



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EXPLAINER ON THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES LAWS (REPEAL) BILL, 2026 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 31 OF 2026)

A. About the Bill

The Regional Development Authorities Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2026 was published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 135 of 5th June, 2026. The Bill is sponsored by the Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, the Leader of the Majority Party.

The Bill was read a First Time in the National Assembly on 1st July, 2026 and thereafter committed to the Committee for public participation which is a constitutional requirement. The public participation exercise will enable the Committee to receive submissions from the public so that the Bill can be improved.

The Bill seeks to abolish the six regional development authorities by repealing the laws that established them and to move their assets, debts, contracts and staff to the National Treasury and the Public

Service Commission, respectively.

The Bill provides that the authorities have carried out the mandate they were created for. It also states that abolishing them will—

- (a) align the roles of the national and county governments to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution;
- (b) reduce pressure for budgetary allocation; and
- (c) improve efficiency, accountability and service delivery.

B. Contents of the Bill

The main features of the Bill are the following—

- (a) The Bill repeals the laws that created the following six authorities—

No.	Authority being dissolved	Law repealed	Area it covers
1.	Kerio Valley Development Authority	Kerio Valley Development Authority Act, Cap. 441	Area drained by the Kerio and Turkwell Rivers and their tributaries.
2.	Lake Basin Development Authority	Lake Basin Development Authority, Act Cap. 442	Lake Victoria catchment area and the Kenyan part of the Lake Kyoga catchment area situated within Kenya.
3.	Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority	Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority Act, Cap. 443	Area drained by the Tana and Athi Rivers waters and their tributaries.
4.	Ewaso Ng'iro South River Basin Development Authority	Ewaso Ng'iro South River Basin Development Authority Act, Cap. 447	
5.	Ewaso Ng'iro North River Basin Development Authority	Ewaso Ng'iro North River Basin Development Authority Act, Cap. 448	
6.	Coast Development Authority	Coast Development Authority, Act, Cap. 449	

(b) What happens to the assets, debts and contracts of each Authority?

On the day the Act commences, (the “Transition Date”)—

- (a) All assets, rights, debts and obligations of each authority shall be transferred and vest to the State Department for the National Treasury, which shall succeed the authorities.
- (b) All loans, credit facilities and securities shall continue to be valid and shall be managed by the State Department for the National Treasury.
- (c) All contracts and agreements shall continue and can be enforced by or against the State Department for the National Treasury.
- (d) Legal proceedings involving an authority shall continue, with the State Department for the National Treasury taking its place.
- (e) Any reference to an authority in any law or document shall be read as a reference to the State Department for the National Treasury.

(c) What happens to the employees of the Authorities?

- (a) All employees of the authorities shall on the transition date become employees of the Public Service Commission on terms and conditions that are not less favourable than they had before.
- (b) Their years of service shall be deemed as continuous for purposes of their pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits.

How will the change be managed?

- (a) The Bill provides that within thirty days of the commencement of the Act, the Cabinet Secretary shall issue directives on how the transfer of assets, rights, obligations of the authority shall be done as stipulated in law.
- (b) The directives shall cover the transfer of records, documents and databases, the winding up of the affairs of the authorities and any other matter needed to carry out the Act.
- (c) The Cabinet Secretary may also make policy directives and guidelines to help implement the Act.
- (d) Orders and notices made under the repealed laws shall continue in force unless the Cabinet Secretary amends or revokes them.

(d) What are the potential benefits of the Bill?

According to the Bill, once it is passed into law, it will—

- (a) remove the overlap between functions of the national and county governments;
- (b) reduce the pressure on the national budget;
- (c) improve efficiency and accountability; and
- (d) improve service delivery.

(e) Share your views

During this public participation exercise, you are invited to share your views and suggestions on the Bill. You may propose **deleting, retaining or adding** any new provision to the Bill. Your views will help improve the Bill and ensure that it responds to the needs of the Kenyans.