place. The Bill provides for the right of a mother to breastfeed at the work place and requires employers to provide breastfeeding employees with lactation rooms to either breastfeed or express milk for their children.
3. **The Universities (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 of 2024)** is a Bill sponsored by the **Hon. Yaa Owen Baya, MP** that seeks to amend the Universities Act 2012 to allow the President to appoint Chancellors of Public Universities devoid of current provisions of the Act. The current procedures in the second schedule of the Act discourages persons from applying for the position of Chancellor as it is long and time consuming especially for targeted persons who are normally eminent personalities in the country who may not have time to go through the entire procedure

NOW THEREFORE, in compliance with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and Standing Order 127(3), the Clerk of the National Assembly hereby invites the public and stakeholders to submit memoranda on the Bills to the respective Departmental Committees as listed below:

NO.	BILL	COMMITTEE
1.	The Public Relations and Communication Management Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 17 of 2024)	Communication, Information and Innovation
2.	The Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 8 of 2024)	Social Protection
3.	The Universities (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 16 of 2024)	Education

Copies of the Bill are available at the National Assembly Table Office, Main Parliament Buildings and on the parliamentary website www.parliament.go.ke/the-national-assembly/house-business/bills.

The memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi**; hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi** or emailed to cna@parliament.go.ke to be received on or before **Monday 3rd June, 2024 at 5.00 p.m.**

S. NJOROGE
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
21st May 2024



A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

© Copyright 2024

Team Leader: Joe Okong'o

CONTRIBUTORS:

James Macharia, Noelle Chelagat, Winnie Kiziah, Yaqub Ahmed, Deborah Mupusi, Rinha Saineye, Peter Atsiaya, Mercy Mayende, Fridah Ngari, Lilian Mburugu, Ambrose Munywoki, Murimi Mwangi, Derrick Kathurima, Edith Chepngeno, Ivy Maritim, Calvin Karung'o, Kevin Obillo, Daniel Psirmoi, Hillary Mageka, Dennis Mawira, Jane Goin, Brian Ojamaa

Bunge Weekly is Designed by
KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU
Publishers and Printers