



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THE HANSARD**

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

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# THE HANSARD

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026

*(The House met at 2.30 p.m.)*

*[The Speaker (Hon. Moses Wetang'ula) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

QUORUM

**Hon. Speaker:** Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Quorum Bell.

*(The Quorum Bell was rung)*

Hon. Naomi, where are the Whips?

*(Hon. Naomi Waqo spoke off the record)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, we now have a quorum to transact business.

*(Several Members entered the Chamber)*

Members on their feet, please, take your seats.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

DELEGATION FROM THE  
PARLIAMENT OF THE UK

Hon. Members, allow me to introduce to you a delegation from the Parliament of the United Kingdom, who are seated in the Speaker's Gallery. The delegation, which is drawn from the diverse cross-party political spectrum of the United Kingdom, comprises the following:

1. Hon. Fleur Anderson, MP, Member of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Labour Party Member of Parliament for Putney and the Leader of the delegation.
2. Rt. Hon. Richard Holden, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport and Conservative Party Member of Parliament for Basildon and Billericay.
3. Rt. Hon. Sureena Brackenridge, MP, Member, Select Committee on Education and Labour Party Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East.

4. Hon. Peter Bedford, MP, Member of the Select Committee on Work and Pensions, and Conservative Member of Parliament for Mid Leicestershire.

*(Applause)*

The delegation is accompanied by three staffers from the UK Parliament and officers from the British High Commission in Nairobi. It is visiting the National Assembly to engage with, among others, the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, and the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on areas of mutual interest, including regional security, trade and investment, climate and development cooperation, governance, and strengthening bilateral relations between our two nations.

Hon. Members, on my behalf and that of the National Assembly, I welcome them to Parliament and wish them fruitful engagements. I also encourage them to savour Kenya's rich culture and tourism diversity.

I thank you.

*(Applause)*

*(Several Hon. Members walked into the Chamber)*

Members at the Bar, take the nearest seats. Hon. KJ, where is the nearest seat?

*(Laughter)*

GUIDANCE ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE  
TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

Hon. Members, I have another Communication on the consideration of the Tea (Amendment) Bill, 2023. I wish to convey that my office is in receipt of a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 from Dr John Kennedy Omanga, writing on behalf of Tea Farmers in Nyeri County. In the letter, he raises concern with the manner in which the House considered the Tea (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 1 of 2023). He alleges that a Member of Parliament significantly participated in the deliberations without declaring his interest, as required by the law.

Dr Omanga claims he followed the proceedings of the House on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 during consideration of the Bill. He raises concern with the contribution to the debate by the Member for Gatundu South, Hon. GG Kagombe, without declaring to the House that he is a sitting Director of Theta Tea Factory Company Limited, KTDA Holdings Limited and Majani Insurance Brokers Limited. It is Dr Omanga's claim that the operations of the three companies are a direct subject of the Bill.

Hon. Members, in support of the claims, the CR12 forms of the three companies, indicating Hon. Member as a Director as of January 2026, are attached to this letter. Dr Omanga claims that the Member for Gatundu South's failure to declare his directorships of the three companies to the House compromised the debate on the Bill and questions the validity of the proceedings taken on the Bill. Consequently, he requests that all proceedings on the Tea (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be declared null and void.

*(Several Members entered the Chamber)*

Hon. Members at the Bar, take the nearest seats.

Hon. Members, the ethical requirements imposed on Members of Parliament, with respect to personal interests and the discharge of their mandate, are clearly outlined in the Constitution, statute law, and the Standing Orders. Article 73(2) of the Constitution. They entrench selfless service based solely on public interest as a guiding principle of leadership and integrity. It further provides that selfless service must be demonstrated by honesty in the execution of public duties and the declaration of any personal interest that may conflict with public duties. Additionally, Article 122(3) of the Constitution expressly bars a Member of Parliament from voting on a matter in which he or she has a pecuniary interest. With respect to the statutory framework that actualises the foregoing provisions of the Constitution, Section 11 of the Conflict of Interest Act, 2025, obligates Members of Parliament to disclose any direct pecuniary interest in matters before the House, its committees, or in related transactions and communications. Notably, the Section provides that disclosure of a direct interest does not automatically disentitle a Member from participation in proceedings. Subsection (3) empowers the Speaker or a Committee Chairperson to allow a Member to participate in the deliberations after considering the nature, extent and effect of the disclosed interest.

On its part, the Fourth Schedule to the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act (Cap. 6) prescribes the code of conduct applicable to Members of Parliament. Paragraph 6 of the Code, which all Members subscribed to upon taking their oath of office, requires Members to register and declare any financial and non-financial interests that would either affect or be seen to affect the discharge of their mandate. The paragraph provides that:

(1) Members of the House shall—

1. Register with the relevant Speaker all financial and non-financial interests that may reasonably influence their parliamentary actions.
2. Before contributing to debate in the House or its Committees, or communicating with State Officers or other public servants, declare any relevant interest in the context of parliamentary debate or the matter under discussion.
3. Observe any rules agreed in the House in respect of financial support for Members or the facilities of the House.

(2) A relevant interest is an interest that may be seen by a reasonable member of the public to influence the way in which a Member discharges his or her parliamentary duties.

Additionally, Hon. Members, the Standing Orders adopted by the House expand the scope of the disclosure required to all personal interests. Standing Order 90 provides that personal interests include proprietary interests, personal, and business relationships. Consequently, the Standing Orders broaden the ethical obligations on Members to include disclosure of both financial and non-financial interests that may reasonably give rise to a perception of bias, influence or conflict.

Hon. Members, the provisions I have recited are not new to you. Members are fully aware of the ethical obligations relating to their office, which is a public trust. Indeed, my predecessor, Speaker Justin Muturi, had occasion to address this very matter exhaustively in a Communication on Declaration of Interest issued on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. At the time, the

Chairperson of the then Departmental Committee on Education and Research had sought guidance on the interpretation of Standing Order 90 on:

1. The manner in which Members are to declare interest and in what form the declaration should be made.
2. Whether a Member who declares a possible conflict of interest should be allowed to participate fully in the ensuing discussions of the committee.
3. Whether a Member who declares a possible conflict of interest should take part in the vetting of a nominee for appointment to a public office.

The request for guidance arose out of the deliberations of the then Departmental Committee on Education and Research with officials from the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) at a time when some members of the Committee concurrently served in the governing organs of the two Trade Unions.

Hon. Members, while noting that the Constitution, relevant Statutes, and the Standing Orders seek to engender a culture of probity and resolution of any personal interest in favour of the public interest, Speaker Muturi guided in summary as follows:

1. Standing Order 90 does not preclude Members who have procedurally declared their interest in a matter from participating in the debate on the matter in the committee or the House. The only express prohibition to the exercise of a Member's constitutional role is with regard to voting on a matter in which the Member has a direct pecuniary interest under Article 122 of the Constitution, as qualified by Article 116(3) of the Constitution.
2. Any Member with an interest in a matter under consideration should declare the interest before the commencement of the meeting or at any other time during debate, whenever the particular matter arises and recuse themselves from the ensuing deliberations as may be directed.
3. Article 122(3) of the Constitution does not grant a Member the leeway to simply declare interest, proceed to fully participate in the ensuing debate, and only recuse himself or herself during voting. Upon declaration of interest, the Chairperson of a committee or the Speaker, as the case may be, may require the particular Member to recuse himself or herself during debate on the matter, in addition to barring such Member from actual voting on the matter in question, whether by voice vote or any other form of voting.

*(Several Members entered the Chamber)*

Members at the back, take the nearest seats. Leader of the Minority Party, where is the nearest seat? Thank you.

Hon. Members, it cannot be gainsaid that the obligation to declare interest of whatsoever nature is abundantly clear to all Members and constitutes an established practice of the House. This is a topic that was addressed during the general induction of Members at the commencement of the 13th Parliament and during the committee inductions that followed. Hardly any sitting of the House is concluded without one or more Members having declared their interests on the business transacted by the House. In this regard, a concern has been raised that a particular business transaction was conducted without disclosure of a relevant interest, which warrants serious consideration.

I have reviewed the records of the House and, indeed, those of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock in the consideration of the Bill in question. From the

records, it is apparent that the Hon. Member for Gatundu South did declare that he is a director of a company in the tea sector during proceedings of the Committee, in which he is a member.

However, a review of the Hansard of Thursday, 12th March 2026, when the Bill was partly considered in the Committee of the Whole House, reveals that Hon. Kagombe did make substantive contributions on governance of tea factories and the proposed framework for their management and oversight, without declaring his interest in accordance with the Standing Orders. The contributions were substantive and directly related to the provisions under consideration.

Without delving into the merits of Hon. Kagombe's contribution to the debate and its possible influence on the amendments considered by the Committee of the whole House on the Bill, you will agree that the Member's failure to declare his obvious interest casts doubt on the probity of the deliberations. Any reasonable citizen would rightly question whether the declaration of interest would have influenced the House in its consideration of the Bill.

I am persuaded, to some extent, that the concern raised on the failure by Hon. Kagombe to declare his interest is valid. Failure to address the concern may, in my view, cast any subsequent decisions taken on the Bill in an unfavourable light. As the House is yet to dispense with the Bill, an opportunity exists for the House to remedy the unfortunate and avoidable lapse by the Hon. Member. In this regard, I therefore direct that the Committee of the whole House on the Tea (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 1 of 2023) be done afresh without any reference to the proceedings of 12th March, 2026, on the Bill, at the appropriate time.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 107A (1)(e) provides that the failure to declare personal interest in a matter before the House or a Committee in accordance with Standing Order 90 constitutes an act of disorderly conduct. Paragraph (2) of Standing Order 107A empowers the Speaker to call a Member whose conduct is disorderly to order, and caution the Member or order the Member to withdraw from the precincts of the Assembly for a maximum of four days.

I note that the Hon. Member for Gatundu South is currently serving his first term in Parliament. I will assume he was not aware that, despite declaring his interest before the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, he was still required and obligated to declare the same interest in the House during its consideration of the Bill.

In light of the directive for the Committee of the Whole House on the Bill to be redone, I caution Hon. Kagombe for his conduct in this matter. I further take this opportunity to remind all of us to strictly adhere to the ethical requirements of the high offices entrusted to us by the public to avoid any recurrence of this unfortunate incident.

The House is accordingly guided. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): On a point of order, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Millie.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for that clarity because, at one point, I was a bit concerned. I thought we had actually dispensed with the Bill, in which case it should have gone to court. However, given that we have not

dispensed with it, I think it is a good thing that it comes back to the Floor for consideration so that there is no doubt.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): On that note, I want to state, for avoidance of doubt, that on the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, I have consistently said that I have no child. However, I cannot declare interest beyond that, even though I know that during the prayer breakfast yesterday, there was a woman who had children at 62. I am not yet 60, but I have no intention of having a child.

**Hon. Speaker:** You still have a chance.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): From what I heard yesterday, I still have a chance, but I have no intention of having a child. Because of that, I cannot declare an interest. Therefore, there is no conflict because I have no intention of having a child.

I also want to bring to the attention of the House, as a Whip, perhaps you may have noticed, that our women Members of Parliament are not here, but they will be joining us shortly. They are attending the presidential launch of the ‘Every Woman, Every Newborn Everywhere Accelerated Plan’ and the ‘Maternal and Newborn Health Rapid Results Initiative’ to help us deal with the reproductive challenges women face and also to protect our children.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Did you say women Members of Parliament are not here, or some women MPs are not here?

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Some women Members of Parliament, even though somebody like me... I am a man.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Ichung’wah.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Speaker, allow me first to commend you on that Communication, and to note that, in your Communication, you have opted not to take any action against the disorderly conduct of Hon. Kagombe.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Being a member of my Coalition, I thank you for sparing him the rod. However, this should be no excuse in the future because the Parliamentary Service Commission, which you chair, conducted an extensive induction programme for all Members of Parliament, including our new Members of Parliament. Probably these are some of the things that we take for granted; that you do not find it important to declare an interest, especially in a matter where you have a pecuniary interest. The fact that Hon. Kagombe had a pecuniary interest in the tea sector means he ought to have declared his interest.

**Hon. Speaker:** In not one, but three.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): The three companies, as you said, are Majani Insurance Brokers, Theta Tea Factory, and KTDA Holdings Limited. May this be a lesson to the rest of us that we must declare any interest that we hold, especially where we have pecuniary interest. I say this because I also see a lot of these things happening in the run-up to the Finance Bill. Those with interests in betting companies are running all over, trying to lobby colleagues to support proposals, especially in the betting industry and in some manufacturing industries.

We, as House leadership, have resisted this. I also say this on behalf of the Whips on both the Majority and the Minority sides. We have resisted the desire by many Members to be placed on committees where they have pecuniary interests. I know these leaders are usually under immense pressure because people want to sit on committees where they have interests. That is the reason why the Clerk's Office usually asks for our CVs when we are newly elected. So, we know where Members have pecuniary interests. Therefore, spare us the urge and pressure to place you on committees where you have an interest. We will continue to resist that pressure. I commend you for that Communication. More importantly, Hon. Speaker, you have taken decisive measures as the Speaker of this 13th Assembly to continue protecting the dignity of this House.

The other matter is the one brought before this House by the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education. The matter is now before the Powers and Privileges Committee. Indeed, the decision that was taken by the House protects the dignity of the House. It is because when one of us gets out of line, in whatever nature, whether it is on a matter like this, where one does not declare interest, it is the House that looks bad. I wanted to thank you, Hon. Speaker, because you are, indeed, protecting the dignity of all of us and this House as an institution.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I encourage you to read and re-read the Conflict of Interest Act again that you passed in this House. It will help you.

Hon. Members, allow me one minute to acknowledge students seated in the galleries. In the Speaker's Gallery, we have students from Itigo Girls High School in Chesumei, Nandi County, and from Njega Boys High School in Kirinyaga Central, Kirinyaga County. In the Public Gallery, we have students from Oiti Glory School from Kajiado Central, Kajiado County; Saint Anselm Mururi from Maara, Tharaka Nithi County; and Sere Olipi School from Samburu East, Samburu County.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the House, we welcome the students, their teachers and those accompanying them to the House.

Hon. Members, also allow me, on my own behalf and on behalf of the House, to welcome your colleague Hon. Ferdinand Kevin Wanyonyi, the Member of Parliament for Kwanza Constituency in Trans Nzoia County.

*(Applause)*

As you are aware, Hon. Ferdinand has been facing serious health challenges, which Parliament intervened in by facilitating treatment in India, where he underwent specialised care. He has now returned. Unfortunately, Hon. Ferdinand currently has a challenge with speech and is undergoing speech therapy, but we thank God that he is back, just like our colleague the Member for Mosop. We welcome you back to the House, Hon. Ferdinand.

*(Applause)*

The condition in which Hon. Ferdinand is now also challenges the management of Parliament to think seriously about sign language in the proceedings of the House. As it is now, Hon. Ferdinand's vocals are not functioning. He can hear what you say, but he cannot speak. Therefore, sign language interpretation at some point will become very necessary.

Welcome, Hon. Ferdinand. You may now take your seat.

Next Order.

## MESSAGES

### NOMINATION OF PERSONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE NG-CDF BOARD

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members on their feet, take your seats. Hon. GK, take the nearest seat.

Hon. Members, I have a Message from the Executive. Under the provisions of Standing Order 42(4), I wish to report to the House that I have received a Message from the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning regarding the nomination of persons for appointment to the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Board.

In the Message, the Cabinet Secretary conveys that, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 15(1)(a) of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Act, Cap 41 (4) (a), he nominates the following persons for appointment to the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Board:

1. Ms Komora Yvonne Nzunzu
2. Ms Manyanga Yvonne Boyani
3. Mr Mutua Fidelis Kiketi
4. Mr Maurice Butita Kaaka

The Cabinet Secretary now seeks the approval of the National Assembly as required under Section 15(1)(a) and (4) of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Act. Standing Order 45 provides that upon receipt of notification of a nomination for appointment, such nomination shall stand committed to the relevant committee for consideration. In this regard, I hereby refer the Message from the Cabinet Secretary, together with the Curriculum Vitae and other testimonials of the nominees, to the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Committee for consideration.

The National Government Constituencies Development Fund Act does not prescribe the period within which the National Assembly should approve nominees to the Board. However, Section 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F) provides that unless otherwise provided in law, a committee to which such nomination is referred shall consider the matter and table a report in the House within 28 days.

The Committee is therefore required to immediately commence the approval process, notify the nominees and the general public of the time and place for the approval hearings, and thereafter table its report to enable the House to consider the matter within the set statutory timelines. You are accordingly guided.

Yes, Hon. Millie Odhiambo.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On my own behalf and the people of Suba North, I welcome back Hon. Ferdinand. Indeed, you have raised a very cardinal issue regarding communication, especially sign language and braille. But perhaps it should not be limited to Members who have challenges. It is a challenge that the entire Parliament should take up because we do not know when such situations may affect any one of us. I have actually seen situations where Members came into this House walking normally and later left with disabilities. We have now seen Hon. Ferdinand unable to speak. So, it is really a challenge for all of us to communicate effectively with people who are differently abled.

DEATH OF STUDENTS IN THE FIRE TRAGEDY  
AT UTUMISHI GIRLS ACADEMY IN GILGIL

I also wish to inform the House that, unfortunately, we lost a record 16 girls at Utumishi Academy today. I wish to request that the House observe a moment of silence for the girls who have lost their lives. It is a very unfortunate incident that we have faced today as a country. I am sure we shall be discussing it later, especially regarding security, the safety of our girls, emergency response systems, and the challenges already noted. For now, however, I request that, if agreeable, we observe a moment of silence for the girls who have died.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Millie. Indeed, the tragedy in Gilgil is something that the House takes note of. Before I say something, Hon. Milemba Omboko.

**Hon. Omboko Milemba** (Emuhaya, ANC): Hon. Speaker, thank you for this chance. As we welcome Hon. Wanyonyi back, it opens up discussion within the labour sector on the need to have people who assist those who may not have speech or other abilities required to effectively execute their work.

We already have many such persons in the teaching sector, including caregivers who are currently struggling to get proper legal recognition so that they can be remunerated appropriately. A section of them is already remunerated, yes, but you can now see that Parliament may need to come up with proper legislation to address such situations which may arise even among ourselves. Caregivers and assistants can be legally recognised and properly remunerated for the work they do alongside persons living with disabilities. That situation has been very prominent in the teaching sector and has now come to Parliament. We should possibly consider solutions.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my condolences to the parents, students and the entire Utumishi Girls Academy fraternity, which was affected by the fire. I wish them the very best as they rebuild their community.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us have Hon. Oundo.

**Hon (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo** (Funyula, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On my behalf and that of the people of Funyula, I sincerely thank the National Assembly and the Parliament of Kenya in general for dedicating time and resources to ensure that our colleague Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi, recovers and can go on with his life. The people of Funyula have an attachment to Hon. Wanyonyi because his spouse comes from Funyula Constituency. We continuously prayed for his quick recovery because we knew that any eventuality would affect us just as it would affect the people of Kwanza.

Second, many learners are being affected by hearing impairment, as Hon. Milemba has said. There are about five cases of boys and girls in both senior and junior secondary schools in my constituency with hearing impairments. I hope Hon (Dr) Nyikal, the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, will provide policy guidance on how to address that issue.

Finally, I also join Kenyans in extending my sincere condolences to the families of the girls who lost their lives at Utumishi Girls Academy in Gilgil. When the news filtered through in the morning, the energy and courage that I had mustered to attend the National Prayer Breakfast just dissipated. I decided to stay in the house and condole with the parents, guardians, and the entire school fraternity. Children should go to school to learn and acquire knowledge, not to die. To the entire Utumishi Girls Academy fraternity, *ninasema pole sana* on my behalf and that of the people of Funyula Constituency.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us have Hon. Robert Mbui.

**Hon. Robert Mbui** (Kathiani, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to join my colleagues in extending my condolences to the families, friends, neighbours and everyone who has been affected in one way or another by the tragedy that has befallen our children. I also welcome back our colleague, Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi, Member for Kwanza, and wish him a quick recovery. My grandfather once suffered a similar stroke and later recovered. It is possible to recover and regain speech.

When I was injured after the 2017 elections, Hon. Wanyonyi was among the first Members of Parliament to visit me in the hospital. One of my legs was completely broken, so I had to be on crutches for several months. I asked Parliament to support me because I had limited mobility while on crutches. I could not even carry a plate of food. I asked Parliament to support me by providing me with an assistant during that period. I got a very interesting answer from the Parliamentary Service Commission. They asked me to register with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD). I knew that my problem would not be permanent. Hon. David Sankok was a Member of the House, and he used to call himself my Chairman, but I refused because even though I would have enjoyed certain benefits from registering as a disabled person, it would not have been fair. The Parliamentary Service Commission may need to consider temporary cases of disabilities.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Unfortunately, Hon. Robert, as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Service Commission, I should inform you that the directive is contained in the Human Resource Manual Guidelines issued by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. For Hon. Samal, Hon. Tim Wanyonyi, Hon. Bishop Kosgei and Hon. Ferdinand to get support, they need a certificate from the NCPWD. Two Members asked for support with their disabilities. When we sent them for checkups as required by the law, the doctors declared them not to be disabled. So, that certificate helps. If you are the decent person I know you to be, once you have fully recovered and thrown away your crutches, you should return the certificate and inform the House accordingly.

Yes, Hon. Murugara.

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker, for what you did for Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi, not once or twice, but on many occasions. I saw you visiting him in India to confirm his health status and wellbeing, and to ensure that he gets the best treatment. That is a good example of servant leadership. You must ensure that the people you serve are well cared for.

I associate myself with the sentiments expressed on Hon. Wanyonyi losing his voice. He needs special care and attention. Everybody knows Hon. Wanyonyi was one of the best debaters in this House. He contributed to debates on Bills and Motions; therefore, he needs to be enabled to continue doing what he does best.

Second, I also join the rest of the country in mourning those young angels of Utumishi Girls Academy who lost their lives. On my behalf and that of the people of Tharaka, I wish to extend my sincere condolences because those girls were innocent angels, but a fire tragedy has caused us intense grief. As we pray that their souls rest in peace, we also pray that we do the best we can as a country to support the parents and the traumatised girls who have been left behind. They require our care and attention so that their lives can return to normalcy.

Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, at Hon. Millie's request and no doubt on behalf of the Member for Gilgil, Hon. Martha Wangari, who I saw on television in Gilgil trying to assist the families, we shall remain upstanding and observe a minute of silence.

*(Members stood up in their places and observed a moment of silence)*

May the souls of those little angels rest in eternal peace, and may those who were injured recover quickly.

Next Order.

## PETITIONS

**Hon. Speaker:** Members on their feet, take your seats. I will convey two petitions to the House.

### REGULARISATION OF CLAIMS ON VARIOUS FORESTS

Hon. Members, Article 119 of the Constitution accords any person the right to petition Parliament to consider any matters within its authority. Further, Standing Order 225(2)(b) requires the Speaker to report to the House any Petition other than those presented by a Member. In this regard, I wish to report to the House that my office has received a Petition from the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry regarding the regularisation of various public forest land claims.

The Petitioner states that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry received a Presidential Directive vide Ref. OP/CAB.26/1/3A/VOL.XI/(7), dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025, on processing and issuance of Title Deeds for Resettled Residents of Kipkabus Forest, Elgeyo Marakwet County. Further, the Petitioner states that the Cabinet had sanctioned the Petition vide letter Ref. CAB (15)81 REV, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, and the Kenya Forest Service Board, Ref: KFS/BOARD5/2025(447), dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

The Petitioner avers that Kipkabus Forest covers 10420.1 hectares, which includes:

- a. Kipkabus forest land, measuring 6503.6 Hectares, gazetted vide Legal Notice No. 57 of 1941 and divided into five blocks, namely Kipkabus, measuring 2733.2 hectares; Tingwa, measuring 914.6 hectares; Tumeiyo, measuring 581.5 hectares; Kapchorua, measuring 287.3 hectares; and Metkei, measuring 1987.0 hectares.
- b. Ex-East African Tanning Extract Company (EX-EATEC), measuring 3916.6 hectares, gazetted vide Legal Notice No. 2378 of 2nd September 1977 as an addition to Kipkabus Forest.

The Petitioner contends that the forest areas have diminished due to non-formalised excisions, exchanges, and encroachments, hence the need to regularise settled areas through due process of law to save the forests from degradation.

Hon. Members, the Petitioner further states that in view of the long-standing settlement and historical government-sanctioned resettlement, the Ministry is petitioning the National Assembly to approve the de-gazettement of the occupied portions of Kipkabus Forest to allow survey, adjudication, and issuance of title deeds to *bona fide* residents while preserving the remaining forest for conservation.

The Petitioner concludes by praying that the National Assembly:

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1. Urgently approve the variation of the boundaries of the public forests comprised of Kipkabus Forest of approximately 4111.2 hectares.
2. Parliament considers the Petition and issues appropriate resolutions in accordance with Article 119 of the Constitution and Section 34 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 385).

Having confirmed that the issues raised in this Petition fall squarely within the jurisdiction of this House and that they are not before any court or constitutional body, I hereby commit the Petition to the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining.

The Committee is to expeditiously consider the Petition and report to the House in accordance with the Petitions to Parliament (Procedure) Act (Cap. 7E), Section 34 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act of 2016 (Cap. 385) and Standing Order 227(2).

#### REFORM OF SUCCESSION LAW AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES IN KENYA

The next Petition regards the reform of the succession law and the administration of estates in Kenya. Article 119 of the Constitution accords any person the right to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority. Further, Standing Order 225(2)(b) requires the Speaker to report to the House any Petition other than that presented by a Member. In this regard, I wish to report to the House that my office has received a Petition from the former Governor of Taita/Taveta County, Eng. John Mruttu of ID. No. 48xxx62 and 22 others regarding the reform of succession law and the administration of estates in Kenya.

The petitioners state that a substantial proportion of productive assets in Kenya, particularly land, remain registered in the names of deceased persons due to delayed succession processes, and that, in many instances, the process is not completed for periods ranging from 20 to 40 years after the passing of the deceased. The Petitioners aver that succession procedures under the current legal framework are complex, costly and inaccessible to ordinary citizens. Further, such procedures involve multiple steps, including court filings, gazettelement, legal representation, valuation, and registry processes, which collectively create barriers to access.

Hon. Members, the petitioners are concerned that delayed succession constrains economic growth by hindering the use of assets as collateral, transfer efficiency, and investor confidence. This has led to limited access to credit, reduced agricultural productivity, increased disputes, pressure on the judiciary, and inefficiencies in asset markets. The petitioners submit that although succession is fundamentally a legal and administrative matter governed by the Law of Succession Act (Cap. 160), the current legal and administrative framework does not adequately facilitate accessible, affordable and timely succession procedures. The petitioners state that international experience demonstrates that simplified procedures, administrative settlement mechanisms, decentralised probate services, and digitisation can significantly improve outcomes while safeguarding beneficiaries.

The petitioners, therefore, pray that the National Assembly, through the Public Petitions Committee:

1. Initiates a review and amendment of the Law of Succession Act (Cap. 160) to provide simplified succession procedures for small estates, administrative settlement of uncontested estates, as well as expanded and decentralised probate services across the country.
2. Calls for review and rationalisation of costs associated with succession processes, promotion of digitisation and integration of succession, civil

registration and land administration systems, and strengthening mediation and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in succession matters.

3. Takes any other legislative and administrative measures necessary to facilitate timely, accessible, and equitable succession processes in Kenya.

Having determined that the matters raised by the petitioners are well within the authority of this House, I hereby commit the petition to the Public Petitions Committee for consideration pursuant to Standing Order 208A. The Committee is required to consider the Petition and report its findings to the House and the petitioners in accordance with Standing Order 227(2).

### PAPERS

Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. Naomi Waqo** (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

1. Legal Notice No. 89 of 2026 relating to the National Cybersecurity Agency Order of 2026 from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.
2. Annual Report of the Office of the Controller of Budget for the financial year ended 30th June 2025.
3. Quarterly Economic and Budgetary Review (Third Quarter) for the Financial Year 2025/2026 from the National Treasury.
4. Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Public Investment Management Information Systems.
5. The 2026 Economic Survey Report (the Popular Version and Facts and Figures) from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.
6. Annual Report of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I lay.

**Hon. Speaker:** Chairperson of the Public Petitions Committee, Hon. Kitayama.

**Hon. Maisori Kemero** (Kuria East, UDA): I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

Reports of the Public Petitions Committee on its consideration of the following—

1. Public Petition No. 78 of 2023 by Mr Bernard Muchere regarding the National Health Insurance Fund Ineligible Incurred but Not Reported (IBNR) Claims of over Ksh21 billion captured in the financial year ending 30th June 2022.
2. Public Petition No. 81 of 2023 by Hon. Owen Yaa Baya regarding Gazettement of Kaya Forest as a forest area under the Forest Conservation and Management Act.
3. Public Petition No. 9 of 2024 by Hon. Mark Mwenje regarding an ownership dispute of land parcel L.R. No. 209-11970 Dandora/Mowlem in Nairobi.
4. Public Petition No. 18 of 2024 by Hon. Brighton Yegon regarding hydropower generation by Kenya Tea Development Authority.
5. Public Petition No. 3 of 2025 by Hon. John Bwire regarding the alleged illegal acquisition of trust land LR No. 249 of 1963 by the government in Taita Taveta County.

6. Public Petition No. 13 of 2025 by Hon. Sarah Korere regarding revocation of the gazettement of Mukogodo Forest Reserve as a public forest.

*(Technical hitch)*

## MOTIONS

### ALTERATION OF THE CALENDAR OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, notwithstanding the resolution of the House of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 28(4) (Calendar of the Assembly), this House resolves to alter its Calendar, so as to—

- (a) Commence short recess of the Second Part of the Fifth Session on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 until Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026;
- (b) Resume regular sittings of the Second Part of the Fifth Session on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2026 until Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026;
- (c) Comments on the long recess of the Second Part of the Fifth Session on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026;
- (d) Commence the Third Part of the Fifth Session regular sittings on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2026 until Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026; and
- (e) Commence a short recess of the Third Part of the Fifth Session on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026 until Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026.

Hon. Speaker, this alteration of the Calendar emanates from the fact that we altered our recess because of the National Prayer Breakfast that we had this morning. We have resumed a week earlier. So, this is to balance off the weeks. Members will recall that we usually do about five weeks, then take a break for about two or three weeks, and then resume for another session of about five weeks.

So, we are just re-aligning our Calendar so that it fits into that arrangement and we maintain the same timelines towards the end of the Session in early December, that is, the first week of December, when we take the long recess and also considering that next year we shall have to resume at least two weeks earlier because of elections later that year.

Hon. Speaker, with that, I beg to move and request Hon. Junet Mohamed, the Leader of the Minority Party, to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Junet.

**Hon. Junet Mohamed** (Suna East, ODM): Hon. Speaker, I second.

*(Hon. Stephen Mule and Hon. Naomi Waqo entered the Chamber)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Mule and Hon. Naomi Waqo, take the nearest seat.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Members:** Put the Question

**Hon. Speaker:** I confirm that this matter has been approved by the House Business Committee.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next Order.

#### RECONSTITUTION OF SPECIFIED COMMITTEES

**Hon. Speaker:** Leader of the Majority Party and Chairperson of the Committee on Selection.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, notwithstanding the resolutions of the House of Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026, appointing Members to various Committees and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 175, this House resolves to—

1. Reconstitute the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education as follows—
  - (a) Hon. Ong'ondo Boyd Were
  - (b) Hon. Karitho Kiili Daniel
  - (c) Hon. Bonaya Mumina Gollo
  - (d) Hon. Mwenje Mark Samuel
  - (e) Hon. Wamacukuru James Githua Kamau
  - (f) Hon. (Eng.) Nzambia Kithua Thuddeus
  - (g) Hon. Bisau Maurice Kakai
  - (h) Hon. Ithinji Shadrack Mwiti
  - (i) Hon. Chiforomodo Mangale Munga
  - (j) Hon. Alfah Ondieki Miruka
  - (k) Hon. Sigei Francis Kipyegon Arap
  - (l) Hon. Tubi Mohamed Tubi
  - (m) Hon. Tonkei Rebecca Noonaishi
  - (n) Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine
  - (o) Hon. Oyugi Dick Maungu
2. Approve the appointment of the following Members to the respective Committees as specified hereunder—

#### OTHER SELECT COMMITTEES

##### **Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee**

1. Hon. Mwangi Teresia Wanjiru to replace Hon. Mukunji John Gitonga.
2. Hon. Keter David Kipsang to replace Hon. Kitur Bernard Kibor.

##### **Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity**

Hon. Wamboka Jack Wanami to replace Hon. Oyugi Dick Maungu.

##### **Committee on Members' Services and Facilities**

Hon. Mukunji John Gitonga to replace Hon. Mwangi Teresia Wanjiru.

FINANCIAL AUDIT AND MONEY-RELATED COMMITTEES**Special Funds Accounts Committee**

Hon. Koyi John Waluke to replace Hon. Otucho Mary Emaase.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES**Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning**

Hon. Wamuchomba Gathoni to replace Hon. Maina Betty Njeri.

**Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works**

Hon. Tonui Joseph Kipkosgei to fill a vacancy in the Committee.

**Departmental Committee on Regional Development**

Hon Keter David Kipsang to replace Hon. Wamuchomba Gathoni.

**Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure**

Hon. Maina Betty Njeri to fill a vacancy in the Committee.

**Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation**

Hon. Tubi Mohamed Tubi to replace Hon. Tonui Joseph Kipkosgei.

**Departmental Committee on Education**

Hon. Kombe Harrison Garama to replace Hon. Oyugi Dick Maungu.

The Speaker directed, at the beginning of this Session, the Committee on Selection through the Party Whips, to accommodate the new Members who had not been assigned committees. The Committee met, under the guidance of the Whips, and reconstituted the committees as stipulated in the Order Paper. We have now accommodated all the new Members into committees.

As you are also aware, there is still a vacancy of the Member for OI Kalou, whom we unfortunately lost. We have left some vacancies. We hope that immediately after the (*technical hitch*), changes will emanate from that by-election as we accommodate the new Member. There is a bit of realignment.

*(Technical hitch)*

I beg to move and request the Leader of the Minority Party, Hon. Junet Mohamed, to second.

**Hon. Junet Mohamed** (Suna East, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to second the Motion. The committee changes were largely occasioned by the two new Members who joined us after the recent by-elections: the Member for Emurua Dikirr and the Member for Isiolo North. There is also the Member for Magarini, who was not properly placed in committees. We will have other changes after the by-election in OI Kalou Constituency.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

*(Several Members stood in their places)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Members on their feet, take your seats. Member on his feet, talking to Hon. Wamacukuru, take your seat.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Do I put the question?

**Hon. Members:** Put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Next Order.

## QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us go back to the Request for Statements.

### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo, Member for Kajiado North.

#### MURDER OF REV. JULIUS NDUMIA

**Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo** (Kajiado North, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I wish to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security regarding the murder of Rev. Julius Ndumia Ngari, parish minister of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) Tabuga Parish, Nakuru East Presbytery.

Reverend Julius Ndumia Ngari was reportedly murdered on the 4th of May 2026, within the PCEA Tabuga Parish in Nakuru North Sub-County, Nakuru County. This heinous and senseless act shocked the nation, the Christian fraternity and the people of Ongata-Rongai, where the late Reverend had been a long-time resident and serving as a minister. He served the community for over 25 years. Such acts of violence against religious leaders are deeply disturbing and unacceptable in a constitutional democracy founded on human dignity, equity and the right to life.

Article 26 of the Constitution guarantees every person the right to life. Article 32 protects the freedom of conscience, religion, belief and opinion. The killing of a clergyman in the line of duty not only violates these constitutional protections but also creates fear and insecurity among religious leaders who continue to serve communities across the country. Many members and clergy now feel unsafe and vulnerable while carrying out their pastoral responsibilities.

It is against this background that I seek a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on the following:

1. The circumstances surrounding the murder of Reverend Julius Ndumia Ngari and an update on the status of the investigation into the matter.
2. The progress made in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting the individuals responsible for the heinous act.

3. The measures put in place by the Ministry to guarantee the safety and security of clergy and other religious leaders, particularly those serving in isolated and vulnerable areas.
4. The support being accorded to the bereaved family, the church congregation and the wider community affected by the tragic incident.

I thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Raso, how soon can you bring a response?

**Hon. Ali Raso** (Saku, UDA): We will respond in two weeks, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Two weeks, so be it.

Hon. Members, before I call Hon. Leah Sankaire, allow me to acknowledge the following students in the Speaker's Gallery: P.C.E.A. Kambala School from Molo Constituency, Nakuru County. If you are in the Gallery, when you are called out, you stand up to be acknowledged. PCEA Kambala School, Molo and Apostolic Carmel School from Makadara Constituency, Nairobi County.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

In the Public Gallery, we have St. Trizas Kutus Girls from Mwea Constituency, Kirinyaga County; General Joseph Nkaisery School from Kajiado Central Constituency, Kajiado County; Ngetmoi Girls School from Baringo Central Constituency, Baringo County; and Pwani University from Kilifi North Constituency, Kilifi County. On my behalf and on behalf of the House, we welcome the students, their teachers, and those accompanying them to the House of Parliament.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

Next, Hon. Leah Sankaire. She is not in. Question deferred.

*(Request for Statement deferred)*

Next is Hon. Joyce Kamene, the Member from Machakos County.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND DUES TO EMPLOYEES OF  
THE EAST AFRICA PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY

**Hon. Joyce Kamene** (Machakos County, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I wish to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Labour regarding the payment of salaries and dues to former employees of East African Portland Cement Company (EAPCC)

The East African Portland Cement Company Limited is a limited liability company whose core business is the production of cement under the Blue Triangle brand. The Company had entered into a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) dated 19th December 2014 for the period 2012-2015 with its unionisable employees through the Kenya Commercial and Allied Workers Union. However, the company failed to effect general wage increases to some unionisable employees as per the CBA, resulting in the case between Kenya Chemical and

Allied Workers Union versus the East African Portland Cement Company Limited (ELR Case No. 2119 of 2014).

The court ruled that the East African Portland Company was required to pay salary and allowance arrears to its contract employees, finding that they had been wrongfully excluded from the benefits of the CBA that covered permanent staff. Despite this judgment, the affected former employees have, for several years, been unable to secure enforcement of the decree for payment of the outstanding arrears of Ksh1.3 billion. The affected employees are apprehensive that the recent takeover of the EAPCC by Kalahari Cement, following its 27 per cent stake held by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), may potentially jeopardise their payments.

Hon. Speaker, it is against this background that I request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Labour on the following:

1. A report on the measures put in place to ensure payment of former employees of East African Portland Company, considering that Kalahari Cement has taken formal control of the company.
2. Steps are being taken by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to ensure implementation of the court decree on payment of salaries and dues to former EAPCC employees.
3. The timelines within which the East African Portland Company will make the payments.

I thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Joyce Kamene. Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Labour? Is that Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a's Committee? Whip of the Majority Party, communicate to the Chair to bring a response in two weeks.

**Hon. Naomi Waqo** (Marsabit County, UDA): I will do so, Hon. Speaker. Thank you.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTH HERR CONSTITUENCY

**Hon. Speaker:** Member for North Horr, Hon. Adhe Wario.

**Hon. Adhe Guyo** (North Horr, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy regarding the delayed development of renewable energy infrastructure in North Horr Constituency.

North Horr Constituency remains among the least electrified regions in the country despite the fact that access to reliable and affordable electricity supply is a key driver of socio-economic development. In an effort to improve electricity access in the area, the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, through the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), commenced installing solar mini-grids in Dukana, Illeret, Balesa, and Hurri Hills. In addition, the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP) is implementing another phase of solar mini-grid projects in Bubisa, Forole, El-Gade and Gas to further expand electricity connectivity within the Constituency. It is, however, regrettable that the mini-grids in Dukana, Illeret and Balesa have remained non-operational for close to two years, resulting in prolonged darkness and severely disrupting essential services dependent on electricity in the region.

It is against this background that I seek a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy on the following:

1. A report on the rationale for continued investment in new solar mini-grid projects in Bubisa, Forole, El-Gade and Gas, while the existing mini-grids in

Dukana, Illeret and Balesa remain non-operational and when they will have reliable, uninterrupted power supply.

2. Clarification on the reasons for the non-connectivity of North Horr to the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project despite the proximity of the Constituency to the project.
3. The plans by the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum to invest and tap the wind and solar power potential in North Horr, and the timelines for implementation.

I thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Wario. Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy. Hon. Mandazi, are you in the Committee?

**Hon. Victor Koech** (Chepalungu, CCM): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** When can you bring a response?

**Hon. Victor Koech** (Chepalungu, CCM): Hon. Speaker, we will bring a response in two weeks.

#### DEMISE OF MS SHEILA CHEPKORIR

**Hon. Speaker:** Woman Representative for Elgeyo Marakwet County, Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei.

**Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei** (Elgeyo Marakwet County, Independent): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of Ms Sheila Chepkorir Tanui, a Kenyan citizen, in Sydney, Australia.

Ms Sheila Chepkorir Tanui, a 25-year-old Kenyan who hails from Elgeyo Marakwet County, died in Sydney, Australia, under unclear circumstances. Her family claims that on the evening of Sunday, 17th May 2026, Australian law enforcement authorities notified them that Ms Sheila Chepkorir had tragically passed away following an incident at her workplace, the Meriton Hotel. Initial reports allege that Ms Sheila fell from the 19th floor to the 4th floor of the hotel building. Regrettably, the family faced significant delays and limited communication from the Australian authorities and her employer whenever they sought clarity on the circumstances of her death, raising suspicion of a possible cover-up of the actual cause of Sheila's death.

Hon. Speaker, the family's fears were confirmed on 22nd May 2026 when its representatives observed that the condition of the body preserved at the Lahood Funeral Services in Greenacre was wholly inconsistent with the reported cause of death. Notably, the body had no visible injuries or fractures that would normally be observable on a victim of death by falling from a height of 19th to 4th floor, as claimed. These concerns, together with reported inconsistencies in official accounts, inadequate access to CCTV footage, witness statements and the absence of a transparent investigative process, have left the family and the Kenyan community deeply distressed and without satisfactory answers.

It is against this background that I request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on the following:

1. A report on the investigations being conducted by Australian law enforcement and forensic authorities into the death of Ms Sheila Chepkorir Tanui, including the steps taken to secure all available CCTV footage, witness statements and forensic evidence for use to establish the actual cause of her death.

2. The measures being taken by the Government of Kenya to engage Australian authorities to ensure a thorough and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Ms Sheila Chepkorir and to guarantee the family's full access to all relevant findings and evidence.
3. The support and consular assistance being extended to the family by the Kenyan High Commission in Australia, including measures to facilitate the dignified repatriation of Ms Tanui's remains and provisions of appropriate support to the family.

I thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei. Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations? Any Member? Hon. Timothy, can you bring a response?

**Hon. Timothy Kipchumba** (Marakwet West, Independent): With your permission, can I ride on that Statement?

**Hon. Speaker:** Okay. Go ahead.

**Hon. Timothy Kipchumba** (Marakwet West, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Are you a Member of the Committee as well?

**Hon. Timothy Kipchumba** (Marakwet West, Independent): No.

**Hon. Speaker:** Okay. Go ahead.

**Hon. Timothy Kipchumba** (Marakwet West, Independent): Hon. Speaker, this is a sad incident. Sheila Chepkorir left Kenya on 4th April 2026. Barely two months thereafter, she was found dead in Sydney, Australia. This is a young lady who carried the family's dreams and aspirations. She hails from Marakwet East, and it is unfortunate that so far, there has been no major truth on the cause of Sheila's death.

I call upon the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations and the Kenyan High Commission to conduct thorough investigations and apprise the family of the cause of the death. As the Government, including this House, we have an obligation to protect the lives of our young people. I do not doubt that the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations will take this matter seriously and give us a report, preferably within a week, so that the family can bring this matter to a close.

Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, how soon can you bring a response? It is about the death of a young Kenyan lady in Australia.

**Hon. Nelson Koech** (Belgut, UDA): In two weeks, Hon. Speaker. Again, my apologies because we have the delegation from the House of Commons.

**Hon. Speaker:** Two weeks is okay. Let us now have responses. Is the Member for West Pokot County, Hon. Rael Kasiwai, in the Chamber?

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): Present.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Raso, are you ready with this? The response to a Statement of the Status and Jurisdiction of Aroo Sub-County Administrative Unit.

## STATEMENTS

STATUS AND JURISDICTION OF  
AROO SUB-COUNTY

**Hon. Ali Raso** (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. This is a Statement regarding the boundary dispute between Turkana and West Pokot Counties. Hon. Rael Kasiwai had requested to be informed on the following:

1. Clarification on the officially recognised boundary between Turkana and West Pokot.
2. Measures being taken by the Ministry to ensure seamless coordination in matters of security.
3. Steps being taken to safeguard land rights and prevent boundary-related conflict.

Hon. Speaker, Aroo Sub-County is administratively within Turkana County, having been carved out of Turkana South Sub-County. It comprises the Kainuk, Katilu, and Nakwamoru Divisions, as well as the Kainuk, Kaputir, and Katilu locations and 10 sub-locations. The Districts and Provinces Act of 1992, whose boundary provisions remain in force to date, clearly places Aroo within Turkana County. The Andrew Ligale Commission reaffirmed this position on boundary delimitation, maintaining the same boundary demarcation.

On the measures being taken by the Ministry, the following have been put in place: deployment of multi-agency security teams; institutionalisation of the joint security forum; engagement of peace committees and community elders; facilitation of cross-border peace dialogue; and operationalisation of Aroo Sub-County as an administrative unit.

On the next steps being taken to safeguard land rights, the Ministry has undertaken the following interventions: promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; implementation of civic education programmes; strengthening community engagement and peace building initiatives; promotion of equitable land use and development to minimise disputes; and enhancement of surveillance, early warning and rapid response mechanisms to security issues.

In conclusion, the Government remains committed to maintaining peace, security and stability in Aroo Sub-County and along the Turkana-West Pokot boundary.

Hon. Speaker, this was signed by Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration.

I beg to submit.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Kasiwai, you have heard the response.

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I appreciate the Vice-Chairperson's answer. However, the Committee needs to visit the area to confirm whether the Act has been fully implemented. As it is, there is still a lot of uncertainty on the boundary. I also propose that the Ministry of Lands fast tracks...

*(Technical hitch)*

The communities need to undertake their projects and develop their land.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Kasiwai, are you the Member of Parliament for West Pokot County?

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee has stated that this area is in Turkana. Did you hear him say that?

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** Why, then, do you seek adjudication in a neighbouring county?

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): This is because of the constant conflict.

**Hon. Speaker:** Did you hear what he said?

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): Noted, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** He said that the Districts and Provinces Act, which you ought to know, clearly places this area in Turkana. The Ligale Commission of 2010 also affirmed the same. You are a member of the vast West Pokot County, yet you seek adjudication in Turkana.

**Hon. Rael Kasiwai** (West Pokot County, KUP): I am indeed well-versed with the Act.

**Hon. Speaker:** It is up to you. Maybe you have extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Hon. (Dr) Oundo.

**Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo** (Funyula, ODM): Hon. Speaker, the issue of boundary disputes is very interesting. We have one country, Kenya, yet we face boundary disputes. I am not certain who has declared a boundary dispute in Busia County with Sirisia constituency in Bungoma, which we have not. I am sure the Chairperson is aware of this matter. We, the people of Busia, wish to make it extremely clear, with due respect to our colleagues from Bungoma, that Changara Division falls within Busia County.

*(Applause)*

The sooner we accept this fact and avoid inciting tensions between the two communities that have coexisted harmoniously, the better. These communities trade and intermarry; they do all good and bad things together. I urge leaders to refrain from incitement. We are entering a very emotive period, and any form of incitement is unnecessary.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. (Dr) Oundo, I thought you were joyriding on the issue of Aroo in Turkana and West Pokot.

**Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo** (Funyula, ODM): I am. The issue cuts across. Something is brewing. I have merely highlighted this matter. Some of our colleagues' statements regarding the Changara issue are unfortunate and unacceptable. We must resolve this issue.

The Chairperson of the Committee must consistently pronounce himself on this matter. Those boundaries were established when we delineated the counties in this country, as set out by the Ligale Commission. Nobody raised any concerns then. Why bring this up so late in the day? Because of political expediency, to appear heroic amongst your constituents in light of your dwindling numbers, you now beat the drums of war. Today, we attended the National Breakfast Prayer Meeting, and I thought you all prayed and are now saved. Why, then, are you discussing war? Why do you attend church? Why do you identify as a Christian if you dream of drums of war?

Thank you very much.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Raso.

**Hon. Ali Raso** (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Kirima, do you wish to joyride on this?

**Hon. Moses Kirima** (Central Imenti, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. The Chairman and my colleagues have raised the matter, and it affects nearly all parts of Kenya. In my constituency, the entire location has been claimed by my neighbouring constituency. This issue was settled back in 1992 by the Act that established the counties. At the same time, the Ligale Commission pursued the matter through arbitration and called all the parties involved. Since our forefathers had already handled the matter, some of us are trying to portray ourselves as heroes by attempting to seize neighbouring territories under the guise of fighting for their people, yet that is not the truth.

Hon. Speaker, this is something I am experiencing. One of my colleagues here is trying to make himself a hero by creating polling stations, schools, and other institutions within my area.

**Hon. Speaker:** Which colleague?

**Hon. Moses Kirima** (Central Imenti, UDA): The Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, Hon. Murugara.

**Hon. Speaker: Order! You** are out of order. Hon. Kirima, if you want to discuss the conduct of Hon. Murugara, bring a Motion.

**Hon. Moses Kirima** (Central Imenti, UDA): I will, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Emaase.

**Hon. Mary Emaase** (Teso South, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for the opportunity to joyride on this issue of territorial disputes. It is a very serious matter. It is not only between West Pokot and Turkana; you will also find similar disputes between Busia and Bungoma. I want to echo what my colleague, Hon. Oundo, has raised. For instance, in Busia, Bungoma is now claiming Changara is part of Bungoma, yet the Ministry of Lands remains silent on this issue. Historical records and Acts of Parliament show that these areas are gazetted and belong to specific counties. We cannot keep quiet and allow this matter to continue and escalate. So, we...

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Mary Emaase, hold your horses. To be fair to the House, the Area Member of Parliament for Teso North, Hon. Oku Kaunya, filed a matter with the Speaker. I passed it on to the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, and they are seized of the matter. So, you are probably anticipating a debate. If you give it time, they will respond, and it will be brought to the House. But you are at liberty to say what you are saying.

**Hon. Mary Emaase** (Teso South, UDA): I stand guided, Hon. Speaker. I wanted to emphasise the importance and urgency of addressing this issue, which is happening everywhere. In certain counties, there are disputes between constituencies. Matayos constituency is trying to claim part of Teso South, which is in Alupe, but we are trying to solve it. Therefore, the Ministry of Lands and the Ministry of Interior and National Administration should come together and address these disputes so that we can ensure communities that have been living harmoniously for a long time continue to do so.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Raso. Hon. Murugara, I have already ruled Hon. Kirima out of order. You do not have to belabour the point.

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. I have always discussed with Hon. Kirima that the issue of boundaries is determined by an Act of Parliament known as the Districts and Provinces Act, 1992. So, this issue that keeps arising about whether to grab or not is really non-existent. If you want to know the boundaries of your county, they are exactly as set out in your district as it existed in 1992. So, these are the things

we have. I do not know where this is coming from, because at that time we had locations and sub-locations which used to mark the boundaries between one district and another. The districts were supplanted by counties. So, when he claims that I am creating polling stations and locations, I really wonder where that is coming from.

Hon. Kirima is trying to incite people to go to court so it can determine the boundaries. However, such cases have been dismissed. It has been said that if you want to know a boundary, look at a certain Act of Parliament and the administrative records, because the administrators know where the boundaries are. Therefore, Hon. Kirima, I do not think there will ever be a time when you will change anything. We are all Kenyans, and we are entitled to live wherever we want. We only require a title deed, whether we are in Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, or wherever. But to say....

**Hon. Ali Raso** (Saku, UDA): Hon. Rael's Question has been adequately answered. She wanted to know where Arror is. We must put the record straight. Most of these boundary issues are largely in the pastoralist areas. Sometimes the pastoralists move around with the boundary, to the extent of displacing others. On the contrary, people from the agrarian parts of this country, such as Bungoma, Busia, Meru, and Tharaka, are settled. I believe it is time for some of those boundaries to be fully stated. To date, there exist two statutes governing boundaries: the Ligale Commission and the District and Provinces Act of 1992. If any Member in this House believes something is not right, they should bring a substantive Motion to the House so that it can be escalated to the Ministry.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Raso. Is Hon. Martin Pepela in the House? Yes, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure... sorry. Hon. Mark Mwenje, I think I skipped yours, but I will come back to you. Is Hon. Mark Mwenje in the House? Hon. Murugara, are you ready with the response?

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): Yes, I am. Hon. Speaker. I also hope that Hon. Adhe Wario is here. I wish Hon. Gikaria were here, too. He raised a very urgent matter in a question, and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) answered it alongside the other responses.

**Hon. Speaker:** Start with Hon. Adhe Wario's.

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): It is a combined statement which answers each one of them.

**Hon. Speaker:** For the two?

VOTER REGISTRATION CONCERNS IN EMBAKASI WEST,  
NORTH HOKR AND NAKURU TOWN EAST

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): Yes, the first two. In fact, it starts with Hon. Gikaria's really short question. I am going to read to him, and then I will answer the two others as it has been done. Kindly allow me to do an abbreviated version of it. It is a bit long, but it carries everything they want to here.

This is a statement in response to the request by Hon. Mark Mwenje, Member of Parliament for Embakasi West constituency, regarding alleged illegal voter transfer between Nairobi and Garissa counties.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Moses Wetang'ula) left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Speaker  
(Hon. Omboko Milemba) in the Chair]*

There is also a request for a statement by the Hon. Adhe Wario, Member of Parliament for North Horr constituency, regarding the implementation of the enhanced continuous voter registration in North Horr constituency. Also, we have a question from Hon. Gikaria, Member of Parliament for Nakuru Town East constituency, to the IEBC: why are young Nakuru residents with Maisha cards, that is, the new generation identity cards, unable to register as voters? The Commission expresses its appreciation to the National Assembly as a key stakeholder in the electoral process. Further, the Commission values the cordial and constructive engagement it has consistently enjoyed with the Legislature in the discharge of its constitutional mandate.

About the issues raised by the Hon. Members, the Commission wishes to describe the process of voter registration and transfer as follows. Firstly, there is eligibility and the voter registration application. We have set out what is required: the four elements of Kenyan citizenship, have attained the age of 18 years, are of sound mind, and have not been convicted of an election offence within the preceding five years. To be eligible, applicants must present either a national identity card or a valid Kenyan passport. We then have the voter registration process. They have set out how this is done through:

1. Verification of identity and eligibility.
2. Completion of the application for registration form, which is Form A.
3. Biometric data capture.
4. Selection of registration or polling centre.
5. Review and confirmation of information.
6. Issuance of an acknowledgement slip, which looks like the voter's card that we used to carry many years ago.
7. Updating of voter records once the process is completed.

The last paragraph addresses locations for voter registration: registration is to be conducted at the 290 Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) constituency offices, designated Huduma Centres, the 1,450 county assembly wards, and institutions of higher learning. This is where periodic enhanced outreach programmes are done.

Regarding transfers, details have again been provided on how to transfer a registration in accordance with Section 7 of the Act, as well as on correcting or updating personal details where there has been a problem. In the verification of registration status, they have outlined how poll clerks check that it has been properly completed.

On issues raised by the questions, beginning with Hon. Gikaria, who stated that Maisha Cards are not being accepted in Nakuru Town East Constituency. They respond that this is not true. The Commission recognises the Maisha Card as an identification document and confirms that the voter registration system fully supports it. Claims that Maisha cardholders born from 2004 onwards cannot register are therefore unsubstantiated. Hon. Gikaria would therefore need to provide details regarding any holder of a Maisha Card who has been denied registration.

On the issues raised by Hon. Mark Mwenje, the issues were:

1. The veracity of the allegations regarding the transfer of voters from Nairobi City County to Garissa County and the extent of the affected voters.

2. Measures being taken by the Government to verify and rectify any anomalies in the voter register.
3. Safeguards in place to prevent irregular transfer of voters across counties and polling stations.
4. The timelines within which any anomalies are expected to be resolved to restore public confidence in the electoral process.

The IEBC responds as follows: First, on allegations of illegal transfer of voters. The allegations of illegal voter transfers from Nairobi to Garissa are untenable as voter transfers require physical presence and successful biometric verification. Therefore, Hon. Mwenje would need to provide details regarding any alleged transfers and, if so, where those transfers are in breach of any law, especially our electoral laws.

These measures are designed to detect, deter, and address irregularities while strengthening public confidence in the electoral process. Various methods used for this purpose have been set out, and they confirmed that nothing illegal has occurred if any person has moved from Nairobi to Garissa; the physical presence of that person confirms that it is their wish, and they cannot obstruct it, especially where people wish to move from one constituency to another.

On the issues raised by Hon. Adhe Wario in his statement, regarding the implementation of the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise in North Horr Constituency, specifically set out in the Statement, the Commission responded as follows:

Regarding issue number one, the Commission is currently processing the ECVR data to retain unique records and eliminate any potential duplicates before final certification. Consequently, the figures on newly registered voters, including transfers and changes of particulars for North Horr, are still being processed. However, the figures currently available indicate that 7,988 new enrolments were recorded, against a target of 4,204. Therefore, they actually registered more than their target.

Regarding limited access to voter transfer and related services in the constituency, the Commission extended new voter registration services by engaging clerks and mobilisers at the ward level, thereby ensuring coverage. The area was therefore particularly well covered. Registration officers provide services relating to voter transfers and the updating of particulars to enable verification of previous registrations and biometrics during applications for transfer or change of particulars. The Commission is therefore exploring ways to facilitate registration officers with the necessary logistical support and resources to enhance the provision of voter transfer and update services at the ward level, particularly in North Horr, one of the largest constituencies in the country.

Such infrastructure includes stable internet connectivity, a reliable power supply, and other logistical support. The Commission proposes to operationalise periodic outreach services whereby registration officers may visit ward offices and other decentralised locations to conduct voter transfers and related services based on demand and operational feasibility. In conclusion, for voter transfers and the updating of particulars, the Commission endeavours to provide registration offices with the necessary logistical support and resources to cover the vast areas of North Horr and to carry out the above services.

The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the integrity, accuracy, and credibility of the register of voters at all times and to assuring Kenyans of the integrity, accuracy, and credibility of the electoral process when this comes into being. Thank you very much. I have the full statement with me and will provide copies to Members. Should

they require any supplementary information, we can invite the IEBC to appear before the Committee so that their supplementaries can be addressed.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. Before I bring Hon. Mwenje, who is very ready to deal with this matter...

*(Hon. Mark Mwenje spoke off the record)*

I will be bringing you. Before then, let us acknowledge the presence of the following schools in the Speaker's Gallery: Kapsabet Girls School from Emgwen Constituency, Nandi County and Londiani Girls School from Kipkelion Constituency, Kericho County. I can see the Member is present. Take one minute to appreciate the students.

**Hon. Josses Lelmengit** (Emgwen, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Are you on a point of order, Hon. Millie?

*(Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona spoke off the record)*

Let us listen to the Member for Emgwen.

**Hon. Josses Lelmengit** (Emgwen, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Millie, for allowing me. Again, thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I would like to welcome all the students here, particularly those from Kapsabet Girls High School in Emgwen Constituency. I know it is a rare chance for you to be in this honourable House, so I am just encouraging you. Kapsabet Girls High School is one of the leading schools in Emgwen Constituency.

*(Applause)*

Last year, we had close to 99 per cent transition to university.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Great.

**Hon. Josses Lelmengit** (Emgwen, UDA): I am proud of them because they are very disciplined and hardworking. I encourage all the students here to work hard. Your future is bright. One day, you might be in this honourable House as leaders in the future.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Hon. Chererot.

**Hon. Joseph Chererot** (Kipkelion East, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleague, Hon. Lelmengit, in welcoming both Londiani Girls Secondary School and Kapsabet Girls High School to this august House, where laws are made and passed. Londiani Girls High School is one of the leading schools in my constituency. We have many alumni who have gone through the same school and are doing very well. As Mandela said, education is the most powerful weapon we have to change the world. I encourage our students to work hard to prepare for the future. This morning at our National Prayer Breakfast, we had a girl from Kenya High School who spoke so well. She really challenged the President to visit girls' schools as well. According to her, the President has been visiting only boys' schools. I encourage our President to ensure that all our girls in high school are also visited.

I also want to say *pole* for our girls in Gilgil who lost their lives early this morning. I condole with their families. May God be with you, encourage and comfort you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Great. You need to be much briefer than that because these are just comments. Let us give Hon. Millie a chance, very briefly.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity. I welcome Kapsabet Girls' High School to the National Assembly as well. One of my cousins, who is like a sister, was a teacher there. Unfortunately, she has since passed on. I also welcome Londiani Girls High School to the House. I pass through Londiani a lot of times on my way to Suba North. To the Member who is worried that a girl from Kenya High School complained to the President today that he is only visiting boys' schools, worry not. I am going to visit all the girls' schools because I will be the President in 2032. The girls here are, therefore, my voters in 2032. It is just that they are not allowed to cheer. Otherwise, they would all be cheering because they know the first woman President is here. Amilo Geza Geza, the bad girl. Welcome.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Great. I think that is done. We have had enough of that. Let us go to business, Members. Let us get the first bite from Hon. Mwenje.

**Hon. Mark Mwenje** (Embakasi West, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I have had a chance to listen to the response to my Questions. In my opinion, IEBC's responses to Questions 2, 3, and 4 are satisfactory. Just before I raise the main issue, I want to say that I have a lot of confidence in the new IEBC. I have confidence in that Chairman. I have confidence in especially one commissioner, Ann Nderitu, and even my returning officer in the constituency. I believe they are doing a good job.

Having said that, to use kind words, the response I got to the first issue was insulting. It makes it look as though I imagined what I raised. I had actually requested the Committee to invite me. They gave me a date of the 26th of this month, which is two days ago. They said that they would invite me when the IEBC were in the Committee, so I could raise these issues of illegal transfers. They are now saying that it cannot happen. If the Chairman had paid attention, we had a Member who was elected the other day in Embu County, which I believe is a neighbouring county, and I am glad he has won his petition. But the whole issue around that petition that forced a recount of votes was because some registrations were done when the IEBC register was closed. Therefore, these issues are happening. There was an exposé done by the NTV. Speaker Muturi gave some evidence. I also did, but I restricted my comments to this House because I did not want to raise this issue.

Let me give the Chairman these names. These are people from Embakasi West: Number one, Christopher Muteru, who lives in Mowlem, is now registered to vote in Ijara, Garissa. When I spoke to the Member of Parliament from Ijara, he told me that the polling centre called Bula AP Dispensary is at the farthest corner of his constituency. Number two, Muiru Mungai transferred to Garissa, Balambala, Danyeri. When I spoke to the Member, he told me this polling centre is very far-flung. Number three, Abraham Kigia transferred to Garissa, Ijara, Bula AP Dispensary. Mind you, these are people I know and who live in my constituency. Another one is Ken Mweni, who was moved to Garissa, Ijara Livestock Market.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): How long is the list?

**Hon. Mark Mwenje** (Embakasi West, JP): It is a long list. I have stopped.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Proceed, proceed.

**Hon. Mark Mwenje** (Embakasi West, JP): Did I imagine these names for them to tell me that it is impossible? I do not want to raise these politics. Why are people from only one community being moved to these areas? This is the issue that I have. If you are moving these names to Murang'a or Kiambu, I would assume maybe they are voting in their ancestral homes. Garissa and Wajir are not their ancestral homes. Therefore, with due respect, let the IEBC not treat this as though I am accusing them. We are not in court. I want to give them this information. In my opinion, a third party is involved and using resources to confuse these young men, who will not get a chance to vote. I have to transfer these individuals back. I have refused to transfer them back so I can give them to the IEBC for interrogation. They will tell the IEBC what they have told me, that there is somebody somewhere. I am not accusing the commissioners or my returning officer, but someone is meddling. Mind you, this issue cuts across. It is in Embakasi North and Embakasi Central. I hope Hon. Mbui was listening to me, because he will also tell you that this issue is there.

Please, Chairman, just call me to a meeting where the IEBC is present, and I will give them the contacts for these people. Let them investigate and find out, so that we can sort out this issue. Otherwise, we are just laying the groundwork for endless election petitions after the 2027 elections.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): I can see some interest. Let me just take two. Hon. Oundo, be brief. The first speaker had the leverage.

**Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo** (Funyula, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I want Sir George to listen carefully and convey this message to the IEBC. The integrity of an election is not determined on the day of counting. Allow me to paint a very clear, well-orchestrated scheme being played at the border points. I say so in relation to what Hon. Mwenje has raised. There is currently a program called Rapid Mass Registration that registers people as residents of Kenya and issues them identity cards. That is specifically happening in Teso North and Funyula. Somebody somewhere is transporting non-citizens and non-Kenyans to come and get identity cards. The moment they are given the waiting cards, they are immediately registered as voters in blatant disregard of the procedures. The Constitution of Kenya, in Articles 15(1) and 15(2), says that for any non-Kenyan to be registered as a Kenyan by registration, they must first have been married for 7 continuous years.

Secondly, one must have lived in Kenya for ten consecutive years. In Funyula and Teso North constituencies, we are witnessing a very ugly spectacle. People are coming in lorries and matatus, and those guys cannot speak Swahili, English, or the local dialect. You wonder when they lived in Kenya for seven years. How do they conduct business if they have lived in Kenya for 7 years yet cannot read or write in English, Swahili, or the local dialect? How do they become Kenyan residents? How have they lived in Kenya for 10 years and still cannot read or write?

It might be expedient politically, but the danger we are exposing this country to is going to haunt us for 10 or so years after the people orchestrating it have long left office. It is a dangerous situation, and I hope it cuts across both electoral integrity and the national security of this country. With the fullness of time, I will bring a substantive Question to be answered. I hope nobody will kill it in the bureaucracy they practise in this Parliament.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): No, just bring a Question; it cannot be killed. The business here must be undertaken. I can see Hon. Wandeto. Very briefly, and then we go back to the Chairperson.

**Hon. Geoffrey Wandeto** (Tetu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity. The issue of our electoral integrity is very important. This country has even gone through very difficult times because of questions about our electoral integrity. As we speak, I think the ODM Party, of which Hon. Millie is a Member, is still waiting for servers from the last election to be opened. Electoral justice is a big thing.

When we hear of voters being transferred against their wishes or finding themselves registered where they did not wish to be, it is an issue that requires a thorough investigation. We do not want these sorts of casual responses coming from committees. We would like a thorough investigation, including those voters being called to appear before the Committee and to present the evidence they allude to. The 2027 election will be very consequential in this country. Already, some advances are being made by leaders or some Members of this House. Some have said that even if their candidate of choice does not win, they will still force him to win the vote. Maybe we are wondering whether this thing of moving, especially members of a certain community from where they voted, could be part of the voter suppression which is being organised.

Many people have come out clearly saying they will steal the election. These are very serious early warning signs. I hope the relevant committees can take this matter very seriously and not give casual responses in this House. Indeed, this could be a plot to steal the 2027 General Election. There are many, many signs coming out that indeed all is not well.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Chairperson. Order.

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I start with Hon. Wandeto. If you ask a Question that appears casual on the face of it, you will get a casual answer. This is the reason lawyers would always give what is known as particularisation of a question, or giving full and sufficient particulars, so that you are able to receive a sufficient answer. Allegations made at funerals, harambees, and what have you are just allegations. They have no particulars. They do not have anything else.

That takes me to the joyriding by Hon. (Dr) Oundo. Here, we are dealing with voter registration, not registration of persons to receive IDs. Again, the way you are stating it is equally casual. You are saying that there are people coming there in lorries. They can neither speak Swahili nor Luhya, nor anything else. It borders on criminality. These are criminal elements committing crimes, yet you have not made a report. You need to go to the authorities and make a report, so that these matters are investigated. Provide particulars. You cannot just go there and say that last night you were told some lorry was seen somewhere ferrying people. Nobody will take you seriously.

Let me go to Hon. Mwenje. Hon. Mwenje, you have read out names, which should have been in your Statement. That is the reason you are complaining that there has been no investigation. Had you given those names in your request, you would now have answers about what your constituents, who belong to a certain ethnic community, did to end up where they are, if that is true. The way to cure it is to write a letter to the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs with those names, IDs and other particulars. Then we invite the IEBC to appear before us. You may be surprised to learn that, through the process I have described here, your constituents actually appeared before a registration officer, expressed their intention to go to Balambala or wherever they wanted to go, and that due process was followed, and they were moved.

How that happened, you say, somebody somewhere is inducing them. Let us have particulars of that particular somebody somewhere who is inducing them, who is committing

an offence, yet you are not complaining about it because you are not allowed to do so. However, if the inducement is done elsewhere, we do not know where, and one fine morning, a young man by the name you have given, Mwangi or Kamau, or whoever, appears before a registration officer voluntarily, out of his own free will, and says, "I want to be moved to Balambala." The reasons, he states, whatever the reasons, he is now shifting base from your constituency to Garissa or wherever, and the registration officer is convinced that the application has merit. Believe you me, the IEBC will act on it.

Let us get full particulars. I assure you that we will have the IEBC coming over, and they will give a response. Thank you very much, because, at least, you have confidence in some of the commissioners. In fact, it is not just Ann Nderitu, all of them are determined to deliver to this country a free, fair, credible and justifiable election. Those allegations of rigging are wishful thinking by whoever is thinking that way. We want an election that is going to be believable to everybody, because an election is held at a polling station. That is going to be what we take forward. This House must also fund the IEBC. I have made that plea before, that if the IEBC is not properly funded, then you will hear cries and whinging, because it may not be able to do its work timeously.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Thank you, Chairperson. Your strength in that area has been the specifics, because this is a House of rules and order. Honourable Members, you can bring substantive questions, and they are dealt with using specifics. Hon. Mwenje did very well in terms of the names. I want to guide that when you invite the IEBC, it is not bad to invite Hon. Mwenje, because he is a Member of Parliament, and he can execute all these things right there, and by the time you come back here, it will be very, very well done.

What is it, Honourable Member? I have closed that matter.

**Hon. Harrison Kombe** (Magarini, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Mine was just a request. Instead of Hon. Mwenje going to the Committee, the Chairperson should invite the IEBC to this House, because the question is cutting across all the constituencies.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Check on the people who need to come to the House. We have our Standing Orders, which guide us on who can be called here. Let us move to the next business. Is Hon. Martin Pepela in the House? If so, do we have the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure? Yes, I can see him there. You have a matter to execute. Hon. Members, allow the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure to execute this matter.

TRAGIC ROAD ACCIDENT  
ALONG WEBUYE - KITALE ROAD

**Hon. George Kariuki** (Ndia, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the Member for Webuye East, Hon. Wanyonyi Martin Pepela, requested a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure regarding a tragic road accident along the Webuye-Kitale Road. I will just go straight to the responses.

The Member sought to obtain a report on any safety audit conducted on the road at Malaba Junction along the Webuye - Kitale Road, and if so, whether the area has been officially designated as an accident black spot. Following the accident, the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) reviewed the available crash data for the Malaba Junction along Webuye-

Kitale Road, while also taking into consideration the alignment of the road at that particular section that includes the climbing lane. The review indicated that the section does not qualify as an accident black spot.

Secondly, the Member sought to establish the measures being undertaken by KeNHA to enhance safety at the junction, including the installation of properly designed and clearly marked speed bumps, adequate road signage, clear road markings, reflective stands, and any other appropriate road safety interventions and timelines for the completion of the installation of those road safety measures. The Ministry of Roads and Transport stated that the previously installed road signs at the section have been vandalised severally despite sensitisation efforts by the Authority to deter the vice. The KeNHA has initiated additional urgent road safety measures at the Malaba Junction through the Performance Based Contract (PBC), including:

1. Installation of additional warning and informative signs at critical points at the Junction.
2. Re-marking of the road with thermoplastic paint to improve visibility.
3. Installation of properly designed rumble strips using thermoplastic paint to alert drivers.

Thirdly, the Member sought to establish long-term plans, if any, by the Ministry of Roads and Transport to upgrade the Webuye-Kitale Road to a dual carriageway to avert frequent accidents, specifying projected timelines. The Ministry submitted that there are currently no immediate plans to upgrade the entire section to a dual carriageway, as the existing traffic volume does not warrant dualling. In addition, prevailing budget constraints would not allow the construction of a dual carriageway in the near future.

Fourthly, the Member sought to establish the Ministry's plans to compensate the families of victims and the measures in place to support victims of accidents at Malaba Junction. The Ministry stated that it condoles with the families of the affected victims. However, plans for compensating victims of accidents on its network can proceed following thorough police investigations that establish who is liable. Furthermore, as the Ministry implements its mandate to provide safe and adequate national trunk roads to all road users, it is also engaging the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) and the National Police Service (NPS) to enhance enforcement of traffic rules along the corridor to mitigate accidents.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I submit.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Proceed, Hon. Chairman. Is Hon. Ahmed Hassan in the House? He is not in. I would have asked you to proceed with the second response, since they are on the same subject. Let us have Hon. Pepela.

**Hon. Martin Wanyonyi** (Webuye East, FORD-K): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I want to thank my friend, the Chairperson, for this response. However, I also want to raise a couple of issues. We have lost many people at this spot. Categorising an area as an accident black spot depends on the frequency of accidents that occur. We lost around 15 people, and we continue to lose more. I do not understand the parameters that were used to claim that this area is not a black spot. I challenge the Chairman to revisit their position and categorise this area as a black spot because we continue to lose many people.

Regarding the second response, in terms of the steps the Ministry has taken, I appreciate the efforts to re-mark the road and install warning signs. However, I had requested a comprehensive plan and measures to install warning signs and speed bumps, which have not been done. I challenge the Chairperson to move beyond the current steps and come up with comprehensive measures to reduce the number of accidents at this spot.

As far as the dualling of this road is concerned, I expected the Ministry to tell us that, if they are not ready to dual this road, they should at least plan to widen it, as its narrowness contributes to accidents. It is not fair for the Ministry to say it will not dual the road due to budget constraints. The House recently passed the National Infrastructure Fund, which can be used to widen this road.

Finally, I appreciate the Ministry condoling with the families that lost their loved ones. But that is not enough. I expected the Ministry to tell us that, beyond condoling with the families, they have taken steps to liaise with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to conduct...

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Hon. Member. You are digressing. We dealt with this matter when the substantive Speaker was here. You have an opportunity to table a Special Motion next week, specifically to deal with that matter. I will support you as a teacher. So, please, confine yourself to the business before the House.

**Hon. Martin Wanyonyi** (Webuye East, FORD-K): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I know that the Government is one of collective responsibility. Matters handled by one Ministry do not prevent that Ministry from liaising with another to develop a comprehensive response.

In conclusion, I expect the two ministries to work closely to thoroughly investigate the matter so that those families are compensated for their loss.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Let us have the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure.

**Hon. George Kariuki** (Ndia, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I have listened to my colleague. We will work together to ensure that the issues he has raised are addressed.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Is the Leader of the Majority Party in the House for his Statement? Maybe we shall still give him a chance to give the Thursday Statement when he comes in.

*(Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah entered the Chamber)*

Here he is walking in. He must be more than ready. Let us get the Thursday Statement by the Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. My apologies. I was running down from the office.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Leader of the Majority Party, just one minute as you settle down. Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, you can bring the answers you had to the Clerks-at-the-Table because the Member of Banissa is not in the House. We can now invite the Leader of the Majority Party to proceed with his Statement.

BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK OF  
1<sup>ST</sup> TO 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(a), I rise to present the following Statement on behalf of the House Business Committee, which met on Tuesday, 26th May 2026, to prioritise business for consideration during the week and the business coming before the House in the following week.

Allow me first to officially welcome Members back from the short recess and further appreciate the leadership of the House and all Members for the dedication and cooperation exhibited so far. I look forward to the same dedication in this session after recess and in the very busy budget-making process, which is well on course. I thank the Members who took time during the working recess to consider the Budget Estimates tabled before the House on the last Thursday before the recess.

With regard to business scheduled for Tuesday next week, the House is expected to continue with consideration of the following Bills at various stages, some of which are listed in today's Order Paper—

1. Committee of the whole House on the following Bills—

(a) The Fisheries Management and Development Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 29 of 2023).

Hon. Millie Odhiambo is nodding because I know she has amendments. It will come up next week.

(b) The Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 41 of 2025).

2. Second Reading of the following Bills, if not concluded this afternoon:

i. The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 17 of 2025).

ii. The Plant Protection Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 28 of 2025).

iii. The Competition (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 4 of 2026).

iv. The Kenya Judiciary Academy Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 42 of 2025).

3. Special Motion on consideration of a nominee for appointment as High Commissioner to Canada, if not concluded this afternoon.

4. Motions on the consideration of the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027, general debate, First Allotted Day, subject to tabling of the report and giving of notice of Motion.

5. Motions on the following, if not concluded today:

(a) Report on an inspection visit to the East African Science and Technology Commission and the East African Health Research Commission.

(b) Report of the Kenya Delegation to the 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and related meetings.

(c) Second Report on the status of reports on petitions and resolutions.

(d) Report on inspection visits to fourteen special needs schools in specified counties.

In conclusion, the House Business Committee shall reconvene on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, to schedule business for the rest of that week. I now wish to lay this Statement on the Table of the House as I wish you all a good weekend and a happy Madaraka Day.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Next Order.

**BILLS***First Readings*

THE MICROFINANCE BILL  
(National Assembly Bill No. 9 of 2026)

THE KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL  
(National Assembly Bill No. 20 of 2026)

*(The Bills were read a First Time and  
referred to the relevant Committees)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Next Order by the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations.

**Hon. Nelson Koech** (Belgut, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Before I can go to the Motion, allow me also to welcome all the students who have visited us and are seated in the Speaker's Gallery. Amongst them are my two sons, Barchok Koech and Kipkalya Koech, and their friend, Negus. The two decided to come here today to see what we transact on the Floor of this House. For the knowledge of the House, their grandfather, the late Hon. Kipkalya Kones, was a four-term Member of Parliament. He was also in this House. Their grandmother, Hon. Beatrice Kones, was a Member of this House. She served for two terms.

*(Applause)*

Their father, Hon. Nelson Koech, yours truly, has also served two terms. Their mother is running for the Bomet senatorial seat.

*(Loud consultations)*

Even though none of them is showing any interest in politics at the moment, I thought it would be a good thing for them to come here today and see what we transact in this House. I wish all the students present here today in the Speaker's Gallery all the best in their studies. I know some of you will be standing here, moving the business of the day and moving this country forward in the near future.

**MOTION**

APPROVAL OF NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO OTTAWA, CANADA

**Hon. Nelson Koech** (Belgut, UDA): I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, taking into consideration the findings of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations in its Report on the approval hearing of a nominee for appointment as High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 26th May 2026,

and pursuant to the provisions of Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution, Section 20(2) of the Foreign Service Act (Cap. 185E) and Sections 3 and 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), this House approves the appointment of Mr Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga, EBS as High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada.

In the exercise of this mandate under Standing Order 216, the Committee conducted the approval hearing of the nominee on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026, and subjected him to a rigorous voting process that included public participation and integrity verification by all relevant statutory bodies. The nominee was found to be compliant with the constitutional and statutory requirements, including Chapter 6 on leadership and integrity.

The Committee examined the nominee's academic background. I must say he is very experienced and professional, with much experience and performance. During that approval hearing, we examined that the nominee possesses exceptional academic credentials, having studied at Harvard University and at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. I must mention that Mr Wattanga is an accomplished academician. In fact, he had been selected to study veterinary medicine at the University of Nairobi, but received a scholarship to the prestigious Harvard University, where he studied.

He also demonstrated extensive leadership and institutional management experience through his service as Commissioner-General at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), as Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Revenue Allocation before that, and in various investment advisory and corporate finance roles he has held both locally and internationally.

The Committee further noted that the nominee demonstrated substantial understanding of public finance management, revenue administration, economic diplomacy, investment promotion, and international partnerships. During the approval hearing, he articulated a vision to leverage Kenya's strategic geographic position and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement to position Kenya as a gateway for Canadian investment into East Africa and wider African markets.

Points to note which the Committee, after they invited him to appear, were convinced are as follows. The nominee had requested the rescheduling of the approval hearing. On this, I want to mention, particularly to all nominees that appear before Parliament, that they should not take for granted an invitation to appear before a Committee of this House. Sometimes they want to push the appearance, date, and that is expensive. First of all, having the nominees requires communication in the newspapers, and it costs about half a million to have such communication in the newspapers. It costs the taxpayer a lot of money. Nominees should take an invitation from this House for vetting very, very seriously.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, he requested a rescheduling of his appearance. While the Committee acknowledged the importance of continuity in public institutions, as he had requested, he was handing over his duties at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). Members expressed concern regarding the unprecedented nature of the request by a presidential nominee. The nominee's explanation was considered unsatisfactory by the Committee, particularly given the strategic importance and urgency ordinarily associated with presidential diplomatic appointments. Even as we discuss this, and I am sure it is going to come into the debate, it is important that we pursue a Motion that Hon. Ngusya CNN is bringing to this House, which has come before my Committee. It looks at those that are going to be picked to diplomatic appointments, and they should be considered on a ratio of 70:30. That is what his proposal is saying. I think this is important because it is not fair sometimes when a nominee is given an

opportunity by the Head of State. There are diplomats who have been waiting for such a position, and they will take the next minute to come for vetting, yet you have someone who has been given an opportunity, and he asks Parliament to reschedule his appearance before the Committee.

Nonetheless, we were convinced by his excuse, even though with so many question marks. Although the nominee demonstrated an understanding of bilateral economic relations and international engagement, the Committee observed that, to effectively discharge the responsibilities of High Commissioner, the nominee will require structured orientation and capacity-building in diplomatic practice, which is normally provided in foreign policy implementation and protocol affairs. The Committee also observed that the nominee exhibited composure, confidence and strong analytical capacity during the approval hearing. His exposure to international finance, multilateral engagement, investment negotiations and cross-border partnerships provides a useful foundation for strengthening diplomatic competencies.

In conclusion, Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Committee identified no constitutional or statutory impediment to the appointment of the nominee. The nominee satisfied the requirements relating to citizenship, integrity, professionalism, competence and suitability for State offices contemplated under the Constitution and the Foreign Service Act. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that this House approve the appointment of Mr Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga, EBS, as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I want to beg the gracious lady, the formidable Deputy Leader of the Minority, Honourable Millie Mabona, to second this Motion.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you.

**Hon. Nelson Koech** (Belgut, UDA): Sorry, Deputy Minority Party Whip, but she is running for President in 2032. So, I am just preparing her psychologically.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Madona** (Suba North, ODM): Yes, thank you, and thank you for noting that. Currently, I am the Minority Chief Whip. Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Before I second, let me take this opportunity to welcome students from Moi Girls. I think they were called Highlands in the past. It is a school that has produced great women in this country, including Mama Ida Odinga, a great friend of mine. This is how we do business in the House, and when you see women in this House, I want you to know that, now that you see very many of us here, it has not always been like that. When I joined Parliament 17 years ago, we were only 17 women, so we hope that by the time you get here, you will be more than 100 women. I also welcome the family of Hon. Koech. You are doing a good thing because it is important for our families to be acquainted with the kind of work that we do.

I served with the late Hon. Kipkalya Kones and Hon. Beatrice Kones. I now serve with Hon. Koech, who is my Chairman in the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations. Hon. Koech, you will become a clog in the President's campaign because you are now a dynasty when you are not supposed to be one. Now that your wife is also running, you qualify as a dynasty.

Having said that, Hon. Temporary Speaker, I rise to second the Motion on the consideration of Mr Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga, EBS, for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada. The Committee undertook the approval hearing of the nominee on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026, in accordance with the

Constitution, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, the Foreign Service Act and the Standing Orders of this House.

The Committee confirmed that the nominee satisfied the constitutional and statutory requirements for appointment to State office, having been duly cleared by all relevant statutory bodies in the country. The Committee further notes that the nominee possesses exceptional academic and professional credentials, having studied at the famous Harvard University. I wish the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Ichung'wah, were listening, because he likes bragging about the Alliance High School. Now we have someone here from Harvard University, including Hon. Caroli, who attended Harvard. I also went to New York University, so do not boast too much in front of me.

*(Laughter)*

Mr Humphrey also attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He has demonstrated extensive experience in public finance management, institutional leadership, investment advisory, and revenue administration through his service at the Commission on Revenue Allocation and, more recently, as the Commissioner-General of the KRA. Additionally, the nominee demonstrated strong analytical ability, composure, and understanding of economic diplomacy during the approval hearing. His experience in international finance, cross-border investment engagement and strategic negotiations provides a useful foundation for advancing Kenya's bilateral relations with Canada, particularly in trade, investment, innovation, education and technology cooperation.

Notwithstanding the strengths I have mentioned about him, the Committee observed notable concerns, particularly regarding the nominee's request to reschedule the approval hearing due to an ongoing handover process at the Kenya Revenue Authority. I know this may sound like a simple matter to many people, but such a request by a presidential nominee was unusual and led to additional public expenditure, especially in these difficult economic times, due to the need to run a second public advertisement and extend the vetting timelines.

The Committee further observed that he lacks formal diplomatic training and direct foreign service experience. However, this would not be the first case because we have seen people in similar situations serve and perform very well. Diplomatic representation at the level of a G7 country such as Canada requires not only management competence, but also familiarity with diplomatic protocol and multilateral engagement. That is one of the reasons we raised some concerns about him.

However, the Committee was equally persuaded that the nominee's extensive experience in economic governance, international engagement, and institutional reforms provides a strong basis for developing the necessary diplomatic competence. This approval should, therefore, not be interpreted as an affirmation of complete readiness in diplomatic practice, but rather as recognition of the nominee's professional competence, integrity, and potential to effectively represent Kenya's interests upon receiving the necessary institutional support and orientation.

With those remarks, I second.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Millie, both you and the Chair have spoken on the rescheduling of the nominee's appearance. That is a matter you may escalate to the Speaker, as all these processes are carried out in accordance with the Standing Orders, the Constitution, and the laws of this country. Such a rescheduling can carry serious implications. Therefore, I ask the Chairperson to escalate the matter accordingly.

*(Question proposed)*

Hon. Ndindi Nyoro.

**Hon. Ndindi Nyoro** (Kiharu, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. As I rise to congratulate Mr Humphrey Wattanga, I also wish to make brief comments, especially on foreign policy.

Before that, Hon. Temporary Speaker, allow me to send my most sincere condolences to the families affected by the tragic fire at Utumishi Girls Academy. The incident has shaken the nation. We stand in solidarity with all affected families during this difficult and unfortunate moment. We also send a quick recovery message to all learners currently hospitalised in various areas. We are with them in our thoughts and prayers.

I also welcome all the learners present today. I commend them for finding time to come and see how we conduct our business here in Parliament. I also wish them all the best in their aspirations. I am sure a majority of them want to occupy these positions. We wish them all the best as they go through school. Let them know that as they go through school, they have a blank sheet of paper where they can write anything they want to become. Because age is on their side, they can become anything they aspire to be. I urge them to start early, lead clubs, and participate in school activities to hone their abilities, so that they continue to develop themselves.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, as we go to the agenda of the day, it is important that that we give due weight and consideration to our country's foreign policy. A country's or a State's self-interest is embedded in its foreign policy. Kenya, being a developing country, should primarily focus on trade, investments and production. Whatever we do to safeguard our national interests should always bear fruit for Kenyans. Economically, those benefits can only be realised if we truly embed our internal and foreign policies in ways and channels that spur investment, production, and economic expansion.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, because we are clear-minded on the current state of our country, looking at the data between Kenya and Canada, it is evident that trade between the two countries is almost equal. It is also marginal when we look at the comparative nature of what we do with other economies. We are talking about around Ksh20 billion in trade. More importantly, what do we trade with Canada? Looking deeper, Kenya's exports to Canada are mainly coffee, tea and apparel. What we export to Canada is what would pass in terms of the calculation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) using the production formula as primary production. What Kenya exports to Canada is mainly in raw or primary form.

Kenya imports machinery, especially aircraft, from Canada. There is a point I am trying to make. If you look at how Canada grew - because it is way ahead of us in terms of GDP per capita - and the other countries that have grown, it is very difficult for a country to thrive on the basis of primary production. Therefore, as we debate foreign policy and the officers we second to our foreign missions, we should reflect on the need to make our economy more complex. Primary production is good. I am not talking about substituting, but increasing some level of complexity. As we trade using our primary production goods, we should continue to make our economy grow into other, more productive areas. In terms of production, the more you embed technology, the more productive you become and produce a high-quality product.

As we consider these scenarios, it is important to identify ways to add value to whatever we trade with Canada. We should also go further by making decisions that will make our economy much more complex and produce more complex commodities embedded with

technology, so we can earn much more. If you measure the volume we export and import, the balance of payment is almost the same. However, whatever we import is quite small in volume because it is technology-intensive.

Having said that, we also have to look at what we need now, even as we discuss the medium- and long-term plans I mentioned. As we try to make our economy complex, we can do something to increase the products that we trade with Canada. Look at our current situation. What are we selling more to the world? Number one is coffee, tea and floriculture. We also have tourism, in terms of service. I hope we can always do this as a country. As we send Kenyans to represent us in various missions, their target should be very clear. What we, as a country, need is to increase our trade volumes and trade worth, in terms of the amount that we earn.

As we send these Kenyans to represent us on various missions, they must have a target of identifying markets for Kenyan commodities. One of the missions and targets any person working for Kenya in any mission abroad must have is the amount of trade they bring in for our country.

Secondly, in terms of marketing our country, if you look at tourism numbers, Kenya is still too low despite the measures that have been undertaken. There are cases that show that if we get the right people to market our country, we can earn much more in tourism numbers. Even with the marginal increase we have had, we can do more. A country like Albania attracted 1 to 2 million visitors in the last decade. Through deliberate policies to grow tourism, Albania increased its tourism numbers within a very short time to over 14 million visitors. This is a country that is quite small compared to Kenya and is not as endowed as Kenya when it comes to tourism capabilities and what we can sell. Therefore, there are many things we can do with the capacity we have as a country, especially in marketing Kenya as the right place.

The other thing is about diaspora management. Currently, as we know, most of what we receive in Kenya is remittances. However, we must never confuse remittances with foreign direct investment (FDI) because we must pursue both. Whereas remittances are consumerism-driven, FDI is investment-intensive. It is time we also became creative in how we can make our remittances become more of FDI for investments, rather than only tokens for consumption that are sent back home.

As I conclude, I have seen a very robust curriculum vitae of Mr Wattanga. He was an officer in KRA. We have seen a lot of turnover at KRA.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): We are adding one minute to you.

**Hon. Ndindi Nyoro** (Kiharu, UDA): I was just trying to say that Mr Wattanga is an accomplished officer. As we know, he was removed from KRA. It is clear, as we always see, that we never give Kenyan professionals an opportunity to serve. I challenge all the senior people in Government, when we get these kinds of accomplished Kenyans and give them responsibility, it is not us leaders who should be advising our advisors. We should let the accomplished and competent do their work, rather than the mentality that we can do everything as leaders simply because we occupy high positions. We should give these kinds of Kenyans an opportunity to serve our nation, because they also mean well.

I thank you, and I hope we can also look at the welfare of Kenyans who work in our diplomatic missions and improve it. I submit.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you. Is the Member in order to allude to the fact that we are the ones advising the Government? They are the ones advising, not us. They are experts. Anyway, I am in the Broad-Based Government, and it is a

mongrel arrangement, so I am somehow in Government. I am also Minority Whip, but I am also in Government, so I am sitting on the fence. I am in the opposition, am I not? I mean, minority.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): In the minority.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Yes. Otherwise, it would have been changed to 'Majority Chief Whip,' but I am still the Minority Chief Whip. So, if I am fully, completely and absolutely inside, my title should change. But because it has not changed, I am a mongrel. Because of that, I am defending the Government even as you are very happy. I want to challenge the Member who says it is the Government advising experts. Has he not seen the way Hon. Mbadi is busy advising the Government on the streets, on air, at sea and on land? Hon. Mbadi is seriously advising the Government.

*(Laughter)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. We shall proceed. That is banter and canter we allow in Parliament at any time.

*(Hon. Ndindi Nyoro spoke off the record)*

Hon. Ndindi, I had added you one minute, and you did well.

Let us hear Hon. (Dr) Oundo, who has been waiting; he is also a very good economist.

**Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo** (Funyula, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity you have given me to lend a word in the consideration of a nominee for appointment as High Commissioner to Canada, a Motion moved by the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations. Before I proceed, I find it very weird; let me use the word very 'weird, for Hon. Millie Odhiambo, you can even see the struggle in her voice trying to defend the Government.

*(Laughter)*

I sympathise with you because they have put you in uncharted waters; make sure you do not drown there and lose your credibility on the international or local platform. I did not attend the vetting of the nominee, and I want to trust the committee's words and deeds. But allow me to bring two absurdities into focus.

Number one, the current nominee has been praised and hailed as an extreme expert in public finance. He has been a Commissioner at the Kenya Revenue Authority, probably one of the few commissioners from the forgotten Mulembe nation to have served as a commissioner of KRA. Of course, the circumstances under which he was removed from KRA are a matter of debate outside there, and in the fullness of time, we will know. However, to be honest, and I want to be very honest, this one I am speaking from my heart, that, indeed, we are misusing this officer. We are taking this officer to an area where his expertise will not be fully exploited or used to support proper governance and the development of this country.

That is the plain truth we might want to say, oh, diplomacy is an open field, anybody can be trained. As trainable as I am, I am not so sure I can become a diplomat. There are diplomats who have trained as undergraduates. What message are you sending to them? They have gone outside and defended this country successfully, yet we pick people who would

probably have made very good accountants general at the National Treasury to send them to a country where the bilateral relationship is a backwater. We do not have much to do with Canada. It might be a big economy, but they do not think Kenya is worth anything.

Just a quick Google search, and the volume of trade between Kenya and Canada is a mere US\$110 million. Yet, the only things we take to Canada are coffee, tea, live plants, cuttings, and apparel. What we earn there is less than US\$ 66 million, honestly speaking. And then we are taking such a decorated officer to go, waste time, and rot there. Sometimes decisions made in this country are very disappointing and frustrating. I know if he had declined to take up the posting, as many others have done before him, he would have been called all sorts of names by our colleagues here. As he goes out there...

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Hon. (Dr) Oundo. The Leader of the Majority Party has a point of order.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, you know Hon. (Dr) Oundo is a very good debater, and usually he has a lot of substance, but is he in order to be insinuating that there are Members in this House who attack nominees for no apparent reason? He just said that if this nominee had declined the appointment, and the nominee has not indicated he is declining, neither can Hon. (Dr) Oundo adduce any evidence to substantiate his statement.

He has just insinuated that the nominee declined the appointment, yet the nominee has not indicated any intention to. Hon. Oundo has not adduced any evidence to substantiate his claim. It is not good to disparage Members by suggesting that some are attacking the nominees. A person is aware that they have been nominated, even before their name is tabled in the House. I have never heard any Member insulting a nominee.

Therefore, I would like to benefit from Hon. Oundo's knowledge of any Member who has ever insulted a nominee. It will bring the House into disrepute if we appear to attack nominees who are merely nominees and nothing more.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Oundo, before you pick up from where you left, allow me to acknowledge the presence of students from Githunguri Girls High School in Kandara Constituency, Murang'a County, who are seated in the Public Gallery. On behalf of the House, I welcome the students to Parliament.

**Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo** (Funyula, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I was very careful with my words. I did not mention any Member in a manner that would warrant a substantive Motion. I have been very clear. This is my Second Term in this House. Luckily enough, I had read many books before coming here. Therefore, I am very careful with what I say.

Allow me to offer unsolicited advice to the new High Commissioner to Canada. There is very little we can do to improve trade relations and volumes between Kenya and Canada. There is nothing we can produce that Canada requires, apart from coffee, tea and a few other products. Even our apparel exports, other than those produced in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs), are not original brands. Therefore, I advise him to focus on two things once he gets there. First, he should focus on labour mobility. Countries in the Western Hemisphere have ageing populations and lack sufficient technical and general labour. Can he work hard to conclude the ongoing discussions on the labour mobility agreement between Kenya and

Canada so that our idle and jobless youths can get opportunities? The current Government promised them that jobs would flow like manna from heaven when it was sworn in. However, our unemployment levels are among the highest in the world.

Secondly, I advise him to focus on tourism. Canada is a rich country, and its citizens travel a lot for holidays. For some of us, like you and me, Hon. Temporary Speaker, because of the challenges in our constituencies and villages, the furthest we can go for holidays is Mombasa or Acacia in Kisumu. About two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Morocco during a World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) function. I was informed that Morocco receives about 20 million tourists annually, yet its coastline is relatively short, and it does not have a variety of tourist attractions. Egypt receives about 19 million tourists, largely because of the pyramids, while Kenya receives about 7.9 million visitors. Surprisingly, 2.7 million of them are foreign tourists. You can see how badly we are performing and the opportunities we are losing through our diplomatic missions. We send demoralised individuals who simply go there, hoping to return one day.

In conclusion, allow me to also join my colleagues in welcoming the students and learners who continue to visit the National Assembly to observe our Proceedings. This is what we do here: we debate, interject with one another intellectually, and do not become emotional. That is what we are supposed to do. When you debate outside there, do so maturely and objectively without getting carried away by emotions.

As I conclude, I wish him well. When I go to Canada, I will visit him and see how he is faring, as he represents Kenya.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba.

**Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba** (Githunguri, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for clarifying the name of the school that has visited. I represent the great Githunguri Constituency, and the names Githunguri and Kandara are a bit confusing. Nevertheless, I am happy to hear that the name Githunguri is spreading from Kiambu to Murang'a and other counties. No wonder they elected a great woman like me. I am here to convince this House that the nominee we have for Canada is the right one. I listened to my very good brother, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro from Kiharu, giving us tabulated data on how imbalanced the balance of trade is between Kenya and many countries. That is true. Our balance of trade with China, Canada, and Japan is not balanced. We can only balance it by sending our very best there, the best from the cream of the best. Therefore, even though the nominee has not proved to us that he has engaged in such activity in the past, his credentials indicate that he is the person who will ensure that the balance of trade between our country and Canada is addressed.

I am very excited because we thought it could not be done, but it has finally been actualised. The bridge between Kenya and China has been met by the recent historical trade benefit bridge, which was worth over US\$4 billion. I am very excited about the kind of work that has been done by the representation that was sent to China. If the trade imbalance between Kenya and China has been corrected, we are sending the best of the best to also correct our trade imbalance with Canada. It is good to appreciate that our representatives in China have decided to introduce new packages that will provide good platforms for our farmers in tea, coffee, avocado, and macadamia nuts, so they can export duty-free to China. If that has been done in China, then papers are good. He can learn from the best. He can benchmark with his colleagues in China who have created an opening for our farmers. He can do so on our behalf with Canada. I, therefore, support the nominee.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Robert Basil.

**Hon. Robert Basil** (Yatta, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

At the outset, allow me to extend my condolences to the bereaved families of Utumishi Girls Academy in Gilgil. It is sad to lose many young people who are so optimistic about life. Today, we are mourning them.

I support the Motion for the nomination of Mr Humphrey Mulongo. I want to disagree with my brother, Hon. Oundo, that he will be whining in Canada. I do not think so. When you look at the task ahead of him, one of them is to promote Kenya abroad. By promoting Kenya abroad...

*(An Hon. Member crossed the Floor without bowing to the Chair)*

Order, Hon. Member! Just go back and do the correct thing. You are now a seasoned Member of this house.

Proceed, Hon. Basil.

**Hon. Robert Basil** (Yatta, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the specific role of Mr Mulongo is to champion Kenyan exports to Canada. I was extremely perturbed to hear that Kenya is earning almost nothing from exports to Canada. If I may make reference to the 2024 statistics, Kenya exported goods worth US\$19.7 million and imported goods worth US\$131.8 million. Canada imported goods worth US\$58 million in 2024. That tells you that Mr Humphrey has some work to do. He needs to put more energy into promoting Kenya's exports to Canada.

Importantly, Kenya is grappling with unemployment. Mr Humphrey can negotiate foreign investment deals right here in Kenya. I want to borrow a leaf from what happened in the United States of America (USA). The USA has attracted foreign investors from China and many other countries. Kenya can do the same if we make it easier to do business here. Mr Humphrey can champion foreign investment from Canada to help open industries right here in Kenya if we create an enabling business environment for these investors to establish businesses.

Additionally, Mr Humphrey needs to build bilateral relations between Canada and Kenya. He can actually negotiate for visa-free movement of persons from Kenya to Canada. It has happened in other countries. Mr Humphrey should do that homework while in Canada. When I lived in the United States of America, there were situations of double taxation. In this case, Mr Humphrey needs to negotiate on double taxation agreements between Kenya and Canada. He has solid experience in taxation. That is why I disagree with Hon. Oundo when he says that the guy is not fit for this job. He does.

He also plays an important role in supporting Kenyan citizens living in Canada. Based on that duty, I also want to underscore some of Mr Humphrey's notable achievements that I think would align with the responsibilities ahead of him. One of his notable achievements is the digitisation of the tax system at the Kenya Revenue Authority. He also brought institutional reforms to KRA and expanded the tax and compliance base. These notable achievements actually align with the assignment ahead of him. Of course, experience is acquired through work. Therefore, I am sure he will do well if given the opportunity.

Mr Humphrey is academically experienced in public finance, with qualifications closely aligned with foreign policy and the job he is supposed to do.

With the few remarks, allow me to congratulate him in advance. We look forward to seeing him register some remarkable achievements just as he did as a Commissioner-General of KRA.

I submit. Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. John Gitonga.

**Hon. Gitonga Mukunji** (Manyatta, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

As I make my contribution, I convey my condolences to the families that have lost their young ones in Utumishi Girls Academy. I also wish them a quick recovery to the children who are still in hospitals. On this difficult day, I offer my condolences to families facing a difficult time. It is incomprehensible to imagine losing a loved one, particularly a young person who is still in school. In the same breath, I also call upon this House to expedite the final passage of the National Disaster Risk Management Bill, which is currently under mediation. This Bill seeks to ensure that we have disaster management equipment free of tax, along with other essential provisions.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): On a point of information, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Gitonga, there is a point of information from the Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. Gitonga Mukunji** (Manyatta, UDA): I am open to being informed.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Proceed, Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Just to inform the Member for Manyatta that the National Disaster Management Bill, which I sponsored back in 2023, has completed mediation and will be assented to tomorrow morning.

**Hon. Gitonga Mukunji** (Manyatta, UDA): Thank you for the information. While that is good news, I must emphasise the need to expedite the matter because a national disaster is something that cannot be anticipated. Nevertheless, preparedness is what this House must focus on. Similar to Canada, which has significantly increased its budget for disaster risk management since 2023 to ensure mitigation measures are in place for such events, we need to take proactive steps as well. Furthermore, as we discuss and congratulate Mr Humphrey, whom I have known from his time at KRA, it is important to discuss our foreign policy. I agree with previous speakers regarding the necessity for Mr Humphrey to enhance trade relations between Canada and Kenya. We should explore avenues to ensure that our agricultural produce reaches Canada with added value, thereby improving our trade.

Today, I woke up to news of an agreement concerning the quarantine of Ebola victims from countries such as the United States of America to Kenya. I find myself questioning such significant arrangements, given our current challenges in disaster and risk management, including basic measures like disease screening at our airports. It is concerning that while we face these difficulties, Kenya has voluntarily agreed to quarantine Ebola victims, a disease that can spread like wildfire. For example, if a patient is quarantined at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and a cleaner from Kibera interacts with them, the country could lose many people. Statistics indicate that nearly 80 to 90 per cent of Ebola patients do not survive. As a country and a House, we must reject this arrangement in the strongest terms.

This situation also raises questions about our preparedness. While we strive to maintain good relations with our brothers and sisters in the Western world, we cannot be doing the most.

We have just had a crisis involving our police officers going all the way to Haiti and ended up footing the bills in a very unfair way.

As we enhance our engagement with Canada, one of the things I like about the country is the fact that it is a superpower; yet you will not find it pushing or bullying such issues onto a developing country like ours. I wonder what informed the Ministry of Health and the President to try to place Kenya in such a big and significant risk.

I have read Mr Humphrey's curriculum vitae, and I believe he is a man who has done good work at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). He should leave with his well-filled book, with what he is expected to achieve, as he moves to Canada to enhance our relations.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I support.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Mover.

**Hon. Nelson Koech** (Belgut, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I thank Hon. Members for their comments. Allow me to profusely apologise to my dependable Member, Hon. Millie, for referring to her as the Deputy Minority Leader instead of the substantive Whip of the Minority Party. She is a very useful Member of my Committee, and I appreciate her contribution today and always.

I also want to thank the Members, including those on my Committee. We undertook this exercise during the recess. While the rest of the Members were on recess, we were seated, undertaking this process. I also thank the staff of my Committee and the Hon. Members for their useful contributions. I hope Mr Wattanga will be considered and approved by this House.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to reply.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next Order.

## BILL

### *Second Reading*

#### THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL (National Assembly Bill No. 17 of 2025)

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move that the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 17 of 2025) be now read a Second Time. It is a very short Bill. It seeks to repeal Sections 191(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the Public Finance Management Act. These sections currently mandate the National Treasury to...

*(Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona spoke off the record)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Hon. Millie and the Leader of the Majority Party. Proceed procedurally.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Allow me to take that again so that Hon. Millie may understand. It is an Amendment Bill that seeks to amend the Public Finance Management Act by repealing Sections 191(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), which mandated the National Treasury to enter into stand-alone intergovernmental agreements for every conditional allocation received by counties. This created some sort of bureaucratic duplication because, before the National Treasury signs these intergovernmental agreements with counties, counties would have already signed the county participatory agreements, intergovernmental participation and partnership agreements with individual line ministries. The process, therefore, became a duplication. This duplication has created excessive bureaucracy, slowing the implementation of projects at the county government level. That is why every time we pass the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, at the end of the Financial Year, counties complain that they have not expended the monies allocated under the County Governments Additional Allocations Act after the bill is passed. This is because they are forced to sign new agreements with the National Treasury, which must again go through the entire public participation process, even though they did so earlier. They must also undergo approval from the county assembly. This bureaucracy has hindered the effective and efficient implementation of projects at the county government level. This Bill therefore seeks to support devolution and ensure the proper utilisation of the resources allocated to counties under the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, as I stated earlier, this is a very short Bill. The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning conducted extensive public participation and engaged a number of stakeholders. Those who read the Report tabled some time back by Hon. Kimani Kuria will note that, through public participation engagements, all the stakeholders, including the Council of Governors, Commission on Revenue Allocation, National Treasury and individual members of the public, strongly supported this Amendment Bill because it enhances the efficiency with which projects are implemented at the county level.

The quicker the projects are implemented at the county level, the more services and goods reach the people. Whether they are conditional allocations that touch on healthcare or water, these are issues that are very sensitive to the people who are being served at the county level of government. All the stakeholders supported this amendment. In the Report, I do not see any concerns raised by members of the public or other stakeholders regarding the repeal of these particular Sections.

If you look at Clauses 4, 5 and 6, which repeal Sections 191C, D and E, they provide for the dissolution of the secondary procedural requirements for gazettment, Senate submissions and specific Controller of Budget funding requisitions linked to these repetitive agreements. As I mentioned, the bureaucratic and repetitive work at the county assembly level required the same agreements to undergo procedural gazettal and Senate submissions repeatedly. The entire process had to be repeated. Therefore, implementing these conditional allocations to county governments becomes too cumbersome.

As I conclude, I assure this House and the country that any changes to the PFM Act do not interfere with or undermine the oversight roles, mechanisms, or any constitutional safeguards that have been put in place. The oversight roles of the county assemblies, the Senate, this House, and the constitutional safeguards established by law are being compromised by these changes. Even in relation to the Controller of Budget, those safeguards will remain because all annual county government additional allocations will continue to be regulated, and the Controller of Budget will retain full oversight over all these funds. Therefore, no amount

of money, be it directly allocated under the Division of Revenue Act or received through additional conditional allocations, can be withdrawn from the County Revenue Fund under Article 228 of the Constitution without the explicit approval of the Controller of Budget.

That is why I said that no constitutional safeguard regarding the workings of the Office of the Controller of Budget is being compromised in any way. On the oversight role, the county assemblies will have to approve. They will engage in public participation on the Intergovernmental Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (IPCAs) signed by the line ministries. The only thing that we are removing is the duplication at the National Treasury level. This is because, for example, if it is an IPCA with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation or the Ministry of Health, that Ministry belongs to the national Government, and therefore doing the same thing over and over with the National Treasury is duplication.

Finally, allow me to take this opportunity to thank our Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. They went through these amendments and engaged in extensive public participation. They put in a lot of work. Many of those Members are now conducting public participation on the Finance Bill proposals. We look forward to receiving their report. I thank them in their absence for the work they have put in. This is one of the committees I mentioned that, during the recess period, has been very busy. I do not think there is a single day they have not sat throughout the three weeks of the long recess that we just came from. I must thank them.

I beg to move. I wish to request the Member for Tharaka, Hon. Murugara, to second the Motion.

**Hon. George Murugara** (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to second this Bill. By so doing, I fully associate myself with the speech of the Leader of the Majority Party regarding what we are doing today: amending by repealing. That is what this is called. We are amending the PFM Act by repealing five Sections that, to some extent, act as a bottleneck to conditional funds reaching county governments.

The national Government has always supported the county governments. We do this through various laws. These laws are meant to safeguard funds that are going to the county governments. They are utilised well for the benefit of our people residing in various counties. Today, we remove some bottlenecks regarding conditional grants, where they have had to sign a second or third agreement with the National Treasury when conditional grants are being issued. When we remove this, what do we expect in return? An efficient flow of money into the counties. This way, the counties will be able to deliver the services they are obligated to in a timely manner.

This was a bottleneck, and as a result, there was a trickle-down effect, slowly by slowly, because it was highly squeezed. We are removing it today. May we get a reciprocal flow of funds into the counties and start seeing the services that are supposed to be delivered by counties, being delivered on time? May we also see these funds used for what they are meant for since there is hue and cry regarding our counties. Every now and then, even in the press, our governors have been accused of mismanaging funds going to the counties. We pray and hope that this will not be abused, as we have sufficient safeguards to sustain Parliament's oversight role in safeguarding these funds. I support the Bill. Let us pass it so that the county governments can receive conditional allocations without these bottlenecks hindering them.

I beg to second. Thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Ndindi Nyoro.

**Hon. Ndindi Nyoro** (Kiharu, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

I am happy that Hon. Millie is still around. From the previous debates, I can see her struggle. She is actually lost. I do not even know whether Hon. Millie Odhiambo still recognises Millie Odhiambo as her name. Such a great mind should not belong to where she is. You know where you belong, Hon. Millie.

Going to the debate, it is good to align on the management of our finances, especially given the different levels of government, because, at the end of the day, money that belongs to the country belongs to the people of Kenya. It does not matter where you are serving them from. In fact, even as we give service to the people of Kenya as leaders in our various capacities, the people of Kenya never bother to know, and rightly so, whether it is the national Government or the county government. The Government must always work coherently to deliver quality service to the people of Kenya. Aligning on how we allocate public resources is important so we do not appear to be in competition. There should be coherence.

However, I do not wish to give many comments. One thing we must be aware of is that, under the Public Finance Management Act, which is a robust Act we use in various ways to manage our resources, it is important to note that it is not a book that exists only for convenience. Any law we make, including the Public Finance Management Act, is usually enacted because of historical incidents. Therefore, out of the laws, we try to streamline how things should be done in the future, which could now be the present. Therefore, even as we pass and debate these amendments, we must look at the content of the entire Public Finance Management Act and assess whether there is merit in taking credit for what it has achieved.

We realise, Hon. Temporary Speaker, that there is much that leaves much to be desired, especially in the management of development projects in Kenya. It is very clear what accounting officers should do regarding development projects. It does not serve the people of Kenya to allocate money to new projects when we have ongoing ones that are stalled. Building a classroom is a very good case for understanding how this is retrogressive for all of us. If you use NG-CDF money to build a classroom up to lintel level and you spend public money, and then you start another one and do it up to the foundation level, and then you do another one, a hall, up to the fourth course, until the Kenyan people can get utility out of the projects that we implement, all that is money lost. The utility of the money is in its use. The utility of some of these projects is only realised in use: if you do a road and leave it unfinished, then you start another one, and another one. We have to be forthright.

Even the Office of the Auditor-General can be very keen on this kind of malfeasance in the management of public resources. We have passed laws in this Parliament on how to manage our debt. By the way, Kenya's current laws permit debt up to 55 per cent of our GDP, with a variance of only 5 per cent, meaning a maximum of 60 per cent. But is that our current debt? It is over 10 per cent, more than that. We make laws, especially those that guide how we distribute public resources. This is so that we have order in the management of that money; so that we do not lose money; and so that we do not overburden future generations with current spending. Therefore, it is good that we keep pointing out public officers who go against the laws we have passed here in Parliament. Ultimately, laws must never be books that we keep on shelves in our government offices. They should be followed.

For example, honestly, why is Kenya's debt more than 70 per cent, yet all our laws only permit up to 60 per cent? Who are these people who sign extra loans and take on more debt? Is it because it was the first time we passed these laws? I do not think so. They were meant for

something. And that something can only be achieved if we abide by the laws that we make and pass.

In conclusion, pending bills result from non-compliance with the Public Finance Management Act. The reason we have many people closing businesses here in Kenya is the vagaries of doing business with the government as vendors. Some people in government, especially accounting officers, work against the Public Finance Management Act. If we strictly followed it, the term 'pending bills,' which is dominant in Kenya, would not be there.

There is a spiral effect. When entrepreneurs are punished for doing business with the government, we continue to decimate the most important factors of production in the modern economy: entrepreneurship, ingenuity, and human ability to produce.

Therefore, as we debate, it is important that we look at it in its entirety so that we can ensure all officers follow the law, because we never pass laws to put in cabinets.

I submit, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Millie Odhiambo.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. In support, I just want to respond to my good brother, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, before I speak. I largely agree with him that I look different in my posturing as a politician for obvious reasons. This is because, since I joined Parliament, I have largely been in the opposition. We were in government for a short stint when we formed the government of national unity with the late President Kibaki and also with President Uhuru Kenyatta. But even in those moments, it was an uneasy place because it was not really our government. So, in a way, I agree with him. That is why I said earlier that I am kind of a mongrel.

I also urge the Hon. Member to look at himself. He is also different. When he was the Chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, he was the greatest apologist for the Government of Kenya. If we juxtapose the things he said then and the things he is saying now, it is actually amusing. But that is the nature of politics. It is the same way I see people comparing the things that Hon. Mbadi and the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum used to say and what they say these days. They are now very different.

That is why, Hon. Temporary Speaker, sometimes I tell people to try as much as possible to practice politics based on principle, like myself, because it is very difficult to eat your words. Occasionally, I eat my words because human beings are fallible. That is because I go by principle. When I think something is wrong or I am fought, I remain quiet out of courtesy.

On our side, we are not used to this kind of thing. So even when we are supporting President Ruto, we strongly say, "We support Ruto, we support Ruto!" Why are we fighting even when we are supporting President Ruto? We should just say we support President Ruto. Let us not fight because we support him. Yesterday, I heard one of our leaders saying that we are going to war. I wondered who we would fight. Are we going to fight Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, who is not vying for the Presidency? We are fighting Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, who is rudderless. He does not know where he is coming from or where he is going because he has not been cleared to vie for any position. However, we are busy fighting him. That confusion is all over, especially in our Party. Let some of us who have been here for a long time relax and support quietly the way we do. Even if Hon. Ndindi Nyoro...

**Hon. Ndindi Nyoro** (Kiharu, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Let us hear from Hon. Ndindi.

**Hon. Ndindi Nyoro** (Kiharu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I respect Hon. Millie Mabona a lot, but this House keeps on attacking people who are defenceless here. It is not a

very good trend. They are not here. In our references to jokes, let us use the people who are there to defend themselves so that we can be fair to everyone.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Great. Hon. Millie, you may proceed.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): On a point of information, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Please inform me. This is part of Broad-based Government. You can inform me.

*(Laughter)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Millie, do you want to be informed?

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Yes.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Proceed, Leader of the Majority Party.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I have listened to Hon. Millie keenly, and she has not attacked anybody. In fact, she has only advised others. I do not know why people get jittery when they are advised. I heard others in the recent few days saying that since President Uhuru retired, he should not speak. Retiring does not mean that he is dumb and cannot speak. Nobody told him that he cannot speak. He has every right to speak as the fourth President of the Republic of Kenya. What people have a problem with is a former President undermining another sitting President, and attempting to use a community as his shield when undermining an administration.

We want the former President to speak. I will be very happy to hear him speak and tell us what was happening in River Yala when bodies were being fished out of there. I want him to speak and tell us what was happening when our economy was captured, and subsidies drained the entire economy. We drained our foreign reserves to below US\$6 billion. I really want him to speak. Let us not be very quick to run to the defence of people whom we want to speak. There are things we want them to speak about. I would like to hear what the Fourth President has to say about when bodies were fished out of the River Tana, and two young Indians, who were working for President William Ruto, were brutally murdered at Nairobi Police Headquarters, and their bodies were dumped in the Aberdares. How did those two young Indians lose their lives? We want President Uhuru Kenyatta to speak. Therefore, Hon. Millie, you have every right to ask people to speak.

Thank you.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I hope I will be given more time because of the interventions.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Proceed.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): I thank Hon. Ichung'wah for his parliamentary and political skills because he purports to inform me instead of Hon. Ndindi Nyoro. I hope he has become educated.

*(Laughter)*

I support the Bill. Let me go to the core of this matter. Parliament is very interesting at this time. Hon. Ndindi Nyoro is doing excellently in opposition. He told me quietly that he had learned from me. He is a good student. I am struggling on your side, but I will get there.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah has explained the Bill very well. I do not need to go into details about it. It is supposed to clear the bureaucracy so that our counties get money quickly. However, as the leadership of this House, we are failing this country. I challenge my brother, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, and all of us in leadership to take this issue seriously.

The other day, I was doing calculations. If you look at the amount of money that goes to NG-CDF and compare it with the amount that goes to the counties, even if you remove the running costs, the money that goes to the counties is almost five times the amount of money going to the constituencies. I would want to challenge...

*(A Member spoke off the record)*

It is 10 times. Thanks for informing me, even though you are doing so while seated. If it is 10 times, I would challenge every single Member to go to their own county and compare village by village, from the moment we started this devolution to date. What is coming out of our counties is embarrassing. We are killing devolution, a very good idea proposed by our late Party Leader, Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga. We would love his legacy to continue, and I know that one of the reasons the late Hon. Raila found NG-CDF challenging was his disappointment with what was happening with devolution. He was hoping that if he put in more energy and strength to the counties, it would not undermine devolution.

I want to challenge our governors: What is your legacy? People will not remember us for the little things we do—the short-term things we do—but rather, for what we leave behind, that transforms lives. If, with NG-CDF, we have 1 classroom, with the counties, there should be 10 classrooms.

We are failing because we are the House that should be providing a standard-setting and framework. We need to come up with a law similar to NG-CDF, with a standard-setting mechanism that controls how our governors spend money. Right now, it is a free-for-all. People use money as they see fit, and even though we get feedback from auditors, nothing much is done. Very few people are arrested, and even when arrests do occur, as we saw with the former Governor of Migori, there is always some settlement, which tells people there are levels of impunity.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, even though I...

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): You have a minute.

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona** (Suba North, ODM): Thank you. Even though I support this because it enhances the counties' work and removes all bottlenecks, allowing them to work efficiently, can we first show accountability with what we have right now before we get those conditional grants? I am therefore challenging our governors: What will we remember you for? Will we remember you for singing very well, dancing very well, or jumping very well? Let us remember you for the lives that you have transformed.

I support.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. John Gitonga.

**Hon. Gitonga Mukunji** (Manyatta, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. This is a very important change. By God's grace, I will be the Governor of the great County of Embu

in 2027. This amendment ensures that resources that reach the counties do not face excessive bureaucracy and arrive in time for use. It is a welcome idea.

I agree with Hon. Millie. When I become the Governor of Embu, I will answer the question of where these monies have been going. This is because, as you say from your side of view, I also observe the same with county governments. I was doing a simple calculation for Embu County, and it has received over Ksh40 billion. As mentioned, it is about 10 times the NG-CDF resources allocated to Embu County.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, you can walk miles before you notice a project from the County Government of Embu. These conditional grants are among the resources that have transformed many of our counties. The cabro pavings we have seen in our small towns have been funded by the World Bank. We have projects such as the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP) and the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS), which are resources provided by the Ministries. Many counties have been blocked from accessing these resources due to a lack of clear implementation plans. This House must note that these resources are provided by the Ministries, while procurement occurs in the counties. This raises a new question of oversight because you will not hear this House discussing projects under KISIP and KUCCPS through the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works.

While we are looking to expedite the flow of resources to counties, it is important that we ensure these resources are used properly to benefit our people. This also relates to what has happened in this House regarding the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) among the conditional grants. These are resources that this House was utilising to construct roads. There is a lacuna in terms of oversight. Our counties must work. It is now close to 16 years since the Promulgation of the New Constitution.

A dysfunctional county burdens its neighbouring counties. Today, almost all healthcare officers in Embu are on strike. The calls I am receiving indicate that Chuka Level 5 Hospital in the neighbouring County, Tharaka Nithi, is bearing the burden of the dysfunctional healthcare system in Embu County. This raises many questions. Devolution, as Hon. Millie and the late Raila Odinga, among others who pushed for it, envisioned, was meant to bring transformation that would be felt even by someone who has never been to this city.

On matters pending bills, you find crazy, nonsensical, unpaid bills in our county governments. We have seen people committing suicide, losing their lives, and others turning to drugs. I watched the drama of one young man in Machakos County crying like a baby and asking, “Why are you not paying me yet I did the work?” This is something that the National Assembly should consider. Disaster preparedness is among the areas supported through conditional grants. We have seen fire trucks donated to counties through these grants. However, when it comes to their usage and maintenance, there is always a challenge. That is why we need to relook these issues and ensure that, while amending the Public Finance Management Bill, we also address how we can strengthen accountability and the management of the resources utilised.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to support.

*(Applause)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): One more Member wants to contribute. Let us see if we can get him. Hon. Basil, you have a few minutes.

**Hon. Robert Basil** (Yatta, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

I will not take much time. Leader of the Majority Party, I am aware that we need to pass this important Bill. From the outset, I support this amendment Bill which seeks to repeal certain Sections of the parent Act. The Bill seeks to boost efficiency in the transfer of resources to counties, enhance coordination between the national Government and the county governments, and promote transparency. One of the key objectives of the Bill is to eliminate duplication of funding. In doing so, it promotes accountability in the use of revenue collected from taxpayers and resources allocated to devolved functions.

The Bill is also critical to improving project funding management by creating dedicated bank accounts for Government projects. That will enhance transparency and ensure proper utilisation of taxpayers' money. Additionally, the amendments are intended to speed up the release of funds to county governments. I agree with Hon. Mukunji that there is significant wastage and a lack of accountability in many counties. It is unfortunate that while a Member may build a classroom in a school, the ECDE classrooms in the same institution remain in deplorable conditions. Parents then ask you to donate the classroom that you have built to the ECDE, which is against the law. Therefore, we should champion the proper use of resources allocated to counties and require governors to demonstrate value for money in the projects they undertake.

Finally, I wish to emphasise that the Bill is critical in promoting service delivery, reducing corruption and curbing the misallocation of funds.

With those few remarks, I support the Bill.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Let us have the Mover.

**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah** (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. In the interest of time, allow me to reply by thanking all the Members who have contributed in support of the Bill because they appreciate the importance of strengthening devolution. As Hon. Ndindi Nyoro stated yesterday, we must support devolution. I am glad that he recognises that we should support devolution, which will enhance the efficient implementation of projects at the county level and improve the absorption of additional allocations appropriated to our county governments.

As Hon. Mukunji noted, I appeal to governors to account for the use of public resources and to ensure the timely implementation of projects to deliver value to *wananchi* within their five-year term in office. As Hon. Millie Odhiambo also mentioned, governors should ensure that they leave behind meaningful legacy projects that will outlive their tenure, whether they serve for one or two terms. They should avoid the situations we have seen around the country in which governors use county resources to give freebies to their supporters out of political expediency.

With those few remarks, I beg to reply.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. I thank Members for the good quality debate, the candour and banter involved. You have made me happy. Hon. Members, we shall put the question at the next sitting.

*(Putting the question deferred)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Members, you may be upstanding. The time being 7:00 p.m., this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

*(The House rose at 7:00 p.m.)*

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