



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION – 2026

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE



Approved
SNA
28/5/26.

REPORT ON-

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PETITION NO. 13 OF 2025 REGARDING REVOCATION OF THE GAZETTEMET OF MUKOGODO FOREST RESERVE AS A PUBLIC FOREST BY HON. SARAH KORERE, MP

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 28 MAY 2026	DAY: Thursday
TABLED BY:	Hon. Maisori Marwa, MP Member, Public Petitions Committee
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Irene Nduku

Directorate of Audit Appropriations &
General-Purpose Committees
Clerk's Chambers
Main Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

MAY, 2026

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ACRONYMS

CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
CFA	Community Forest Association
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
CFA	Community Forest Association
PFMP	Participatory Forest Management Plan

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Public Petitions Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, it is my pleasure and honour to present to the House the Report of the Public Petitions Committee on its consideration of Public Petition No. 13 of 2025 regarding the revocation of the gazettelement of Mukogodo Forest Reserve as a public forest, submitted by Hon. Sarah Korere, M.P., Member for Laikipia North Constituency.

The Petitioners prayed that the National Assembly recommends the revocation of Gazette Notice No. 174 of 1964 and the subsequent gazettelement of 20,189 hectares of Mukogodo Forest as a community forest, allocation of the remaining 10,000 hectares for the resettlement of the Il Ngwesi and Yaaku communities, and any other appropriate interventions to address the challenges faced by the communities.

In considering the Petition, the Committee received submissions from the Petitioner and relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, the National Land Commission, and the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development. The Committee also reviewed the applicable legal and policy framework governing public forests in Kenya.

The Committee observed that Mukogodo Forest Reserve, covering approximately 30,189 hectares, is a gazetted public forest managed by the Kenya Forest Service as part of the national forest estate. The Committee further noted that the Il Ngwesi and Yaaku communities have historically interacted with the forest and currently participate in its management through the Ilmamusi-Mukogodo Community Forest Association under the existing Participatory Forest Management Plan.

While acknowledging the concerns raised by the Petitioners, the Committee found that revocation of the gazettelement of Mukogodo Forest would be inconsistent with the constitutional and statutory framework for the protection of public forests and the achievement of national forest cover targets. The Committee therefore recommends strengthening the existing participatory forest management framework, enhancing community benefits within the current legal structure, and addressing security challenges affecting the area; and enhanced multi-agency security operations, strengthened presence of the Kenya Forest Service within the forest, and a review of the Participatory Forest Management Plan to improve community participation and address implementation gaps.

The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the logistical and technical support provided during the consideration of this Petition. The Chairperson also wishes to thank the Members of the Committee and the Secretariat for their dedication and commitment throughout the process.

On behalf of the Public Petitions Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 199, it is my privilege to table this Report before the House for consideration.

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

PART ONE

1. PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

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

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

1.2 Committee Membership

The Public Petitions Committee was constituted in October 2022 and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS, M.P.
Runyenjes Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Vice Chairperson

Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, M.P.
Turbo Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

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

**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya
(WDM-K)**

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

**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya (WDM-
K)**

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Biego Paul Kibichy, M.P.
Chesumei
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.
Kangema Constituency
Maendeleo Chap Chap Party (MCCP)

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

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

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

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

1.3 Committee Secretariat

The Public Petitions Committee is facilitated by the following members of the secretariat:

Lead Clerk

Mr. Victor Weke

Principal Clerk Assistant II

Ms. Miriam Modo

First Clerk Assistant

Mr. Benard Toroitich

Third Clerk Assistant

Ms. Kafuyai Wamae

Third Clerk Assistant

Mr. Clinton Sindiga

Legal Counsel II

Ms. Nancy Akinyi

Research Officer III

Mr. Arkan Mumin

Research Officer III

Ms. Roselyne Njuki

Principal Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Paul Shana

Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Pascal Valerian

Hansard Officer III

Mr. Collins Mahamba

Audio Officer III

Ms. Felistus Muiya

Public Communication Officer

Ms. Fridah Ngari

Media Relations Officer III

PART TWO

2. BACKGROUND OF THE PETITION

2.1 Introduction

- 1 The Mukogodo Forest Reserve, covering an area of 30,189 hectares, was declared a public forest through Gazette Notice LN. 174 of 1964. It is located on the northwestern side of Mt. Kenya within the expansive plains of Laikipia County.
- 2 The Mukogodo Forest borders four areas designated as community land: Il Ng'wesi to the southeast, Mayianat to the southwest, Shulumai to the northwest, and Lekurruki to the north. It also neighbours the Borana Wildlife Conservancy. The surrounding communities, including the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku, have safeguarded approximately 10,000 hectares of this forest land since the 14th Century.
- 3 In recognition of the forest's importance as a place of residence, a sanctuary for cultural and religious practices, and a source of livelihood, the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities formed the Ilmamusi-Mukogodo Forest Association in 1998 to manage the forest. The Community Forest Association was formally registered in 2008 and became fully operational in 2016 with a duly constituted management committee comprising twenty-four (24) members.
- 4 Due to persistent insecurity, including killings and livestock banditry, the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities were forced to flee the forest. As a result, the area has been occupied illegally, leading to widespread destruction of the forest.
- 5 The displacement of these communities due to banditry has resulted in the loss of lives and property, disruption of education due to school closures, increased livestock theft, and destruction of flora and fauna, among other hardships.
- 6 The Government's efforts to address insecurity in the region have been hindered by numerous challenges, including the rugged terrain, lack of full control, and unclear ownership of the Mukogodo Forest.
- 7 Revoking the gazettelement of Mukogodo Forest as a public forest and reclassifying it as a community forest would significantly benefit the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities. These benefits include enhanced control and management of forest resources, increased community participation in conservation, protection of indigenous rights, promotion of devolved natural resource governance, and improved conflict resolution and social cohesion.
- 8 Despite repeated efforts by the Il Ngwesi and Yaaku communities to seek redress from relevant authorities, no tangible results have been achieved to date.

2.2 Petitioners' Prayers

- 9 The Petitioners pray that the National Assembly, through the Public Petitions Committee–
- i) Recommends that the Gazette Notice No. 174 of 1964 be revoked and the 20,189 hectares of Mukogodo Forest be subsequently gazetted of as a community forest;
 - ii) Recommends that the remaining 10,000 hectares of Mukogodo Forest be allocated for the resettlement of the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities; and
 - iii) Makes any other recommendations it may deem appropriate to address the plight of the Petitioners.

PART THREE

3. STAKEHOLDERS' SUBMISSIONS

3.1 The Petitioners

On Thursday, 12th February, 2026, the Petitioner, Hon. Sarah Korere, M.P, alongside members of the Mukogodo Community Forest Association (CFA), appeared before the Committee and submitted as follows—

- 10 The Mukogodo Forest Reserve, covering an area of 30,189 hectares, was declared a public forest through Gazette Notice LN. 174 of 1964. It is located on the northwestern side of Mt. Kenya within the expansive plains of Laikipia County.
- 11 The Mukogodo Forest borders four areas designated as community land: Il Ng'wesi to the southeast, Mayianat to the southwest, Shulumai to the northwest, and Lekurruki to the north. It also neighbours the Borana Wildlife Conservancy. The surrounding communities, including the Il Ng/wesi and Yaaku, have safeguarded approximately 10,000 hectares of this forest land since the 14th Century.
- 12 In recognition of the forest's importance as a place of residence, a sanctuary for cultural and religious practices, and a source of livelihood, the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities formed the Ilmamusi-Mukogodo Forest Association in 1998 to manage the forest. The Community Forest Association was formally registered in 2008 and became fully operational in 2016 with a duly constituted management committee comprising twenty-four (24) members.
- 13 Due to persistent insecurity, including killings and livestock banditry, the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities were forced to flee the forest. As a result, the area has been occupied illegally, leading to widespread destruction of the forest.
- 14 The displacement of these communities due to banditry has resulted in the loss of lives and property, disruption of education due to school closures, increased livestock theft, and destruction of flora and fauna, among other hardships.
- 15 The Government's efforts to address insecurity in the region have been hindered by numerous challenges, including the rugged terrain, lack of full control, and unclear ownership of the Mukogodo Forest.
- 16 Revoking the gazetterment of Mukogodo Forest as a public forest and reclassifying it as a community forest would significantly benefit the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities. These benefits include enhanced control and management of forest resources, increased community participation in conservation, protection of indigenous rights, promotion of devolved natural resource governance, and improved conflict resolution and social cohesion.
- 17 Regarding the gazetterment of Mukogodo Forest Reserve through Gazette Notice LN.174 of 1964, the Il Ngwesi and Yaaku communities were not aware that the forest had been designated, as the exercise was carried out without community involvement and lacked political goodwill.
- 18 The land is entirely managed by the communities themselves, with no Kenya Forest Service (KFS) offices present within the forest. The forest rangers currently operating in the area are remunerated by the communities. The communities actively manage and conserve the forest through nature-

based activities such as beekeeping and livestock rearing. Additionally, they have implemented zoning strategies to facilitate natural regeneration and ensure the long-term preservation of the forest.

- 19 The petitioners emphasised that the current population of the petitioners is approximately thirty thousand. Within Mukogodo Forest's 10,000 hectares, there are various operational public facilities, including schools and churches. Allocating portions of the forest for the resettlement of the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities would not only secure the land for these communities but also benefit the larger population by formalising access to these existing facilities.
- 20 The petitioners further emphasised that the Government's prolonged neglect of the forest had created a dangerous vacuum, despite the area previously providing significant benefits to the local community. In the absence of any Kenya Forest Service (KFS) presence, the forest has become a refuge for bandits, who exploit the lack of oversight to engage in cattle rustling, violent attacks, and other criminal activities. The situation underscores the urgent need for effective forest management, law enforcement, and community protection measures.
- 21 Additionally, the revocation of Gazette Notice No. LN. 174 of 1964, which designated Mukogodo Forest as a forest reserve, would enable its reclassification as a community forest. This would, in turn, allow the community to revert the area into a conservancy model aimed at promoting eco-tourism and sustainable livelihood initiatives, including beekeeping and other nature-friendly initiatives.
- 22 Despite efforts by the Il Ngwesi and Yaaku communities to seek redress from relevant authorities, no tangible results have been achieved to date.

3.2 Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development

- 23 The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Nixon Korir, vide letter dated 3rd March, 2026, forwarded written submissions and stated that matters relating to the management of forests in Kenya fall within the mandate of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS). Further, the reclassification of Mukogodo Forest is a matter that falls within the purview of the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF).

3.3 National Land Commission

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Land Commission, Ms. Kabale Tache Arero, EBS, vide written submissions dated Tuesday, 10th March, 2026, submitted as follows -

- 24 The petition seeking the revocation of the gazettelement of Mukogodo Forest Reserve as a public forest raises several legally sustainable grounds that demonstrate its merit within the framework of environmental governance and community participation in forest management. The petition is anchored on the historical relationship between the local communities and the forest, the principles of sustainable forest management, and the statutory provisions of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016.
- 25 One of the central merits of the petition is the recognition of the historical and customary relationship between the Il'ngwesi and Yaaku communities and the Mukogodo Forest. The petition demonstrates that the communities have inhabited and protected the forest for several

centuries, maintaining a deep cultural, economic and spiritual connection with the forest ecosystem. Such longstanding occupation and stewardship provide a strong basis for the assertion that the community qualifies as a forest-dependent community whose rights and interests ought to be considered in forest governance. The continuous protection of the forest by the community further illustrates that the forest has historically been preserved through indigenous conservation practices and local knowledge systems.

- 26 Another significant merit of the petition lies in the existence of organized community institutions dedicated to forest management. The Ilmamusu-Mukogodo Forest Association, established in 1998 and formally registered in 2008, represents a structured mechanism through which the local community participates in forest conservation and management. The establishment of such an association demonstrates the community's willingness to cooperate with the State and relevant authorities in ensuring the sustainable utilization of forest resources. The presence of a community forest association also reflects the growing recognition within Kenyan environmental law that effective conservation often requires the participation of local communities who directly depend on the forest resources for their livelihood and cultural identity.
- 27 The petition further highlights the importance of community-based forest management in promoting environmental conservation. It is argued that the displacement of indigenous communities from the forest area has contributed to the emergence of illegal occupation, environmental degradation and destruction of biodiversity within the forest. In this regard, the petition contends that empowering the local community to resume a central role in forest management would strengthen conservation efforts. Community stewardship is often more effective in preventing illegal exploitation because local communities possess intimate knowledge of the forest ecosystem and have a vested interest in ensuring its sustainability for future generations.
- 28 Additionally, the petition raises concerns regarding governance and security challenges affecting the forest area. According to the petitioners, the absence of effective local management structures has made it difficult for the government to address issues such as insecurity and illegal activities within the forest. By granting the community greater control over the forest, the petition suggests that local participation could improve surveillance, enhance accountability and contribute to the protection of the forest against illegal encroachment.
- 29 Section 33 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016. Recognizes the role of individuals and entities in the management and conservation of forests. The section provides that a person who owns a private forest may apply for its registration and may receive technical assistance from the Kenya Forest Service as well as financial support from the Forest Fund for purposes of conservation and development. This provision reflects the legislative intention to promote decentralized and participatory forest management, thereby encouraging private and community involvement in forest conservation.
- 30 Furthermore, Section 34 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016 provides a legal mechanism through which the status of a public forest may be altered. The section states that any person may petition Parliament for the variation of boundaries of a public forest or the revocation of the registration of a public forest or a portion of a public forest. This provision clearly establishes the legal basis upon which the petitioners seek the intervention of Parliament. It also sets out the conditions under which such a revocation may be considered, including the

requirement that the proposed variation must not endanger biodiversity, water catchment areas, or other critical ecological functions of the forest.

- 31 The issues raised in the Petition, particularly those relating to the revocation of the gazettement of Mukogodo Forest Reserve as a public forest and any consequent variation of its legal status, fell primarily within the mandate of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and the institutions established under the Forests Conservation and Management Act, including the framework set out under sections 33 and 34 relating to the declaration, variation, and revocation of public forests.
- 32 Accordingly, the matter was best addressed by the Ministry and the relevant forest sector agencies, which were the competent authorities responsible for the gazettement or degazettement of public forests and any related administrative or legal processes.

3.4 Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry

- 33 Mukogodo Forest Reserve is located in Laikipia County, within Laikipia North Sub- County. Mukogodo Forest Reserve was originally defined by boundary plan no.75/68 LN 89 of 1937 as a forest reserve covering an area of 30,189 Ha. The Forest Reserve was gazetted through a legal notice number 174 of 1964. The forest is a mix of Natural Forest, woodlands, and grassland.
- 34 The forest is managed jointly by Kenya Forest Service as per the Forest Conservation and Management Act Cap 385 and the Mukogodo Community Forest Association (Ilmamusu) which was formed in 2008 with a view to working collaboratively with Kenya Forest Service in the management of the Forest in line with the Mukogodo Participatory Forest Management Plan 2023-2027.
- 35 Mukogodo Forest is an important water catchment area to the surrounding communities as its drained by seasonal rivers which include: Losigiria draining from East of Soisambu Hills and tributaries of Kipsing river such as Sieku Peleta, Sinyai, Katonga and Kopia. In addition, there are several springs within the forest.
- 36 It is a protective forest which has a diverse range of Flora species dominated by indigenous tree species and shrubs including *Olea africana*, *Juniperous procera*, *Croton megalocarpus*, *Acacia abyssinica*, *Teclea simplisifolia* etc.
- 37 The Forest has a diverse range of fauna species which include rare/endangered mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. The animals include: elephant, buffalo, bushbuck, Red Duiker, Impala and Small mammals/rodents.
- 38 The landscape has a high potential for eco-tourism as it lies on an important historical elephant migratory corridor route between the Northern Rangelands and Laikipia, traversing Borana and Lewa Conservancies; Ngare Ndare Forest leading to Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve.
- 39 Under the management agreement signed between Kenya Forest Service and the Community Forest Association (CFA); the community enjoys a number of user rights which include:
 - i) Eco-tourism and recreational facilities;
 - ii) Seedling production and seeds collection;
 - iii) Scientific and Educational activities;
 - iv) Water abstraction;
 - v) Collection of wild fruits, vegetables and roots;

- vi) Grass/fodder harvesting and grazing; and
- vii) Beekeeping and honey harvesting.

- 40 Mukogodo Forest Reserve is a gazetted forest under the management of Kenya Forest Service (KFS) with the responsibility of sustainable management and conservation of the forest. The Ministry is aware of the security challenges affecting Laikipia County; however, insecurity and banditry are matters falling under national security agencies, an issue that is currently being addressed by the multi-agency security operations to contain the situation. In the spirit of multi-agency approach, Kenya Forest Service is working closely with these security agencies and remains committed to ensure normalcy is restored.
- 41 The Ministry is aware that the said communities mentioned above have historically occupied the forest on a seasonal and migratory basis, primarily in search of pasture for their livestock. Consequently, the allegation that the area is illegally occupied is not factual, as the same community has traditionally utilized the forest on a seasonal basis, as provided in the Participatory Forest Management Plan.
- 42 The Ministry is aware of the existence of schools and other social amenities within Mukogodo Forest. The presence of these facilities demonstrates structured community engagement and continued socio-economic benefits under the framework of participatory forest management. The Ministry through the Service is in the process of regularizing these institutions through issuance of Special Use Licence.
- 43 The Ministry is not aware of, nor has it sanctioned, any displacement of the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities from Mukogodo Forest. There has been no eviction, removal, or administrative action undertaken by the Kenya Forest Service that would amount to the displacement of the community as alleged in the Petition.
- 44 On matters relating to alleged loss of life, livestock theft, banditry, and destruction of property falls within the mandate of national security and law enforcement agencies. Such matters are outside the statutory mandate of the Kenya Forest Service as established under Section 8 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act.
- 45 In respect to environmental degradation, the Kenya Forest Service continues to undertake conservation, protection, and surveillance activities within Mukogodo Forest in accordance with the law. Any incidents of illegal activities are addressed through existing enforcement mechanisms provided under the Forest Conservation and Management Act, Cap 385. In light of the foregoing, the Ministry maintains that the allegations of displacement attributed to forest management actions are unfounded and not supported by any official action undertaken by the Service.
- 46 Security matters of this nature fall under the mandate of the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, which is responsible for addressing issues such as banditry, displacement, and general security concerns. Kenya Forest Service will enhance security in the forest. On ownership, Mukogodo is a public forest managed, conserved and protected by Kenya Forest Service.
- 47 Mukogodo Forest Reserve is a gazetted forest vide gazette Notice number 174 of 1964. Under the current arrangements, the community enjoys access and benefits of the forest, as per the existing legal framework. This arrangement does not deny community the right to forest resources in a regulated and sustainable manner while maintaining the status of the forest. This, therefore, negates the need for forest reclassification.

48 The plea by the Petitioners for the de-gazettement of Mukogodo forest Reserve would be contrary to:

- i) Article 69 of the Kenyan constitution obligates the state to work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least ten per cent (10%) of the land area of Kenya. Any revocation of the gazetted forest would be detrimental to this constitutional requirement;
- ii) The current Government plans and Presidential Directive on landscape restoration which requires growing of 15 billion trees by 2032, to achieve 30% tree cover with the objective of addressing climate change and livelihood improvement;
- iii) International Legal Framework, that is United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to which the Government of Kenya is a Signatory;
- iv) The current Forest Management Agreement and the Participatory Forest Management Plan entered into between Kenya Forest Service and Ilmamusu Mukogodo Forest Association, as provided for in the Forest Conservation and Management Act Cap 385; and
- v) Section 8 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act on conservation, management and protection of public forest.

49 The benefits requested in the Petition have already been provided for in the Participatory Forest Management Plan for Mukogodo Forest and the community is currently enjoying those benefits.

50 The proposed de-gazettement of this forest will undermine Kenya's Constitutional and statutory duty to protect its natural heritage for present and future generations, therefore denying the local community and the larger population the enhanced environmental, economic, social and ecological benefits that include carbon sequestration, climate amelioration, biodiversity and water conservation, as well as the creation of green jobs, among others.

PART FOUR

4. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

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

- 51 Mukogodo Forest Reserve is a gazetted public forest under Gazette Notice No. 174 of 1964, covering 30,189 hectares. The Ministry has clarified that the forest is currently managed jointly by the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Ilmamusi-Mukogodo Community Forest Association (CFA) under a formal management agreement and the Mukogodo Participatory Forest Management Plan 2023-2027.
- 52 The Ministry confirmed that the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities already enjoy extensive user rights under the existing legal framework, including: eco-tourism and recreational facilities; seedling production and seed collection; scientific and educational activities; water abstraction; collection of wild fruits, vegetables and roots; grass/fodder harvesting and grazing; and beekeeping and honey harvesting. These benefits are formally provided for in the Participatory Forest Management Plan.
- 53 The Ministry categorically stated that it was not aware of, nor had it sanctioned, any displacement of the Il Ng'wesi and Yaaku communities from Mukogodo Forest. No evictions, removals, or administrative actions had been undertaken by KFS that would amount to displacement. The Ministry contends that the communities have historically occupied the forest on a seasonal and migratory basis for livestock grazing, which continues under the Participatory Forest Management Plan.
- 54 The Ministry clarified that matters of banditry, killings, livestock theft, and general insecurity fall within the mandate of the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, not the Kenya Forest Service. KFS was collaborating with security agencies through a multi-agency approach to address these challenges.
- 55 The Ministry emphasized that de-gazettement of Mukogodo Forest would contravene:
 - i) Article 69 of the Constitution, which obligates the state to achieve and maintain at least 10% tree cover;
 - ii) The Presidential Directive on landscape restoration targeting 15 billion trees by 2032 and 30% tree cover;
 - iii) International obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and UN Convention to Combat Desertification; and
 - iv) Section 8 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act on conservation, management and protection of public forests.
- 56 Mukogodo Forest serves as a critical water catchment area with seasonal rivers and springs, hosts diverse flora and fauna including endangered species, and lies on an important historical elephant migratory corridor connecting Northern Rangelands to Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve. De-gazettement would undermine these ecological functions.
- 57 The Ministry acknowledged the existence of schools and other social amenities within the forest and confirms that KFS is in the process of regularizing these institutions through issuance of Special Use Licences, demonstrating structured community engagement rather than neglect.

58 The Committee noted that vide gazette notice No. 54 dated 26th March 2026 issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Mukogodo Forest was declared as 'disturbed and dangerous'. This has the effect of increasing police operations in the area.

PART FIVE

5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

59 Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the petitioners as follows;

- i) On the Prayer that the Committee recommends revocation of Gazette Notice No. 174 of 1964 and subsequent gazettment of 20,189 hectares of Mukogodo Forest as a community forest; **the Committee rejects this prayer for revocation and reclassification.**

The Committee however recommends that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry should implement the existing joint management framework with the Ilmamusi-Mukogodo Community Forest Association (CFA) under the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016 and the Participatory Forest Management Plan 2023-2027. A report on the same should be submitted to the National Assembly within six (6) months upon tabling of this report.

- ii) On the Prayer that the Committee recommends allocation of the remaining 10,000 hectares of Mukogodo Forest for the resettlement of the Il Ngwesi and Yaaku communities; **the Committee rejects the prayer for allocation of forest land for resettlement.**

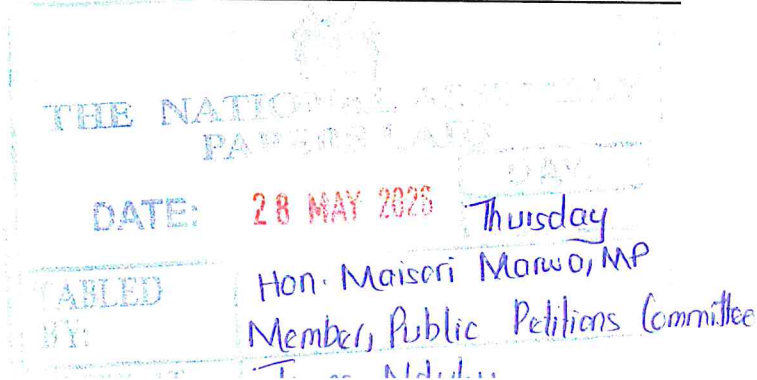
The Committee however recommends that the National Land Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development and the County Government of Laikipia, should investigate any outstanding historical land claims outside the forest reserve. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry should expedite regularization of schools and social amenities through Special Use Licences to secure community access, within three (3) months upon tabling of this report.

- iii) On the prayer that the Committee makes any other recommendations to address the plight of the Petitioners, **the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Interior and National Administration sustains and institutionalizes the ongoing "disturbed and dangerous area" security operations in Mukogodo Forest, including establishment of permanent security infrastructure in the forest, deployment of adequate personnel to ensure long-term stabilization beyond temporary operations; and coordination with the Kenya Forest Service and local community structures to enable safe resumption of participatory forest management once security is restored.**

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

Date: 28/05/28.....

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ANNEXURES

- Annex 1: The Adoption List
- Annex 2: Public Petition No. 13 of 2025 regarding revocation of the gazettment of Mukogodo Forest Reserve as a public forest by Hon. Sarah Korere, MP
- Annex 3: Minutes of proceedings.



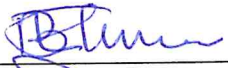





PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

ADOPTION LIST

(i) Consideration and adoption of the P/No. ¹³18 of 2025 Revocation of the gazettment of Mukogodo Forest Reserve as a public forest by Hon. Sarah Korere, MP.

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

DATE: 7/5/2026

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

